

### 3. DRAFT CITYWIDE PLANTING STRATEGY

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The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) To inform the Board of the background and purpose of the Draft Citywide Planting Strategy.
- (b) To seek a submission from the Board in line with the Consultation Process outlined in this report.

#### BACKGROUND

A draft Citywide Planting Strategy was approved for consultation by the Council at its meeting on 1 July 2004. It was initially presented to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee in the form of powerpoint presentations by staff and copies of the draft Strategy have been **separately circulated**.

During and after the presentations, requests for suggested changes were made by Committee members and these have been incorporated in the revised draft.

They included:

- (a) A new and more colourful cover that included the range of planting available for public spaces.
- (b) The inclusion of the checklist "Best Practice Guide for Designers" as an Appendix.
- (c) An action plan to implement the strategy.
- (d) Additional information and images on the "key elements" of the framework.
- (e) Inclusion of recent examples of successful planting carried out by the City Council.
- (f) More information on "sustainable planting practices" including the advantages of using a "natural ecological systems approach" in the appropriate circumstances.
- (g) Using the phrase "right plant, right place" as a theme in the document.

Submissions received on the previous "internal" draft (2000 version) included the following key points:

- (a) The need to find an appropriate method to implement the policies and principles in the Strategy.
- (b) The need to identify and incorporate linkages between the Strategy and other strategic documents and plans in the Council, such as the Waterways Asset Management Strategy, Parks Management Plans and Concept Plans for "icon" and heritage parks, the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan programme and the planting programme for the Transport and City Streets Unit.
- (c) The need to reflect the true balance and spectrum of planting between exotics and natives, while maintaining the "right plant for the right place" philosophy.
- (d) Once the content of the Strategy had been agreed, and the Draft revised, consultation should be carried out both within the organisation and with key stakeholders, including Tangata Whenua and the Community Boards.

These points have now been incorporated.

#### THE DESIGN PROCESS – HOW TO PUT THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The Citywide Planting Strategy is a framework and philosophy to guide the planting practice in the Council's public open spaces. However, the principles will be implemented through a series of other council and community initiatives, as illustrated in the revised draft. Also, to ensure that the agreed outcomes are achieved on the ground, it is important that the "designers" of the planting plans are given the appropriate brief, resources and time, including methods for integrating design initiatives across the organisation. To achieve this, the recommendation in a previous report (April 2004) that: *"an agreed design process for determining planting in public spaces be developed and implemented by the appropriate senior managers in the City Environment Group and Strategic Development Group"* was approved by Council at the 22 April 2004 meeting.

#### RECOMMENDED CONSULTATION PROCESS

It is recommended that once the Council has agreed on the content and format of the draft Strategy the document be circulated for submissions to the following groups and key stakeholders over a six week period:

**External**

- New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects
- Central City Mayoral Forum
- Christchurch Beautifying Association
- Urban Landscapes Group
- Civic Trust
- Friends of the Botanic Gardens
- Canterbury Horticultural Society
- Environment Canterbury

**Internal**

- Garden City Subcommittee
- Community Boards
- Greenspace Unit
- City Transport Unit
- City Solutions
- Communications and Consultation Unit

**Council Resolutions**

1. That the Council approve the draft Citywide Planting Strategy and the consultation process as outlined.
2. That the Strategy and Policy Team Leader (Mark Bachels) and the Open Space and Water Policy Leader (Liz Briggs) be delegated authority to make minor editorial amendments and that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman (of the Parks, Garden and Waterways Committee) be consulted concerning the design of the cover sheet .

**Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider preparing a submission on the Draft Citywide Planting Strategy.