

8. REVISED DRAFT CITY-WIDE PLANTING STRATEGY

Officer responsible General Manager, Strategic Development and Acting Planning Manager, Ian Hay	Author Liz Briggs, Policy Leader, Open Space and Water, DDI 941-8641
--	--

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the background and purpose of the draft City-wide Planting Strategy, and seek a submission from the Board in line with the consultation process outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

The draft City-wide Planting Strategy was approved for consultation by the Council at its meeting held on 30 June 2004. The draft Strategy has been considered by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee and was presented in the form of powerpoint presentations by staff, with copies of the document having been circulated separately to councillors.

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 Community Boards.

These points have now been incorporated.

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

The City-wide 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 its 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
- Transport & City Streets Unit
- City Solutions
- Communications and Consultation Unit

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board formulate a submission on the draft City-wide Planting Strategy.

Community Advocate's

Recommendation: That the Board refer this matter to its Environment Committee meeting scheduled for 20 July 2004 to formulate a submission regarding the draft City-wide Planting Strategy.