

10. ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS UPDATE

10.1 NOTIFICATION PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION HEARINGS

At the June meeting of the Board, Mr McKean lodged the following question:

“Does the Christchurch City Council have an established policy that states procedures to be followed when public consultation on major planning initiatives is undertaken?”

He explained that when members of the public and interested organisations made a submission on the draft LTCCP they were asked if they wished to attend hearings on the plan, in person. Submitters who replied that they wished to attend were given no more than 48 hours notice of their attendance time.

The Board agreed that staff be asked to clarify whether there was a minimum notification time for submission hearings included in any Council policy.

The following reply has been received from the Council Secretary, Max Robertson:

In some instances (such as resource management hearings) a minimum notification period is prescribed by the relevant legislation. Although the Council does not have any formal policy in respect of other types of hearings, it endeavours to ensure that submitters wishing to be heard are given a reasonable period of notice.

The number of submitters who asked to be heard in person in support of their submission on the draft 2006/16 LTCCP was much greater than expected, and this unexpected response placed a tremendous strain on the limited staff and other resources available, with the result that some of the affected submitters were given a shorter period of notice than usual. However, staff did their best to accommodate those submitters who sought an alternative hearing time/date, and also arranged return bus transport from Akaroa to the Civic Offices for Akaroa/Wairewa submitters.

10.2 Walnut Place – Education Board Land

At the 28 June Community Board meeting, following a deputation from Mr Geoff Maxwell, the Board agreed that staff should be asked to report on the status of Council's interest in purchasing the Ministry of Education properties in Walnut Place, and to report on what response had been made to Mr Maxwell's offer of purchase.

Attached is a memo from the Asset Policy Engineer, Weng Kei Chen, in reply to the Board's request.

The memo does not cover what response had been made to Mr Maxwells offer of purchase so I will follow this up separately.