

8. ST JOSEPH'S AND PAPANUI PRIMARY SCHOOLS FUNDING APPLICATION

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment Group, DDI 941-8606
Officer responsible:	Business Support Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information relevant to St Joseph's School's funding application to employ a part-time adult warden to supervise children crossing the Main North/Cranford Street intersection before and after school and to request the Board to consider funding this service.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. For several years the Council, with 75 percent funding provided by the New Zealand Transport Agency, has made grants to four Christchurch schools (Addington, Spreydon, St Albans and St Joseph's). Funding provided assistance to these schools to employ adult wardens to supervise children across busy intersections near the schools, where conflict between turning traffic and child pedestrians occur. Wardens have been sponsored when there was a high level of community concern about the potential danger to children crossing the road to and from school, and when all or most of the following criteria have been met:
 - (a) There is a high likelihood that children will be walking to and from school unsupervised.
 - (b) Where dangerous road behaviour is occurring that compromises the safety of children.
 - (c) The volume of traffic on the road making traffic gap selection problematic for children.
 - (d) The road environment causes crossing difficulties (e.g. approach speed identification is difficult, poor approach visibility).
 - (e) Where the traffic intimidates children (e.g. turning traffic at signals, trucks).
 - (f) Where there is no formal supervision by the school (e.g. no patrol or warden system operating).
 - (g) Where school staff resources are insufficient to provide road supervision in addition to their other duties, and volunteer wardens are not available.
 - (h) Where the area where supervision is required is not in the immediate vicinity of the school, or where the presence of the school is not obvious to passing motorists.
 - (i) Where there is an appropriate crossing point that can be supervised.
3. Pupils attending St Joseph's School on Vagues Road and Papanui Primary School on Cranford Street, who walk to school, often need to cross either Main North Road and/or Cranford Street at a location where these two arterial roads intersect. To ensure that they cross safely an adult warden has been employed to escort the children across the road.
4. Since 2002 the Christchurch City Council has given annually two grants of \$2,000 each at six monthly intervals to either St Joseph's School or Papanui Primary School to assist with the payment of this warden. In recent years these grants have been subsidised 75 percent by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) as part of Demand Management and Community Programmes funding provided to approved organisations (local authorities) for road safety and sustainable travel projects and programmes. A subsidy from the NZTA for funding wardens was not granted to the Christchurch City Council for the 2009/10 financial year. A grant of \$2,000 from the Council's road safety budget was nevertheless made to St Joseph's School to cover the cost of employing a warden in terms 3 and 4 of 2009. St Joseph's was advised that continued funding in 2010 would not be available from this source.
5. The options for St Joseph's School and Papanui Primary School are that either the Shirley/Papanui Community Board continue to provide on-going financial assistance to enable the schools to continue to employ their warden, or the two schools canvas their respective communities for volunteers willing to undertake supervision of children crossing the road at the Main North/Cranford Street intersection.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. St Joseph's School advised the Shirley/Papanui Community Board of its continuing need for \$4,000 to pay for warden supervision both morning and afternoon for the 2010 school year. The Board allocated a grant of \$1,000 from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund in December 2009 as an interim measure to assist the school.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

7. There is no budget provision for this sponsorship in the LTCCP for 2010.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. There are no legal implications for the Council.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

9. The warden employed to supervise children across the Cranford/Main North Roads intersection is not an employee of, nor a contractor for the Christchurch City Council, but is an employee of St Joseph's School and subject to the school's policies and procedures. It is recommended that the warden be trained in their duties by the Police Education Officer assigned to St Joseph's School.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. Refer alignment to Council strategies.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

11. No.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. This aligns with the objectives of the Christchurch Road Safety Strategy "to work with schools, early childhood education organisations, parents and caregivers to provide holistic solutions to increase the safety of students on the journey to and from school and to and from pre-school," (Christchurch Road Safety Strategy 2004-09, page 17). The provision of an adult warden enables children from St Joseph's and Papanui Primary schools to walk to their respective schools. This initiative also aligns with the objectives of the Christchurch Travel Demand Strategy, which aims to promote travel behaviour that supports sustainability, and promotes "greater community well-being through improved public health and well being," (Draft Greater Christchurch Travel Demand Strategy, page 2).

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Yes, refer to alignment with strategies above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. No consultation is required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Shirley/Papanui Community Board a grant of \$2,000 from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund to fund a part-time warden at the intersection of Main North Road and Cranford Street for the period 19 April 2010 until 24 September 2010, and that St Joseph's School, Papanui be urged to make application to the Strengthening Communities Fund for the balance required; or
- (b) St Joseph's School and Papanui Primary School be requested to seek volunteers to supervise children crossing at this intersection.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Board write to the Minister of Transport to seek funding out of the New Zealand Road Safety Trust for this project and express disappointment at the cessation of the funding subsidy for adult crossing wardens in view of the safety of children being compromised.

That recommendation (a) be for \$3,000 in view that September is in the fourth school term and other funding may not be available.

That recommendation (b) is not supported in view of the responsibility required for children crossing a particularly busy and dangerous State Highway 1 intersection.

The Chairperson's recommendation fits the Board's vision of having a safe community.