

11. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FORUM

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PROPOSAL/PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to recommend the Council appoint elected members to the Urban Development Strategy (UDS) Forum.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greater Metropolitan Urban Development Strategy (UDS) Forum was established by all five adjoining Councils and Transit NZ in April 2004 to work collaboratively on setting a long-term direction and strategy for the growth and development of Metropolitan Christchurch. Participating Councils include Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council, Banks Peninsula District Council and Environment Canterbury. All Councils have or need to appoint their elected members to the UDS Forum for expected monthly meetings for 2005 and 2006, including meetings scheduled for late November and early December 2004. The UDS Forum has progressed through a series of meetings prior to the local body elections developing options for public consultation planned for March/April of 2005.

The Christchurch City Council can appoint up to four elected members to the UDS Forum. Staff recommend that three councillors be appointed to the UDS Forum plus one alternate, and that the Mayor be appointed to enable him to attend Forum meetings, as appropriate. Staff also recommend that Councillors Wells and Buck be considered as appointees since they were previous Council appointees to the UDS Forum and thus have a good knowledge of the issues, process and direction the UDS Forum has undertaken to date.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial or legal considerations for this report as all funding has been adopted by participating councils including Christchurch.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council appoint three Councillors to the UDS Forum.
2. That the Council also appoint one alternate.
3. That, as the Council is entitled to appoint up to four members to the UDS Forum, the Mayor also be appointed to enable him to attend meetings, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

In April 2004 the Christchurch City Council, the Banks Peninsula, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Environment Canterbury, and Transit NZ agreed to work collaboratively on setting a long-term direction and strategy for the growth and development of Metropolitan Christchurch. The project is currently known as the Metropolitan Urban Development Strategy (UDS).

The agreed purpose of the UDS is “to ensure an excellent quality of life in greater metropolitan Christchurch through an integrated and collaborative planning approach for future metropolitan urban development”. The planning horizon for the UDS is to take into account development and forecasts for up to 30 years (eg population growth, transport, etc.).

As outlined in the agreed Terms of Reference and Brief, the UDS will be developed through the work of an Urban Development Strategy Forum whose task it is to bring together and integrate proposals on land use and settlement patterns, transport, utility servicing, business needs, recreation and community facilities, and the natural environment. The Forum will comprise representatives of the Councils, Transit NZ, and agencies who will be key shapers of the future metropolitan area. The Forum will recommend proposals to the Councils. A combined staff group services the UDS Forum.

The Urban Development Strategy will be implemented through mechanisms of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. As a result the Strategy will be developed with extensive consideration of community views. The inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders through targeted workshops and other consultation processes will add rigour to the identification and consideration of options.

A key target for the Strategy is for its funding and project proposals to be included in the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plans to be adopted by 30 June 2006.

Membership of the UDS Forum

The UDS Forum includes elected members from participating Councils and key stakeholders representing a wide cross section of leaders from our community.

Councils formally assigned elected member representation to the UDS Forum in April 2004. In May the UDS elected members invited key stakeholders to join the UDS Forum.

With the recent elections each Council is appointing its representatives to the UDS Forum.

The membership of the UDS Forum comprises 14 elected members from participating Councils, and 10 key stakeholders. UDS Forum membership includes:

Forum Elected Members

- Christchurch City Council: up to 4 elected members (and an alternate)
- Banks Peninsula District Council: 2 members (and an alternate)
- Environment Canterbury: 2 elected members (and an alternate)
- Selwyn District Council: 2 elected members (and an alternate)
- Waimakariri District Council: 2 elected members (and an alternate)

Forum Key Stakeholders

- John Mather, Ministry of Education
- Max Percasky, Palms Mall
- Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
- Pam Richardson, Federated Farmers
- Robin Hughes, Developer
- Transit New Zealand (representative to be determined)
- Peter Townsend/Steve Collins, Chamber of Commerce
- Evon Currie, Canterbury District Health Board
- Dr Simon Kingham, University of Canterbury
- Ngai Tahu (representative to be determined)

Meetings of the UDS Forum (to date and up to the end of 2004)

A series of meetings have been held by the UDS Forum to date including:

April/May 2004	Background briefing session
22 June 2004	Outline of existing development policies and previous consultation; presentation on population and demographic forecasts; initial exploration of potential scenarios for urban development
20 July 2004	Facilitated discussion on issues and desired outcomes for the UDS
30 August	Outline of potential options assessment criteria; information maps and constraints in the UDS area; and approach to options development
14 September	Exploration of options for the UDS
27 September	Initial assessment of options for the UDS
29 November	Background briefing and overview (tentative date)
13 December	Options for public consultation

The intention for the meetings scheduled up to the end of the year is to confirm a direction for the assessment of options prior to public consultation on options in March/April.

Scheduled Public Consultation on Options for the UDS

Public consultation on options is expected to occur in March/April 2005, with public communication expected to be in January/February 2005 on key issues facing our metropolitan community in the future.

New Council and Next Steps

As adopted by Council in September 2004, as a result of the local body elections, it would be necessary that Council:

- Appoint elected member representation to the UDS Forum following the elections;
- Conduct a seminar in December 2004 for a briefing on the UDS, including such matters as the background on the project, key issues identified, overall programme, progress to date, etc.

THE OPTIONS

The agreed UDS Terms of Reference allows the Council to have four elected members on the UDS Forum; prior to the recent elections the Council had a full complement. Overall, four members were sought by the Council because Christchurch City has the greatest proportion of population in the UDS area of any district council (over 80%) and contributed the greatest proportion of funding to the project (over 70%); in addition, at that stage the Council had 24 members and four elected members were chosen to represent views of and for the Council.

With the reduction in Councillors from 24 to 12, there is an opportunity to reduce the representation on the UDS Forum. The options include:

- Four elected members – this may now be too many considering the other obligations of the 12 Councillors
- Three elected members – having three members could represent the importance of the project for Council and the community
- Two elected members – would match the other district councils in their representation but staff believe would not represent the importance of the project to this Council and the community

Considering that the Council can appoint up to four members to the UDS Forum, this does provide the opportunity for the Mayor to attend UDS Forum members as appropriate, particularly when there are matters of significant importance before the UDS Forum.

THE PREFERRED OPTION

That the Council appoint three Councillors to the UDS Forum plus one alternate and that the Mayor be also be appointed to the forum to enable him to attend meetings, particularly when there are matters of significant importance before the UDS Forum.