

7. SAFER CHRISTCHURCH STRATEGY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officers responsible:	Metropolitan Community Adviser – Safety Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the Safer Christchurch Strategy (attached).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Christchurch City Council has taken a leadership role in developing the first safety strategy for Christchurch which encompasses crime prevention, injury prevention and road safety.
3. A Safer Christchurch Interagency Group was formed in 2004 to provide leadership and direction in developing and implementing the Safer Christchurch Strategy.
4. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group, which is chaired by the Mayor, consists of the following agencies and representatives:
 - Mayor Christchurch City Council (Chairperson)
 - Accident Compensation Corporation General Manager Injury Prevention or delegate
 - Canterbury District Health Board Public Health representative
 - Canterbury Police District Commander or delegate
 - Child Youth & Family Regional Manager or delegate
 - Christchurch City Council Community Services General Manager or delegate
 - Department of Internal Affairs Community Adviser
 - Housing New Zealand Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Education Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Justice, Crime Prevention Unit Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Social Development - Family and Community Services - Southern Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Social Development - Work and Income - Regional Commissioner or delegate
 - Ngai Tahu Corporation General Manager or delegate
 - The Department of Corrections Area Manager or delegate
 - Youth sector representatives
 - Older Persons sector representative
 - Families sector representative
5. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group is asking all partner agencies (of which the Christchurch City Council is one) to adopt the Safer Christchurch Strategy and assist in implementing the actions within the strategy. The actions within the Safer Christchurch Strategy will be incorporated where appropriate into the annual plans of the interagency group agencies. Progress will be collated and reported annually to each agency by the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group.
6. The Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group was presented the draft strategy for comment on 26 May. The group endorsed the draft strategy. The suggestion from this group in terms of further consultation was that one seminar for Community Boards be held to inform and consult on the draft strategy document. A Community Board seminar for Councillors and Community Board members was held on 16 June to receive comments on the draft Safer Christchurch Strategy.
7. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group will continue as a group with the purpose of providing leadership and direction to achieve the Safer Christchurch Strategy outcomes by working in partnership with all major stakeholders involved in injury prevention and safety issues and initiatives. The terms of reference for the Interagency Group are attached.
8. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group will be informed by three reference groups which will advise on, support and deliver the actions within the strategy. The three reference groups are the current Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee, a crime prevention reference group and an injury prevention reference group.

9. The Community and Recreation Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the strategy utilising existing staff in the Community Development Team.
10. The strategy will be formatted into a public document and launched on Wednesday 28 September.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. The co-ordination of the Safer Christchurch Strategy and the resources required to implement the strategy will be overseen by the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group. However a leadership and co-ordination role is being undertaken by the Christchurch City Council.
12. The Council has budgeted \$50,000 in this current financial year for projects that arise from this strategy.
13. The Crime Prevention Unit on adoption of the strategy will also provide \$75,000 over the next two financial years to deliver the crime prevention components of the strategy. Funding for other specific projects is also available.
14. There is also potential to apply for access to external funds for implementing specific projects with the strategy from partner agencies as well as traditional funding sources.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt the Safer Christchurch Strategy.

BACKGROUND ON THE SAFER CHRISTCHURCH STRATEGY

15. In 2003 the Ministry of Justice, Crime Prevention Unit undertook a future directions review of the Safer Community Council structure throughout New Zealand. The outcome of this review was that the Crime Prevention Unit sought greater partnership directly with local authorities, Iwi and Pacific Peoples toward joint leadership, decision-making and funding of crime prevention efforts.
16. For Christchurch this meant that the Safer Community Council was disestablished.

The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group

17. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group represents Christchurch's response to this shift in responsibility and consists of representatives from the following agencies/sectors:
 - Mayor Christchurch City Council (Chairperson)
 - Accident Compensation Corporation General Manager Injury Prevention or delegate
 - Canterbury District Health Board Public Health representative
 - Canterbury Police District Commander or delegate
 - Child Youth & Family Regional Manager or delegate
 - Christchurch City Council Community Services General Manager or delegate
 - Department of Internal Affairs Community Adviser
 - Housing New Zealand Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Education Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Justice, Crime Prevention Unit Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Social Development - Family and Community Services - Southern Regional Manager or delegate
 - Ministry of Social Development - Work and Income - Regional Commissioner or delegate
 - Ngai Tahu Corporation General Manager or delegate
 - The Department of Corrections Area Manager or delegate
 - Youth sector representatives
 - Older Persons sector representative
 - Families sector representative
18. A small number of these agencies/sectors have yet to be appointed.
19. The role of the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group is to provide leadership and direction to achieve the Safer Christchurch Strategy outcomes by working in partnership with all major stakeholders involved in injury prevention and safety issues and initiatives.

Safer Christchurch Strategy

20. The Crime Prevention Unit funded the development of a crime prevention plan for Christchurch City. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group has overseen the development of this plan which is now titled the Safer Christchurch Strategy. Importantly the strategy not only aligns crime prevention but injury prevention and road safety. The purpose of this strategy is to create a safer community and environment for Christchurch by setting the strategic direction for the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group.
21. The overarching aim of the Safer Christchurch Strategy is for Christchurch to become the safest city in New Zealand. All the initiatives within the areas of crime prevention, road safety and injury prevention will work towards Christchurch seeking World Health Organisation accreditation as a 'Safe Community'.
22. The Safer Christchurch Strategy contributes to the LTCCP outcome of a Safe City.
23. The Council cannot deliver the outcome on its own. Other organisations, groups and agencies whose work impacts on the well-being of the community and environment are also key to the achievement of these outcomes. The collaboration and co-operation of groups working together within safety is a key principle of the Safer Christchurch Strategy.

Safer Christchurch Strategy Development and Consultation Process

24. The goals and objectives within the 'Safer Christchurch Strategy' have been developed with an appreciation of the contributions made by community organisations and government agencies who work within safety in Christchurch City.
25. The Safer Christchurch Strategy was initially drafted by Deirdre Ryan (Community Development) and Kathryn King (Research and Policy). In March 2005 a research consultant was employed to develop the implementation plan of the strategy looking at what is currently happening and where the priorities and gaps were for each area of the strategy.

Crime Prevention, Injury Prevention and Road Safety Reference Groups

26. During the development process of the strategy the research consultant initiated two reference groups of key stakeholders in the crime prevention and injury prevention fields to assist with the identification of gaps and priorities and comment on the draft strategy. The Christchurch Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee filled this role in terms of road safety.
27. It is important to note that the Christchurch Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee continues to oversee road safety activities within Christchurch. The Safer Christchurch Strategy acknowledges the need to provide continued support for road safety initiatives without taking over the role of the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee.
28. The Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group was presented the draft strategy for comment on 26 May. The group endorsed the draft strategy. The suggestion from this group in terms of further consultation was that one seminar for Community Boards be held to inform and consult on the draft strategy document.
29. A Community Board seminar for Councillors and Community Board members was held on 16 June to receive comments on the draft Safer Christchurch Strategy.
30. The three Reference Groups – Crime Prevention, Injury Prevention and Christchurch Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee were brought back together again to be presented with and consultation on the draft Safer Christchurch Strategy. Comments from these meetings were fed back into the Strategy.
31. The Safer Christchurch Interagency Group signed off the final Safer Christchurch Strategy on 28 July.
32. The process from here is that once all the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group member agencies endorse the Safer Christchurch Strategy, the strategy itself will be produced in hard copy and a launch of the strategy will take place in late September.

OPTIONS

- 33. That the Christchurch City Council adopt the Safer Christchurch Strategy. This will allow for a co-ordinated city approach towards the achievement of the Community Outcome "A Safe City".
- 34. That the Christchurch City Council not adopt the Safer Christchurch Strategy. This will undermine efforts to achieve the Community Outcome "A Safe City".

PREFERRED OPTION

- 35. That the Christchurch City Council adopt the Safer Christchurch Strategy

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	<p>Achievement of the community outcome 'A Safe City'.</p> <p>Co-ordination of safety and injury prevention efforts within Christchurch City.</p> <p>Funding provided on adoption of strategy by Council to deliver crime prevention initiatives.</p> <p>Added support for road safety initiatives within Christchurch</p>	<p>The Community and Recreation Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the strategy with the direct staffing provided by the Community Development Team.</p> <p>\$50,000 per annum from the Christchurch City Council.</p> <p>Staff time for co-ordination and implementation of actions within strategy.</p> <p>\$75,000 per annum from Crime Prevention Unit.</p>
Cultural		
Environmental		
Economic	<p>Initiatives which support the reduction of crime and injuries within Christchurch</p>	
<p>Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome 'A Safe City'.</p> <p>Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities: The Community and Recreation Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the strategy with the direct staffing provided by the Community Development Team</p> <p>Effects on Maori:</p> <p>Consistency with existing Council policies:</p> <p>Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:</p> <p>Other relevant matters:</p>		

Maintain The Status Quo (If Not Preferred Option)

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Unable to achieve the community outcome "A Safe City".	Would miss out on \$75,000 Crime Prevention Unit funding to support crime prevention initiatives within Christchurch.
Cultural		Unable to co-ordinate other agencies financial commitments.
Environmental		
Economic		

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:
 Primary alignment with community outcome a Safe City.
 Less ability to co-ordinate injury and crime prevention efforts within Christchurch.

Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:
 The Community and Recreation Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the strategy with the direct staffing provided by the Community Development Team.

Effects on Maori:

Consistency with existing Council policies:

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:

Other relevant matters: