

9. URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to consider and recommend that Council become a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol (copy attached) will be launched in March 2005. Prior to that launch, the Ministry for the Environment wishes Councils to become a signatory to the protocol. An Urban Design champion must be appointed and within six months of becoming a signatory an organisation-specific action plan will need to be prepared.
3. Two options are presented:
 - Christchurch City Council becomes a signatory to the protocol,
 - Christchurch City Council does not become a signatory to the protocol.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. The options have been considered in terms of their financial impact. The recommended option, which allows the Council to develop an organisation-specific set of actions, would not impact financially. Existing and planned projects and strategies would fulfil this requirement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council become a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol.

BACKGROUND ON THE NEW ZEALAND DESIGN PROTOCOL

5. The draft New Zealand Urban Design Protocol was published by the MfE in August 2004 and feedback sought. Council staff prepared a response on the draft, which was circulated among Councillors for comment prior to submitting as feedback to MfE.
6. The Council supported the document, noting that it would raise the profile of urban design in New Zealand but suggested that a national policy statement would provide a firmer mandate. The capacity to deliver, however, would be hampered by the lack of people in New Zealand and within local government with the relevant skill sets.
7. Signatories committing to the protocol will need to develop a set of actions specific to each organisation within six months. For Christchurch City Council there are a number of current programmes and projects which could form the specific actions, including:

Action	Existing resources (either funding or staff)?
Developing and promoting design guides	Y
Preparing neighbourhood renewal plans for the older parts of the city	Y
Providing urban design advice into major council development projects	Y
Providing urban design advice on resource consents and in pre-application discussions	Y

8. There is one mandatory action required within the protocol; each signatory must appoint an Urban Design Champion.
9. The protocol provides an additional tool to support urban design through both public and private initiatives. The benefits of the Council becoming a signatory to the protocol include building civic pride and city identity, supporting central city revitalisation, and improving amenity and design.

OPTIONS

10. The options are:
 - (a) Become a signatory to the protocol
 - (b) Do not become a signatory to the protocol

PREFERRED OPTION

11. The preferred option is for the Christchurch City Council to become a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol