

8. URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL ACTION PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategic Development
Officer responsible:	Planning Strategy Manager
Author:	Carolyn Ingles, DDI 941-8902

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to identify the urban design champion and to adopt the draft urban design protocol action plan for Christchurch City Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol was launched in March 2005; the Christchurch City Council agreed to become a signatory to the Protocol in February. There are two mandatory requirements in becoming a signatory – to appoint an Urban Design champion and to prepare an organisation-specific action plan. This report recommends who should be appointed as urban design champions for the Christchurch City Council and recommended targets for the action plan.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. At this point in time there are no unexpected legal or financial implications. The targets proposed in the action plan relating to Actions 1-6 and 9-13 are provided for in 2005/06 operational and capital budgets. Item 7, new Civic Offices, is proposed to be funded outside the core Council capital programme and Item 8, Capital for the City Mall Upgrade, is currently contained in the “green section” of the 2006/16 LTCCP draft Capital Programme. Concept development for this project is provided for in the 2005/06 operational budgets.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Agree that the urban design champions will be the Mayor with Councillor Crighton as the alternate and the General Manager Strategy and Planning (currently Ian Hay is Acting General Manager for this role).
- (b) Adopt the attached programme of targets as the Christchurch City Council's urban design action plan.

BACKGROUND ON THE NEW ZEALAND URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL AND THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

4. The Council agreed to become a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol in February 2004, just prior to the national launch. Becoming a signatory to the protocol indicates the Council's commitment to continuous improvement of the Christchurch urban area and recognises its role in setting an example for others. This commitment is demonstrated through developing, monitoring and reporting on a set of actions specific to the Council. On becoming a signatory the Council is required to pursue two mandatory requirements:
 - To appoint an urban design champion
 - To adopt an urban design action plan, which will be monitored on an ongoing basis with the first report due in August 2005.

Urban Design Champion

5. The role of the urban design champion is to promote and champion urban design and challenge existing approaches. Recent discussions with other councils and the Ministry for the Environment suggest that it is appropriate to appoint a champion from among politicians and another champion from senior management within the Council. From a political perspective, many councils have nominated the Mayor as the political champion and it is recommended that Christchurch also appoints the Mayor as the urban design champion with Councillor Crighton as alternate. Among senior management the most appropriate champion is the General Manager Strategy and Planning; currently Ian Hay, General Manager Strategic Development, is acting in this role until the new General Manager is appointed.

Urban Design Action Plan

6. The action plan must include targets which are challenging and ambitious. The targets can range from planning the future of the city to delivering high quality urban design in relevant Council projects. The first review of the action plan will occur in August 2006. Monitoring and update of the action plan will occur on an ongoing basis following that.
7. The actions outlined in the attached table have been recommended by staff from a much larger list of possible targets. The targets identified have been chosen because they:
 - represent a range of projects from planning the future of the city (the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy) through to being a good client (new Civic Offices)
 - are currently funded or planned in the LTCCP or they are projects which are in the 'green' list from the capital budget
 - Are challenging and ambitious, but are also achievable within the resources available.