

12. GREATER CHRISTCHURCH URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - JOINT HEARINGS COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION OF UDS SUBMISSIONS



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8177
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of a Joint Hearings Committee to hear submissions on the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) and to nominate three Councillors to sit on the joint committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) is a strategic urban growth management collaborative project between the Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri and Selwyn District Councils, Environment Canterbury and Transit New Zealand. The project commenced in 2004 with the establishment of a project terms of reference and the UDS governance forum (the Forum).
3. The draft UDS was publicly notified for submissions on 6 November 2006. The special consultative provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 have been used. Submissions close on 20 December 2006.
4. A mechanism to hear, consider and make recommendations on all submissions is required. To that end, a formal Joint Hearing Committee constituted under the Local Government Act 2002, is proposed.
5. The Joint Committee would be established to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations back to the partner Councils for consideration. The partner Councils will then consider and adopt the recommendations and subsequent amendments to the strategy. The terms of reference for the Joint Hearing Committee are outlined in Appendix 1.
6. It would not have any decision making powers apart from process related decisions.
7. The UDS Forum would be briefed on the recommendations arising from the hearing of submissions and any associated proposed changes to the draft strategy.

Constitution of Joint Hearings Committee

8. It is recommended that the Joint Hearings Committee comprise three elected members from each of the partner Councils together with Councillor Bob Parker, the Forum Chair (non-voting), with a total membership of 13.
9. It is proposed that the representation from each Council comprise two of the existing partner Council Forum representatives (the Christchurch City Council's four present representatives are Councillors Broughton, Buck, Shearing and Wells) together with an elected member who is not on the Forum. This is to assist with having a wider representation and perspective.
10. The Joint Hearings Committee would only be established for the purposes of hearing submissions and making recommendations on submissions to the partner Councils. Once these tasks are completed, it would go out of existence.

Joint Hearings Committee Chair

11. It is proposed that the current Forum Chair (Councillor Bob Parker) chair the Joint Hearings Committee, but on a non-voting basis. This approach preserves the equality of representation approach and reinforces the need for a consensus approach to the consideration and determination of submissions.

12. It provides the opportunity for the Forum Chair to guide the committee through the collaborative hearing process and deliberation given the knowledge and understanding of the draft strategy that he has developed to date.

Hearings and Deliberations

13. It is envisaged hearings would be held between 26 February and 16 March 2007. It is difficult to give an accurate estimate of time requirements, as this is dependent on the number and range of issues raised through the submission process.
14. However, a minimum of three-four days of hearings are likely, with about two days of deliberations, giving a minimum total time requirement of five-six days. The exact amount of time required will be established after submissions close on 20 December 2006.

Administering Authority

15. It is proposed that the Christchurch City Council be the administering authority for the submission and Joint Hearing processes. This involves the provision of administrative support, resources to assist with the processing of submissions, venue provision and associated support services and meeting secretarial services.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

16. The Joint Hearing Committee would be established under Clause 30, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
17. The financial implications of running the hearings are costs that will be borne by the partner Councils under the funding arrangements agreed within the UDS. The costs of respective Councillor attendance at the Joint Hearing Committee meetings will fall where they lie.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) Pursuant to Clause 30, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, a Joint Committee of the Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council and Environment Canterbury be established to hear, consider and make recommendations on all Greater Christchurch UDS submissions to the partner Councils, and that the Committee have the terms of reference and membership as outlined in Appendix 1.
- (b) That the UDS Forum Chair (Councillor Bob Parker) be appointed as Joint Committee Chair, in a non-voting capacity.
- (c) That three Councillors (to be nominated at the Council meeting) be appointed as the Christchurch City Council representatives on the Greater Christchurch UDS Joint Hearing Committee.