

8. AVON RIVER (CENTRAL CITY) MASTERPLAN



General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
Author:	David Sissons, Parks & Waterways Planner, Greenspace Unit, DDI 941-8490

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to gain Council confirmation of the previous Council approval (on 26 February 2004) of the release of the draft Avon River (Central City) masterplan for public comment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A strategy for the Avon River within the four avenues was requested by the local branch of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects in 1998. The Council's Environment Committee acknowledged the need for an Avon River masterplan. It was subsequently highlighted as an integral part of the central city in public response to the 'Heart of the City' consultation document.
3. This led to the Christchurch Central City Strategy Stage I report, which noted on pages 23 to 24 the intention to:

“continue the development of an Avon River Corridor Strategy ...”

On 22 February 2001 the Council adopted the report.

4. Work on the Avon River masterplan began with the preparation of several background reports and wide public consultation including public meetings, field trips, a questionnaire entitled “Floating Ideas on the Avon”, and a display in Our City O-Tautahi. The results were analysed and key issues were identified.
5. An Avon River (Central City) Character Analysis was then prepared, and a tree inventory and ecological studies were undertaken. Their findings and the consultation results were used in preparation of the strategy.
6. A preliminary draft of the strategy was presented to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee on 11 February 2004 and their recommendations:
 2. *That the draft Avon River (Central City) Strategy be released for public comment.*
 3. *That a consultation plan be developed by staff and actioned.*

were adopted by the Council on 26 February 2004.

7. The Ngāi Tahu and European heritage sections of the preliminary draft needed further work, and the opportunity was taken to include a suggested implementation timetable. The resulting changes have now been included and the document is now ready to be released for public comment.
8. Following the receipt of public comments, it will be possible to finalise the strategy and to begin implementing the proposals as set down in the strategy's implementation timetable.
9. The draft masterplan was presented to Councillors at a seminar on 8 February 2006, to which Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board members were invited.
10. At that seminar it was requested that the topic be a made an agenda item for this meeting, to enable the Council to confirm the Council's 26 February 2004 approval of the masterplan's release for public comment.
11. Attached is a flow chart describing the process followed to date.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. The current decision being sought is confirmation of a previous Council resolution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council confirm its previous decision made on 26 February 2004, granting approval for the draft Avon River (Central City) masterplan to be released for public comment.