

8. DRAFT LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2006-16

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Corporate Services
Officer responsible:	Peter Ryan, Manager Organisational Performance
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan for 2006-16 and approve its release for public consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This draft is the result of extensive work by Councillors, staff and Audit New Zealand.
3. It is based on detailed Activity Management Plans compiled by staff, which were then considered and endorsed by the Council during the period 22-29 November 2005.
4. Further detailed considerations of budget and other matters relating to the Plan were made by the Council 13-17 February 2006.
5. At that point a wide range of policy, financial and related decisions were formally adopted by the Council. These decisions underpin the Draft LTCCP under consideration.
6. This draft, if endorsed, will be amended to incorporate any minor amendments resulting from the Council's meeting of 9 March 2006 and then pass into preparation for publication, media launch and public consultation on 28 March 2006. This will meet the deadlines arising from the Local Government Act and Audit NZ.
7. If the draft is not endorsed on 9 March 2006, these deadlines are at risk.
8. There is still scope for the Council to make minor adjustments to the text, layout and financial implications of the draft during the meeting 9 March 2006. Provided these changes are endorsed by the Council they can be incorporated into the text in the short period before the document passes into the publication process.
9. However, amendments of greater magnitude (those requiring profound re-calculation of budget or key performance measures, for example) will invariably mean failing project timelines. They will also invalidate the opinions provided by the Office of the Auditor General, which will be based on the current draft.
10. Without a relevant report of this kind the draft cannot proceed.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires every local authority to have a Long-Term Council Community Plan. It is to be adopted only after the special consultative procedure set out in the Act is used.
12. The draft LTCCP and a summary of the information that is contained in it will be widely distributed to enable people who are affected by or have an interest in the plan to make submissions. Any person who wants to be heard by the Council with regard to a particular issue will have that opportunity.
13. Once submissions have been received and dealt with by the Council, the LTCCP will be prepared in its final form and come before the Council for adoption by resolution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the draft Long-Term Council Community Plan as amended, including the:
 - Revenue and Financing Policy;
 - Development Contributions Policy;
 - Investment Policy; and
 - all other policies contained in the plan.
- (b) Approve the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information in respect of the draft LTCCP.
- (c) Approve the draft LTCCP, Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information being distributed for public consultation.
- (d) Adopt the following timetable for consultation:
 - Public notification (Christchurch Star, The Press and the Council's website): by Tuesday, 24 March 2006.
 - Submissions close: Friday 5 May 2006.
 - Submissions heard: 25 May-7 June 2006.
 - Final decision by the Council: 30 June 2006.
- (e) Note that extraordinary Council meetings may be arranged if necessary to ensure that a final decision is made by 30 June 2006.
- (f) Authorise the General Manager, Corporate Services, to make any necessary amendments to the draft LTCCP, Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information.

BACKGROUND

14. The draft LTCCP is based on the many decisions the Council has taken in recent months, in particular the key decisions made during the week of 17 February 2006.
15. The financial implications of the Council's decisions at the meeting of 2 March 2006 could not be incorporated into the draft of 3 March 2006. These issues (Canterbury Development Corporation \$360,000 reduction, additional funding for Canterbury Museum, and central city targeted rate) will not have a material impact on rates or financial calculations.
16. To comply with the printing timeline for the overall document (which is driven by legislation) it was not possible to action these particular changes. However, on Monday 6 March 2006 staff will provide updated Financial Overview pages that will reflect these decisions.
17. However, it will not be possible to also provide modifications to all the detailed financial Group of Activity (GOA) pages that have changed as a result of these decisions at that time. Staff will provide these detailed replacement pages at the Council meeting on 9 March 2006.
18. If possible these replacement GOA pages will be provided earlier than 9 March 2006.