

10. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING STEERING GROUP

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Public Affairs, DDI 941-8637
Officer responsible:	Marketing Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to confirm the appointment of a Christchurch City Councillor as the Council's representative on the local Steering Group for the World Heritage Committee meeting, to be held in Christchurch in 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The 31st UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting is to be held in Christchurch from 23 June to 1 July 2007. This nine-day conference is expected to be attended by between 600 and 800 participants and observers from the 178 state parties to the World Heritage Convention.
3. The event presents an opportunity for Christchurch and New Zealand to profile its unique natural and cultural heritage, and to profile Christchurch as a visitor destination to this audience.
4. The head of New Zealand's delegation to the Committee, Ngati Tuwharetoa Paramount Chief Tumu te Heuheu, has requested the Council's participation in a local Steering Group, which would develop a programme of events, talks and activities to run alongside the meeting, that the public and delegates can both attend.
5. Councillor Crighton has been involved in discussions with the Department of Conservation and with a number of Christchurch agencies and stakeholders towards establishing a local Steering Group. Initial meetings have been held and terms of reference drawn up.
6. The request for Council participation has been considered by the Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group, which has proposed that Councillor Crighton be confirmed as the Council's representative on the local Steering Group.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The nomination of a Christchurch City Council representative has no financial implications for the Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council confirm Councillor Crighton as the Council's representative on the local Steering Group for the World Heritage Committee meeting, 2007.

BACKGROUND ON WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

8. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention provides for the protection of landscapes and cultural places of outstanding universal importance, representing the best in the world for the type of heritage. The Convention was adopted by UNESCO in 1972, and to date 178 countries have ratified the treaty. New Zealand joined the Convention in 1984.
9. There are currently 812 natural and cultural World Heritage sites, of which three are in New Zealand: Te Wahipounamu (Southwest New Zealand), Tongariro National Park and the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands.
10. New Zealand was elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee in 2003 for a term of four years, and also represents the Pacific region on the Committee.
11. The head of New Zealand's delegation to the Committee, Ngati Tuwharetoa Paramount Chief Tumu te Heuheu, the Department of Conservation and the Christchurch and Canterbury Convention Bureau (an arm of Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing) successfully bid for Christchurch to hold the 31st World Heritage Committee meeting from 23 June to 1 July 2007.
12. This nine-day conference is expected to be attended by between 600 and 800 participants and observers from the 21 countries on the Committee and the other 178 state parties to the World Heritage Convention. It is estimated that the event will provide a direct local economic impact of at least \$3 million to the local economy, as well as providing significant international media and stakeholder exposure for the city.
13. Tumu te Heuheu has approached the Council to request its participation in a local Steering Group, which would develop a programme of events, talks and activities to run alongside the meeting, that the public and delegates can both attend.
14. Councillor Crighton has been involved in discussions with the Department of Conservation and with a number of Christchurch agencies and stakeholders towards establishing a local Steering Group. Initial meetings have been held and terms of reference are being drawn up.
15. The request for Council participation has been considered by the Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group, which has proposed that Councillor Crighton be confirmed as the Council's representative on the local Steering Group.

ROLE OF THE LOCAL STEERING GROUP

16. The Steering Group is intended to provide a platform to profile the culture and environment of Christchurch and surrounding areas to Committee delegates, and also to provide World Heritage exposure to the Christchurch community. It is anticipated that the Steering Group will explore a range of projects, events, activities and promotional opportunities that can be clustered around the World Heritage Committee meeting.
17. The Steering Group would have no formal involvement in the organisation of the World Heritage Committee meeting, which is being managed by the Department of Conservation as the representative of UNESCO, with the assistance of professional conference organisers.
18. The Steering Group will liaise primarily with the Department of Conservation as the meeting organiser. Membership is being finalised, but is likely to include representatives of:
 - Department of Conservation (Christchurch)
 - Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing
 - Cultural Precinct
 - Ngai Tahu
 - Performing Arts
 - Antarctic Heritage Trust
 - Civic Trust
 - Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce
 - NZ Historic Places Trust
19. A staff representative will also participate in the local Steering Group to provide management liaison and reporting to the organisation, and to ensure operational issues are considered. This will be Events Development Manager, Jo Naish. Reporting will be through the Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group.