

8. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON HAGLEY PARK AND BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGEMENT AND MASTER PLANS

Manager responsible:	Chief Executive Officer, DDI 941-8553
Officer responsible:	Secretariat Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the appointment of a Hearings Panel comprising three Councillors, to hear the submissions on the Hagley Park and Botanic Garden Management and Master Plans, and report to the Council with its recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its meeting on 20 July 2006 the Council resolved that the submissions on the draft plans be heard by the full Council.
3. The entire week commencing Monday 11 December 2006 was previously set aside for these hearings, commencing at 9am each day.
4. Submissions have now closed. Approximately 80 persons wish to appear in person in support of their submissions, which it is estimated will require two full hearing days.
5. If (as presently proposed) the submissions are to be heard by the full Council, then it may be difficult to maintain a quorum of Councillors throughout both hearing days. It is therefore recommended that the Council revoke its decision of 20 July 2006 providing for the submissions to be heard by the full Council, and appoint a hearings panel comprising three Councillors (to be nominated at the Council meeting) for the purpose of hearing the submissions, and reporting to the Council with its recommendations. This will avoid any problems in maintaining a quorum.
6. It is envisaged that the panel's report and recommendations will be submitted to the Council in February 2007.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no financial implications. The hearings are being held to consider submissions which have been received by the Council following a public consultation process carried out in accordance with the special consultative procedure provisions of the Local Government Act 2002. The Council is empowered to appoint a hearings panel for the purpose of considering the submissions, and reporting back to the Council with its recommendations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Revoke its decision of 20 July 2006, requiring the submissions to be heard by the full Council.
2. Appoint three Councillors (to be nominated at the Council meeting) for the purpose of hearing the submissions on the draft Hagley Park and Botanic Garden Management and Master Plans, and reporting back to the Council with its recommendations.