

6. CENTRAL CITY OMNIBUS REPORT

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report and that of the six reports attached to it is to provide Councillors with an integrated picture of the strategies, programmes and projects underway or proposed to help achieve the Council's stated vision of Central City Revitalisation. The following associated reports are attached as appendices:
 - Central City Revitalisation Strategy - Stage II (appendix A)
 - Central City South (appendix B)
 - Central City Lanes Plan (appendix C)
 - City Mall Renovation (appendix D)
 - Lichfield Street Two-Way (appendix E)
 - Bus Exchange Project Update (appendix F)
2. These reports will be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board on 6 September 2006 and the Board's recommendations will be tabled at the Council meeting on 7 September 2006.
3. The key issue for the Council to be aware of through the process, is the need to work in a co-ordinated and comprehensive manner throughout the Central City. As Councillors will note, the various reports do overlap and interlock with each other, this reflects the complex inter-relationships that the Council, Council staff and the public need to grapple with to achieve revitalisation of the Central City.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. The Council's vision for the Central City, first adopted in 2001 was:

"A vibrant, exciting, safe and sustainable heart of Christchurch. A heart whose economy, environment, culture and society are healthy and strong."
5. The reports and attachments presented today represent key milestones in achieving this purpose.
6. At a strategic level, the report asks Council two things: to adopt the Stage 2 Revitalisation Strategy, which will provide the overall framework and umbrella that will guide actions in the Central City over the next five to ten years, and secondly, to adopt the broad principles and directions for a key part of that area - the Central City South.
7. Both these reports contain bold ideas and programmes; some are in train, others will require further investigation, feasibility testing and funding to make them happen. Collectively however, they provide a framework for further integrated action.
8. It is important for the Council to note that many of the decisions made today, particularly in respect of these two reports, will lead to further specific investigations, costings and reports back to the Council for approval as specific projects are scoped for delivery.
9. At a tactical level, this set of reports asks the Council to approve significant steps in the delivery of a number of key building blocks in the programme. These are:
 - the adoption for consultation of a proposed City Lanes Plan and;
 - the adoption for consultation of a proposed design for the City Mall.

10. The final two reports deal with key projects (two waying of Lichfield Street and the Bus Exchange) which highlight the dynamic inter-relationships that exist between these various initiatives. A decision on Lichfield Street two-waying, has a significant impact on the options for the Bus Exchange. At a broader level, a debate about the current arterial function of the road itself will even more significantly shape both the Bus Exchange and potential two-way options. This latter debate will most appropriately occur within the context of a debate on the future role of the entire one-way network. These elements are canvassed in more detail in the relevant report, but it is important to note here the inter-relationship that exists.
11. It is also important to note that the site for the new Civic building has now been identified and this will have a significant impact on traffic and people movements in the city. Also, consultation on the Botanic Gardens/Hagley Park Master Plan is underway and the submissions will be heard by the Council later in the year. The outcome of this could potentially impact the traffic network.
12. Work identified in the LTCCP and underway on Tree Planting, Streetscape Design and Parking will be the subject of separate reports. Staff are mindful of the need to also ensure that they are also included as part of the wider revitalisation programme.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL

13. Each report outlines the relevant financial and legal issues.
14. It is important to note that both the City Mall and the potential two waying of Lichfield Street will require consultation to inform the Council's final decision. If the Council wishes to change the designation of the road, an SPC process will be required - this means final decisions cannot be made until March/April 2007.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council receive the information.