

6. AVON RIVER/ŌTAKARO (CENTRAL CITY) MASTERPLAN

General Manager responsible:	Jane Parfitt, General Manager of City Environment DDI 941 8656
Officer responsible:	Michael Aitken Manager Transport and Greenspace
Author:	David Sissons, Parks and Waterways Planner

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to invite the Council to approve the recommended amendments to the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan and adopt the document thus amended as the operative Masterplan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 2 March 2006 the Council granted approval for the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan to be released for public comment.
3. 87 public submissions were received. A Hearings Panel comprising the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Wells and Community Board member de Spa considered the submissions and made recommendations on changes to be made to finalise the Masterplan for adoption by the Council.
4. Attached is a Statement of Proposal in the form of the draft Masterplan with the amendments recommended in response to the public submissions.
5. If the amendments are approved and the document thus amended is adopted, then the document will be amended accordingly and become the operative Masterplan.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. Currently \$1.5 million over ten years is allocated to this project.
7. The current decision being sought will become official Council policy and will lead to actions identified in the 2006-16 Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), and may also lead to additional items for which that plan has not allocated funding. Any expenditure not currently allocated through the LTCCP will be subject to future LTCCP funding processes.

HEARINGS PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve the recommended amendments to the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan, and
- (b) Adopt the document thus amended as the operative Masterplan.

BACKGROUND ON AVON RIVER/ŌTAKARO (CENTRAL CITY) MASTERPLAN

8. 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.
9. This led to the Christchurch Central City Strategy Stage I report, which included on pages 23 to 24 the intention to:

"continue the development of an Avon River Corridor Strategy ..."
10. On 22 February 2001 the Council adopted the report.
11. Work on the Avon River Masterplan began with the preparation of several background reports and wide public consultation include public meetings, field trips, a questionnaire titled "Floating Ideas on the Avon", and a display in Our City O-Tautahi. Results were analysed and key issues were identified.
12. 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.
13. A preliminary draft of the Masterplan was presented to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee on 11 February 2004.
14. The draft Masterplan was presented to Councillors at a seminar on 8 February 2006, to which Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board members were invited. Then on 2 March 2006 the Council confirmed the Masterplan's release for public comment. This was wrapped around the consultation for the 2006-16 Long term Council Community Plan 2006-16. An item allocating funding for implementing the Masterplan was put into the operative LTCCP.
15. 87 submissions were received on the draft Masterplan. Most contained useful information and opinion, and they have led to recommendations for a number of changes, especially to the implementation plans. All of the recommendations are itemised in the document **Attachment 1**. Each amendment recommendation includes a reference to relevant submissions. A summary of all submissions is **Attachment 2**.

OPTIONS

16. Approve the recommended amendments to the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan, and adopt the document thus amended as the operative Masterplan.
17. Alternatively the Council can put the Masterplan to one side and continue with the current management of the river corridor.

PREFERRED OPTION

18. Approve the recommended amendments to the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan, and adopt the document thus amended as the operative Masterplan

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

19. Approve the recommended amendments to the draft Avon River/Ōtakaro (Central City) Masterplan, and adopt the document thus amended as the operative Masterplan

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Increases citizen's pride in their city and improves recreational opportunities	None
Cultural	Protects and celebrates the cultural features and values along the river corridor	None
Environmental	Protects and celebrates the natural features and values along the river corridor	Energy costs of implementation
Economic	Enhances a major tourist attraction	Financial costs of implementation

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:

Primary alignment with community outcome *an Attractive and Well-designed City*. Also contributes to a *City of People who Value and Protect the Natural Environment, a Well-Governed City and a City for Recreation, Fun and Creativity*.

Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:

The document has been prepared in alignment with the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-16.

Effects on Maori:

The document has been prepared in consultation with tangata whenua to ensure that their spiritual and cultural concerns are taken into account.

Consistency with existing Council policies:

The document sets a consistent framework for implementing a number of the Council's strategies and policies in an integrated manner.

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:

These have been taken into account through public consultation. Most would be pleased with the final Masterplan.

Other relevant matters:

Maintain The Status Quo (If Not Preferred Option)

20. Put the Masterplan to one side and continue with the current management of the river corridor.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Current community use and Council management of the river corridor continue	Less 'vision' and co-ordination
Cultural	Current community use and Council management of the river corridor continue	Less 'vision' and co-ordination
Environmental	Current community use and Council management of the river corridor continue	Less 'vision' and co-ordination
Economic	Current community use and Council management of the river corridor continue	Less 'vision' and co-ordination

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:

Primary alignment with community outcome *an Attractive and Well-designed City*.

Also contributes to *a City of People who Value and Protect the Natural Environment, a Well-Governed City and a City for Recreation, Fun and Creativity*.

Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:

Current practices continue, but are not so well co-ordinated.

Effects on Maori:

Current practices continue.

Consistency with existing Council policies:

Current practices continue to be driven by council policies.

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:

Most who made submissions would be disappointed, but some would be pleased.

Other relevant matters: