

## 12. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY APPROVAL

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8177
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Programme Manager - Healthy Environment
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to gain approval from elected representatives of the Proposed Christchurch City Council Sustainability Policy and the updated Terms of Reference for the Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 7 June 2007 the Council approved the establishment of a Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party for the purpose of developing a Draft Sustainability Policy and a Draft Climate Change Strategy in 2008. This Working Party comprising of elected representatives, Council officers and people external to the Council, are now presenting the Proposed Christchurch City Council Sustainability Policy (Attachment 1) for Council adoption.
3. The process used to develop this policy included:
  - National and international literature search of other sustainability policies, strategies and concepts. The basis of the policy comes from the Natural Step ([www.naturalstep.org.nz](http://www.naturalstep.org.nz)) and adopts internationally recognised principles and approaches to sustainability.
  - Seven focus groups representing a range of stakeholders and a random telephone survey of 770 people on climate change and sustainability were carried out in June 2007.
  - An initial discussion was held with a wide range of stakeholders at a Healthy Environment Workshop held 9 August 2007 and attended by over 100 people.
  - An external Peer Review Group comprising of the stakeholders identified in the Terms of Reference and local authorities from across New Zealand, were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Policy during November 2007.
  - The Draft Policy was circulated to Christchurch City Councillors in December 2007 and again in February 2008 seeking feedback.
  - In March 2008 the Working Party approved the Draft Policy for Council adoption.
4. The Proposed Sustainability Policy is consistent with the form of the Council's other high level policy frameworks such as the Aging Together Policy. Once approved, the Policy will be implemented in a range of ways including a launch event, through on-going awareness and capacity building for staff, and through a "Communities Of Practice" concept that has been approved by the Executive Team for implementing high level policy frameworks. This approach seeks to build awareness, commitment and practical actions throughout the organisation using a Steering Team to co-ordinate actions and to foster Sustainability Champions across the organisation.
5. The purpose of the policy is to provide both a clear statement of Council commitment to sustainability, and a framework to enable issues of sustainability to be factored into the actions and decisions of the Council in a transparent and consistent manner. The policy is firstly directed at improving Council actions. At present sustainability is factored into many decisions but the policy will formalise this. A good example is the underlying commitment to sustainability embodied in documents such as the Urban Development Strategy, the Energy Strategy, and the Zero Waste Management Plan. The recently launched Target Sustainability is another example of the Council's practical commitment. This policy will provide a much stronger framework to support these directions.
6. It is anticipated that the Policy will operate at a number of levels. It has a clear role to play assisting the Council to fulfil its strategic directions and will help the Council contribute to the city's Community Outcomes. This Policy will also have numerous practical applications for the organisation, such as helping to guide sustainable procurement, contracting and construction, internal waste minimisation and it challenges the Council to work towards becoming carbon neutral. Council decision making guides will need to incorporate the Policy, as well as the Council's report templates.

7. How best to give effect to the Policy is the role of the Steering Team and numerous actions and applications will arise from this group and from the good ideas of champions throughout the organisation. As with all Council decisions these will continue to need to balance a number of often competing policy directions, and the addition of a clear Council policy on sustainability will enable this dimension to be formally added to those considerations. These will be balanced against the other commitments of the Council and costs and savings will be identified on a project by project basis through the normal Council planning processes.
8. As with the Council's Energy Strategy, there is a desire to extend the policy framework to embrace a level of community advocacy. The Council already does this in many ways, through examples such as Target Sustainability. Once again any specific project would require Council approval and funding . An example of the type of advocacy action that the policy could lead to is shown in Attachment 2.
9. The Terms of Reference for this Working Party that were approved by the Council on 7 June 2007 have been updated to reflect new project timeframes and the new Working Party membership (Attachment 3). It is appropriate that the Council approve the updated TOR.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The adoption of this Policy has no direct financial implications for the Council. Costs and savings will be identified on a project by project basis, with approvals being sought through the normal Council planning processes.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?**

11. Yes

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

12. Adoption of a Sustainability Policy is not a legal requirement. This Policy will assist the Council to meet its requirements under the Local Government Act 2002, in particular Sections 10, 14 and 77.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

13. Yes

##### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

14. Projects will arise and enter the Council's normal planning process.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

15. Yes

##### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

16. Yes

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

17. Processes explained in the body of the report. No further consultation required.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the attached (Proposed) Christchurch City Council Sustainability Policy
- (b) Adopt the attached Terms of Reference for the Sustainability and Climate Change Working Party.