

## 8. RESIDENTS' GROUPS AND COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS POLICY - CONSULTATION

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Community Services DDI 941 8607
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Community Support Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Council approve the draft *Residents' Groups and Community Interest Groups Policy* (**attached**) for public consultation; and to request that the Council decide whether to appoint a hearings panel for the purpose of considering submissions on the draft policy and reporting to the Council thereon.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The *Residents' Groups and Community Interest Groups Policy* replaces the Christchurch City Council's *Residents' Association Recognition Policy*. A review of the Residents' Association policy was last carried out in 2001. Since that time the Local Government Act (2002) has been established and a number of changes have taken place at the Council. As part of the development of the 2006-16 LTCCP, the Council embarked on a process to more clearly define the Council's priorities including the Council's priority audiences. In this context, the current policy has been reviewed to assess whether it best meets the Council's strategic goals and objectives. The review has taken account of the Local Government Act (2002) principles, the Long Term Community Plan, *Strengthening Communities Strategy* (2007) and changes in the way in which Council carries out its business, including abolition and inclusion of Banks Peninsula.
3. The revised Policy recognises there are groups in addition to residents groups that want to be active in Council decision making processes. It also recognises that all residents' groups and community interest groups are defined by their members and are autonomous of the Council. It guides the Council's relationship with residents' groups and community interest groups and outlines Council support to encourage participation in the Council's decision making processes.
4. This Policy aims to strengthen the Council's position that all groups who may be affected by a pending decision or have an interest in it, have the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process if they so choose. This approach is in line with that set out in the draft *Public Participation Policy* (2008).

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no financial or legal considerations associated with this report.

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

6. Not applicable.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Not applicable.

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

8. Not applicable.

### ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

9. The LTCCP (2006-16) contains the objective Promote participation in democratic processes under the *Strong Communities* Strategic Direction.

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

10. Community Support.

## ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

11. This Policy is aligned with and takes account of the following:

- The requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 to enhance the level of communication, consultation and involvement with the community.
- Christchurch City Council's 2007 *Strengthening Communities Strategy*
- Christchurch City Council's 2008 *Draft Public Participation Policy* which aims to replace the existing 2003 *Consultation Policy* and the 1997 *Seeking Community Views Policy*.

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

12. Yes. The Strengthening Communities Strategy.

## CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

13. The development of the draft policy has involved desk top research including:

- How other local authorities involve residents' groups in their decision making
- Best practices in public participation
- Academic literature on participative democracy

along with extensive consultation with both internal and external stakeholder groups as set out below.

Internal Groups consulted with:

- Public Participation Network
- Community Engagement Team
- Transport and Greenspace Consultation Team
- Community Development Team
- GIS Data Team
- Consultation Unit
- Strong Communities Unit (Strategy & Planning Group)

External groups consulted with:

- Christchurch Combined Residents' Association
- Community Board Chairpersons
- Community Interest Groups
- Policy Review Working Party comprising Residents Groups
- Survey of Residents' Groups
- Community Forums

14. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Council approve the draft *Residents' Groups and Community Interest Groups Policy* for public and stakeholder consultation over a 12-week period between 10 November 2008 and 30 January 2009. This will involve:

- Appropriate publicity and promotion of the draft policy.
- Meeting and discussion with all internal CCC stakeholders
- Mail out to all known Residents Groups and Community Interest Groups
- Public and stakeholder meetings
- Targeted consultation with Maori organisations e.g. MKT, He Oranga Pounamu.

15. The results of this consultation will be analysed and a final policy will be available for Council consideration in April 2009.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve the draft *Residents' Groups and Community Interest Groups Policy* **attached** to this report for public and stakeholder consultation between 10 November 2008 and 30 January 2009 (12 weeks).
- (b) Decide whether to allow submitters to be heard following the period of community consultation.
- (c) If the Council decides to hear submissions that a decision is made as to whether:
  - (i) the full Council hear the submissions on the Draft Policy; or
  - (ii) a subcommittee be appointed for this purpose and report to the Council on its recommendations.