

## 10. DRAFT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2010-2040

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To recommend that the Draft Public Open Space Strategy (separately circulated) be approved by the Council for public consultation beginning in November 2009.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Public Open Space Strategy covers the amenity, recreation, heritage, and landscape aspects of Christchurch City streets and waterways and the distribution, quantity and quality of parks and green areas managed by the Council and the connections between them. It relates closely with the Biodiversity Strategy, Surface Water Strategy and Christchurch Transport Plan. The draft strategy was presented to a Council workshop on 25 August 2009.
3. Overall the Strategy aims to provide guidance to the Council on the quantity, quality, distribution, character and priority of public open space provision in Christchurch City. The strategy will also assist and guide policy around the City Plan, reserve management plans, UDS (Greenfield's, revitalisation and the central city), and guide future Development Contributions Policy provisions.
4. Through provision, development and management of public open space the health, recreation, amenity, cultural and environmental needs of City residents and visitors will be maintained, and environmental resilience and the City's character and identity enhanced.
5. For the last 170 years public parks, waterways and the roading network have been instrumental in framing the identity and civic qualities of Christchurch City. The following LTCCP quote sums up the importance of the parks component of the open space network to the City:

*"Christchurch's parks and reserves are what give us our name the 'Garden City'. Whilst other major NZ cities have distinctive greens, what makes us stand out are the number of exotic tree plantings and large spaces for outdoor activities. Hagley Park is the jewel in the crown, being used for events like the Ellerslie Flower Show. I think the Council needs to ensure new residential developments continue to have well landscaped green spaces."*

6. This strategy aims to maintain the positive traditions of the past including Christchurch's Garden City heritage in addition to meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
7. Key challenges to be met by 2040 include:
  - Provision of parks, and attractive urban living conditions for another 84,000 people by 2040.
  - Access to local parks for residents in urban intensification areas and especially inner city Christchurch.
  - Provision of parks in priority urban parks deficiency areas.
  - Funding for provision and development of new parks.
  - Enhancement of street environments to encourage greater pedestrian and cycle mobility.
  - Protection and enhancement of City identity.
  - Realisation of the City's natural assets through creation of new recreation routes and better use of existing opportunities.
  - Provision of better access to and protection of outstanding landscape, the coast and heritage places.
8. In order to provide solutions to the above challenges and take advantage of the City's natural and cultural features the strategy provides a vision, goals and objectives and a set of priorities for open space provision. It also contains six concept plans to provide graphic interpretation of strategy priorities and intentions. The Concept Plans cover; Christchurch City Identity, Banks Peninsula, Metropolitan Christchurch, the Central City, Akaroa and Lyttelton.

9. The strategy vision is:
- *“To provide, develop and maintain a publicly accessible network of open space to enhance and protect health, recreation and liveability for the residents and visitors to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula”.*
  - *“To contribute to maintaining and enhancing the City’s environmental quality and landscape character through the public open space system”.*
10. The four draft strategy goals are:
- *Goal 1 Provide an accessible, and equitably distributed multi-use open space network.*
  - *Goal 2 Ensure public open space is diverse, interesting, and promotes local, and City identity (catering for biodiversity, iconic landscapes, heritage places and views special to each area).*
  - *Goal 3: Encourage community awareness and support for open space provision, development and maintenance.*
  - *Goal 4: Ensure open space provision and management is sustainable.*

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. The strategy aims to provide a vision and an overview for future public open space provision that will provide guidance and priorities for future LTCCP budget preparation. The Strategy has summarised the highest priorities for future implementation.
12. An Implementation Plan will be prepared subsequent to the Strategy to provide more specific targets, actions and budget implementations in preparation for the 2012-2022 and subsequent LTCCP prioritisation processes. Adoption of the strategy is not a commitment to the delivery of any particular project. That will be determined through each LTCCP.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

13. The strategy is part of the Strategy and Planning Group’s work programme for the 2009-2010 financial year.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

14. The Strategy provides policy guidance on public open space pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002 including the Development Contributions Policy.

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

15. Preparation of the Draft Strategy is in line with the Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways Activity objectives in the current (2009 – 19) LTCCP and contributes to the following LTCCP outcomes:
- **Safety** By ensuring that our parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places, and by controlling and minimising flood and fire hazards.
  - **Community** By providing spaces for communities to gather and interact, and by providing community burial grounds.
  - **Environment** By enabling people to contribute to projects that improve our environment.
  - **Governance** By involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways.
  - **Prosperity** By contributing to Christchurch’s Garden City image and attracting business, skills and tourism.
  - **Health** By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities. By managing surface water.

- **Recreation** By offering a range of recreational opportunities in parks, open spaces and waterways.
- **Knowledge** By providing opportunities to learn through social interaction and recreation.
- **City development** By providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environment.

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

16. The Draft Public Open Space Strategy is closely aligned with implementation of the Urban Development Strategy. Provision of adequate parks and pedestrian friendly streets in existing urban 'intensification zones' (L2 / L3 and L4 City Plan zones) is a major challenge for the strategy. The strategy provides guidelines for levels of service for parks over the entire City.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

17. The Draft Surface Water Strategy is part of the suite of 'Healthy Environment' Strategies:
- Biodiversity Strategy (adopted)  
The Draft Public Open Space Strategy supports the Biodiversity Strategy through provision for land acquisition, and partnerships that support biodiversity objectives.
  - Surface Water Strategy (draft)  
The strategy is linked to the Surface Water Strategy, especially in urban Christchurch where integration of surface water management and parks and streets interact. The rivers, lakes, streams and multi-value stormwater management mechanisms (for example, swales and potentially rain gardens) discussed in the Draft Surface Water Strategy form part of the public open space network.
  - Water Supply Strategy (adopted)  
Use of water is closely related with the planted character of urban Christchurch. On Banks Peninsula water supply catchments sometimes have potential biodiversity and or open space value.
  - Climate Change Strategy (in preparation)  
Initiatives in the strategy will inform and complement implementation of the Climate Change Strategy including carbon sequestration initiatives.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

18. In order to strengthen the cohesiveness and comprehensiveness of the Draft Public Open Space Strategy, as well as staff engagement in the process, a number of internal workshops have been held. Feedback was requested in a series of discussions with staff from City Environment and Strategy and Planning Groups. An important focus was the integration of the Draft Public Open Space Strategy within the context of the Healthy Environment Programme and other existing high level strategies (UDS).
19. A consultant (Suky Thompson) who is experienced in walking and recreation use on Banks Peninsula was employed to provide guidance on and peer review of the Banks Peninsula and Akaroa Concept Plans. Amendments were made to recreation routes and 'Areas of Interest' as a result.
20. A breakfast workshop for key stakeholders was held on 4 August 2009, with the support of the Community Engagement Team. Seventeen people attended representing the following disciplines: Tourism, Recreation, Federated Farmers, Environmental Consultants, Transport, Ecology, Accessibility, diverse communities, park management, safety, community organisations and sustainability. The attendees were asked to provide feedback on the concept plan maps for Banks Peninsula and metropolitan Christchurch, including potential gaps, new concepts and other considerations not currently addressed. This was an extremely effective element in the public participation process, was highly valued by the participants and provided excellent feedback. The feedback was assessed and where appropriate has been incorporated into this Draft Strategy. Community Board members have been consulted during the early development of the Draft Strategy and a workshop was held on 21 September 2009.

- 21 Subsequent to recommendations from the 25 August Council workshop, further explanation has been included in the strategy on parks deficiencies analysis and the open space standard for sports park provision has been qualified to allow for further analysis through the pending Sports Park Plan. Reference has also been included to horse grazing areas in the background area.
22. The strategy will be released for public consultation on 16 November 2009 through to 22 January 2010. A process of consultation will be undertaken with Ngai Tahu and the public to be reported back to a Council hearing panel early in the new year. Consultation will include production of a strategy summary document and submission form. It will also be on the "Have Your Say" Web page, and media releases will publicise the strategy. Staff are finalising a consultation plan to provide a programme for engaging with the public on the Draft Strategy.
23. The project team has been in communication with MKT and they have been provided with the strategy and concept plan maps. The strategy has been appropriately amended in response to their comments.

#### **STRATEGY FORMAT**

24. Prior to release for public comment the strategy will be further illustrated to aid legibility, reformatted where needed and rechecked for typographical errors.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve the Draft Public Open Space Strategy for public consultation.
- (b) Establish a Hearings Panel of up to five Councillors, including a chairperson (to be nominated at this meeting), to hear public submissions and recommend changes to the draft strategy to the Council.