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Corporate Plan Output: Transport Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of the proposal of the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy. This strategy process is the result of recent discussions on the formulation of the urban portion of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (which this committee received a report on at its last meeting). Metropolitan Christchurch can be considered to be broadly the significant commuting catchment of Christchurch City, including generally Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Rangiora, the Lyttelton Harbour area, Lincoln and Rolleston.

For some time, the Christchurch City Council has planned the production of a long-term transport strategy for the city, to provide an umbrella framework for the many transport policy areas and strategies with which it works. This would bring together the City Plan, transport objectives and policies, and a number of existing policies dealing with roading, public transport, parking, and cycling. Concerns have been expressed by City Councillors that there is a perceived fragmentation of planning effort between Council units and the Regional Council, TNZ and LTSA.

A review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) was begun in the middle of last year. The RLTS is a legislative requirement under the Land Transport Amendment Act 1995. The responsibility for preparing the RLTS is vested with the Regional Land Transport Committee, a committee of the Canterbury Regional Council that has representatives from various organisations from throughout Canterbury. The scope of the RLTS will alter if the proposed legislation for Road Reforms is passed, but the final outcome is obviously still uncertain. Also, a Transport Vision Group was convened by Canterbury Dialogues early in 1998, which is developing and promoting a sustainable transportation vision for Canterbury and to facilitate looking at the “big picture”.

The proposed strategy to be developed by the Council will endeavour to meet the objectives of the three processes. That is, to provide a Long Term Integrated Transport Strategy for Christchurch City Council, to provide the urban component of the Regional Land Transport Strategy review and to develop a sustainable long term transport vision for Christchurch for the Canterbury Dialogues process.

This strategy will be led by officers of the Council, with input from officers of the Canterbury Regional Council and other relevant road controlling authorities. Work on this strategy will also be reported through this committee, the Regional Land Transport Committee, the Joint CCC/CRC Committee, and relevant committees of affected road controlling authorities, as appropriate.

A draft brief has been separately circulated.

OUTCOMES

The principal outcomes sought are:

- Agreement on and commitment to a common transport vision for metropolitan Christchurch by all major stakeholders
- Improved integration and co-ordination of the planning, policies and programmes of the major service providers to ensure that the future development of the transport system is consistent with the vision and future needs of metropolitan Christchurch

OUTPUTS REQUIRED

The primary output required of the study is the production of the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy document. This should be formed in such a way so that it is capable of:

- adoption by the Christchurch City Council as its Long Term Transport Strategy,
- importation by the Regional Land Transport Committee as the urban portion of the RLTS, and
- acceptance by the Transport Vision Group as its agreed statement for the Transport Vision and desired direction of development of the transport system for Christchurch.

It is envisioned that the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy would consist of Vision Statement, Strategic Objectives and Policies, and Monitoring/Review structures. It should also incorporate recommendations regarding the review of existing documents and strategies of the various authorities with responsibilities for aspects of the transport system.

Detailed implementation plans would be evolved through the various agencies planning processes, such as for the City Council focussed through input to the Annual Plan process.

SEMINAR

It is proposed as an initial stage to hold a seminar for all Councillors. This seminar would include:

- Discussion of expectations of the strategy,
- A review of existing policies,
- Presentation of background information on the transport system and relevant city development,
- Identification of issues that Councillors wish addressed,
- The work undertaken to date (particularly the Visioning work being developed with the Canterbury Dialogues group), and
- Undertaking some visioning work.

CONCLUSION

Staff are beginning the process to create a Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy. This is intended to fulfil three functions of a city Long Term Transport Strategy, the urban portion of the RLTS and, for the Transport Vision Group, an agreed statement for the Transport Vision and desired direction of development of the transport system for Christchurch.

Recommendation: That the Committee agree to the development of a Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy along the lines outlined above and in accordance with the separately circulated brief.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.