

**15. CATHEDRAL SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT
OFF STREET PASSENGER WAITING AREA**

RR 10169

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Corporate Plan Output: Cathedral Square Redevelopment 9.5.61	

The purpose of this report is to report back on progress regarding the provision of an off street passenger waiting area in the vicinity of Cathedral Square for the use of passengers until the bus interchange comes into operation (refer attached plan).

VACANT PROPERTIES

At the 11 May meeting of the City Services Committee it was decided that officers should investigate further options for the provision of an off street passenger waiting area in the vicinity of Cathedral Square.

Currently there are four vacant properties in or close to the north-west quadrant of Cathedral Square:-

The former Mainly Silks shop in Chancery Arcade, which this Committee rejected at its May meeting.

The Servicke Jones building, adjacent to Chancery Arcade, which is not available because it has been leased as an Internet café.

The former Jackson Bay shop, adjacent to the Crystal Plaza, which is also not available as it has been leased to another party.

Units on the west side of Crystal Plaza, linking the Square to Gloucester Street, which the owner is currently in negotiation with another party for the lease of the entire area.

The current Aorangi Sheepskins shop, adjacent to Crystal Plaza, may be available in the near future, as the current tenant is proposing to move out. As a result the Property Services Unit is negotiating with the building owner's agent to determine whether a short term lease at an affordable rental can be agreed. The results of these negotiations will be reported back to this Committee.

FUNDING

As reported at the May meeting of this Committee the \$48,000 originally allocated for this item in the Cathedral Square budget has been re-allocated to other items of work. Also funding in the public transport initiatives and planning budget that was available has now been used to fund work in connection with the proposed passenger transport interchange. Therefore there is no budget currently identified for this proposal.

The funding for the five additional bus shelters that were to be installed on the footpath in the north west quadrant of the Square is also proposed to be re-allocated to the passenger transport interchange.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

The passenger transport interchange has now been approved by the City Council and is programmed to be completed in late 2000. Therefore any facility provided in the Square would not be required after this time.

CONCLUSION

A building is likely to be available for an off street waiting area. There is currently no financial provision in the 1998/99 and 1999/00 Annual Plans. If the Committee wishes to proceed, additional funding will be required.

Recommendation: That the Committee confirm whether it wishes to proceed with this proposal and, if so, that it makes an appropriate recommendation to the Annual Plan Working Party for funding for the 1999/00 financial year.

Chairman's Recommendation: That in view of progress on the interchange and the absence of funding in the budget that the off street waiting area not be proceeded with.