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Corporate Plan Output: Turning Point 2000	

The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with background information on a mass participation walk event proposed to take place next year as part of the Turning Point 2000 celebrations.

Turning Point 2000 (Sport 2000) is seeking the Board’s support in principle for the event and for assistance in developing the event further.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Turning Point 2000**

Turning Point 2000’s role is to lead and co-ordinate the development of events and projects for the year 2000 for Christchurch and Canterbury.

The theme of Turning Point 2000 is “Looking Back - Looking Forward”, and it will provide us with a unique opportunity to celebrate our heritage and our future in a whole year of events and projects aimed at uniting our communities and fostering greater community spirit and pride in the region.

### **Sport 2000**

One of the 14 advisory groups established to develop Turning Point projects is the Sport 2000 committee. Sport 2000 aims to have more Cantabrians than ever before participating and enjoying sport and recreation in the year 2000.

Sport 2000 has issued a challenge to Canterbury sport and recreation bodies to secure at least 25 international, 60 national and over 100 regional events in the year 2000. As well as international and national events, Sport 2000 is developing three major community projects. One of these projects is the proposed “Walk 2000 Programme”.

### **Walk 2000**

The vision of “Walk 2000” is to make Canterbury the healthiest province in New Zealand by encouraging the community to walk for fitness during the year 2000 (and beyond). The proposed “Walk 2000” programme will provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to get “out & about” in their community through a series of organised walks for five weeks starting on Sunday 1 October 2000.

The proposed programme will link in with existing walking activities run by the Christchurch City Council (“Active Christchurch” walks programme) and the Hillary Commission’s “Push Play” campaign. The proposed programme will be launched with a centrally located walk and “fun day” on Sunday 1 October and will culminate on Sunday 5 November with a mass participation walk proposed to start in the central city and finish at the New Brighton Pier. A brochure programme including all the walking events within the five week period will be produced and distributed citywide.

## **CITY TO NEW BRIGHTON PIER WALK**

The City to New Brighton Pier walking event will be the “Grand Finale” of the “Walk 2000” programme. This event will be about people enjoying themselves while they are exercising for their health and will be a celebration of the completion of the “Walk 2000” programme. The City to New Brighton Pier walk will be the only mass participation event on the “Walk 2000” programme.

The proposed route will follow the Avon River (as closely as possible) from the centre of town to New Brighton Pier. A draft route has been developed and the full course would take approximately 2.5 hours to complete. It is intended that participants could “drop in” to the walk at any stage of the route, if they were unable to complete the full distance. The official start time of the walk from the centre of town would be 10.00 am.

There will be many points of interest along the route of the walk. As well as highlighting the buildings, parks and gardens of historical and social significance there will be entertainment “stations” and activities to break the walk up into many segments rather than one long stretch. It is intended that local and national celebrities will be involved in varying capacities in the “Walk 2000” programme and therefore would be present at the City to New Brighton Pier Walk.

As stated in the title of the event, the proposed walk will finish at the New Brighton Pier. It is proposed that there will be a Mardi Gras type event or activity happening in the New Brighton Mall area at the end of the walk event. A large picnic, barbecue and food stalls could be organised to coincide with the lunchtime finish of the walk. Other entertainment (live bands, buskers, and street theatre) could be planned to coincide with Guy Fawkes celebrations for later that evening. There are several options or themes for the entertainment in the mall and surrounding areas. This event would precede Show Time Canterbury by a week, so a carnival theme could be appropriate.

## **SUMMARY**

The “Walk 2000” programme currently has the support of the Christchurch City Council and the National Heart Foundation. The Sport 2000 Committee (under the Leisure Unit, Christchurch City Council), will be responsible for co-ordinating the overall “Walk 2000” programme. The Christchurch Star have also indicated their support for co-ordinating and financing the walking component of the “City to New Brighton Pier” event. With the event finishing at the Pier a great opportunity is created for the Burwood/Pegasus Ward to develop a major community event for the year 2000.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board support this event in principle and provide assistance to develop the event further.
  2. That the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board recommend to the Sport 2000 Committee the most appropriate agency in the Burwood/Pegasus Ward to develop and assist with funding the “City to New Brighton Pier” event.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:**

1. That the Board support the City to New Brighton Walk event in principle.
2. That the New Brighton Project be approached by "Walk 2000" for assistance in developing the event in conjunction with its organisation of the Guy Fawkes 2000 event.
3. That the Board consider funding the event from its 2000/01 Project and Discretionary Funds.