

17. GROWING COMMUNITIES - ORGANIC RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL NEEDS

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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to seek this Community Board's ideas, suggestions and interest in a synergistic project to maximise the use of organic resources, currently wasted in the City, as a resource for community style gardens meeting a wide range of social needs.

POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

The City Services Committee supported the development of community gardens at its seminar on 21 October 1999 and requested that a report be prepared outlining how their development could be facilitated. The attached report (*see page 67*) was prepared after very brief discussion with representatives of the Organic Garden City Trust (including Kids Edible Gardens) and Te Whare Roimata. The attached report notes that the first steps to take this project any further (*Tasks 3 and 4 in Attachment A of the attached report, page 73*) must be to seek ideas and input from Community Boards and other key stakeholders such as those listed in the report. The City Services Committee added the following groups to this list as well as suggesting contact with the Horticultural society and relevant gardening clubs:

- Grey Skills;
- Mature employment service;
- Community Housing Forum.

The City Services Committee passed the following resolutions at its meeting on 9 November 1999:

- “1. That the Waste Management Unit co-ordinate discussion between the above key stakeholders, and any others subsequently identified, to develop a project proposal for the use of organic material which is currently landfilled as a resource for composting in school, community and home gardens.*
- 2. That the above project proposal be reported back to the Community Boards and the City Services and Community Services Committees.*
- 3. That, subject to the outcome of the discussions outlined in 1 above, a provisional sum of \$250,000 be added to the “pink pages” as a new initiative for the 2000/01 financial year reducing to \$110,000 per year in 2004/05 as outlined in Attachment B.*
- 4. That complementary funding be sought from other organisations, such as the Sustainable Management Fund, the Community Trust and the Tindall Foundation once a sufficiently detailed project proposal has been developed”.*

WHERE TO FROM HERE – SEEKING COMMENT

A common success factor in existing community gardens has been the commitment of those involved and the ability of the project to meet a wide range of individual and community needs. Any new project must be based on and complement existing initiatives which are known to exist throughout Christchurch already. In addition any new project must be driven by the community it seeks to assist and simply facilitated by the Council where appropriate, not visa versa. For this reason it is important to seek the Board's input on the following issues and any others it wishes to raise:

1. Whether the Board believes this project is likely to have any benefits in its wards;
2. Whether or not the Board wishes to be involved in this project;
3. How the Board would like to see this project progressed in this community, if at all;
4. What similar initiatives already exist in the community;
5. What sorts of needs exist in the community which might be able to be addressed by development of this project;
6. Names of interested stakeholders/groups in the community who should be approached;
7. What resources the Board is likely to need or may be able to offer to assist with this project.

SUMMARY

This Community Board's input is needed at the outset to help define a possible "growing communities" project in this area. The potential benefits are that organic material currently landfilled in Christchurch could be used as a resource for composting in community gardens to develop and empower those communities most in need of assistance in Christchurch. This would simultaneously meet environmental (waste minimisation) and social goals already publicly stated by the Christchurch City Council.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.