

<p>Officer responsible Environmental Policy & Planning Manager</p>	<p>Author Ivan Thomson Senior Planner, Planning Policy</p>
<p>Corporate Plan Output: City Plan and Development Policy Advice</p>	

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Council that it meets with neighbouring District Councils to discuss ways of establishing a joint approach to managing effects of long-term urban growth.

At its June meeting the Environment Committee resolved to hold a seminar on urban growth to gain information on trends and issues, including those affecting surrounding districts. The following key points emerged from that seminar:

- Over the next 25 years the city’s population could grow by some 42,000 people and that of the adjoining districts by about 24,000.
- Christchurch’s growth was affecting, and being affected by, development trends in neighbouring districts.
- Consequently, there are significant implications for future decisions the city may take on transport, infrastructure open space acquisition, central city revitalisation, industrial land and zoning for new development.

It was noted that a considerable amount of work had already been done in collecting information by a joint officers’ working party that had been established during the term of the previous Council. A joint subcommittee with adjoining districts and the regional had also been formed, but it met only a few times both because of possible overlaps with City Plan hearings and because population growth land pressures had eased.

Members agreed that, notwithstanding the amount of additional residential development opportunities now provided for in the new City Plan, some co-operation between the city and surrounding districts is needed to establish a direction for long-term growth beyond the life of the current Plan. Long-term transportation planning of the city also needs to be aware of the trends outside of the city.

Members recognised the role the Regional Council would play in any future co-operative arrangement. However, it was considered that initial discussions should be confined to agreeing on the cross-boundary issues between the city and its neighbouring districts.

Recommendation: That the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Environment Committee, together with the chairs of the Resource Management and City Services Committee, host a meeting with members from Waimakariri, Hurunui, Banks Peninsula and Selwyn District, to identify issues of mutual interest regarding urban growth.

Chairman’s Recommendation: That the officer’s recommendation be approved.