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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to introduce to the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board and the Parks and Recreation Committee the first draft Parks Area Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The draft Parks Area Plan – Spreydon Ward is a pilot for a series of at least six similar plans proposed to be prepared over the next two years for separate local areas across Christchurch City. The context for this type of plan is to focus on Christchurch City Council provided parks within clearly defined parts of the city and to provide information, including details of (1) the park resource provided to the community, (2) the cost of this provision, and (3) consideration of the issues and needs identified for these parks.

The target markets are the Spreydon Ward residents, elected representatives and also other organisations and Council units.

Although the focus of the Parks Area Plan is on Council provided parks, this is not in isolation from consideration of other sources of green open space, which are also outlined in the plan (eg hospital and school grounds). What is not included is reference to other community resources (eg libraries) but the intention is for the Parks area Plan to be used in conjunction with other local planning documents (eg community plans).

OBJECTIVES

Key objectives sought to be achieved for each local area through the production of parks area plans are:

- To provide to the public clear and accurate information on parks provided by the Council in the local area and the costs of development and maintenance of these parks.
- Identify and summarise trends, issues and needs pertaining to provision and use of parks in the area.
- Give detail on significant park projects to be undertaken.
- Propose options for future planning for parks in the area.
- Present information with concise to-the-point text and graphics in a map-like format that is cost-effective to produce and easy to understand and use.
- Encourage community comment on the initial Parks Area Plan to enable its future development and improvement and to provide an opportunity for future community involvement in the development of the plan and generally in the planning for parks in the community's local area.
- To take a new and innovative approach to local area planning.

PLAN JURISDICTION

An attribute of the Parks Area Plan format is that it can be applied to any scale of local area in the City. The ideal, though, is to select areas that show a particular identity (reflecting the community character/desires, open space/recreational issues/needs and geographical/physical features special to the area) throughout. The first Parks Area Plan has been based on a city ward area. This is for a number of reasons, including (1) being able to tie into an existing community infrastructure for consultation purposes and (2) the ease of utilising park and city information already organised on a ward basis. This does not mean that future Parks Area Plans are limited to such boundaries and, certainly, the plans must take into account parks and open space resources that are outside the local area boundaries set but which affect the community of that area.

CONSULTATION

A purpose of the Parks Area Plan is to inform the community of the green open space resources that are currently provided by the Council and to identify the issues and needs pertaining to these resources that are relevant to the community. Feedback from the community is to be sought through consultation. The Parks Area Plan is designed to serve as a forum for consultation and a catalyst for community feedback to enable its future improvement as well as identify necessary development and improvement of the park resource. It is proposed that consultation be sought up until 26 November 1999.

CONTEXT

The Parks Area Plan will not exist in a void and in isolation to other plans for open space that apply to the local area. It is necessary that it accurately reflects citywide planning documents, such as the Annual Plan and Five-Year Capital Expenditure Programme, as well as complement other plans for the local area, such as community plans.

The long term goal is for the Parks Area Plan to be one of the drivers, or at least significantly influence, the citywide planning process, including the allocation of funding to parks in the local area on the basis of needs identified in the Parks Area Plan.

CONCLUSION

As an initial plan that follows a new and different concept of a local area type plan, there is expected to be considerable room for improvement and further development of the draft Parks Area Plan – Spreydon Ward.

This plan was prepared on the basis that it will serve as the vehicle for comment/input by Council staff, other organisations and the public on the particular approach that has been proposed to be taken to address the planning of parks provision in the Spreydon Ward area. The plan has been separately circulated to Councillors.

The draft plan was presented to the 7 September meeting of the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board.

Recommendation: That the draft Parks Area Plan for the Spreydon Ward be released for public comment, with comments to be received by 26 November 1999.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.