

4. THE CANTERBURY SUSTAINABLE LIVING STRATEGY : THE WAY FORWARD

Officer responsible City Manager	Author Mike Richardson, Jonathan Fletcher
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to propose to the Council the approach that it might take to the process of undertaking the Canterbury Sustainable Living Strategy initiated by the Canterbury Regional Council.

At the March Council meeting the Council considered the project proposal as developed by the Canterbury Regional Council and resolved as follows:

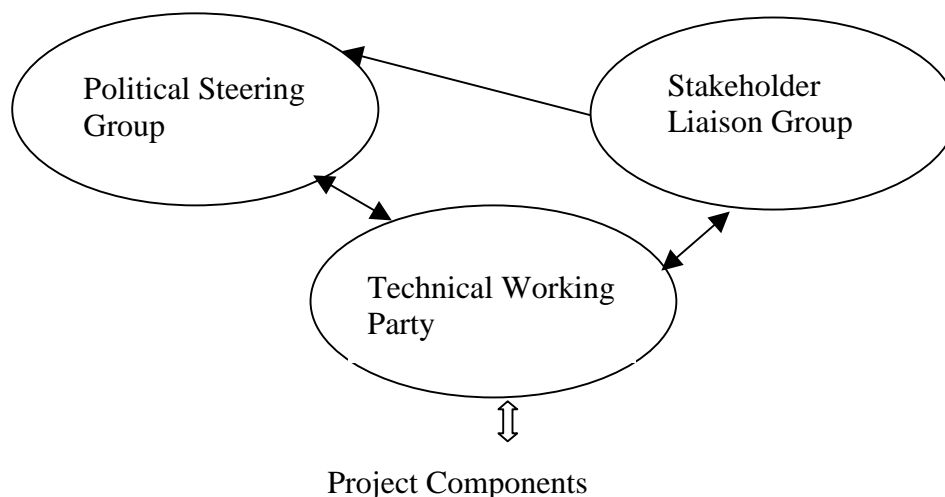
That the Council:

- 1. Support a regional approach to the sustainable development of Canterbury's natural resources.*
- 2. Agree to co-operate with the Canterbury Regional Council and territorial local authorities in a regional initiative for the sustainable development of Canterbury's natural resources.*
- 3. Seek a meeting with the Canterbury Regional Council and territorial local authorities to discuss the scope of a process to address these issues, and in particular to seek greater emphasis on Canterbury wide development issues including the diversification of the Region's productive base.*
- 4. Note that the Christchurch City Council is responsible for planning the sustainable growth and development of the Christchurch Metropolitan area, including the matter of determining the urban density within Christchurch.*
- 5. Seek an assurance from the Canterbury Regional Council that it accepts the principle underlying recommendation 4.*
- 6. Recognise the contribution to the debate on sustainability of the participants in Canterbury Dialogues.*
- 7. Request the City Manager to report on the implementation of the above process. (Note To be done prior to the implementation of clause 3 of the recommendation.)*

Planning for development and sustainable use of resources 15–50 years into the future is a difficult process because there are a large number of unknowns and so many things can change. At the same time there is a significant amount of public investment in infrastructure (piped services, transportation networks, health facilities, schools, and parks and recreation facilities for example) that has a relatively long lead-time and a useful life of over 50 years. Much of this infrastructure should be planned in the light of a range of environmental constraints and in ways which promote long term sustainability as well as a diverse and attractive living environment. There is benefit in achieving a level of agreement about the planning and priority for these services with the other local authorities in the area. It is also essential that there be effective consultation with informed stakeholder groups such as those involved in Canterbury Dialogues.

However, decisions about public investment priorities rest with the specific local authorities (particularly the Christchurch City Council) and other public agencies. In some cases joint committee processes may be appropriate, as has been the case with the regional landfill project.

It is suggested that a three-group structure as in the diagram below is the best way to progress work on this strategy:



The political steering group should include representation from the elected members of the local authorities in the region and would provide overall guidance to the project.

The technical working party would involve key staff from:

The constituent local authorities;
Government departments; (for example the Ministries of Environment, Transport Health and Education);
Experts from Lincoln and Canterbury Universities; and
Canterbury Dialogues (for their expertise in community consultation and participation)

The stakeholder liaison group would serve as a “sounding board” for the technical working party and would also provide responses to the political steering group. On the group would be representatives of the key commercial, industrial, farming and community groups from the study area including, for example, the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers’ Association, the Council of Social Services, development interests (both urban and rural), and Federated Farmers.

The next steps in the process are:

1. Nominated Councillors from the City meet with elected members from the other territorial councils in the study area and the Regional Council to establish the political steering group and agree on the way forward;
2. Staff from all the local authorities involved work together to prepare a draft scoping report and terms of reference for the strategy;

3. The draft scoping report and terms of reference is considered and endorsed by each of the Councils involved;
4. Work begins on developing the strategy.

It is suggested that the aim should be to have completed step three above by October or November 2000 which would be in time for the Councils involved to reflect any resource requirements for specific projects associated with developing the strategy in their 2001/02 annual plans.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the above steps for progressing the Canterbury Sustainable Living Strategy be agreed to.
 2. That two or three Councillors be nominated to meet with representatives of the other local authorities involved in developing the strategy to see if there is agreement to proceeding as outlined above.

- Chairman's Recommendation:**
1. That the above recommendation be adopted.
 2. That the Council's nominees be the Chairpersons of the Resource Management, Environment and Strategy and Resources Committees.