

17. RECREATION AND SPORT STRATEGY FOR CHRISTCHURCH

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Alan Bywater
Corporate Plan Output: Leisure Plans and Policies	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Hagley Ferrymead Community Board's input in to the process to develop a recreation and sport strategy for Christchurch by considering and providing feedback on the Discussion Document Summary (circulated separately).

1. WHAT IS THE RECREATION AND SPORT STRATEGY?

The Recreation and Sport Strategy aims to set out in broad terms how the recreation and sports needs of Christchurch should be met in the future. It aims to plan for the City as a whole, recognising there are a large number of organisations involved, of which the Council is just one. It acknowledges that there is a need for all organisations involved to work closely together to meet the challenges faced by recreation and sport today and in coming years.

The Council has initiated the process and is adopting a leadership role in developing the Recreation and Sport Strategy. The challenge is to encourage a critical mass of recreation and sport organisations in the City to agree on a common direction and their respective roles. The belief is that by working together in a planned way recreation and sport providers can collectively achieve more in meeting the needs of the City.

The Council is not signalling an intention to spend large amounts of additional money on recreation and sport in the future. Rather the Council needs to continually re-examine its priorities in the area to ensure the available resources are used in the most effective manner. To make this prioritisation successful it is important that it is carried out within the context of an agreed direction for the city as a whole and clear roles for the organisations involved.

2. WHAT IS THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT SUMMARY?

The Discussion Document Summary is the first opportunity for widespread input to the Recreation and Sport Strategy process. The summary aims to present information about the current situation in Christchurch and future trends affecting recreation and sport. It asks broad directional questions with the intention of ensuring the substantive issues facing recreation and sport in the City are out in the open and considered as part of the strategy development process. The Discussion Document is also an opportunity for others to comment on and check the picture built up of the current situation.

Feedback on the Discussion Document Summary will form the base from which a draft Recreation and Sport Strategy will be prepared. Once a draft strategy is prepared there will be a further opportunity for input before a final strategy is completed.

The Recreation and Sport Strategy process is not about developing a collective 'wish list' of new facilities and services. Rather it is about reaching agreement on some medium to long-term direction and roles by adopting a strategic outlook to what is required across all activities, parts of the community and areas in the city.

3. FEEDBACK

As part of this initial stage of the recreation and sport strategy process there is an opportunity for this community board to respond to the information and issues presented in the Discussion Document. This can be done by responding to the issues raised at the start of each section or by raising other issues that affect recreation and sport in the city.

To enable the process to develop the Recreation and Sport Strategy to maintain some momentum it is requested that feedback be received no later than 15 September 2000.

Recommendation: That the Hagley Ferrymead Community Board respond to and provide feedback on the Recreation and Sport Strategy Discussion Document Summary and any issues raised by it.

Chairman's Recommendation: For discussion.