

4. MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Community Services Committee meets with Steve Maharey to discuss potential joint initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

It has become apparent that a number of initiatives planned by the Council are similar to those proposed by the new government. For example, in its briefing paper to the incoming government the Department of Internal Affairs noted that a potential area for development is:

“a relationship framework between the Government and the community sector similar to ‘Compacts’ that have been developed in Britain. Support for a relationship framework is gaining momentum within our own community sector. The framework would focus on developing shared visions, principles for interaction, and commitments from both parties”.

Another initiative highlighted in the Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Social Policy Briefing Papers is the Best Practice Funding Project, which is similar to third sector funding initiatives the Council has been working on.

There will also be considerable overlaps between the work of the Council’s Poverty Taskforce and the new Cabinet Committee addressing disparity.

These projects, and others, create an opportunity for the City Council to work in partnership with the Government and with the community sector. It may be appropriate for Christchurch, which has already done some work on these initiatives, to pilot some projects.

It is therefore suggested that the Minister of Social Services and Employment, the Hon Steve Maharey, is invited to meet with the Mayor, the Community Services Committee and staff to discuss these projects and possible joint initiatives.

Recommendation: That the Mayor be asked to invite the Minister of Social Services and Employment to attend a meeting to discuss the matters described above.

Chairman’s Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.