

### 3. GRAFFITI WORKING PARTY UPDATE

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Corporate Plan Output: Across several output categories	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the interagency Graffiti Working Party. The interagency Graffiti Working Party has been utilising graffiti research (including the 1999 research undertaken in Christchurch) to determine the most effective and efficient means to implement the Council's resolutions passed last October.

As previously identified by the Working Party, the key to reducing graffiti vandalism is likely to be excellence in the area of strategic co-ordination.

Excellent co-ordination will enhance reactive strategies by developing an integrated approach across Council Business Units. It will also provide the opportunity to work toward an integrated approach with community organisations, private sector businesses and spheres of government appropriate to the present level of the problem.

In addition to ensuring that reactive strategies are well co-ordinated, it is important to create conditions that may lead to a reduction in new graffiti. Having examined the research, the Working Party strongly believes that initiatives focusing on prevention of graffiti must be developed and implemented to compliment graffiti removal strategies. Research indicates that careful implementation of preventative measures combined with reactive measures will have the maximum effect.

#### **Progress to Date (reactive)**

A Council Officer has been investigating ways to improve the co-ordination of Christchurch City Council's response to graffiti removal. This has involved discussions with graffiti working party members, police officers, Department of Correction's staff, Council Business Units, private contractors and other relevant groups.

The officer forwarded a suggested course of action (see attached) to the Chairperson of the Graffiti Working Party and the Manager of the Community Relations Unit on 17 December and is now working to ensure this course of action is completed.

#### **Progress to Date (proactive)**

A position will be instigated to develop and implement proactive measures to reduce the incidence of graffiti in the city. The person in this position will liaise closely with the Council Officer working to improve the co-ordination of graffiti removal. There will be a concentration on diverting young people away from graffiti vandalism towards positive, creative and productive pursuits. Informing the community about prevention measures, and providing education about graffiti to relevant groups will be another feature of this position.

## SUMMARY

- We are in the process of developing a co-ordinated approach to graffiti removal across Council Units and are working toward developing a co-operative approach with other agencies, government departments and businesses to promote integrated and well co-ordinated graffiti removal throughout the city
- The Working Party recognises the value of programmes which focus on graffiti prevention as complimenting strategies concerned with graffiti removal. Early this year a part time position will be devoted to this aspect of graffiti vandalism reduction
- The need for a continuing programme to remove graffiti from the Council's own property is well understood and will be considered within a Council wide approach
- Measures taken to remove graffiti need to be cost effective. It is expected that improved co-ordination will reduce current costs
- Developing and maintaining community partnerships should assist greatly in the effort to reduce graffiti vandalism. Examples where partnership may assist include systems for the reporting of graffiti, the removal of graffiti from private land, and the identification of potential legal artwork sites. Those working toward improved co-ordination will foster community partnerships
- A young person with knowledge of the local graffiti culture has made valuable contributions to the Working Party. The person employed to develop proactive strategies will be expected to continue to involve young people in the development of graffiti reduction strategies
- The Working Party recognise that any strategy to reduce graffiti should contain an enforcement element so that serious offenders are dealt with in an appropriate manner through legal channels. Strong linkages will be maintained with police and others involved in enforcement procedures.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the report be considered in conjunction with that of the following Graffiti Removal report.