

19. CENTRAL CITY MAINTENANCE FUNDING

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Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to the Council	

The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee support for funding to provide additional resources to obtain a better standard of maintenance in the inner city.

BACKGROUND

On 3 May 2000 the City Services Committee visited the Square to inspect a number of issues that had been brought to its attention over the past few months. During this inspection it was suggested that there was a need to have an operational person dedicated to coordinating work in the central city to ensure a higher level of presentation particularly of the pedestrian areas. This report outlines the work this person would do and the benefit that would accrue from the work.

Currently there are a number of units in the Council, and a number of contractors, responsible for various aspects of the central city. The working relationship between these is very good and standards are generally well maintained. What is lacking is a 'one stop shop' or someone who can take ownership and concentrate on the central city and work with the various operational activities to ensure a consistent approach that keeps the Central City shining. Current budget provision is not sufficient to provide for this higher level of service.

The area concentrated on would be the central city pedestrian and tourist areas.

POSITION PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

The aim of having such a position would be to ensure the central city is clean and well presented at all times. Specifically the expected outcomes would be to: -

- Provide a proactive and co-ordinated approach to maintenance and cleanliness in the central city.
- Co-ordinate activities to ensure a consistent standard and presentation.
- Provide a presence in the central city to enable issues to be brought to the Council's attention without delay.
- Promptly and efficiently deal with issues raised.

Specifically this would involve the following:

- Being proactive in identifying and actioning maintenance and cleaning work to ensure a consistently high standard at all times.
- Being the contact person for businesses and the public on all operational issues.
- Liaising with all Council Units, ie Parking, Parks, Water, Waste, Leisure, Environmental Planning and Policy etc that are involved in the central city and ensuring they respond to requests for work.
- Liaising with maintenance contractors involved in the inner city. This would involve getting feedback from, say, the cleaning contractor on a daily basis and proactively dealing with issues raised.

- Keeping up to date with planned activities in the central city and anticipating requirements.
- Administering the use of street activities by others and auditing the sites to ensure compliance with conditions. This would include trenching, scaffolding on street, building activities extending on to the street etc.
- Ensuring issues and problems are followed up and resolved.
- Liaising with businesses over problems they may be causing and working with them to resolve them.

To achieve this the person would need have a base in a central location and be easily identified and accessible. This base would be where messages could be left and where small meetings/discussions could be held. The support of local businesses may help in identifying/providing such a space.

COSTS

It is considered that this position would need to be one full time person totally dedicated to the duties. Having other duties would dilute the effectiveness of the position.

The additional annual costs of such a position would be in the order of \$40,000 pa including costs such as cellphone, computer, and accommodation.

Recommendation: That the City Services Committee recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that additional funding of \$40,000 be provided in the 2000/01 budget and beyond for additional resources to obtain a better overall standard of maintenance in the pedestrian and tourist areas of the inner city.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.