

### 3. PROPOSED POLICY TO REDUCE ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM AT EVENTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Events In-House, Events- Contracted, Summertimes	

The purpose of this report is to comment on the proposed Policy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm at Public Events.

#### INTRODUCTION

Over a number of years Leisure Unit staff have worked constructively with a number of agencies to reduce the risk of alcohol-related harm at the events the unit organises. This has led to a well-established planning process and set of measures undertaken to reduce the risk of alcohol-related harm.

The Christchurch Safer Community Council is now proposing to formalise the work of the Leisure Unit through a policy and extend it to include other outdoor events that the Council funds or that take place on Council controlled land.

Staff have been in discussions with the Safer Community Council and a number of other organisations on the Policy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm at Public Events for a number of months to make it as straightforward as possible to understand and implement.

#### IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Events at which alcohol is sold are quite clearly defined and relatively easy to identify through applications for liquor licences. Events 'where the time/setting/theme creates the risk of alcohol-related harm' are however open to much greater interpretation. It is suggested that if the proposed policy is approved, a set of criteria will need to be established that allow staff and external event organisers to clearly establish whether or not an event falls in to the relevant category and consequently the provisions of the proposed policy apply.

The provisions in the policy that relate to events that the Council delivers itself through the Leisure Unit have been the existing practice for a number of years. Consequently adopting the proposed policy will have little further impact on practice but will formalise what is already taking place.

Current practice in events operated by other parts of Christchurch City Council is unknown at this stage. Consequently the impact of the proposed policy on these events is unclear.

For events and festivals that receive Council funding the proposed policy will require the addition of a suitable condition attached to the financial assistance or included in the core funding agreement. This approach would achieve a commitment by the event organiser to adhere to the policy. With the existing staff resources it will not be possible to monitor compliance by all external events organisers. However those who are required to provide a post show report could be required to provide details on the measures taken to comply with the policy.

As far as officers are aware no consultation has been undertaken with event organisers outside the Council. Current practice amongst external event organisers probably varies in respect of the measures taken to reduce alcohol-related harm. Given that consultation has not taken place with the organisers, the potential impact of the policy on their events is unclear.

For events that make use of Council controlled land (normally parks and reserves or streets) the proposed policy will require the addition of a suitable booking condition for relevant events. In terms of ensuring compliance, listings of events bookings are forwarded to the police who will then be in a position to follow up with relevant events.

Consultation has been undertaken with the City Streets Unit with respect to bookings taken for events on streets and with the Council's Senior Sale of Liquor Inspector. No consultation has been undertaken with organisers of events in units of Council other than Leisure nor with external event organisers that are likely to be affected by the proposed policy.

#### CONCLUSION

The measures in the proposed policy are already the current practice for events directly delivered by Leisure.

Implementation along the lines indicated above would mean relatively minor changes to existing Leisure Unit procedures and could be achieved with minimal extra effort and expense to the Council.

The Leisure Unit is appreciative of the initiative taken by the Safer Community Council in putting together the draft policy. However, before implementing the policy the Council must be certain of the implications and the impact on some of the events and festivals funded by the Council or taking place on Council controlled land. It should be emphasised that recent practice of in-house events excludes the sale of alcohol but does not prohibit consumption. It also features public notices at events about the safe use of alcohol. For the reasons outlined in this report, the following action is recommended.

- Recommendation:**
1. That consultation be undertaken with events and festival organisers likely to be affected by the proposed policy to identify its potential impact.
  2. That following this consultation the proposed policy be considered further by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.