

7. UPDATE ON RELOCATION OF SERVICES FROM KINGSLEA

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Corporate Plan Output: City Plan	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the latest developments relating to the relocation of services from Kingslea.

Councillors will be aware that a press statement was made by the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services on 21 September 2000, indicating that there would be a delay in shifting the youth justice operations from the Kingslea site. The Department had indicated that the youth justice operations would be relocated to new facilities by 31 October 2002. This is apparently no longer possible due to the decision not to proceed with the preferred site for the new facility at Templeton, and to begin the site selection process again. The new timeframe proposed by the Department anticipates construction of the new facility possibly beginning in August 2002.

The Department accepted the deadline to shift the youth justice operations as part of the conditions imposed on the requirement for the Kingslea designation in the Proposed Plan. That designation, and the attached conditions, is not yet in force and will not come into force until the Proposed Plan becomes operative, probably at least two years away. Until then Kingslea is operating under the designation in the Transitional Plan, which is for a "Girls Training College". The operations at Kingslea have clearly gone well beyond that designation for many years. However, previous legal advice was that nothing could be achieved through any legal action, as it is not possible to prosecute the Crown. However, pressure from both the residents and the Council undoubtedly contributed to the decision of the Minister to relocate the activities, and to accept conditions to that effect as part of the new designation in the Proposed Plan.

A meeting with the Department on 12 October 2000 was arranged by the Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association. At that meeting considerable concern was expressed that the latest decision was just another way of delaying the relocation of the activities at Kingslea. The Department officials at the meeting gave assurances that this was not the case. They indicated that they had already assessed 30 sites and those had been narrowed down to four sites, although only three were likely to be seriously considered. The preferred site is programmed to be announced in February, followed by consultation with the community. A notice of requirement to designate the site for the new facility is proposed to be lodged with the Council by August 2001, with the new facility opening in September 2003. The Department agreed to forward a copy of the time-line for the project to the Association and to have regular meetings with the Association to report on progress.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

The Chairman comments:

In making its recommendations on the proposed Kingslea designation, the Council panel relied heavily on evidence presented through legal counsel that the department could meet the dates prescribed to cease the various activities outlined. Local residents who were submitters were prepared to accept these dates, though somewhat further away than they wished, in order to achieve security of decisions. In view of this, I believe the Council should make the strongest possible representation to the department that it should cease operations as close to the dates set in the designation as practicable.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Council make representations to the Child Youth and Family Services Department along the lines outlined above.