

6. THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL FINANCIAL PLAN AND PROGRAMME: 2001 EDITION

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The purpose of this report is to seek elected member input into the 2001 planning process and to outline the 2001 Financial Plan and Programme timetable.

For a number of years now Committees have combined the end of year reporting with the forthcoming planning process. This approach works well as it ensures that matters arising from the review of past performance are fed directly through to the forthcoming Plan. For example, if the Committee is concerned about the adequacy of some performance measures for 1999/00 then it is important that amendments are made to the 2001 Plan. Similarly, if the Committee feels that past performance has indicated that some objectives are not relevant, it can request that this matter be reviewed as part of the planning process.

It is intended that these and similar type issues be incorporated into a Planning Statement which would be used by Units when they prepare their draft budgets for the 2001 Plan.

It may be that nothing of any substance arises from the monitoring process. In these circumstances there is therefore no need to prepare a Planning Statement.

This year's planning round will also include an in-depth review of the funding policy and the long-term financial strategy. This is the first three-yearly update, which is a requirement of Section 122N and 122K of the Local Government Act. The Financial Policy Review Subcommittee will carry out this review and report back to the Council.

The more detailed issues such as project substitutions and new projects for Years one and two will be left until February 2001. In February Standing Committees will have before them the draft operating and capital budgets and they will be in a better position to make these decisions.

TIMETABLE

The timetable sequence is much the same as last year's. The only difference is the addition of the Financial Policy Review Subcommittee meetings. These will commence on Thursday 7 September 2000 and will be held every second Thursday through until November, when they will be held every week through to 7 December 2000.

The proposed timetable is as follows:

September 2000	Community Boards prepare Planning Statements.
September 2000	Standing Committees review 1999/00 results and prepare if necessary a Planning Statement for 2001/02.
September/October 2000 November/December 2000	Financial Policy Review Sub-committee reviews the Council's Financial Policies.

November/December 2000	Business Units report back to Community Boards on the way their project proposals have been dealt with.
Early February 2001	Standing Committees meet to consider draft budgets and significant long-term capital projections. The Grants Committee meets to prepare the grants recommendations for 2001/02.
26 February 2001 to 2 March 2001	The Annual Plan Working Party meets to consider operating and capital budgets.
22 March 2001	The Council meets to adopt the Draft CCC Financial Plan and Programme : 2001 Edition.
26 April 2001	The Draft Plan is released for public comment and submissions.
28 May 2001	Submissions on the Draft Plan close
15-19 June 2001	Hearing of submissions by the Strategy and Resources Committee. The Committee meets to consider submissions and finalise its report to the Council.
5 July 2001	Council meeting to consider and adopt the CCC Financial Plan and Programme : 2001 Edition.

Recommendation: That where appropriate a Planning Statement for input into the 2001 Plan process is prepared.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the information be received.