

14. INDICATORS TO MEASURE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND'S SIX LARGEST CITIES

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update to the Committee about the National Indicators Project.

Elected members will recall a report on this to the February meeting of this Committee that provided an overview of the project.

The National Indicators Project was initiated in 1999 by the Chief Executives of the six largest cities in New Zealand (Auckland, Christchurch, Manukau, North Shore, Waitakere and Wellington). This was in response to the growing pressures on urban communities, concern about the impacts of urbanisation and the effects of this on the wellbeing of citizens.

Monitoring wellbeing of these cities will enable assessment of trends and changes and highlight a number of common themes specifically relevant to an urban environment. These might include issues such as housing affordability, accessibility to services, safety and social cohesion. The results will provide an idea of the quality of life of the citizens in these larger urban centres.

The attached '*Summary and Project Scope*' report provides an update of the indicators selected to monitor the quality of life. It also outlines the issues encountered in data collection and monitoring.

A final monitoring report, due late October, will enable the participating local authorities to identify common themes, issues or problems that might be addressed through joint action and co-operative effort. It will also highlight areas of concern and can be used in planning and policy work.

Therefore, it is proposed that findings will be fed into Council's strategic and annual planning process.

It is also proposed that the metropolitan Mayors meet with relevant central government politicians to discuss findings and advocate for change if and where necessary.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the findings in the report contribute to the Council strategic and financial planning process for 2001/02.
 3. That the Mayor (or his nominee), along with the Mayors of the other participating local authorities, meet relevant central government politicians to discuss findings and areas of concern.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.