

## 2. CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME AND PLANNING STATEMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to provide information to enable the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board to prepare a planning statement for discussion with Council and to consider projects submitted for including in the Council Plan.

### CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

#### Background

In July Residents' Associations and community groups were invited to put forward projects for consideration by the Board for capital works planning. They were informed that the Council has "signalled the need for a moratorium of new programmes and projects". This means that there is not likely to be funding available for new projects for three years unless the project can be identified as urgent and can be substituted with a project with less priority.

Board members and staff were also invited to input to this process.

#### Capital Works Projects

The projects suggested were compiled into a schedule for consideration which is attached. For each project staff have completed a capital works project information sheet to assist the Board in its consideration. These planning sheets state the objective of the project, background, previous board involvement, research, benefits of the project, staff priority and action.

On 23 March 2001 Council passed the following resolution:

1. That in the coming three years all capital and operating budgets be contained within the projections in the Financial Plan, adjusted for inflation.
2. That the provision for unspecified capital projects be deleted and the funding be held in a capital contingency fund to meet unforeseen costs.
3. That the unspecified operating sums in years 2, 3 and 4 be deleted.

Advice has been received that Boards need to identify which programmed projects within their own area they wish to see substituted with new projects.

The Board could consider prioritising the projects:

1. Urgent priority
2. High priority
3. Important priority

### COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS

The following was put forward to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 13 August. The purpose of the report was to recommend a change to the way Community Board Planning Statements are considered.

#### Background

*Each year during July and August, Community Boards seek input from their local communities for the forthcoming Financial Plan. This process which may include community forums, public meetings and liaison with residents' groups, ensures that Community Boards are aware of local issues and changing views. The outcome of this process is a Community Board Planning Statement which is forwarded to unit managers in mid September for use in preparing their Unit budgets.*

*While Community Board Planning Statements include lists of project proposals, and project substitutions, they may also include recommended policy directions or key issues which the Community Board would like the Council to consider. Typical examples from the 2001/02 Community Board Planning Statements were:*

- *Library in Riccarton – “the need for more aggressive promotion of the upper Riccarton/Avonhead Library through the Annual Plan process” - (Riccarton/Wigram Community Board)*
- *Heritage Protection – “advocate for more adequate funding for purchase, renovation, and resale of heritage buildings” - (Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board)*
- *Undergrounding – “promote an enhanced programme of undergrounding conversion throughout the city” - (Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board)*

### **Proposed Change**

*The current process does not adequately allow for these recommendations to be fully considered at committee level. Forwarding the key issues sections of the Community Board Planning Statements on to the relevant Standing Committee ensures:*

- *that the Standing Committee is aware of the issue(s);*
- *that if need be the Standing Committee can respond or add its weight to the identified issue; and*
- *that the process remains transparent.*

*Given the moratorium on new capital projects it is likely that the key issues section may be given greater prominence than in the past.*

*At present Community Boards prepare detailed submissions on key issues as part of the Draft Financial Plan submission process. The proposed change outlined in this report brings this input forward to the planning stage of the process and may reduce the need for a detailed submission at the submission stage of the process. This does not of course mean that Community Boards will be prevented from making a detailed submission once the draft Financial Plan is released.*

*From a timing point of view the Community Board Planning Statement key issues would need to be completed by the beginning of the September meeting round. This would ensure that the Community Board issues are considered at the same time as Standing Committees prepare their Planning Statements. Standing Committee Planning Statements are prepared in conjunction with the 12 monthly monitoring reports.*

*The Strategy and Resources Committee recommended that the Community Board Planning statement include a key issues and a projects section and that the key issues section be considered by Standing Committees at their monitoring meetings.*

### **PLANNING STATEMENT: KEY ISSUES**

Issues the Board may like to consider including in its planning statement for discussion with the relevant Standing Committee could include safety issues and traffic management, issues regarding the elderly and also youth issues, acquisition of more green open space east of the city, more inclusive planning processes (with input from the community) for geographical areas to include all Council services. A further issue the Board may like to consider is that while many projects in the Hagley/Ferrymead Ward are local they also have a metropolitan or regional benefit. For example a project for a plan for Heathcote or Linwood Cemetery will not only benefit one part of the ward but will be used extensively by people from other parts of the City/region.

The Board may also like to bear in mind the Quality of Life in NZ's Six Largest Cities project which identified Hagley Ward as the area with 4<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of 'high needs'.

Some of the key issues the Board considered last year included:

- Application of Seeking Community Views Policy – Acknowledgement of community timeframes and creation of a climate for governance.
- Youth – Concern about creating a sense of belonging and hope in our young people.
- Undergrounding – Council to consider undergrounding areas in conjunction with Telstra Saturn.
- Metropolitan vs Local – Perception is that there are areas that have high metropolitan usage and need to be considered as such.

**Recommendation:** That the Board prepare a Planning Statement for discussion with Council and consider projects submitted for inclusion in the Council Plan.