6. LEARNING THROUGH ACTION - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS

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The purpose of this report is to provide information about *Learning through Action*, the Council's Environmental Education Programme for schools, and to give an update on progress made from commencement of the programme on 21 August 2000 to date.

EXTENT OF PROGRAMME

The audience for the education programme encompasses 184 primary and secondary schools in the greater Christchurch area, with programmes being delivered from a total of 14 Council sites including parks, waterways, heritage and waste sites.

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

- Funded by the Ministry of Education through a Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) contract at $100,000 per annum.
- Initial funding received for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2003.
- Council to tender for ongoing funding in November 2002 for a further two years.
- Council support through the provision of Ranger and other Council staff for the delivery of education programmes.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

To provide primary and secondary school students from Years 1-13:

- Issues-based environmental education programmes linked to the curriculum.
- A very real context for learning experiences – our <u>local</u> environment.
- Hands-on activities to cater for different learning styles.
- Opportunity to show concern and take positive action for our city's environment.
- Added value to their on-site learning experience by offering teacher support through resource material for pre- and post-activities.

AIMS OF PROGRAMME

- To reduce impact on the environment through education of young people, their teachers and the wider community about Council issues.
- To encourage sensitive use of and care for our city's natural and physical assets.
- To encourage participation by young people in decision-making processes and positive actions for the city's environment.

BENEFITS OF PROGRAMME

- Reduction of impact on and positive action for the local environment.
- Promotion of a better environment through the education of young people, their teachers and the wider community.
- Development of decision-making processes in young people and their participation in the resolution of Council issues.
- Raising of community awareness of environmental issues and ways to take personal responsibility for actions.
- Promotion of an understanding of the role of the Council in the care of our built and natural environments.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Ministry of Education performance targets and measures require the:

- Provision of curriculum support programmes which give opportunities to students to participate in learning experiences outside the classroom.
- Promotion of the programme to all schools in the greater Christchurch area.
- Attendance by student count for programmes offered to be a total of 8,000 students from 75 schools per annum.

OUTCOMES TO DATE

- Fourteen curriculum linked programmes developed for parks, waterways, heritage and waste sites and trials undertaken with schools.
- Ongoing promotion of all areas of the programme to schools in the greater Christchurch area through a full-page article on page 3 of *Our Environment*.
- Attendance for first full year of the programme in 2001 reached 9,286 students from 64 schools.

CONCLUSION

The future plans for the programme include:

- The development of a greater variety and number of programmes offered to schools covering significant and current issues of importance to the Council.
- A greater awareness and participation by schools through increased promotion of the programme to schools in the greater Christchurch area through the production of a programme booklet and the provision of teacher workshops.
- The development of a web-based programme offering post-visit activity ideas and the facility to showcase follow-up actions taken by schools – to encourage greater participation in follow-up actions to improve the local environment.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:**   That the information be received.