

### 3. REPORT ON MAORI WARDENS IN INNER CITY

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The purpose of this report is to report on activities of the above service to date and suggest an extension of the contract to cover the New Year and early 2003 period.

#### CONTEXT

The Council at its meeting on 12 December 2001 undertook to enter into a contract with He Oranga Pounamu for the provision of Maori Warden services to undertake patrols in the inner city area. This was to be on the basis of a three-month trial to examine how the proposal would operate and to enable He Oranga Pounamu to investigate the possibility of other stakeholder support for continuation of the service over a longer period.

Due to delays in arranging the contract and in arranging sufficient numbers of Maori Wardens to undertake the contracted work the trial commenced in March 2002. It was possible to continue the trial period for a further month and a report on the activities was presented to the Committee in July 2002.

The report, which was accompanied by a report from He Oranga Pounamu on the activities, came to the following conclusion.

*The trial has been useful in determining what kinds of activities occur in the inner city during the night hours and it appears that the presence of the Maori Wardens has been received favourably by local businesses. To a large degree it has been a learning process for the Maori Wardens but, from the reports, they have provided a useful service in dealing with some of the problems that have occurred in this period. Again, from the reports, it appears that there are continuing problems in the inner city, which need to be addressed, and the presence of the Maori Wardens may be useful in providing support for both the Police and Youth Workers for at least some of these. As noted above, however, the continuation of this service for the whole year would require additional funds to that allowed for currently in the budget.*

*The annual cost of this service, based on the current contract, is estimated at around \$72,000 and there is funding available in the 2002/03 budget for \$30,000 leaving a shortfall of about \$42,000. The options are to continue the service for a limited period until the current budget is expended; for additional funding to be provided to meet the cost of a year; or to cease funding the service. In the first two cases new contracts would be required as the current contract with the month's extension finished on 30 June 2002. These new contracts would require to be negotiated with He Oranga Pounamu.*

The Committee resolved:

1. *That up to \$30,000 be provided to extend the Maori Wardens inner city trial, and that future funding be included in the community funding review.*
2. *That the Council give support to He Oranga Pounamu and the Maori Wardens in their approach for financial support from iwi katoa and other organisations including inner city retailers.*
3. *That discussion take place with the Council and Minister of Police regarding the support given by the Police in the inner city.*

The Committee's recommendation was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 25 July 2002.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

A new contract was entered into covering the provision of wardens for inner city patrols on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights for up to five hours between 8pm and 6am on each night. In general the hours are between 10pm and 3am but the extended hours were included to enable some flexibility if needed by the circumstances.

Otherwise the services to be provided are similar to those of the previous contract. The services include undertaking patrols of the inner city in conjunction with Police and Youth Workers and keeping in touch with Security Officers employed at the Bus Exchange. They undertake the transport of youth to their homes in acute need situations if required and appropriate. They maintain a presence at particular locations such as the Bus Xchange and the public toilets in Cathedral Square as required and deal with behavioural problems, as may be required under the provisions of the Maori Community Development Act 1962.

A further report is attached on activities of the Otautahi Maori Wardens, covering the period since the commencement of the trial to the end of October 2002. This report also covers some indication of the additional voluntary activities to the community that are provided, and also shows that the contract has led to both employment and training benefits.

## **DISCUSSION**

In a previous report on this activity it was stated that obtaining objective measures of the success of activities providing a presence in public areas largely operating in a preventative role was difficult. It was pointed out that this applied to the Police as well as other security personnel. In the case of the Maori Wardens they do have legal powers under the Maori Community Development Act 1962 and as such can provide these in regard to dealing with Maori. However, as has been pointed out the mere presence of uniformed personnel tends to have an effect on perceptions of safety in these areas during the night hours. Inspector Dave Lawry, central city controller New Zealand Police, at a meeting of the Regulatory and Consents Committee, mentioned this as an important factor in inner city safety. He also stated that the revitalisation of Maori Wardens patrols, together with other projects, was assisting in the reduction in real and perceived risk of crime in the central business area. The local business community has previously advised it welcomed the involvement of the Otautahi Maori Wardens as a positive initiative. Regretfully they, however, appear not to be prepared to support financial contributions towards the service some saying that rates should *cover this sort of thing*.

He Oranga Pounamu have advised that they are seeking to source support from the Ministry of Social Development due to the employment it has provided for a number of persons previously without sustainable employment, but this is unlikely to occur until early in 2003. It is the intention of He Oranga Pounamu to work towards the establishment of a collaborative framework of stakeholder support for the longer term. Such collaboration would fit well into the objectives of facilitating collaboration between public, private and community agencies and supporting crime reduction and public safety.

The current contract covers the period until 29 December 2002. It is suggested that this be extended over the early part of 2003 to cover the period of New Year and complete at a new date of 1 March 2003. It would be hoped that by that time additional funding might become available from other stakeholders to enable the service to continue.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That an extension of the contract with He Oranga Pounamu for the provision of Maori Wardens for inner city patrols be entered into up until 1 March 2003.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.