

13. CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES - SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The purpose of this item is to report back to the Committee on progress with setting up a meeting, concerning cross boundary issues, with Selwyn District Council. This follows the resolution of this Committee on 18 March 2002.

BACKGROUND

In February this year a joint meeting between Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council took place at Rolleston concerning the Central Plains Irrigation Project. That meeting was also intended to discuss cross boundary issues but time ran out.

At its March 2002 meeting this Committee received a staff report setting out the main cross boundary issues affecting Christchurch City and Selwyn Districts that would have been discussed at that meeting. Those issues were as follows:

- Summit Road Protection Act
- Boundary adjustments
- District Plan and City Plan issues
- Regional Council matters
- Halswell Catchment issues
- Transport

The Committee resolved that an informal meeting be held between Selwyn District and the City Council, including the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board, with a specific agenda that included at least the following matters:

- (a) A discussion paper outlining options and processes to agree on possible boundary adjustments.
- (b) The merits of establishing a joint working group (which would include staff from other local authorities) to examine and recommend options for managing the Halswell River Catchment and the Summit Road Protection area.
- (c) With reference to comments made in recent decisions of the Environment Court, the need for a joint approach managing urban growth in Christchurch and surrounding districts.

Significant progress has been made towards arrangements for the meeting and indications are that it will be held in Prebbleton sometime in November. Officers from both Councils are currently preparing briefing papers, and these will be circulated to those elected members attending the meeting at least a week before the date of the meeting.

RELATED MATTERS

Since the March meeting, cross boundary issues and liaison with adjoining territorial authorities have been the subject of a report to other Committees and, on 22 August, to the Council. That report arose from concerns raised through the Regulatory and Consents Committee, and the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee, that there are significant urban growth issues affecting Christchurch and its surrounding districts which could not be adequately addressed through Resource Management Act processes alone. The report highlighted a need for the City Council and its immediate neighbours to develop a closer liaison so that cross boundary urban growth issues could be dealt with in an integrated manner. The Council subsequently resolved:

- “1. That the information be received.
2. That the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee initiate discussions with Banks Peninsula, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils to discuss cross boundary issues.
3. That the Council acknowledge the need for the mechanism for cross boundary discussions to take place.
4. That the Council acknowledge the need to involve Environment Canterbury in the process at the appropriate time.”

Liaison with other agencies on urban growth issues falls within the terms of reference of the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee. It would be appropriate therefore that members of that Committee be represented at the forthcoming meeting with Selwyn. It is proposed that in accordance with the above resolution that arrangements be made for the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee to meet with the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Waimakariri District Council to discuss cross boundary issues of urban growth and related matters at a later date.

CONCLUSION

The meeting currently being arranged with Selwyn District can be seen as timely and in accordance with the 22 August resolutions. The opportunity should be taken to establish a process with Selwyn District that can be used as a basis for establishing an appropriate mechanism for resolving cross boundary issues with the other two neighbouring Councils.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Strategy and Finance Committee confirm its intention to meet with Selwyn District Councillors to discuss the cross boundary issues listed in this report.
 2. That three members of the Strategy and Finance Committee, and the Chairperson of the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee, together with the Chairperson of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board (or his representative) meet with the Selwyn District Council at a time yet to be finalised to discuss cross boundary issues.

Chair's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted and Councillors James, Ganda and Harrow represent the Committee at the meeting with Selwyn District Council.