

4. BRIEFING PAPER – SAFER CHRISTCHURCH

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Strategy and Finance Committee on the integration of the function of Safer Christchurch (formerly Safer Community Council) into Christchurch City Council.

In September 2003, the Crime Prevention Unit undertook a national review of all Safer Community Councils. Recommendations from the review stated that:

- (a) No further funding would be given to Safer Community Council in their current form.
- (b) Metropolitan territorial local authorities are best placed to act as 'lead agent' in community safety initiatives.
- (c) Crime Prevention Unit will fund crime reduction projects, but not salaries.

As a consequence, the Mayor has supported the integration of the function of Safer Christchurch into the Christchurch City Council organisation. Safer Christchurch will cease to function as an entity as from 1 July 2004.

Currently a strategy is under development. This will inform any decisions regarding sustainable and effective integration of the Safer Community Council's work into the Christchurch City Council.

The Community Safety Strategy will provide a framework for the Christchurch City Council to work with government agencies and community organisations towards a safe city, as defined in the Community Outcomes and Priorities in the LTCCP, ie Safe Neighbourhoods, Safe Roads, Crime Reduction and Safe Families.

It is likely that the Christchurch City Council will be able to gain increased funding from the Crime Prevention Unit and Police for project initiatives, which has been the experience of other metropolitan territorial local authorities, following their integration of Safer Community Councils. The Crime Prevention Unit has expressed their desire to increase project funding and will be investing more resources into improved research and crime reduction strategies.

To undertake what is effectively a new responsibility for Christchurch City Council I have estimated the cost to be in the order of \$150,000 to adequately resource this service at the level anticipated.

While the precise 'shape' and structure is still in the process of being defined, it is imperative that resources are secured in order for the work in this area to be continued and sustained.

Staff

Recommendation: That a budget provision of \$150,000 be made.