

Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

Report To: UDS Implementation Committee
Meeting Date: 17 August 2009
Subject: UDS Settlement Pattern Monitoring Report
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the intended scope and timing of the UDS Settlement Pattern Monitoring Report. This report will be one of a series of topic based monitoring reports arising from implementation of one of the 'Top 20' UDS Actions – that of developing an integrated programme for monitoring change and development across Greater Christchurch that enables effective measurement of the outcomes of strategy implementation. The report represents partial fulfilment of the intended monitoring requirements set out in Proposed Change No. 1 (PC1) to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

2. THE REPORT

The UDS Implementation Management Group has established a Monitoring Subgroup to lead implementation of the relevant UDS Top 20 monitoring action point. Effective monitoring of change is also integral to implementation of PC1.

All UDS Council partners are responsible for their own community outcomes (under LGA 02) and state of the environment & plan effectiveness (under RMA 91) monitoring, while NZTA together with the Ministry of Transport and Environment Canterbury lead and work with road controlling authorities in monitoring transport sector change in relation to Land Transport Management legislation requirements. Monitoring and review is also good Partner practice in relation to ongoing plan and policy development.

UDS implementation related monitoring largely draws on existing monitoring activities but requires amendment to address particular UDS/RPS requirements. For example, in September 2008 updated UDS Area growth projections for population, household numbers and the labour force were presented to the UDSIC that were specifically commissioned from Statistics New Zealand to relate to UDS area boundaries, (the UDS area comprising 99%, 80% and 59% by population of Christchurch City, Waimakariri District and Selwyn District respectively). These projections indicated that the projected level of growth for the UDS area as a whole - upon which the UDS was finalised in 2007 (and characterised as "Medium/High") - continues to represent a prudent basis for implementing the UDS.

UDS implementation monitoring needs to acknowledge two aspects:

- i. Relevant aspects and implications of ongoing social, economic and environmental change;
- ii. Policy and plan effectiveness

The primary focus of the UDS monitoring programme is on i. above, while UDS Partners retain their responsibilities to gauge the effectiveness of the policy instruments for which they are responsible. Hence the first monitoring update in September last year was a check on the relevance of the projections base for the UDS in light of the full update of subnational projections following the 2006 census.

Monitoring frequency and scope needs to bear in mind the period of time over which observable change can usefully be analysed and the availability and relevance of monitoring data. Mid-2009 is three years on from the UDS base year, 2006, which is also a key point of reference for proposed policies and methods under RPS Change No. 1. It is relevant at this point to take stock of change over the last three years in population growth, residential development activity and transport patterns through this settlement patterns monitoring report. It is intended that subsequent monitoring reports deal with:

- Long term demographic change – that is, formally report in 2010 the updated population projections briefed to the Committee last year, together with just released household projections so as to indicate key aspects of compositional change especially in relation to population aging and its implications for housing demand;
- Business Sector change – more detailed analysis of change in relation to the supply, use and demand for business land as the longer term effects of severe and protracted recession on business activity become clearer;
- Residential intensification and housing preferences – monitoring of where and how intensification is occurring and related change in housing preferences;
- Environmental change – observable environmental change in Greater Christchurch in relation to the enhanced environment platform of the UDS.

The timing of the settlement patterns report is dictated by the release over the balance of 2009 in relevant data by Statistics New Zealand but is likely to be reported to the Committee in February 2010. The timing of subsequent reports has yet to be confirmed and is strongly influenced by the availability of partner organisation staff relative to other priorities.

The upcoming first settlement patterns report will include a more extensive context than future such reports. It will look at change over the preceding ten years to 2006 to set the scene for information on the last three years to 2009. It will report on the structure of Greater Christchurch in three ways:

- Central city, inner suburbs, outer suburbs and Districts so that, for example, where development is occurring by intensification versus peripheral growth can be observed;
- By dividing the city up into its quadrants – NW, NE, SW and SE – so that, for example, cross commuting as well as radial transport patterns can be seen;
- Key Activity Centre focused growth versus rest of city and Districts business areas, in for example, job growth.

Topics to be covered include:

- Population growth
- Dwellings and residential construction
- Job growth and employment 'self sufficiency'
- Residential land supply
- Traffic volumes on key routes and travel behaviour

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the UDS Implementation Committee

- i. RECEIVES this report*
- ii. NOTES the proposed scope and timing of the Settlement Patterns Monitoring Report*
- iii. NOTES the topics proposed for future monitoring reports*