

13. AKAROA PLACES AND SPACES PLAN – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8281
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager, Healthy Environment
Author:	Dale Harris, Assistant Planner

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board's approval of the draft Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan (**separately circulated** to Board members) for public consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The purpose of the draft Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan (the 'draft' Plan) is to provide a strategic direction for how public places and spaces in Akaroa are developed and managed into the future. More specifically, the draft Plan provides guidance and recommendations for the future direction and management of the public realm in Akaroa township, ensuring that public places reflect the local character, and provide for ease of access and movement. The preparation of this Plan was identified as a high priority project in the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study Implementation Plan.
3. The objectives of the draft Plan are to:
 - (a) Provide guidance on the future management and development of the public realm, in line with heritage conservation and urban design principles.
 - (b) Identify transport issues, including parking and pedestrian access throughout the township and recommend projects for managing these issues in the short and long term. The Transport and Access Technical report that was prepared for the draft Plan is available separately on request.
 - (c) Provide guidance on the adequacy of visitor facilities to meet visitor needs.
 - (d) Provide guidance on the future development of the 'BP Meats' site (the Council-owned site at 67 Rue Lavaud).
4. The scope of the study is limited to public places and spaces, primarily focusing on the Town Centre area. Public places and spaces within the scope of the draft Plan include:
 - (a) Parks and reserves.
 - (b) Streets and roads, including traffic and parking management areas.
 - (c) The beach and waterfront.
 - (d) Walkways.
 - (e) Squares, plazas and other outdoor spaces where people congregate.
 - (f) Public facilities, where these exist primarily to address visitor needs.
 - (g) The Council-owned 'BP Meats' site (noting that the future use of this land could include a range of public and private activities).
5. The draft Plan identifies thirty-four recommended actions for the short, medium and long term. These actions are a combination of operational and procedural changes, as well as projects that will need to be considered as part of the 2012-22 and subsequent Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). These actions are summarised in the Executive Summary of the draft Plan.
6. Following the Community Board's approval of the draft Plan, Officers will consult with key stakeholders and the general public. It is expected that this will consist of workshops with interested parties, and a public meeting or 'open house' event. A consultation version of the draft plan will be created which will include key questions or points of further discussion for the community to consider when providing feedback. A consultation plan is currently being prepared.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no immediate financial implications resulting from consultation on the draft Plan. If approved, the final Plan will identify projects to be put forward for consideration in the 2012-2022 and or subsequent LTCCPs. The timing, scale, and funding of any or all projects will be determined as part of the LTCCP and be considered alongside a range of other spending priorities. Short-term projects will only be undertaken where funding is already available through the current LTCCP.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

8. The recommended actions identified in the draft Plan do not align with the 2009-19 LTCCP because they have not been previously raised for inclusion in the LTCCP. These actions will be considered as part of the preparation of the 2012-22 LTCCP or a subsequent version of the LTCCP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

10. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan supports the LTCCP activity 'City and Community Long-Term Policy and Planning', Pages 188 – 190 of the 2009-19 LTCCP.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. The Draft Plan recognises and supports strategies where relevant to the scope of the Plan, particularly the draft Open Space Strategy and the Christchurch Visitor Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan was identified as a project in the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study completed in 2009. This study involved extensive consultation, which included the identification of the draft Plan as a priority project. Information obtained through previous consultation on the Settlements Study has also informed the development of the draft Plan.
13. The Community Board was consulted on the draft purpose, scope and actions of the draft Plan in a seminar held earlier this year. Feedback from the Community Board has been incorporated into the draft Plan where relevant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board approve the Draft Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan for public consultation.