

2. UPDATE ON THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (UDS)

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The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the progress of the Urban Development Strategy to date.

BACKGROUND

In April 2004 the Christchurch City Council, Banks Peninsula, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Environment Canterbury and Transit NZ agreed to work collaboratively on setting a long-term direction and strategy for the growth and development of Metropolitan Christchurch. The project is known as the Metropolitan Urban Development Strategy (UDS).

The agreed purpose of the UDS is *“to ensure an excellent quality of life in greater metropolitan Christchurch through an integrated and collaborative planning approach for future metropolitan urban development”*. The planning horizon for the UDS is to take into account development and forecasts for up to 30 years (eg population growth, transport, etc).

As outlined in the agreed ‘Terms of Reference’ and ‘Brief’, the UDS will be developed through the work of an Urban Development Strategy Forum, whose task it is to bring together and integrate proposals on land use and settlement patterns, transport, utility servicing, business needs, recreation and community facilities, and the natural environment. The Forum will comprise representatives of the Councils, Transit NZ, and agencies who will be key shapers of the future metropolitan area. The Forum will recommend proposals to the Councils. A combined staff group will service the UDS Forum.

The Urban Development Strategy is most likely to be implemented through mechanisms of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. As a result the Strategy will be developed with extensive consideration of community views. The inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders through targeted workshops and other consultation processes will add rigour to the identification and consideration of options.

A key target for the Strategy is for its funding and project proposals to be included in the 2006-2016 Long-Term Council Community Plans to be adopted by 30 June 2006.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UDS FORUM

The UDS Forum includes Elected Members from participating Councils and Key Stakeholders representing a wide cross-section of leaders from our community.

Councils formally assigned elected member representation to the UDS Forum in April 2004. In May the UDS elected members invited key stakeholders to join the UDS Forum.

The membership of the UDS Forum is comprised of 14 elected members from participating Councils, including four from Christchurch City and ten key stakeholders. UDS Forum membership includes:

- Forum Elected Members:
 - Christchurch City Council: Councillor Chrissie Williams (Chairperson), Councillors Sally Buck, Denis O’Rourke and Sue Wells.
 - Banks Peninsula District Council: Mayor Bob Parker and Councillor Stewart Miller (Bryan Porteous alternate).
 - Environment Canterbury: Councillors Alec Neill and Diana Shand (Ross Little alternate).
 - Selwyn District Council: Councillors Debra Hasson and Jens Christensen (Alister Fiecken alternate).
 - Waimakariri District Council: Councillors Kath Adams and Robbie Brine.
- Forum Key Stakeholders:
 - John Mather, Ministry of Education.
 - Max Percasky, Palms Mall.
 - Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
 - Pam Richardson, Federated Farmers.
 - Robin Hughes, Developer.
 - Robin Odams, Transit New Zealand.

- Peter Townsend/Steve Collins, Chamber of Commerce.
- Evon Currie, Canterbury District Health Board.
- Dr Simon Kingham, University of Canterbury.
- Bob Penter, Ngai Tahu.

MEETINGS OF THE UDS FORUM (TO DATE AND UP TO THE ELECTIONS)

A series of meetings have been held by the UDS Forum to date including:

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| April/May 2004 | Background briefing session. |
| 22 June 2004 | Outline of existing development policies and previous consultation; presentation on population and demographic forecasts; initial exploration of potential scenarios for urban development. |
| 20 July 2004 | Facilitated discussion on issues and desired outcomes for the UDS. |
| 30 August 2004 | Outline of potential options assessment criteria; information maps and constraints in the UDS area; and approach to options development. |

The following meetings are scheduled for the UDS Forum prior to the local body elections:

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| 14 September 2004 | Exploration of options for the UDS. |
| 27 September 2004 | Initial assessment of options for the UDS. |
| 4 October 2004 | Initial assessment of options for the UDS (if needed). |

The intention for the meetings scheduled up to the elections is to confirm a direction for the development of options prior to the elections, to enable staff to progress a robust analysis of options.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE UDS

The draft UDS timeline indicated the public consultation programme on options to occur in October/November 2004. This has been revised so that public consultation on options will now occur in February/March 2005. At this stage it is envisioned that some public communication on the UDS will begin in November and December 2004 on key issues facing our metropolitan community in the future.

NEW COUNCIL AND NEXT STEPS

As a result of the upcoming local body elections, and the possible change in elected members and respective representation on the UDS Forum, it will be necessary for each Council to receive a briefing on the UDS, including such matters as the background on the project, key issues identified, overall programme, progress to date, etc.

To continue the progress of the UDS Forum and options development for public consultation, each participating Council will also need to appoint elected member representation to the UDS Forum following the elections.

Committee's

- Recommendations:**
1. That, owing to the critical time frame to progress decisions by the UDS Forum on options for the UDS, the incoming Council note the need to appoint elected member representation at the inaugural Council meeting following the upcoming elections.
 2. That the incoming Council receive an early background briefing seminar on the Urban Development Strategy.