

10. CANTERBURY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's agreement to the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement. Attached please find Attachment 1 (Proposed Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement) and Attachment 2 (revised copy of Canterbury Mayoral Forum Charter of Purpose).
2. At its meeting on 17 February 2005 the Council considered a report seeking its approval to the Canterbury Local Authorities Triennial Agreement. The Council resolved that the matter lie on the table and the Mayor report back on this matter following the meeting of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 18 February 2005. An oral report on that meeting will be provided by the Mayor.
3. In addition it requested that the Mayoral Forum consider a number of changes to its Charter of Purpose. The revised Charter (Attachment 2) contains those suggested changes. The report considered at the meeting on 17 February 2005 is therefore resubmitted for formal ratification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. Late in 2003, the Canterbury Regional Council and all territorial authorities within the Canterbury region entered into an agreement containing protocols for communication and coordination among the affected councils. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the present agreement to be reviewed, to allow a new agreement to be finalised not later than 1 March 2005. This report recommends that the Christchurch City Council agrees to enter into a revised agreement, incorporating some minor amendments recommended by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires a fresh agreement to be entered into not later than 1 March 2005.
6. There are no financial implications for the participating councils, as the agreement relates solely to protocols for communication and coordination among the affected councils.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council accept the draft Triennial Agreement as amended by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at its meeting on 6 December 2004.

BACKGROUND

7. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides as follows:

“Triennial agreements

Not later than 1 March after each triennial general election of members, all local authorities within each region must enter into an agreement containing protocols for communication and co-ordination among them during the period until the next triennial general election of members.

Each agreement must include a statement of the process for consultation on proposals for new regional council activities.

After the date specified in subsection (1), but before the next triennial general election of members, all local authorities within each region may meet and agree to amendments to the protocols.

An agreement remains in force until replaced by another agreement.”

8. The initial agreement entered into by councils within the Canterbury region in late 2003 reflected discussions held through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, and was based on the Local Government New Zealand KnowHow Guide. In keeping with the expressed views of a number of the affected territorial authorities (most noticeably those from the south of the region) the present agreement is a simple and straightforward document, rather than one which aims to break new ground.
9. The agreement commits the signatories to ensuring that they keep each other informed about matters which may have cross-boundary implications or which could potentially lead to disagreement between local authorities. It also defines the process to be followed should the Regional Council be considering proposals to take on new activities. Importantly, it makes specific reference to not preventing local authorities entering into other agreements amongst themselves or outside their region to facilitate their responsibilities.
10. As noted above, Section 15 of the Local Government Act requires all local authorities to enter into a fresh agreement, not later than 1 March 2005.

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

11. The present agreement was reviewed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at its meeting on 6 December 2004. The Forum agreed on some minor amendments to the agreement, which were incorporated into the draft replacement agreement considered at the previous meeting, which the Forum requested be forwarded to all local authorities in the Canterbury region for endorsement.
12. The draft agreement was reconsidered by the Mayoral Forum at its meeting on 18 February 2005, in the light of feedback received from participating councils, to allow the agreement to be finally endorsed by the Forum and referred to local authorities for execution (Attachment B). This also contains the amendments requested by the Christchurch City Council at its meeting on 17 February 2005.

CONCLUSION

13. As the largest local authority in the region the Christchurch City Council needs to maintain a collaborative and co-operative approach in its dealings with other local authorities in the region. The triennial agreement provides the basis for this Council to take the lead in building collaborative relationships, provides ample scope for the Council to take initiatives and does not impede anything the Council is likely to do in terms of inter-council cooperation. The agreement also provides for a process to consider any new initiatives that the Regional Council might propose. It is therefore recommended that the Council accept the draft agreement attached.