

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Tuesday 5 September 2006 at 9.30am**

PRESENT: Councillor Graham Condon (Chairperson),
Councillors David Cox, Anna Crighton, Carole Evans
(from 10.00am), Bob Parker (from 10.10am)
Bob Shearing, Sue Wells and Norm Withers.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Mayor Garry Moore, Councillors Helen Broughton,
Barry Corbett, Pat Harrow and Gail Sheriff.

OLDER PERSONS' POLICY

The seminar was introduced by Alan Bywater, Programme Manager, who outlined the programme. There followed a PowerPoint presentation with Alan Bywater being joined by Adair Bruorton, Policy Analyst, and Karen Rickerby, Metropolitan Community Adviser.

The matters covered included:

- Strategy map.
- What do we have now?
- Why review the existing policy?
- The changing shape.
- Changes in society that will impact on older people.
- What does the City Council do for older persons?
- Who have we talked with?
- Key issues identified.
- Draft policy goals.

This was followed by a period of discussion, focussing on three key areas of:

- Access and opportunities.
- Education and awareness.
- Advocacy and collaboration.

Comments during the discussion included:

- How would one know in a few years time whether or not the policies as written were appropriate – they needed to be age appropriate.
- Means by which the Council was to communicate needed to be considered.

- Were the responsibilities of government agencies falling back on the Council?
- The mobility of the aging population was changing with the greater use of electric scooters for instance. Should this be reflected in the Council's transportation policies ie wider footpaths.
- Goal 2 like goal 1 needed to be changed to reflect recognition that older people have different needs and different abilities.
- There were a whole range of matters such as car parking access, design of buildings etc that needed to be addressed.
- The best person to monitor this policy was the person in the street – the mechanisms used needed to be further examined.
- It should be spelt out clearly that it is ok for older people to be engaged in the workforce.
- If one in three are to be on superannuation in the not too distant future, then such matters as to who will pay for various services, needs to be considered.

The seminar concluded at 10.15am.