

## 20. COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL ACTION PLAN: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Strategy & Planning, DDI 941-8281
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Inspections and Enforcement Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the adoption by the Council of the attached letter to the Ministry of Health stating that the Council does not support the draft National Alcohol Action Plan: Consultation Document (the draft Action Plan).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Inter Agency Committee on Drugs seeks feedback from interested stakeholders on the proposed approach, priorities and actions in the draft Action Plan (attached). A consultation document has been published by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and submissions are required by 7 November 2008.
3. The Inter Agency Committee on Drugs consulted a range of topic experts and stakeholders (including researchers and young people) to identify the main alcohol-related harms and the actions we should be undertaking to address these harms. The result of this work is this draft Action Plan. The next step in the consultation process is to seek feedback from the broader community about the draft Action Plan.
4. The purpose of the draft Action Plan is to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm in New Zealand. It articulates a strategic direction to draw together existing plans, policies, activities and interventions across many different settings in New Zealand, and to inform future work. Most importantly, it outlines the actions proposed to reduce alcohol-related harm and identifies who is responsible for leading and contributing to their implementation.
5. The Submissions Panel considered the draft Council submission (attached) on the draft Action Plan on 14 October 2008, and decided not to support the draft Action Plan. The Panel decided that instead of making a submission using MOH's template and pre-selected questions, the Council should submit a letter outlining its primary concerns:
  - It is unclear what the document is trying to achieve.
  - The primary Goal in our view should be "To make individuals responsible for their actions and for society to find alcohol abuse unacceptable."
  - The draft Action Plan, like Local Authorities' Alcohol Policies, should underpin legislative change not lead to it.
  - The draft Action Plan, in the Council's view, does not use strong enough language and it does not clearly identify if alcohol is just another drug.
  - It is the Council's view that the draft Action Plan is fundamentally on the wrong track and is more an action plan for government and other agencies rather than changing individual behaviours.
6. Although the Panel has delegated authority, it considered that submitting a letter on this issue from Council would prove a more effective and appropriate course of action. This would ensure that the Council's concerns are raised with MOH in time for the 7 November 2008 submission deadline.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no direct financial considerations.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?**

8. Not applicable.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

9. Legal considerations have been taken into account in drafting this letter, but at this stage there is no detail as to the extent and content of possible implications.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

10. The National Alcohol Action Plan aligns with the following Community Outcomes: A Safe City and A Healthy City.

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

11. No.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

12. The recommendations are aligned with the following Council strategies: Road Safety Strategy, the Safer Christchurch Strategy and the Strengthening Communities Strategy.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

13. Not applicable.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

14. Internal consultation has been carried out between the Inspections and Enforcement Unit, Strategy and Planning Group and Legal Services Unit.

#### **PANEL RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council adopt the letter attached to this report.