

Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

Report To: UDS Implementation Committee (UDSIC)
Subject: UDS Bi-Monthly Implementation Report
Report Author(s): Independent Chair & Implementation Manager
Report Date: 30 March 2009
Reference to UDS: Effective Governance and Leadership

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a bi-monthly update to the Committee on UDS implementation.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 RPS PC1

Preparations are proceeding for hearings on Proposed Change No.1 with hearings set to begin on 20 April. The partners continue to work together to coordinate their efforts where possible, and officers are finessing their presentations and any supplementary evidence to present a strong and robust case.

There has been a practice day where those presenting evidence have had a "dry run".

Decisions are still expected to be available by November 2009.

2.2 Central Government

A full report on engagement with Central Government, and key issues for 2009 will be presented to the committee as a separate agenda item.

2.3 Transport

Significant announcements from the Minister of Transport have signalled a realignment of government priorities for transport funding. The Government will remove the ability for regions to directly levy fuel excise, which will greatly reduce the ability for local authorities to raise local funding.

On the flip side the government has announced its list of seven roads of national significance which includes "Christchurch Motorway Projects". As noted in the Minister's statement:

"The Christchurch Motorway projects will improve the southern and northern approaches to our second largest metropolitan area, and provide a western bypass that links points north and south of Christchurch with the International Airport."

This change will be acknowledged in an updated Government Policy Statement which will inform NZTA's investment decisions. While Transport officers from ECan, NZTA and other

partners will have to work through the detail, overall, the changes seem positive with regard to transport projects in the sub-region.

2.4 Risk Profile

There are several key risks which this implementation phase of the project faces between now and the end of 2008:

Nature of Risk	Ranking (1 = low; 10 = high) Bracketed is previous	Comment
Adequate and consistent resourcing in a timely manner. This covers both purely budgetary and staff resourcing. (CEAG to address risk in the first instance)	3 (3)	Budgets adequate for remainder of 08/09 and no indication that resourcing will drop for 09/10
RPS PC1 slippage (Note: based on new timeframe)	3 (3)	PC1 progressing to timeframe laid out by Commissioners as reported.
Failing to successfully implement, in a form intended by the UDS partners, the growth management strategy through the Regional Policy Statement.	6 (6)	Inherent uncertainty surrounding commissioner decisions, rather than lack of confidence in strength of case.
Inconsistent communications/Lack of alignment	4 (5)	Comment in the media between partners and openly questioning commitment to UDS not a positive step, although this seems to have subsided.
Government Engagement alignment	8 (8)	Failure to communicate prior to engagement with senior officials or government members can undermine ongoing management.
Achieving a Crown Transport Assistance Package in a form acceptable both sub-regionally and regionally	6 (4)	The Crown Package remains in place as agreed. Removal of RFT was a significant blow to local funding, however Roads of National Significance seem to be a positive step.

Nature of Risk	Ranking (1 = low; 10 = high) Bracketed is previous	Comment
Essential Tangata Whenua input not being achieved in a timely manner	7 (7)	Engagement is not being achieved and continues to be a challenge, however a way forward is being progressed.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 *That the monthly report of the Independent Chair and Implementation Manager be received.*
- 3.2 *That the workshop for UDSIC members to be held on Monday 20 April 2009 be cancelled.*
- 3.3 *That the next meeting of the UDSIC be on Monday 25 May 2009 commencing at 1.30 pm at Environment Canterbury.*

Bill Wasley - Independent Chair

James Caygill - Implementation Manager