

NEW INITIATIVE (F)

Project title: Graffiti Flying Squad

Background: the 'Anti Graffiti flying squad' was established in July 2007 on a one year trial basis.

An evaluation of the 'trial' will commence shortly and a report will be presented to the committee for consideration in early June 2008. This will outline the benefits and costs associated with reactive and proactive approaches to dealing with graffiti. The funding outlined here is provisional and will be revised as appropriate once the evaluation has been completed.

It is recommended that funding be included in the draft annual plan.

1. The Proposal

As part of the 2007/08 annual plan process, a 'Flying Squad' was constituted with the sole purpose of eliminating graffiti from the city's public spaces and – where consensual – private property. The Squad also had a proactive role in making certain areas unattractive to graffiti through the use of murals and other initiatives. The Flying Squad was constituted for a one year trial.

2. Proposal Costs

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
<i>Personnel (2 FTE)</i>	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vehicle Running Costs</i>	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Materials</i>	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Contracts</i>	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The CitiOperations unit does not have the capacity to fund this initiative from existing budgets or through reprioritisation.

NB. Funding is provisional and will be revised once the evaluation has been completed and considered by councillors in early June

3. Project Outline

From July-December 2007, the Flying Squad received around 600 enquiries regarding graffiti. Whilst these jobs have been effectively dealt with, reacting to calls has proved inefficient because crews travel between jobs without dealing with graffiti that is located between complaints.

As a result, our approach has become a blend of reactive and proactive, with more emphasis on proactive. This has involved using community groups (primarily CART) to undertake 'blitzes' on specific problem areas. To date this seems to be working well in Island Bay, Newtown and Kilbirnie. Early in 2008 it is proposed to roll out similar initiatives in the CBD and Tawa.

The blitzes are followed up with regular checks and maintenance. Community Police have also been very supportive, and have assisted with the management of a rewards scheme that has netted three taggers to date.

An evaluation of the 'trial' will commence shortly and a report will be presented to SPC for consideration in early June 2008 that will outline the benefits and costs associated with reactive and proactive approaches to dealing with graffiti. The funding outlined in the business case is provisional and will be revised as appropriate once the evaluation has been completed and considered by councillors.

4. Conclusion

The 'Anti Graffiti flying squad' was established in July 2007 on a one year trial basis. An evaluation of the trial will commence shortly and it is recommended that funding be provisionally approved and included in the budget and revised as appropriate pending the outcome of the evaluation.