

**Cabinet Minute [CAB Min (12) 29/3A] - Education Renewal for
Christchurch, Waimakariri and Selwyn (22 August 2012)**

No deletions have been made to this information.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

CAB Min (12) 29/3A

22 AUG 2012

Copy No: 20

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Education Renewal for Christchurch, Waimakariri and Selwyn

Portfolio: Education

On 20 August 2012, following reference from the Cabinet Committee on Canterbury Earthquake Recovery (CER), Cabinet:

Background

- 1 **noted** that it is estimated that over \$500 million is needed over the next 10 years to repair and maintain the schooling network in greater Christchurch;
- 2 **noted** that the Canterbury earthquakes have provided a catalyst for changes as well as an opportunity to address issues with the existing infrastructure;

High level options for the greater Christchurch Network

- 3 **noted** the following options for renewing the education system which have been drawn from the programme business case:
 - 3.1 Option 1: Repairing schools by taking a school by school approach to repairing earthquake damage and building new schools for large populations shifts;
 - 3.2 Option 2: Rationalising the network by taking a network approach to repairing earthquake damage, closing non-viable schools and building a larger number of new schools to meet future demand;
 - 3.3 Option 3: Renewing education by taking an education based approach to balancing the challenges of repairing earthquake damaged schools, meeting demand and investing to improve educational performance;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Education recommends Option 3 above to renew the education system because:
 - 4.1 a school approach will perpetuate inadequacies in the current system that are contributing to low educational performance;
 - 4.2 a network approach will not result in a significant contribution to the targets for education achievement that the Minister of Education is committed to achieving;

- 4.3 taking an education based approach will move the focus away from individual institutions and services, to delivering holistic suites of educational resources, facilities and opportunities that communities need;
- 4.4 proposals for a renewed education network have received broad community support through a range of engagements and an extensive consultation process;

Scale of change

- 5 **agreed** to renew the education system (option 3 above) by:
 - 5.1 restoring and expanding schools (low level change) – carrying out earthquake repairs and school expansions where a cluster of schools or individual schools require low level investment or intervention to improve educational performance;
 - 5.2 consolidating schools (moderate change) – where schools are potentially non-viable because the level of investment required, the location of the school, or its roll size means the school will struggle to deliver education to the required standard. Investing in rebuilding these schools will go hand in hand with closing those that are not viable to keep open;
 - 5.3 rejuvenating schools (major change) – where clusters of schools require innovative change to provide better support for learners and improve educational performance from early childhood through to secondary provision;
- 6 **noted** that renewing the schooling network will deliver better value for money, significant benefits to the community and improved outcomes for learners compared to other available options;

Cost of renewing the schooling network

- 7 **noted** that the cost of renewing the schooling network in Greater Christchurch is estimated to be between \$0.825 billion and \$1.1 billion over 10 years;
- 8 **noted** that the planned announcement of up to a \$1.00 billion investment for the education renewal of greater Christchurch means that the government is effectively committing to this investment;
- 9 **agreed** to announce up to a \$1.00 billion investment for the education renewal for greater Christchurch by the end of August 2012;
- 10 **noted** that approximately \$500 million of the cost of renewing the schooling network in greater Christchurch can be funded from Education baselines and insurance recoveries (depending on the timing of these) meaning that Vote Education will require capital injections of between \$325 million and \$600 million over the next 10 years;
- 11 **noted** that subject to receiving an insurance payout for the Canterbury earthquake, there will be no significant draw down of new funding for renewing the schooling network in greater Christchurch until 2015/16;
- 12 **noted** that the government has committed the first \$1.00 billion of revenue from mixed ownership model proceeds to schooling across the country as part of the Future Investment Fund;

- 13 **noted** that while there is the potential to direct some of the first \$1.00 billion from the Future Investment Fund to renewing the schooling network in greater Christchurch, other funding pressures will need to be addressed with this funding as well;

Affected schools

- 14 **noted** that the renewal for greater Christchurch will directly have an impact on 123 schools, in Christchurch, Kaiapoi and Rolleston;
- 15 **noted** that the 123 schools have been organised into clusters (of between two and six schools per cluster) that will be restored and consolidated and rejuvenated;
- 16 **noted** that up to 16 new schools will be established (five of which will service new areas of demand);
- 17 **noted** that up to 30 schools will be closed in line with demographic changes and the associated reductions in school rolls (some will be permanently closed, some merged with other schools and others replaced or relocated to new sites);

Note: Figures exclude schools in the Aranui and Akaroa clusters.

Progressing the first tranche of work

- 18 **agreed** that the Minister of Education commence restoring up to 42 schools in 13 clusters, including reinstating 23 swimming pools, before the end of 2012;
- 19 **invited** the Minister of Education announce the key elements of the greater Christchurch Educational Renewal Plan by the end of August 2012 and include information on the:
- 19.1 up to \$1.00 billion commitment to rejuvenate greater Christchurch's schooling network over the next 10 years;
- 19.2 overall Cluster Map, including clusters for technology, Maori education provision, special education and the recommended approach for each cluster (restore and expand, consolidate or rejuvenate);
- 19.3 the commencement of the first tranche of work (the restore and expand phase) and redevelopment and establishment of three new schools;
- 19.4 names of schools within each cluster (being considered for consolidate and rejuvenate options);

Engagement and consultation

- 20 **noted** that ongoing engagement will be essential to ensuring decisions made about the number, type and location of services and schools are accepted by the community and supported in practice;
- 21 **noted** that a comprehensive change management programme is being developed to facilitate decisions on education renewal;
- 22 **noted** that proposals for this work are included in a separate item considered by CER agreeing to a \$24.092 million draw down from the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Fund to maintain recovery and facilitate the largest scale change to the New Zealand education system [CER Min (12) 7/4];

- 23 **directed** the Ministry of Education begin discussions with schools identified for the first phase of restore and expand;
- 24 **directed** the Ministry commence more intensive engagement with clusters of schools identified for consolidate and rejuvenate options by October 2012;

Legislative implications

- 25 **noted** that changes to the Education Act 1989 are required to provide the flexibility needed to progress more flexible school governance and attendance arrangements;
- 26 **agreed** that changes to provisions on attendance and alternative constitutions for Boards of Trustees be included in the Education Amendment Bill (No. 2) to be introduced in the House of Representatives before the end of the year;
- 27 **invited** the Minister of Education to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the proposal in paragraph 26 above;

Next report to Cabinet

- 28 **invited** the Minister of Education to present a detailed implementation plan to CER in February 2013 that will include:
- 28.1 financial implications for schools being restored and implications for Budget 2013;
 - 28.2 a progress update on the engagement with boards of trustees and principals on consolidation and rejuvenation options;
 - 28.3 recommended next steps.


Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (12) 423; CER Min (12) 7/3

Secretary's Note: This minute replaces CER Min (12) 7/3. Cabinet added new paragraphs 7-13.

Distribution:

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