

Finance and Performance Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Thursday 30 June 2022
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Council Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant

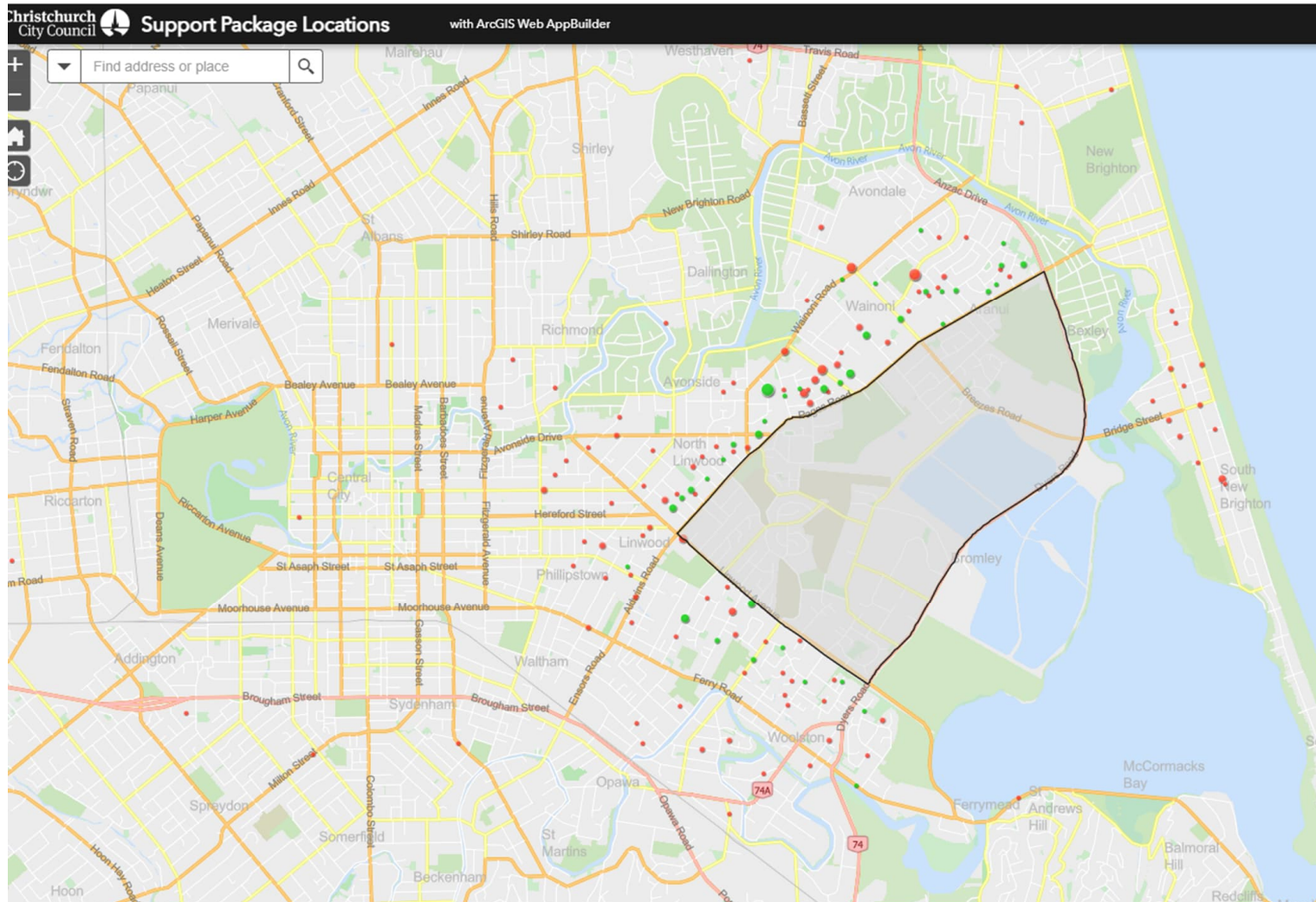
Finance & Performance Committee
Meeting
30 June 2022

Overview of today's presentation

- Community Support & Social Recovery Plan
 - Support for Schools & Early Childhood Learning Centres
 - Community Public Health
 - Community feedback
 - Economic/business support
 - Environmental monitoring
 - CWTP interim operations update
 - Oxidation Ponds
 - Trickling Filters media removal
 - Communications
 - Coming up
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Community support and social recovery plan

- As of Tuesday morning there have been 2,324 in zone grants made (\$464,800.00). This equates to 69% of all in zone eligible applicants.
- There have been 151 out of zone grants made (\$30,200.00).
- The number of applications being received have slowed drastically over the last two weeks.
- Staff are currently investigating the extent of the area eligible for the grant and will present a proposal to Council 28 July.
- We are progressing development of the Social Recovery Plan with CDHB, Pegasus Health, Ministry for Social Development and Ministry of Education. We expect a first draft finalised early next week and peer reviewed with partners and the Community Advisory Group. We expect to brief council the following week and report to Council on 28 July.



Support for schools and early childhood learning centres

- We have met with a number of school Principals and Managers of Early Childhood Education Centres together with the Ministry of Education to discuss support options
- The approach is being contributed to by Council and Ministry of Education as a partnership.
- The Ministry have supplied air purifiers for schools and Early Childhood Learning Centres.
- Seven schools and 19 Early Childhood Education Centres are in the process of receiving grants from Council.

Community and Public Health (CDHB)

Who are we?

Support role for Council's response

Involved in two CCC-led workstreams

- Environmental monitoring, exposure and health risk assessment
- Social response

Internal project team established at CPH to co-ordinate our input with the aim of delivering coordinated advice and support to CCC and ECan regarding the Christchurch WWTP odour in order to achieve the best possible outcomes and help mitigate/reduce harm to the community

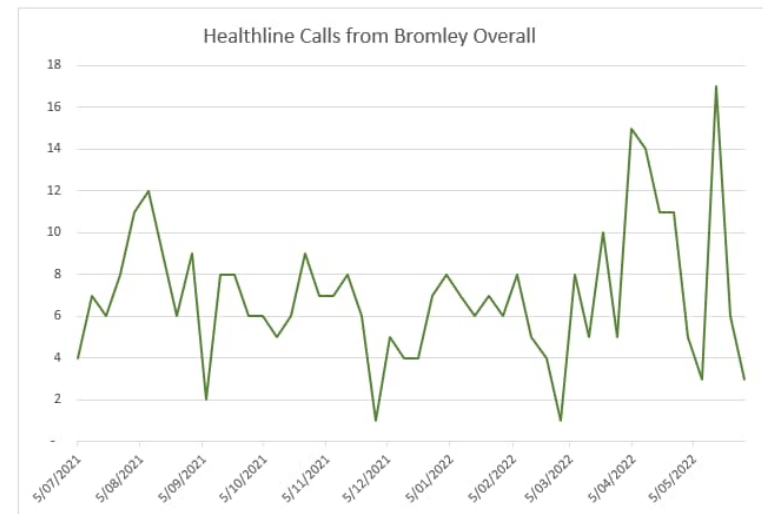
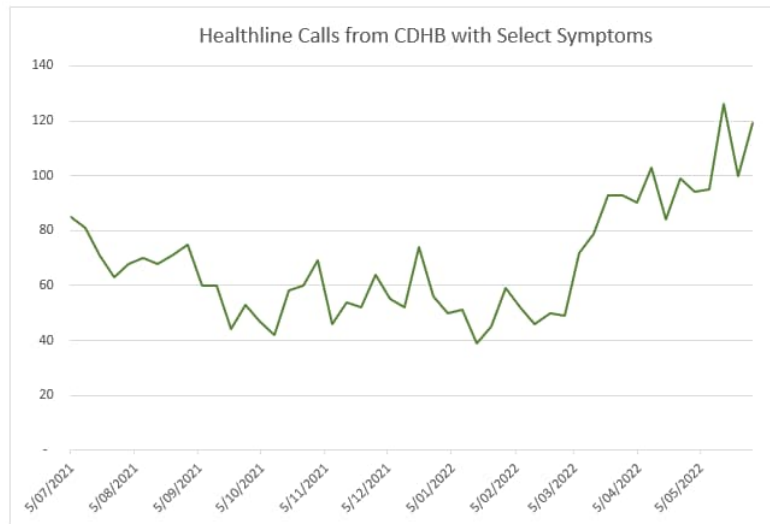
What we have done so far

- Engaged independent Air Quality consultant to provide peer review of our advice on exposure and risk assessment
- Provided advice regarding exposure assessment and potential health effects (particularly in relation to hydrogen sulphide)
- Sought advice from other public health units which have experience of issues with foul odours
- Sought information from local GPs and Pegasus Health
- Sought information from Healthline and National Poisons Centre
- Considered request from Council to set up a health register
- Linked CCC to CDHB Planning and Funding about possibility of free GP visits

Themes from primary care

- Most local practices (except one) report no increase in consultations in relation to the health effects of the odour
- Reporting of symptoms related to the odour is mostly from people attending practice for other reasons
- Commonly reported symptoms are nausea, headaches, eye and throat irritation, skin irritation, worsening asthma and sleep disturbance
- People's mental wellbeing is being affected negatively - reporting distress, frustration and sense of powerlessness
- Some practices providing support for mental health/wellbeing for patients affected by the odour

Whakarongorau/Healthline data



A health register

In considering a response to Council's request to establish a register, we:

- Reviewed the literature about registers in relation to environmental exposures
- Sought advice from an environmental health expert who was involved in Ministry response to other environmental exposure
- Attempted to identify any other similar registers in Aotearoa/New Zealand
- Considered the legal requirements around the collection and use of health information
- Considered the potential purposes of a register and whether or not this would be the most appropriate way to ensure that the health concerns of affected residents are addressed.

A health register

There are several reasons why a health register may not be a suitable mechanism for systematically monitoring the health impacts of an exposure like the Christchurch WWTP stench at a community (population) level

- The true denominator (i.e. who is exposed) is unknown
- The true numerator is difficult to measure (under-reporting likely)
- Reported health effects need to be interpreted in context of baseline health status
- It is far from simple to set up and maintain a health register
- A health register will not directly address people's health needs

Summary - health effects

- There is evidence from a number of sources that people exposed to the odours arising from the WWTP and ponds are experiencing both physical and mental health effects due to this exposure
- These effects are consistent with what might be expected given the measured concentrations of hydrogen sulphide at the sites monitored so far
- These health effects would be expected to resolve when production of the odour is reduced back to pre-fire levels as result of the measures being taken by CCC
- At these concentrations, it is unlikely that there will be long term health effects from exposure

Community feedback

- Public meetings recap – 28 June – key themes
- Communications Advisory Group

Economic/business support

- Initial contact with Chamber / ChristchurchNZ
- Follow up contact with affected business
- Impact on workers key issue at the moment
- Feedback and communication is key
- Ongoing engagement with businesses identified

29 June 2022

Environmental monitoring

Air Sampling

- Six rounds of grab samples have been completed – show reduced sulphur compounds
 - Hydrogen Sulphide has been shown as a good indicator gas of the area affected – consistently being emitted from the ponds and easy to monitor
 - Has been detected at levels which can cause annoyance and symptoms such as nausea, headache and eye/nose irritation.
 - Three continuous monitors are in place (Bromley School and two residential locations)
 - A further six 4G continuous monitors are on order and will be deployed mid July.
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