

Sustainable Quality of Life Outcomes

Introduction

Helping to make sure Christchurch continues to be a great place to live over the next year, and in the years to come, is at the heart of this, the 2004 version of the Christchurch City Council's Plan.

The Plan gives details of the services which the Council intends to provide and the projects it plans to implement in the 12 months from 1 July 2003. It also gives an outline of the Council's general intentions for the following four years.

The outcomes which the Council is seeking to achieve are detailed in the Strategic Section of the Plan and focus on three broad areas as follows:

- Community Cohesion and Well Being;
- Economic Development; and
- Environmental Sustainability.

This Plan seeks to build on past Plans by helping to ensure that there is significant progress towards the achievement of these quality of life outcomes. Some services and projects have been reprioritised, and some new services and projects have been introduced. These changes are designed to lock in further progress towards the desired outcomes.

Put another way, the Council is keen to ensure that Christchurch continues to be a great place to live over the next 12 months and that this improvement continues so that, in five and 20 years, it is an even better place to live.

Economic Development

In this area the Council is seeking to achieve "sustainable economic development in order to generate employment and income and enhance the quality of life of all residents".

A new initiative which will make a significant contribution to this outcome is the proposal to invest \$24 million in an engine test cell facility for the Christchurch Engine

Centre. This is a rare investment opportunity which will allow the Christchurch Engine Centre (which is owned by Pratt & Whitney and Air New Zealand) to expand its engineering operations. This expansion will enable Pratt & Whitney secure a number of very large maintenance contracts. The economic impacts on the city are significant. They can be summarised as follows:

- the retention of 300 jobs at the Engine Centre;
- an estimated \$30.8M annual contribution to the Canterbury economy;
- an estimated \$16M contribution to the Canterbury economy during the construction phase;
- the creation of a substantial number of new jobs over the next 10 years;
- enhancing the city's high technology reputation and the promotion of the city as a centre for engineering and avionics; and
- the generation of a positive rate of return on the investment. (This investment will not be rate funded but will be financed by borrowing to fund the acquisition of shares and loans in a subsidiary of a Council controlled company - Christchurch City Facilities Ltd.)

In addition to the Christchurch Engine Centre investment, the Council is also proposing some further new economic development initiatives with the objective of increasing the number of sustainable employment opportunities.

These new initiatives are:

- **Film South** (\$100,000 a year)
There is currently unprecedented interest in New Zealand and Canterbury as a production location for major feature filming as a result of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The November Council meeting recognised this and voted \$100,000 for Film South activities for the balance of 2002/03. This proposal locks this support in for subsequent years.

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- **Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) and Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)** (\$50,000 in 2003/04 and 2004/05)

The CREDS document was published in late 2000 and is in need of a thorough revision and update. Concurrent with that need is the obligation for local government to consult and prepare a strategic planning document. The Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC) has been identified as the lead agency for the preparation of the Economic Development strategy component of the planning process. The \$50,000 in 2003/04 and also in 2004/05 will ensure that the CDC is resourced to carry out this task.

- **Industry Clusters - Development and Management** (\$100,000 a year for the next five years)

Industry clusters are about moving an increasing number of small to medium-sized enterprises through to export market development. The CDC has identified 6-10 industry groupings which have varying degrees of potential for clustering based facilitation interventions. Wellington City through its Economic Development Agency (WREDA) currently provides funding support for 12 clusters. CDC will receive \$100,000 per annum for this important work.

- **Creative Industries Expo** (\$300,000 in 2003/04 and \$200,000 in 2004/05. Included in the \$200,000 in 2004/05 is \$100,000 for underwriting.)

The development of a major Creative Industries Expo for 2004/05 is seen as a very real opportunity for the city to highlight the products of the creative industry sectors. This will raise the profile of the sector and provide a platform for significant marketing opportunities.

- **The Clearwater Classic** (\$300,000)

As a result of a submission from the Frontiers Group Australasia, the Council resolved to grant \$300,000 for the Clearwater Classic Golf Event. The 2003 event attracted a crowd of 17,175 and it is anticipated that the 2004 event will attract

similar numbers. Television coverage of the event includes 10 hours of prime time coverage on the Golf Channel in the USA, Japan and Canada. It has been estimated the worldwide television audience will be approximately 336 million people. Christchurch City will be a major sponsor and a major beneficiary with an estimated 235 jobs created. Increased numbers of visitors to the city and the economic spin-offs of this event are anticipated to be significant.

The above initiatives are grouped under the Economic Development outcome with a range of activities which continue from other years. A number will also contribute indirectly to the Community Cohesion and Well-being Outcome.

Environmental Sustainability

A recent survey has indicated that 76% of residents support the 'waster pays' principle as an effective way to reduce waste, but 55% disapprove of direct payment for refuse bags. It is against this background that the Council is proposing a staged introduction of 'waster pays' for refuse bags.

Homeowners have previously been getting 52 bags a year and this year's Plan provides for the supply of 26 rates-funded bags (in 2003/04). The Council also asked its Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee to investigate and report back on:

- A staged introduction of 'waster pays' for refuse bags over two or three years
- The introduction of a rates funded wheelie bin for all households later in 2004, initially for the collection of greenwaste only and later to also include household putrescible waste, and
- additional ways of dealing with household organic waste (such as enhanced home composting methodologies)

The Council also resolved to undertake a special consultative procedure from November 2003 on the issue of household waste removal which clearly sets out the costs and benefits of each option.

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The purpose of these initiatives is to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by encouraging citizens to carefully consider minimising their contribution to the waste stream.

Community Cohesion and Well-being

The new initiatives which will help ensure further progress towards this outcome are quite varied, and they have equal importance to economic and environment initiatives. Services and projects to enhance social wellbeing include:

- **New Grants**

New grants to the Combined Citizens Advice Bureaux (\$60,000), the Anglican Care Family and Community Division (\$15,000 a year for the next three years), Family Help Trust (\$30,000), K2 Trust Christchurch (\$15,000), Refugee Resettlement Support (\$10,000 a year for the next three years), Te Whatu Manawa Maoritaga O Rehua Marae Trust (\$22,000 - year one of a five-year commitment to service a Council loan), the Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre (\$15,000), the Therapeutic Arts Trust (\$25,000 - year one of a three year commitment) and Christchurch Operatic (Showbiz Christchurch - \$25,000)

As a result of the submission process, the Council has also resolved to add \$100,000 to the Metropolitan Grants based funding from 2004/05 onwards and to make a one off grant of \$100,000 in 2003/04 to the Centre of Contemporary Art.

- **Consultation Initiative** (\$80,000)

The Council is proposing to make an \$80,000 provision which will help to improve the Council's current consultation processes. More specifically this will resource the further development and promotion of the 'Have Your Say' website. It will also ensure that the preliminary consultation guide and tool kits are trialed and evaluated to assist staff and elected members to improve our approach to

consultation. The development of a Consultation Charter and consultation forums are further specifics which will flow from this funding.

- **Electronic Civic Engagement** (\$50,000 for two years)

Coupled with the consultation initiative above are some electronic projects based around e-technology, and communications and community consultation. This funding will enable the development of newsletters, the Have Your Say website, an online discussion forum and a youth website.

- **Responsible Gambling Bill Enforcement** (\$30,000 a year)

Once enacted, the Responsible Gambling Bill will generate a considerable amount of additional work in the form of assessing compliance with Council policy, and assessing all applications for gaming machines and for the location of new gambling venues.

- **Canterbury Museum Revitalisation Project Grant** (\$337,000 for the next five years)

The Canterbury Museum revitalisation project has previously been supported by the Council with a commitment of \$8M over seven years. This additional contribution is the balance of the funding required for a major internal restructuring of the museum layout and incorporation of the Robert McDougall building within the museum display area. This contribution will also demonstrate local commitment to this project in order to help attract central government support for the enhancement of this important community facility.

- **The Theatre Royal** (\$2.3M in 2004/05)

As a result of the submission process the Council has agreed to make an equity contribution of \$2.3M in 2004/05 to the Theatre Royal Trust. This funding is subject to a full investigation during 2003/04 to ensure the Council can capitalise its contribution. The provision will enable the Trust to rebuild the entire back of theatre (ie from the proscenium arch backwards). Such a rebuild will ensure that the theatre meets the needs of a modern theatre.

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Budget Savings

Last year's Draft Plan referred to projected rate increases and the need to review and identify savings. Christchurch has a proportionately high number of residents on low or fixed incomes and the Council understands it needs to improve and maintain its financial discipline, identify and eliminate poor-quality spending and discover where savings can be made.

It is pleasing to report that since the 2003 Draft Plan was prepared a combination of budget scrutiny reviews, internal business-improvement reviews and work by the Council's Standing Committees and Business Units has ensured that this target was met. Since then some of these savings have been utilised by the Council in order to fund the partial reinstatement of black rubbish bags. The table below compares years:

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Revised Budget & Projections	2.81%	3.60%	3.08%	3.02%	5.39%
Original Projections *	4.73%	6.80%	4.72%	3.81%	5.30%

* As per the Draft 2003 Financial Plan

These budgetary changes illustrate the Council's contribution to the Financial Stewardship Strategic Goal - "Continue to improve efficiency in the delivery of Council activities and programmes and measuring the value created through efficiency gains". (See page 47)

Further savings during the forthcoming year will be reflected in later Plans.

New Legislative Requirements

The new Local Government Act (2002) and the new Local Government (Rating) Act (2002) require a number of policies and statements to be included in the Plan. The Policies and Statements are:

- Funding Impact Statement
- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Rates Setting and Rating Policies
- Liability Management Policy
- Investment Policy
- Policy on Partnerships with the Private Sector, and
- Policy on Significance

The Funding Impact Statement is included in the Summary Section at the front of the Plan on pages 30 to 35 and the other policies are in the Supporting Information Section on pages 178 to 215.

Conclusion

We have outlined in this summary just a few of the key new initiatives. The Plan details of the complete programme for 2003/04 and the years that follow cover the full spectrum of activities which contribute to our strategic objectives.

The Council remains committed to making progress towards its strategic outcomes of community cohesion and well-being, economic development and environmental sustainability. Together these three outcomes will help improve the quality of life for all residents of the city.



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