

From The Mayor



This year has been a significant one for the growth and development of our city, and of the Council. In this Annual Report we outline the significant progress that has been made on major projects and initiatives across the spectrum of social, economic and environmental activity.

Our Council is clearly focused on planning and working to make Christchurch an attractive, liveable city – one that supports all sectors of the community and provides the infrastructure for a vibrant and successful future.

It has also been a year of change for the Council itself. We are now a Council of 12, operating in a completely different way from our former structure. Gone is the committee structure which had led to a fragmented understanding of issues by Councillors. In its place is a portfolio system which ensures Councillors have early input into key issues. Any Councillor can attend the portfolio meetings.

Perhaps the biggest change, and continuing challenge, is that we have lifted our game in the governance arena. Our focus is more strategic, which is critical as we face the challenges of the 2006/2016 Community Plan, which signals significant increase in capital requests to support the Community Outcomes.

As Mayor I'm delighted with the progress we have made in the past year. But there is still much more to do as we work to identify our best opportunities, build our capability and turn our vision for the future into tomorrow's reality.

My gratitude goes to the Councillors, staff and all volunteers and participants from our community who have supported our work in the last year. I look forward to continuing to work with you in realising our vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the name, there is a short horizontal line that serves as a flourish or underline.

Garry Moore
Mayor of Christchurch

From the Chief Executive



It has been an exciting year for Christchurch City Council, as the organisation has worked within a new, more focused governance structure to respond to our community and to help achieve the future we all aspire to.

Council is the city's heart – its purpose is to keep the city ticking, providing for its basic needs but also ensuring it is healthy and strengthened for an active and growing future. This means our focus is not only on infrastructure but also on the social, environmental and community outcomes that make our city a great place to live.

In the past year we have worked to support elected members in their decision-making, and to align our strategies and operating plans with the vision outlined by the people of Christchurch in our Community Outcomes.

This year's activity has produced a larger surplus than was budgeted. Much of this relates to increased economic activity within the region that resulted in more vested assets and a higher than anticipated level of cash in lieu contributions. It is important to note that much of the surplus is tagged to specific activities and capital reserves that are not available for rating purposes.

Higher interest rates and lower levels of capital expenditure have seen a significant increase in the amount of interest we receive. This is not sustainable in the long term and did place pressure on our 2005/06 rate level. The increased surplus that is not tagged as indicated above will go to our general reserves and also will be used to reduce debt requirements in future years which will benefit all ratepayers.

One of the biggest challenges for Council in 2004/05 was delivery of the full capital programme. While some \$30m has been carried forward, we have made significant internal changes in our planning to provide greater certainty around our capital expenditure delivery in future. The desirability for projects from the community's perspective needs to be balanced against their affordability – in short, community pressure for capital projects needs to be balanced with their impact on rates.

A further constraint is posed by the capability of the organisation to deliver. A number of factors influence this, both internally and externally: planning and consultation timeframes can be unpredictable; availability of consultants may be constrained; and even the construction and contracting sectors' ability to respond to varying annual levels of capital spend, can create the need for carry forwards.

A better understanding of these influencing factors is improving our ability to deliver a sustainable level of capital expenditure. We are working to increase our delivery capability over the next few years to match the increasing demand for more capital projects as we start to implement the 2006/16 Long Term Council Community Plan.

The first Community Plan was very much a trial run and saw an increase in the number of performance measures we were to report upon. This has proved challenging. While our results are somewhat mixed against these many measures, delivery of activities in support of the Community Outcomes has been sound and we continue to meet service levels of our Asset Management Plans. Looking forward towards the next Community Plan, we will include fewer, more meaningful measures, that will ensure stronger connections to our Community Outcomes and service delivery.

The Council continues in its strong position to lead the development of our city, and ensure the well-being of our diverse communities.

My thanks go to the organisation's staff, who have contributed their energy and passion to supporting our direction and serving the community during the past year, and to the many organisations and agencies which have worked alongside us to help achieve a positive and sustainable future for Christchurch.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley McTurk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Lesley McTurk
Chief Executive