

From the Mayor

It has been an exhilarating time leading the Council for the last 12 months. For the first time the Council went through the full Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process and, also for the first time, we welcomed the people of Banks Peninsula to be part of this long-term planning for our future. Our city now stretches from McLeans Island through to the Akaroa Heads. It is a more interesting city as a result.

Council's long-term vision is simple; we want to be a world class boutique city, where people enjoy a sustainable lifestyle, a healthy environment, a strong economic base and the diverse landscapes of the city and the peninsula.

Throughout the LTCCP process we had these clear goals in mind. Consultations with the community occurred through more than 70 public meetings. Council received more than 2000 submissions as our community gave us feedback and suggestions on our proposed plan.

The theme that came through loud and clear was our resident's love of their parks and gardens. Council has responded to this by increasing the budget for trees and tree renewals in the city. We also set money aside for the rejuvenation of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.

Water is another crucial issue for our future, for the city and the rural hinterland. Council has made a strong statement about the value we place on our water resources. The quality of water our residents enjoy is non-negotiable. In the near future I predict one of our more interesting and absorbing public debates will be over water and its conservation.

The LTCCP also recognises Christchurch's commitment and support for the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy process. This exercise is addressing the issue of the regional city in collaboration with our neighbours in Selwyn and Waimakariri. To help ensure a positive outcome, money has been set aside to implement the Strategy's recommendations.

The long-term planning process was a strong example of democracy in action, with give-and-take on most issues and no one person or group dominating the proceedings. At the end, with a 10-year plan that I think positions the Council well to deliver on community expectations, I am confident the Local Government Act 2002 has injected greater fairness and better outcomes into local affairs and I want to thank everyone who made a contribution.

My thanks also to all those who have been a part of producing this Annual Report.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Garry Moore
Mayor of Christchurch