



Introduction from the Chief Executive



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We have come a long way

This community plan for the next 10 years to 2016, is Christchurch City Council's second. Following the release of our first in 2004, we have listened to feedback from the community and our government stakeholders to improve the clarity, relevance and reality of information we are providing.

This time we include fewer performance measures, but they are more meaningful. They will better determine how our organisation is meeting the service levels that the Council has signed off on to deliver the Community Outcomes that we can contribute towards.

For the first time, the LTCCP will be audited, both the draft document which goes out for public consultation at the end of March and the final document published at the end of June.

In the coming years, the Council faces huge challenges. Meeting these challenges will require the combined effort of councillors and the staff organisation that supports them, along with input from the community.

The Council is constantly being asked for more, such as enhanced facilities at the Botanic Gardens and an improved roading infrastructure. All of these demands place considerable pressure on our budget, which is exacerbated further by unprecedented cost increases in certain key sectors of the economy.

We are currently experiencing tremendous pressure on costs, particularly in areas of our business that relate to the construction industry, or that require the consumption of non-renewable resources. These escalating costs are far beyond cost increases reflected in the Consumer Price Index and affect about 40% of our operating expenditure.

Everyone in the Council, including staff and councillors, now understands the reality of meeting the Local Government Act 2002. This Act has fundamentally shifted the basis for local government in New Zealand and changed the way we operate.

Given the positive results already achieved it is important that we continue our direction, always reassessing and improving how we deliver best service to our ratepayers by the most efficient and effective means possible.

We can no longer set the agenda for our community and dictate how we deliver it. The onus is now on us to consult with our community and be far more responsive to your needs. Our residents' requirements, in addition to our regulatory role, then drive our plans, projects, services and budgets which are all reflected in the rates paid by the community.

We need to look after the overall needs of the community, which means that not every individual's wish list can be met. Part of this is about affordability, but Council must also take a city-wide view when it makes its decisions.

Taking this into account this document is the Council's response to what the community has told us it wants in terms of outcomes.

Of course there will be many other agencies and bodies which contribute to these outcomes and it is important that the Council works alongside and in partnership with them and understands their plans and strategies too. We have worked closely with the Banks Peninsula District Council and welcome its inclusion with the Christchurch City Council.

A key challenge is where we are going as a city – what is it we aspire to for Christchurch, what sort of city we see it becoming in the future – 10, 20, 30 years on.

Will it be the sort of place our grandchildren want to live in?

In making decisions, we need to look at what we can afford to do today to shape the direction that future takes. We want your input to Our Community Plan. Let us know your expectations.



Dr. Lesley McTurk

Chief Executive