

# LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

**I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.**

**I am completing this submission:**  
On behalf of a group or organisation

**Number of people you represent:**  
Many

**My submission refers to:**  
Full Version of the LTCCP

**Page Number:**

**I also want to respond to:**

<b>Name:</b>	Allison Franklin
<b>Organisation:</b>	CCC Disability Reference Group
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<b>Your Submission:</b>	<p><b>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</b></p> <p>Democracy &amp; Governance: No mentioned was made of the CCC's Disability Reference Group (DRG), which exists to enable disability-related issues to be included in Council processes (see below re Plan format. We would ask that the Council adheres to its own Equity and Access Policy on disability, and ensures that all Council services and facilities are made accessible to people with all types of disabilities as a matter of course, not as "special" requirements or dispensations.</p> <p>Bus Exchange: The DRG was unaware that another major project on this was proposed and would ask that it is consulted and included in the planning to avoid the serious omissions (such as provision of a lift) for people with disabilities that occurred in the original Bus Exchange.</p> <p>Capital Works Programme: All new services and facilities need to include good access provision. This makes them accessible to all members of the community. We need to have a good passenger transport structure, accessible buses, cut-out kerbs installed in all new roading, accessible bus stops and shelters and large signage to enable people with partial sight to be able to read it.</p> <p>Housing: All new housing built by the Council should met legal standards for disability access. As well as increasing the housing options for people with disabilities, this also enables them to visit and stay with family and friends, and means that if a non-disabled person has an accident, rendering them temporarily incapacitated, they can stay in their own home for the duration of their impairment.</p> <p>Public amenities: All toilets, buildings, recreational facilities need to be fully accessible.</p> <p>Community Groups Funding: The CCC Disability Reference Group would urge the Council NOT to decrease funding to Community Groups. If anything funding should be increased. Community groups provide untold hours of service (often on a voluntary basis) to people in Christchurch, often those who are most vulnerable and under-resourced. One in four people in Christchurch have some form of disability, and many are reliant on services, information and support provided by community group.</p>

	<p><b>Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)</b></p>
	<p>Proposed closure of three suburban libraries and the Mobile Library Service: The Plan states that the Mobile Library will be withdrawn, saving \$80,000, and that the numbers using it and the number of stops it makes have been decreasing. The people who use the services are primarily elderly and/or disabled, and usually do not have access to private transport. Even assuming they were able to use public transport, they would be unable to walk any distance, carrying books. Therefore our most disadvantaged citizens are being penalised further. Rather than ceasing the service, we would prefer that some research is done into why the numbers and stops have decreased, and whether or not the service is being located in the most appropriate areas. \$80,000 seems a small amount to save, if it is going to be to the detriment of the above mentioned people. The improvements to the Botanic Gardens is proposed at \$10.8m, so shaving \$80,000 of that large amount will pay for the Mobile Library to continue. We quite like the gardens as they are, and cannot see why such expensive improvements are justified.</p> <p>The Disability Reference Group would ask that it is consulted on all new, and planned alterations of Council facilities and services to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities and their families are taken into account.</p> <p>Parking in Streets: Mobility parking spaces are seldom monitored to ensure that only cars displaying a Mobility Parking card are using them. The Disability Reference Group requests that this task be added to the duties of parking wardens, and that an appropriate fine be given to unauthorised people using these parking spaces.</p> <p>Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways: People using wheelchairs, who have children, cannot access playgrounds with them as the areas usually have raised edges.</p> <p>Surfaces in all outdoor areas, (including walkways) need hard surfaces to enable wheelchair users and people with walking difficulties to use them. Pea shingle surfaces are dangerous for people with balance problems and impossible for wheelchairs users.</p> <p>Transport: Rather than "continue to do the same", improvements need to be made to ensure full access for people with disabilities. A more formalised complaints procedure needs to be put in place, so that it can be monitored, recorded and issues addressed swiftly.</p> <p>Sporting Events: (Page 77) It is great to see more major sporting events coming to Christchurch, including sports for people with disabilities such as the World Wheelchair Rugby tournament next year. An event such as this make it all the more imperative that we have a disability-friendly city.</p>
	<p><b>Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?</b></p>
	<p>It would have been helpful if the CCC's Disability Reference Group has had prior access to the Draft Plan to enable disability groups to have more detailed input.</p> <p>Page 49 of plan- point 3 "Making it easy for people to understand and take part in Council decision-making processes"</p> <p>"Providing readily available and easily understood information about Council services and structures"</p> <p>All versions of the plan are unnecessarily glossy (which means expensive to produce) and contain large coloured photographs. The plan would be more readable if there were less photos, less rhetoric (including history lessons) and if it had larger printed words. Even on CD, the plan's factual content was virtually impossible to access (particular for a blind person using reading software) because of the large number of photographs. Draft plans should be printed on plain paper, with factual content presented clearly. Only then will the consultation process be truly effective and meaningful.</p> <p>The DRG would respectfully ask that all Council facilities, activities and processes be made user-friendly to all people with disabilities of all types.</p>