

# LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submission close on 5 May 2006

I wish to talk to the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

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

**Number of people you represent:**  
2000+

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

**Page Number:**  
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**I also want to respond to:**

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**Your Submission:**

**Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?**

**Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)**

Community Support

Thousands of people of the city of Christchurch access support provided by community groups each year. Each person in need has good reason to be thankful for the proactive approach that the Christchurch City Council has taken in supporting the groups providing their various forms of help.

Kingdom Resources is one such group helping those in need. Each year we are involved with helping around 2000 people with a mixture of financial and employment needs. Lives are changed as our staff and volunteers seek to build relationships with clients and help them at their point of need.

The Council has also been proactive in being one of the first funders to offer multi year contracts. Such contracts promote stability in the sector and allow community groups to plan on a longer term basis.

However there is also pressure on the funding of these groups - pressure to keep up with wages increases, to keep up with inflation on operating costs etc. We note that the CCC budget figures allow a small increase each year (presumably to allow for inflation) however Page 31 of the full version LTCCP states that the population of Christchurch is expected to increase by 16% by 2026. This is surely clear indication that more funding will be required over the 10 years covered by the LTCCP.

The Christchurch population is also continuously bombarded by media stories of rising crime, addiction and domestic violence statistics and the other consequences that those problems bring. There is clearly a growing need for community services.

We would also like to see a continuing increase in provision of community education - education in basic life skills that allow those people to participate in the community and become contributors to community rather than users of the services offered.

**Your Submission  
(Cont'd):**

All said and done, we were surprised to hear early in the LTCCP process that the Council had even considered decreasing the amount of funding available for building our community.

We believe the Council gets good value for money from community groups. Much of the help provided by community groups is provided by volunteers so the impact of each dollar spent is multiplied two, three, four or even five times. In the case of Kingdom Resources we work through a team of 120+ volunteers plus staff.

The people of Christchurch are indeed fortunate that they have a Council that cares about people. We applaud the commitment of funds to the community sector and trust that this will continue throughout the term of the LTCCP.

#### Planning for Accommodation for Community Groups

Over past years, it has been increasingly difficult for community groups to find affordable accommodation. Rents have increased and the availability of suitable premises has been limited.

At the same time we have seen 'community assets' sold up. In particular I recall a rugby club that was selling up their property so that they could move to QEII Park and a tennis club that was sold up and the proceeds distributed to their central tennis body. Whilst respecting these groups rights to sell their property, my concern is that such properties are sold and replaced by in-fill housing and therefore will not be available for other 'community use' either now or in the future.

Kingdom Resources provides a range of services including budget advice, access to interest free loans in conjunction with budget advice and also career development services for those people seeking employment. All up, our services impact approximately 2,000 people p.a. including adults and children in the families that we serve.

Kingdom Resources faced many difficulties in securing another property when their leased building was about to be demolished in 2005. The difficulties were not only in finding somewhere suitable but how we would pay for it. The issues of cost were magnified in that Kingdom Resources in the last 12.5 years, had had 10 years rent free and 2.5 years paying a nominal rental. In both situations Kingdom Resources was helped by other trusts. Facing the quantum leap to paying market rental was daunting.

We searched for properties both commercial and residential. We finally had to accept that residential properties were not a viable option 1) because the organisation had outgrown residential properties and 2) because the costs and timeframe of gaining the necessary resource consent was prohibitive.

Throughout our property search, we had great support from Jane Parrett, Community Development Officer in the Spreydon Heathcote Ward. Jane helped us negotiate any possibility of renting properties owned by Council and set up meetings with the appropriate people to work through other issues. Both her role and her commitment, were of immense help and were critical to the final outcome. I am aware that at the same time, Jane was also helping other groups facing similar issues.

Kingdom Resources is now well settled in premises in Addington Mall. This was only possible with the support of the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board and the Christchurch City Council Discretionary Fund. We are grateful for their vote of confidence in Kingdom Resources.

There is a report being currently prepared for CCC regarding the possibility of establishing another 'community house' in the suburbs. Such a project can provide a base for a multitude of community groups and will provide in a sense a 'one-stop-shop' for Christchurch residents seeking some help, whatever their need happens to be. The preparation of a report is certainly a step in the right direction and I hope that such a venture will come to fruition in the short to medium term.

**Your Submission  
(Cont'd):**

Such a venture will require both planning and a capital commitment, which is something that needs to be included in the Council's capital expenditure budget. It is also a project that could easily attract other community partners from the various philanthropic trusts around the city.

In conclusion I am concerned for other community groups in the future as to the availability of premises for them to operate from. Planning must be done now to ensure that there are suitable properties available in places and at a price that community groups can afford to pay.

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**Employment Funding**

The LTCCP indicates that the Employment related services supported by CCC will remain unchanged. However some weeks ago it was reported that the CCC support for Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC) was being reduced by some \$360,000. A reduction such as this would have major ramifications for any organisation and no doubt is currently causing some issues for CDC.

It has been suggested that CDC may have to cut its financial support for ACE funded positions. This will have a serious impact on individuals who are employed under the programme. Many people have benefited from the skills and experience acquired whilst working under an ACE funded position. During the course of such positions, many of the participants become hugely more employable and many move into permanent positions from there.

It would also impact community groups who have employed people under the scheme. These groups are often unable to secure funding to support a paid position but ACE makes it achievable.

Kingdom Resources has employed several people over past years. Each of those people has learned and grown in the time that they were with the organisation.

ACE is a genuine win-win scheme - the unemployed person wins by gaining work and the community group wins by having someone to fill a gap that allows them to provide their services.

We hope that the CCC can look to the good that the money achieves in peoples lives and reconsider the cut in funding to CDC.

Thank you :-)

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?**

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**Democracy and Governance**

Kingdom Resources has partnered with the local Spreydon Heathcote Community Board to provide employment related community services over the last 12+ years. This has included operation of various courses and one-to-one employment help.

Hundreds (we've lost count!) of people have benefited as they have required some help on their journey towards employment. There are not many people who find the journey to employment to be easy going, especially those who have been out of the workforce for some time through perhaps raising families, long term illness, or simply long term unemployment.

The support of the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board has been critical in this work.

We want to pay particular tribute to the Community Development Workers in the Spreydon Heathcote ward. They know what is happening at the local level, are able to link groups to other local resources, provide encouragement and support to groups - they are focussed on building a better community!

**Your Submission  
(Cont'd):**

Kingdom Resources supports the concept of Community Boards and local Community Development workers and trust that the services provided by both continue on in their current format throughout the term of the LTCCP.