

# LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions 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:  
2

My submission refers to:  
Full Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:

I also want to respond to:

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<b>Organisation:</b>	
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<b>Address:</b>	24 Stourbridge St Spreydon Christchurch
<b>Your Submission:</b>	<p><b>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</b></p> <p>We strongly oppose the proposals to 'rationalise' community libraries (c.f. p86 of draft LTCCP). This is nothing less than a cut in services, and use of the term 'rationalise' is misleading and deceptive. Community libraries are part of the fabric of a living city. Many users of Spreydon library for example, do not own or have access to a car and this library is vital if they are to continue to be able to use the Council's library service.</p> <p>For similar reasons We oppose the proposal to exit the mobile library service.</p> <p>The Council is to be commended on the building of new libraries. This laudable achievement must not be tarnished by cuts to library services in other areas. Christchurch is growing, our library services must grow with it.</p> <p>We oppose 'outsourcing' of payment transactions and the proposed closure of Hornby and Riccarton sub agencies. Local government has been characterised by an alienation of the governed from the governing in recent years (witness the low turnouts at local elections and the small number of attendees at public meetings to discuss the draft plan). Removing the facility to directly engage with with Council staff (in however small a way) is a further step in the process of alienation.</p> <p>WE support the reduction in the number of publications of 'City Scene'. I suggest that the Council adopts less 1980s 'marketing speak' in this publication and other documents (c.f. use of terms like 'outsourcing' and 'rationalisation') and makes its publications more accessible to ordinary people.</p> <p>I oppose the closure of the four suburban pools. The 'cost of a swim' is offset by largely intangible non financial benefits to the community (less vandalism, increased health and fitness, an inexpensive and safe place for families to enjoy their leisure time).</p> <p>We strongly support the proposed increase in parking fees and suggest they be increased further as part of an integrated strategy to reduce our dependence on the private motor vehicle.</p>

Your Submission  
(Cont'd):

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

Red Bus Limited

We oppose the classification of this company as a non 'strategic' asset (c.f p232). A comprehensive and integrated public transport plan is vital as part of an overarching transport strategy for this city if we are to avoid the problems faced by Auckland and cities overseas. A council owned and operated bus service is one way of setting a standard and avoiding the chaos of a deregulated free market approach to public transport. Public transport should not be run as a 'business' for a profit. It is a service that should be run as such and the application of the business model is a fallacy. It should be abandoned forthwith. Failing that, the next best thing is a bus company owned by the Council as a strategic asset.

City Care Limited

We strongly oppose the classification of City Care Limited as a non 'strategic' asset (c.f. p232) The management, construction and maintenance of Christchurch's infrastructure is too important to be left to private companies. City Care should not be run as a 'business' for a profit. It is a service that should be run as such and the application of the business model is a fallacy. It should be abandoned forthwith. Failing that, the next best thing is to retain City Care as a strategic asset and mitigate the effects of the market through this means.

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

We strongly support an increase in rates to maintain and enhance current levels of activity and services provided by the Council.

Rates are a progressive tax on assets that mitigate the growing gap in wealth between the rich and poor in our city because everyone, directly or indirectly, receives a benefit from Council services. Rates effectively redistribute wealth in a manner that makes our city healthier, more inclusive, and a better place to live.

On a personal note, we would like to thank the Councillors and staff of Christchurch City Council for providing a wonderful level of service for the price to our family budget of a couple of packets of cigarettes or three jugs of beer per week! Perhaps people would be more inclined to view their rates bill as a bargain if it were presented to them in those terms!

You are doing a great job. You can do better though, and you need to have the money to do it.