

Introduction from the Mayor



Our future city

A famous Maori leader, Sir Apirana Ngata, once said,

He aha te mea nui i te ao

Maku e ki atu

He tangata he tangata he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

I say to you

It is people, it is people, it is people

I am proud of this community plan.

I want to congratulate my fellow councillors, community board members and the great many people, groups and organisations who took time to think about where we are as a city, about where they want us to be in 10 years and give us such thoughtful feedback. I'd also like to thank the City Council staff members who have so diligently supported us throughout the process and ensured it ran smoothly and well.

To plan our future city while preserving the best of the present and past calls for many hands. I'm grateful so many of those hands are capable, constructive and caring.

With the inclusion of Banks Peninsula, Christchurch City now stretches from the Waimakari River at McLeans Island to the Akaroa Heads. It is a great place to call home, a great place to work or set up in business and it's a great place to relax, play and learn. We all want to keep it that way and this plan is the City Council's best estimate of how it can contribute to that vision.

The Council is making a commitment to ensure the standards of service are maintained, or in many cases improved, and to confront the big issues facing our quality of life such as traffic congestion, growth pressure and environmental issues.

Every issue has to be approached in a sustainable way. In fact, sustainable development has to become a reality for Christchurch. Like the rest of the global community we face rising energy costs that will inevitably lead to major changes in how we live. As this huge issue develops, with the massive economic and political impacts it will have, we need to strengthen our stance as a

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Peace City, so we can advocate for stability and peace.

We have listened to the wave of feedback which rejected an idea about moving away from small community libraries. As a result, we are going back to the drawing board on this one. There will be no closures. We have budgeted instead for funds to work on developing our urban villages so that we promote world-class urban planning right through the city. Personally, I think the “city of villages” idea makes better sense and perhaps the way forward is a stronger network of small libraries rather than a smaller number of big ones. That decision is for a later day and for the whole Council to discuss and decide.

We’ve put more money aside for roads and footpaths. We’ve also put funds aside for more cycleways. We’re providing for collecting our waste in a different way and have set up a working party to plan for this. The people said urban sprawl isn’t what they want and the Council has listened. We will be building some of the proposed swimming pools earlier than first planned.

We have continued with the funding for the regeneration of the Botanic Gardens so that when the 150th anniversary occurs in 2013, they will again be world class. We also made a decision which may free up more money each year for projects to further enhance our Garden City image. We have heard loud and clear that the Garden City identity is one you want us to take forward with renewed emphasis and we’ve put extra money aside for this as well.

Our plan includes substantial sums which will allow us to act quickly if land that is important to the city’s future livability comes on the market. As we grow, we need to pay attention to the need for local parks and other open spaces. We heard from many environmental groups, many of them with wonderful ideas, and we will be calling them together to try to agree some priorities and see how best we can all work together on these issues.

Another area that caused some unease but resulted in a good outcome was our proposal to ask the developers of the city to shoulder more of the cost that growth brings. When a new subdivision goes in, or a large section is redeveloped into an apartment complex, it adds to the load on basic infrastructure such as roads, wastewater treatment, water demand and so on. What the Council is saying is that more of that extra cost should be borne by the people who are buying those new sections or flats. From the feedback we got it seems that the model we put up needs some adjustment. Most of those who made submissions on this agreed that some rebalancing is needed

and we will be working with developers over the next year on that.

Achieving the kind of future that ensures our and our children’s prosperity cannot be the sole responsibility of local government, however. We read many submissions from people with interesting ideas about health, education and other areas which are traditionally the job of central government. We will make sure the right people hear these messages. We will be calling together the heads of government departments to talk about many issues you raised in submissions.

As Mayor, I will be spending more time publicly, and privately, making our voice heard in Wellington for a more generous slice of the funding cake.

The vision I’ve taken away from hearing you speak on our city is that Christchurch should stay a safe city, with more tree-lined streets, superb urban design and sustainable energy and waste management plans; a city that cherishes its heritage and enjoys its events and festivals; a city of diversity with an education system that gives our children an entry ticket to prosperity and attainment.

We also need to consolidate our thinking on our economic realities. Christchurch is the engine room for Canterbury and the South Island economy. It is a trading city that can, and does, link up well with the rest of the world. To keep it that way we must invest wisely and progressively, in our infrastructure so our businesses can easily link to the port, the airport and to what must become a first-class telecommunications network.

This long-term community plan sets out the road ahead for the City Council. Like all budgets, the financial information in this plan is bulging with facts and figures. Ultimately, still, it is as I said at the start, all about human activity, us, as we want to see ourselves develop.



Garry Moore

Mayor of Christchurch