



Introduction from the Chief Executive



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Plan reflects community's involvement

The Christchurch City Council's community plan for the next 10 years is the Council's response to what the community has told us it wants in terms of outcomes.

It is the result of the elected members and Council staff working with the community to produce a way forward that is sound, deliverable and a good fit with our vision and goals.

Many other agencies and bodies will contribute to these outcomes. It is important that the Council works alongside and in partnership with them and understands their plans and strategies too. The Council also supports and relies on the many voluntary and community groups which play a key role in creating healthy communities. We have worked closely with the former Banks Peninsula District Council and welcome its inclusion with the Christchurch City Council.

In this plan, our second, 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 decided on to deliver the Community Outcomes.

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

We have moved into a new era of scrutiny and accountability. Our community plan is the Council's core response to operating under the current legislation. The thrust of the Local Government Act 2002 is to create greater certainty around long term infrastructure planning.

Everyone in the Council, both staff and councillors, now understands the reality of meeting this legislation. This Act has fundamentally shifted the role of local government in New Zealand and changed the way we operate.

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 you, 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.

The Council is delighted with the extremely high level of engagement from the community to produce this plan. The Council clearly put the issues to the public in its draft plan earlier this year. There was a sound process around consultation and elected members worked well together; listening to and balancing the public feedback to produce a consistent set of decisions for the final plan. In reading or listening to the submissions the passion and commitment that our residents have for their city was evident.

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

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.

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 will want to live in?

In making these decisions, we've looked at what we can afford to do today to shape the direction that future takes. We've valued your input and the onus is now on us to deliver this plan. We have talented and dedicated staff at the Council who are committed to serving the community through their elected members.



Lesley McTurk

Dr. Lesley McTurk

Chief Executive