

# *How the Council works*



# How the Council works



## The Council and Community Boards

Fourteen councillors (including the Mayor) represent the people of Christchurch. These 14 elected members govern the Council's activities, and oversee and consider plans and strategies for Council staff to deliver. Representation at a more local level is provided by the members of the City's eight community boards.

Each community board comprises five elected board members and two Council-appointed councillors, except the Banks Peninsula Community Board which has only one councillor.

In local body elections, every three years, voters across the city, including Banks Peninsula, elect the Mayor, and the city is divided into seven wards for the election of the 13 councillors. The seven wards are:

- Burwood/Pegasus;
- Fendalton/Waimairi;
- Hagley/Ferrymead;
- Spreydon/Heathcote;
- Shirley/Papanui;
- Riccarton/Wigram; and
- Banks Peninsula (Lyttelton/Mt Herbert and Akaroa/Waiwera.)

Ward boundaries reflect communities of interest (please see the map on page 39: Christchurch City Council – Ward Boundaries and Service Centres).

The Community Boards represent and advocate on behalf of the interests of their communities, deal with issues sent to them by the Council, and are responsible for some funding and projects within their areas.

The City Council meets weekly, while Community Boards meet either fortnightly or monthly. The City Council's meeting timetable is available on the Council website at [www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/Members/Meetings/ScheduleOfMeetings.pdf](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/Members/Meetings/ScheduleOfMeetings.pdf)

Community Board meeting dates and venues are available at [www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/CommunityBoards/Meetings/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/CommunityBoards/Meetings/).

Each of the 13 city councillors are also members of one or more of three Portfolio Groups. The responsibilities of these groups correspond with and seek to further the Council's Strategic Directions. The portfolio groups are:

- Creating Strong Communities;
- Environmental Diversity;
- Liveable City.

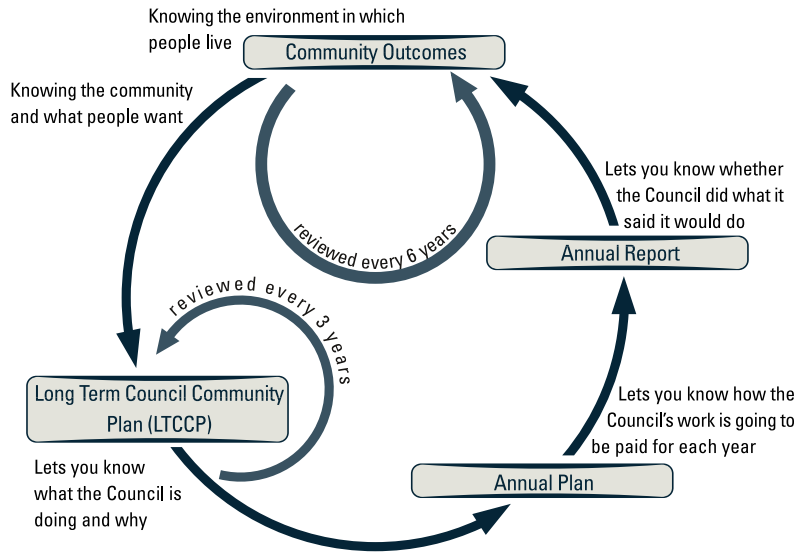
The portfolio groups initiate reviews and updates of strategies and monitor the progress of work as it is being prepared for presentation at full Council meetings.

The Council and Community Board meetings are generally open to the public.

The Council also regularly holds seminars for elected members. At seminars, staff and others present material to inform the elected members. These are not decision-making meetings and are generally open to the public.

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## The Council's planning cycle



The Local Government Act 2002 made changes to the way councils work with their communities. The Act sets out a clear purpose for local government – to promote their community's social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being.

**Community Outcomes** provide a way for the community to have its say about what it wants the city to be like in the future. The outcomes identified by the community are used to guide and help inform central government and others about community needs.

The **Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)** sets out the activities the Council intends to undertake over the next 10 years, then publishes these as a draft plan for community consultation. Feedback from residents and business is used in determining the final plan.

The LTCCP demonstrates why the Council chooses to undertake its activities, what the costs will be and what standard of performance is expected over the 10-year period of the plan. The LTCCP is the main way people can influence what their council does.

Every three years the community has a chance to share their views on this plan. During interim years Council publishes an **Annual Plan**, focussing on year-to-year budgets.

The **Annual Report** shows how well Council has performed against its LTCCP undertakings each year and what it has spent to do so.





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### Economic strength

The Council holds controlling stakes in a number of trading companies which form part of the city's key infrastructure, including the port and airport, electricity delivery, public transport and general city facilities such as the Convention Centre, Jade Stadium and Westpac Centre. These council-controlled trading organisations (CCTOs) are managed for the long-term benefit of the community and aim to help ensure a healthy regional economy. Together, these companies pay about \$30 million a year to the Council in dividends and so help reduce the Council's reliance on rates to fund its activities. Over the last 10 years, the companies have also paid to the Council more than \$600 million in special dividends and capital returns.

Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, the Council's investment arm, has been working with business and community leaders to consider the region's long-term infrastructural needs. The aim is to use this to test the effectiveness of current investments, identify possible gaps over the next 10 to 20 years, and as a tool for weighing up future investments.

The trading companies are run commercially, at arm's length from the Council. Details may be found on page 238. For more information, look online at

[www.ccc.govt.nz/ChristchurchCityHoldings](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/ChristchurchCityHoldings).

Through the Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC), the Council seeks to promote economic growth by attracting business to the city and offering a wide range of free services and advice to commercial and community organisations.

With its support of the regional tourism organisation, Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing, the Council seeks to ensure tourism continues to play a positive, sustainable role in the local economy by boosting the numbers of visitors, their length of stay and how much they spend while here.