

**SUBMISSION OF THE  
SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY BOARD**

**ON**

**THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL'S 2007/08 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN**

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board (the Board) makes the following submissions on the draft Christchurch City Council 2007/08 Annual Plan.

The Board would like to be heard in support of its submission.

Comments on specific aspects of the draft plan are as follows:

- The plan contents do not allow the Board to meet its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). Section 52 (c ) states a role of community boards is to "*maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community* and (d) "*prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community*".

The Board has been given so little information we are unable to properly discharge our responsibilities under Section 52 (b), ( c ) and (d).

- The plan is presented in such a way that it defeats the object of the Local Government Act of engaging the public in the process or contribute to the accountability to the community (Section 95 (5)(d)(e), LGA). Information provided is so general that it is not possible to identify what is the impact of the plan on the Spreydon/Heathcote community so that the Board finds itself unable to make any meaningful submission except on this aspect. *What impact have any increases in costs or larger projects or the timing of them had on the priority of local projects?* The plan does not tell us. *What do the proposed service levels translate to at a local level?* Accordingly we cannot see any local residents groups making any submissions. Silence does not in this instance mean satisfaction, it means the Council has failed to engage the public and therefore failed to achieve a major purpose of the Local Government Act of promoting accountability of local authorities to their communities (Section 3 (c), LGA) or the purpose of local government of enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities (Section 10, LGA).
- In general, information is aggregated to such a degree that one cannot detect any positive or negative effects of any changes or the impact of changes at a community level. The plan fails to inform the public of the Council's future plans in a way that the community can relate to.
- More detail should be included of the works included in the Council's capital works programme, community by community. Less pictorial and promotional material and more line by line detail would lead to better engagement.
- The plan contains no index for easier reference by users.
- An accompanying pamphlet containing community maps and local projects would be of benefit in informing and engaging the public.
- The Board has a concern that the proposed shelf companies could be used to dispose of assets without full and open consultation with the community taking place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2007/08 Annual Plan.



**PHIL CLEARWATER  
CHAIRPERSON**



**OSCAR ALPERS  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

11 May 2007