
Introduction from the Mayor and Chief Executive

It is a pleasure to present the Christchurch City Council's Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 (LTCCP) with our Chief Executive Tony Marryatt.

For both of us, this is our first LTCCP for Christchurch City. It sets out the 10-year plan for the city based on the values of our community and the vision of our Council.

These values are based on what you, our community, have told us you want for your city. In essence, it is a roadmap of the future direction for Christchurch which will ensure the Garden City continues to develop, grow and reach its full potential.

Through the LTCCP process, we work to incorporate the wants and needs of our community into the activities and services provided by Council to create a city where people want to live, work and play.

The Draft LTCCP 2009-19 has been a challenging process for Council as it has grappled to provide for the future of the city without overburdening ratepayers when we are facing a global economic recession.

New Zealand has yet to experience the full impact of the global recession. The experts can't agree on how long or deep the recession may be, but they all agree it is now upon us. In developing this plan we have been mindful of the need to protect existing core services and facilities, plan for long-term community infrastructure needs and provide a platform that ensures as a city we continue to prosper.

This Draft LTCCP not only looks to future-proof our city but also recognises our responsibility as a Council to build a city for this and future generations where each benefits from the past, yet provides for the future.

Council has been prudent. Allowing for growth in new ratepayers, the proposed rate rise of only 3.9% this coming financial year is a remarkable achievement when you consider the significant increase in infrastructure costs and inflation. In fact, this Draft Plan signals average rate increases at below 4% for the next 10 years. This is a reflection of Council having acknowledged the greater financial demands being placed on our ratepayers and the limited income for our ageing population.

Our organisation is driven by the need to deliver our ratepayers and residents enhanced and improved services but by the most efficient and effective means possible.

Underlying this draft Plan is an assumption that there will be a 40% drop in growth in new ratepayers during the next year, 25% in the second year and a return to normal in 2011-2012. To accommodate this slowing of growth, the Draft Plan proposes some alterations to the timing of big projects.

It is important to remember the LTCCP is updated every year through the annual plan process, providing Council and the community with the flexibility to easily adapt the programme to meet any changes in proposed changes in growth levels. Again this is vital to achieve the balance of keeping rates low while investing in the future for the city to continue flourishing.

This Draft LTCCP also takes into account the 2007 Government Commission of Inquiry into rates which recommended councils spread the cost of large infrastructure projects across several generations, rather than expecting one generation to bear all the costs.

Ratepayers can end up being charged three times for a major project. Firstly, they are asked to fund it, secondly to pay for depreciation and thirdly to maintain the asset. Council must keep upgrading, renewing and developing infrastructure but also review the level at which it rates for depreciation.

Instead of each year funding projects from the annual rates-filled depreciation pot, it is more equitable to borrow for long-term capital projects and spread the costs over the generations who derive actual benefit from the project. And there is also a need to put projects on the table for additional funding from Central Government, rather than expecting it all to be funded from rates.

This Draft LTCCP strikes that important balance of minimising rate increases for our residents and continuing to provide for growth to shape a city we all want to live in. Community input into the Draft LTCCP is vital if we are to deliver this vision. We encourage everyone to take time to consider this draft plan and provide feedback. This is your city and by working together our legacy will be something we can all be proud to leave our grandchildren.



Bob Parker
Mayor of Christchurch

A stylized, handwritten signature of Bob Parker in blue ink, positioned to the right of his portrait.



Tony Marryatt
Chief Executive

A stylized, handwritten signature of Tony Marryatt in blue ink, positioned to the right of his portrait.