

introduction

Listening to the community

Working together

Focusing on what matters

An Introduction from Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch

Christchurch is a city on the move with much to celebrate. It is a great place to live, to work and to share with family and friends. The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) is the Council's opportunity to listen to people's ideas on how the City can be an even better place to live.

As a Council we have the direct ability to shape the future of our City but to be successful we must have input from our most important resource, our people.

The new Local Government Act (2002) provides the Council and the people with a great opportunity to work as partners to improve the quality of life of everyone, young and old, in our city. It requires the Council to do things differently, including the way we go about some of our planning processes.

Council must listen to the community, work with the community and focus on what matters. By building a strong LTCCP we will build the foundation for a strong community.

Thank you to everybody who made a submission. By working together as a Council and as a community we can make a difference and improve the lives of people in Christchurch, now and in the future.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Garry Moore".

Garry Moore

Mayor of Christchurch

Comments from Alister James, Senior Councillor and Chairman of Christchurch City Council's Annual Plan Subcommittee.

In most respects, the process of putting together this, Christchurch City's first long-term council community plan (LTCCP), has been much the same as with our previous annual plans and the subcommittee which did the work is still named the Annual Plan Sub-Committee.

This, our first community plan, did receive some criticism as to its presentation and what some submitters thought was its inability to contribute to the community outcomes and long-term plans. It is, however, very much a transitional community plan – a work in progress. The elected members and Council staff will I am sure learn from and improve upon this first attempt when they produce the next LTCCP in 2006.

Final rating levels for next year and those projected for the next few years are near to and more often below those projected in the draft community plan. This is in large part the result of a decision to re-examine the amount of capital work the Council and associated industries are practically able to plan and deliver in a year and reprogramme this work so that the public and the construction industry can have greater confidence that we will achieve the works we have programmed in future years.

The need for this re-programming is in some ways disappointing. Over the years we have had many submissions from the public about budgeted street works and roading projects, with requests that they either be done sooner or that more be done.

The reprogramming is needed. Over several years there had been increasing levels of incomplete work being carried forward into the following years and this was having a snowballing effect. Alongside the reprogramming the City Council plans to increase its capacity over the next few years so that it will in time catch up with the original programme. To do so will require a real effort on the part of elected members and officers.

This will be an important issue for the incoming Council. Needed are significant improvements in the Council's transport planning resources and in its relationship with

the contracting industry. Much work will need to be undertaken by the incoming council in looking forward to the next LTCCP in 2006 to ensure that we provide only what can reasonably be delivered.

This community plan contains many of the new initiatives provided in the draft plan, including:

- \$11 million for a new flat water facility. It is accepted that the Lake Isaac proposal is not a viable option because of its likely negative impact on airport safety. The funding has been reprogrammed, with an additional \$200,000.00 in 2004/05 for site investigations, of which Bottle Lake Forest Park is one. It is proper and appropriate in a community plan to make financial provision for such a facility even where a site has not been finalised. That is the very purpose of an LTCCP.
- New civic offices, where a specific site and development has yet to be identified and resolved by Council. This \$53.7m is a major item in the LTCCP. This attracted few objections in the submission process, many submitters concerned to ensure all options would be considered
- Botanic Gardens upgrade of \$10.35m. This is a major enhancement project that was well supported by many submitters
- Increased wastewater capacity at Belfast, \$4.65m
- Grant to Christchurch Cathedral of \$240,000 a year, to be reviewed after three years
- Capital initiatives contained in the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy

Due to the escalating costs of construction, it has been necessary to increase the provision for the following projects:

- Parklands Library, by an additional \$471,500
- Upper Riccarton Library, by \$887,000
- New Brighton revitalisation projects, by \$195,000
- North New Brighton Community Centre, by \$150,000

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There are also new initiatives which were not contained in the draft plan but were recommended by the subcommittee, including:

- \$500,000 to purchase land in Halswell for a new library in this expanding community
- Boating facilities \$2.9m additional to the \$3m in previous plans
- \$200,000 in each year from 2006/07 for the underground reticulation in narrow streets where alternative enhancements are not an option
- \$200,000 in 2004/05 to Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing for a domestic campaign
- \$60,000 each in 2004/05 and 2005/06 to the Riccarton Bush Trust to overcome projected funding shortfalls

The Council also decided to provide \$1m to help the YMCA to develop a new community recreational facility in Bishopdale, to replace the old one on Greers Road.

Our work programme for the next several years includes many other significant enhancement projects not mentioned above, such as the upgrade of Jellie Park Pool, Canterbury Museum, Theatre Royal, wastewater treatment and ocean outfall, Aranui renewal project (in particular the redevelopment of Wainoni Park), social housing (including Gowerton Place) and other social initiatives.

Because I am retiring this year from the Council, this is the first and last long term council community plan (LTCCP) with which I will be involved. It is also the last annual plan involvement for the deputy chair, Councillor Barbara Stewart and for the long-serving committee secretary, Julie Sadler.

Their contributions deserve particular mention. Barbara has always been very supportive of my role and I could not have asked for a better deputy. Her positive contribution has always been in the best interests of our communities. This is also

an opportunity to acknowledge the valuable role of Julie Sadler, a superb committee secretary. The largely efficient process can be attributed to her organisation of the hearings, of other officers and the presentation of our work to the City Council.



Alister James

**Chairman,
Strategy and Finance
Committee**

Getting on with it

An introduction from Dr Lesley McTurk, Chief Executive

Welcome to Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi, the blueprint for the future direction of the city.

The point of a council community plan is to attend to the present and future well-being of the community. This plan will contribute to a better alignment of the community's aspirations and vision for Christchurch, and the Council's work programme.

This is an exciting time for local government, with the new Local Government Act redefining the role of councils. In particular, it says councils should promote community leadership through effective consultation, sound decision-making practices and careful planning. The Act says we must consider the effect decisions will have on current and future generations, so there is a more holistic approach to how our community's assets and resources are managed.

So, for the first time this year, our planning papers include a section on Community Outcomes – longer-term statements about the kind of city Christchurch aims to be. You can read more about them in the Christchurch Tomorrow section of this publication. These nine key goals have come from looking at all the research the Council has done in recent years, by talking with other groups and organisations and with much input from the elected members. Now that these key goals have been adopted, it is this Council's job to make sure its work fits with and contributes to those outcomes and helps the city achieve the goals we all have for it.

On its own, however, the Council cannot deliver all of the outcomes. Other organisations, groups and agencies whose work impacts on the well-being of the community and environment will also contribute to a positive future for the city.

Christchurch City Council will work in partnership with central government, regional bodies and with local organisations and groups to achieve the community outcomes together.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley McTurk".

Dr. Lesley McTurk

Chief Executive