

parks and open spaces

Nature and Scope

Customer Services

- Provide specialist and general advice on park activities.
- Manage the use of parks to promote community enjoyment, safety and accessibility.
- Advise on consents related to the city's parks and protected trees
- Research and plan for the sustainable management of the city's parks with community and stakeholder participation and in a way that is integrated with other planning initiatives and external influences.
- Build community partnerships by enabling volunteer participation and sponsorship of projects, and encouraging community guardianship of parks.
- Provide opportunities to raise awareness and enhance learning of environmental issues through a variety of communication and project initiatives.

Environmental

- Provision of Botanic Gardens and other garden and heritage parks to enhance the unique garden city identity and provide landscaped plant collections including rare and endangered plants for education and conservation.
- Provide sports parks with recreation facilities to cater for children, youth, competitive sports and family recreation as well as contributing to the city's landscape character.
- Ensure provision and maintenance of large metropolitan parks, parks and conservation areas on the Port Hills, and beaches for informal recreation in the natural environment and conservation of natural resources and scenic values.
- Maintain a network of smaller local parks throughout the urban area, providing amenity values and informal recreation especially for children and families within easy walking distance.

- Provide well maintained cemeteries that satisfy the cultural needs of the community.
- Manage the nursery to supply plants.
- Renew, improve and provide new park facilities to meet technical standards, growth demands and changing uses.
- Purchase and protect additional areas of open space to preserve natural systems, provide for sustainable land drainage options, preserve heritage values, address identified open space deficiencies and to meet the city's future recreational and amenity needs.

The city's parks resource comprises 747 parks including 73 regional parks, 98 sports parks, 468 local parks, 57 riverbank and wetland parks, 39 garden parks, 10 cemeteries and 2 plant nurseries. This covers an area 5,631 hectares.



Hagley Park in spring

Heritage Parks

The Council provides and maintains public parks and open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the Christchurch community. This includes garden parks, Riccarton Bush, central city landscape areas, historic cemeteries, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, plant collections, fountains, clocks, statues and sculptures.

Performance Measures

Service	Performance Measure
Environmental	
The Christchurch Botanic Gardens plant collections are preserved and displayed for education and scientific purposes. The grounds provide a pleasant environment for passive recreational use.	The Botanic Gardens remains the top attraction for citizens to take visitors within the City.
	Residents have visited the Botanic Gardens in the last 12 months (target 85%).
Provide 39 Garden Heritage Parks that are maintained to a premium standard and contribute to the Garden City image.	Turf in the parks is maintained to a premium contract standard (40 mm maximum height). Garden areas are maintained so that weeds do not detract from the appearance, with no weeds greater than 50 mm.
Provide spring and summer floral bedding displays in prominent areas throughout the city.	Two displays per year in 149 plots, with a total of 212,000 plants.
	Residents' satisfaction with the spring and summer floral bedding displays throughout the city (target 80%).
The City's fountains, clocks, statues, and sculptures are maintained to preserve their heritage and artistic values.	At least two heritage items have major renovation work carried out per year. Other fountains, clocks, statues, sculptures maintained to contract levels.

Contribution to Outcomes

Outcome	How Heritage Parks Contributes to this Outcome
A Cultural and Fun City	Heritage parks provide special places for people to enjoy beautifully landscaped parks. The garden sculptures and statues provide a cultural element and further enhance the parks
A Sustainable City	Heritage parks such as Riccarton Bush ensure the protection of remnants of Christchurch's original vegetation. They provide a safe habitat for native plant and animal species
Strong and Inclusive Communities	The parks provide beautiful environments for people to gather

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Landscaping the Transportation Network

Gardens and trees along the streets are maintained to help enhance the City's 'garden city' image.

Performance Measures

Service	Performance Measure
Environmental	
Street landscapes contribute to the character and form of the city and residents perceive this as value for money.	Residents who consider landscaping the City's streets is value for money (target 70%).
The City's 50,000 street trees are maintained in a safe, healthy and sustainable condition.	Street trees are managed on a three-yearly maintenance cycle, with 1% of street trees being replaced in the current year.
Street landscape areas including road berms, medians, blips and islands are well looked after and help to improve the City's appearance	Residents are satisfied that street landscape areas are well looked after (target 80%).

Contribution to Outcomes

Outcome	How Landscaping the Transportation Network Contributes to this Outcome
A Sustainable City	Native species are used where appropriate. Plantings help reduce the pollution associated with roadways
Strong and Inclusive Communities	Well-landscaped streets and roads contribute to the distinctive character of Christchurch

Negative Effects

Negative effects arising from this activity may be identified as follows:

- Tree roots can damage footpaths, carriageways and underground utilities.
- Tree crowns can interfere with power and telephone lines.
- Leaf fall can block drainage systems and cause minor surface flooding.

Parks Customer Services

The Council provides information about its parks, and provides for community participation, education, and guardianship for the management of parks. It also manages the cemeteries.

Performance Measures

Service	Performance Measure
Social	
The community is informed and participates in the governance and management of parks through a range of activities including education programmes, volunteer involvement, community group support and provision of information and advice.	Time spent per year on park projects by volunteers and community service people (target 8,000 hours).
	Children participating during the year in the Learning Through Action Environmental Education programme (target 8,000).
Provide nine working cemeteries that satisfy the burial needs for the city and reflect the community's cultural diversity, including providing an Urupa.	Provide for 850 burials per year with nil complaints received relating to burial services.
	Customers are satisfied with cemetery information and services provided (target 90%).

Contribution to Outcomes

Outcome	How Parks Customer Services Contributes to this Outcome
Strong and Inclusive Communities	Residents are encouraged to help care for their local parks

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Parks Reserves and Open Spaces

The City's parks and green spaces are managed and maintained.

Performance Measures

Service	Performance Measure
Environmental	
The City's parks and open spaces are well looked after.	Residents are satisfied that parks and open spaces are looked after well (target 90%).
	Satisfaction of recreational groups using parks with facilities and services provided (target 80%).
	Residents are satisfied with value for money they get with parks and playing fields (target 80%).
Habitat protection and enhanced biological diversity, mitigation against adverse effects of development, sustainable land use.	Diversity of bird species increases on key indicator sites.
Social	
Park reserves and open spaces are accessible and distributed equitably across the City. They are located within easy walking distance (five to ten minutes) for all residents in the City's urban area.	Residents in the urban area of the City living within 400 metres of a neighbourhood or district park (target 90%).
Provide a range of parks and open spaces that deliver a diversity of experiences, and cater for all ages and interests.	Maintain current levels of parks and open space in relation to population growth: 2.67 hectares of sports parks per 1,000 population; 13.48 hectares of natural area parks per 1,000 population; 0.94 hectares of neighbourhood parks per 1000 population.

	Residents are satisfied that parks cater for their respective interests. (target: average of 70% satisfaction across 12 categories of activities available in parks)
	Residents with children under 10 visit a Council playground at least once a month (target 70%).
The City's parks are safe to use	Comprehensive inspections of playground equipment are carried out on an annual basis, with fortnightly visual inspections (target 100%).
	Emergency response is undertaken within two hours of notification where there is an immediate health and safety risk.
	Residents feel safe using parks during the day time (target 90%).

Contribution to Outcomes

Outcome	How Parks Reserves and Open Spaces Contributes to this Outcome
A Cultural and Fun City	Parks support a variety of activities, including children's play, family gatherings and outings, places for exercise, sports, and simply enjoying the outdoors
Healthy and Active People	Parks provide opportunities for physical activity, for rest and recreation, and for enjoying nature and open spaces
A Sustainable City	The city maintains a growing network of parks that have the primary purpose of conservation, particularly on the Port Hills. Native species are deliberately included in planting programmes and habitat is provided for native and other wildlife
Strong and Inclusive Communities	Parks contribute to the "Garden City" image valued by the residents of Christchurch. The parks network is designed to provide a variety of opportunities, ranging from active sports to quiet enjoyment of nature. Parks provide gathering places for families and friends

Negative Effects

Negative effects arising from this activity may be identified as follows:

- Chemicals used for vegetation control have a small potential for contaminating surface water.
- Activities on parks can at times disturb neighbouring properties.
- Trees and vegetation on parks can cause shade and leaf fall into neighbouring properties.



A beautiful day in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens

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Asset Information

The purpose of the City's park and open space assets is to provide a network of 'greenspace' that meets community and environmental outcomes in terms of equitable distribution, convenient location, diversity of recreational experience, defining city landscape form and character, promoting 'garden city' values, preservation of natural features and resources, protection of scenic values, and provision of places for burial.

The assets comprising this network are shown on the table below:

Park Category	Number	Area (ha.)	Current Market Value
Sports	98	855.70	
Local	468	301.16	
Riverbank / Conservation	57	125.5	
Regional	73	4212.64	
Garden and Heritage	39	53.35	
Cemeteries	10	69.87	
Nurseries	2	12.43	
Total	747	5,630.64	\$238,500,000

Major asset categories located on the parks and open space network are depicted in the table below:

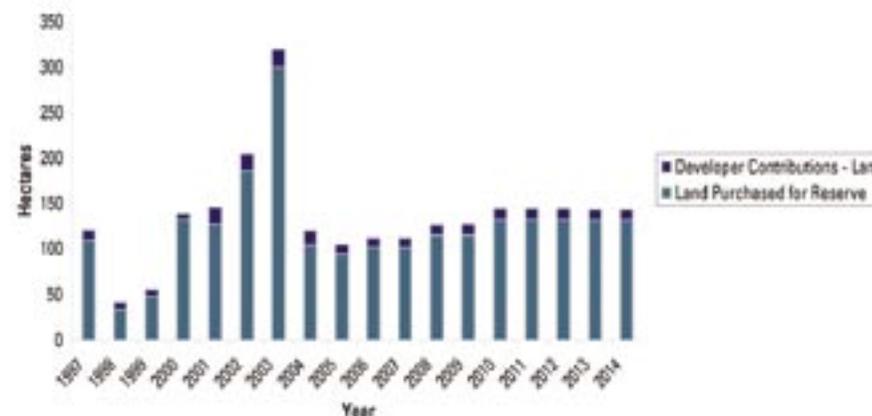
Major Asset Category	Quantity	Book Value at June 2003 (\$M)
Toilets/pavilions buildings	148	6.27
Playgrounds	316	3.07
Recreational facilities	74	0.9
Bridges/Structures	176	1.97
Carparks/Driveways	32.80 ha	7.23
Landscaped Gardens (urban parks)	57.43 ha	} 12.2
Pathways	149.28 km	
Woodlots & bush	64.2 ha	
Mown Turf (urban parks)	758.60 ha	

Demand Trends

The principle demand drivers for the provision of parks and open space and associated assets are population growth, changes in recreational uses and environmental protection. In terms of population growth the five years from 1996 to 2003 saw a total population increase for the city of 21,300 or an average of 3,043 per annum with a population surge noted in the last two years of this period. (Resident population estimate). Over this same period there has been a corresponding increase in parks and open space area with, on average, an additional 12.5 hectares per annum being derived from developer reserve contribution and a further 118 hectares per annum accrued through the strategic purchase programme which is, in part, supported by developer financial contributions. The strategic purchase programme is primarily aimed at securing land to meet future regional park and district sports park requirements as well as addressing existing open space deficiencies and protecting the city's natural heritage.

Demand for the provision of parks and opens space is expected to remain relatively consistent with recent historical trends based on population projections and strategic purchase requirements although land derived from developer contributions is likely to reduce as a result of policy changes and a predicted abatement of the current 'greenfields' residential development. This is estimated to result in an average of 11 hectares per annum acquired from developer contributions over the next ten years.

Projected Annual Reserve Acquisitions



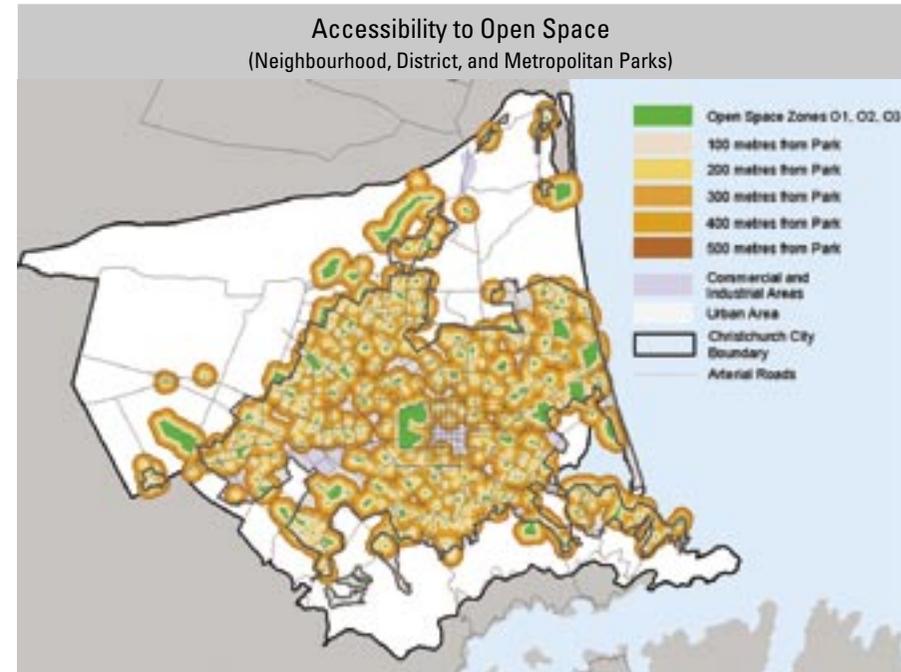
Trends that indicate changes in recreational use of parks and open spaces include a significant move towards less structured forms of recreation such as walking where SPARC surveys note a 4.8% increase in participation between 1997 and 2001 and this is expected to continue. There has been a decline in organised sport and active leisure participation with young people reducing from 93.0% in 1997 to 88.5% in 2001. This trend could signal a requirement for less organised recreational facilities in the future. In conjunction with predicted changes in demographic profiles for the city, these trends signify a need to re-evaluate asset expenditure programmes to ensure facilities provided meet future community needs.

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Levels of Service

The levels of service set out in the table below are currently being met. The Annual Residents Survey and other customer feedback mechanisms indicate that the current levels of service are appropriate. They are not expected to change significantly over the next ten years but will be reassessed in consideration of customer feedback as part of the Council's Asset Management Planning process.

Characteristic	Target Level of Service
Parks & open space provision	Maintain at least 18 ha. of open space per 1000 population. (Note: This includes all Council managed open space).
Parks & open space distribution & accessibility	All residents in the urban area of the city live within 400 metres of a neighbourhood, district or metropolitan park
Parks & open space diversity of experience	70% of residents are satisfied with the range of opportunities that parks provide.
Parks & open space maintenance standards	90% of residents are satisfied that parks and open spaces are looked after well. Maintenance standards are 90% compliant with contract specifications.
Parks & open space safety	Emergency repairs are undertaken within 2 hours of notification where there is an immediate health and safety risk. Safety audits of parks are incorporated into design processes.



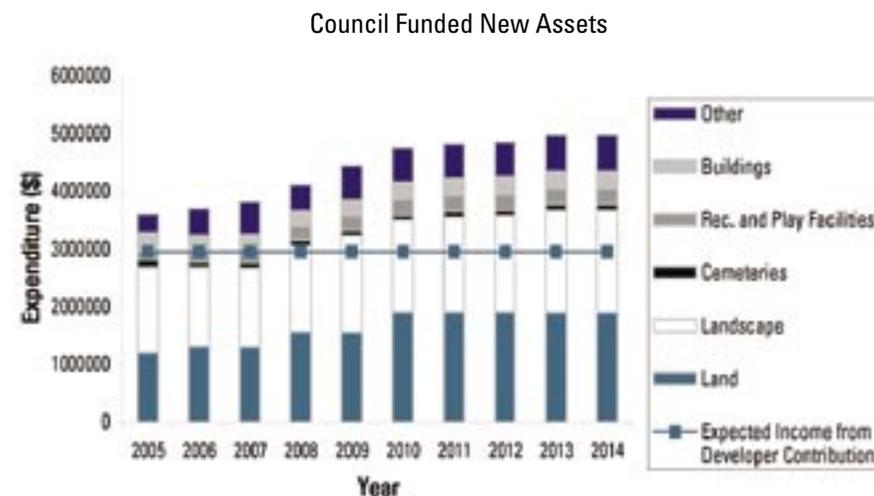
Source: Christchurch City Council

Requirements for Additional Assets and Financial Implications

Assets for Growth

Additional parks and open space areas are expected to be provided and developed concurrent with population growth in the city and to meet future needs for regional parks that protect environmental values and cater for recreational experience in natural areas. Purchase of strategic land for park purposes is provided for in the capital expenditure programme along with funds for development of new reserves (direct purchases and land vested as developer contributions) and development of other open space areas such as cemeteries. Additional assets such as playgrounds, recreational facilities, car parks will be provided on existing parks and open space areas in response to increases in population density and cumulative city growth demands. Identified open space deficiencies will continue to be addressed through land purchase in accordance with the Council's Local Parks Acquisition Policy.

The land purchase and new park development programmes are substantially supported by funds accruing from developer financial contributions. The accompanying chart shows the capital expenditure programme on new assets over the next ten years along with expected revenue from financial contributions:

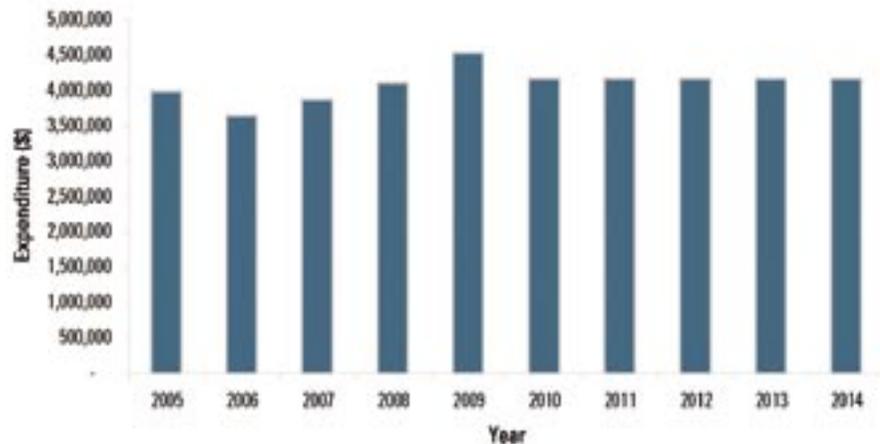


In addition to the Council's capital programme new assets related to city growth are directly provided by developers and vested in Council. Specifically this occurs as part of 'greenfields' residential development and involves the provision of land, and in some cases land improvements, for park purposes.

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The chart below sets out the estimated value of land predicted to be derived from developer direct vesting over the next ten years:

Developer Direct Vestings (Land and Improvements)

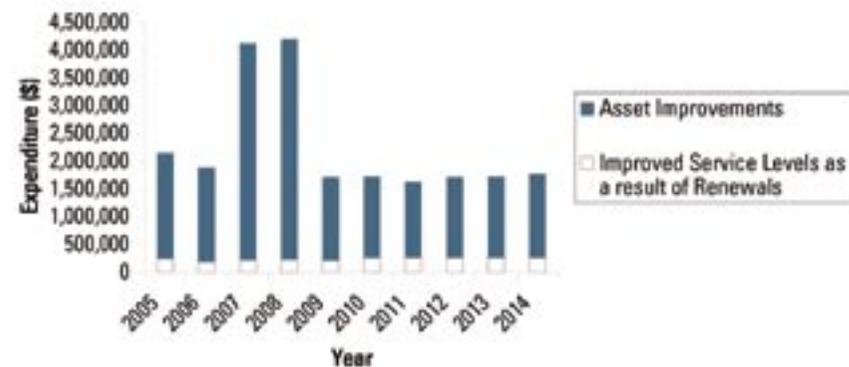


Assets for Level of Service Improvements

Level of service improvements are required to help control long term operating costs. Examples of this are automation of irrigation systems resulting in savings on labour and water consumption. Other asset improvements relate to user safety and accessibility and include alterations to toilets, paths and landscape features to meet "Safer Parks" standards, Building Act requirements, Playground safety standards and the Parks and Waterways Access Policy. Approximately 14% of asset improvements occur in conjunction with renewal work where levels of service are raised in response to new technologies, technical standard requirements and safety considerations.

A major level of service improvement project is proposed for the buildings at the Botanic Gardens. This is in part related to the need to renew existing buildings and will provide a facility that reflects the significance of the Gardens. More details may be found in Volume 1.

Level of Service Improvement Capital Expenditure



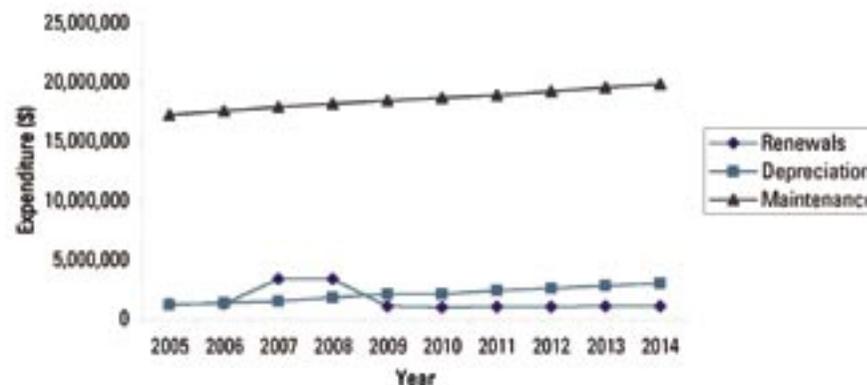
Maintenance and Renewals

Maintenance on parks and open space assets is primarily carried out through a long term contract with some asset areas on shorter term contract agreements. Maintenance costs are expected to increase over the next ten years as the asset expands in response to city growth demands. A significant portion of renewal with green assets (turf, planting) is undertaken as part of ongoing maintenance programmes and is not depreciated.

Assets such as buildings, playgrounds, car parks, irrigation systems, recreational facilities are renewed based on their condition and service utility. Renewal projects are, in most cases, competitively tendered. As depicted in the chart below there is a deficit between renewal expenditure and calculated depreciation from 2009 onwards which reflects that many of the more costly assets such as park buildings, playgrounds, car parks and irrigation systems are relatively new in consideration of their expected life cycles. Prior to 2009 the chart reflects the major renewal project at the Botanic Gardens mentioned earlier.

Maintenance and depreciation charges form part of the annual operating budget for parks and open spaces. These are recovered annually, being apportioned to general rates with some revenue accruing from recreational user charges and cemetery charges in accordance with Council Funding Policy.

Maintenance, Depreciation and Renewals



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Cost of Proposed Services

Budget 2003/04 \$000's		Plan 2004/05 \$000's	Forecast 2005/06 \$000's	Forecast 2006/07 \$000's	Projection 2007/08 \$000's	Projection 2008/09 \$000's	Projection 2009/10 \$000's	Projection 2010/11 \$000's	Projection 2011/12 \$000's	Projection 2012/13 \$000's	Projection 2013/14 \$000's
23,836	Expenditure (After Internal Recoveries)	25,930	26,841	27,436	28,901	29,998	30,718	31,584	32,508	33,472	34,451
(5,103)	Revenue	(5,032)	(5,042)	(5,051)	(5,060)	(5,096)	(5,105)	(5,114)	(5,123)	(5,132)	(5,141)
18,732	Net Cost of Service	20,898	21,799	22,385	23,841	24,902	25,613	26,470	27,385	28,340	29,310

The Net Cost of Service is funded from rates and other revenue. See the Funding Impact Statement in volume 3 for details.

Consisting of the following Activities

3,656	Heritage Parks	3,843	3,956	3,796	4,209	4,207	4,259	4,293	4,327	4,368	4,415
3,771	Landscaping the Transporation Network	4,862	5,044	5,239	5,430	5,638	5,827	5,982	6,153	6,331	6,521
1,259	Parks Customer Services	1,375	1,426	1,429	1,461	1,500	1,527	1,545	1,562	1,583	1,608
12,995	Parks Reserves and Open Spaces	13,768	14,323	14,871	15,692	16,508	16,950	17,601	18,293	19,007	19,716
(2,950)	Capital Revenue (*)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)	(2,950)
18,732	Net Cost of Service	20,898	21,799	22,385	23,841	24,902	25,613	26,470	27,385	28,340	29,310

Notes

(*) Capital revenue is referred to under the capital comment below.

Capital Expenditure

2003/04 \$000's		2004/05 \$000's	2005/06 \$000's	2006/07 \$000's	2007/08 \$000's	2008/09 \$000's	2009/10 \$000's	2010/11 \$000's	2011/12 \$000's	2012/13 \$000's	2013/14 \$000's
1,121	Renewals and Replacements	1,686	1,685	3,798	3,812	1,498	992	1,012	1,019	1,079	1,079
2,288	Improved Service Levels	2,335	1,848	4,125	4,205	1,722	1,728	1,632	1,717	1,725	1,775
3,464	Increased Demand	3,745	3,708	3,962	4,261	4,451	4,751	4,821	4,856	4,979	4,979
6,873	Total Capital Expenditure	7,766	7,241	11,886	12,278	7,670	7,470	7,465	7,591	7,782	7,832

Notes

Capital Expenditure is corporately funded from asset sales, rates (depreciation and surplus), capital revenues, special funds, and loans. See Capital Funding Summary in volume 1, and the Funding Impact Statement in volume 3 for details. For details of capital projects, see the 5 year Capital Works Programme pages in volume 1.