

Introduction from the Mayor



Will our grandchildren thank us?

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the people of Banks Peninsula whose community is now part of the wider Christchurch City Council. This merger gives formal recognition of Christchurch's important connections with the harbour and peninsula. The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for Banks Peninsula has now been merged with the Christchurch City Council LTCCP and Banks Peninsula residents are assured that all the levels of service currently enjoyed will be retained.

We all know Christchurch and its surroundings are a great place to live. What we need is for you to tell us about the areas that need to be improved. My vision is that our city is a safe city, with tree-lined streets, superb urban design and sustainable energy and waste management plans; a city that cherishes its heritage and enjoys its events and festivals; a city of cultural diversity, that offers our children a great education system which leads to a choice of job opportunities.

Christchurch is the economic engine room for Canterbury and the South Island. It is a trading city that must connect with the world. We must invest wisely in our city's infrastructure so that our businesses can link up easily to the port and to the airport and to a first-class telecommunications network. The LTCCP is a 10-year plan which sets out the road ahead. To remain a flourishing city we must plan for how we are going to invest in our streets, drains, waterways, water and sewerage.

Like all budgets, the financial information in this plan is full of facts and figures, but the end of the process is all about human activity. What I urge ratepayers to do when you consider this budget is to think not just of yourself, but think of your community. Think about your children's children. How will they view us as a city when they have their families? What will make this city continue to be well laid out and safe? What will make this city easy to cross on foot, by bicycle, or by vehicle? Where will the kids swim, and where will our neighbourhood library be located? How can we sustain our waterways and our wonderful tap water? All the local parks are important to us, as are the regional parks. How do we support this being a thriving economy without increasing the amount of waste we are sending to the Kate Valley landfill? How do we address the huge area of supporting our community groups alongside other funding agencies, and what are we trying to achieve? If you have ideas on how all this can be done please make a submission.

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The LTCCP identifies a set of Community Outcomes that Christchurch people told us they wanted for their city. The people said they wanted the city to be prosperous, liveable, safe and well-governed, with healthy and active people. It is up to the Council to make decisions that reflect these wishes.

We put money aside for roads and footpaths. We put funds aside for more cycleways. We are providing for collecting our waste in a different way and have set up a working party to plan for this. We are establishing a fund for purchasing key pieces of land so that we can meet the expectations of the people of Christchurch which were stated so clearly to us when we consulted on the way this city is spreading across the plains. The people of Christchurch said urban sprawl isn't what they want and the Council has listened. We have asked staff to report back to us on a special rating to rebuild the Cashel Mall. We will be building some of the proposed swimming pools earlier and this will mean that some of the small suburban pools may have to close. We have continued with the funding for the regeneration of the Botanic Gardens so that when the centenary occurs in 2013, they will be world class again.

This city is a series of villages. We have budgeted for funds to work on these villages so that we promote world-class urban planning right through the city. When we turn on the tap the water must flow. All these and many other items are in the budget.

The Long Term Council Community Plan is tightly prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002. I think the Act is an inspired piece of legislation which makes those around the Council table think very carefully about our priorities for the future. If a councillor promises rate reductions then he or she has to convince the majority of his or her colleagues that what is being promoted makes sense. Conversely if some councillors want to increase items on the budget, for example development of a new leisure centre, they have to convince their colleagues likewise.

Over the past few months we have grappled with costs and services and done this within the framework of the Act. Nobody has dominated this process, and the councillors have worked closely together struggling to meet the expectations of ratepayers at an affordable price. Keeping rates down has been on all of our agendas. We all struggled but we also know that this city must not go backward.

These and many other issues were considered within the LTCCP and I am confident that we got the bulk of it right. I want to encourage the fullest participation of communities around the city so please have a look at the plan and tell us what you think.

He aha te mea nui i te ao

Maku e ki atu

He tangata he tangata he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world

I say to you

It is people, it is people, it is people



Garry Moore

Mayor of Christchurch