

7344

Submission Form

PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR SUBMISSION

The public consultation period is from Tuesday 10 March 2009 to Thursday 16 April 2009.

It will help us if you clearly:

- state the issue you want the Council to consider;
- state what specific action you think the Council should take, and
- state why that should be done.
- type or use black ink for your submission.

Please note: We are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to the public and to Councillors, including the name and address of the submitter. In making submissions available to the public, the submissions will be posted electronically on the Council's website. Information will be available to the public subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If you consider there to be compelling reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, you should contact the Council Support Team, telephone 941 8999.

You may send us your submission:

On the internet:

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's website at www.ccc.govt.nz/ltccp

By email:

ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

By mail:

(no stamp is required) to:
Freepost 178
Draft LTCCP
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. Whether you use this form or not, you must provide your full name, address and telephone number. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation please state this and your role within that organisation.

Submissions must be received (NOT postmarked) at the Tuam Street Civic Offices no later than 5pm on Thursday 16 April 2009. To ensure receipt, hand deliver last-minute submissions to the Civic Offices, 163-173 Tuam Street.

Your submission

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. If that is the case, please tick the appropriate box below. The hearings will be held from 11 May 2009 to 18 May 2009. Five to ten minutes will be allocated for speaking to your submission, including time for questions from the Councillors. The Council will confirm the date and time of your hearing in writing, by email or by telephone call.

Tick one I do NOT wish to discuss my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR
 I wish to discuss the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 150 plus people

Contact Name Jenny Smith

Organisation name (if applicable) Te Whare Raimata Trust

Organisation role (if applicable) Community Worker

Contact Address PO Box 32-129, 274 Gloucester St Christchurch

Postcode _____

Phone No. (day) (03) 3795-134 Phone No. (evening) (03) 3775011

Email (if applicable) te-whare-ramata@paradise.net.nz

Signature J Smith Date 15/4/09

Submission Form

Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views.

What do you want the Council to consider? What specific action you think the Council should take?
Why should this be done?

This submission comes from Te Whare Raukata, a grassroots community development organisation working with the people of the eastern inner city neighbourhoods and local Maori.

We thank you for the opportunity of expressing our views about the Long Term Council Community Plan. Our seeks to raise concern about several of the key issues identified in the Summary Document.

We again wish to express our ongoing concern that the nine Community outcomes do not include an emphasis on creating a just and equitable city that cares for its least advantaged members while we acknowledge that an inclusive and prosperous city hints at this neither outcome overtly or specifically state the need and/or the right to ensure the wellbeing of low income people is advanced or protected. We believe that such an outcome needs to be added especially as we enter a period of prolonged economic uncertainty and turmoil that will have the greatest impact on people on low incomes.

We also express our concern that no outcome relates to the Treaty of Waitangi and the special place of Maori as tangata whenua. Without this recognition Maori get relegated to being another ethnic minority grouping within their own land. This also means that diminished priority is given to tangata whenua issues and

Concerns. We note that little progress has been made on advancing processes to involve Maori in contributing to Council decision-making. Three years ago this was still an issue.

The following key issues are of concern:-

(i) Urban Growth and Central City Revitalisation

While we acknowledge there is a need to contain the growth of the city we are concerned that the impact of urban renewal on the inner city east area has never been thoroughly assessed. Traditionally the inner city east area has been home to much needed low-cost accommodation for people on low incomes, especially older single people. This accommodation is not found elsewhere in the city. Likewise Social Support agencies such as the Christchurch City Mission have been purposely placed in this community. We are aware that urban renewal has seen the loss of vital bedsit accommodation - being replaced by housing for higher income earners who already have a range of housing choices throughout the city.

We would like to see that (i) funding is provided to undertake a social impact assessment to ensure the preservation of this vitally important community and the role it plays in housing low income people.

(ii) Planning laws are developed to ensure that any loss of bedsit and/or low cost housing caused during revitalisation is replaced by equivalent low cost housing either provided by the Council, through partnerships with housing trusts and community groups, or through socially-minded developers.

(iii) The focus on redevelopment be on the Central Business District with an emphasis being on developing unused or under-utilised buildings and brown field land.

(iv) An evaluation is undertaken of the redevelopment of the central and inner-city area, especially that which occurred during the mid-1990 period in order to identify necessary planning changes required to protect and control future development and unwanted developments.

(v) that a register of existing bedsit/boarding houses in the inner city east area is established and maintained in order to monitor this important resource

(2) Transport

While we are encouraged by the Council's commitment to investing in alternate forms of transport other than the motor car we are concerned that much of the proposed major transport projects relate to improving the roading network. We believe it will be essential for the city to put greater emphasis on extending public transport measures.

We would welcome the development of park/ride options along with the exploration of light rail and the development of industry and employment opportunities in the dormitory communities of Rangiora and Rolleston. We would also like to see the development of on-street parking zones for inner city dwellers so that residents can park closer to their homes as well as the extension of the free shuttle to include the Four Avenues.

(3) Population Change

We congratulate the Council on its long-standing commitment to social housing and to the provision of quality, affordable housing for people on low incomes.

In order to meet the needs of the changing population we would encourage the Council to

- (i) re-establish the Housing Fund as one option to assist with financing replacement housing.
- (ii) Work in partnership with other funders and businesses to facilitate the establishment of a local, community-based housing fund to which the Council could approach for loan money to help finance replacement housing.

(iii) build additional Council housing in the inner city east area given the battering this community has taken from the push to consolidate urban growth within the 4 Four avenues. This would be to help mitigate against the displacement effect on low income people, especially single older people who have traditionally lived in this neighbourhood; and

(iv) explore a range of housing options for the aging population which enables them to "age in place" for as long as possible. This would include the provision of transitional housing options for people requiring more supported housing prior to moving into residential care

(4) Community Facilities

We acknowledge the quality of the Community facilities that the Council provides at the high standard of service offered.

We are encouraged by the proposed investment in recreation and leisure facilities. We are however saddened that a leisure centre for eastern side of the city has been abandoned. We believe that there is considerable need for such a facility, particularly given the low socio-economic decline rating for much of this area, and with the poor health status this area also has.

(5) Economic Uncertainty

In light of the economic recession and the impact this will have on employment opportunities we would strongly urge the Council to reinstate the Community Employment Fund that was available from the Canterbury Development Corporation.

This former fund helped provide vital funding to employment groups working with unemployed people with barriers

to employment. This important fund not only enabled community services to be provided but also ensured people maintained & their work skills and/or received valuable job training which enhanced their job prospects. Such a fund would be increasingly needed as more and more people face growing periods of unemployment.

(6) Community Funding

We acknowledge the considerable financial support many community groups have received from the Council through the funding it has traditionally made available to the local community sector. This has been particularly important for groups undertaking community development and has allowed for innovative responses to be developed. Our own organisation has been very appreciative of the support received.

We are concerned therefore, to see that no new money has been made available to the local community. We note that the Council has instead gathered together its existing funds, which on the surface looks like there is an increase in funds, but on closer examination reveals this is not the case.

We would invite the Council to reconsider this especially during this time of economic uncertainty and the need for a strong community sector to help weather the fallout from this. Healthy communities have strong social capital. Community groups ensure this is possible.

We are also concerned that (1) the existing funding has not been inflation-proofed or had room made to account for cost of living increases. This will make it harder for groups to maintain both the level and quality of the services provided.

(2) an administration cost of \$1.5 million is being deducted from Community Funds. This is particularly concerning since this will impact on the strengthening of small community groups to

ideas and creative responses, and the impact on community development activities. Of concern will be the likely loss of existing services or groups or the enforced amalgamation of some groups to ensure their survival. Such a view would seem to be premised on the false belief that the city has an abundance of community groups.

We question, therefore, why there is a need to impose an administration cost when this previously has not been necessary, and how this figure was ascertained.

In light of the economic downturn and the increased demand on services provided by community groups we would strongly urge the Council to rethink the impact these cuts will have on the Strengthening Community Fund. We believe savings can be made by reprioritizing some of the major projects especially the proposed expansion of the Christchurch Convention Centre.

Conclusion

We very much welcome this opportunity to comment on the draft Long Term Council Community Plan. We recognise the challenge of creating such a plan. The issues raised and the suggestions made are aimed at creating a more sustainable, just future where all citizens can participate and contribute and the status of tangata whenua is recognized and upheld.