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TO
Christchurch City Council
Submission on LTCCP

From
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Introduction

1. I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Long Term Council Community Plan. I want to speak in support of my submission at the hearings.

Council acting in best interest of Christchurch

2. The draft Plan states that the percentage of residents satisfied that the Council makes decisions in the best interests of Christchurch is 48%¹. The Plan calls for the 48% level to be maintained over the next ten years.
3. The Council should not be satisfied that less than half of residents are satisfied that the Council makes decisions in the best interests of Christchurch. It should aim to be increasing this proportion.
4. Instead in the latest Nielsen Quality of Life survey this has dropped to 40%.
5. **The Council needs a plan to increase residents' trust in it.**

Rates increases – rich and poor

6. The draft Plan continues a recent trend of greater proportionate rates increases for the poor compared to the wealthy. In the draft Plan a residence capital value of \$200,000 will get an 8% rate increase while a \$1,000,000 will get a 3% increase². The same anti-progressive outcome occurs for businesses and rural properties.
7. **At worst, the proportionate rate increase should be the same for all residents. Similarly all businesses and rural properties should, at worst, have the same rate increase.**

¹ Vol 1 P160

² Vol 2 p48

Global warming

8. The draft Plan states that “Another key assumption in this draft LTCCP is the assumption that environmental change (i.e. global warming) will not have a significant impact on the environment or economy of Christchurch within the ten year LTCCP period”³.
9. By way of contrast the Environment Canterbury draft LTCCP 2009 – 2019 specifies climate change as one of their seven strategic challenges.
10. While there are many services and projects the Council undertakes that can be seen in part or wholly as a response to change in our environment I none-the-less believe that many residents would expect that the Plan would explicitly consider and respond to climate change.
11. I understand from Council staff that a Draft Climate Change Strategy is being developed and is currently planned for public consultation in November with implementation through future LTCCPs and/or Annual Plan adjustments.
12. **The Climate Change Strategy development process should be foreshadowed in the final Plan document**

Belfast Facilities

13. Consultations on the Belfast Area Plan began in 2003 with a draft plan for consultation planned for early to mid-2009.
14. The progress report states:

Belfast is undergoing considerable change. Its population is rapidly increasing and it is one of Christchurch's most rapidly expanding urban areas. As Belfast continues to grow, there is a need to ensure that the area retains a strong sense of community, which involves ensuring access to appropriate and effective community facilities.

And notes:

Increasing the number of households in the area from some 2,850 in 2006 to 6,800 by 2041, an increase of approximately 10,000 additional residents

15. If 6,800 – 2,850 (3,950) households = 10,000 new residents then each household = 2.53 residents. Therefore this document suggests there were 7,200 Belfast residents

³ Vol 1 P40

when it was written, ie more than the 1 community centre/hall/cottage per the 6700 residents performance target in the draft Council Plan⁴.

16. Using Council ratio of 2.5 people per household in the expansion figures there appears to be a calculation of some 7,200 people in Belfast currently with another 10,000 planned by 2041.
17. Belfast appears to have fewer current community facilities than most suburbs. This does not appear to be a proportionate response to the needs of Belfast residents either now, or on current planning, in the future.
18. My understanding is that the Belfast Network operates out of church space slated for demolition or removal in 3 – 5 years. The Council has not planned for any replacement or additional space as yet.
- 19. The Council needs to allocate funding for a new Belfast Community Hall in the first three years of this LTCCP.**
20. The upgrade to the Belfast Pool of \$143,000⁵ is unfunded and there will be no new community centre or library for Belfast until 2019⁶. I understand there are negotiations underway with the school on their pool.
- 21. The Belfast pool upgrade should be funded in the Plan. Unless an arrangement satisfactory to the community can be made the pool should be re-opened and work completed such that the pool is available for use in summer 2009/ 2010.**

St Albans Community Centre

- 22. I support the expansion of the St Albans Resource Center subject to community consultation.**
- 23. I urge a coherent city-wide strategy on community centres be developed before the next LTCCP.**
24. The proposed expansion of the St Albans Resource Center is unrelated to how the Edgeware Pool site should be treated and should not be connected.

⁴ Vol 1, p179

⁵ Vol 1 P267

⁶ Vol 1 PP 249 and 251

Shirley Community Centre

25. There is a growing articulation of a need for a resident's facility in Shirley (the area between Hills Road, Akaroa St, Briggs Road, Marshlands Road and Shirley Road) centered on Acheson Ave/ Macfarlane Park by the Shirley Community Trust.
26. The Trust contends that most of the current community space, including church facilities, is at or close to capacity use. The Trust argues that a greater neutral (non-church, non-school) space is needed in particular for youth and others who are particularly unwilling to use space outside of Shirley. It seems that many people are disinclined to venture to the closely located Shirley Community Centre on the south side of Shirley Road.
27. **In the first three years of the LTCCP the Council should review community facilities in the area with a view to making a variation to the Plan should a community hall prove needed.**

Community Pools

28. The draft Plan contains this personal comment:

“I find recreational facilities and events a great thing about Christchurch. There's a lot to do that doesn't cost much money like hanging out in the Botanic Gardens, the Arts Centre and **local pools**”⁷. [emphasis added]

29. The Aquatic strategy relies on staffing rather than volunteering at community pools and does not give due value to community ownership to these places.
30. **The Aquatic Strategy needs to be revisited and a new commitment to community pools established.**

Edgware Pool site

31. Most people in the St Albans Community want to retain the old Edgware Pool site. Most people want a pool. The net result of selling the site is \$300,000 and a long process which is likely to incur further legal challenge and costs.
32. The site has a long, documented history of community development with community funds. The suburb has many developments leading to greater population but few new sites for community space, particularly outdoor space.
33. In principle the site ought to remain with the community even if a pool is not an option the Council will entertain. Pragmatically the community is likely to cause

⁷ Vol 1 P110

more cost to the Council than it will recoup through the sale of the site. It ought to remain in community control.

- 34. The site of the old Edgware Pool should not be sold. It should be retained for a purpose to be determined by the community.**

Not-for-profit Early Childhood Education operator rents

35. Some not-for-profit Early Childhood Education operators are uneasy that the Council will reduce their rent subsidy. The unease is that Council will re-interpret the third eligibility criteria (p11) in the Early Childhood Education Strategy (2001) regarding the ability of not-for-profit centres to gain funding from higher user charges. Council staff and the Mayor stated at a public meeting on 6 April that there will be no change to policy in this area. The fear is that the Council will unreasonably reinterpret how much not-for-profit centres can charge users.
- 36. The Council should not materially change the basis for reinterpreting this policy without good consultation with affected parties.**

Community Organisation funding

37. The document “2009 LTCCP Overview and Capital Programmes Appendix 2” which was part of Council papers for the 16 – 18 Council meeting on the Plan states that \$1.5m will be taken from the pool to be allocated to community type organisations and instead be used to pay overheads. In effect an 11% decrease in funding. In addition there are no inflation adjustments planned for the 10 years of the Plan. The cumulative effect of these measures to take some \$30m out of community organisation funding over the life of the Plan.
38. This is not signaled in the draft Plan and it is impossible to reconcile the paper mentioned with figures in the draft Plan.
39. A recession is precisely the time when community organisations are needed the most and precisely when their opportunities of alternative funding are at their weakest.
40. The Delta Trust notes its activity is up some 60% this year. Its food bank parcels are conservatively projected to rise from 1,350 to 1,500 this year. The Delta Trust suggests that large increases in client activity are occurring in like-minded organisations across the city.
- 41. I do not support this reduction in community organisation funding.**

