

DRAFT LTCCP 2009-19 SUBMISSION FORM

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I do not wish to discuss my submission at the hearing and ask that this written submission be considered.

I am completing this submission for myself.

Signature



Date 14 April 2009

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SUBMISSION FORM

The long term plans of the Council over the next ten years appear to be too ambitious.

It is difficult to comment in detail on the full range of proposed projects as the urgency of each is hard to assess. However among others requiring a critical appraisal I submit that the following should be reviewed and severely reduced or deleted.

CENTRAL CITY – I note that the Council have at last realized that there are too many shopping malls which have resulted in fewer shoppers in the central city. However “the horse has bolted” and the renewal projects should therefore be much reduced as little will be achieved by the expenditure of more millions.

SOCIAL HOUSING – Why are poorer ratepayers being required to provide accommodation at heavily subsidized rates for others in a similar position? This appears to be a misuse of rates. Housing for low income earners is the responsibility of Central Government who receive taxes for this purpose. Councillors should review the ethics of this expenditure. I submit that this item should be removed from the proposed projects.

TRANSPORT [Active Travel] – Why is \$68m needed to persuade people to use alternative transport? If the economics and facilities are suitable they will use them. Otherwise they won't. Why waste this money?

TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE – Can we afford it? Make do meantime, maybe with some modifications, until it is absolutely clear what is required and that it is definitely needed, and can be provided more or less within the Council's cashflow.

The Council should realize that the citizens of Christchurch do not have unlimited resources in these difficult times and do not need the prospect of having to pay large sums in interest and debt repayments well into the future. To suggest that borrowing excessively will transfer the cost to future ratepayers, is only partially correct and should not have been promulgated by the Council.

Finance costs will, within a short period, form a major part of the rate increases proposed. Therefore other routine expenditure will have to be restricted to negligible increases which is not possible. As a result current ratepayers will soon be paying for the excessive expenditure of this Council if changes are not made.

B T Harris