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We wish to discuss the main points of our written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May and Monday 18 May.

This submission represents the view of the Canterbury Rugby Football Union who directly and indirectly represents 20,000 stakeholders.

1. What do you want the Council to consider?

Our submission principally focuses on two key aspects of the LTCCP as it relates to 'Recreation & Leisure Facilities'.

It is unfortunate that the Draft Metropolitan Facilities Plan was overtaken by the LTCCP because this potentially formed a framework for the future needs of the recreation and leisure sector in Christchurch and could have flowed neatly into the LTCCP.

1.1. English Park:

During the planning stage of the Draft Metropolitan Facilities Plan the Canterbury Rugby Football Union, Council and Mainland Football met on several occasions to discuss the possibility of this facility being used for both codes, particularly at an administrative level.

1.1.1. The rationale was based upon sound principles:

- English Park in its present form was not particularly workable from an administrative perspective for Mainland Football.
- The CRFU having vacated offices at Stevens St as part of the AMI Stadium redevelopment is for all intents and purposes without a home for the administration of rugby in Canterbury.
- This would allow Canterbury Rugby to bring its administrative & community rugby headquarters close to Rugby Park and would further strengthen the culture, cohesiveness and functionality of the organisation.
- Synergies would be gained by having a shared facility - shared reception, shared meeting rooms etc.

1.1.2. The LTCCP has set aside \$1.6 million for a new artificial surface and modifications to the existing office facility to accommodate the administrative and playing needs of Mainland Football.

1.1.3. No provision has been made to accommodate the administrative needs of Canterbury Rugby either at English Park or elsewhere despite this clearly being signalled during the developmental phase of the Draft Metropolitan Facilities Plan.

1.1.4. Should Mainland Football at any stage wish to give up their rights to English Park the Canterbury Rugby Football Union would be able to fully utilise this facility (offices, meeting rooms, grandstand and field). If this was to occur then the playing field would be used regularly for feature matches including representative fixtures and the CRFU would take full responsibility for the maintenance of the ground.

1.2. CRFU Administration & Community Rugby Facility

1.2.1. The CCC has a track record of helping sporting organisations in Canterbury - Mainland Football, Canterbury Rugby League, Christchurch School of Gymnastics, Tactix, and Sport Canterbury to name a few.

1.2.2. Canterbury Rugby should be afforded the same level of support at a time when it is needed most.

- With the upgrade of AMI Stadium, Canterbury Rugby gave up its administrative base in order to facilitate the redevelopment ahead of the RWC 2011 and is currently leasing commercial premises on a temporary basis.
- Rugby Park is the base for the professional game and it is our strong preference for this to continue in isolation from the administration and community rugby functions of the organisation. Much of this is to do with the dynamics of the professional game - players wanting privacy, a space that is dedicated to high performance, the culture of training and administration being quite different, and importantly an environment that has worked for the professional arm of Canterbury Rugby in its present form over a number of years.
- It should also be noted that the training facilities at Rugby Park are in need of major capital investment in the short to medium term time frame, and the CRFU's financial resources will be significantly extended if we have to commit to this and a new administrative facility near Rugby Park.
- The CCC has a key role to play in helping Canterbury Rugby achieve what is undoubtedly best for the sport and the city. It is at this juncture (namely the LTCCP) that the CCC could provide for the future administrative home of Canterbury Rugby - a base for Canterbury Rugby in close proximity to Rugby Park.

2 . *What specific action do you think the Council should take?*

- 2.1. Work in partnership with Canterbury Rugby to secure a facility to house the administrative and community rugby functions of the organisation at a venue in close proximity to Rugby Park
 - English Park; or
 - Westminster Park
- 2.2. Work with Canterbury Rugby and third parties to secure funding to build (or modify) a facility.
- 2.3. Enter into a commercial arrangement with the Canterbury Rugby Football Union such as a long-term lease that could see the CCC investment returned over a period of time.

3 . *Why should this be done?*

- 3.1. If the Canterbury Rugby Football Union is to realise its ambitions and in turn contribute meaningfully to the economic and emotional wellbeing of the City, it must be strong at the community level, it must be strong administratively and it must be positioned such that the professional game is well served.
- 3.2. For the redevelopment of AMI Stadium to be successful, Canterbury Rugby must continue to be successful on and off field, and in order to remain competitive we must have a strong administration and community base.
- 3.3. There is a window of opportunity, and it is now.
- 3.4. The proposal could be cost neutral to the CCC over a period of time, depending on capital costs and lease terms and conditions.
- 3.5. Community rugby in Canterbury accounts for 14,500 players annually and in excess of 20,000 with the addition of coaches, referee's and administrators.