

## Christchurch City Council LTCCP Plan

Submission April 2009

*Sport Canterbury, as the section of the Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust (CWCST) operating in the Christchurch City Council area, wishes to make the following submission in relation to the LTCCP. As our aim is to get more people, more physically active in our region, we work to facilitate physical activity in every form possible (sport, active recreation, physical activity, daily living e.g. active transport) and our submission is made from this viewpoint.*

*The Christchurch City Council (CCC) is recognised around New Zealand as a council that supports sport, recreation and physical activity.*

### Introduction

In order to maintain being one of the leading Territorial Authorities of sport, recreation and physical activity provision in New Zealand, CCC needs to maintain and enhance the facility infrastructure of both existing and future community requirements.

CCC's provision of sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities should be about community participation first, elite high performance second and where possible multi-use facilities should be given priority consideration.

### Specific Issues

#### 1. Indoor Sports Stadium

The biggest need for the city identified from the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan (MSFP) was an Indoor Sports Stadium (minimum eight courts); yet surprisingly this has missed out on being included within the plan. Current indoor stadia are operating at maximum capacity; particularly in the winter, and Christchurch lacks a venue of an adequate size to host key national tournaments (based on minimum requirements put in place by the sports).

Such an undertaking is a major exercise for any city, both in time and cost, and therefore adequate planning and information is needed for a project to be successful. The need is significant and it is our recommendation that the process needs to be continued and provision given to the project within the LTCCP. Minimally this plan needs to include provision for feasibility, concept and design planning so that this project can start taking shape; with further provision required for the build phase of the project.

As identified in the MSFP, partnering with Ngai Tahu Property around utilising existing hanger space at Wigram airfield is something we consider should still be investigated.

## 2. All Weather/Artificial Surfaces

With the increasing amount of disruption to winter sport because of weather, the development of more all-weather/artificial surfaces is a real need, to ensure both children and adults have the chance to play their chosen sport during the winter. We would see this as a greater priority of community sport within the city than a number of the items within the proposed capital budget. Whilst there is a cost to developing all-weather surfaces, there should be cost savings that emerge with the reduced need/impact on the natural surfaces currently used.

## 3. Capital Programme Priorities

The prioritising of a number of items over others within the Recreation and Leisure capital programme is concerning:

- 3.1 Should the CCC be spending money on Fitness Centre provision; is this core business when there are a number of private providers already doing an adequate job of providing this service to the city?
- 3.2 How important is the need for a mobile grandstand in the city?
- 3.3 The Pioneer Children's pool allocates more funding towards aquatics facilities; however we would argue that when compared to other sport and recreation infrastructure this should be a lower priority
- 3.4 Why does QEII traffic management and parking sit within the recreation and leisure budget and not Streets and Transport, where other parking related budget items are?
- 3.5 Should more investment be put into Cowles stadium; or would this be better invested into a new indoor stadium?

We believe that investment in an indoor stadium and/or artificial surfaces is a higher priority to the sporting needs of the community.

## 4. Parks Development

CWCST supports the \$76m proposed over the next 10 years for the development of neighbourhood parks. CWCST recommends consideration be given to the provision of adult physical activity equipment integrated with the children's play areas and seating. This encourages a family approach to physical activity.

## 5. Recreation & Leisure Facilities

Over and above issues raised, CWCST supports the spending on building and upgrading of sports and physical activity infrastructure.

## 6. Transport

CWCST supports the funding towards promoting walking, cycling and public transport. In particular, the \$68m budgeted for the promotion of active travel whereby the Council has identified cycling and walking as more pleasant alternative transport methods. An identified barrier to cycling has been issues of safety. That is, separation of cycleways and roadways is a preference where practically possible.

## 7. Aquatic Facility

The Graham Condon Leisure centre has come from a robust Aquatics Facilities Strategy, and we endorse the development of this facility.

## 8. Flatwater Facility

A further omission from the LTCCP is the exclusion of a flatwater facility. This facility has the potential to benefit 24 identified users. In the previous plan a flatwater facility was identified as a priority for Christchurch but has been dropped. CWCST's recommendation is that such facility remains in the plan and consideration be given to sourcing suitable sites, including Lake Isaac.

## 9. Multi Use Facilities

A number of the above facilities will benefit a cross section of multiple users. For example, the Indoor Sports Stadium would attract a variety of like-users such as Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton and Korfball. In addition to the sharing of the facility itself the operational and administrative costs could be rationalised so further benefiting the users and as a consequence the CCC. For example, existing sports club partnership models such as Westminster and Linfield (as well as the future development of Rawhiti) demonstrate the ability to maximise the use of exiting community facilities via a collaborative approach. In some instances the investment into the aforementioned could be a more financially viable alternative to the building of new infrastructure.

## Concluding comments

Sport Canterbury greatly values the excellent relationships it has with the Christchurch City Council and recognises that it can maximise its effectiveness by working closely with the Council on all matters where our interests coincide.

**On this note, we do wish to be heard and present the above.**



Martin Mongan  
Chief Executive

