

**RICCARTON/WIGRAM COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION
ON THE
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (LTCCP) 2009-19**

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board (the Board) appreciates the opportunity to present a submission to the Council's draft LTCCP for 2009-19 and wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

1. Introduction

The Board commends the Council and in particular the Council staff for the huge amount of work that has gone into the preparation of the draft document and the long term budgets.

Under the Urban Development Strategy (UDS) and the South West Area Plan (SWAP) it has been identified that the Riccarton/Wigram ward will be the leading growth area within the city in the next twenty years. The Board acknowledges that with the projected growth comes additional social and community challenges.

However, the Board must undertake its constitutional role of being an advocate for its community. In this role it considers the following projects important and advocates for them to be considered by the Council in the timeframes suggested and suggest that there be reprioritisation.

2. Capital Programme

The Board wishes to highlight the following items with respect to the capital programme specifically as it relates to the Riccarton/Wigram ward.

2.1 Aquatic Facilities

The Board is disappointed that the project for an aquatic facility on the western side of the city has been deferred to 2017/18. The original project timeline was 2015/2016. Currently the ward is without a major aquatic facility since the closing of the Sockburn Pool. The Board believes that with the anticipated growth that a planned aquatic facility is paramount given the anticipated growth under the UDS and SWAP.

The Board encourages dialogue with neighbouring local bodies to discuss proposed joint ventures in providing community facilities, for example an aquatic facility.

The Board supports the Council in maintaining the Halswell and Templeton outdoor pools and would support an investigation into an extension of operating hours for both pools.

The Board also wishes to highlight that with the proposed growth that provision is made for metropolitan sports facilities e.g. netball and cycling on the western side of the city. Sports Facilities need to be a metropolitan priority not a ward priority and encourages the Council to purchase land within the identified SWAP area to landbank for such metropolitan and local facilities and also including greenspace.

2.2 Library/Community Facilities

The Board supports the inclusion of the proposed new library and community facilities for the suburbs of Halswell and Hornby.

2.3 Deans Avenue/Riccarton Road Intersection

The Board wishes to encourage the Council to reinstate the proposed improvement works to the Deans Avenue/Riccarton Road intersection.

2.4 Waterloo Road/Charmers Street Bypass

The Board desires a Board initiative project of linking Chalmers Street with Waterloo Road to be progressed. The project would assist in decreasing the traffic congestion around the Hub Mall (Hornby). The project would assist citizens to access the main shopping centre, services, and public transport.

2.5 Major Sewer Works

As the Council has recognised that the western side of the city is a major growth area, the Board considers that the major upgrade sewer works on the Western Inceptor and replacement sewer works is critical and needs to be completed with urgency. The funding needs to be made available to compress the project timeframe instead of the current staged timeline.

3. General Matters

3.1 The Board supports and endorses the Council Social Housing Plan for Shands Road and encourages an early start for the project.

3.2 Underground Cabling of Overhead Services

The Board notes with disappointment that funding for undergrounding cabling has been removed from the LTCCP. The Board has advocated for undergrounding of local streets during kerb and channel renewal programmes for a long time.

3.3 Community Funding

The Board strongly opposes any cuts to the level of community grants funding at the local level, including the Strengthening Communities Funds, Small Grants Funds and the Boards' Discretionary Response Fund and in fact want to see an increase in community funding to support the further social and community challenges and associated issues that come with project population growth on the western side of the city. The Board suggest an increase to \$80,000 for the Board's Discretionary Response Fund.

3.4 Ruapuna Park

The Board supports the Council with its current work around the noise issues in relation to Ruapuna Park and supports the concept that Ruapuna become the motor sport centre for Christchurch.

3.5 Awatea Variation/Owaka Pit

The Board requests that the outstanding matters of the Awatea Variation and Owaka Pit be urgently facilitated for the residents of that area.

3.6 Role of Community Boards

The Board believes in the crucial role that community boards play across the city in Christchurch. The Board advocates for the Council to give its boards more delegation, responsibility and resourcing which enhances local democracy and allows the Council to focus more on bigger picture and strategic matters. This would create a more effective and efficient Council organisation and provide greater opportunities for residents to participate in decision making that affects their daily lives.

The Board thanks the Council for giving its careful consideration to the matters raised in this submission.

Peter Laloli
Chairperson

14 April 2009

