

# Central City Biannual Update

January-June 2024



This report looks at:

- long term Central City progress and trends,
- recent projects to improve Central City vibrancy and liveability,
- the use of relevant Council grants and funding.

Find out more about our full set of progress measures, and their influences, in this report and at [www.ccc.govt.nz/our-progress/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/our-progress/)

## Key Progress

### The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City

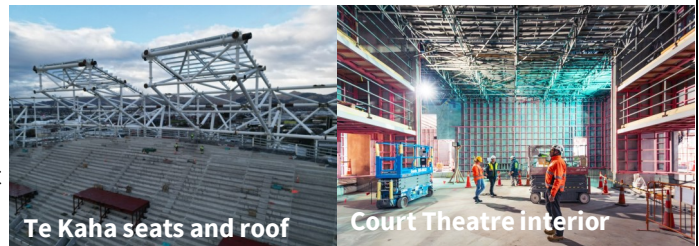
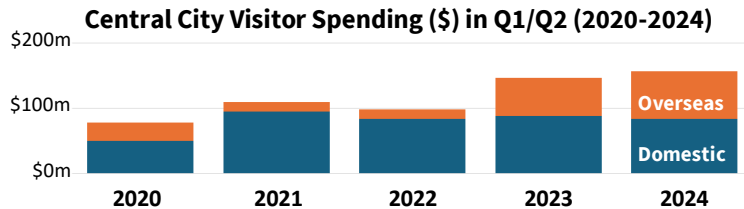
(See pages 2-4)

Between 18-20% of all citywide **retail spending** is concentrated in the Central City. This is a good balance with the city's other commercial centres.

#### Q1/Q2 2024 Central City spending headlines

- Retail spending reached \$567m— up 1.4%
- Visitors spending contribution— 28%
- International visitor spending growth + 24% on 2023

A range of construction projects have been consented or are underway despite the wider economic conditions. Te Kaha continues to proceed on (or ahead) or schedule and the Court Theatre is also on track for its first performances in early 2025.

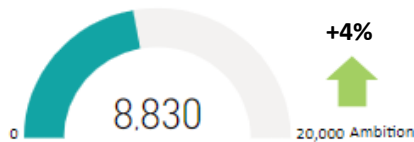


### Growing Liveable Central City Neighbourhoods

(See pages 5-6)

The Central City Residential Programme's ambition is to grow the population to 20,000 people by 2028. The last published projection (Oct. 2023) saw the population grow by 4% to 8,830.

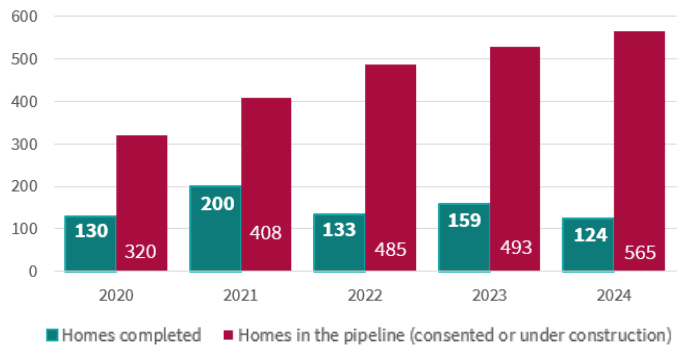
Actual counts from the 2023 Census are due in October 2024



**Central City housing delivery** has remained steady.

- Completions — mid year completions were down on 2023, but over 100 completions in Q1 was above previous years.
- The number of homes in the pipeline (under construction and consented) grew by 14% to 565 new units.

#### Central City Housing Growth Q1/Q2 2020-24



To help unlock future blocks of housing supply, the final **South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan** is ready for Council approval. Its purpose is to support the transition of streets to a more mixed use feel, establish a neighbourhood that generates demand for new homes and attract new investment.

### A Vibrant, People Focused Place Day and Night

(See pages 7-12)

- **Vacant Sites (p.7)** — the number of abandoned vacant sites has fallen by half over the past 3 years. Construction is underway on 7 sites. City Vacant Differential Rating now applies to less than 1 in 3 sites, with the total number falling from 81 to 63 in 2023/24.
- **Barrier Sites (p.9)** Two sites on Cashel Street have been removed from the list, and 12 of the remaining 14 have plans for repair.
- **Pedestrian footfall (p.9)** data is now back online, allowing the Council to track activity levels in the Central City. Early results are positive, with 3% pedestrian growth this year, and 7% in Q2.
- **Central City Events (p.10)** attracted over 150,000 people during the first half of 2024. Tirama Mai attracted close to 100,000 people.

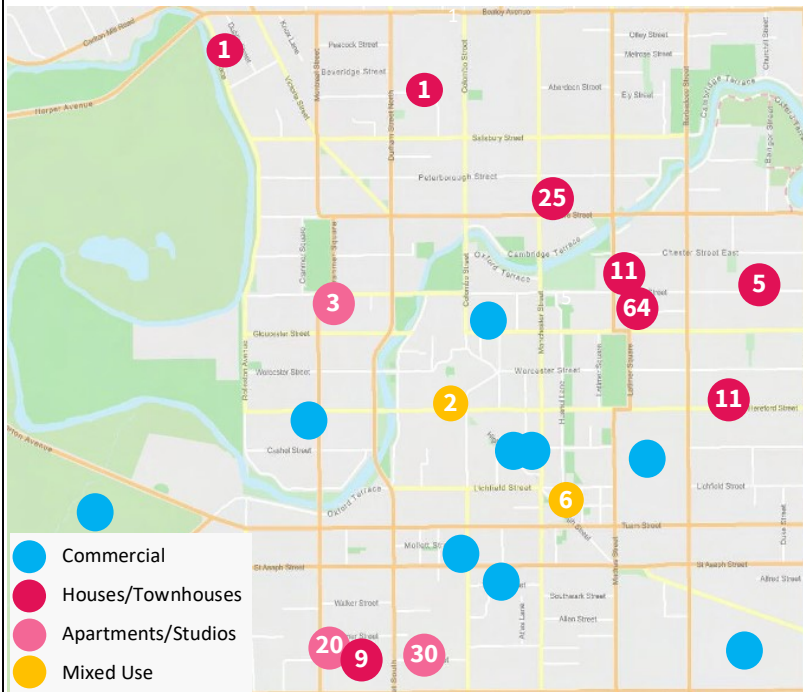


691 Colombo St.  
Enliven Places supported vacant site project.

Commercial and Residential Development

Resource consent applications received (by zone)	Number	Building Consents Issued (by zone)	Number	Net New Homes (units)	New Floorspace (sqm)
All Central City (Four Avenues) - excl. Commercial Core	36	Central City Business zone	2	2	7,193
Commercial Core only	6	Central City Mixed Use zones (incl. South Frame)	65	65	45,203
		Central City Residential zones (incl. Guest Accommodation)	122	121	11,138
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>63,534</b>

Location of developments granted Building Consent between January and June 2024 (with net new housing shown)



Resource consent application numbers are now lower than the peaks seen 2-3 years ago, and more in line with the recent five-year average.

Significant applications include:

- A 30 unit studio complex by Williams Corp. on Bath St for residential/visitor accommodation
- Two retail/office buildings at 170-172 Cashel St. by the Carter Group.
- An 18-unit development at 17 Kilmore Street.

The map (left) shows **Building Consents** approved over the January–June 2024 period:

- 189 residential units were consented on a range of sites (net housing gain of 188 units).
- This is less than the record of 314 that was set in the last reporting period, but it is well above the 5-year average (100-150).

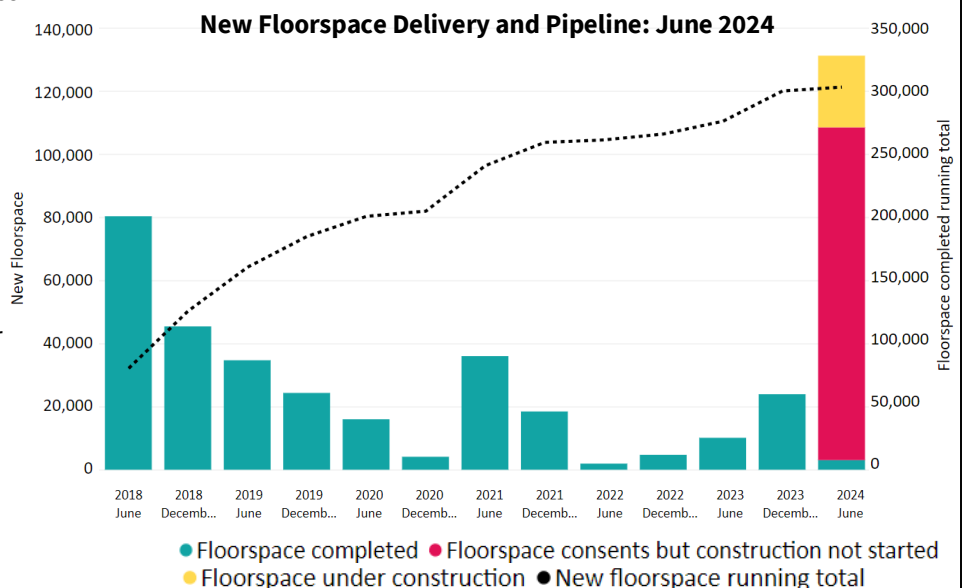
Most residential consents continue to be for attached townhouse complexes. But some housing providers are now developing attached studio units in the city’s southern area—tapping into new markets.

The graphic (right) shows new **floorspace** delivery.

At 3,051 sqm, delivery (in blue) has slowed down to its lowest level in two years, after a strong 2023. But there is a strong pipeline of construction underway (yellow) and a significant number of consents ready to deliver (red).

Key contributors to floorspace are:

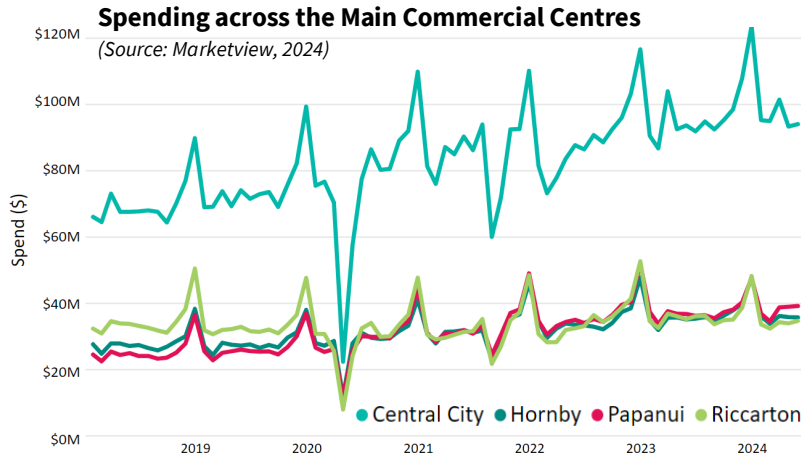
- The continued construction of major projects (multi-use arena Te Kaha, and the Court Theatre).
- Completion of the Carter Group’s office/retail building at 33 Cathedral Square.
- The progressing development of Williams Corporation’s mixed-use Manchester Square in the East Frame.



## Central City Spending

Central City spending was 1.4% higher than the same period last year, but below the prevailing rate of inflation of 3.3%, underlining that times remain tough for retailers and consumers.

As if to emphasise that, spending has slowed as the year has progressed with Q2 spending dipping lower than the normal post summer drop. With the latest inflation figures showing further drops there should be optimism that spending activity will return in the spring and summer.

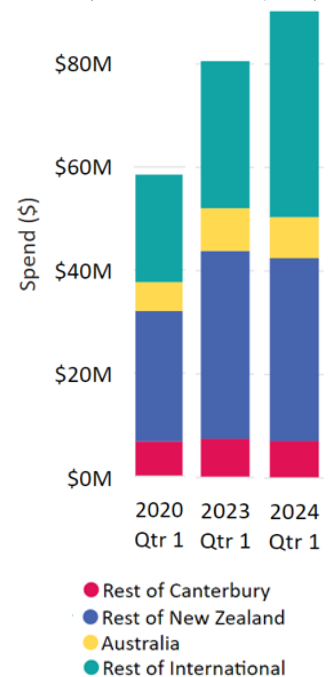


## Visitor Spending

- New and renewed direct flight services from China and the US, and expanded services (including a second A380 connection) from Australia, have enabled 188,000 international visitors to visit Christchurch from January-May, up 26% from last year.
- In what has become a year-on-year trend, growth in international visitor spending (24% in the Four Aves) has softened the impact of curtailed domestic visitor and resident spending. \$157m was spent by visitors within the Four Aves including more American guests (enjoying the new United Airlines services) — whose spending across the city as a whole, according to ChristchurchNZ, increased by 56%.
- 82 cruise ships visited Lyttelton between October- April. Changes to the shuttle service bringing cruise passengers into the Central City, have resolved the public transport challenges seen in 2022/23. The Local Ambassador volunteer program, established to guide cruise ship visitors, continued and will be extended to operate in the city on non-cruise days, so other visitors can benefit from this expertise.

## Visitor Spending

(Source: Marketview, 2024)



- ChristchurchNZ report that the temporary iSite at Novotel (initially expected to operate from The Grand in Cathedral Square) was closed on 4 June 2024. ChristchurchNZ is working with VIN Inc to secure a new iSite operation in the city.



## Local and Domestic Spending

The gap in spending between the Central City and the “Big Three” suburban centres shown in the graph remains, although it is notable that the new Northlink retail park has boosted Papanui’s turnover by \$20m/month since 2019.

The Central City continues to capture just under 20% of all Christchurch’s spending, which is a good balance. Residents will tend to obtain their everyday goods locally, but visit the Central City for more specialized or premium goods, services and experiences.

## Major Development Progress

The following progress has been made between January and June 2024:

- **Te Kaha’s** construction continues at good pace, within budget and on schedule for its 2026 opening. Current work includes upper bowl construction, installing concrete floors for the seating, and installing the large radial trusses.
- **East Frame Residential Development**—Fletcher Living’s Carriage Quarter is now complete and almost fully sold. Work on Gloucester Green (120 units across 10 buildings) has begun. Williams Corporation’s Manchester Square complex is also under construction.
- **Christchurch Cathedral**— Following announcements about cost overruns, the Anglican Diocese have signaled they will scale back the Cathedral’s reinstatement to fit their budget. The project is expected to be completed by October 2031. The current pace of work involves strengthening the building walls which is expected to continue throughout 2025.
- **Catholic Precinct**— In April, the Catholic Diocese confirmed they will be developing their new cathedral on the site at Barbadoes Street. The land bought for this purpose at Armagh Street will improved for its interim use as temporary parking.
- **Old Municipal Chambers**—strengthening and restoration is almost complete and the building is set to open progressively over the second half of 2024. Adjacent repaving work, matching in materials with the Riverside Promenade and Worcester St bridge is also underway.
- **High Street Improvements** — The final stage of streetscape transformation along this important historic connection—linking Ferry Road and Ara to Cathedral Square—is now complete.
- **Parakiore**—Work on the two final pools is underway, the car park is complete and planting of almost 20,000 new plants/ trees is underway.
- **Former Convention Centre Site** — The Quest hotel fronting Kilmore Street is nearing completion while Mike Greer housing is taking shape on the Peterborough street side.
- **Canterbury Museum** — partial demolition works are complete, while the strengthening of other buildings is underway. A new building will follow.
- **Court Theatre** — Construction of the core structure is well advanced. First performances are expected in Winter 2025.



Te Kaha continues to take shape



Old Municipal Chambers revealed



Completed High St improvements

## Development Pipeline

Activity	Who	When
<b>Major Public Facilities, Spaces and Buildings</b>		
Performing Arts Precinct	Court Theatre	Opening Winter 2025
Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre	Rau Paenga Ltd (formerly Ōtākaro Ltd)	To be announced.
Waipapa Building Project—Tower C	Christchurch Hospital/Whatu Ora	Spring 2025
Te Kaha/ Canterbury Arena	CCC / Kōtui Consortium	Mid-2026
Christ Church Cathedral	Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Limited	To be announced
<b>Selected Commercial/Attraction Projects</b>		
Gloucester Green (housing)	Fletcher Living	First releases due 2025
Madras Square (Housing/local retail)	Peebles Group and Mike Greer Group	From early 2025
Catholic Cathedral (Barbadoes St.)	Catholic Church	To be announced

(Dates above are based on direct or best available sources.)

## Central City Residential Programme (Project 8011)

**Census:** Subnational population estimates from 2023 Census will be released in October 2024. These will help confirm whether the interim population projections are accurately guiding us in progress towards Project 8011’s ambition of 20,000 Central City residents by 2028. Recent projections (last updated in Spring 2023 with a figure of 8,830 residents) have suggested that growth may be at the lower end of our growth scenario range - around 14,500 residents by 2028.

**Residential Completions and development activity:**

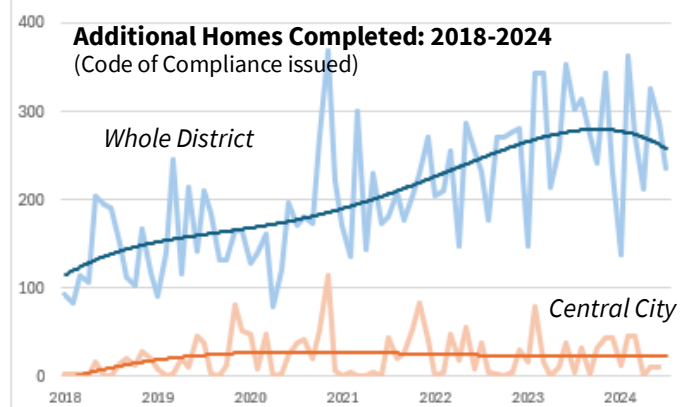
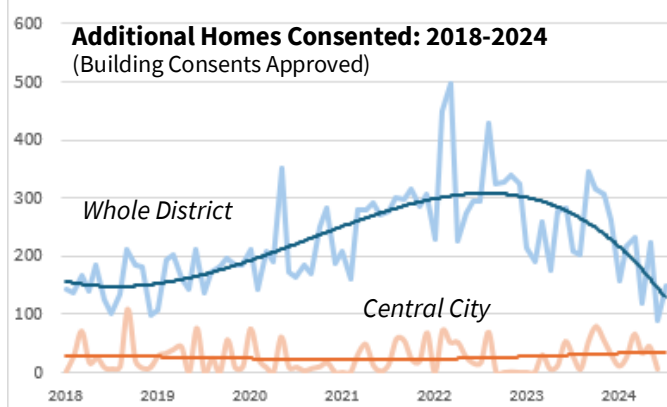
2024 started strongly in Q1 with over 100 new homes, but that delivery has slowed in Q2. Overall:

- 124 homes were completed in Jan—June.
- 96 homes were under construction at 30 June.
- 469 homes with consent, but yet to be started.

Looking at these numbers in the context of wider economic conditions, the pair of charts below show long term trends in housing consents (left) and housing completions (right).



Taking out seasonality and the ‘lumpy’ nature of housing delivery, the darker trend lines reveal that city wide (in blue) consent numbers have been dipping downwards since the post COVID peak of activity in 2022/23 while completions have remained steady, with a dip setting in during 2024. In contrast, Central City activity (in orange) - a proportion of the whole city—has remained relatively constant, with a recent uptick in consents indicating confidence in this sub-market.



**Progress over time**

The chart to the right shows progress in housing delivery over the last six years.

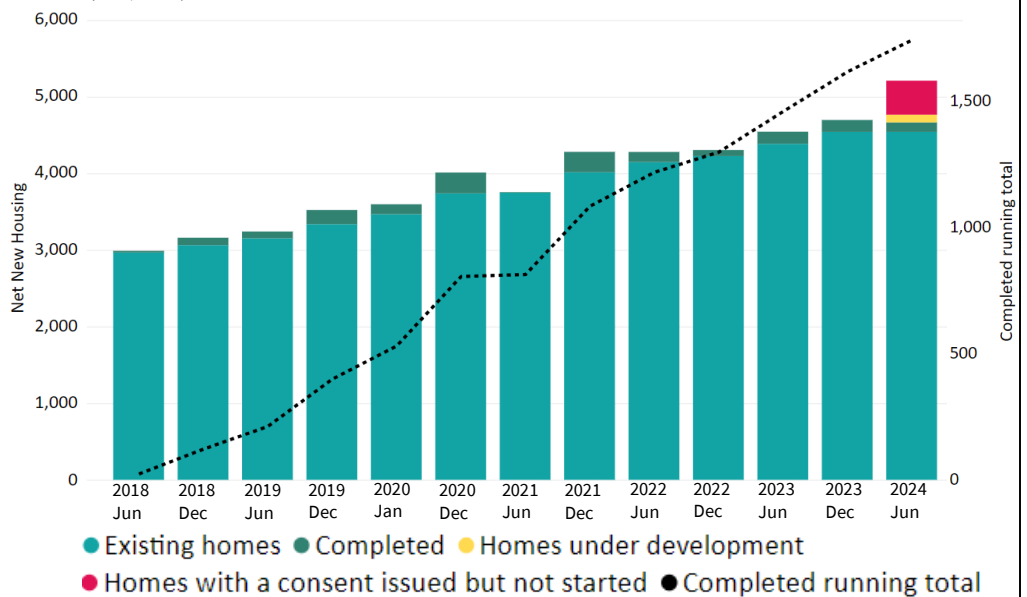
There have been consistently steady increases in housing since June 2018.

The 123 homes completed in the period is close to the six-year average of 132 homes built every six months.

High interest rates and living costs have kept some potential buyers out of the housing market this year, reducing the incentive for developers to build as rapidly as they have previously.

**Housing Development Progress in the Central City (2018-2024)**

(CCC, 2024)



But with a high number of housing consents in the pipeline, there is reason to be positive that delivery can bounce back—especially if interest rates are cut later in the year as inflation drops.

## South-East Neighbourhoods

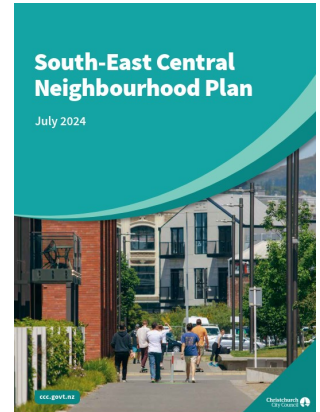
The **South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan** has been finalised following a period of public consultation from 4 March—1 April 2024. Feedback was received from over 80 stakeholders including residents, organisations and businesses.

The feedback has informed

- an updated vision and refined focus,
- additional actions
- buy-in from stakeholders to support delivery of the plan.

The final plan was endorsed by the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board (at the 11 July meeting) and will be presented to Council in August for adoption.

A pair of Enliven Places projects have been delivered on Cashel and Southwark Streets, to start to test outcomes of the plan, see page 8.



## Central City Noise Programme

A comprehensive update on the Noise Programme was provided to the [Council](#) in early June. Key elements covered in that report, and other updates, include:

- **Reflections on the pilot acoustic assessment at a St Asaph Street venue:** staff sought feedback from elected members on considering a range of noise emitters beyond just live music, as part of any potential future acoustic assessment service. Staff are open to further guidance on this matter over the coming year.
- **Webpage development** is underway with initial content now published and further soundproofing/insulation advice coming soon.
- Staff are working with venues to determine an approach to support **neighbourhood ‘meet up’ events** and consider what further steps can be taken.

The next update, scheduled for early 2025, will likely focus on the regulatory initiatives of the Programme (i.e. A plan change to address any noise standard changes in the Central City).

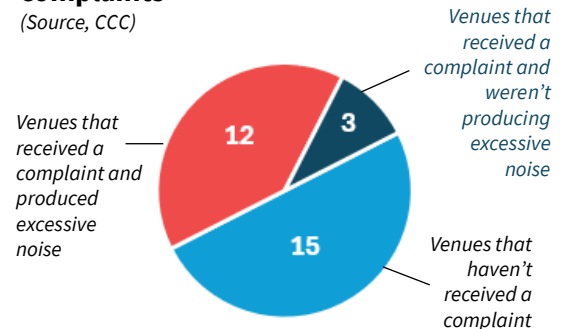
**Monitoring:** Enforcement data (shown in the diagrams) show that many venues are operating within noise limits - even where complaints have been lodged.

The next report on the Central City Noise programme will acknowledge the increased complaint numbers received from July '24.

Communication between all parties is continuing to ensure that a consistent, reasonable approach is taken—including applying 12 hour excessive noise directions, rather than the standard 72 hour direction.

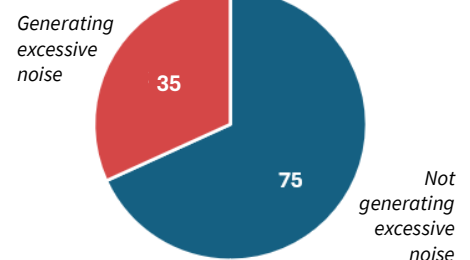
### Number of venues with justified noise complaints

(Source, CCC)



### Number of complaints upheld as making excessive noise

(Source, CCC)



## Vacant Sites Programme — [www.ccc.govt.nz/vacantsites](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/vacantsites)

Case managers, planners and staff from many units continue to support owners to bring forward new development projects. The programme also seeks improvement in the appearance of unused/underutilised land.

The adjacent tables draw out progress over the last 12 months.

Abandoned vacant sites have decreased significantly and there is now almost complete consent coverage of temporary car parking. Consented car parking has enabled:

- Conversion of former ‘gravel pits’ into better facilities for users.
- more sites to now have significant urban greening, safer access, and manage their stormwater discharges.
- Lighting of sites, improving perceptions of safety after dark.

The number of sites liable for City Vacant Differential rating has fallen as owners take steps to improve sites. A number of improved sites (claiming remissions) have been permanently developed (e.g. *East Frame, Evolution Square*), but new owner action (see below, opposite) is being taken on other sites.

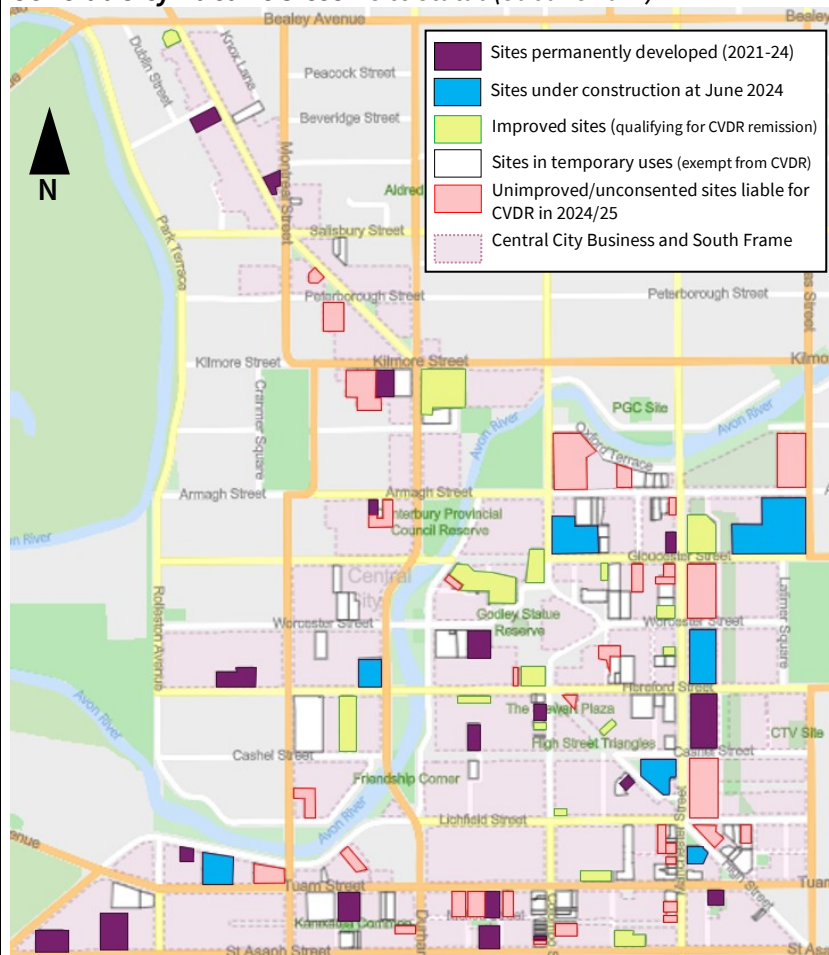
### Changes in Vacant Site Status (2021-24)

	2021	2024	Change
Number of abandoned vacant sites (Unused and Unimproved)	47	21	▼ 55%
Unconsented temporary car parks	84/117	8/107	▼ 90%
Temporary car parks meeting consent conditions	33	65	▲ 96%

### City Vacant Differential Rate (CVDR) Assessment 2024/25 (Qualifying sites in the Central City and South Frame planning zones)

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Number of rating units in scope</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Liable</b>			
Unimproved / unconsented activities	75	81	63
<b>Exempt</b>			
Permitted activity / implemented consent	92	75	101
<b>Remitted</b>			
Improved sites (with or without public access)	20	27	24

### Central City Vacant Sites - Site Status (30 June 2024)

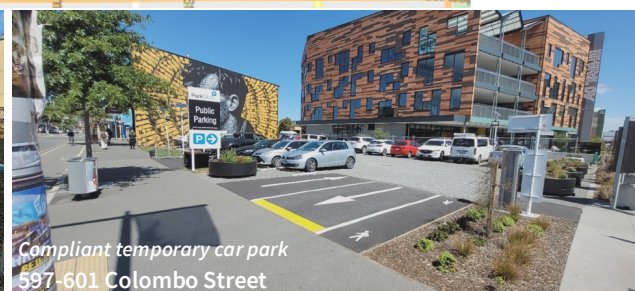
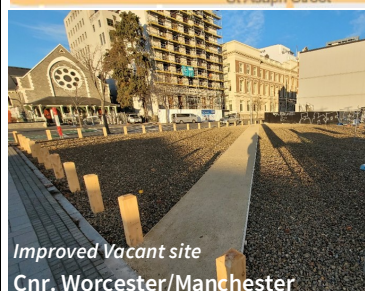


The adjacent map shows widespread progress in permanent development of vacant sites since 2021, and a concentration of current construction down the Manchester Street axis.

Around Cathedral Square,

- the pre-2020 cluster of abandoned sites and shabby unconsented car parks bordering the Square have been transformed by site improvements. Recent phases of repaving have also enhanced its appearance.
- Changing perceptions and steady progress on Te Kaha are making the investment proposition of the inner city more realistic now. A range of projects are understood to be in a more advanced stages of design work.
- The land assembled by the Catholic church on Armagh St. is now expected to be improved for use as temporary parking until new development objectives are agreed. This will serve the needs of the Performing Arts Precinct venues until there is certainty about a new parking building intended for this part of the city.

Among the sites liable for CVDR in 2024/25 (where development is not imminent) owners are taking steps to improve sites. In addition, parking operators are now more aware of the obligation to meet agreed consent conditions. Car park upgrades are delivering great results.



**Enliven Places Programme** — [www.ccc.govt.nz/enliven-places-programme/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/enliven-places-programme/)

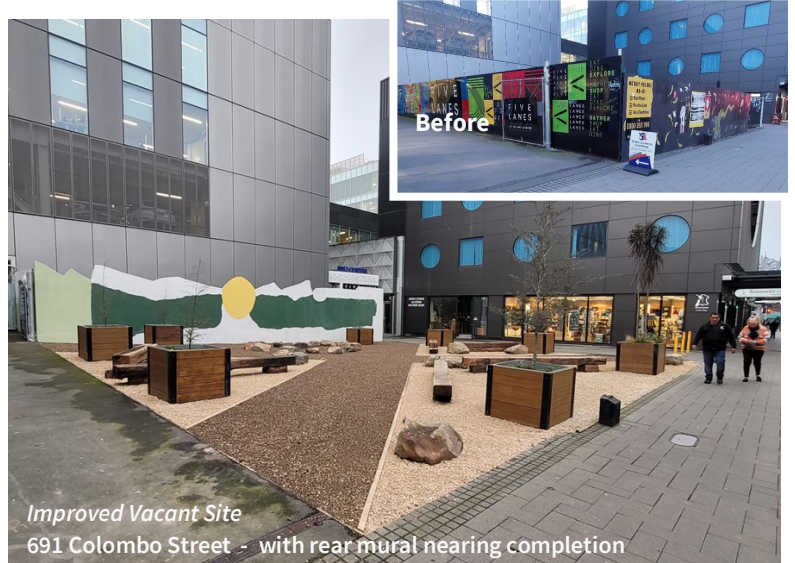
The Council’s Enliven Places Programme has delivered the following projects.

**Vacant Sites Programme : 691 Colombo Street**

In a partnership with the owner, who signalled they won’t be developing their site in the near future, Enliven Places helped improve a prominent Central City vacant site next to the BNZ Centre.

Supporting the owner, McDonalds, to deliver the ground improvement and surface treatment, Enliven Places have added greening, seating and a new mural on a reduced hoarding to open up this previously enclosed site - and the adjacent laneways - to improve perceptions of safety and create a calming, temporary open space for people to enjoy.

The mural was coordinated with support from Watch This Space, and painted by local artist Drows (Ngai Tahu, Ngāi Tuahuriri), exploring his personal connection to the natural environment.



**Project 8011: South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan**

The Cashel and Southwark projects support actions set out in the [South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan](#) including to support identity building and an improved public realm.

**Cashel Street improvements**

Following public feedback for improved amenity on Cashel St east of Te Kaha, our Programme is planning a suite of temporary improvements on a low amenity block between Barbadoes Street and Fitzgerald Avenue.

The first stage involved the delivery of a vibrant mural of a young Samoan wahine surrounded by native flora. The artist is Kophie Su’a-Hulsbosch and the mural was delivered in collaboration with Tagata Moana Trust, Elim Church, and YCD.

**Southwark Street mural**

A large-scale mural was painted in June on a corner wall of Southwark and Manchester Streets, building on the FY23 Southwark St project to improve amenity. The wall was a persistent target for tagging.

Local artist Dcypher created the mural to celebrate the neighbourhood’s future as a green, walkable and cycle-friendly space.

**Legacy project : Wayfinding towers**

The two remaining wayfinding towers have been decommissioned. The one on the corner of Worcester and Oxford Terrace was transferred to the Council’s Events and Arts team who have repurposed it for artwork. The other wayfinding tower on the corner of Colombo and Armagh has been removed.



**ChristchurchNZ**

**Central City Illumination Strategy** ChristchurchNZ’s commission of a Central City creative illumination strategy from ARUP has been completed. The next stage is the development of an implementation plan with Council and working group representatives to deliver on its actions over the next 1-5 years.



**Street Art Destination Development**

The Street Art Destination programme was finalised by ChristchurchNZ and presented to Council as part of LTP considerations. The programme has secured funding for three years through the Capital Endowment fund. It will significantly boost efforts in growing the city as a global street art destination. Partners are now planning for implementation, and getting underway with the first projects.



**Barrier Sites Programme** - [www.ccc.govt.nz/barrier-sites](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/barrier-sites)

Following the removal of **226—234 Cashel Street** (Former IRD Building) and **170 Cashel Street** (the former Holiday Inn), which are both being repaired/redeveloped, 14 Barrier Sites remain on the published Barrier Sites list.

12 of these properties have plans in place for their repair. There are no imminent intentions for the remaining properties at **112-114 Manchester Street** (former 2 Fat Indians), and **205 Manchester Street** (former Blue Jean Cuisine).

Key updates:

- **170 Oxford Terrace** (Former Noahs/Rydges): Work on reinstating the hotel is underway. It is expected to become operational in 2026.
- **214 Tuam Street** (Odeon site): Containers supporting this building have now been replaced with bracing of the façade. A future use remains to be identified.
- **119 Armagh Street** (former PWC basement) - this site is to be filled and levelled for use as temporary parking along with adjacent sites that had previously been earmarked for Catholic developments.



**Contestable Funding**

The **Place Partnership Fund** was fully allocated this financial year. It supported three Central City events, including the Ōtautahi Christchurch Kūmara Awards. The Fund also supported three creative installations, including the WORD Christchurch Festival large-scale public installation, *Ōtautahi Flash!*, to be located in a laneway at The Crossing in August.



**Temporary Site Activation: Rates Incentive**

The **Enliven Places Rates Incentive for Property Owners** supported two Central City sites in this reporting period, including a new LiVS-licenced Flying Nun Records in the BNZ Centre. [ccc.govt.nz/rates-incentive](http://ccc.govt.nz/rates-incentive)

**Budget 2023/2024 (city-wide):** \$40,000

**Credited this period (Central City):** \$3,000

**Balance 30 June 2024:** \$17,000

**Pedestrian Activity**

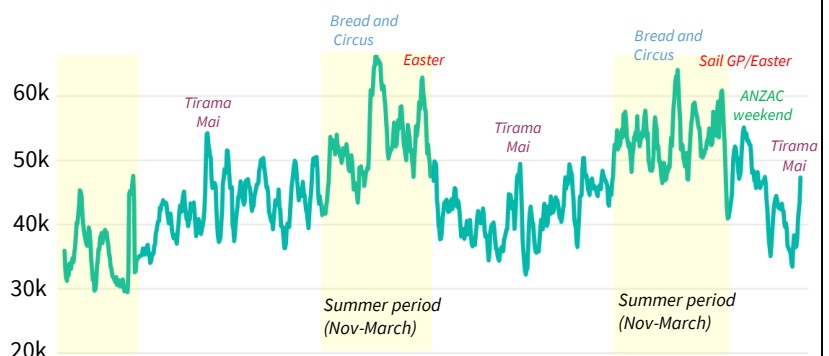
After a series of glitches and change to the counting approach, pedestrian count cameras can now again provide meaningful trend data to help [track change in the level of Central City activity](#). Previous less sophisticated data was gathered from mid 2018 to 2021.

Using weekly averages, taking samples from key Central City locations, the data reveals the seasonal flows and we are able to correlate peaks with key events during the year including Bread and Circus and Tiramā Mai.

Early results show that overall pedestrian volume this summer was roughly equal to the same period in 2022/23, with more consistent activity, but lower absolute peaks than Bread and Circus/ Easter in 2023.

**Central City Pedestrian Counts: Weekly Averages (2022-24)**

(Source, CCC)



Most recently, a surge of activity surrounding ANZAC weekend, and another strong Tiramā Mai, led to 7% growth in Q2 compared to 2023. Through events to attract people, an ever more compelling range of commercial offerings and more people living in the Central City, there is renewed momentum. With new Performing Arts venues and Te Kaha yet to be added, it is no surprise that a new wave of investment is taking shape as discussed further in the Vacant Sites section.

## Events Programme

2023 ended with a new format to our New Years Eve celebrations with two different events to cater to all ages: a kids NYE event delivered earlier in the evening with a countdown at 8pm, followed by Rock the Park NYE, delivered in partnership with the Rock radio station.

Another new event initiative was the Outdoor Cinema, delivered in partnership with the Arts Centre which proved popular on summer nights.

The weather impacted Sparks, requiring a last-minute shift to the rain date of Sunday February 3, but the event was well attended with a wide range of attendees enjoying the showcase headlined by Annie Crummer.



Event Name	Event Date	Anticipated Attendance	Actual Attendance	Funded or Produced
Kids NYE	31 December	18,000	4,876	Produced
RTP New Year’s Eve	31 December	18,000	16,600	Produced
Outdoor Movies	6, 7, 13, 14 January	700	1,000	Produced
Kite Day	13 January	6000	10,000	Produced
Summer Theatre	11-28 January	6000	6000	Produced
Summer Sundays	28 January 4, 11, 18 February	5,000	5,300	Produced
Sparks	3 February (rain date)	12,000	18,172	Produced
ANZAC Day Dawn Service	25 April	6000	7000	Produced
Tirama Mai	26-30 June	70,000	Approx 100,000	Produced
SCAPE	25 November— 2 February	500,000 foot traffic	923,295 foot traffic	Funded
Foodies Street Food Alley	22-23 March	10,000	6,000	Funded
Le Race	23 March	800 participants 1,000 spectators	600 participants 1,000 spectators	Funded
Open Christchurch	6-7 May	9,200	TBC	Funded
Christchurch Marathon	21 April	4,000 participants 7,000 spectators	5,285 participants 12,000 spectators	Funded
Live Broadcast of Chinese Lunar NY Celebrations	24 February		21,600 viewers 100 participants	Funded

## Marketing and Promotion

The Council’s marketing team is continuing its digital first approach to promote Council events, fulfilling sustainability and climate commitments.

We focussed on the planning and promotion of both our summer and winter events—Sparks, Kite Day, Summer Sundays, Summer Theatre, Tirama Mai, Winter Fireworks and more.

The **What’s On** webpage was viewed 452,043 times between 1 Jan—30 June—a 6% increase year on year. Our digital ‘always-on’ approach on Google and Facebook significantly contributed to the year-on-year traffic increase.

Our **social media** followers are constantly increasing—there is strong demand to know what’s happening in Ōtautahi.

- Facebook: 35,031 followers
- Instagram: 7,619
- CCC TikTok: 3,209
- EDM subscribers: 13,166



We also work closely with the ChchNZ marketing and events team to push and promote our events across their channels: **Pockets of Awesome** and **Ōtautahi Christchurch**.

## Smart Christchurch Programme



### Smart City Validator

- The Innovation ecosystem has been busy this year, with the Smart City Challenge taking place, a 10-week validator offering future founders a fast-paced development course.
- Founder ideas included a Central City navigation system for people with disabilities and solar powered parking sensors.



Ōtākaro Digital Twin

### Ōtākaro Avon River Digital Twin

- A digital twin is a digitised model of a physical asset, using accurate or real-time data to enable the virtual testing of an asset.
- Smart Christchurch collaborated with the University of Canterbury to develop a digital twin for the Ōtākaro Avon River and its catchments, through the Central City and Hagley Park.
- The twin will help improve understanding of all aspects of the river—managing natural hazards, improving environmental outcomes and giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai.



64 Ways of Being

### 64 Ways of Being

- Smart Christchurch has supported the funding of the 64 Ways of Being app, an Augmented Reality (AR) Journey through Ōtautahi Christchurch City, available on the AppStore or GooglePlay.

### Free Wi-Fi

- Over 84,000 people used the Christchurch Free Wi-Fi network during this period. This is 12% higher than the previous period.

## Grant-funding: city-making partners

The Council’s grant funding agreements continued with city-making partners Gap Filler, The Green Lab and Life in Vacant Spaces. These organisations are placemaking leaders in Central Christchurch.

The Central City Business Association (CCBA) is also funded by a targeted rate, enabling them to act on key Central City issues and support business-led collaborations to grow public interest in the area.



## Life in Vacant Spaces (LiVS)

### Initiatives progressed in this reporting period:

- Over 2144 Central City activation days across 11 licences (63% of property portfolio in Central City).
- 1 new licence (92 Hereford Street, The Terrace/Flying Nun Record Store).
- Hosted 6 projects at the LiVS Incubator: art installations, community events and workshops, talks, exhibition space and a Watch this Space Take Over.

### Continuing activation & new projects in development:

- Supported 22 ongoing projects including RAD Bikes on Lichfield St, the Streets for People 146 Gloucester St parklet and the 231 High Street Tech Hub where LiVS is supporting the participant to work toward a permanent tenancy.
- Received 30+ project enquiries to provide mentorship and knowledge-sharing.

### Partnerships, participation fees and funding leveraged:

- In-kind support and other funding amounted to 100% of grant value.
- Christchurch Airport Community Funding received which supported the Watch This Space takeover of the Incubator

### Awards and Accolades:

- Several LiVS-supported projects nominated for the 2024 Kūmara Award, including the Little Street Art and Flare Street Art Festivals, and Yarnarchy 2023.





## Central City Business Association (CCBA)

### Marketing and Promotion:

- Our Spring/Christmas/Summer **marketing campaign** finished in February.
- We continued to profile businesses through nine original articles.
- Along with our AGM, we ran a **member event** “Learn to Navigate ChatGPT” to inform businesses about new opportunities in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

### Street Issues:

- We continue to **manage day-to-day street issues with our Safety Team**.
- We worked with City Mall businesses to remedy an escalating rubbish issue, and we monitor and report on street maintenance issues with CCC.

### Member Engagement and Awareness

- **Strategic Plan Refresh process:** we invited SALT & the New Regent Quarter to take part, engaged key partners from the Council and ChristchurchNZ for input, and drew on an independent member survey.
- In June 2024, we have **592 full members**, up from 533 in January. **87 new businesses** also opened within our service area since last January.
- Our **Inner-City Collaborative Group** continues to meet regularly.
- We **keep the wider membership informed** through regular newsletters, and through business visits by our manager and security team.

### Advocacy

- We advocated to CCC for **changes to the street cleaning schedule** to ensure the city looks its best over the busy weekend days.
- We supported ChchNZ’s bid for **city event attraction funding** in the LTP.



## Gap Filler



### Initiatives progressed in this reporting period:

- 64 Ways of Being, a Central City augmented reality journey, supported 18 local and national artists to deliver place-based participatory artworks, digital art, and stories that bring the Central City and Ōtākaro to life.
- Play Advocacy—presentation on Activating Community Play Spaces at Christchurch PechaKucha #45 PLAY

### New projects in development and continuing activation:

- In development: Paste Up Yarnarchy, Te Korero Tākaro/Stories of Games.
- Continuing activation including: Dance-O-Mat planting event.

### Partnerships, participation and funding leveraged:

- Multidisciplinary partnerships with 14 organisations, and estimated 40 volunteer hours
- In-kind support and other funding to over 35% of grant value, including from Rata Foundation and Ministry of Ethnic Communities and Creative Communities Scheme.

### Awards and Accolades:

- Kūmara Award, Loud Hurrah! for Yarnarchy 2023



## The Green Lab



### Initiatives progressed in this reporting period:

- Wāhi Taiao – additional native plant designs by local artist for the outdoor space, part of Streets for People, Gloucester Street.
- Dance-O-Mat—donated plants for the site.

### Continuing activation & new projects in development:

- 3 Queer Games Nights—a dry, all ages event for LGBTQIA+ community—130 attendees.
- 3 Backyard Resilience workshops in July/August at the Botanic Garden kiosk

### Partnerships, participation and funding leveraged:

- Over 20 multidisciplinary partnerships and collaborations.
- 15 volunteers contributed 100+ volunteer hours.
- In-kind support and other funding to 100% of grant value.

