

Statement of significant accounting policies

Christchurch City Council (“Council”) is a territorial authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002. The primary objective of the Council is to provide goods or services for the community or for social benefit rather than to make a financial return. As such, it is a Public Benefit Entity.

These prospective financial statements are for the Council as a separate legal entity. Consolidated prospective financial statements comprising the Council and its subsidiaries and associates have not been prepared as the services which Council provides to the City are fully reflected within the Council’s financial statements.

Basis of preparation

i) Statement of compliance

These prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared to comply with Public Benefit Entity Standards (PBE Standards) for a Tier 1 entity, with the exception of the departures detailed below.

ii) Prospective Financial Statements

The prospective financial statements comply with Tier 1 PBE Standards, (including PBE FRS 42 – Prospective Financial Statements) with the exception of PBE IPSAS 26 – Impairment of Cash-Generating Assets, PBE IPSAS 21 –

Impairment of Non-Cash Generating Assets and PBE IPSAS 17 – Property, Plant and Equipment as detailed below.

In accordance with PBE FRS 42, the following information is provided:

Description of the nature of the entity’s current operation and its principal activities

The Council is a territorial local authority, as defined in the Local Government Act 2002. The Council’s principal activities are outlined within this Long Term Plan.

Purpose for which the prospective financial statements are prepared

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 to present prospective financial statements that span 10 years and include them within the Long Term Plan. This provides an opportunity for ratepayers and residents to review the projected financial results and position of the Council. Prospective financial statements are revised annually to reflect updated assumptions and costs.

Bases for assumptions, risks and uncertainties

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on the basis of best estimate assumptions of future events which the Council expects to take place. The Council has considered factors that may lead to a material difference between information in the prospective financial statements and actual results. These factors, and the assumptions made in relation to the sources of uncertainty and potential effect, are outlined in this Long Term plan.

Cautionary Note

The financial information is prospective. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and the variations may be material.

Other Disclosures

The draft prospective financial statements were authorised for issue on 10 March 2015 by Christchurch City Council. The Council is responsible for the prospective financial statements presented, including the assumptions underlying prospective financial statements and all other disclosures. The Long Term Plan is prospective and as such contains no actual operating results.

iii) Measurement base

The reporting period for these prospective financial statements is the ten year period ending 30 June 2025. The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest thousand (\$000), unless otherwise stated. The functional currency of the Council is New Zealand dollars.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared based on the historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain assets and liabilities as identified in this statement of significant accounting policies.

The Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 have impacted the Council’s ability to account for its property, plant and equipment in accordance with PBE Standards. Details of these departures are outlined below:

- PBE IPSAS 21 – Impairment of Non-Cash Generating Assets and PBE IPSAS 26 – Impairment of Cash-Generating Assets
 - Assets with earthquake damage have been written off only when it is certain that they have been destroyed.
 - An impairment provision was recognised in 2012, 2013 and 2014 for damage to certain classes of infrastructure assets. These provisions are being reversed and replaced with the final journals as more information becomes available.
- PBE IPSAS 17 – Property, Plant and Equipment
 - Asset classes have been progressively revalued since the earthquakes with the revaluations of land, buildings, wastewater and roading classes to be revalued as at 30 June 2015. The remaining non-material asset classes will be revalued in 2016 therefore no material departures are expected for the period of the Long Term Plan
 - PBE IPSAS 17 requires the Council to review the useful lives and residual values of its assets annually. Since the earthquakes the Council has been unable to comply with this requirement but no material departures from the standard are expected for the period of the Long Term Plan.

It is expected that the Council will be in full compliance with PBE Standards from 2016 onwards.

All of the above have flow on effects to depreciation, impairment of assets carrying values, revaluation reserves, and retained earnings.

The prospective financial statements do not disclose audit fees or imputation credits, and no comment is included regarding the effect on the community of the Council's existence or operations. This information is fully disclosed in the Annual Report.

Revenue

Revenue comprises rates, revenue from operating activities, investment revenue, gains and finance income and is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Revenue may be derived from either exchange or non-exchange transactions.

Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions arises where the Council provides goods or services to another entity and directly receives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of cash) in exchange.

Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Revenue from non-exchanges transactions arises from transactions that are not exchange transactions. These are transactions where the Council receives value from another party without giving approximately equal value directly in exchange for the value received.

Approximately equal value is considered to reflect a fair or market value, which is normally akin with an arm's length commercial transaction between a willing buyer and willing seller. Some services which Council provides for a fee are charged below market value as they are subsidised by rates. Other services operate on a cost recovery or breakeven basis which may not be considered to reflect a market return. A

significant portion of the Council's revenue will be categorised non-exchange.

An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset, is recognised as revenue, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow.

As the Council satisfies an obligation which has been recognised as a liability, it reduces the carrying amount of the liability and recognises an amount of revenue equal to the reduction.

Specific accounting policies for the major categories of revenue are outlined below:

i) Rates

Rates are set annually by resolution from the Council and relate to a particular financial year. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year for which the rates have been set. Rates revenue is recognised at the time of invoicing.

Rates are a tax as they are payable under the Local Government Ratings Act 2002 and are therefore defined as non-exchange.

ii) Goods sold and services rendered

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer. Revenue from services rendered is recognised in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the balance date. The stage of completion is assessed by reference to surveys of work performed.

No revenue is recognised if there are significant uncertainties regarding recovery of the consideration due, associated costs or the possible return of goods or continuing management involvement with the goods.

Where the revenue received is considered to reflect market value it will be categorised as exchange income otherwise it will be non-exchange.

iii) Finance Income

Finance income comprises interest receivable on funds invested and on loans advanced. Finance income is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

iv) Rental income

Rental income from investment property is classified as exchange revenue and recognised proportionately over the term of the lease. Lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income.

Rental income from social housing properties is classified as non-exchange revenue as the rental received is lower than market rentals.

v) Grants income (including government grants)

Grant revenue is recognised on receipt, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow. A liability is recognised when the resources received are subject to a condition such that the Council has the obligation to return those resources received in the event that the conditions attached are breached. As the Council satisfies the conditions, the carrying amount of the liability is reduced and an equal amount is recognised as revenue.

Grant income is categorised as non-exchange revenue.

vi) Dividend income

Dividend income is classified as exchange revenue and is recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment is established.

vii) Finance lease income

Finance lease income is classified as exchange revenue and is allocated over the lease term on a systematic and rational basis. This income allocation is based on a pattern reflecting a constant periodic return on the Council's net investment in the finance lease.

viii) Development Contributions

Development contributions are classified as non-exchange revenue and recognised as revenue in the year in which they are received.

ix) Other gains

Other gains include gains from the sale of property, plant and equipment and investments and gains arising from derivative financial instruments (see Hedging Policy).

x) Earthquake subsidies and recoveries

Earthquake subsidies and recoveries include payments from Government agencies, Ministries and Departments as well as payments from Council's insurers. Earthquake subsidies and recoveries are recognised in the financial statements when received or when it is probable or virtually certain that they will be received under the insurance contracts in place.

The classification of earthquake subsidies and recoveries as exchange or non-exchange is dependent on the nature of the subsidy or recovery.

xi) Vested assets and donated goods

Where a physical asset is received by Council for no or minimal consideration, the fair value of the asset received is recognised as income. Assets vested and goods donated to Council are recognised as revenue when control over the asset is obtained. Vested assets and donated goods are categorised as non-exchange revenue.

Expenses

Specific accounting policies for major categories of expenditure are outlined below:

i) Operating lease payments

Payments made under operating leases are recognised proportionally over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognised within surplus or deficit as an integral part of the total lease expense.

ii) Finance lease payments

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

iii) Finance costs

Finance costs comprise interest payable on borrowings calculated using the effective interest rate method. The interest expense component of finance lease payments is recognised using the effective interest rate method. Interest payable on borrowings is recognised as an expense as it accrues.

iv) Other losses

Other losses include losses on the sale of property, plant and equipment and investments and losses arising from derivative financial instruments (see Hedging Policy).

v) Grant expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria and are recognised as expenditure when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received.

Discretionary grants are those grants where the Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when approved by the Council and the approval has been communicated to the applicant and any grant criteria are met.

Income tax

Income tax on the surplus or deficit for the year comprises current and deferred tax.

Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided using the balance sheet liability method, providing for temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes.

The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and

liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Property, plant and equipment

The following assets are shown at fair value, based on periodic valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation:

- Land (other than land under roads)
- Buildings
- Infrastructure assets
- Heritage assets
- Works of art

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset. Under normal conditions, valuations are performed with sufficient regularity to ensure revalued assets are carried at a value that is not materially different from fair value. As mentioned above the revaluation programme has recommenced and revaluations will now be undertaken on a regular cycle.

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items. Cost may also include transfers from equity of any gains/losses on qualifying cash flow hedges of foreign currency purchases of property, plant and equipment.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged within surplus or deficit during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Where the Council has elected to account for revaluations of property, plant and equipment on a class of asset basis, increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of a class are credited directly to reserves under the heading revaluation reserve. However, the net revaluation increase shall be recognised in surplus or deficit to the extent it reverses a net revaluation decrease of the same class of assets previously recognised in surplus or deficit.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as shown in the following table:

Operational Assets:

Buildings	1-100 yrs
Office and computer equipment	1-10 yrs
Mobile plant including vehicles	2-30 yrs
Sealed surfaces (other than roads)	9-100 yrs
Harbour structures	3-50 yrs
Seawalls	100 yrs
Leasehold land improvements	5-100 yrs
Library books	3-8 yrs
Vessels	5-25 yrs
Resource consents and easements	5-10 yrs

Infrastructure Assets:

Formation	not depreciated
Pavement sub-base	not depreciated
Base course	40-120 yrs
Footpaths and cycleways	20-80 yrs
Surface	1-25 yrs
Streetlights and signs	15-40 yrs
Kerb, channel, sumps and berms	80 yrs
Landscape/medians	8-80 yrs
Drain pipes/culverts/retaining walls	20-100 yrs
Bridges	70-100 yrs
Bus shelters and furniture	15-30 yrs
Water supply	55-130 yrs
Water meters	20-25 yrs
Stormwater	20-150 yrs
Waterways	15-120 yrs
Sewer	50-150 yrs
Treatment plant	15-100 yrs
Pump stations	10-100 yrs

Restricted Assets:

Planted areas	5-110 yrs
Reserves – sealed areas	10-40 yrs
Reserves – structures	25-150 yrs
Historic buildings	100 yrs

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These are included as revenue or expenses. When

revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the revaluation reserve in respect of those assets are transferred to retained earnings.

Distinction between capital and revenue expenditure

Capital expenditure is defined as all expenditure incurred in the creation of a new asset and any expenditure that results in a significant restoration or increased service potential for existing assets. Constructed assets are included in property, plant and equipment as each becomes operational and available for use. Revenue expenditure is defined as expenditure that is incurred in the maintenance and operation of the property, plant and equipment of the Council.

Intangible assets

i) Computer software

Acquired computer software licences are capitalised on the basis of costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. These costs are amortised over their estimated useful lives.

Costs associated with maintaining computer software programs are recognised as an expense as incurred. Costs that are directly associated with the production of identifiable and unique software products controlled by the Council, and that will generate economic benefits exceeding costs beyond one year, are capitalised and recognised as intangible assets. Capitalised costs include the software development employee direct costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Computer software development costs recognised as assets are amortised over their estimated useful lives.

ii) Other intangible assets

Other intangible assets that are acquired by the Council are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation (see below) and impairment losses (see Impairment Policy).

iii) Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure on capitalised intangible assets is capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates, and it meets the definition of, and recognition criteria for, an intangible asset. All other expenditure is expensed as incurred.

iv) Amortisation

An intangible asset with a finite useful life is amortised on a straight-line basis over the period of that life. The asset is reviewed annually for indicators of impairment, and tested for impairment if these indicators exist. The asset is carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Estimated useful lives are:

Software	1-10 yrs
Resource consents and easements	5-10 yrs
Patents, trademarks and licenses	10-20 yrs

An intangible asset with an indefinite useful life is not amortised, but is tested for impairment annually, and is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

Derivative financial instruments

The Council uses derivative financial instruments to hedge its exposure to interest rate risks arising from operational, financing and investment activities. In accordance with its treasury policy the Council does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. However, derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are accounted for as trading instruments and changes in value are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Hedging

The Council uses derivatives to hedge its exposure to interest rate risks. The derivatives are designated as either cashflow hedges (hedging highly probable future transactions (borrowing)) or fair value hedges (hedging the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities).

Changes in the fair value of cashflow hedges are recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expenses. When the instrument is no longer an effective hedge or is sold or cancelled, the cumulative gain or loss recognised to date on the instrument is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Changes in the fair value of fair value hedges are recorded in surplus or deficit, together with changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability.

Investments

The Council classifies its investments in the following categories:

- (a) *Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit*

This category has two sub-categories: financial assets held for trading, and those designated at fair through surplus or deficit at inception. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges.

- (b) *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

- (c) *Held-to-maturity investments*

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity.

- (d) *Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense*

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. This category also includes available-for-sale assets.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

i) Investment in subsidiaries

The Council's equity investments in its subsidiaries are designated as financial assets at fair value

through other comprehensive revenue and expense. They are measured at fair value, with valuations performed by an independent, external valuer with sufficient regularity to ensure no investments are included at a valuation that is materially different from fair value. The valuation changes are held in a revaluation reserve until the subsidiary is sold.

ii) Investments in debt and equity securities

Financial instruments held for trading are classified as current assets and are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised within surplus or deficit.

General and community loans are designated as loans and receivables. They are measured at initial recognition at fair value, and subsequently carried at amortised cost less impairment losses.

Financial instruments classified as held-for-trading or fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense investments are recognised/derecognised by the Council on the date it commits to purchase/sell the investments. Securities held-to-maturity are recognised/derecognised on the day they are transferred to/by the Council.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment (see Impairment Policy).

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of

business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses.

Inventories held for distribution at no charge, or for a nominal amount, are stated at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

The cost of other inventories is based on the first-in first-out principle and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Impairment

Normally the carrying amounts of the Council's assets, other than investment property (see Investments Policy) and deferred tax assets (see Income Tax Policy), are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount.

Impairment losses on property, plant and equipment are recognised within surplus or deficit. Impairment losses on revalued assets offset any balance in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of assets, with any remaining impairment loss being recognised within surplus or deficit. The opening balance for fixed assets includes a general provision of \$694 million. This provision will be reversed and replaced with the correct accounting treatment as the condition of assets is identified.

For intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life and intangible assets that are not yet available for use, the recoverable amount is estimated at each reporting date.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows, and in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are recognised initially at fair value less attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing borrowings are stated at amortised cost with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognised through surplus or deficit over the period of the borrowing on an effective interest basis.

Creditors and other payables

Creditors and other payables are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Provisions

A provision is recognised in the statement of financial position when the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits, the amount of which can be reliably estimated, will be required to settle the obligation. If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money

and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. The Council maintains provisions for landfill aftercare and building related (including but not limited to weathertight homes) claims.

Employee entitlements

The employee compensation policy is based on total cash remuneration: a single cash payment in compensation for work, where the employee is responsible for and able to individually decide how best to use their remuneration to meet their needs over time in the mix and type of benefits purchased. Provision is made in respect of the Council's liability for the following short and long-term employee entitlements.

i) Short-term entitlements

Liabilities for annual leave and time off in lieu are accrued at the full amount owing at the pay period ending immediately before the reporting date.

Liabilities for accumulating short-term compensated absences (e.g. sick leave) are measured as the amount of unused entitlement accumulated at the pay period ending immediately before the reporting date that the entity anticipates employees will use in future periods, in excess of the days that they will be entitled to in each of those periods.

ii) Long-term entitlements

The retiring gratuity and long-service leave liabilities are assessed on an actuarial basis using current rates of pay taking into account years of service, years to entitlement and the likelihood staff will reach the point of entitlement.

These estimated amounts are discounted to their present value using an interpolated 10-year government bond rate.

Superannuation is provided as a percentage of remuneration.

Leases

i) As lessee

Leases in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the lessee are classified as finance leases. At inception, finance leases are recognised as assets and liabilities on the statement of financial position at the lower of the fair value of the leased property and the present value of the minimum lease payments. Any additional direct costs of the lessee are added to the amount recognised as an asset. Subsequently, assets leased under a finance lease are depreciated as if the assets are owned.

ii) As lessor

Leases in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the lessor are classified as finance leases. Amounts due from lessees under finance leases are recorded as receivables. Finance lease payments are allocated between interest revenue and reduction of the lease receivable over the term of the lease in order to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment outstanding in respect of the lease.

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Equity

Equity is the community's and ratepayers' interest in the Council. It is measured as the difference

between total assets and total liabilities. Equity includes the following components:

- Asset revaluation reserve
- Fair value through equity reserve
- Hedging reserves
- Reserve funds
- Capital reserves
- Retained earnings

Third party transfer payment agencies

The Council collects monies for many organisations. Where collections are processed through the Council's books, any monies held are shown as Accounts Payable in the prospective statement of financial position. Amounts collected on behalf of third parties are not recognised as revenue, but commissions earned from acting as agent are recognised in revenue.

Goods and Services Tax

The prospective financial statements are prepared exclusive of GST with the exception of receivables and payables that are shown inclusive of GST. Where GST is not recoverable as an input tax it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

Donated services

The Council receives the benefit of many services provided by volunteers. These services are greatly valued. They are, however, difficult to measure in monetary terms, and for this reason are not included in the prospective financial statements, as their value from an accounting point of view is considered immaterial in relation to total expenditure.

Cost allocations

The costs of all internal service activities are allocated or charged directly to external service type activities. External service activities refer to activities which provide a service direct to the public. Internal service activities provide support for the external service activities.

Where the recipient of an internal service can be identified, the cost recovery is made by way of a direct charge. Where this is not practical or the linkage is indirect, the costs are allocated by way of corporate overhead.

Two primary drivers for allocating corporate overhead are used. Services related to people are reallocated based on employee costs, and those related to finance are reallocated based on external service activity gross cost.

Critical judgements, estimates and assumptions in applying Council's accounting policies

Preparing prospective financial statements to conform to PBE Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions have been based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. These are outlined in the Significant Forecasting Assumptions section. These estimates and assumptions have formed the basis for making judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities, where these are not readily apparent from other sources. Subsequent actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are regularly reviewed. Any change to estimates is recognised in the period if the change affects only that period, or into future periods if it also affects future periods.