

We Have Listened

Christchurch City Three Year Plan Christchurch Ōtautahi

Photo: 'Share an Idea' – Christchurch

Christchurch City Council

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Christchurch City Council's Three Year Plan 2013-16 reflects the wishes and needs of the city's residents. This final version of the plan is the culmination of many months of preparation, community consultation, updates and changes. It sets out a budget for the next three years, based on the community's feedback.

A draft Three Year Plan 2013-16, based on the recommendations of staff, was adopted by the Council on 26 February 2013. Residents were then asked to give their feedback and thoughts on what was included in the draft, or what they wanted to have added.

Over a four-week consultation period, beginning on 16 March 2013, the Council held three open days in the Hagley Park dome so residents could find out more about what was in the plan and make a submission. People could read the plan and summary of content, listen to the Mayor, Chief Executive and other senior staff give presentations about the draft plan, and ask questions about the draft plan and how it might affect them.

The Council then took the draft plan to the community, with eight drop-in sessions, in New Brighton, Papanui, Lyttelton, Beckenham, Woolston, Fendalton, Sockburn and Akaroa. Overall, 380 people attended the sessions. The draft plan is a large, complex document, so the Council prepared an easy-to-read, 15-page summary of the key content and delivered this to around 150,000 letterboxes across the city. Advertising, media releases and stakeholder updates helped inform residents and interest groups about the consultation process.

Copies of the draft document, summary version and submission forms were available from libraries, service centres and on the Council's website.

The Council received 369 written submissions to the plan. These were reviewed by staff, additional information was provided, and then the submissions were presented to the Mayor and Councillors for consideration. A wide and varied range of issues were raised. The Council then listened to many submitters in person at public hearings held over three days. Following this, the Council met over four days to discuss the submissions, deliberate over changes to the draft, and, finally, adopt the Three Year Plan on 28 June 2013.

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Changes from Draft to Final

The final Three Year Plan largely adopts the activities and budgets proposed in the draft plan. Some changes were made to the final Three Year Plan, most stemming from public submissions made to the draft plan.

Following the June 2013 cost-sharing agreement with the Crown, the Council's contribution to the rebuilding of horizontal infrastructure (roading and underground services) has been reduced by \$159 million. For its share of the major central city facilities, the Council has allowed \$782.9 million, including escalations, which is \$22 million less than budgeted for in the draft Three Year Plan.

Opening Debt was reduced by \$11 million due to higherthan-forecast development contribution revenue for 2012/13.

Rates increases over the next three years remain virtually the same from the draft plan to the final.

The key changes made from draft to final are set out below:

Funding for transformational projects

The Council allocated \$50 million to a transformational project fund for the betterment of facilities, with \$15 million set aside for the Christchurch Central Library rebuild and \$9.9 million towards the Coastal Pathway Project. There were 21 submissions on the proposed coastal pathway, with most expressing support.

Central City

- A tram link between New Regent Street, Re:Start Mall and Canterbury Museum will be partially completed at a cost of \$830,000 following a feasibility investigation and report back to the Council by September 2013. This follows 23 submissions on the central city tram, with most supporting reinstating and/or extending it.
- The Council also agreed transitional city projects like Greening the Rubble and Gap Filler can apply for funding to cover rates on any vacant sites being used.

District Plan

The Council agreed to bring forward and compress the District Plan review process into three years so the district plan can comprehensively support the city's recovery.

The costs brought forward will be borrowed for and repaid over 9 years.

Development contributions

- Up to \$10 million was set aside for a 100 per cent rebate on development contributions for residential developments in the Central City that have been reviewed by the Urban Design Panel and are under construction by July 2015.
- Changes were made to the Development Contributions Policy, following various submissions. These include allowing the amalgamation of credits on one development site and requiring the Council to use development contribution cash within 10 years.

Community, recreation and culture

- A \$2 million five year interest-free loan was included to assist the Theatre Royal Charitable Trust with the cost of reconstructing the Isaac Theatre Royal.
- The South-West Recreation and Sports Centre got the go ahead for its first stage, developing an aquatic centre, with \$2 million allocated to this project in 2016-17 for land purchase.
- The Council added \$500,000 to the budget for a relocatable facility for community groups at Beckenham, or another agreed site.
- The major organisations receiving grants from the Strengthening Communities Fund totalling \$1.475 million a year for two years were confirmed.
- \$250,000 was allocated for a feasibility study into the concept of a sports hub, such as the hub being proposed at Nga Puna Wai, a reserve beside the Canterbury Agricultural Park.
- The New Brighton Business and Landowners' Association is being allocated \$15,000 to support their significant contribution to the Council's planning process around measures to rejuvenate and revitalise New Brighton and the wider coastal area.
- There was \$69,000 allocated for the Council's engagement strategy to support new ways of engaging with the community.
- A project to prepare a proposal to improve boating safety at public facilities in Naval Point was allocated \$15,000
- Two extra dog parks will be developed, one in the central city and one in the east.

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Environment and infrastructure

- Urgent projects identified in the Cemeteries Master Plan are being allocated \$250,000.
- The Garden of Tane in Akaroa will be upgraded at a cost of \$46,000 over three years, funded by a reduction of 10 per cent to the Stanley Park and Robinsons Bay budgets.
- Up to \$150,000 was allocated to cover half the cost of traffic lights at an intersection in Redcliffs near the site proposed for a supermarket rebuild, subject to Foodstuffs matching the Council's contribution.

Disabled parking

The Council will provide free parking (for a period of time that encourages turnover) in its metered disability car parks throughout the city, except for long-term parking at the airport.

Reports for more information

Councillors asked staff to prepare a number of reports in coming months to outline more information on issues raised as part of the Three Year Plan process. These include:

- Staff to urgently investigate possible rates relief and financial incentives for listed heritage buildings
- Staff to investigate and report back on the costs and process for providing free wi-fi in core areas of the central city
- A request for a report on funding and an expression of support for Scarborough Paddling Pool being rebuilt and reopening for the 2013/14 summer
- The Planning Committee to consider if a heritagetrained person could be included on the Urban Design Panel when considering any heritage-listed building or a building adjacent to a heritage-listed building
- Staff to report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on a prioritised list of intersection improvements
- Staff to report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on city-wide priorities for remediating flooding
- A strong recommendation the incoming Council form a working party, including the business community, to consider development contributions.