

How the Council works



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The Council and Community Boards

Thirteen city councillors and the Mayor represent the people of Christchurch. These 14 elected members govern the Council's activities, and oversee and consider plans and strategies for the Council's staff (officers) to deliver. Representation at a more local level is provided by 40 elected members in eight community boards.

In local body elections every three years, voters across the city and Banks Peninsula elect the Mayor, and the city is divided into seven wards for the election of the 13 councillors. The seven wards are:

- Burwood/Pegasus;
- Fendalton/Waimairi;
- Hagley/Ferrymead;
- Spreydon/Heathcote;
- Shirley/Papanui;
- Riccarton/Wigram; and
- Banks Peninsula.

Ward boundaries reflect communities of interest (please see the following two maps: Christchurch City Council – Ward Boundaries and Service Centres, and Banks Peninsula Ward).

There are eight Community Boards, comprising five elected board members each. Six of the boards also have two councillors appointed by the Council. The Banks Peninsula Ward's councillor is appointed to the two Peninsula Boards.

The City Council meets weekly, while Community Boards meet either fortnightly or monthly. The City Council's meeting timetable is available on the Council website at www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/Members/Meetings/ScheduleOfMeetings.pdf

Community Board meeting dates and venues are available at www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/CommunityBoards/Meetings/ on the Council website.

Each of the 13 city councillors are members of one or more of four Portfolio Groups. The responsibilities of these groups correspond with and seek to further the Council's Strategic Directions. The portfolio groups are:

- Creating Strong Communities;
- Environmental Diversity;
- Liveable City; and
- Economic Prosperity.

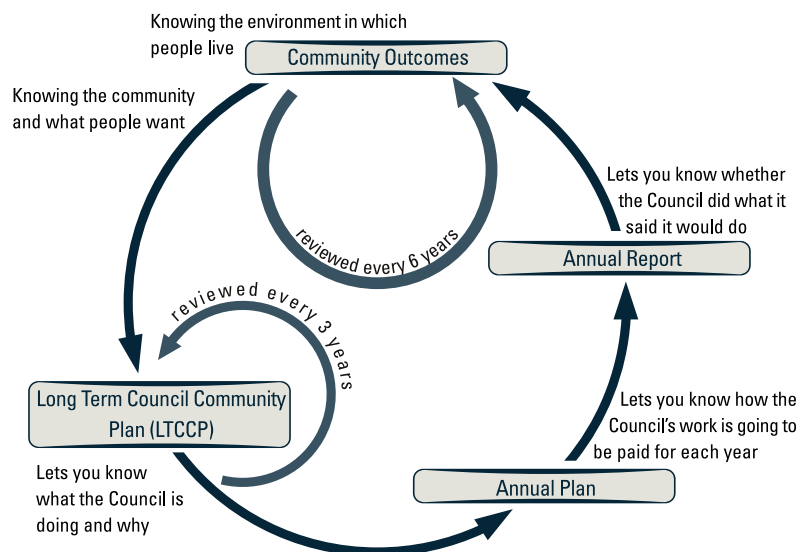
The portfolio groups initiate reviews and updates of strategies and monitor the progress of work as it is being prepared for presentation at full Council meetings.

The Council and Community Board meetings are generally open to the public.

The Council also regularly holds seminars for elected members. At seminars, staff and others present material to inform the elected members. These are not decision-making meetings and are generally open to the public.

The Community Boards represent and advocate on behalf of the interests of their communities, watch over Council services provided in their areas, deal with issues sent to them by the Council, and other matters of interest, and are responsible for some funding and projects within their areas.

The Council's planning cycle



The Local Government Act 2002 made changes to the way councils have to work with their communities. The Act sets out a clear purpose for local government – to promote their community's social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing. This means that the Council will be considering how everyone can work together to do the things that local communities think are important for their future.

The **Community Outcomes** process provides a way for the community to have its say about what it wants its city to be like in the future. The outcomes identified by the community will be used to guide the planning done by the Council and will inform central government and others about community needs. Once the outcomes are identified, which happens at least every six years, councils will show which outcomes they can contribute to and how they will do that.

Relationship of Community Outcomes to other Planning Documents and Processes

Over time, Community Outcomes will form the basis of Council planning and, it is expected, the planning of other agencies as well.

A simplified model is:

- Community identifies its desired outcomes;
Council decides what its role will be in furthering community outcomes, including aligning its policies and processes to achieve community outcomes.
- Council prepares business plans for the activities it intends to undertake, and publishes these for community consultation.
- Council carries out its planned activities and services.
- Council collaborates with other agencies to deliver community outcomes.
- Other agencies consider the community's desired outcomes, and consider how they can influence their own planning.

There is already a degree of alignment between the community outcomes and other Council planning documents and processes. The Council's significant policies, including its City Plan, are themselves the outcome of processes in which the community was involved. Submissions on these policies were included in the background research done when identifying the community outcomes. The outcomes may therefore be regarded as a high-level re-statement of principles included in other policies.

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The Long Term Council Community Plan gives a picture of all the things that a council does and how they fit together. The plan will show why the council is doing things, what the cost will be and what will be done over the 10-year period of the plan. The LTCCP is the main way people can influence what your council does. Every three years the community has a chance to share your views on this plan. The Annual Plan process continues but focuses on year-to-year budgets.

The Council's **Significance Policy** indicates when an issue is very important to the Council or community, and makes sure that the Council thinks very carefully about how it will consult you.

The **Annual Report** shows whether the Council has done what it said it was going to do in the LTCCP and what it has spent, as well as showing progress on achieving Community Outcomes.



Economic strength

The Council holds controlling stakes in a number of trading companies which form part of the city's key infrastructure – electricity delivery, the port and airport, public transport and general city facilities such as the Convention Centre, Jade Stadium and Westpac Centre. These are managed for the long-term benefit of the community and aim to help ensure a healthy regional economy. Together, these companies pay about \$30 million a year to the Council in dividends and so help reduce the Council's reliance on rates to fund its activities. Over the last 10 years, the companies have also paid to the Council more than \$600 million in special dividends and capital returns.

Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, the Council's investment arm, has been working with business and community leaders to consider the region's long-term infrastructural needs. The aim is to use this to test the effectiveness of current investments, spot possible gaps over the next 10-20 years, and as a tool for weighing up future investments.

The trading companies are run commercially, at arm's length from the Council. Details may be found on page 229. For more information, look online at www.ccc.govt.nz/ChristchurchCityHoldings

Through the Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC), the Council seeks to promote economic growth by attracting business to the city and offering a wide range of free services and advice to commercial and community organisations. It is working to ensure all the city's school leavers are going into work or on to further their education.

With its support of the regional tourism organization, Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing, the Council seeks to ensure tourism continues to play a positive, sustainable role in the local economy by boosting the numbers of visitors, their length of stay and how much they spend while here.