

EMBARGO: 2pm, 22 June

Putting the Strategy into Action

The signing of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (the Strategy) is a major milestone for the area's residents and the Strategy partners: Environment Canterbury, the Christchurch City Council, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils and Transit New Zealand.

It ends a three-year long consultation and development process started in 2004 due to rising concerns over the lack of collaborative planning and leadership to manage growth in Greater Christchurch in a sustainable way.

Background

Community consultation undertaken by these partners resulted in over 3,250 submissions on growth management options for Greater Christchurch. A Community Charter was then developed from feedback received, and provided the foundation for developing a detailed Urban Development Strategy, providing principles and a framework for implementation.

The purpose of the resulting Urban Development Strategy is to:

- provide the primary strategic direction for the Greater Christchurch area, including the location of future housing, development of social and retail activity centres, areas for new employment and integration with transport networks.
- a basis for all organisations (not just the Strategy partners) and the community to work collaboratively to manage growth.

What now?

With the signing of the adopted Strategy by each partner and its launch today in the presence of the Prime Minister, the honourable Helen Clark, the development process ends and a new, exciting phase of the Strategy begins. Now the partners must continue to work together to implement the Strategy.

Challenges ahead

The challenge for the Strategy partners and the community is to successfully implement the Strategy so that everyone in Greater Christchurch benefits from the community's investment in its future.

By adopting the Strategy, each partner has signalled their commitment to continue working collaboratively on key issues through the framework set out in the Strategy. On-going engagement, shared planning, and resourcing with Central Government is essential for successful implementation of the Strategy.

What's new?

An Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee (UDSIC) has been created to manage the implementation of the agreed actions by the Strategy partners, and coordinate and engage with other community organisations that have a role to play. The UDSIC includes representatives of each of the Strategy partners and Tangata Whenua. The key roles of the UDSIC are:

- to oversee the implementation of the Strategy,
- coordinate implementation across multiple agencies,
- monitor progress against milestones, and review and
- adjust the Strategy should circumstances change.

The UDSIC has appointed as its **Independent Chair, Bill Wasley** (pictured below), the former UDS Project



Leader – Governance. Mr Wasley will chair the Committee, which will meet monthly.

In addition, the existing UDS Forum that played such a crucial role in developing the Strategy will be given a new title and role to play in the implementation. **The Strategic Partners Forum**

(SPF) will consist of representatives from a broad cross-section of community, government and non-governmental agencies - drawn from the business, health, education, transport and other sectors. The SPF will be chaired by the UDSIC Independent Chair, Bill Wasley, and will meet bi-monthly. Key tasks for the SPF will be to act as a community monitor of the implementation process, raising issues, and providing feedback to the UDSIC.

The immediate priorities

Implementing the Strategy requires changes to a number of policy and legislative documents, and to the processes by which the partners plan and consult with their communities.

Getting these 'framework tools' in order is the first priority for the implementation of the Strategy. Many of the detailed actions rely upon these important, but largely unseen changes being made.

The partners will progressively roll out actions as resources allow, in consultation with their communities. The 20 top priority actions identified in the Strategy are:

1. Amend the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) to include a new chapter (12A) that outlines the settlement pattern agreed in the Strategy.
2. Establish the Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee (UDSIC), appoint an Independent Chair and Create a Strategic Partners Forum (SPF).
3. The UDSIC develops a programme of action to implement the Strategy.
4. Develop integrated transport and land use projects for the southwest and northern motorway corridors, funded with Central Government.
5. Align Council Long Term Council Community plans around timing for developing infrastructure to support growth.
6. Councils to amend District and City plans to reflect the changes to the RPS (Chapter 12A) to support the settlement pattern with activity centres, urban development and transport networks.
7. Amend the Regional Land Transport Strategy to reflect transport goals of the Strategy.
8. Develop a communications programme to keep residents informed about the Strategy.
9. Implement the Christchurch Central City Revitalisation Strategy by providing information and incentives for increasing the number of people living in the central city.
10. Establish a dedicated city revitalisation agency to develop and administer programmes.
11. Develop Business Land Management Strategy to define role and function of business areas.
12. Establish a realistic budget for providing the necessary infrastructure along with identifying sources of funding and any shortfalls.
13. Develop an integrated programme for monitoring demographic, social, economic and environmental change and development activity to measure the outcomes of implementing the Strategy.
14. Align partners' administrative processes to support implementation of the Strategy.
15. Research affordable housing options including increasing social housing and partnerships with

developers, and monitor supply and demand for affordable housing in the area.

16. Develop an Urban Design Strategy to establish principles of good design to protect and enhance the character and diversity of communities.

17. Prepare Outline Development Plans for new development areas (Greenfield) and intensification areas, and identify existing re-development (Brownfield) areas.

18. Prepare Integrated Catchment Management Plans (ICMP) for surface water management.

19. Develop a community engagement programme to develop awareness and understanding of the issues to enable community agreement and participation.

20. UDSIC to produce an Implementation Plan every three years as a basis for detailed growth management and work with partner and agencies to implement the required actions.

The journey to a Greater Christchurch begins here

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