



## The 10 year plan . . . it's a process

**The theme for this issue of the UDS newsletter is the local government 10-year-plan process, how it works, and how it leads to real decision-making and real improvements in our lifestyle and environment.**

The Local Government Act 2002 (Section 93: Long-term council community plan) requires a local authority to have a long-term council community plan (LTCCP) in effect at all times. A long-term plan must cover a period of 10 consecutive financial years although it is prepared every three years. This allows a local authority to take a long-term view while enabling it to adjust for constantly changing financial factors and keep its accounting and budgets up-to-date.

The LTCCP must:

- Describe a local authority's activities
- Describe its community outcomes
- Provide integrated decision-making and co-ordination of a local authority's resources
- Provide a long-term focus for its decisions and activities
- Provide an opportunity for participation by the public the decision-making processes

During the intervening years, a local authority prepares a much simplified annual plan.

## CCC long term plan gets sign off

The Christchurch City Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 (LTCCP) was signed-off at the beginning of this month after more than a year of workshops and meetings between Councillors and staff.

This follows a six week-long consultation process, during which 1300 submissions were received, and public hearings held before elected members last month. The final plan came into effect on 1 July.

From 1 August copies of the final plan will be available from Council libraries and service centres and online at [www.ccc.govt.nz/Ltccp/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Ltccp/)

## Bringing alive the 35-year vision

Plans, projects and strategies being implemented by the five UDS partners will be highlighted in *Greater Christchurch - there is a plan, we're on our way*, a multi-media exhibition opening in Christchurch next month showcasing the 35-year plan.

The exhibition in the first instance will invite people to step back in time, and think about how the results of some past urban planning, considered to be overly ambitious at the time, are now accepted as part of the fabric of Christchurch.

Visitors might be astonished by what used to be the city's rural boundary during the Victorian era, and could find a fresh perspective on parts of Christchurch that were planned and developed between the 1930s and 1970s, but are taken for granted today.

## LTCCP: Urban growth and central city revitalisation

In the LTCCP 2009-2019 the Christchurch City Council is supporting key UDS action points by investing in new community facilities, open spaces, infrastructure and transport systems to service growth areas.

Christchurch's central city revitalisation is a key goal for the Council. Encouraging more people to live within the four avenues, renovating open spaces and public areas, protecting heritage and promoting business in the centre of the city are all key to the Council's strategy to build a stronger Christchurch.

Over the next 10 years the Council is proposing a budget of:

- \$2.8m for urban renewal in the central city
- \$5.8m for the continuation of the City Mall Revitalisation
- \$11.5m over five years for the extension of the tram along Oxford Terrace, City Mall, High Street and Colombo Street

These investments will help the city achieve some of its key community outcomes such as being a safe city and an attractive and well-designed city.



Installations, listening posts and interactive displays will bring the strategy off the page and into real life, providing examples of projects and issues in and around greater Christchurch.

These diversely include central city revitalisation, school travel plans, the Rangiora district centre development, art in public places, and the Styx Vision.

- *Greater Christchurch - there is a plan, we're on our way*, Our City O-Tautahi, corner Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace, 22 September-24 October, 10am-4pm, Monday-Saturday. Admission is free.

# Warmer homes, cleaner air

Residents of Greater Christchurch can look forward to warmer winters in future, thanks to the Government's insulation and heating package, confirmed by Prime Minister, John Key in Christchurch in mid June.

The Government funding package will be made available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) from July and Environment Canterbury's Clean Heat Project has been approved as a provider of energy efficiency installations.

The original proposal in the council's draft long term plan had been to restrict full financial assistance in Christchurch to those householders that qualified for the Government's rates rebate scheme. The criteria to date for full assistance has been the community services card alone, a larger group of people.

The landlord assistance subsidy was also to reduce from 40% to 33%. These changes were proposed in order to reduce the overall cost of the scheme to Christchurch ratepayers.

However thanks to the new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) funding, householders who have a community services card but do not qualify for the rates rebate scheme, will be eligible for a sizeable subsidy. The new Energy Efficiency incentives are now as follows:

- 60% of the cost of approved energy efficiency measures, plus \$1200 towards an approved appliance, where the homeowner has a community services card
- 60% of the cost of approved energy efficiency measures, plus \$500 towards an approved appliance, where the property is a rental property and the tenant has a community services card
- 33% of the cost of approved energy efficiency measures up to maximum subsidy of \$1300, plus \$500 towards an approved appliance
- AS an alternative to the subsidies on offer above, the homeowner may choose to take up the Clean Heat Loan, with the EECA subsidies funding the cost of the interest on the loan.

Insulation is the key to warmer, drier homes and insulation in the ceiling space makes the most difference, reducing heat loss significantly, making homes warmer, drier, cheaper to heat and more energy efficient.

Both ceiling and underfloor insulation can usually be installed without any building work and both are covered under the government's scheme. Once homes are insulated "top and bottom", householders are also eligible for grants towards clean heating.

Under cold, calm, winter conditions, air pollution from home heating becomes trapped and can cause serious health problems. Recent changes to air quality rules mean that open fires and older, more polluting solid fuel burners will be banned during winter in Christchurch from 1 April 2010 and in Kaiapoi all year round from 1 May 2011. Rangiora is expected to follow suit.

"Environment Canterbury pioneered Clean Heat in Christchurch five years ago in response to concern about air quality and the project has since expanded to a number of Canterbury towns, including Kaiapoi and Rangiora," said Environment Canterbury chairman Sir Kerry Burke.

"Around 14,000 households have benefited already but we need that many again to change in Christchurch. Kaiapoi and Rangiora will need 3600 households to change. The Government package means many more than that will be eligible for help, which bodes well for healthier winter air region-wide."

The Clean Heat Project currently provides assistance for insulation and clean heating for homes heated with open fires and solid fuel burners in Christchurch, Rangiora and Kaiapoi. Now it will be able to help a wider range of people to access the new funding package, starting with Christchurch residents living in homes built before the year 2000.

"Christchurch will be the first to reap the rewards of the new EECA funding, with to Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council working together to assist people in making their homes healthier and more comfortable. This Government package provides even more reason for people to take that first step."

For details of the Government insulation and heating package, visit [www.eeca.govt.nz](http://www.eeca.govt.nz).

Clean Heat operates all year long. To find out more, visit the Clean Heat website at [www.cleanheat.org.nz](http://www.cleanheat.org.nz).



## New southern motorway storm water run-off options

Features will be incorporated into the new Christchurch Southern Motorway to help improve ecology and minimise the environmental impacts of road storm-water runoff.

Construction on the first stage of the motorway is expected to start in March 2010.

One of the recent studies carried out by the New Zealand Transport Agency in preparation of resource consents for this project involved assessing the environmental impacts of storm water run off during the construction of the motorway and longer term, once it is operational. The study identified that storm-water run off from the new Southern Motorway should not have major impacts on the surrounding environment, if it's adequately treated onsite prior to it being discharged.

The design for managing storm run off from the new motorway takes a best practical option for treating and disposing of storm-water run off. One of these options is expected involve the use of swales. These are specially designed channels that collect

and treat storm-water and are widely used on the state highway network. Swales would help ensure adequate pre-treatment of storm-water from the new motorway. Only after large rainfall events would storm-water enter waterways as in the first instance it will discharge to ground. Once in streams the storm-water would eventually enter the Heathcote River and Halswell River. However, with the pre-treatment the of the new southern motor way storm-water there should be no detrimental impacts on the rivers.

The installation of larger culverts than those currently used under the motorway will make it easier for fish to swim upstream. The final design of these culverts will be signed off by a qualified aquatic ecologist. Improved management of storm-water is a key approach to integrated land use and infrastructure under the UDS.

*The existing Halswell Junction Road storm-water basin will be extended as part of the motorway project. The bigger basin will also cater for additional development in the area.*



## Indoor pools - Selwyn takes the plunge

Heated pools were the hottest LTCCP topic in Selwyn District this year.

Selwyn District has no indoor pools. Half its households go to Christchurch to swim - on average, 9.4 times a year. But, as the population grows, more people want a local indoor pool.

In response, the draft LTCCP proposed not one but two indoor pool centres. Both would be in the UDS part of the district – a \$6 million facility at Lincoln and an \$8 million one at Rolleston.

Each would have a main pool and assorted smaller pools as well as recreation or exercise facilities. They would be funded by a distance-based rate which would be highest (\$200) near the pools and lowest (\$25) 30 or more kilometres away.

The Council made a special effort to publicise the proposal and get wide feedback on it. This drew 329 submissions, more than on any other LTCCP topic. The Council also surveyed 500 randomly-selected households.

Four out of five residents (80%) saw an indoor pool as a medium or high priority. A similar number wanted it built soon, but most (60%) wanted only one pool centre, at Rolleston. Some also felt that the pool design should be simpler and cheaper.

Two thirds (66%) were happy to pay extra rates for an indoor pool (ranging from 10 cents to \$10), but half disagreed with the rating system as proposed. Some wanted a more gently graded rate, others a flat rate, and still others a user-pays system.

Taking all this on board, the Council has voted “in principle” to build an indoor pool at Rolleston. Before it starts building, the Council will review the design, location and funding options and seek public comment on a revised proposal. This will take place next year as part of the consultation on the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan.



*Half of all Selwyn households drive to Christchurch to use a swimming pool.*



## Park-and-ride part of the plan

The tenets of the Urban Development Strategy are enshrined in the Waimakariri District Council's Ten Year Plan and its influence is apparent throughout.

Given the high percentage of Waimakariri residents who commute to and from Christchurch daily by car, and the relatively low rates of use of alternative, more sustainable modes of travel, the Council has given significant support to schemes which encourage these alternatives. One such is the Park-and-Ride scheme.

The Waimakariri District Council carries out a customer satisfaction survey every three years. In the last survey, a series of options was offered on changing arrangements for travelling to work, as a means of reducing fuel costs.

Of those surveyed, only 1% of respondents said they were using a Park-and-Ride system of commuting to Christchurch. However 21% said that they were considering such a scheme given continuing rising fuel costs. The survey was carried out in 2007

The Council has made provision for Park-and-Ride of \$515,000 in both of the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 financial years. The budget provides for the Park-and-Ride scheme on a more formalised basis. This could include the possible purchase of land, the creation of parking areas at Park-and-Ride terminals, and security for both people and vehicles.

Indications are that informal park-and-ride arrangements are already being used by people living in the District and working in Christchurch, and that the system is experiencing some growth. People are travelling to Rangiora, the eastern end of Tram Road or Bridge End in particular, parking their cars, and travelling the rest of the way in to Christchurch by bus. The Council will be monitoring the incidence of, and any changes in, the popularity of mode share for travel to work as recorded in the Census.

The move by the Council to support the Park-and-Ride scheme underscores its commitment to both the Urban Development Strategy and its own ratepayer-defined community outcome of accessible, convenient, reliable, affordable and sustainable transport systems.

### A 35-year plan

The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy is a 35-year plan for growth in Greater Christchurch. The theme of integrated land use, infrastructure and funding underpins much of the strategy and associated implementation actions.

The UDS partners are the Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council, and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

For more information go to [www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/](http://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/)

## All go for new ticketing system

A new ticketing system that allows people to load credit on to their Metrocard by internet is being introduced by Environment Canterbury on buses throughout the Canterbury region and on the Diamond Harbour Ferry. It will be phased in over the next financial year and will be seamless for bus and ferry users who will be able to continue to use their existing Metrocard.

Other Environment Canterbury transport decisions arising from LTCCP process included widening the rating base for public transport targeted rates from the Diamond Harbour side of Lyttelton Harbour, spreading the costs of the ferry and connecting bus services across a wider area of potential users. A new targeted rate is also planned for Selwyn District Metro services.

Referring to the new ticketing system, Environment Canterbury Public Passenger Transport Committee Chair, Councillor Carole Evans says "It'll be great to be able to offer more flexibility and added convenience for customers. It will also provide better quality information about bus usage. Good information helps us anticipate and plan for public transport needs, now and into the future", said Councillor Evans.

The new ticketing system will provide state of the art technology, allowing customers to load credit onto their Metrocard via the internet, by EFTPOS or at a dedicated machine at the bus exchange.

Improving and expanding public transport networks across Greater Christchurch is a key action point under the UDS.



## What's happening?

- *Greater Christchurch - there is a plan, we're on our way*, Our City O-Tautahi, corner Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace, 22 September-24 October, 10am-4pm, Monday-Saturday. Admission is free.
- Christchurch Arts Festival, Winter Garden and other venues around the city, Cathedral Square, 23 July-9 August [www.artsfestival.co.nz/](http://www.artsfestival.co.nz/)