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# Major Initiatives

The Council carried out consultation on seven major initiatives as part of the LTCCP process. The final decisions are outlined below.

## **Early learning centres**

The Council is to offer for sale its Tuam Street Early Learning Centre but keep the QEII Pre-School and Pioneer Early Learning Centre – though outsourcing their operation. The purchaser of the Tuam Street Early Learning Centre will have the option of removing the building when the site is required for development as outlined in the Council's Central City South Master Plan. In deciding to outsource the QEII and Pioneer services, Councillors included the requirement that some casual places remain available for centre users.

## **Christchurch Town Hall**

In order to create efficiencies in both cost and time, the Council agreed to transfer ownership of the Christchurch Town Hall to Vbase Limited (a wholly-owned Council subsidiary). The Council noted that the Vbase Statement of Intent would be amended to provide for the transaction and ongoing obligations, and that the matter would be brought back to the Council for it to approve the Statement of Intent.

## **Tram extension**

The Council approved the proposed extension of the city tram route, with the first stage as far as the corner of High and Tuam streets to be completed in time for the Rugby World Cup 2011. It also confirmed funding for the second stage of the extension along High Street and Ferry Road to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the Music Centre of Christchurch and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) to be completed by the summer of 2013. Funding of \$11.5 million will be set aside in the LTCCP to achieve this. A map showing the route of the tram may be found below.

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#### **Edgware pool site**

The Council will sell part of the former Edgware Road pool site by public tender. The site will be sold in its current condition. Proceeds from the sale of the land will be put towards the development of a community centre in the area. The portion of the site that houses infrastructure for the city's water supply will be retained by the Council, as will an area accessed off Trafalgar Street, which will be available to be developed as a community garden.

#### **Infrastructure charitable trust**

The Council adopted the proposal to establish a trust, to be called the Civic and Community Trust, that would enable companies and/or individuals to make tax deductible donations to the Council that can then be used to pay for the cost of providing infrastructure in the Council's district.

#### **Christchurch Agency for Energy**

The Council resolved to establish the Christchurch Agency for Energy as a charitable trust for the purposes of implementing the Sustainable Energy Strategy for Christchurch 2008-18 action plan and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in Christchurch.

#### **Community grants**

The Christchurch City Council gives around \$28 million a year in rates funded grants to the community. As a result of consultation on the draft LTCCP, the Council will phase in a \$1.5 million reduction to its grants funding over two years. The funding reduction is aimed at keeping rates increases down and having the cost of administering grants come from the grants fund itself, rather than from the Council's general operating expenses. The full \$1.5 million reduction was to have taken effect in the 2009/10 year, but the two-step change was decided in response to submissions made to the Council.

A summary of the rates funded grants may be found at the end of Community Support in the section on Council activities and services.

Christchurch City Council

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