

Democracy and Governance



What activities are included in democracy and governance?

City governance and decision making

- Elected member governance and decision-making
- Staff support for, and advice to, elected members

Public participation in democratic processes

- Council holds elections
- Provide consultation policy framework and advice on implementation
- Provide opportunities for public participation in decision-making processes

Why is the Council involved in democracy and governance?

- Elected members receive advice and support to enable them to provide strong leadership for, and make good decisions on behalf of, Christchurch.
- Public participation supports informed decision-making and helps ensure that decision-making reflects community views.

How does democracy and governance contribute to our community outcomes?

The Council provides leadership on issues affecting the community

- Delivering comprehensive, timely and consistent information and advice to elected members of Council and community boards enables them to make informed decisions and take leadership on issues affecting the community.

Decisions are transparent and informed by timely, accurate and robust information and advice

- Delivering information and providing logistic support for councillors and community board members enables them to carry out their functions, duties and powers.
- Adhering to prescribed governance and decision-making practices ensures that decision-making is transparent.
- Recording decisions, communicating them and monitoring actions ensures that decisions are given effect to within the Council organisation.

Statutory obligations are met by the Council

- Council makes decisions, following processes that take into account all legislative requirements, Council policy and granted delegations, thereby meeting its statutory obligations.

Maori have opportunities and the capacity to contribute to decision-making processes

- Providing and developing appropriate liaison processes enables Maori to take opportunities to participate in Council decision-making on issues of mutual interest.

Decisions take account of community views

- Undertaking comprehensive and accessible consultation processes supports the Council taking into account community views in its decision-making and explain the reasons for their decisions to submitters.

People are actively involved in their communities and local issues

- Providing accessible information and opportunities to find out forthcoming Council decision-making and elections promotes community interest in local

issues. Providing submitters with feedback on Council decisions supports greater understanding in the community about Council decision-making.

The Council's goals and activities are clearly communicated to the community

- Consultation processes provide a means for informing the community about the goals that the Council is aiming to achieve and proposed activities for achieving them. These processes also involve communicating decisions on activities following Council consideration of community views.

The special position of Ngāi Tahu is recognised

- Partnering with Ngāi Tahu to provide Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd services recognises the special position that Ngāi Tahu has in Council decision-making.

What changes are planned for democracy and governance?

Measures and services will continue as for previous years.

What negative effects or risks can occur in relation to democracy and governance?

Negative Effects

Interest groups may dominate a decision-making process.

Poor voter turnout.

Mitigation Options

Wider consultation with options of support for those who do not speak English.

Make information on voting available through various channels.

Council Activities and Services

Democracy and Governance

Activity	What is the Council trying to achieve?	What services will the Council offer to make this happen?	How would we know these services were successful?	Target
City governance and decision-making	The Council provides leadership on issues affecting the community Decisions are transparent and informed by timely, accurate and robust information and advice Statutory obligations are met by the Council	Effective governance and decision-making by elected members	Percentage of residents that understand how Council makes decisions Measure	At least a certain percentage of residents understand how Council makes decisions
			Percentage of residents that feel the public has some or a large influence on the decisions the Council makes	At least a certain percentage of residents feel the public has some or a large influence on the decisions the Council makes
			Proportion of residents that are satisfied with the opportunities to access information about Council decisions.	At least a certain proportion of residents are satisfied with the opportunities to access information about Council decisions.
			Percentage of residents satisfied that the Council makes decisions in the best interests of Christchurch	At least a certain percentage of residents are satisfied that the Council makes decisions in the best interests of Christchurch
			Council and community board decisions comply with statutory requirements	Percent of Council and community board decisions comply with statutory requirements
Public participation in democratic processes	Maori have opportunities and the capacity to contribute to decision-making processes Decisions take account of community views People are actively involved in their communities and local issues The Council's goals and activities are clearly communicated to the community The special position of Ngāi Tahu is recognised	Council holds elections	All elections, polls, and representation reviews are held with full statutory compliance with relevant legislation	All elections, polls, and representation reviews are held with full statutory compliance with relevant legislation
		Provide consultation policy framework and advice on implementation	Percentage of residents that feel they can participate in and contribute to Council decision making	At least a certain percentage of residents feel they can participate in and contribute to Council decision making
			Submitters are advised of decision(s) made by the Council	100%

Council Activities and Services

Democracy and Governance

Current Performance	Planned performance		
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
2008: 31.5% 2009: 38% (Quality of Life Survey) 2010: 37% 2011: not surveyed 2012: 34%	At least 40%	Maintain	Maintain
2009: 58% (Quality of Life Survey) 2010: 38% 2011: not surveyed 2012: 39%	At least 55%	Maintain	Maintain
2010: 41% 2011: not surveyed 2012: 38%	At least 40%	Maintain	Maintain
2008: 48% 2009: 41% 2010: 47% 2011: not surveyed 2012: 37%	At least 48%	Maintain	Maintain
100%	100%	Maintain	Maintain
100%	100%	Maintain	Maintain
2010: 45% (Quality of Life Survey)	At least 46%	Maintain	Maintain
100%	100%	Maintain	Maintain

Council Activities and Services

Democracy and Governance

Annual Plan 2012/13		Three Year Plan 2013 - 2016		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		\$000		
	Cost of proposed services			
9,623	City Governance and Decision-making	9,315	9,785	9,717
2,894	Public Participation in Democratic Processes	4,233	3,101	3,189
12,517		13,548	12,886	12,906
	Operating revenue from proposed services			
-	City Governance and Decision-making	-	-	-
-	Public Participation in Democratic Processes	350	-	-
-		350	-	-
-	Vested assets	-	-	-
12,517	Net cost of services	13,198	12,886	12,906

Rationale for activity funding (see also the Revenue and Financing Policy)

There are few opportunities for direct revenue from these activities. The balance of the net operating cost is funded by general rates, as the whole community benefits from these activities.

Council Activities and Services

Democracy and Governance Funding Impact Statement

Annual Plan 2012/13		Three Year Plan 2013 - 2016		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		\$000		
	Sources of operating funding			
12,517	General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	13,198	12,886	12,906
-	- Targeted rates	-	-	-
-	- Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	-	-	-
-	- Fees and charges	350	-	-
-	- Internal charges and overheads recovered	-	-	-
-	- Earthquake recoveries	-	-	-
-	- Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	-	-	-
12,517	Total operating funding	13,548	12,886	12,906
	Applications of operating funding			
11,846	Payments to staff and suppliers	12,725	12,127	12,153
-	- Finance costs	-	-	-
627	Internal charges and overheads applied	779	715	709
44	Other operating funding applications	44	44	44
12,517	Total applications of operating funding	13,548	12,886	12,906
-	Surplus (deficit) of operating funding	-	-	-
	Sources of capital funding			
-	- Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	-	-
-	- Development and financial contributions	-	-	-
-	- Earthquake recoveries	-	-	-
-	- Increase (decrease) in debt	-	-	-
-	- Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	-
-	- Lump sum contributions	-	-	-
-	Total sources of capital funding	-	-	-

Annual Plan 2012/13		Three Year Plan 2013 - 2016		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		\$000		
	Applications of capital funding			
	Capital expenditure			
-	- to replace existing assets	-	-	-
-	- earthquake rebuild	-	-	-
-	- to improve the level of service	-	-	-
-	- to meet additional demand	-	-	-
-	- Increase (decrease) in reserves	-	-	-
-	- Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-
-	Total applications of capital funding	-	-	-
-	Surplus (deficit) of capital funding	-	-	-
-	Funding balance	-	-	-
	Reconciliation to net cost of services			
-	Surplus (deficit) of operating funding from funding impact statement	-	-	-
(12,517)	Remove rates funding	(13,198)	(12,886)	(12,906)
-	- Deduct depreciation expense	-	-	-
-	- Add capital revenues	-	-	-
-	- Add vested assets / non cash revenue	-	-	-
(12,517)	Net cost of services per activity statement surplus/(deficit)	(13,198)	(12,886)	(12,906)