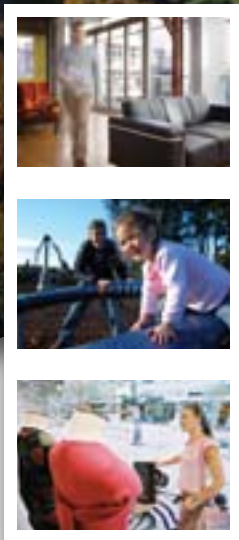


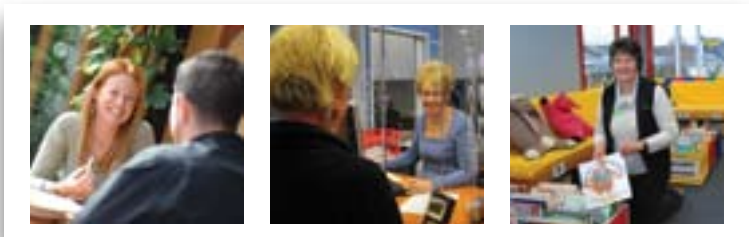
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## Introduction



*Aerial view of Christchurch - looking east over Hagley Park*





### **What is the Annual Report?**

The Annual Report 2008 sets out what the Christchurch City Council did in the past year, why we did those things, how much they cost, and how we paid for them.

This report shows how the Christchurch City Council is delivering on the promises made to our community – promises made after asking Christchurch residents what they want for their city as part of our long-term planning process.

The report shows the Council's overall financial position and performance as measured by its achievement against its financial Key Performance Indicators.





## Message from the Mayor and the Chief Executive

It is a pleasure in my first year as Mayor to present the Council's Annual Report for the 2008 financial year with our Chief Executive Tony Marryatt.

This Annual Report sets out what we achieved in the past year, compared to what we said we would do.

The first eight months in office for the new Council was a time of bedding down new systems and establishing working relationships, building on past achievements and launching several exciting new projects.

Every year, we as a Council must measure our performance. To be successful, we must ensure our promises are delivered, our goals met and our responsibilities fulfilled. We finished the 2008 year in a strong position with a \$40.2 million accounting surplus, which after adjusting for capital receipts and non cash items leaves a cash surplus of \$2.9 million. This cash surplus will reduce our rates requirement through lower borrowing requirements in future years.

This report shows that we have delivered on nearly 85% of the service delivery targets which we set in our 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan. There are several highlights, one being the increase in visitor numbers of our Art Gallery which has staged some excellent exhibitions in the past year.

Our purchase of the Ellerslie International Flower Show, which will be held in Christchurch for the first time in March 2009, is a great coup for the city. The internationally regarded event will draw visitors from around the country and around the world to our fabulous garden city.

Keeping the rates low does not, however, mean a drop in service. In last year's Annual Plan, we set out many goals for the year, including the promise we would maintain our service standards, invest more money in events and festivals and address the big issues such as planning for the future by increasing our resources in developing our City Plan to meet current and future demands.

We've continued to pursue our goal of becoming a world-class city, with a focus on the revitalisation of our Central City. Upgrading the City Mall, where we have opened a second work front to ensure the project meets its time frame, extending our world-famous tramway and assisting in the development of our unique lanes for hospitality and shopping in the City are all part of a greater plan for development in the region.

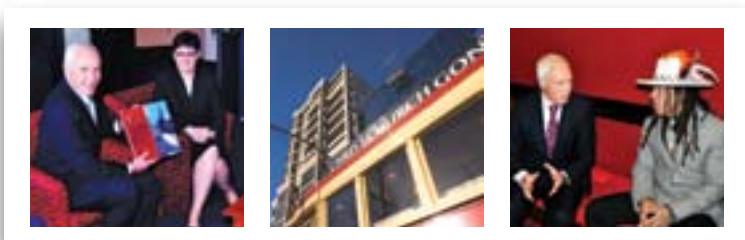
They fall under the banner of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy – a partnership between neighbouring local authorities in our region and Transit New Zealand. This strategy is steering growth in Canterbury and guides our city's diverse development plans.

Council invested \$209.3 million in capital works in the 2008 financial year. This winter's bad weather has plagued one of our major projects the Ocean Outfall, but the contractors are confident that if conditions improve in spring, the pipeline will be commissioned on time in early 2009. In spite of increases in the cost of construction materials, this project has remained on budget.

Work continued on the redevelopment of the Jellie Park complex during the year, while Council decided the pool at the Graham Condon Leisure Centre to be built in Papanui will be extended from six to eight lanes.

Another project that came to fruition was the Whakahoia Village, a housing complex in Gowerton Place. This Council, the second largest landlord in the country behind Housing New Zealand, is proud of its record in social housing and is committed to continuing with this.

Banks Peninsula has now been part of Christchurch City since 2006. Residents in this part of our region are seeing the benefits of this amalgamation through our extensive programme of road maintenance, replacing bridges, new jetties and slipways and upgrading domains.



## Message from the Mayor and the Chief Executive



As a Council, we put strong emphasis on our standards of service and I am pleased to report an overall increase in satisfaction with Council services, according to our latest biannual residents' survey.

In the survey, conducted in March 2008, 79% of respondents indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of the Christchurch City Council in delivering its services. This is a 4% increase over the survey conducted in September 2007.

The results are very encouraging. As an organisation it is important we deliver services to the level expected by ratepayers. This survey highlights that we are very much on track in many areas. Of course, we will keep a close eye on the areas of most concern to our residents, such as traffic congestion.

Improving the safety of our city is paramount. One of the first issues this Council faced was a city being held to ransom by the illegal antics of boyracers. Within our limited powers we imposed traffic bans in the worst affected areas. We continue to meet regularly with the police and fully support their endeavours to tackle this problem, while lobbying Government to reduce the allowable noise levels of cars. As a Council we are also promoting initiatives to reduce alcohol consumption in the Central City, while investments to improve safety going forward include increasing the number of crime cameras in the Central City.

Council staff are already working on our next Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19, which sets out a 10-year plan for our city, based on the values of our community and the vision of our Council.

Our Community Plan allows us to map our future direction and ensure our city reaches its full potential; through this process we can incorporate the wants and needs of our community into our activities and services so the outcome is a better Christchurch for everyone.

As well as keeping up our core business responsibilities, our long-term plan includes several major projects. To name just a few, we will undertake the development of our new Civic Building, introduce a cutting-edge kerbside waste collection system that will significantly reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill, and redevelop the city's busy Bus Exchange, moving it to a new, much larger location.

I would like to thank all the staff who have contributed to our achievements over the past year and who are already planning for our future.



**Bob Parker** - Mayor



**Tony Marrayatt** - Chief Executive



## Statement of compliance and responsibility

### Compliance

The Council and management of the Christchurch City Council confirm that all the statutory requirements of section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002 have been complied with.

### Responsibility

The Council and management of the Christchurch City Council accept responsibility for the preparation of the annual Financial Statements and the judgements used in them.

The Council and management of the Christchurch City Council accept responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In the opinion of the Council and management of the Christchurch City Council, the annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 fairly reflect the financial position and operations.

Bob Parker - Mayor

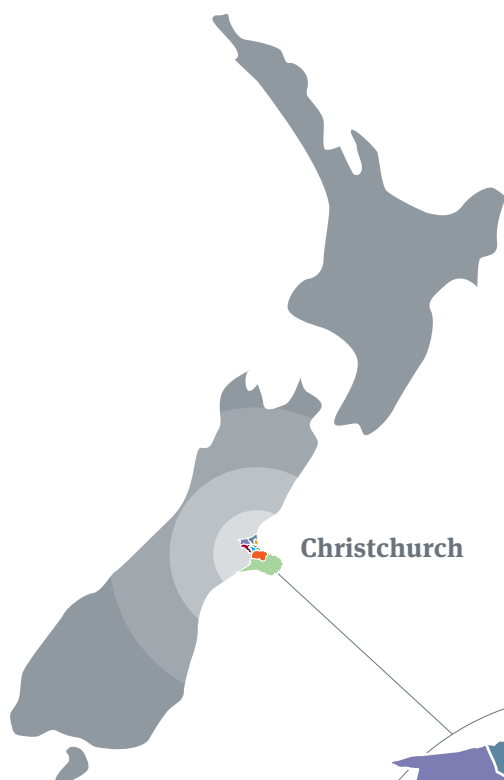
16 October 2008

Tony Marrayatt - Chief Executive

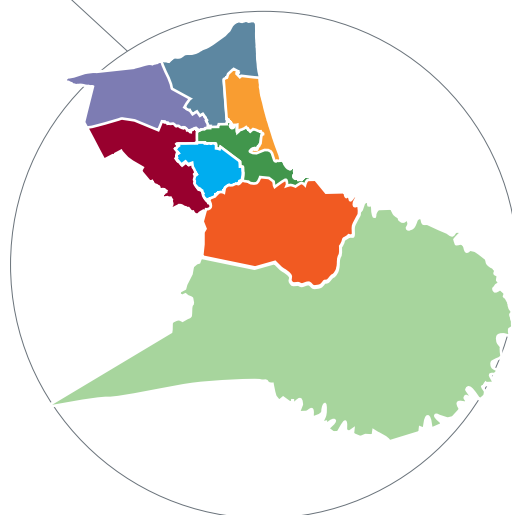
16 October 2008



## Christchurch at a glance



Christchurch



Community Boards

- Fendalton - Waimairi
- Riccarton - Wigram
- Spreydon - Heathcote
- Shirley - Papanui
- Burwood - Pegasus
- Hagley - Ferrymead
- Akaroa - Wairewa
- Lyttelton - Mt Herbert

Christchurch is a bustling urban centre, bounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Alps. Residents and visitors enjoy the excitement of city life in an environment that offers a myriad of recreation choices close at hand – from mountain biking in the Port Hills to relaxing at the beach. Christchurch truly is a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Known as the Garden City, Christchurch residents value their parks and open spaces. The most significant is Hagley Park: 165 hectares of wide-open spaces and mature woodlands which has been in the heart of the city since the 1850s.

Christchurch is also known as the gateway to New Zealand's South Island. Christchurch International Airport saw more than 5.6 million travellers in 2007, and more than 1,100 ships carrying passengers, cars, coal and other bulk cargo came to our shores through Lyttelton Port last year.

### Snapshot of the city

Population	365,700 people live in Christchurch
Diversity	Christchurch is home to 160 ethnicities, speaking 104 languages
Employment	342,900 people are in paid employment in the city
House prices	The average house price in Christchurch is \$359,600
Recreation	Christchurch has 339 playgrounds, 100 sports parks, 37 garden and heritage parks and 81 riverbank parks, totalling around 6,326 hectares
Transport	Christchurch has more than 2,000 kilometres of roads, 2,300 kilometres of footpaths and 58 kilometres of on-road cycleways

\* Source: Statistics New Zealand Christchurch City Quarterly Review March 2008