

Christchurch Youth Council

Christchurch City Council Long Term Plan Submission



Introduction

The Christchurch Youth Council (Rūnaka Taiohi o Ōtautahi) is dedicated to advocating for a strong youth voice in Christchurch. We aim to provide young people with the avenue to have their say. We aim to create a community where the youth voice is as valued as all others in the community. Imagine every big conversation about Christchurch's future having a young person around the table: that's our dream!

Our kaupapa is to:

- 1) Advocate, support and strive for a stronger voice for young people.
- 2) Engage and promote the ideas of active citizenship and participation in order to encourage young people to contribute to their communities.
- 3) Create space and a positive environment to allow young people to speak about, and be involved with issues affecting them.
- 4) Foster networks and build relationships with decision makers in order to influence change for young people.

Youth Engagement Workshop - Decisions for the Decade

The Christchurch Youth Council worked with Kaitlyn White, the Engagement Support Student at the Christchurch City Council to hold a youth engagement workshop, 'Decisions for the Decade' on Thursday the 4th April at the Mayor's Lounge at the Central Christchurch City Council Building. This event was open to all youth and we were pleased with our turnout of 42 young people along to the evening.

At the event we had talks from Katy McRae from the engagement team about the submission process, before splitting into groups to workshop aspects of the plan. Each group was provided with an information sheet taken from the long term plan with some questions to think about.

We then had the young people participate in a budgeting exercise in which each young person had \$100 of Monopoly money to distribute to each of the aspects of the plan that we focussed on (see topics below).

We then had an opportunity for young people to ask councillors questions, and mix and mingle with their elected officials. Although we do not cover this aspect in the submission we would like to note that the feedback from the young people on this was very positive. Many young people let us know that this was the first time they had spoken to or met an elected official or the Mayor. We would like to recognise the efforts of all that took the time to come and support the young people. We felt that this helped contribute to such valuable engagement from the young people.

Submission Content

This feedback gathered in the workshops and the budgeting exercise have been taken by CYC and collated to form this submission.

From the workshops we have covered the following topics;

1. Transport
 - a. Public Transport
 - b. Cycleways
 - c. An accessible city
 - d. Street Lighting
 - e. Road Repairs
2. Parks
3. Heritage
4. Community Facilities
5. Water
 - a. Water Quality
 - c. Stormwater and Flood Protection
6. Alternative Funding and Rates

We have then briefly outlined and discussed the budgeting exercise.

Please be aware that the content of this submission is based on the discussions had at the engagement exercise, as well as conclusions drawn from the young people in the Christchurch Youth Council. We are not representative of all of the young people in Christchurch. Young people in Christchurch may disagree with the statements made throughout this submission, we would expect and value this as no two people have the same voice or opinion.

1.Transport

For the event we split transport into five sections; Street lighting, an accessible city, road repairs, public transport and cycleways.

a. Public transport

From the consultation, the young people liked having a transfers via metrocard without an additional cost. They also liked that there are alternative methods of getting around Christchurch and felt that this allowed them to not have to walk very far.

Issues that the young people identified were largely surrounding the bus system in Christchurch. In particular the 107 and the 108 are both being cut and considering that both routes go through Bishopdale and Northwood the young people would like you to consider the possibility of combining these routes. Rush hour services in Rolleston, Lincoln etc. are still heavily delayed despite bus lane introduction. The young people felt that in future they would like to see a passenger train running in particular from Rangiora and would like to see the introduction of high speed rail and a central point in the city to board these busses such as the old Science Alive building. If this idea went ahead the young people believes that a Metro Card should be able to be used when boarding the vehicle. Another major issue that was identified was cutting the bus routes used by students i.e got rid of Westmorland School bus 2 years ago and now proposing cutting general bus service. The young people believed that integrated public transport is important and making methods of transport easier to use with bikes e.g having more bike stops at bus stops etc. The young people felt that the maintenance of the bus stops was an issue, in particular the electronic time not working, young people often found themselves at a bus stop without data you cannot get real time data of how far away a bus is. Solutions to this included; wifi at bus stops to check the Next Bus page, better funding for the timers, replacing the basic timers with a better model that doesn't break as often and is more reliable.

There were many things that the young people identified as needing improvement in public transport. They felt that the quality of windows on all buses needed to improve as well as more regular bus services. They felt that monthly or weekly unlimited passes for Christchurch transit or tourists was a good way to allow tourists to use public transport without having to purchase a metrocard. The young people thought that we could use our unique tram network more efficiently and as a mode of transport rather than just for a tourist attraction. Another issue was fares for university aged young people to be more affordable. At the moment the price doubles from when you turn 18 and the attendees recognised a need for there to be a fare that is in the middle range.

The young people at the workshop had a large amount of support for CCC to take control of the bus system again. And there was an overwhelming need to improve the bus system as for young people that is often their main mode of transport.

b. Cycleways

Most of the young people in the workshop were super excited for the completion of cycleways around Christchurch and wished for this to be encouraged. They liked that the cycle ways were safe as they are highlighted in green, have separate signal lights, and are raised however they wished to see more done to make these cycleways safer especially for young school children who may not be overly bike confident.

Problems that were identified by the young people were that the cycleways as they stand stop rather abruptly and they need to be continued on more streets, cycleways surrounding buildings that are hosts of businesses which prevents car parks which the young people were concerned were damaging businesses in particular dairies. The young people were eager for the completion of the cycleways and did not want the deadline pushed out further than it has been currently, they felt that the council should prioritise the completion of cycleways. Some of the young people didn't like that bus lanes and cycle lanes made the streets and car lanes thinner and therefore safer for all involved.

The young people felt that having a resourceful map of the cities cycleways online and off would be beneficial, especially considering that not all cycleways are two lane as well as making the cycleways more accessible to located off main roads. Lighting of the cycleways would also be better as biking in the dark can often be dangerous especially if there is foreign matter on the paths that is not visible. There was concern that since the cyclists have a separate lane that the speed they are cycling at could be a hazard and could be better dealt with. There was need for cycleways that are coming in to the CBD from the hills or elsewhere and that there needs to be better signage on existing routes. As well as this accommodating the cycle ways for different speeds that cyclists are travelling at.

c. An accessible city

The young people at the workshop liked the focus is becoming more accessible for different modes of transport and encouraging public transport as well as walking. The young people love the four way pedestrian crossings in town for the busy areas.

The young people felt that of the one way network made the city less accessible as they are confusing and cause people to have to take extended routes, this was particularly identified by those young people who drive. Other issues that were identified by those young people who drive were parking issues for cars, and not enough right turning arrows.

The young people thought signage in particular for tourists and with speed limits could be improved. They also felt that speed limits should be different depending on whether the street was one way or two way e.g 50 km/h for one way and 30 km/h for two way streets.

d. Street lights

Feedback from the young people was that the maintenance of streetlights could be improved (i.e replaced faster when broken) as well as this there was a thought that there needed to be a more even distribution of street lights. As well as this the young people wished the bulbs looked more visually appealing such as by making them look more heritage.

Pedestrian streetlights were also a topic of discussion and the young people came up with the idea of having characters as the little walking man such as Kate Shepard or a couple of people such as in Wellington.

e. Road repairs

For a lot of the young people road repairs was a topic close to home as with anyone who lived through the quakes. It is good that there has been lots of notice of roadworks however the young people believed there was still room for improvement.

Room for improvement included communication between companies so that roadworks were done in one go as opposed to multiple and that long term repairs needed to be more present as opposed to short term fixes such as filling in potholes. As well as this lots of the young people really would like roadworks to be completed at a faster speed.

2. Parks

Parks are an aspect of Christchurch that the young people at the workshop feel are hugely important. They are places for communities to gather and experience the outdoors. The young people acknowledged the efforts made by the council to provide a number of parks in every suburb of the city

and would like the council to continue investment in caring for these parks. Facilities like safe, accessible toilets need to be provided in all our parks. To empower the public to look after our parks young people suggest that the council provide rubbish, food waste and recycling bins in parks.

The young people had a discussion about the potential for the council to invest in the development of the Red Zone parks which they agreed is an important area of the city that needs investment so it can host different recreational activities like bike parks. Any investment into establishing new parks outside of using the Red Zone land in the city the young people feel is not a priority because looking after what is already being used by the public is important. The young people do urge the council to maintain the green spaces in the city so buildings do not overtake the number of green spots in the city. To achieve these the young people want the that communications between local communities, Council and developers to be strong.

Young people shared example of locations in the city they felt the communication over park or street side landscape did not consider long term maintenance of trees and plants. They feel that more can be done to landscape areas of our city in diverse ways that can be well managed and sustainable. The young people would like the council to include more diversity in the trees and plants they landscape with and for fruit trees to be include so the public could grab a snack as they walk by.

The young people in their discussion about the state of current parks they mentioned equipment especially fitness infrastructure. In some parks there is equipment that is specific to the area and need to be maintained for groups to use. The young people discussed that sometimes private groups have their fitness equipment in public parks to allow others to use it but this can cause the equipment to wear downs faster than expected. The young people discussed that any fitness equipment that may be privately owned with agreement by council may need some regulations around its use and the responsibility of care and maintenance because it's open to the public. They had the idea of a user pay system to assistance in the maintenance of special equipment like track and field structures. The payment could be a small donation to a maintenance fund so it can be kept to a high standard while staying open to the public. Young people agree that the council's parks benefit from the investment of private groups and there should be some consideration on how the equipment is protected.

3. Heritage

The young people discussing Heritage in the Long Term plan agreed that decisions need to be made about the restoration of buildings in our city. Young people agreed priority should be given to buildings that will allow the public to access it as these places would be attractions to tourists and our public heritage sites are important in the tourism market. If a heritage site is not in a physical state that restoring it would provide a local attraction to the city, the young people liked the idea that investment must be made in exploring the use of technology like Visual Reality and Augmentation applications that could be to explore the damaged structure or site and see what it once was. This idea with the right development would spark the public interest in our heritage. Young people view this as a new way of storing the memories of the past while engaging the public.

Young people expressed a sense of urgency for decision to be made about the state of our heritage buildings. The delay in progress they feel is creating more damage to state of heritage sites and will mean more money spent in the future. They understand it to be more investments made now can mean less in the future. The young people advise the council to consider what they want the city's to put on display as a city landscape when deciding how to manage heritage sites. They support the idea of the city to a variety of buildings including new and old designs but they want it to balance will so it "seem less all over

the place". Any buildings that do not link to the city's vision the young people suggest the council consult the public on its value and if there is the need in the city for its restoration.

The Naval point development mentioned in the long term plan document, young people support as they see it to be a opportunity to increase our ports capability e.g hosting cruise ships that could bring more people from Lyttelton to the city to see our heritage sites and take part in the economy.

4. Community Facilities

The topic of community facilities was debated quite widely. Some of the main things that were covered included facilities and heritage, facilities and arts and culture, making facilities more multi-use community spaces rather than a single thing, and transport to and from facilities.

Quite a few young people talked about the heritage side of the facilities, they talked about the fact you need to keep some aspect of the heritage of the building itself but also the land it is on. The young people thought it was important to recognise the cultural significance of a site and celebrate them. They also talked about making sure that heritage sites have a practical use rather than just renovating buildings that can not be used for anything.

A huge part that was talked about was arts and culture. Almost everyone agreed that places like the art gallery are not community focused, and therefore communities feel that they are not represented in the building. They suggested creating a community arts advisory group with youth representation on the group.

The thing that the young people were most passionate about at the event was making making community facilities more like multi-use community hubs rather than just a library or a gym. In doing so you save money, space and transportation links but also create more appeal for people to want to go to the facility, making them more likely to be used. The young people thought that the plans for the central city library is exciting as it is a lot more than just a library, they thought this could be rolled out throughout the community.

The young people discussed some of the things that would make a community facility accessible for them. One of the things discussed was the need for a 50 metre pool, the young people thought that potentially QE2 should be adapted now to include this, or that the metro sports facility should include this, at present there is only one 50m pool in the South Island and it is not in Christchurch, the young people thought it was important for them to be able to access and compete locally, but also felt that this may draw larger competitions and potential revenue. Another accessibility issue for some young people is swimming facilities for ethnic / religious minorities, there was a suggestion of catering to these needs through specific pools or times of the day to cater to specific needs of muslim women. The young people also discussed the fact that the facilities should be accessible to use, this including not pricing people out of using particular facilities, ensuring that wifi was available at facilities, having community groups being involved and able to book the performing arts centre. They also felt that there could be improvements made to booking community halls and rooms, they felt that there was a lack of awareness about being able to book these places, and need for a website update with an easy booking system and centralised information about what is available.

The last major topic that was talked about was transport to and from the place, having better transport directly to the facility/s means that more young people especially who don't have cars are going to find it

easier to get there and in the long run would be

The young people were in two minds about the central city arena, they felt it would be a great opportunity for revenue, but were acutely aware that other things may be a higher priority in the rebuild of Christchurch. They were interested to see the projected revenue for the arena, to help them make informed decisions around this. The young people thought that a roofed arena has allowed Dunedin to hold many concerts in lieu of Christchurch.

The young people mentioned other topics of interest such as city centre lighting, better information in the city centre for tourists, the hot salt water pools should have a sports facility attached and youth forums on created arts. These were not discussed in depth and therefore are mentioning them as they may need further engagement.

In conclusion, the young people are quite open to what has been said about community facilities in the long term plan. However there are a few things that need further engagement to establish what changes would improve resources for the public.

5. Water

a. Water quality

The young people at the event discussed the need for temporary chlorination as a preventative, short-term measure to protect against the drinking water quality issues. However, the majority were against the long-term implementation of chlorine into the drinking water supply. Christchurch's water supply is often seen as a source of great pride that Christchurch has such pure water. Many of the young people felt that more funding must be placed in this area than proposed, in order to prevent the need for future chlorination. It must be ensured that this funding go towards the continual maintenance of the city's drinking water infrastructure, so that chlorination will not be a probability within the foreseeable future.

Through the consultation the young people identified the need for strong and resilient drinking water infrastructure in the city. There was concern expressed over the allowance of firms to bottle drinking water meant for Christchurch residents, and many of the young people thought that this should be initiative should be curbed. The water in Christchurch is an incredibly valuable resource for the city, and the young people consulted felt that we should take pride in this.

The young people felt that funding needs to be placed into the improvement of waterway quality in Christchurch. They identified the importance of our waterways to our communities, and to the individuals who use them. The young people felt that better protection should be put in place against the contamination of our urban waterways from sediment and the accidental or intentional seeping of contaminants into our waterways from roads or property. The young people at the consultation felt that there are significant opportunities our rivers can provide for us, not only because of our own recreational use, but also for tourism. After listening to the young people at the consultation, the Christchurch Youth Council would like to suggest that local rivers be invested in, although we recognise that this may not necessarily as the largest priority in the city. We would also like to suggest investigating stricter regulations on construction and development areas around the waterways.

b. Flood protection

Flood protection was seen as a major issue in Christchurch currently by the young people in this workshop. Flooding is currently occurring and affecting many households and communities, the young people therefore felt that it was a high priority and needed it to dealt with swiftly and immediately. Flooding is something which adversely affects many young people of Christchurch in a significant manner, and therefore should be a major priority. This is particularly relevant along the Heathcote river,

as this floods too frequently and many homes are affected. Solutions proposed for this include: bank strengthening and possibly raising along certain sections of the Heathcote, planting along waterways and better drainage in the area around waterways. The young people in this group suggested an immediate increase in funding and prioritisation for flood protection.

6. Alternative Funding

The young people in this workshop were focussing on ways the local council could generate money as an alternate or in addition to raising rates. The discussion focussed on central and local government taxation abilities. This is a complex conversation, of which many of the young people were not sure on. This highlighted the need to have further civics education available to young people to feel fully prepared to engage in this type of conversation.

The young people in the room had numerous things that they had discussions around, discussing some positives and negatives of each. A topical discussion at the moment is a local council fuel tax, the young people highlighted the environmental benefits of discouraging car use and increasing revenue from those who do choose to drive, but felt that Christchurch currently doesn't have adequate public transport alternatives for this to be viable, again highlighting the need for more effective public transport. They also felt that a fuel tax may disproportionately affect low income households, as they tend to own older and less fuel efficient cars. The young people also felt that if there was to be a fuel tax the revenue from this should be tagged to public transport or environmental sustainability.

Another discussion was around additional alcohol taxation by local rather than central government. This divided the young people, some felt that this was positive as it would help with the binge drinking in Christchurch as well as providing revenue. Others felt that it would be detrimental to a vibrant nightlife in the city, and that if alcohol price was increased people might seek out alternative drugs. The young people concluded that if this was to be looked at it should focus on supermarkets and liquor stores and not bars or restaurants.

The young people thought that bed, airport / port and tourist taxes in Christchurch may be a good way to generate revenue. Again the young people were interested in weighing up the positives and negatives of this. On the one hand great revenue, but on the other would this dissuade people from coming to Christchurch, something we really need to make our city the vibrant city it should be.

There were also brief mentions of other suggestions such as GST coming back to The Christchurch city council, road tolls for highways, CCC charging for recreational events such as outdoor cinemas, using the residential red zone for commercial gain and buying assets.

The biggest take away from this discussion is that young people have innovative ideas towards alternative revenue, and this conversation should not be had behind closed doors. With more education around the role of central and local government, young people would be better equipped to be engaged in this conversation. It is the recommendation of the Christchurch Youth Council that the Christchurch city council continues this conversation with young people and supports them to understand the ins and outs of seeking revenue. We also feel that young people should have the right to know and input into big decisions like alcohol taxation or fuel taxation, as displayed at Desicoms for the Decade, the young people discussing these topics were highly capable, passionate and good at thinking about the community as a whole.

Budgeting Exercise

During the break at Decisions for the Decade, we gave each young person \$100 of monopoly money and asked them to distribute the money on each of the topics workshopped.

Topic	Amount Allocated
Public Transport	\$453 (Additional \$20 specifically for E-Bikes)
Cycleways	\$195
An accessible city	\$214
Street Lighting	\$175
Road Repairs	\$192
Parks	\$505
Heritage	\$240
Community Facilities	\$620
Drinking Water	\$309
Waste Water	\$138
Stormwater and Flood Protection	\$228
Alternative Funding	\$127
Other*	\$73
Inner City Dog Park **	\$845

* The young people identified other random ideas throughout the workshopping. These were - Replace all buses with airships #steampunk and Cat cafes

** The young people added an inner city dog park in this budgeting exercise, and the amount above was specifically for this.

It was exciting at the event to see a few keen young people rally others for support of the inner city dog park, and then it to receive the most funding. The Christchurch Youth Council thought that this is a fine example of the power of passionate young people. We would like to suggest that we continue this conversation with Central City Councillor Deon Swiggs and the young people that were so invested in this at the event.

Aside from the inner city dog park, the three outlying high topics were Community Facilities (\$620), Parks (\$505) and Public Transport (\$453). The Christchurch Youth Council feels that this outlines young people's desire to get out and do things, both in and outdoor, and the need for independence and access to facilities through public transport.

Conclusion

We hope the Christchurch City Council finds our submission of value and we appreciate the opportunity to co-host 'Decisions for the Decade' with CCC which greatly assisted us in putting together this submission. Particular thanks to Kaitlyn White and the CCC engagement team for their hard work on the event. We would like to take this opportunity to identify the value of Kaitlyn's role this year. We feel that the youth engagement that has taken place for this long term plan has been better than in the past, in large part due to the creation of this role. We would also like to recognise our own efforts in this process, we are an organisation made up of hard working volunteers and feel that we are an asset for the Christchurch City Council, and hope to further strengthen our relationship through partnerships like this in the future.