

The People's Choice

2016 Policy Document

Council Finances

Financial responsibility, a realistic capital works programme, and keeping our strategic assets

The People's Choice takes seriously our role as caretakers of the council finances. We recognise that both Councils face tough decisions around rates, assets, and capital investment, and we are committed to prudent, long-term financial management which protects the interests of ratepayers, not just now but into the future.

The People's Choice does not see asset sales as a prudent response to short-term financial difficulties. Asset sales simply shift the problem onto future ratepayers, degrade financial resilience, and weaken the Councils' strategic decision making abilities.

- The People's Choice will implement a realistic capital works programme which recognises the practical limits of what can be built and when.
- Central government has an on-going responsibility to meet the commitments it has made towards the rebuild. People's Choice Councils will work constructively but firmly with the Government to ensure that both Councils and central government respect those commitments.
- We think it's important that Councils raise money fairly, with those who can afford to contribute more doing so. We'll keep flat fees which hit those on lower and fixed incomes down, and keep user charges low.

Community Development and Democracy

Continuing to support community development

The People's Choice will work to empower Community Boards. We recognise that different communities have different aspirations, different capacities, and different needs, and so we'll adopt a

process for delegating further powers to Community Boards, which is led by the Community Boards.

The People's Choice will continue to support community development through Council and Community Board funding, including the small rural communities of Banks Peninsula, and through investment in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee processes.

We believe full democracy at Environment Canterbury is fundamental to ensuring Cantabrians desires are represented and realised. We will

- support a return to a democratically elected regional council, at the earliest opportunity
- ensure that the post-2019 ECan governance structure embodies the Treaty of Waitangi partnership
- support the work of the Zone Committees in working to improve environmental outcomes
- continue to work in partnership with Ngāi Tahu to enhance the mauri of our environment

Economic Development

A real economic development strategy that build on our strengths with a strong focus on full employment

People's Choice Councils will make economic development a core priority, with a strong focus on:

- full employment,
- supporting Māori economic development through partnership with Ngāi Tahu and other iwi,
- supporting Pasifika economic aspirations,
- advancing women's participation in the economy,
- nurturing ecosystems of small and medium-sized enterprises, and recognising the value of suburban centres to the City's economy, and the relationship between thriving suburban centres and sustainable communities.
- promoting industry clusters which build on Christchurch's strengths in manufacturing, engineering, education, and tourism
- ensuring that people with disabilities can play their full part

To support that economic development strategy, The People's Choice Councillors will:

- establish a top level City Council committee to drive economic development strategy,

- require all decisions Council makes to consider the economic development impact
- partner with unions and business to implement the strategy
- ensure Council owned companies, like Lyttelton Port and Christchurch Airport, are used to drive strategic economic development goals

We will also require Council Controlled Organisations to act as good employers, with goals to achieve a Living Wage across the organisation, pay equity across genders, and best practice health and safety records.

Rebuild and Regeneration

Consultation and public involvement in the Regeneration projects

The People's Choice is committed to public involvement in the rebuild and regeneration projects. We'll require a genuine partnership between central government, the City Council, and local communities. Regeneration projects will be based on community, needs, aspirations and community consultation.

Housing

Affordable housing so everyone can live in a warm, safe, dry and healthy home

Safe, affordable, healthy homes are more than a moral imperative. Substandard housing is a major health issue in New Zealand. Housing costs are a major component of the cost of living, and keeping houses affordable keeps the Kiwi dream of home-ownership alive.

The People's Choice leadership on Council housing policy will continue to promote that everyone in Christchurch and the Peninsula is able to live in a warm, safe, dry and healthy home. To implement this, the People's Choice will:

- Work towards a warrant of fitness for all rental properties to ensure that landlords provide safe and healthy homes, including implementing a rental register as a first step
- Support good urban design that opens up affordable housing options in the central city, inner suburbs and rural areas

We recognise that the Council has a core obligation to ensure the provision of adequate social housing for those in need. The People's Choice will meet that obligation by:

- promoting the People's Choice-initiated City Council policy on eliminating homelessness in Christchurch with all social housing agencies
- ensuring adequate and appropriate provision of social housing for the elderly, disabled, young people and others in serious need,
- committing to repairing and rebuilding the existing social housing stock
- expanding the amount of high quality social housing to ensure that demand can be met

Council Facilities

To make sure that Christchurch and the Peninsula are communities with a high quality of life, and appealing places to live, work and raise a family, People's Choice will:

- Ensure resilient, high quality local facilities including outdoor walkways in every Council Ward
- prioritise spending on local and suburban facilities and issues, recognising the value of local infrastructure and initiatives, and appropriately balancing these priorities with metropolitan and central city anchor projects.
- ensure user fees remain at affordable levels
- promote access to facilities for all, including those with disabilities
- make entry to pools free for children under 12 as well as their caregivers.

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

The People's Choice recognises the importance of the arts to the city. Beyond the Council's direct role supporting civic facilities like the Christchurch Art Gallery, the Akaroa Museum and Town Hall, a People's Choice Council will develop a new Arts Strategy that positions the Council as a key enabler of the arts infrastructure and ecosystem in Christchurch and the Peninsula.

A Peoples Choice council recognises the value of the City's built and cultural heritage. our heritage is preserved and valued, recognising that much has been lost and that which remains has enhanced value as a result. We are the custodians of the City's heritage and have a responsibility to preserve it as a legacy for future generations.

Transport and Land Use

Developing a one-network, connected, accessible and affordable transport system with priority for public transport and active travel.

Make sure every kid can walk or bike safely to their nearest school.

The People's Choice is committed to a modern, accessible, and affordable transport system for Christchurch.

Land use and transport are tightly connected, and smart decisions here will enable Christchurch and the Peninsula to thrive. A People's Choice Council will support well-designed appropriate developments of land use around core transport corridors, and facilitate mixed-use developments that create walkable communities.

To improve our public transport system, we will pursue a fast, frequent, accessible, and reliable low carbon public transport system that more people, including those with disabilities, want and are able to use.

Christchurch's transport system needs to be seen as one network, across road, rail, and sea, across public transport, active modes, and private cars. It's all connected, and there needs to be a strategic approach to all components. Across ECan and the City Council, we will:

- work with our partners in local and central government to develop a single, accountable lead agency to adopt a strategic approach to transport planning and management.
- Invest in infrastructure to improve the public transport experience, including improving bus routes, frequency and reliability by implementing bus priority measures
- Investigate including free wifi on buses.

The People's Choice is committed to promoting a more walking and cycle-friendly city. Modal shift will reduce the stress on our roading network, increase resilience, reduce congestion, cut carbon emissions, and improve quality of life :

A People's Choice City Council will:

- Continue leading the implementation of the Major Cycle Ways programme in a timely fashion
- adopt a "Vision Zero" strategy to eliminate deaths on the Christchurch transport network

- Invest in measures to make residential streets and intersections safe for all users including pedestrians and cyclists.
- Get heavy freight trucks off Christchurch's streets by working with transport agencies and infrastructure companies to develop distribution hubs
- Enable the uptake of low emission vehicles including a shared electric car fleet and the use of new technology in all our transport systems.
- develop and implement a strategy, with funding attached, to make sure every child can walk or bike safely to their nearest school by 2026.