

# NEWS FROM THE CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

April 2016

## About the Mayoral Forum

The vision of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is:

*A region making the most of its natural advantages to build a strong, innovative economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all*

The Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the ten territorial authorities and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council.

A key focus of Mayors is the implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The Mayoral Forum generally meets four times each year. Mayors will next meet on 24 June 2016.

## MAYORS STANDING TOGETHER FOR CANTERBURY

## CANTERBURY VISITOR STRATEGY 2016

The Canterbury Visitor Strategy 2016 was released in April. The Strategy focuses on some practical actions the Mayoral Forum has initiated for 2016, to build on Christchurch City's visitor strategy and support the development of tourism in our region.

Our goal is to attract visitors to Canterbury and the South Island, keep them here longer, and encourage them to spend more. We want to make sure our guests have every opportunity to explore the diversity of landscapes and attractions offered by Canterbury and the South Island, and that they return home with great memories and positive stories of the experiences they have enjoyed.

The Visitor Strategy is part of one of seven work programmes established under the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy. Mayor Winston Gray of the Kaikōura District Council is leading this work.

A copy of the Strategy is available on Environment Canterbury's website: <http://ecan.govt.nz/about-us/your-region/pages/mayoral-forum.aspx>

## MAYORAL FORUM MEETING, 29 APRIL 2016

The Mayoral Forum met with the Minister of Local Government, Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-iga, and the Local Government Commission, to discuss local government collaboration.

This provided a great opportunity to tell the Minister and the Local Government Commission about the significant steps that councils in the Canterbury region have been taking to work together to drive efficiencies and better provide for the needs of our communities, including through shared governance and shared services.

The announcement by the Minister of Local Government on 16 March 2016 of the Better Local Services package of reforms, and a broader mandate for the Local Government Commission, presents additional opportunities and options to progress collaboration in Canterbury.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to work together to identify opportunities and options for collaboration.

## MAYORS ARE PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND FACILITATION TO:

- identify and remove barriers
- knock on, and open, doors to opportunities
- advocate with one strong voice for Canterbury and its communities.

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***Canterbury – a great place to live, study, work, play ... and stay!***