



# NEWS FROM THE CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

June 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 25 November 2016.

**MAYORS  
STANDING  
TOGETHER FOR  
CANTERBURY**

## MAYORAL FORUM ACHIEVEMENTS 2013 - 2106

An overview of collaborative achievements over the last three years was collated for the recent Mayoral Forum and demonstrates how Canterbury councils are working together. Highlights from the seven workstreams of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (launched in 2015) include:

### Digital Connectedness

Launching the Canterbury Digital Accord and securing \$14m in private sector investment in an accelerated roll out of 4G mobile broadband across the region by December 2016.

### Tourism

The Forum has worked with tourism organisations and the Consul General of the People's Republic of China to share information and ideas and encourage councils to 'get ready for China.' Government funding to secure tourist infrastructure, such as toilets, has also been sought.

### Transport

Integrated transport planning is critical to the development of the region, and the Forum has formed a steering group with all leading stakeholders who have agreed to share data and analysis to better inform and co-ordinate transport planning and investment in the future.

### Education

A steering group of tertiary education institutions is now working to recover and increase the number of domestic and international students in Canterbury. This group is also seeking to improve the monitoring of students leaving secondary schools. Options for developing new and modified courses in agricultural engineering and water management are also being explored.

### Newcomers and migrants

Councils now share information on newcomer and migrant skills in the region. Changes in policies relating to migrant families' access to primary health care and tertiary education are also be sought.

### Value Added

Mayors are engaging with Central Government to help ensure the success of irrigation schemes in Canterbury and are advocating for Crown Irrigation Investments Limited (CIIL) for changes in the funding structure. This work is ongoing.

### Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Forum partners are endorsing ongoing work programmes, including the establishment of environmental limits, identifying cost effective storm water systems and ensuring consistent storm water management planning occurs.

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

## Operating in partnership across the Region

As well as the actions listed on page 1, there have been many other stand out collaborative achievements where councils have operated in partnership. Here are just a few examples:

Co-ordinated submissions - When new national policy statements and national environmental standards were announced, the aim was to have one strong 'Canterbury' voice. Submissions were made on: 2014 Local Government Amendment Act 2002; proposed changes to the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water Management; Resource Legislation Amendment Bill

Consistency on asset management. 2014 saw the establishment of a sub-group to develop consistency around asset management, infrastructure strategies and long term plans. There is strong support for consistent systems among the region's councils and potential for a centralised database and opportunities to share information and knowledge.

Managing natural hazard risk. The partners agreed to develop a regional approach to managing natural hazard risk in Canterbury, working with the TLA planners and emergency management officers' forum. The final report looked at the monitoring of natural hazards and management reform, (including climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation) and possible emergence of an NPS.

Freedom Camping. In order to develop a region wide consistent approach and to identify common issues, the Forum established a working group and has developed an action plan.

Hotel development register. The development of a hotel development site information register in association with CREDS visitor strategy work stream, is currently being undertaken.

Contaminated land trial. From January 2015-January 2016 a trial was held on contaminated land technical support to councils to ensure information was consistent across the region. This was extended for a further year.

## MAYORAL FORUM JUNE 2016

- Mayors agreed to a substantial list of collaborative opportunities for the 2016-2019 term including continuing major initiatives such as the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS); and commencing a strategic assessment of the options to improve delivery of 3 waters, and roading and/or transport services. Joint policy submissions will continue. A series of minor to mid-sized collaborative initiatives were also agreed to. All these activities will continue the strong culture of collaboration across Canterbury, demonstrated by Mayors, CEs and Policy and Operations staff – working together for the benefit of the region.
- Mayors had an opportunity to view the new Planting Canterbury website before it goes live. The website will, over time, show the magnitude of planting and the commitment landowners and communities have made to invest in planting across Canterbury, with the agreement by the Mayoral Forum that districts resource their own data collation and help to encourage groups and individuals to use the website to record their projects. The website is available to populate now: <http://test.canterburymaps.govt.nz/webapps/plantingcanterbury/>
- CREDS partners are developing a 'Case for Canterbury' that captures the unique attributes that make it appealing to live, work and visit here. When linked to The New Zealand/South Island story it will identify what the benefits are of locating and staying in Canterbury. Christchurch International Airport Limited is also about to release the Christchurch story which will be available for Councils to use and build on.

## 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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