

Guiding Principles

These principles underpin and provide context for the Strategy, and shape and guide decisions on planning, transport and infrastructure investment. They will also guide the actions of the Strategy as it is implemented.

Using the information gathered from the consultation feedback, the assessment criteria developed for the Options process and relevant guiding national policy documents, particularly the Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme of Action (January 2003), this Charter sets the principles for balancing social, cultural, economic and environmental goals.

Sustainable prosperity is the overarching principle of this Charter and requires having a better understanding of the systems that supports life in the community. This is a broad view, to recognise that our day-to-day activities can simultaneously affect our economy, environment and community.



Sustainable prosperity will be achieved through:

- Leadership** providing good governance, making decisions, taking action and accepting responsibility, ensuring the impacts and outcomes are monitored, reviewed, and managed effectively.
- Partnership** working in a collaborative and coordinated manner with one another, the community, strategic partners, government, and other organisations through short-term actions based on long-term goals and continued commitment to effective engagement in respect of strategy development and implementation.
- Responsibility** continually working towards ensuring our communities are great places to live, work and play, are safe and economically secure, and are physically and socially healthy.
- Resilience** managing risk and uncertainty through strategy and implementation frameworks that enhance how individuals, communities and organisations respond to hazards and the unexpected.
- Adaptability** taking into account the past and anticipating the future, putting in place strategy and implementation frameworks that are adaptable to change.
- Innovation** strategic partners and the community collaborating to find creative, pragmatic, cultural and resourceful approaches and solutions.
- Integration** integrating environmental, land-use, infrastructure, social, cultural, economic and governance goals in all decision-making, policies, plans and activities by recognising the connections between systems, giving effect to the regional and local metropolitan context.
- Restoration** ensuring our natural systems are valued and protected through restoring and enhancing biodiversity and ecological integrity.

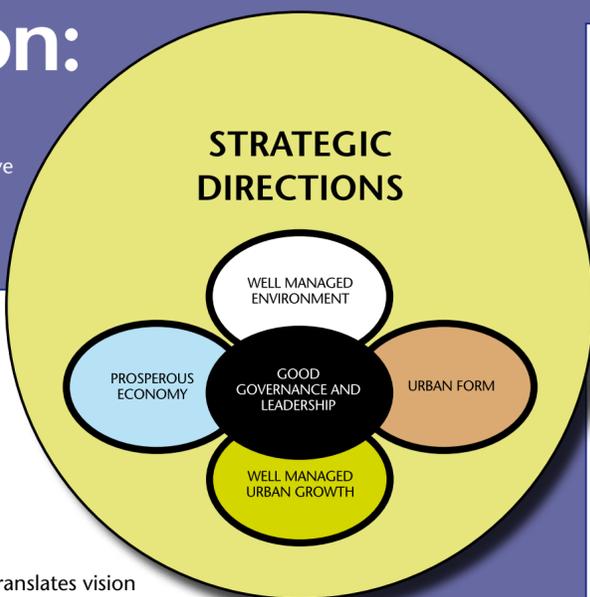


Strategic Direction:

These goals set the direction and desired outcomes the Strategy that, through specific and carefully framed policies, initiatives and programmes, will achieve over time. The strategic aim is to improve the quality of life for the people of Greater Christchurch while focusing on defining clear boundaries between urban and rural areas and developing existing urban areas in a more concentrated form. This requires:

Good governance and leadership to:

- Continue to work in partnership with the community, Tangata Whenua, strategic partners and central government
- Prepare a visionary long-term Strategy to ensure strategic and integrated planning is reflected in :
 - Long-term Council Community Plans
 - The Regional Policy Statement and Plans
 - Regional Land Transport Strategy
 - City and District Plans
- Put in place a strategy and implementation framework that translates vision into action, monitors and reviews progress at agreed milestones and can adapt to change over the long term
- Ensure individuals and groups in the community, organisations and government agencies participate effectively in developing the Strategy, and are engaged in implementation
- Initiate private and public partnerships to support the delivery of the Strategy, and
- Put in place mechanisms to assist in resolving different points of view and approaches to issues, to achieve collaborative action.



Better manage urban growth to:

- Define and maintain clear boundaries between urban and rural areas using networks of open space
- Develop existing urban areas in a more concentrated form
- Provide for new urban development that is well integrated with existing urban areas and towns
- Develop and support well defined, resilient and distinct urban centres and self-sufficient rural towns
- Create an urban form that minimises the use of energy and water
- Ensure the integration of land use, infrastructure and funding
- Deliver vibrant and diverse city and town centres to live, work and play in, supporting safer and healthier communities with access to facilities
- Maintain and protect land, sites and structures with heritage value particularly in established suburbs and rural settlements
- Recognise and protect cultural identities
- Ensure buildings and housing are warm, energy-efficient and well built
- Preserve, create and link urban and rural open space including parks, recreation areas and natural areas
- Be resilient to climate change and environmental events
- Protect and make effective use of existing and future transportation and service corridors to move goods and people efficiently, and
- Enable public transport, cycling or walking to be part of every day life.

Better manage the environment to:

- Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater aquifers and natural catchments as a top priority
- Protect and enhance natural remnants and the ecosystems they contain
- Recognise the value of, and protect, the coastline, estuaries and waterways including wetlands
- Maximise how development can reinstate and enhance natural systems and environmentally sensitive areas
- Promote energy and water conservation and efficiency and ensure clean air, and
- Protect outstanding landscapes such as the Port Hills and important rural outlooks.

Support a prosperous economy to:

- Maintain a secure and productive resource base, including minimising the loss of productive land
- Ensure infrastructure is provided in a timely and affordable manner with an environmental focus
- Protect and enhance strategic regional infrastructure and service hubs and corridors, including Christchurch International Airport, Lyttelton Port and road and rail connections
- Ensure adequate and appropriate land is available for commercial and industrial use, and
- Ensure the connection between people, jobs, recreation and environment through mixed land use and good transport linkages.

Terms used in the Charter:

- Open space - the unbuilt portions of the landscape.
- Towns - urban area with a fixed boundary that is smaller than a city
- Urban centre - a concentration of urban activity within the greater urban area