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## Workshop - Council NOTES

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**Date:** Tuesday 25 November 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Venue:** Camellia Chambers, Level 2, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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**Present**

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor David Cartwright
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Pauline Cotter
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Nathaniel Herz Jardine
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald - via audio/visual link
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett

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**Principal Advisor**

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**Note:** This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.

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The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

Deputy Mayor Henstock Chaired the workshop until the Mayor's arrival.

## **1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha**

An apology for lateness was received from Mayor Mauger.

Councillor Coker joined the workshop at 10.01 am.

Councillor Fields joined the workshop at 10.02 am.

Mayor Mauger joined the workshop at 10.12 am during Item 2 – GCP Update.

Councillor Keown left the workshop at 10.17 am and returned at 10.22 am during Item 2 – GCP Update.

Councillor MacDonald joined the workshop at 10.19 am during Item 2 – GCP Update.

## **2. Greater Christchurch Partnership update**

Presented by John Higgins – GM Strategy, Planning and Regulatory Services, John Bartels – Director Greater Christchurch Partnership, and Mark Stevenson – Head of Planning and Consents.

Staff provided an overview of the Greater Christchurch Partnership including its purpose, functions and strategic priorities; the governance and structure; the current work programme; and future priorities and opportunities.

### **Key discussions:**

- The GCP Committee evolved from the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee (UDSIC), established in 2007 to oversee delivery of the Urban Development Strategy (UDS). Since its inception, GCP has achieved notable progress in strategic planning and vision, community engagement, and transport and infrastructure development.
- In the new triennium, the Committee's work programme prioritises addressing critical urban challenges and opportunities across the sub-region, enabling multi-year investment in infrastructure and initiatives to future-proof urban areas and support community adaptation, while ensuring preparedness for upcoming government reforms.
- In December 2024, the Committee commissioned an independent review of the Partnership's structure, function and strategic focus. Martin Jenkins delivered an Insights Report and Independent Review Report in August 2025. Implementation workshops are planned for December 2025 and February 2026, with key decisions on structural options scheduled for March 2026.
- Council's role within GCP was discussed under four key areas: resourcing (operational, executive, and governance support), funding (contributions to the Secretariat and initiatives, ensuring value through cost-sharing), joint responsibility (agreed outcomes and programme priorities), and influence and advocacy (coordinated national-level advocacy for funding and policy support).

- GCP Committee meeting will be held next week and partnerships structure and priorities will be presented to the Council early 2026. Next 3 to 9 months focus will be mainly on transport, housing and spatial planning.
- In the new year Phase 2 of Joint Housing Action Plan will be presented to the Council.

**Summary of Responses to Members' Questions:**

- Targets for the GCD Strategy were established in 2007, and significant progress has been achieved since.
- **Action:** Staff will circulate the MartinJenkins Insight Report and the Independent Review Report with the members.
- Some members recommended more frequent GCP progress reporting in the future, with a focus on social and environmental impacts.
- **Action:** Some members raised concerns regarding the funding fairness given Christchurch covers 82% of population, and requested further details on costs and funding along with information on the Joint Housing Action Plan's operation.
- The Joint Housing Action Plan addresses four areas: population growth, the gap between affordable and social housing, rising house prices, and housing typologies. A report on the Joint Housing Plan initiative will be presented to the Council in the new year.
- **Action:** Staff will provide a memo outlining the GCP Joint Housing Action Plan and progress on Phases 1 and 2.
- Planning for 2025–28 is contingent on government reforms, particularly RMA changes, with transport and housing identified as key priorities.

**Attachments**

A Presentation - GCP presentation - Open 25 November 2025  

### **3. Items Closed to the Public Ngā Take mō te wāhanga o te hui e rāhui ana ki te hunga tūmatanui**

The workshop went into public excluded at 10.26am to consider the agenda items 'Urban Development', 'Future of Council Land' and 'Session with the Auditor-General', in accordance with the agenda.