

**Council Workshop**  
**NOTES**

---

**Date:** Tuesday 24 March 2026  
**Time:** 10.02 am  
**Venue:** Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

---

**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
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett

---

**Principal Advisor**

Mary Richardson  
Chief Executive  
Tel: 941 8999

[mary.richardson@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:mary.richardson@ccc.govt.nz)

**Meeting Advisor**

Ruth Close  
Democratic Services Advisor  
Tel: 941 5561

[simone.gordon@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:simone.gordon@ccc.govt.nz)

**Website:** [www.ccc.govt.nz](http://www.ccc.govt.nz)

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

To find upcoming meetings, watch a recording after the meeting date, or view copies of meeting Agendas and Notes, go to:

<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>



The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

## **1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha**

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Donovan.

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

The session began in public excluded to consider the confidential items advertised at the end of the public agenda.

### **The public were admitted to the meeting at 11.31 am.**

Councillor Donovan joined the workshop at 11.36am during consideration of Item 2.

## **2. Update on establishment of CWMS Local Leadership Groups: staff advice**

Melissa Renganathan, Senior Policy Analyst, and Veronica Zeffarino, Manager Infrastructure Planning, Three Waters joined the table to present Item 2 (refer to the presentation included in the agenda), and to answer elected member questions.

### **Key presentation points:**

- The Local Leadership Groups (LLGs) were endorsed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum as a replacement to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Water Zone Committees, which were discharged in June 2025.
- Since the local body elections in 2025, Environment Canterbury (ECan) has been working with Papatipu Rūnanga and Territorial Authorities to progress commitment towards establishing the LLGs via initial hui.
- The Council is potentially a member of three proposed LLGs. Boundaries and membership of LLGs have yet to be confirmed. The Whiria/Treaty Relationships Team advises that any decisions on takiwā boundary arrangements must take into consideration our Te Hononga agreement with Papatipu Rūnanga. A Council decision would also be required if it decides to become a member.
- The proposed LLGs are also likely to be a duplication of existing partnerships and could dilute resources required for the existing formal arrangements and/or partnerships the Council has with Papatipu Rūnanga, ECan and other councils.
- The groups would sit outside of the Council's legislative obligations and would have no decision-making authority.
- Hui have been organised for one of the LLGs the Council is proposed to be a member of (Whakaraupō – Te Pātaka); neither Ngāi Tuahuriri representatives nor the Christchurch Mayor were in attendance at the hui held in December, though Council staff attended as observers. Challenges of resourcing and capacity for members was acknowledged.
- Uncertainty remains regarding the boundaries, purpose of the groups and whether there is a gap the proposed model would fill. Consideration should also be given to the implications of

Government reforms and the substantial, resource-intensive change across the Council's Three Waters work programmes.

**Key discussion points:**

- Neither Christchurch City Council nor Waimakariri District Council mayors were at the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting that endorsed the Local Leadership Groups.
- The boundaries discussed are water catchment zones.
- Whether government and Crown entities, such as the Department of Conservation, or farming groups were likely to be part of the LLGs.
- The success of the Community Waterways Partnership and the importance of community involvement in it.
- The financial model ECan is proposing and whether Christchurch City Council would lose a share of funding if it chooses not to join a LLG.

Councillor Barber left the workshop at 11.55 am during consideration of Item 3 and returned at 12 pm.

### **3. Community (Social) Housing Unit Update**

Bruce Rendell, Head of Facilities & Property, Lisa Washington, Community Housing Liaison Lead and Cate Kearney, Chief Executive of Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust (ŌCHT) joined the table to present Item 3 (refer to the presentation included in the agenda), and to answer elected member questions.

**Key presentation points:**

- The update identified growth in the number of income-related rent tenancies and ongoing use of assisted and affordable rentals. It noted that several Council complexes remain closed pending decisions on redevelopment, and that ŌCHT continues to operate the Council's leased portfolio while managing additional homes it owns.
- Maintenance costs are becoming a challenge with 75% of units requiring work over the next 20 years. There is insufficient funding to undertake the work, exacerbated by rising insurance, inflation-driven maintenance and rates costs. However, the Council's Long Term Plan requirement to dispose of end-of-useful-life complexes provides redevelopment opportunities for community housing partners and will allow new fit-for-purpose homes and increased access to income related rents.
- The target age group has changed from 65+ in 2016 to 45 –74. Māori appear to be under-represented in data (against national ethnicity data) so OCHT is introducing a data improvement project. Tenant satisfaction is steady at around 75%.
- There is still high demand and limited availability for social housing but demolition and redevelopment is taking place.

**Key discussion points:**

- The opportunity for OCHT to fund its own programmes
- The introduction of first home, progressive ownership and 79% market rental models to OCHT's complexes
- Ethnicity data:
  - Apparent under-representation of Māori is more likely an issue with the data than the reality.
  - The data is useful to support engagement and resourcing e.g. for refugees.

- The change in tenant age is due to having more families and young people, following a change from prioritising the elderly to prioritising those with the highest need.
- The parliamentary bill to allow OCHT to expand its work to other geographical areas had its first reading in February and goes to Select Committee in August.

Councillor Cotter left the workshop at 12.20 pm during consideration of Item 4 and returned at 12.23 pm. Deputy Mayor Henstock left the workshop at 12.20 pm during consideration of Item 4 and returned at 12.25 pm.

Councillor MacDonald left the meeting at 12.22 pm during consideration of Item 4 and returned at 12.29 pm.

#### **4. Community Support and Partnerships Unit - Biannual Report**

Claire Phillips, Manager Community Planning and Projects, John Filsell, Head of Community Support and Partnerships and Jessica Peterson, Team Leader Community Funding joined the table to present Item 4 (refer to the attached presentation), and to answer elected member questions.

Key presentation points:

- There has been greater interconnectedness in community development, participation and emergency preparedness, which is a strength for the city. Relationships continue to be strengthened along with confidence in and satisfaction with the Council's community development services
- A review of resilience building with a specific focus on the response to the February weather event in Banks Peninsula
- An overview of community grants funding, including the success of the Smarty Grants system and an acknowledgement that demand (in applications received and funding requested) far exceeds the amount that can be disbursed.

Key discussion points:

- The psychosocial response in Banks Peninsula and the planned research to develop and deliver a psychosocial response at short notice
- The criteria used and decision making process for the Mayor's Welfare Fund
- The opportunity for provision of an independent communications device for emergencies, such as a Star Link connection.

#### **Attachments**

- A Community Support and Partnerships Unit Biannual Report presentation [⇨](#) 

**The workshop concluded at 12.46pm.**