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Te Haumako; Te Whitingia  
**Strengthening  
Communities  
Together Strategy**

Overview document

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Whiria ngā whenu  
o ngā papa, honoa ki  
te maurua tāukiuki

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**Bind together the strands of  
each mat and join together  
with the seams of respect  
and reciprocity**

This whakataukī sums up our mutual commitment, with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga, to a governing partnership relationship based on understanding and respect. This partnership commits us to working together to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing for all and aligns to our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a framework for all.

# What is the Te Haumako; Te Whitingia Strengthening Communities Together Strategy?

**It is our commitment to continue working with others to build a healthy, happy and resilient Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.**

Our city has changed since our first Strengthening Communities Strategy in 2007. We have faced many challenges as a city but these challenges have also sparked creativity, innovation and collective action.

Renamed the Te Haumako; Te Whitingia Strengthening Communities Together Strategy, the refreshed strategy aims to better meet community needs and aspirations, now and in the future.

## Why a new strategy?

We reflected on the 2007 strengthening communities strategy which made it clear that people value diversity, collaboration, being connected and building capability for the future.

We cannot address the many complex social issues that face our city on our own, but can help to develop and nurture networks and bring resources and people together so that collectively we can achieve more.

We know that communities want us to focus more on goals and outcomes, with more emphasis on collaboration and partnership. They want measurable goals and actions so we know what's working and what isn't.

We believe this refreshed strategy delivers on this.

## What's in the strategy?

We have organised the strategy around four pillars that set out our commitment to working alongside the community over the next ten years.



Te Haumako; Te Whitingia  
**To enrich; to shine**



# Te Whakakitenga **Our Vision**

## Active and connected communities owning their own future

### Ngā Mātāpono Principles and values

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi is New Zealand’s founding document
- Our work considers future generations
- We do not act alone – we always look for a partnership approach
- Our relationships are collaborative, trusted and enduring
- We commit to inclusive practices across the whole of Council
- We advocate for and support responses to social injustice and inequities
- People’s time, knowledge and skills are valued



### Our key priorities for the next five years

We have identified the following high priority areas based on what communities have told us is important to them.

As a result we will:

- Work to better understand and respond to factors that exclude people from fully participating in their communities and across Council services.
- Improve the capture of consistent and relevant data, set clear targets and partner with communities and others to ensure more equitable and inclusive opportunities for all.
- Improve community safety, with a specific emphasis on the central city after dark.
- Encourage community led activities that increase volunteering in local neighbourhoods, supporting the activation of public spaces and places to increase inclusion and a sense of belonging.
- Ensure that the community’s priorities, values, aspirations and concerns are incorporated at all levels of the organisation through policy development, planning, decision-making, service delivery and review.
- Improve our engagement processes so people and communities are fully informed and able to authentically shape and influence their futures.
- Support and enable communities to respond to the impacts of climate change and emergencies, with a particular emphasis on underrepresented or vulnerable communities.



# Te Pou Pillars



## Te Pou Tuatahi: Te Tāngata Pillar 1: People

**Actively promote a culture of equity by valuing diversity and fostering inclusion across communities and generations.**

**Objective 1.1:** Develop and enhance relationships with tangata whenua via mana whenua and Te Hononga.

**Objective 1.2:** Build, nurture and strengthen relationships with Pacific communities.

**Objective 1.3:** Continue to build on the relationships and achievements developed with multi-ethnic and multicultural communities through the Multicultural Strategy – Our Future Together.

**Objective 1.4:** Harness the strengths of diverse communities and address issues of social exclusion.

**Objective 1.5:** Support groups involved in providing access to arts, culture, heritage, recreation, and those who care for the environment.

**Objective 1.6:** Facilitate and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**Objective 1.7:** Work with others to reduce loneliness and social isolation, with particular focus on intergenerational approaches.



## Te Pou Tuarua: Te Whenua Pillar 2: Place

**Support and help build connections between communities to foster a sense of local identity, shared experience and stewardship.**

**Objective 2.1:** Encourage communities to create and sustain a sense of local identity and ownership.

**Objective 2.2:** Work with new and changing communities in both rural and urban areas to build a sense of belonging.

**Objective 2.3:** Support the community activation and kaitiakitanga of public places and spaces.



## Te Pou Tuatoru: Te Mahi Pillar 3: Participation

**Residents and groups in the wider community are socially and actively engaged and able to initiate and influence decisions affecting their lives.**

**Objective 3.1:** Empower and equip residents and groups to participate in decisions affecting their communities and neighbourhoods.

**Objective 3.2:** Increase general understanding of Council's decision-making processes and support people to have their say. We want more people to get involved in decision-making, and to feel that their views are heard.

**Objective 3.3:** Provide well-informed support and advice to staff and elected members for effective decision-making and community engagement.

**Objective 3.4:** Increase volunteering opportunities across the Council and the wider community and support the organisations providing such opportunities.



## Te Pou Tuawhā: Te Takatū Pillar 4: Preparedness

**People feel safe in their communities and neighbourhoods and work together to understand, adapt and thrive in the context of change and disruption.**

**Objective 4.1:** Work with communities to prepare for and respond to emergencies, and also increase climate resilience and adaptation action.

**Objective 4.2:** Support the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to plan, adapt and respond to risk, disruption and change.

**Objective 4.3:** Support neighbourhood and city-wide initiatives aimed at increasing a sense of neighbourliness.

# Whakatinanatanga **Implementation:**

Delivering this strategy is a Council-wide endeavour. The strategy aims to influence community outcomes, and will often involve working through complex relationships and interdependencies. We don't act alone, and rely on partnerships and collaboration with key stakeholders and communities across the organisation and city.

## How will we monitor our progress?

We will measure our performance annually against the objectives of the strategy, using a mix of data and stories to illustrate outcomes. We will also establish a cross-Council implementation team that will:

- Report to relevant committees and working groups to show how our goals and objectives are achieved at operational levels as and when required.
- Present community board reports to Council bi-monthly that tell the stories of local progress.
- Produce community newsletters to share activities and highlight success.
- Track survey data relevant to the strategy objectives.
- Monitor agreed actions in our joint Health in All Policies work plan with Community and Public Health and Environment Canterbury.
- Encourage community reporting and storytelling to share best practice and highlight social impact.
- Produce an annual implementation plan update including a community grant funding report.
- Update the implementation plan in 2027.



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Overview document

To view the full version of the  
strategy, please visit:

[ccc.govt.nz](https://ccc.govt.nz)