

## **PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING SOCIAL HOUSING PORTFOLIO CHRISTCHURCH CITY**

We support the retention of Christchurch City Council's social housing portfolio. We do not wish to support any of the options as set out in the consultation table and we do not support the council's proposal to split maintenance and replacement funding.

Social housing in Christchurch provides a valuable option as a housing resource for many people who are disadvantaged in some way that live in our community. As our population ages, it allows for the people who live in social housing to remain within a constant community environment without fear of losing their home and it helps give them a sense of security which is important for their wellbeing.

The Christchurch City Council has high recognition as a housing provider and it helps the needs of our community.

The Healthy Housing Report (Howden-Chapman et al., 2007) shows how important it is for healthy housing principles to be applied to housing and to undertake the necessary work required will benefit the population in the longer term. It should not be overlooked when considering costs required.

Any long term plan for housing should allow for replacement of housing stock as without this in the plan, the service could at some future time be jeopardized. In future years the population of Christchurch will continue to age and the social housing provided by the council will contribute to the housing stock needed over time.

New housing stock should be built with sustainable practices in mind. Besides the issues of warmth and dryness required to make homes healthy, new housing should have the necessary adjustments that are sometimes required as a person ages, that is age friendly buildings. Things such as walk in showers and rails, no steps if at possible and wide doorways. The homes may allow people to stay in the home for longer.

Lorraine Leonard on behalf of  
Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC)  
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