

Children's views shape the future of Christchurch

28 June 2017

The future residents of Christchurch took centre stage today to present their ideas for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.

The event, a joint project between Regenerate Christchurch and the Office of the Children's Commissioner is part of the wider public engagement to develop a Regeneration Plan for the area by March – June 2018. The Children's Commissioner met with 30 children to hear the views of some of the 5-12 year olds who took part.

"Christchurch's regeneration is a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape the future of the city, so it is really important to hear from the future residents and leaders of Christchurch," says Ivan Lafeta, Chief Executive of Regenerate Christchurch.

Regenerate Christchurch have engaged extensively with the local communities, including talking with children at seven primary schools, a scout group, and at a Community Day and other events. The children presenting today are from Waitakiri School, Banks Avenue School, Haeata Community Campus and Bromley School.

The engagement at schools was designed to respect the needs of children and young people and linked to the New Zealand curriculum. Children were enthusiastic and interested in the topic, and felt that their ideas were being valued.

"Children have a right to have a say in issues that affect them", says the Children's Commissioner, Judge Andrew Becroft, "and I understand they have produced some of the most compelling and inspiring ideas of the whole project.

"Today we celebrate the work that these children have put into thinking about the future of the area, and we also want to applaud the effort that organisations around the country make to involve children and young people in meaningful discussions about the future of our communities."

ENDS

Regenerate Christchurch contact

Anne-Marie Robinson
027 703 1974
Anne-Marie.Robinson@regeneratechristchurch.nz

OCC media contact

Catherine Jeffcoat
027 696 5101
c.jeffcoat@occ.org.nz

About Regenerate Christchurch

Regenerate Christchurch was established in 2016 to lead the regeneration of Christchurch. Its purpose is to support a vibrant thriving Christchurch that has economic, social and lifestyle opportunities. Regenerate Christchurch works with the community, iwi and local businesses to drive regeneration in key areas, including the central city, residential red zones and New Brighton. Regenerate Christchurch is an independent entity, funded by the Crown and by Christchurch City Council.

About the Office of the Children's Commissioner

The Children's Commissioner is an Independent Crown Entity, appointed by the Governor-General, carrying out responsibilities and functions set out in the Children's Commissioner Act 2003. The Children's Commissioner has a range of statutory powers to promote the rights, health, welfare, and

wellbeing of children and young people from 0 to 18 years. These functions are undertaken through advocacy, public awareness, consultation, research, and investigations and monitoring. The role includes specific functions in respect of monitoring activities completed under the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989. The Children's Commissioner also undertakes systemic advocacy functions and investigates particular issues with potential to threaten the health, safety, or wellbeing of children and young people. The Children's Commissioner has a particular responsibility to raise awareness and understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Children's Commissioner's activities must comply with the relevant provisions of the Public Finance Act 1989, Crown Entities Act 2004 and any other relevant legislation.