

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS POLICY**

OCTOBER 2013

2013 International Relations Policy**Contents**

1.	Preamble	3
2.	Policy Aim	3
3.	Purpose Statement	3
4.	Scope	3
5.	Goals	4
6.	Principles	4
7.	Framework of Relationships	5
8.	Current Relationship Commitments	6
9.	Giving Effect to the Policy	
	Schedule One:	
	Mayoral Travel in Support of International Relations	7
	Schedule Two:	
	Status of Sister City Committees	8
	Schedule Three:	
	Elected Members on Sister City Committees	9
	Schedule Four:	
	Sister Cities Committees: Planning, Funding and Reporting	10

1. Preamble

The Canterbury earthquakes have provided an unprecedented opportunity to review, revitalise and renew the city of Christchurch within a global context. Following extensive public consultation, strategic central and local governmental responses such as the Christchurch Central City Recovery Plan and the Recovery Strategy have been developed. These envisage the City becoming a thriving international city within the Greater Christchurch locality which is a place to be proud of as an attractive and vibrant place to live, work, visit, study and invest. More than ever before Christchurch's success will depend on the connections and relationships it builds with international partners.

2. Policy Aim

That International Relations enhance Christchurch as a sustainable, dynamic, modern international city in order to contribute to a stronger community, a prosperous economy, and good governance.

3. Purpose Statement

The International Relations Policy will determine the framework of how Christchurch interacts with the international community to support the city's social, cultural, environmental and economic goals.

This means that Christchurch's international relationships will embrace diversity along with social and cultural understanding. They will also attract skilled migrants, encourage tourism and education, foster economic development and international investment, promote environmental sustainability, and capture and share best practice and learning opportunities in these arenas.

The Policy recognises that the Council plays a key role in developing the City's international relationships in a fast, ever changing and developing international context. This Policy links strongly to three key community outcomes for Council as part of its long term planning:

Strong Communities - Cultural and ethnic diversity is valued and celebrated.

Prosperous Economy - Christchurch is recognised as a great place to work, live, visit, invest and do business.

Good Governance - The Council has effective relationships with central government and other key partners.

4. Scope

The City's relations internationally are about how Christchurch engages with other countries and communities in the international arena. The ensuing relationships and connections help build social, cultural and environmental understandings and benefits, and potentially lay the foundation relationships towards economic development.

To be effective, the Policy must connect with other Council strategies and activities such as the Christchurch Economic Development Strategy, the Sister Cities Strategy, the Events Strategy, and the Visitors Strategy, along with the Recovery Strategy developed by CERA. The Council will need to enhance, complement and maintain working relationships with other key stakeholders, both locally and nationally, to deliver an effective international relations policy and to achieve mutual outcomes. Key relationships include, without being limited to, those with central government (e.g. Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Education New Zealand), arms of local government (Canterbury Development Corporation, Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism), Ngai Tahu, Sister City Committees, ethnic communities and the private sector.

Agreements will be developed between the Council and other key stakeholders, including Council Controlled Organisations, to determine respective roles, responsibilities, expectations. These agreements will be supported by a strategic communications plan to communicate more effectively the Council's annual programme of international relations (including the work of the Sister City Committees).

The Council's international relations also play an important role as the City recovers from the 2010-2011 earthquakes. Learning from recovery experiences in other parts of the world and exchange the lessons we in turn have learnt in a compassionate and reciprocal manner will be a key focus.

5. Goals

- To work with key stakeholders to develop relationships that meet identified common goals.
- To facilitate co-ordination and understanding between local and central government along with the community and private sectors to develop a whole-of-government approach to relationships.
- To develop relationships and connections that attract quality investment, growth and innovation, education and tourism, including skilled migrants, visitors and international students.
- To support and enhance our existing Sister City relationships.
- To assess the potential for different types of international relationships to achieve the best outcomes for the City.
- To identify opportunities to utilise local and Council expertise to increase capability within identified developing cities, particularly in the Asia/Pacific area.
- To facilitate the capture and exchange of best practice initiatives, particularly in the area of disaster recovery.

6. Principles

The Policy's goals are underpinned by these principles to help the Council assess opportunities for new relationships and for the review of existing ones:

- **Promotion**
 - Increase Christchurch's profile internationally.
 - Showcase Christchurch on the international stage to promote and build upon the city's international reputation.
 - Reinforce the message that Christchurch is a great place to work, live, visit, study, invest and do business.
- **Leverage**
 - Capture and share international best practice initiatives.
 - Increase international recognition of what Christchurch does best.
 - Support key stakeholders in their efforts to promote tourism, economic development and education in Christchurch
- **Connection**
 - Facilitate economic, educational, social, cultural and sporting development connections to the mutual benefit of Christchurch and our partner locations.
 - Collaborate with local and international stakeholders to promote the best possible outcomes for all parties.

- Support central government and a 'NZ Inc' approach to international activities.

7. Framework of Relationships

A range of partnership types will apply to Christchurch's international connections, depending on the nature of the relationship, the level of engagement (at the civic and community level) and the resources committed. These may include Memoranda or Letters of Understanding, friendly Cooperative Agreements, Alliances, formal Sister City relationships, or membership of international associations.

Type of Relationship	Description of Relationship
Strategic Relationship	Strategic relationships may operate external to the Council, but Council support must fit with its Community Outcomes of a Stronger Community, Prosperous Economy and Good Governance. These partnerships will be time orientated, managed through Memoranda of Understanding and delivered and supported collaboratively.
Special Relationship	Special relationships will provide the opportunity for linkages between communities with a special interest area or activity. These relationships will exist under the auspices of the Council but could be delegated to other stakeholders if deemed appropriate. These relationships will be project focused, managed through contracts or Memoranda of Understanding and delivered and supported collaboratively.
Membership of International Associations	Membership of international associations, managed by Council's International Relations, will provide the opportunity to promote Christchurch and the wider South Island. Membership of associations must fit with the Community Outcomes of a Stronger Community, Prosperous Economy and Good Governance. These relationships will exist under the auspices of the Council but could be delegated to other stakeholders if deemed appropriate. These relationships will be project focused, managed through contracts or Memoranda of Understanding and delivered and supported collaboratively.
Friendly City Relationship	A friendly city relationship is less formal and lower profile relationship than a Sister City relationship. A friendly city relationship is likely to be long term, based upon social, cultural or sporting partnership. A friendly city relationship is the likely stepping stone towards becoming a Sister City. These relationships must have the support and commitment of the community and be managed through Memoranda of Understanding.
Sister City (Historical)	A Sister City where the relationship is based upon historical or ceremonial links, where the activity is limited. This category may be used in the event it is mutually decided between existing Sister Cities and the appropriate voluntary committee that an active relationship is no longer present.
Sister City	Sister City relationships are formal long term relationships where there are strong links in the areas of culture, education, sport, and business. Sister City relationships will be formalised by Council agreement, require civic and community engagement on both sides and will be managed in Christchurch by a voluntary community committee, supported by Council resources. Sister City relationships are required to be re-affirmed every five years at the civic level and aspirations for the next five years agreed upon between civic authorities (in consultation with the voluntary community committees) at this time.

8. Current Relationship Commitments

Strategic Partnerships:	Antarctic Gateway Cities
International Associations:	Great Wine Capitals Mayors for Peace
Friendly City:	Wuhan, People's Republic of China
Sister City:	Adelaide, Australia Christchurch, United Kingdom Gansu Province, People's Republic of China Kurashiki, Japan Seattle, United States of America Songpa-gu, Republic of Korea

9. Giving Effect to the Policy

To support the International Relations Policy, planning will be undertaken for the Council's international relations programme. In the first instance, emphasis will be given to reviewing and updating the Council's *Sister Cities Strategy*, which will address a number of issues raised during the review and development of the International Relations Policy.

The extent to which the Policy is implemented will depend on decisions made in the Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. It is through the Long Term Plan that the work identified in the Council's international relations programme will be balanced against other Council projects and services.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY
SCHEDULE ONE**

Mayoral Travel in Support of International Relations

Introduction

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) identifies three major elements in the role of the Mayor - political, policy and community leadership.

Community leadership generally describes a mayor's representation function, particularly his or her ceremonial duties and community engagement. Ultimately, it involves leadership on behalf of, and for, the community. Surveys of mayors suggest that this was the most important of the three leadership functions.

The Mayor's community leadership role will from time to time involve representing the city overseas. In many cultures, the mayoral role implies considerable political seniority and thus the mayoral presence can open doors, secure meetings at a more senior level, and attract media coverage that would not otherwise be available for Christchurch business, educational and/or community groups pursuing connections overseas.

Alignment with Council Policies

Schedule One should be read in conjunction with the *Councillors Overseas Travel Policy 2008*, or any subsequent updates to it.

Principles

Mayoral travel in support of international relations will follow these principles:

- That as a general policy international air travel by the Mayor and staff is by way of economy class, where the costs of the fares are met by the Council.
- That no unnecessary expenses be incurred in the course of such travel.
- That all travel be planned in advance.
- Where business class air travel is desirable for health or other compelling reasons, this requires the prior approval of the Council.
- An appropriate staff member will accompany the Mayor when travelling in support of the Council's international relations.
- Following such travel, a report is to be submitted to the Council on the Council-funded component of the travel and the findings and benefits to the Council.
- The travel expenses to be reported to include travel, accommodation, incidental expenses and conference registration.
- That the Council authorise the payment of the associated travel, accommodation and incidental costs for the Mayoress to enable them to accompany the Mayor on overseas trips, where appropriate.
- That the Mayor will visit each Sister City once during a three-year term.
- Sister Cities Committees may delegate a Committee member to travel with the Mayor on Sister City visits.
- A programme for mayoral Sister City visits is developed and approved by Council in consultation with the Sister City Committees after each triennial election.
- Additional visits to Sister Cities, or other travel in support of International Relations, which may include civic delegations, will require the approval of the Council.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY SCHEDULE TWO

Status of Sister City Committees

Introduction

Sister City relationships are formalised by Council agreement, and are managed locally by voluntary community committees with Council resource supporting administration, advisory services, activity management and activity core-funding.

Sister City relationships are required to be re-affirmed every five years at the civic level and aspirations for the next five years agreed upon between civic authorities (in consultation with the voluntary community committees) at this time.

Alignment with other Policies and Strategies

Schedule Two clarifies and confirms the legal status of the Sister City Committees, and complements the other Schedules in this document.

Principles

- The legal status of the committees is “an unincorporated body of persons from the community”.
- This body’s terms of reference is informed by the guidance from the Council, in the form of the International Relations Policy, the Sister Cities Strategy, the Sister Cities Committee Handbook, or any other policies or strategies from the Council.
- Although the Council does not have any direct control of the Committees, it will at all times work in partnership with the Sister City Committees.
- The roles and responsibilities of committees will be set out and agreed upon and reviewed in a triennial memorandum of understanding between the Committee and the Council that coincides with the beginning of the electoral cycle.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY SCHEDULE THREE

Elected Members on Sister City Committees

Alignment with other Policies and Strategies

Schedule Three replaces the provisions of elected member representation on Sister City Committees contained in the *Sister City Committees: Chairpersons' Selection Process Policy 1994*.

Elected Members on Committees

Immediately post Council elections, the Council will ballot elected members onto each of the seven Sister City Committees for the duration of the electoral cycle, with at least one and no more than two elected members per committee.

Role of Elected Member

- To represent the councils interests as an active and equal member of the Sister City Committee whilst appointed by Council.
- To assist Sister City Committees and the Mayor in the hosting of Sister City delegations.
- To formally and informally communicate the activities of the Sister City Committee to the Council.

Principles

- Each Sister City Committee will have an elected member.
- The standing and role of the elected member on the Sister City Committee is the same as for any member of the committee.
- All Committee members are accountable to the Committee Chairperson.
- Elected members are ineligible to be elected as Chairs of Sister City Committees.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY SCHEDULE FOUR

Sister Cities Committees: Planning, Funding and Reporting

Introduction

Christchurch's Sister City Committees aim to increase global co-operation at a local level, promote cultural understanding, stimulate economic development and foster a citizens' network of organisations and individuals devoted to creating and strengthening partnerships between Christchurch and international communities. In order to be able to undertake this work each Committee will receive grant funding from the Christchurch City Council.

Alignment with Council Policies

Schedule Four replaces the provisions relating to planning, funding and reporting of Sister City Committees contained in the *Sister City Committees: Funding for Overseas Travel Policy 1991*.

Principles

- Each Sister City Committee will, by 30 June each year, prepare a report forecasting a schedule of activities for the next five years. Each report is to highlight any significant proposed activities that may require a higher level of grant funding from the Council.
- Each Sister City Committee will, by 31 March each year, prepare a report detailing the schedule of activities proposed for the upcoming financial year that require grant funding from the Council.
- An extraordinary Sister City Committee Chairs Meeting, chaired by the Council's Civic and International Relations Manager will be convened by 31 July in order to discuss and agree upon Council grant funding allocations to each committee.
- Each Sister City Committee will, by 30 June each year, prepare a financial report accounting for the expenditure of Council grant funding against the schedule of activities.
- Each Sister City Committee will, by 30 June each year, prepare a report summarising the activities of the Committee for the previous 12 months. The Civic and International Relations Department will collate the reports and provide a report to the Council by 31 August.
- The Civic and International Relations Department will advise and service the Committees and the Council will provide a venue, free of charge, for each Sister City Committee meeting.
- An annual plenary of the Sister Cities Committees shall be held every twelve months.