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**Q1**

Your details

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Company / Organisation (if submitting on behalf of)	<b>Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust</b>
Address	██████████
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Email address	████████████████████
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**Q2**

Do you agree with our three areas of focus and their associated goals?

Living, working and learning here - Our residents are engaged and invested in our community **Agree**

Doing business here - Our businesses are thriving, innovative and resilient to change **Agree**

Visiting and playing here - Our district is a destination of choice for locals and visitors, with great leisure, entertainment and recreational activities **Agree**

Please explain why

**As a provider of adult and community education, Connecting Mid Canterbury appreciates goal 1's focus on enabling learning to happen locally. As one of the Mental Health Foundation's recommended 5 Ways to Wellbeing, KEEP LEARNING is important not just for professional development or career advancement, but for all of our wellbeing. Through the 40 learning events we organise each year people also have the opportunity to CONNECT with others and get a sense of belonging to the community. All important for our wellbeing. Connecting Mid Canterbury's focus is on connecting - people, services and resources. Connection is something we believe is a key component in feeling good about a place and wanting to stay. If you're connected to your neighbours, the rugby club, your local bar for quiz night, book club at the library... it becomes harder to leave. Conversely if beyond your workplace you lack connections to people and places, there's not a lot holding you here. We would suggest including the word 'connected' in goal 1. E.g 'Our residents are connected, engaged and invested in our community.' Connecting Mid Canterbury organises a lot of social events as well as learning opportunities - which supports goals 1& 3 - making our district a great place for locals and visitors. Already now we see people come to our events from Christchurch, Timaru, Geraldine etc. We encourage the council to view its role to not only create activities and events plans themselves but support and partner with those, like our organisation, who are already delivering events, and have an events calendar <https://www.keeplearningmc.nz/> .**

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Q3

Do you agree with our draft action plan on pages 12 - 17?

No,

Please explain why:

We agree with partnering with education providers and as one, we look forward to hearing from you when you look to 'develop strategic partnerships' with us. We hope Ashburton Learning Centre which already provides significant adult education is also involved in the process. Where we are not in agreement is the direction of the plan heading toward what sounds like a building for a learning hub. How about supporting those already providing education to deliver what may be missing, partnering with them/us and using existing facilities in the community, including the upcoming new Library and Civic building. At least as a first step - to gauge interest and uptake, before launching into feasibility studies for buildings. Ara has struggled to attract people to its courses locally and we'd hate to see Council invest lots of money into a Learning Hub that might not attract the students it seeks. There are other models for learning - Te Wānanga o Aotearoa - one of NZs largest universities functions with very few of its own buildings. There are models out there for virtual and in person classes, let's talk! Rather than come up with new Council 'solutions', can you create conditions for community-led responses to the learning needs that exist? Research shows this has a greater impact than councils creating and choosing solutions for communities. Maybe the capacity and willingness is already there to meet the needs. Council could support community players in terms of funding, sharing ideas, sharing the needs they know of, acting as relationship brokers - introducing, coordinating and connecting people who may deliver the learning with local organizations coordinating it, be involved in monitoring and evaluation, reflection etc. Rather than going ahead and providing a new solution (Learning Hub) themselves. Also in a similar vein - objective B in Goal 1 to create a calendar of events to connect with and engage the community. Are you aware that our organisation developed something along these lines, at the end of 2021, so our community could find out what was happening in the district? Please see: <https://www.keeplearningmc.nz/> Would it perhaps be worth a conversation with us about how ADC could promote or support this existing solution? And a discussion on how anything you develop could complement this one? Also please note that Connecting Mid Canterbury organises in excess of 50 events per year, social and learning events. We have consulted with the community on events they would like to see and are always looking to meet community needs for free/ cheap options for socialising and learning. Perhaps you would like to include us as partners when looking at objective B. Good to see objective C in regards to Goal 1. In this section, action 1: organisations and community groups are missing from the 'partners' section. Again critical for the success of the

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partners' section. Again, critical for the success of the Welcoming Communities plan is the Council working with and listening to the organisations and businesses who know the needs of newcomers and migrants and in many cases will be the ones implementing the actions in the plan. Let them develop the plan with you, so it meets the actual needs in our community and includes actions that will make the most difference. Council then needs to resource the groups delivering the actions. To see success, focus on creating the conditions for community-led responses, rather than council trying to do things themselves and potentially missing the mark. Regarding action 4 in this section C, reviewing the effectiveness of the WCP in 5 years time is not good enough. We the community need to see more regular review of this programme, because if it isn't working, then things will need to change. Can't wait 5 years to find that out! I suggest at a minimum annual review, but perhaps 6 monthly feedback sessions with community groups, businesses, newcomers, council involved, seeing where things are at, what's happening, what is making a difference, what could be improved, what issues need to be addressed etc.

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### Q4

Does the strategy and action plan address what you see as the key issues facing economic development in our district?

**Respondent skipped this question**

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### Q5

The strategy outlines the role Council will play in economic development. Do you agree with this and / or are there any other areas you think we should include?

**No,**

Please provide comment:

As mentioned above, we believe the Council's role in some areas is to support community-led development rather than provide solutions themselves. Look to see who you could partner with in the community, work with them, and resource them to deliver.

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### Q6

Do you have anything else you'd like to mention?

**Respondent skipped this question**

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### Q7

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

**Yes - I wish to present in person**

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