

Christchurch Report June 2012

From our man on the ground Geoff

Whilst the CBD is still very much a demolition zone small pockets of the “red zone” are reopening and new builds are commencing. However many developers continue to stand back awaiting the confirmation of anchor facilities, in particular a new Christchurch Convention Centre.

Two documents, one by local government and one by a central government department are currently being worked on. The first of these is the Christchurch City Council’s Annual Plan for 2012/13 FY. Public consultation on the draft plan has closed and the plan is to be debated by council over the next few weeks before being confirmed by 30 June. This plan includes funding for some of the large central city projects – in particular repair work to the Christchurch Town Hall, a new Metro Sports facility and new Convention Centre. It is interesting to note however the council must confirm its Annual Plan prior to the release and subsequent government sign off of the recently formed Christchurch Central Development Unit’s blueprint document for the city centre. This document is being prepared to meet a 100 day deadline by a consortium which locals believe is a good mix of international expertise and local experience. It is this document which will determine where the anchor projects are sited.

With regard to residential subdivisions, developers of 2 of the large proposed subdivisions in the North of Christchurch – Prestons and Highfield continue to work through the planning process.