

Accelerator projects: Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy 2017–19

From 1 July 2017, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has sought and received support from central Government for ‘accelerator projects’ to advance its priority actions for the local government term 2017–19.

PROGRAMME	PROJECT	TIMEFRAME
Regional transport	1. Strategic policy analysis and advice to accelerate progress on the four work programme priorities and co-ordinate a stocktake of the resilience of the roading network in Canterbury	2017–18
Digital connectivity	2. Mobile and broadband coverage mapping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and GIS map remaining gaps in mobile and broadband coverage in Canterbury work with stakeholders and the public to analyse coverage gaps for economic and social significance work with Crown Fibre Holdings Ltd., the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Enable Networks Ltd, electricity lines companies, telco retail service providers and wireless internet service providers to identify solutions 	2017–18
	3. Promote uptake and use of digital technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with retail service providers, farmers, irrigation companies and industry to identify and publicise uptake and use of digital technology to improve productivity in rural Canterbury 	2017–18
Education and Training	4. Facilitate and co-ordinate, in partnership with the Ministries of Social Development and Education, an expansion (with evaluation) to at least one other centre of programmes piloted by Aoraki Development in Timaru to support youth transitions to further education, training and employment	2017–18
	5. Christchurch Educated – expand the Job Ready Programme to Timaru (40 students per year), to leverage global talent (international students) trained in New Zealand to meet immediate and future labour shortages in export-facing businesses	2017–19
Value-added production	6. Improve productivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate new value-add, market opportunities that the Canterbury region is well placed to take advantage of, to improve productivity and create higher living standards; e.g. niche markets, particularly in China and South-East Asia consult and engage with South Island economic development agencies on creating a virtual economic policy unit/function, to support economic development strategy and implementation across the South Island 	2017–22
	7. Part fund a co-ordination position (based at the University of Canterbury) to work across the Canterbury Tertiary Alliance and with the Lincoln Hub, Crown Research Institutes, Callaghan Innovation and NZ Trade and Enterprise to connect industry needs to research and accelerate knowledge translation to high-value production and manufacturing for export	2017–21

PROGRAMME	PROJECT	TIMEFRAME
Visitor strategy	8. Work with KiwiRail on a robust assessment of the business case for reintroducing rail passenger services south from Christchurch and to help disperse tourists	2017
CREDS management, monitoring and reporting	9. Provide contract management across all work programmes and support lead Mayors with CREDS implementation	2017–18
	10. Further develop (with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry for Social Development and the Ministry of Education) the CREDS outcome indicators, disaggregated wherever possible to territorial authority level, and prepare a publication design that can be easily maintained	2017
	11. Further develop 'the Canterbury story', to provide a toolkit of marketing assets that businesses, councils, educational organisations and other stakeholders can use to attract business, capital, skilled workers, students and visitors to Canterbury	2017–18