

QLDC Council

26 May 2016

Report for Agenda Item: 11

Mayor's report

Purpose

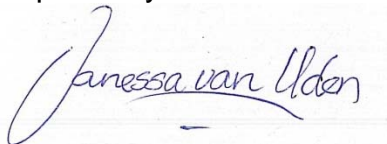
To summarise the Mayor's activities since the date of the last report and to raise other items of democratic and general interest, including a summary of actions taken in response to the decisions made at previous Council meetings.

Recommendation

That the Council:

1. **Note** the report;
2. **Approve** Councillor Ferguson attending the 2016 Local Government New Zealand annual conference; and
3. **Submit** a registration of interest to LGNZ to become a Foundation Council for the Local Government Excellence Programme.

Prepared by:



Vanessa van Uden
Mayor
12/05/2016

Mayor's Activities

The following is a summary of the principal functions and meetings attended by the Mayor over the period 29 April to 25 May 2016:

- Meeting with Lou Sanson and Allen Munn, Department of Conservation
- Meeting with Ann Lockhart, Queenstown Chamber of Commerce
- Attendance at Elders Council launch
- Attendance at Queenstown Chamber of Commerce Labour Force Workshop
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Opening of PowerTalk Conference
- Community needs meeting with Salvation Army and Happiness House
- Opening of the ASPAC conference
- Meeting with Minister Phil Twyford
- Attendance at Local Governance Excellence Programme Sector Workshop
- Attendance at Prime Minister Tourism Event, Bannockburn
- Meeting with Minister Nick Smith re Queenstown-Lakes District Housing Accord

- Attendance at Otago Regional Council Annual Plan hearing to speak to Council submission
- Attendance at Bus and Coach Parking Association meeting with QLDC
- Meeting with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- Attendance at Destination Queenstown Board meeting
- Opening of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Federation Conference
- Attendance at Queenstown Labour Force Strategy Meeting
- Attendance at Queenstown Chamber of Commerce Queenstown Business Leader Event
- Attendance at Business Affordable Housing Forum
- Attendance at Otago Mayoral Forum meeting at Waitaki District Council
- Baby Box meeting

Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference

Traditionally the Mayor or Chief Executive and one Councillor attend the annual LGNZ Conference. I support Councillor Ferguson attending the conference this year, as he has not attended previously. I will also be attending as I have been approached to present a session. This year the conference is being held 24-26 July in Dunedin. The registration fee for the conference is \$1410.00 if paid before 1 June and is \$1510.00 if paid after this date.

Local Government Excellence Programme

Late last year we met with representatives from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) to discuss the possibility of developing an Excellence Programme for councils. There was discussion around a possible set of measures for assessment. In the ensuing period LGNZ have met with most councils around the country to discuss and develop the idea further.

This programme has been developed to take local government to a new level of sector performance and came as a result of the perceptions of poor performance and reputation identified in 2015 NZ Local Government survey. Its purpose is to drive consistent service and value across all of local government. To do this we all need to know what we do well and what we need to improve on.

The Local Government Excellence Programme will involve an independent assessment of a council's performance across four priority areas that the general public and businesses have identified as important to them. There will be an independent assessment rating and discussion on how we are performing. The priority areas are:

- Governance, leadership and strategy – how councils set the direction for their community, and make and oversee decisions;
- Financial decision-making and transparency – how council finances are decided and allocated;
- Asset management, infrastructure and service provision – what assets and infrastructure councils own and operate, how efficiently and effectively these assets are used and what services they provide; and

- Communicating and engaging – how councils involve their residents, businesses and communities.

This will enable best practice councils to be identified for us all to learn from with the ultimate aim of improving the services we deliver to the community. The purpose is not to find fault with Councillors or council staff but to search continuously for improvement in what we do.

LGNZ has done significant work in developing the Excellence Programme and discussing it with the sector. I attended a workshop this month to further refine elements of the programme. The development work has been overseen by the National Council and the Sector Performance Advisory Group (a sub-committee of National Council – Adam Feeley was a member of this group).

The next step is to call for Foundation Councils to register their interest. Foundation Councils will be a small group of councils who lead the LG Excellence Programme over the first year, helping LGNZ to refine it as needed and ultimately lead the way for lifting performance within the sector.

There will be a relatively small cost for the independent assessment likely to be between 1 and 3 days for 2 to 3 assessors (guess-estimate approximately \$10K). It will also involve some Councillor and staff time during that period and some time prior preparing the required documentation.

The benefits for Foundation Councils will be:

- Identifying areas which need improvement and areas where they are sector leaders;
- Enabling more detailed and targeted improvement plans to be developed in areas where improvement is needed;
- Elected members will having more clarity on how the organisation is performing;
- Accessing improved data, shared learning and insights to improve performance; and
- An independent external assessment of Council performance in the priority areas that can be shared.

This is a unique opportunity to be part of developing a programme which I think will be a significant step forward for Local Government in New Zealand and it is one we should not be afraid to embrace. We need to be upfront and honest about our performance and able to clearly spell out to our community where we are performing well, where we need improvement and what we are doing about it.

In order to register to be considered for selection as a Foundation Council we need a Council resolution, a joint letter of support from the Mayor and Chief Executive (I have discussed this opportunity with Mike Theelen and he is supportive), inclusion in the Council work programme for 2016/17 and identification of a budget for costs (given the relatively small nature of the costs, this could be funded from the consultants budget already provided for in the draft Annual Plan).

Portfolio Leader reports

Operations (From Portfolio Leader, Councillor Gazzard)

1. Levels of Service

A detailed programme and specifications for sports fields and high profile turf areas have been developed for contractor pricing.

An offer of service for developing specifications and tender documents for the parks and reserves contracts review in 2017 is being sought.

2. Asset Management

The first stage of improving asset management for parks and reserves is underway. This stage includes collating and verifying existing asset data across multiple systems to upload into RAMM to allow more efficient and cost effective contract management and asset renewal programming. The next stage will be to identify gaps in existing data. At that stage, options for collecting further data will be considered.

3. Parks Strategy

A framework for a new Parks Strategy and a Consultation Plan to develop the strategy was presented to a Council workshop on 19 April. Further actions will be included in the draft Strategy, which will be brought to a Council workshop in June that will also include a panel of representatives from key stakeholder groups.

4. Wanaka Lakefront Development Plan

Following feedback from the Wanaka Community Board and members of the community, further meetings with the board and community were held and subsequent revisions to the plan are being made. The plan is now intended to be adopted by the Wanaka Community Board in June.

5. Reserve management plans

- Glenorchy Airstrip Reserve Management Plan – consultation is complete and a submissions hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday 7 June.
- Wanaka Recreation Reserve Management Plan – A workshop with the key stakeholders and the Wanaka Community Board has been arranged for Wednesday 25 May. After this workshop, the draft plan will be completed and reported to the Wanaka Community Board in July for approval to notify it for public submissions.

6. Wilding Conifers

Public feedback on options to harvest the Coronet Forest is underway. The submission period closes on Friday 27 May.

7. Reserve development and subdivision input

Changes to the landscape section of the Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice are being considered, including adding provisions to provide Council and the community more clarity and consistency around maintenance periods following handover of new reserves and road reserves to be vested.

These proposed changes will be consulted and brought to Council for consideration.

8. Capital programme

Delivery of the 15/16 programme is progressing and is mostly on track to be completed by July. Due to supplier issues there have been delays to the playground renewal programme, which will cause the Kingston playground upgrades to be carried over to 16/17.

Options to upgrade a park and install a memorial to Dr William Anderson with funds contributed from his daughter's estate have been considered and are presented as a separate item on this Council agenda.

9. Community and volunteer group coordination

Parks are looking to coordinate all community and volunteer groups doing work in QLDC parks and reserves to ensure adequate health and safety plans are in place.

10. Other Business

It is intended to bring a report to Council in June to consider a proposal for the day to day management of the proposed Coronet Loop Trail and other existing tracks on the Soho Property land north of Arrowtown.

A request from the Wakatipu BMX Club has been received for Council to agree provision of future reserve land next to Lower Shotover to assist the club's funding applications to trusts or other organisations to develop a BMX track.

QLDC wayfinding signage was awarded at the National Signage and Display Awards 2016.

Planning and Development (from Deputy Portfolio Leader, Councillor Lawton)

Proposed District Plan

- First hearing stream of Proposed District Plan stage one completed.
- The hearings for the Rural Chapters are now underway including Chapter 21 – Rural Zone, Chapter 22 – Rural Residential and Rural Lifestyle, Chapter 23 – Gibbston Character Zone, Chapter 32 – Indigenous Vegetation and Biodiversity and Chapter 33 – Wilding Exotic Trees and are due to finish late May. These are being considered, heard and deliberated, by three independent commissioners and one Councillor commissioner.

April Performance Data

- 79 non-notified resource consent decisions and 1 notified resource consent decisions were issued in April.
- The percentage of resource consents issued within the statutory timeframe decreased slightly to 95% in April, down from 96.4% in March. 110 applications were received in April, compared with 232 in March and 109 in February. The

average number of working days for a non-notified consent has dropped to 15 in April and for notified consents risen to 31 compared to 12 in March.

- Last month's working days were unusually low due to the Bridesdale application.
- The number of building consent applications received continues to be high with 174 received in April. The percentage issued within the statutory timeframe has declined to 46%, down from the previous 80% in March. 105 building consents were issued in April, down from 111 in March. The average number of working days for a building consent has increased to 21, up from 18 in March.
- Since January this year we have had an extra 123 building consents come in compared to last year, so this is continuing to stretch resources. An additional four external consultants have been engaged to help with processing, bringing our number of consultants to eight. As reported to the 13 May Council meeting we are also working on our action plan for IANZ to address our 10 corrective actions from our recent assessment. This action plan needs to be with IANZ by 20 May for approval, by July 17 we must provide evidence to show we are actioning our plan to the satisfaction of IANZ and they will be back for a full assessment in October.
- There have been high LIM applications, with 155 received in April, down from 200 in March and up from 141 in February, but all were processed within the statutory 10 working day limit, with an average processing time of just five to six days over the last three months.

Other work

- QLDC received that court's decision on conditions and costs in ZJV Ltd v QLDC – Skyline Helipad Decisions. It was successful on all fronts. The court has accepted our submissions in respect of costs, and no award has been made against the Council.

Infrastructure (from Portfolio Leader, Councillor Cocks)

Capital Works

1. Hawea Water supply, new bore and UV treatment: Currently resolving issue with the bore pumps. It is a suspected mechanical issue and the equipment is back with the manufacturers getting repaired.
2. Beacon Point Road/Mt Aspiring Road: Propose to carry forward and undertake work in next financial year.
3. Brownston Street Parking: Footpath work under construction, due completion by the end of May.
4. Ardmore Street water and wastewater main upgrade: These upgrades will be done in conjunction with the reseal of Ardmore Street which is unlikely now until 2017/18.

5. Hawthorne Drive infrastructure design project: Detailed design report and draft tender document received. Revised cost estimate received. Work on Business Case is proceeding.
6. Mount Aspiring Booster pump station upgrade and Wanaka Yacht Club bore injection: The Wanaka Yacht Club Borefield project to be postponed until 2017/18 to allow time to ascertain the need and how it ties into the wider Wanaka water models. Mount Aspiring Booster to go ahead in 2016/17.
7. Andrews Road design work is finished. Still awaiting affected party approval but programmed to commence in 2016/17.

Other Projects

1. Queenstown Town Centre Transport Strategy: May report to Council will identify immediate projects for action. June report will set out a programme for implementation for the remainder.
2. Wanaka Transport Strategy: Programme Business Case being revisited with WCB list of priorities and the two lists are being aligned. Funding will be revisited with NZTA before the end of 2016.
3. Cardrona wastewater: Project is proceeding with modelling work and final design for wastewater reticulation of town centre.
4. Waste Minimisation Strategy Review: Update was provided at Council workshop in April.
5. Glenorchy wastewater scheme: further work on objectives is being done before reporting to Council in June. An update to the community is planned before the Council meeting.
6. Water Meter Trial: Continues with on-going meter reading and analysis.
7. Asset Management Plans:
 - RAPT (Review and Prioritisation Team) drive overs with NZTA are scheduled for end May / beginning June to look at forward works programme.
 - On track to report current Levels of Service to Council in June workshop including benchmarking against other councils in New Zealand.
 - Closing our internal annual review of Three Waters and Transport Asset Management Plans.
 - See projects 9 and 10 below for Three Waters model updates.
8. TechOne: Recommendations from workshops are being implemented resulting in improvement of the management of budgets, forecasting and financial reporting across Property, Parks and Infrastructure. These processes are to form a blue print for the next financial year.

9. Wastewater Model Update project:

- Wakatipu wastewater model is built and calibrated. System performance results have been drafted and reviewed, awaiting final report.
- Wanaka model has been built and calibration is nearing completion. Calibration and system performance results will be presented at the end of May.
- Overall both models are on track to allow an assessment of current system performance before the end of the financial year.

10. Water Supply Model Update Project:

- Queenstown model calibration is underway and may take some time. Data indicates zone boundaries may not be robust and network investigations are underway to confirm.
- Wanaka model calibration has been completed and initial system performance has been completed.
- Due to increased requirements for Queenstown, a fifth model (Lake Hayes or Hawea) is now unlikely to be started this financial year.

Recent Meetings

Property Subcommittee minutes (28 April 2016)

1. Heritage Incentive Grant Application – Stone Cottage 253 Centennial Avenue, Arrowsmith Road Temporary Road Closure – Arrowsmith Trolley Race 2016
2. Road Naming Application – Glentui Heights Limited, Off Glenorchy-Queenstown Road, Queenstown
3. Licence to Occupy Road Reserve – 20 York Street, Queenstown

Resource Consent Commissioner Appointment Subcommittee draft minutes (28 April 2016) (In the Public Excluded part of the meeting)

1. Commissioner Appointments

Wanaka Community Board draft minutes (9 May 2016)

1. Hawea Library – Opening Hours
2. Chair's report

Property Subcommittee draft minutes (13 May 2016)

1. Temporary Road Closure – Queenstown Winter Festival 2016
2. Temporary Road Closure – 2016 New Year's Eve Celebrations Wanaka and Queenstown
3. Mipad Holdings – Amendment of Easement Fee

4. Licence to Occupy Council Structure – Queenstown Bike Tours

Attachments

- A Property Subcommittee minutes (28 April 2016)
- B Resource Consent Commissioner Appointment Subcommittee draft minutes (28 April 2016) (In the Public Excluded part of the meeting)
- C Wanaka Community Board draft minutes (9 May 2016)
- D Property Subcommittee draft minutes (13 May 2016)
- E Action list from previous Council meetings