

### Minutes of a Council Workshop

Thursday 14 May 2026  
in Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown,  
commencing at 3.30pm

A recording of this workshop can be found on the QLDC website.

<b>Present:</b>	Mayor John Glover	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
	Councillor Melissa White (online)	Councillor Nicola King
	Councillor Jon Mitchell	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk	Councillor Cody Tucker (online)
	Councillor Matt Wong	Councillor Heath Copland (online)
	Councillor Niki Gladding (online)	Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Michelle Morss	Pennie Pearce
	Brendan Peet (online)	Campbell Guy
	Meaghan Miller	Tony Avery
	Jon Winterbottom	David Wallace
<b>Media</b>	None	
<b>Public</b>	None	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><b><u>Simplifying Local Government – Head Start Pathway</u></b></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop was to share information provided by central government on the Head Start pathway for simplifying local government and provide an opportunity to discuss options for participation in the Head Start process.</p> <p>Pennie Pearce (Acting Strategy &amp; Policy General Manager) and Campbell Guy (Policy Advisor) spoke to a PowerPoint and responded to questions.</p> <p>Key discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with other councils and the role of Mayoral Forum envisaged as part of the process;</li> <li>• Clarification of the requirements around which councils can submit a proposal;</li> </ul>	<p>Staff to follow up with LGNZ regarding lessons learned from areas that formed unitary councils.</p>

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shared feedback on conversations with Mayors and councillors at other councils;</li> <li>• Clarifying that proposal could expand beyond the region;</li> <li>• Potential impact on Long Term Plan was an issue that would not be resolved prior to submission deadline;</li> <li>• Whether is there requirement to consult as per Local Government Act (LGA) since this is a significant decision. Staff suggested that the timeframe for initial proposal (due in August 2026) does not allow for consultation as would normally be undertaken, however there could be time for prior to formal proposal deadline in March 2027;</li> <li>• Mayor sought feedback from councillors on approach to share at Mayoral forum next week.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Attachments:</u></b>  <i>Attachment A: Letter from Minister for Local Government</i>  <i>Attachment B: Beehive announcement</i>  <i>Attachment C: Head Start Pathway Policy Document</i>  <i>Attachment D: DIA Head Start website: <a href="https://www.dia.govt.nz">Simplifying Local Government - dia.govt.nz</a> (URL, not attachment)</i>  <i>Attachment E: PowerPoint Presentation</i></p>	

*The workshop concluded at 4.40pm*