

### Minutes of a Full Council Workshop

Thursday 29 January 2026 at 9.30am  
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

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

<b>Present:</b>	Mayor John Glover (Chair)	Councillor Gavin Bartlett
	Councillor Samuel 'Q' Belk	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Heath Copland (online)	Councillor Niki Gladding
	Councillor Nicola King	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Quentin Smith	Councillor Cody Tucker
	Councillor Melissa White	Councillor Matt Wong
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Mike Theelen	Katherine Harbrow
	Tony Avery	Meaghan Miller
	Michelle Morss	Ken Bailey
	Simon Battrick	Gareth Noble
	Jeremy Payze	Peter Edie (online)
	Alison Kelly	Alex Martin
	Caleb Dawson-Swale	Priya Bhuller
	Rebecca Pitts	Diana Pietruschke
	Carrie Williams	Caitlin Pemberton
	Jane Robertson (for item 1)	Jon Winterbottom (for item 2)
		One member of the media (item 1)

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>2026/27 Draft Annual Plan</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop was to present an update on the key elements of Annual Plan 2026-2027.</p> <p>Ms Harbrow, Ms Miller and Mr Dawson-Swale spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) which presented an overview of the 2026/27 Annual Plan.</p> <p>1. <u>Financial Position and Rates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depreciation and interest are the largest budget components.</li> <li>Questions were raised about the accuracy of depreciation schedules and whether double-charging existed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A future LTP workshop to review depreciation strategy and the life of assets.</li> </ul>

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	<p>2. <u>Revenue Streams and Fees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue sources include airport dividends, income from leases and infringements and government grants.</li> <li>• There were concerns about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Declining levels of external (government) funding for community programmes;</li> <li>▪ Areas where the Council was not meeting its cost-recovery targets e.g. liquor licensing (where fees are set nationally), dog control, community development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Waste Services operate to be cost-neutral but risk losing revenue if users shift to private operators. The funding policy sets the user-pays component at 75%.</li> <li>• Should Queenstown CBD parking charges return to finishing at 9.00pm? Is it appropriate and timely to introduce paid parking in strategic areas of Wānaka? Officers noted that parking plans will be consulted on in coming months.</li> </ul> <p>3. <u>Differential Pricing for Locals vs. Visitors</u></p> <p>There was discussion about having discounts for local residents or visitor premium prices for recreation centres, libraries, parking and other local services.</p> <p>Key points of the discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New technology (e.g., licence plate recognition) may be needed.</li> <li>• Differential pricing has been implemented before and the cost of administration can outweigh any benefit.</li> <li>• There seems to be a growing community sentiment that locals want to feel more valued. It was appropriate to treat this as a strategic LTP issue, and begin scoping options now (e.g., a “local card” or membership-based discounting).</li> </ul> <p>4. <u>Community Priorities – Wānaka</u></p> <p>Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board has provided a list of priority projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roy’s Bay Jetty/Pier;</li> <li>• Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan Stage 4;</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport and recreation: a full size, multi-use artificial turf facility in the Upper Clutha:</li> <li>• Progress on new shared pathways; wayfinding and safety improvements on existing active travel routes;</li> <li>• Wānaka Performing Arts Centre</li> </ul> <p>The approximate cost impact to the 2026/27 Annual Plan if all were progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.075% rates impact plus \$1.1M debt drawdown;</li> <li>• Council noted some projects are already in the existing LTP.</li> <li>• These will likely feature as consultation questions in the Annual Plan.</li> </ul> <p>5. <u>Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (Performance Measures)</u> Members discussed three changes to KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation participation rates: change from per 1,000 residents metric (too unstable) to actual usage numbers;</li> <li>• Waste diversion targets: proposal to lower Year 3 target due to delays in organics roll out. Not supported as Council prefers transparency if targets are missed;</li> <li>• Organic content in kerbside rubbish: proposed deletion because central government no longer requires it but elected members prefer to retain until reassessed in LTP.</li> </ul> <p>6. <u>Freedom Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost for summer educational ambassadors is about \$350k.</li> <li>• Income from enforcement covers enforcement activities but not education.</li> <li>• Members considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Whether to continue the programme in 2027;</li> <li>b. How to balance education with enforcement;</li> <li>c. The overall fairness of ratepayers funding a service for visitors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council may revisit funding during Annual Plan deliberations.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>7. <u>Development Contributions &amp; Capital Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes since the workshop held earlier in 2026;</li> <li>• A construction cost index (PPI) update is pending;</li> <li>• Wānaka transfer station upgrade continues but project timing has shifted.</li> </ul> <p>8. <u>Annual Plan consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus will be on fees and charges and broad feedback opportunities will be provided;</li> <li>• The Plan will signpost major upcoming LTP consultations (parking, civic building, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>9. <u>Rates</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed whether to try to make the 11.6% rates increase lower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further reductions would require cuts to service levels, not just deferrals;</li> <li>• Depreciation should not be reduced as this will shift costs unfairly to the future;</li> <li>• The 2026/27 Annual Plan is Year 3 of the current LTP, which has already assumed these increases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Attachments</b></p> <p>A. Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 Presentation  B. Annual Plan 2026/27 Fees &amp; Charges Summary  C. Annual Plan 2026-27 Capex Changes  D. Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board 16 December 2025 report (Board priorities)</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approach to Advocacy for the New Triennium</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop was to provide an overview of Queenstown Lakes District Council’s current approach to advocacy and undertake an exercise with elected members to determine the priority topics for the triennium ahead.</p> <p>Michelle Morss introduced the item. Carrie Williams and Caitlin Pemberton spoke to a PowerPoint slideshow (Attachment A), which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers to bring back insights from the discussion and exercise for refinement at part 2 of workshop on</li> </ul>

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	<p>presented an overview of advocacy for the 2025-28 triennium, and responded to questions.</p> <p>Officers engaged elected members in an exercise to assist with obtaining feedback on potential topics on which Council would consider its priorities for external advocacy, including submissions as well as other advocacy methods.</p> <p>Elected members provided feedback on the subtopics. Officers indicated that they would heatmap the feedback and come back with potential options/trade-offs in part 2 of the workshop (scheduled for the 10 February 2026 Council Workshop).</p> <p>The level of consensus in feedback among elected members was noted. Discussion topics included the involvement of partners in the submission process, joint submissions with other councils, and the role of elected members in helping to pitch/advocate for the Council's position.</p> <p><b>Attachments</b> A. QLDC Advocacy PowerPoint</p>	<p>10 February 2026.</p>

The workshop concluded at 1.15pm.