

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 13 October 2026
in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown
commencing at 10.00am

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

Present:	Mayor John Glover	Councillor Jon Mitchell
	Councillor Gavin Bartlett	Councillor Quentin Smith
	Councillor Samuel Belk	Councillor Cody Tucker*
	Councillor Heath Copland*	Councillor Melissa White
	Councillor Niki Gladding	Councillor Matt Wong*
	Councillor Nicola King	
Apologies:	Councillor Stephen Brent	Mayor John Glover (for second half of workshop)
In attendance:	James Stevenson-Wallace	Meaghan Miller
	Katherine Harbrow	Dave Wallace
	Pennie Pearce	Ken Bailey
	Vanessa Fauth	Michelle Morss
	Philip Jones (Consultant)	Ian Dunbar
	Jane Roberston	Priya Bhuller
	Caleb Dawson-Swale	Ruby Mills
	Simon Battrick*	Ros March*
	Tanea Hawkins*	
Media	None	
Public	None	

*Online

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<u>Long Term Plan Steering Group 14</u> The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the Revenue and Financing Policy review step 3 rates modelling results, Financial Strategy, and proposed updates to the Significance and Engagement Policy. Katherine Harbrow (General Manager, Assurance, Finance & Risk), Ian Dunbar (Organisation Performance Manager), Vanessa Fauth (Financial	➤ Circulate tracked changes version of the Significance and Engage

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	Controller) and Philip Jones (Consultant, PJ & Associates) presented the first part of the item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A). The main points of discussion included: • The Financial Strategy was simplified, with a shorter and more accessible document using plain language and clearer explanations of key concepts, including depreciation, asset management, debt and capital investment. Financial projections were also expected to be realistic and based on balanced assumptions. • Financial decisions needed to prioritise value, affordability and long-term sustainability. • There was broad support for the simplification of the rating categories and reviewing existing differentials. The preference was to have sector categories, ensuring the rating system was transparent, understandable, and robust enough to remain fit for purpose over the long term PUBLIC EXCLUDED: It was recommended the following part of the Revenue and Financing Policy review subject matter is discussed while the public is excluded. This recommendation is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows: <table><tr><th>Section and Grounds</th><th>Reason for this recommendation</th></tr><tr><td>7(2)(h) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</td><td>This is relevant as discussion and some slides in the presentation include commercially sensitive potential future rates changes for all property types across the District, based on a range of variables that have not yet been confirmed through Councillor direction – which is being sought in this meeting. This will enable the presentation of final draft proposed alternative rates models and data that can be publicly released and formally consulted with the community in early 2027 as part of Long Term Plan consultation.</td></tr></table>	Section and Grounds	Reason for this recommendation	7(2)(h) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	This is relevant as discussion and some slides in the presentation include commercially sensitive potential future rates changes for all property types across the District, based on a range of variables that have not yet been confirmed through Councillor direction – which is being sought in this meeting. This will enable the presentation of final draft proposed alternative rates models and data that can be publicly released and formally consulted with the community in early 2027 as part of Long Term Plan consultation.	nt policy for feedback.
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	Significance and Engagement Policy Meaghan Miller (General Manager, Corporate Services) and Rebecca Pitts (Democracy Services Director) presented this item. Key points of discussion included: • Background to the review and the proposed policy changes were outlined. These included clearer guidance for assessing significance, updates relating to water services reform and legislative changes, and a revised engagement framework. • It was noted that a revised policy and tracked-changes version would be circulated for further feedback. • Direction from councillors included suggestions to clarify the treatment of grouped and individual strategic assets, provide greater clarity on matters that would and would not be subject to consultation, and better reflect environmental impacts and sustainability within the significance assessment framework. • Further clarification was also requested on the level of operating expenditure detail to be provided through the Long Term Plan process <u>Attachments</u> <i>Attachment A: LTP27 Steering Group 14 Presentation</i> <i>Attachment B: Draft proposed Financial Strategy (without numbers)</i> <i>Attachment C: Draft proposed Significance and Engagement Policy – Assessing Significance</i> <i>Attachment D: Draft proposed Significance and Engagement Policy – Engagement Framework</i>					

The workshop concluded at 4.11pm.