QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Workshop

Tuesday 3 November 2026
in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown
commencing at 1.00pm

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

Present:	Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith (Chair)	Councillor Nicola King
	Councillor Gavin Bartlett	Councillor Jon Mitchell*
	Councillor Samuel Belk	Councillor Cody Tucker
	Councillor Heath Copland	Councillor Melissa White
	Councillor Niki Gladding	
Apologies:	Mayor John Glover	Councillor Stephen Brent
	Councillor Matt Wong	
In attendance:	James Stevenson-Wallace	Michelle Morss
	Meaghan Miller	Tony Avery
	Pennie Pearce	Katherine Harbrow
	Ken Bailey*	Dave Wallace*
	Simon Battrick	Rebecca Pitts
	Tanea Hawkins	Stephen Bayley
	Caleb Dawson-Swale	Priya Bhuller
	Jesse Taylor	Vanessa Fauth*
	Jeremy Payze*	Tom O'Neill
	Jane Robertson	
Media	None	
Public	None	

*Online

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	**<u>Long Term Plan (LTP) Steering Group 16</u>** The purpose of this workshop was to present the full projected LTP capital programme and operating expenditure, show financial implications, provide an update on fees and charges and present draft financial metrics. Katherine Harbrow (General Manager, Audit, Finance & Risk), Tanea Hawkins (Finance Director), Stephen Bayley (Finance Business Partner	Financial metrics: • Officers to undertake further work on growth assumptions and smoothing

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	Manager) and Caleb Dawson-Swale (Business Planning Manager) led the discussion and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. (Attachments A and B). The workshop discussion revolved around seven high level topics. 1. <u>Our journey</u> A major milestone in the LTP process had now been reached with the capital programme, operating programme and financial strategy brought together for the first time. Key principles remained affordability, prudent debt, essential investment, growth paying for growth, and maintaining assets sustainably. The LTP now needed refinement and preparation for audit and consultation. 2. <u>Key financial metrics</u> The overall financial position was sound. Debt was within covenants, assets continued to grow and funding for renewals improved over time. Members questioned some long-term assumptions, particularly growth forecasts and unusually low rates increases in later years; (see action point) 3. <u>Capital programme</u> There was overall support for the proposed capital programme and funding envelope. Officers were asked to ensure future growth needs were adequately provided for whilst staying realistic about delivery capacity. Members also asked staff to explore if any Wānaka based capital could be brought forward. 4. <u>Operating expenditure programme</u> The operating budget was generally accepted as being necessary and largely affordable. Members supported continued efforts to improve efficiency and demonstrate value for money. 5. <u>Fees and charges update</u> Officers were asked to explore further user-pays and visitor-pays options, particularly where visitors contributed significantly to demand for services and infrastructure. (Also an action point). 6. <u>Alpine Waters: Water Services Strategy and overall financial picture</u> The Water Services Strategy was still in development. Members stressed the importance of understanding the combined affordability impacts on households of rates alongside water charges (Also an action point). 7. <u>Steering Group work programme</u> Officers were tasked with refining the draft LTP, including rates smoothing, growth funding, affordability analysis, and further development of fees and charges proposals.	rates increases over the life of the LTP. • Officers to present water charge increases alongside rates increase information in future sessions/ content. User-pays: • Officers to continue exploring other user-pays and visitor-pays options, particularly where visitors add significantly to demand for services as part of the next Annual Plan.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	Attachments *Attachment A: LTP Steering Group 16* *Attachment B: Financial Sustainability Dashboard – LTP 2027 draft*	

The workshop concluded at 4.24pm.