

Minutes of a Full Council Workshop

Monday, 9 June 2025 at 10.30am
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

Membership:	Mayor Glyn Lewers	Councillor Quentin Smith (online)
	Councillor Gavin Bartlett	Councillor Cody Tucker (online)
	Councillor Lyal Cocks	Councillor Lisa Guy
	Councillor Craig Ferguson (online)	Councillor Barry Bruce (online)
	Councillor Niki Gladding (online)	Councillor Matt Wong
	Councillor Lisa Guy (online)	
	Dylan Rushbrook (online) General Manager (GM), Tourism Central Otago	Anita Dawe (online) GM Regional Planning & Transport, Otago Regional Council
Apologies:	Councillor Esther Whitehead	
In attendance:	Dave Wallace	Peter Harris
	Meaghan Miller (online)	Harry Beaumont
	Pennie Pearce	Katherine Harbrow (online)
	Michelle Morss	Anita Vanstone
Media:	0	
Public:	0	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Regional Deal Proposed Negotiation Approach</u></p> <p>The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the approach to negotiations with central government on the Regional Deal and to consider the key elements of the negotiation approach.</p> <p>Pennie Pearce introduced the item alongside Michelle Morss and Anita Vanstone.</p> <p>The primary initial goal was to get agreement with the regional deal partners, although it was acknowledged that some initiatives within the plan were not within the statutory delivery ambit of either Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) or Central Otago District Council (CODC) and changes to the purpose of local government via Local Government Act amendments were unlikely.</p> <p>Officers recommended the formation of a joint committee containing the Mayor and one other elected member from each constituent council. The joint committee would agree on its Terms of Reference</p>	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>and delegations, formalised via a Memorandum of Understanding. The committee would appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair and then establish a subcommittee (to which Chief Executives (CEs) could be appointed as members).</p> <p>The presentation described the functions of the committee and subcommittee and recommended that there be a standard recurring agenda item at each Council meeting to provide an update on the activities of the committee/subcommittee.</p> <p>A complication to these plans was the local election in October. It would be recommended that the joint committee and subcommittee not be automatically discharged at the end of the triennium as with other democratic entities. Members would be identified by their role rather than by their individual names.</p> <p>Councillor Gladding did not agree that CEs should be voting members on a subcommittee, preferring that they simply provide advice to the committee. It was noted however, that one purpose of including CEs was to ensure continuity, especially because the local election in the middle of negotiations could result in a change of elected members.</p> <p>Councillor Smith stated that it would be important to consider whether the priorities identified were within the scope of local government, such as health. In such cases, councils were not responsible for service delivery but could advocate for these services or lobby central government.</p> <p>There was discussion about what Standing Orders would apply to the committee/subcommittee and whether provision would be made for a casting vote. It was noted that with a membership of six, a motion could be carried with the chair and two others voting in support. Members expressed concern at such a scenario which would be contrary to the spirit of the agreement.</p> <p>Officers noted that government would like to be conducting negotiations with (ideally) one negotiating authority and preferred this to be either an officer of the Council or an independent negotiator but not an elected member, because of the upcoming election. The joint committee/ subcommittee would be discharged at the completion of the negotiation phase.</p> <p>Preliminary priorities identified for the deal negotiation phase were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform transport 2. Capturing value (growth pays for growth, visitor levy, affordable housing, mining royalties) 	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>3. Electrification of Otago Central Lakes</p> <p>4. Private Investment, Public Health (including private/public healthcare models)</p> <p>5. Visitors and investors (grow highly productive sectors, increase value of visitor economy, drive sustainable tourism)</p> <p>The priorities of each party to the agreement were likely to be different. At present, CODC's priorities were similar to QLDC's but with mining royalties a higher priority. The proposed priorities had been tested with officials at the relevant councils but not elected members.</p> <p>Attachments: Attachment A: Regional Deal Negotiation Approach Options</p>	

The meeting concluded at 11.50am