

Minutes of a Full Council Workshop

Tuesday 3 June 2025 at 10.30am
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

Membership:	Mayor Glyn Lewes	Councillor Quentin Smith (online)
	Councillor Niki Gladding (online)	Councillor Esther Whitehead
	Councillor Matt Wong	Councillor Craig Ferguson
	Councillor Lisa Guy	Councillor Melissa White
	Councillor Barry Bruce (online)	Councillor Lyal Cocks
	Councillor Gavin Bartlett	Councillor Cody Tucker (online)
Apologies:	None.	
In attendance:	Michelle Morss	Sophie Millar
	Katherine Harbrow	Phoebe Arthur
	Mary Davenport	Jan Maxwell
	Ian Dunbar	Mike Theelen
	Zoe Baptiste	Peter Harris
	Tony Avery	Hugo Ellis (Cameron & Partners)
	Scott Necklen (Deputy CE, LGNZ)	David Allen (Partner, Buddle Findlay)
	Josh Ellison (Rewiring Aotearoa)	
Media:	No members of the media in attendance.	
Public:	No members of the public in attendance.	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Events Policy and related process improvements</u></p> <p>Briefing for information and Q&A purposes only on the progress of the Draft Events Policy post community feedback and an update on event-related process improvements.</p> <p>Ms Phoebe Arthur (Event & Film Facilitator) introduced the item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment B) alongside Ms Jan Maxwell (Relationship Manager Arts and Events), Ms Zoe Baptiste (Business Process Advisor), and Ms Michelle Morss (General Manager Strategy and Policy).</p>	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>Discussion points and questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of differences between volunteer events and others. • The cost and resources around the new objective to attract and develop events. • Whether definitions of 'Council assets' are included in the draft policy, as well as defining 'high value' visitor. • Overall concern from Councillors with term 'high value' visitor. • Councillors sought clarification on examples of contracted major events, and any extra detail or processes for these. • Challenges to objectives and purpose. With response to negative industry feedback, is the focus too much on the disadvantages, is there need for more discussion on social value with community events, as well as industry and events sector. • Loose definitions in the draft policy create confusion in the sector and community. • Concern from Councillors that draft policy not aspirational enough, focus too concentrated on what not to do around events process. • How to distinguish between small community events and high-profile events i.e. Queenstown Marathon within the policy in a way that smaller events don't get overshadowed or bumped. • On funding, how does local user get prioritised? • New staffing guidance for events processes. • Financing policy covers venues if there is a need to recover more. <p>Attachments: Attachment A: <i>Draft Events Policy</i> Attachment B: <i>Presentation Slides</i></p>	
2.	<p><u>Ratepayer Assistance Scheme</u></p> <p>The purpose of this session is for the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) team to brief the Council on the detail of the scheme and opportunity for investment. The project is being led by LGNZ and LGFA and aims to provide an alternative financing option for ratepayers for a range of purposes, including solar installation as part of the property improvement loan model.</p> <p>Ms Michelle Morss (General Manager Strategy and Policy) introduced the item and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment B), alongside Katherine Harbrow (GM), Hugo Ellis (Cameron & Partners),</p>	None.

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>Scott Necklen (Deputy CE, LGNZ), and Josh Ellison (Rewiring Aotearoa).</p> <p>Discussion points and questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User and homeowner benefits. How does this option compare to private sector options? Discussion on whether the average homeowner better off with this option or bank loans. • Discussion of competitive edge in the market with this option. • Alignment with mortgage rates. expectation is that the RAS won't be taking any interest rate risk. • Clarification of how broadly the RAS can be applied i.e. approved for certain categories like solar, stormwater and other wastewater separation. • Impact on balance sheets, and overall capacity of LGFA. • Councillors sought clarification of funding and financing options, and the differences in impact between developers, purchasers, or homeowners. • Cost to enforce, cost recovery and dispute resolution. • How RAS would be categorised as a charge from the bank i.e. as a second mortgage, and whether there is an assessment for a household's ability to afford rates or be eligible for the scheme. • Deferred security, and whether it affects the ability of a person to raise funds. • Does RAS silo all the burden with the homeowner, compounding effect of all other current social, economic, environmental factors. • Overview of membership requirements for local authorities to join the scheme. • Level of funding needed to go ahead with the scheme. • Elaborate on Government shares and funding. • Outline of risks to shareholders vs. being a member. • Differentiation of roles between RAS and QLDC, administrative cost of establishing RAS. • Whether RAS running through QLDC as a service to the community would incur costs (monetary or resources) in the establishment and maintenance of the service by QLDC. • Advantage for QLDC in collection of Deferred Development Contributions through developers. • Councillors indicated their support for the RAS proposal. <p>Attachments: Attachment A: Background reading Attachment B: Slide Deck</p>	

3.	<p><u>Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plan – Direct Referral</u></p> <p>PUBLIC EXCLUDED:</p> <p>It is recommended that this 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:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 707 1410 889"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="320 707 778 748"><i>Section and Grounds</i></th> <th data-bbox="778 707 1410 748"><i>Reason for this recommendation</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 748 778 889">7(2)(g) to maintain legal professional privilege</td> <td data-bbox="778 748 1410 889">Council is entitled to receive legal advice in respect of this matter, and for that advice to remain privileged.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Section and Grounds</i>	<i>Reason for this recommendation</i>	7(2)(g) to maintain legal professional privilege	Council is entitled to receive legal advice in respect of this matter, and for that advice to remain privileged.
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The workshop concluded at 1.20pm