

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Venue: Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Council
PUBLIC AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP**Mayor
Deputy Mayor**

Mayor Sophie Barker
Cr Cherry Lucas

Members

Cr John Chambers	Cr Christine Garey
Cr Doug Hall	Cr Marie Laufiso
Cr Russell Lund	Cr Mandy Mayhem
Cr Benedict Ong	Cr Andrew Simms
Cr Mickey Treadwell	Cr Lee Vandervis
Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall

Senior Officer

Sandy Graham, Chief Executive

Governance Support Officer

Lynne Adamson

Lynne Adamson
Governance Support Officer

Telephone: 03 477 4000
governance.support@dcc.govt.nz
www.dunedin.govt.nz

Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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1 APOLOGIES

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.
2. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.
3. Staff members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes/Amends** if necessary the Elected Members' Interest Register attached as Attachment A; and
- b) **Confirms/Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.
- c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Team's Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
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Council Interest Register 17 February 2026				
Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Mayor Sophie Barker	Shareholder	Ayrmed Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various publicly listed companies	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property Owner - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Beneficiary	Sans Peur Trust (Larnach Castle)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Mentor	Business Mentors NZ	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Alexander McMillan Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Patron	New Zealand International Science Festival	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Patron	Dunedin Horticultural Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Institute of Directors	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Grow Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Local Government New Zealand (Zone 6) (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-Chair	Ōtepoti Dunedin Destination Management Plan Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr John Chambers	Family Member	Family Member employed at Wilkinson Rogers	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Rental Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otakau Golf Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Opera Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Waikouaiti Coast Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Christine Garey	Trustee	Garey Family Trust - Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Daughter employee	Halo Project	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Ashburn Hall Charitable Trust Board	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Creative Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
		Sophia Charter (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	St Paul's Cathedral Foundation (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Theomin Gallery Management Committee (Olveston) (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Doug Hall	Trustee	Cronus Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Clickfix Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	West Harbour Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Marie Laufiso	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Moray Place Community Building Trust - which owns property 111 Moray Place	Duty to Trust may conflict with duties of Council Office	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Women of Ōtepoti Recognition Initiative	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Corso Ōtepoti Dunedin Trust	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Dunedin Branch Treasurer	P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Inc	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Expert Panel Member	Health Coalition Aotearoa Public Health Infrastructure Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Ōtepoti Community Builders Charitable Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee/Secretary	Refugee Support Group	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Former Refugee Steering Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Puketai Residential Centre Liaison Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Cherry Lucas	Trustee	Otago Farmers Market	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Partner	Southway Enterprises	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Henderson Lucas Family Trust - Residential Dunedin Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Shanghai Association (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Local Government New Zealand (Zone 6) (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Destination Management Plan Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Poāri a Pukekura (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Russell Lund	Shareholder	Loan & Mercantile Trust includes:	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Produce Place Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Dunedin Grain Store Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Loan & Mercantile 2000 Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Lund South Trust includes:	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund South Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund Dunedin Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Resource Values Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Sherwood Manor Properties Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund Central Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund South Administration Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Director	Construction Operatives Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Lund South Properties Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	RV Lund Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	BDCRS Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Lund Frankton Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	President	Ariki Amateur Athletic & Harrier Club	Ariki is a member of Athletics Otago which receives grant funding from DCC.	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Theatre Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Mandy Mayhem	Chairperson	Waitati Hall Society Inc	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Keep Ōtepoti Dunedin Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-ordinator	Emergency Response Group, Blueskin area	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	FENZ Local Advisory Committee for Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Amenities Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin A & P Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Zone Representative and Board Member	Keep New Zealand Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Coastal Community Cycleway Network	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waitati Music Festival Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Disability Issues Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Gasworks Museum Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Benedict Ong	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Listed Stocks	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Otago Settlers Association (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Andrew Simms	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Auckland Limited t/a Andrew Simms - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Stephen Duff Motors Limited t/a Andrew Simms Dunedin - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Three Diamond Automotive t/a Ralliart NZ - Race car preparation	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Cambridge Finance Limited - Financial Services	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	The Landseer Group Limited - Investments	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Otago Motorhome Centre Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Henderson Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Moorhouse Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Minaret Property Investments Limited - Property Investment	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Newfoundland Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Moturata Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Trails Group	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Cricket Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgiel AFC	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Commercial Property. Andersons Bay Road, Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Micky Treadwell	Director	Atawhai Interactive Tapui Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Contractor	Otago Polytechnic	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Green Party of Aotearoa	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Dunedin Otaru Sister City Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ice Sports Dunedin Incorporated (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Live Music Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Ao Tūroa Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Peninsula Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Lee Vandervis	Director	Lee Vandervis, Antonie Alm-Lequeux and Cook Allan Gibson Trustee Company Ltd - Residential Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Bunchy Properties Ltd - Residential and Lifestyle Farm Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Various publicly Audio and Lighting - Hire, Sales and Service Business	May contrace and provide service to DCC	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Steve Walker	Trustee	Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	Orokonui Ecosanctuary	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	New Zealand Labour Party	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various publicly listed companies	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Sea Lion Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Justice of the Peace		No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Predator Free Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Art Gallery Acquisitions Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Masters Games Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Otago Regional Transport Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Live Music Advisory Panel	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Predator Free Dunedin (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Brent Weatherall	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Business George Street, Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Brent Weatherall Jeweller Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Weatherall Trustee Company	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Residential Rental Properties	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Strath Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Executive Leadership Team - Register of Interest - current as at 11 November 2025					
Name	Date of Entry	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Sandy Graham	19/09/2018	Owner	Residential property Dunedin	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	25/07/2019	Trustee	Trustee of the Taieri Airport Facilities Trust	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	17/09/2024	Member	St Clair Golf Club	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	17/09/2024	Vendor	Property purchased by senior member of ORC staff.	No conflict identified	Transaction was arms length through an agent with no direct interaction.
	17/09/2024	Client	Various local contractors (glazing, carpet, fencing and kitchen upgrades)	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Family member	Family member works for the DCC	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Nicola Morand	09/05/2022	Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	09/05/2022	Owner	Residential Property in Otago	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	20/09/2023	Trustee	Riki Te Mairiki Tairaroa Trust	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	09/05/2022	Partner	Morand Painting & Decorating	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Member	Te Runanga o Otakou	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Member	Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Family member	Family member works for the DCC	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
David Ward	28/07/2022	Director	Ward Property Rentals	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Member	Water New Zealand	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Member	IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia)	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	21/02/2024	Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Fellow	The Institution of Civil Engineers	No conflict identified.	Any decisions relating to The Institution of Civil Engineers will be referred to the CEO
Scott MacLean	23/01/2024	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	23/01/2024	Trustee	Te Poari a Pukekura Charitable Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	23/01/2024	Spouse is Chair	Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust (DWHHT)	DCC has funded the DWHHT	Take no part in discussions or decision making about the Trust or participate in any transactions between the Trust and DCC.

Executive Leadership Team - Register of Interest - current as at 11 November 2025					
Name	Date of Entry	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Carolyn Allan	01/03/2024	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	01/03/2024	Owner	Residential rental property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	01/03/2024	Member	Mountain Bike Otago	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Paul Henderson	15/01/2025	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	15/01/2025	Associate Member	Building Officials Institute of NZ (through to 31 Dec 2025 then expires)	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	15/01/2025	Playing Member	Dunedin City Royal Football Club	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	10/10/2025	Navigator Member	Taituarā	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	10/10/2025	Partner	Ruru Workplace Solutions Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Mike Costelloe	10/10/2025	Owner	Residential properties x 2	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

REPORTS

SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION

Department: Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of a draft Dunedin City Council (DCC) submission to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on the Simplifying Local Government consultation (the consultation).
- 2 For the purposes of the consultation analysis, as requested by the DIA, the draft DCC submission is attached as answers to set questions (Attachment A) and a supplementary attachment in the form of a covering letter (Attachment B), which will both be submitted via an online form.
- 3 The Government is proposing to simplify local government in two steps:
 - Step 1: Instead of electing separate regional councillors, elected mayors in the region will collectively form a Combined Territories Board (CTB). The CTB will lead regional issues and govern the regional council, taking over all of the current regional council's roles and obligations.
 - Step 2: The CTB will develop a Regional Reorganisation Plan (RRP) for how the councils in the region can work together more effectively and efficiently. The RRP will be developed in consultation with the public, examined independently, and be approved by the Minister for Local Government.
- 4 The consultation also seeks feedback on alternative options of appointing one or more Crown Commissioners, appointed by the Government, to lead or join the CTB.
- 5 The consultation closes on 20 February 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Approves** the draft Dunedin City Council submission, with any amendments, to the Department of Internal Affairs on the Simplifying Local Government consultation.
- b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments to the draft submission.
- c) **Notes** that there are no hearings for this consultation.

BACKGROUND

- 6 Currently, there are 11 regional councils across New Zealand that govern services such as environmental management, regional transport planning, and civil defence.
- 7 There are 67 city or district councils that govern services such as roads, water infrastructure, rubbish collection, libraries, parks, and land use planning. There are six unitary authorities' that combine the two roles.

Draft Proposal – Simplifying Local Government

- 8 The proposed changes in the consultation seeks to simplify governance by consolidating decision making with mayors, to reduce duplication and ensure regional decision making is more aligned across councils. It also seeks to ensure there is clear accountability to the public for delivery of regional services.
- 9 A combined territories board (CTB) will manage regional issues and govern regional councils. CTBs will be funded through current rates.
- 10 CTBs will take over the governance for the roles and functions of regional councils, including:
 - managing rivers, lakes, the coastal marine area, and air quality
 - implementing any Treaty settlement commitments that are administered by regional councils
 - managing assets
 - regional transport planning
 - civil defence and emergency management
 - environmental regulation and resource management.

The CTB decision-making approach

- 11 CTBs will meet regularly, as city and district councils do currently.
- 12 When making decisions, each mayor would have a set number of votes. This number would be based on population and adjusted to ensure smaller communities receive effective representation. The independent Local Government Commission would make these adjustments.
- 13 CTB decisions must comply with the same laws regional councils have to comply with now, including consulting with communities and considering environmental impacts.

Alternative Options

- 14 A CTB comprised of mayors is the Government's preferred approach outlined in the proposal document.
- 15 The consultation is considering alternative options for structuring regional decision-making in the short term.
- 16 The proposal document presents three options for a Crown Commissioner on the CTB:
 - Observer only: Crown Commissioner has no vote
 - Veto power: Crown Commissioner can override CTB decisions
 - Majority vote: Crown Commissioner has more than half the votes on the CTB, with the remaining votes distributed among the mayors.
- 17 Another alternative option mooted in the proposal document is to have no CTB, and to appoint Crown Commissioners (Government appointees rather than elected representatives) to lead regional councils
- 18 If Crown Commissioners are appointed, they would have the same responsibilities as regional councillors currently have.

Regional Reorganisation Plans

- 19 The consultation proposes that each CTB would develop a regional reorganisation plan (RRP) within two years of being established. As outlined in the consultation document:
 - the purpose of the RRP is to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and be responsive to local needs.
 - to support this, the consultation proposes a Government review of regional council roles and functions will provide clarity on which responsibilities remain local and which may be either centralised or discontinued.
 - this review will be completed before CTBs are established and CTBs will need to consider the outcomes from this review when developing their RRP.
- 20 If Crown Commissioners are appointed, the appointments would run until a RRP is agreed.
- 21 RRP will need to reflect and incorporate local context and community feedback. RRP will:
 - map all council functions in the region
 - recommend the best delivery model for each of the functions across the region (e.g., shared services, joint council-controlled companies, or amalgamations)
 - require mandatory consultation with communities, iwi, hapū, Māori, and stakeholders in the region be approved by the Minister of Local Government if they meet statutory criteria (not by referendum).
- 22 Depending on the region, the CTB might be kept, dissolved, or repurposed via RRP.

DISCUSSION

The DCC submission

- 23 The DCC submission was workshopped by the Mayor and Councillors during early February 2026.
- 24 The submission notes that the DCC's priority in making this submission is the consideration of the impact local government reform will have on our city and communities.
- 25 The DCC submission is structured as responses to the 11 questions posed in the consultation.
- 26 The DCC is consistent throughout its responses to the consultation questions that it supports local government reform and believes that the representation review process is the best mechanism to undertake structural reform in local government.
- 27 The DCC submission also raises concerns regarding asset ownership and resource mismatches, stemming from lessons learnt during the last major local government reform of 1989. DCC staff are preparing to research background information on this which will inform the submission to Select Committee, if requested.

Representation Review

- 28 Local authorities are required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. In the context of the timing of this consultation, the DCC is due to undertake its own representation review in 2026 and the DCC believes this provides the opportunity for DCC to work with neighbouring councils to consider representation arrangements.
- 29 DCC staff are preparing for the representation review by developing research and insights material which will also inform the DCC's submission on proposed legislation noting Select Committee consultation on any Bill is expected to open mid-year.
- 30 A representation review addresses the total number of councillors and community board members there should be for the district or region. In the case of territorial authorities, representation review also determines whether councillors are elected from wards or 'at large' across the whole district, or by a mix of both wards and 'at large'.
- 31 A representation review also covers the boundaries of wards and constituencies (including community board areas).

Need to simplify local government (Question 1)

- 32 The DCC seeks clarity on the goal of the proposed reform. The draft proposal uses the following justification for reform, but does provide an evidence base to support:
- that having both regional councils and territorial authorities operating in the same geographic areas is seen as "complex," "confusing," and "costly"

- that wider system reforms either underway or upcoming —including resource management, water services, and climate adaption — will change the future role and workload of councils, making this a timely moment to reconsider institutional arrangements.

33 Noting that a “rapid review” by central government is underway at the same time as this consultation, the DCC submits that a detailed analysis should be undertaken prior to the establishment of the Combined Territories Boards (CTBs) for a clearer view on the role that mayors and/or commissioners have within the short term of reform.

Response to the Overall Proposed Approach (Question 2)

34 The DCC supports a regional planning approach in principle, but not at the cost of fair representation. It recommends use of the next local election cycle to allow for a representative and planned transition.

35 The DCC submits the case for replacing regional councils has not been clearly proven in the proposal document, and questions remain on the criteria for reform including the absence of an outcome-focused approach to simplifying local government. It is supportive of improving efficiency where it delivers real value to its communities, but not at the cost of reduced services without detailed analysis of function.

36 If the government commits to CTBs and the associated regional reorganisation plans included in the proposal, the DCC notes that developing and consulting on the regional reorganisation plans will involve significant work for both CTB members and those staff or contractors supporting them.

Replacing regional councillors with CTBs (Questions 3 and 4)

37 The DCC submits there are too many unknowns to assess risks confidently on the structure and function of CTBs in an interim governance role.

38 The DCC is concerned about the loss of institutional knowledge if regional councillors are replaced with a CTB. If reform proceeds with this element, then DCC submits that existing governance knowledge of regional functions should be represented within the interim arrangements.

39 The DCC notes that the replacing regional councillors with CTBs risks:

- potential for the loss of local voice
- established representation and partnership arrangements
- extra workload for mayors and, by extension, councillors

40 The DCC requests further consideration of how the regional reorganisation would be resourced is needed. In its current form, the proposal risks a substantial unfunded mandate falling on ratepayers, with interim transition governance arrangements using existing regional council revenue. The DCC is of the view that the Local Government Commission is not adequately resourced to support the structural change proposed, additionally the DCC asks that role the new Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) will have within the wider Local Government reform.

Level of Crown participation in regional decision-making (Question 5)

- 41 The DCC is of the view that appointing Crown commissioners signals a breakdown in governance
and should be avoided. If they are to be appointed, then commissioners should serve as advisors
not as voting members.
- 42 The DCC submits that representation must remain with the locally elected members who
understand their communities needs and priorities.

Proportional vote adjustment for mayors on the CTB and Effective Representation (Questions 6 and 7)

- 43 The DCC is of the view that geographical extent of each council area and local voice needs to be represented regardless of population size. Based on the 2023 Census, there is an asymmetric population distribution with Dunedin likely to dominate decision making relevant to other councils. The DCC maintains that representation reviews provide an existing pathway for local government reform.
- 44 If the government commits to CTBs and mayoral membership, then DCC supports the proposal of the Local Government Commission determining voting power of each mayor, based on population, and adjusted to ensure smaller communities receive effective representation.
- 45 The DCC supports the principle of effective representation. However it seeks further information and clarity on the Local Government Commission's specific role and functions, which remain poorly defined in the draft proposal.

Communities Crossing Regional Boundaries (Question 8)

- 46 The DCC recognises that this situation does not apply to Ōtepoti Dunedin and submits that this should be worked through with the territorial authorities where it does apply.

Requirement that CTBs to develop regional reorganisation plans (RRPs) (Questions 9 and 10)

- 47 The DCC submits that:
- the proposal lacks adequate consultation with mana whenua and partners and has not clearly articulated the specific problems the reform is intended to solve at a unique local level.
 - the issues the proposed changes are meant to resolve have not been clearly articulated in the consultation.
 - if the government proceeds to establish CTBs with the responsibility of developing RRP, then the assessment criteria should be expanded to include the current criteria that the Local Government Commission considers in a reorganisation investigation (clause 10, Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002).

Provision for iwi/Māori interests and Treaty arrangements (Question 11)

- 48 The DCC is of the view that the proposal does not provide for Iwi / Māori interests, despite the intent that existing mechanisms for Māori participation that does not depend on regional councillor seats will continue under the new arrangements. It does not have confidence that, as proposed, enduring Māori representation will be committed to in practice.

- 49 The DCC submits that it is unable to provide further feedback on this element of the proposal without meaningful engagement with mana whenua in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

OPTIONS

Option One – Approves the draft Dunedin City Council submission to the Department of Internal Affairs on the Simplifying Local Government consultation

- 50 Council approves the draft DCC submission to the DIA on the consultation:

Advantages

- Opportunity to advocate to central government decision-making that will impact at a local level on Ōtepoti Dunedin and its residents
- Opportunity to participate in discussions on proposed changes that will impact on Dunedin City Council and other local authorities in the Otago region
- Opportunity to contribute to discussions on proposed changes that will impact on the governance and operational functions of the Dunedin City Council.

Disadvantages

- There are no identified disadvantages to this option.

Option Two – Does not approve the draft Dunedin City Council submission to the Department of Internal Affairs on the Simplifying Local Government consultation

- 51 Council does not approve the draft DCC submission to the DIA on the consultation.

Disadvantages

- Missed opportunity to advocate to central government decision-making that will impact at a local level on Ōtepoti Dunedin and its residents
- Missed opportunity to participate in discussions on proposed changes that will impact on Dunedin City Council and other local authorities in the Otago region
- Missed opportunity to contribute to discussions on proposed changes that will impact on the governance and operational functions of the Dunedin City Council.

Advantages

- There are no identified advantages to this option.

NEXT STEPS

- 52 If Council approves the draft submission, DCC staff will submit it to the DIA by 20 February 2026.

Signatories

Author:	Danielle Tolson - Policy Analyst
Authoriser:	Nadia Wesley-Smith - Corporate Policy Manager Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓ A	Attachment A: DCC submission- Simplifying Local Government consultation	25
↓ B	Attachment B: Simplifying Local Government cover letter from the Mayor	30

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, and environmental well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Te Taki Haruru, the DCC's Māori Strategic Framework.

Māori Impact Statement

Te Taki Haruru, the DCC's Māori Strategic Framework, contains the principle of Te Taki Haruru, the DCC's Māori Strategic Framework, includes the principle of Autūroa, whereby Māori will participate and demonstrate leadership in the community.

In its submission, the DCC posits the view that the proposal does not provide for Iwi/ Māori interest and the DCC lacks confidence that existing mechanisms for Māori participation will continue under the new arrangements. The DCC also submits that it is unable to provide further feedback on this aspect of the proposal without meaningful engagement with mana whenua in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability in making this submission.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications by making this submission.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

The DCC's submission has been informed by the Otago Regional Council's workshop on this topic, held on 14 January 2026.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS***Engagement - internal***

The submission has been prepared by the Corporate Policy team with input from the Mana Ruruku team, and informed by workshops with Councillors held in 2026.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest

Community Boards

There are potential future implications for Community Boards as regional councils functions currently occur in Community Board areas.

DCC submission on ‘Simplifying Local Government – a draft proposal’

[Note: The following responses follow the structure of the digital consultation form at <https://consultations.digital.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government/proposal>. They will be transferred to the online form once approved.]

1. Do you agree there is a need to simplify local government?

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) agrees with the consultation’s proposal that change in the structure of local government is needed and is actively investigating options for this. DCC’s priority is the consideration of the impact Local Government reform will have on our city and communities. Dunedin City covers a total of 3,314.8 square kilometres making it the largest city by land area in New Zealand, and the current population is estimated at 136,000 in 2024 and is projected to grow to 149,500 in 2054.

While in agreement that reform is needed, the DCC requests clarity on the role of Mayors in the Combined Territories Boards. Specifically, how the extra workload will be addressed and supported. The DCC recognises that these roles may have an unintended consequence of increased workload which could extend out to other elected members. Further consideration of how the regional reorganisation would be resourced is needed.

The DCC is concerned that the Local Government Commission is not adequately resourced to support the structural change proposed, and that therefore the government’s proposal risks a substantial unfunded mandate falling on ratepayers, given the proposal states that interim transition governance arrangements would use existing regional council revenue.

Further, the DCC seeks clarity about what role the new proposed Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) will have within the wider structure of reformed local government, given this new agency is intended to be the “one stop shop” for local government.

Further to the above points, the DCC seeks clarity on the goal of reform. The draft proposal is justified on two main grounds: that having both regional councils and territorial authorities operating in the same geographic areas is seen as “complex”, “confusing”, and “costly”; and that wider system reforms – including resource management reform, water services reform, and climate adaption - will change the future role and workload of councils, making this a timely moment to reconsider institutional arrangements. From the proposal, DCC understands a rapid review of regional council functions is due by mid-2026 to identify which functions may be discontinued or shifted to central government. DCC submits that a detailed analysis should be undertaken prior to the establishment of the Combined Territories Boards for a clearer view on the role that Mayors and/or commissioners have within the short term of reform. There are existing pathways that could be taken to review functions within local government, including representation reviews.

The DCC also raises concerns regarding asset ownership and resource mismatches, stemming from lessons learnt during the last major local government reform of 1989. As an example, ownership of Otago Harbour assets was removed from the DCC

2. What do you think of the proposed approach overall?

The DCC is of the view that its upcoming representation review is the pathway most suitable for it to consider changes to local governance.

The DCC has concerns about the timeline for simplifying local government and the limited opportunities within this early stage to consult with stakeholders and community. DCC notes that this consultation is open when the rapid review by relevant agencies is already underway. The DCC supports a regional planning approach in principle, but not at the cost of fair representation. It recommends use of the next local election cycle to allow for a representative and planned transition. Reform must prioritise and preserve local democratic accountability. The case for replacing regional councils has not been clearly proven in the proposal document, questions remain on the criteria for reform including the absence of an outcome-focused approach to simplifying local government. DCC is supportive of improving efficiency where it delivers real value to its communities but not at the cost of reduced services without detailed analysis of function.

While DCC supports central government establishing this reform process and requests the flexibility to use existing mechanisms for local government change, if the government commits to CTB's and the regional reorganisation plans, then DCC notes that developing and consulting on the regional reorganisation plans will involve significant work for both CTB members and those staff or contractors supporting them, wherever they are located. Resourcing this properly will strengthen the reorganisation plans and make them more likely to endure.

3. Do you agree with replacing regional councillors with a Combined Territories Board (CTB)?

DCC submits there are too many unknowns to assess risks confidently on the structure and function of CTBs in its interim governance role. The role of developing regional reorganisation plans provides opportunity to deliver reform through focused, outcome driven simplification however DCC is of the view that the reorganisation role will be at odds with the interim governance arrangements and the increased workload this will bring to Mayors and other elected members. DCC is concerned about the loss of institutional knowledge if regional councillors are replaced with a CTB. If reform proceeds with this element, then DCC submits that existing governance knowledge of regional function should be represented within the interim arrangements.

4. What do you like or dislike about the proposal to replace regional councillors with CTBs?

The DCC notes that current legislation already enables structural change. DCC's priority remains focused on its city and communities and is of the view that flexibility for alternative pathways for reform would enable local voice to be emphasised throughout Local Government change. Additionally, support of local decision making is a view the government has taken in other areas of reform such as the establishment of water entities. DCC submits that a representation review is one pathway that emphasises local decision making and allows for consultation with its communities. The proposal to replace regional councillors leaves a significant potential for the loss of local voice specific to the

knowledge held by those councillors in the governance of regional functions. Moreso, there is an additional risk the proposal removes established representation and partnership arrangements.

5. What level of Crown participation in regional decision-making do you prefer?

Appointing Crown commissioners signals a breakdown in governance and should be avoided. If they are to be appointed, then commissioners should serve as advisors not as voting members. Direct intervention contradicts the government's stated commitment to local empowerment and decision making. DCC is of the view that crown participation is best served with preserving a council-crown partnership with emphasis on the relationship between local and central government. Direct crown intervention should be limited though an appropriate level of Crown involvement remains necessary. DCC submits that representation must remain with the locally elected members who understand their communities needs and priorities.

6. Do you agree that mayors on the CTB should have a proportional vote adjusted for effective representation?

Membership of the CTBs will be important and have a direct correlation with the influence of how proposals will be received. DCC submits that CTBs must be primarily comprised of elected members and that they have the capacity to do their role, and the support of their councils. DCC is of the view that geographical extent of each council area and local voice needs to be represented regardless of population size. Based on the 2023 Census, there is an asymmetric population distribution with Dunedin likely to dominate decision making relevant to other councils. DCC maintains that representation reviews provide an existing pathway for local government reform.

If the government commits to CTBs and mayoral membership, then DCC supports the proposal of the Local Government Commission determining voting power of each Mayor, based on population, and adjusted to ensure smaller communities receive effective representation.

7. What do you like or dislike about the voting proposal for the CTB?

DCC supports the principle of effective representation however seeks further information and clarity on the Local Government Commission's specific role. The function of which remain poorly defined in the draft proposal. There is a high risk that the reform will be unworkable or unstable during the interim transition to a final structure. DCC is of the view that Central government is placing undue pressure on councils to 'self-reform' without a clear framework.

8. What do you think about the ways that communities crossing regional boundaries could be represented?

The DCC recognises that this situation does not apply to Ōtepoti Dunedin and submits that this should be worked through with the territorial authorities where it does apply.

9. Do you support the proposal to require CTBs to develop regional reorganisation plans (RRPs)?

The DCC is of the view that representation reviews are a useful and established mechanism for addressing governance and boundary issues. DCC recognises the reform presents opportunities for greater collaboration between local governments in principle, however this depends on the development of fair and effective representation arrangements as answered in previous questions. DCC also notes the proposal lacks adequate consultation with mana whenua and partners and has not clearly articulated the specific problems the reform is intended to solve. As mentioned in previous questions, DCC seeks a focused, evidence based, outcome driven solution to local government reform, one that is delivered through robust and transparent processes.

10. What do you think about the criteria proposed for assessing RRP?

The DCC notes that the issues the proposed changes are meant to resolve have not been clearly articulated in the consultation. The proposal states that once regional reorganisation plans are submitted, the Local Government Commission will assess it against criteria including big-picture fit, affordability now and into the future, better services, clear leadership, local say, Treaty arrangements and feasibility. The Commission will then advise the Minister of Local Government, who may approve the plan, request changes, make changes directly, or appoint a new Commissioner to draft a new plan. The current assessment criteria the Local Government Commission considers in a reorganisation investigation (clause 10, Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002) are:

- better fulfilment of the purpose of local government as specified in section 10 [which includes “to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities”];
- productivity improvements within the affected local authorities;
- efficiencies and cost savings; and
- assurance that any local authority established or changed has the resources necessary to enable it to effectively perform or exercise its responsibilities, duties, and powers; and
- effective responses to the opportunities, needs, and circumstances of the affected areas; and
- enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of local government services; and
- better support for the ability of local and regional economies to develop and prosper; and
- enhanced ability of local government to meet the changing needs of communities for governance and services into the future; and
- effective provision for any co-governance and co-management arrangements that are established by legislation (including Treaty of Waitangi claim settlement legislation) and that are between local authorities and Iwi or Māori organisations.

The DCC notes that if the government proceeds to establish CTBs with the responsibility of developing regional reorganisation plans, then the assessment criteria should be expanded to include the above. DCC also note that collaboration opportunities and key terms in the proposed criteria only work if representation is fair and effective, and that the current mechanism of representation reviews are already effective for addressing governance and boundary issues.

11. What do you think about how the proposal provides for iwi/Māori interests and Treaty arrangements?

The DCC is of the view that the proposal does not provide for Iwi / Māori interests despite the intent that existing mechanisms for Māori participation that does not depend on regional councillor seats will continue under the new arrangements. The proposal does not give confidence on how enduring Māori representation will be represented in practise. DCC is unable to provide further feedback on this element of the proposal without meaningful engagement with mana whenua in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

DRAFT



20 February 2026

Simplifying Local Government consultation
Department of Internal Affairs
WELLINGTON

Via: online consultation hub

Tēnā koe

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Simplifying Local Government consultation (the consultation).
2. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) comprises one mayor, 14 councillors, and six community boards.
3. The DCC's territory extends from north of Waikouaiti to the Taieri River in the south and inland to Middlemarch and Hyde, covering 3,340 square kilometres of land area.
4. Dunedin City is the largest city by land area in New Zealand, and the current population is estimated at 136,000 in 2024 and is projected to grow to 149,500 in 2054.
5. Overall, the DCC supports local government reform and is prepared to an active role with central government in working through alternative options and mechanisms to achieve agreed changes.
6. The DCC has prepared responses to each of the questions posed in the consultation document, and has submitted these through the consultation's online hub.
7. The DCC understands that there are no formal hearings for this consultation, but welcomes the opportunity to be involved in any ongoing discussions about the Simplifying Local Government proposal.

Nāku noa, nā

Sophie Barker
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN
TE KOROMATUA O ŌTEPOTI