DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date:	**Monday 23 November 2026**
Time:	**8:30 a.m.**
Venue:	**Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin**

Richard Briggs
Chief Executive Officer

Council

PUBLIC AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	Mayor Sophie Barker	
Deputy Mayor	Cr Cherry Lucas	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Cr Jo Galer
	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	Richard Briggs, Chief Executive	
Governance Support Officer	Rebecca Murray	

Rebecca Murray
Governance Support Officer

Telephone: 03 477 4000
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Note: *Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.*

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1 OPENING

The meeting will be opened with a prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

At the close of the agenda no requests for public forum had been received.

3 APOLOGIES

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

4 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 Teams' Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
⇩A	Elected Members Register of Interest as at 16 November 2026	6
⇩B	ELT Register of Interest - 16 November 2026	14

Council Interest Register 23 November 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.
	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	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 Avisory 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.
	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	Dunedin Chinese Garden Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr John Chambers	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	Ōtākou 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	Otago Settlers Association (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	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	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.
	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 Jo Galer	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Southern Heritage Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various International Managed Funds	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various individual shares	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-Lead	Heritage Portfolio (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	Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Theomin Gallery Management Committee (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	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.
	Shareholder	Various NZ,US shares and Crypto	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.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	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	Saddle Hill Community Board (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.
	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.
	Deputy Lead	Infrastructure Portfolio (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	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.
	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.
	Co-Lead	Heritage Portfolio (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	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.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	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	Creative New Zealand Grants Advisory Panel (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.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Watch	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.
	Shareholder	Blis Technologies Limited (NZ listed public company)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	**DCC Moana Pool Gym**	**No conflict identified**	**Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.**
	Director/Shareholder	Benedict Ong Social Enterprise Limited	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.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	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 Mickey Treadwell	Director	Atawhai Interactive Tapui Ltd	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.
	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 contract 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.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	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	NZ Masters Games Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	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.
	Lead	Infrastructure Portfolio (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	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Acquisitions Committee (Council Appointment)	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 Communtiy 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 16 November 2026					
Name	**Date of Entry**	**Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)**	**Declaration of Interests**	**Nature of Potential Interest**	**Member's Proposed Management Plan**
Richard Briggs	20/10/2026	No interests to declare at present			
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.
	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.
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 (DWHT)	DCC has funded the DWHT	Take no part in discussions or decision making about the Trust or participate in any transactions between the Trust and DCC.
	19/05/2006	Family member	Family member works for the DCC	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	06/05/2026	Family member	RB Recruitment - Occasionally deployed to work on Isaacs Construction sites	No conflict identified	Will not take part in any transactions with this company - or with Isaacs Construction while deployed to work on any of their sites
	08/09/2026	Owner	Residential property in Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
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	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 property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 5 NOVEMBER 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 05 November 2026 as a correct record.

Attachments

	Title	Page
A⇩	Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting held on 5 November 2026	16

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Council

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Thursday 05 November 2026, commencing at 9.00 am

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor	Cr Cherry Lucas	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Cr Jo Galer
	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	
IN ATTENDANCE	Richard Briggs (Chief Executive Officer), Carolyn Allan (Chief Financial Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager City Services), Nicola Morand (Manahautū - General Manager Community and Strategy), Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Mike Costelloe (General Manager, Arts, Culture and Economic Development), Heath Ellis (Group Manager Parks and Recreation), Stephen Hogg (Parks and Recreation Planner), Simon Smith (Acting Group Manager), Gina Hu'akau (Community Partnerships Manager), Meghan Cooper (Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua), Mike Hart (Acting Manager, Building Services), Grant Sutton (Principal Advisor Building Services) and Robyn Dillon (Manager Governance).	
Governance Support Officer	Lynne Adamson	

1 OPENING

Rev Ed Masters, Minister of First Presbyterian Church Dunedin provided the opening prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 6 speakers in the Public Forum

2.1 Liam Harrison – Caversham Community Group – Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy

Mr Harrison spoke in support of the Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy and his written submission, highlighting the community's vision for a revitalised Caversham with improved pedestrian and cycling connections, enhanced streetscape amenity, and a thriving local business area. They emphasised the importance of Council support for future improvements to South Road and noted the opportunity to align streetscape upgrades with the opening of the Tunnels Trail to encourage visitors to travel through and spend time in the Caversham shopping area. In response to questions, the speaker discussed the potential benefits of the trail for local businesses and preferred route connections between Caversham and the city.

Mr Harrison responded to questions.

2.2 Joy Davis, Ōtepoti Community Builders – Draft Grants Policy

Ms Joy Davis, on behalf of Ōtepoti Community Builders, spoke in support of the draft Grants Policy being released for public consultation. She acknowledged the value of the Council's contestable community and arts grants programmes and the support provided by staff to community organisations. Ms Davis noted that community grants enable community development, leadership, arts and cultural activities, and support for diverse communities across the city. She expressed concern that the contestable grants funding pool had not kept pace with increasing demand and rising costs, and emphasised the importance of ongoing support for the operational sustainability of community organisations.

Ms Davis urged the Council to ensure robust public consultation on the draft policy, continue to engage with Mana Whenua and community stakeholders, and consider increasing the contestable grants funding pool to better meet community needs. She concluded by highlighting the significant social and community benefits generated through Council investment in the community sector.

Ms Davis responded to questions.

2.3 Amy Taylor, Disabled Persons Assembly – Marlow Park

Ms Amy Taylor, on behalf of the Disabled Persons Assembly, and her daughter Melanie-May Taylor-Connell spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground design. Ms Taylor emphasised the importance of ensuring the playground met the needs of all children and advocated for an inclusive replacement of the existing dinosaur slide. She noted that the current slide, constructed approximately 60 years ago, was not designed to be accessible or inclusive for children with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Ms Taylor encouraged the Council to prioritise accessibility and universal design principles, suggesting consideration of earlier concept designs that incorporated lower and upper levels and enabled children of all abilities to play together. Melanie-May emphasised that the dinosaur feature should be a functional and inclusive play element rather than a nostalgic replica, and urged the Council to ensure the new playground could be enjoyed by everyone. In response to questions, it was confirmed that the existing slide was approximately 60 years old.

Ms Taylor and Melanie May responded to questions.

2.4 Tony Cummings, Deputy Chair, Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc – Marlow Park

Mr Tony Cummings spoke on behalf of the Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment. He noted that he had a great-grandchild

who used the park and expressed concern about the proposed expenditure of $4.6 million of ratepayer funds.

Cr Benedict Ong entered the meeting at 9.26 am.

Mr Cummings referred to playground developments in Christchurch and Timaru, noting that the Margaret Mahy Playground had received Government funding and that the Timaru playground had been funded by the Caroline Bay Association. He questioned whether the existing playground required a full redevelopment, suggesting that maintenance and tidying of the grounds may have been sufficient.

In response to questions, Mr Cummings advised that the existing dinosaur slide was well used, while the smaller slide received limited use, and considered the table tennis table to be the least-used feature within the park.

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Extends the Public Forum beyond 30 minutes.

Motion carried

2.5 Jennifer Thomas, Chair, Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc – Marlow Park

Ms Jennifer Thomas, Chair of the Dunedin Area Citizens Association Incorporated, spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment. Ms Thomas expressed concern about the proposed expenditure on the project, considering there were other priorities facing the city, including flooding issues in South Dunedin. She supported retaining the existing dinosaur slide, noting its significance to generations of children who had used the park since it was installed. Ms Thomas suggested that children should have been consulted on the preferred design for the playground and questioned the scale of the proposed redevelopment, advocating instead for a smaller playground. She also expressed concern about undertaking construction during the summer period, citing potential impacts on nearby businesses, including the miniature golf and train attractions. Ms Thomas concluded by raising concerns about Council spending and the impact of ongoing rate increases on the community.

During questions Cr Benedict Ong made disparaging comments and was asked to withdraw and apologise or leave the meeting. Cr Benedict Ong withdrew his comment but refused to apologise therefore was asked to leave the meeting.

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for two minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 9.37 am.
Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 9.37 am.
The meeting reconvened at 9.39 am.

Deputy Mayor Lucas recorded a formal apology to Ms Thomas

Ms Thomas then responded to questions.

2.6 Robyn Vintiner, Lyn Muir and grandson Mason Schmacher – Marlow Park

Ms Robyn Vintiner and Ms Lyn Muir spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment and advocated for the retention of the existing dinosaur slide. They suggested that refurbishment of the dinosaur, including repainting, could be undertaken with community involvement, and proposed the addition of new play features rather than replacing existing ones. The speakers questioned the prioritisation of the proposed expenditure, noting other infrastructure needs within the city, including South Dunedin. They supported continued community involvement in the park's development and emphasised the value of retaining well-used and recognisable features.

Ms Muir's grandson Mason Schmacher spoke in support of retaining the existing dinosaur slide, noting that both his mother and grandmother had also played on it and that it remained his favourite feature of the playground.

In response to questions, the speakers considered that the playground was serving the community well and supported improvements that would enhance accessibility while retaining existing popular play equipment.

3 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Mayor Sophie for absence and from Cr Russell Lund for lateness.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Council:

Accepts the apologies from Mayor Sophie for absence and Cr Russell Lund for lateness.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/118)

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Confirms the agenda with the addition of items 16, 17 and 18 from the 29 and 30 October 2026 meeting to be taken as follows:

Item 16 - Community Ranger Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37, Item 17 Prioritisation and Funding of Seal Extensions Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37 and Item 18 Caversham Tunnel Access for Dunedin Tunnels Trail Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37 to be taken before Item 6 – Marlow Park Destination Playground Developed Design.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/119)

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the Elected Members' Interest Register; and

b) **Confirms** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Teams' Interests.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/120)

Deputy Mayor Lucas appointed Cr Brent Weatherall to be the Deputy Chairperson for the meeting.

REPORTS

16 COMMUNITY RANGER OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Parks and Recreation provided background on the Community Ranger programme (the Programme) and options on its future.

The Programme had been delivered by Dunedin City Council and the Department of Conservation in partnership since 2018 and provided a seasonal, coordinated ranger presence at high-use visitor locations, with Community Rangers undertaking daily patrols from November to April.

The General Manager, City Services (Scott MacLean); Group Manager Parks and Recreation (Heath Ellis) and Parks and Recreation Planner (Stephen Hogg) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Mickey Treadwell left the meeting at 10.10 am and returned at 10.12 am.
Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 10.17 am and returned at 10.20 am.

During discussion Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 10.57 am

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

a) **Discontinues** provision of an annual funding contribution towards the Community Ranger programme.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (6).
Against: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (7).
Abstained: Nil

The division was declared **LOST** by 7 votes to 6

Moved (Cr Steve Walker/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** inclusion of a funding contribution toward the Community Ranger programme in the draft 10 year plan 2027-37.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (7).
Against: Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (6).
Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 6

Motion carried (CNL/2026/121)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 11.27 am and reconvened at 11.39 am

17 PRIORITISATION AND FUNDING OF SEAL EXTENSIONS OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Transport responded to the Council request for advice on a prioritisation method for sealing unsealed roads and the associated funding implications.

The report outlined the historical approach to seal extensions in Dunedin, proposed a prioritisation framework based on a multi-criteria model, summarised approaches taken by other councils, and identified the financial implications of reinstating a sealing programme.

The General Manager, City Services (Scott MacLean) and Acting Group Manager Transport (Simon Smith) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 11.41 am.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 12.01 pm and returned at 12.04 pm.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** Option 1 to maintain current focus on network renewals, safety and resilience, and existing dust suppression methods of Otta seal and bio-oils for the management of roading network seal extensions.

Division

The Council voted by division

For:	Crs Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker and Brent Weatherall (9).
Against:	Crs John Chambers, Jo Galer, Marie Laufiso and Mandy Mayhem (4).
Abstained:	Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 4

Motion carried (CNL/2026/122)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 30 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 pm and reconvened at 1.12 pm.

18 CAVERSHAM TUNNEL ACCESS FOR DUNEDIN TUNNELS TRAIL OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Commercial Services and 3 Waters provided an update on the steps required to make the Caversham Tunnel available for public use in accordance with the Council resolution.

The General Manager, Art, Culture & Economic Development (Mike Costelloe) and Project Director (Glen Hazelton) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Jo Galer entered the meeting at 1.15 pm.

Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 1.16 pm and returned at 1.20 pm.
Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 1.19 pm.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** allocating the $1m already included in the 10 year plan 2027-37 to Caversham Tunnel upgrade works.

b) **Approves** bringing this budget forward to years one and two for the 10 year plan 2027-37.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/123)

6 MARLOW PARK DESTINATION PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED DESIGN

A report from Commercial Services provided an update on the design of Marlow Park Destination Playground, sought direction on the options for the dinosaur slide and approval to begin construction.

The report discussed the background to Council's decision to upgrade Marlow Park as the first of three destination playgrounds in the city to be redeveloped. It outlined the design process, integration of public and Councillor feedback and the key features and equipment planned for the playground.

It also detailed risks related to the condition of the dinosaur slide and presented options of remediation, replication and removal for Council to consider.

The General Manager City Services (Scott MacLean), Group Manager Parks and Recreation (Heath Ellis) and Project Director (Glen Hazelton) spoke to the report, explained the vision and stages for the playground and responded to questions.

Staff advised that in response to feedback regarding the park's closure during construction, Marlow Park would now remain open for as long as possible over the summer period. Construction would be staged in phases beginning mid-to-late January, ensuring the project still met its final completion deadline of 30 June. Certain areas, would remain open throughout the construction period, though alternative access points may be implemented.

In response to enquiries regarding wheelchair and disabled accessibility, it was noted that the upgraded park would feature an accessible bank slide, an updated whale feature, and several standard, off-the-shelf inclusive play options. They explained other play styles and equipment such as sensory play.

Cr Marie Laufiso left the meeting at 1.59 pm and returned at 2.01 pm.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 2.13 pm and returned at 2.15 pm.

It was moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Extends** the meeting beyond 6 hours.

Motion carried

Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 2.43 pm and returned at 2.47 pm.
Cr Mandy Mayhem left the meeting at 3.08 pm and returned at 3.11 pm.

It was agreed that the resolutions would be taken separately.

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the developed design of the Marlow Park Destination Playground for construction.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/124) with Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

b) **Approves** Option One for the dinosaur slide, being the replication of the dinosaur head and neck through 3D scanning and reconstruction, relocation to the proposed slide zone, and removal of the existing dinosaur structure.

Division

The Council voted by division

For:	Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (8).
Against:	Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (5).
Abstained:	Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2026/125)

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

c) **Authorises** staff to continue to seek additional funding through grants or sponsorship to increase the range and activity options within the playground, including the skate and parkour areas.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/126)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 3.40 pm and reconvened at 3.50 pm

7 DRAFT GRANTS POLICY

A report from Corporate Policy sought approval to consult on a draft of an updated Dunedin City Council's Grants Policy.

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) (Nicola Morand) and Community Partnerships Manager (Gina Hu'akau) and Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua – Senior Policy Analyst (Meghan Cooper) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 4.25 pm and returned at 4.31 pm.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Russell Lund):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the contents of this paper.

b) **Notes** the renaming of the Dunedin City Council's Grants Management Policy to Grants Policy.

c) **Approves** the draft Grants Policy for public consultation through the Long-Term Plan process, with the amendment that DCC accepts applications from groups for events where there is an alcohol sponsor however DCC funding cannot be used directly to purchase or supply alcohol.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/127)with Crs Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against

8 SUBMISSION - BUILDING AMENDMENT BILL

A report from Corporate Policy and Corporate and Regulatory sought approval of the Dunedin City Council submission on the Building Amendment Bill to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee.

The General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services (Paul Henderson), Acting Manager, Building Services (Mike Hart) and Principal Advisor Building Services (Grant Sutton) spoke to the report, advised of some minor typos in the letter where the headings were referred to as the Building Amendment Bill when it should have been the Building Amendment Act, they then responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Russell Lund):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the draft Dunedin City Council submission on the Building Amendment Bill.

b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments to the draft submission before it is lodged.

c) **Authorises** the Mayor or delegate to speak to the submission at any hearing.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/128)

9 EXCEPTION FOR NON-ELECTED MEMBER VOTING AND QUORUM RIGHTS

A report from Civic advised that as from 18 March 2027, non-elected members of specified committees would be unable to vote or be counted for quorum unless an exception applied.

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC) had an independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson with the quorum being three members which must include at least one independent member.

Section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 allowed an exception to be made by an Order in Council where the Minister of Local Government considers it necessary or desirable.

This report sought consideration as to whether to apply for an indefinite exception so that ARAC can retain its current arrangements. The exception would apply only to the two independent positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. Elected members would continue make up five of the Committees seven positions and retain the voting majority.

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Robyn Dillon) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Christine Garey):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** an application to the Minister of Local Government requesting that the Minister recommend the making of an Order in Council under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002, specifying an indefinite exception for the Dunedin City Council Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee from the application of clauses 23(4) and 31A(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, limited to no more than two non-elected members appointed to the offices of independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, so that those office-holders may:

   i) be counted as members of the Committee for the purpose of determining the number of members required to constitute a quorum and whether a quorum exists at a meeting; and

   ii) vote at any meeting of, or in respect of any decision made by, the Committee.

b) **Approves** the application to the Minister of Local Government.

c) **Delegates** authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the application before it is submitted, provided the amendments are consistent with Council's decision and do not change the statutory provisions, Committee, roles, duration or scope of the exception being sought.

d) **Notes** that the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee currently comprises the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, three Councillors and two independent members, with an

independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, and has a quorum of three members which must include at least one independent member.

e) **Notes** that if an Order in Council is not in force when the new legislative provisions take effect, changes will be needed to ARAC's governance arrangements, including its quorum requirements.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/129) with Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against.

10 PROPOSED EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

A report from Transport sought approval for temporary road closure applications relating to the following events:

i) Orange Parade

ii) Community Christmas Event

iii) Brighton Gala Day

iv) World Surf League

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

a) **Resolves** to close the roads detailed below (pursuant to Section 319, Section 342, and Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA 1974)):

i) Orange Parade

Friday, 20 November 2026	9.00am to 9.45am	• Great King Street, from Frederick Street to end
	9.25am to 9.55am	• Frederick Street, between Great King Street and George Street
	9.35am to 10.15am	• George Street, between Frederick Street and The Octagon
	9.15am to 11.00am	• The Octagon Central Carriageway, between George Street and Princes Street
	10.00am to 2.45pm	• Left downhill lane of Upper Stuart Street, between Littlebourne Road and Queens Drive

ii) Community Christmas Event

Sunday, 13 December 2026	1.30pm to 9.00pm	• Lanark Street, between Irvine Street and Gordon Road

iii) Brighton Gala Day

Sunday, 17 January 2027	8.00am to 7.00pm	• Brighton Road, between Bath Street and Taylor Street

* *Detours via Bath Street, Cole Street and Taylor Street*

iv) World Surf League

Sunday, 14 March 2027 UNTIL Tuesday, 23 March 2027	8.00am (14 March 2027) UNTIL 6.00am (23 March 2027)	• Forbury Road, between Victoria Road and Esplanade
		• Esplanade, between Forbury Road and Beach Street
		• One lane of Beach Street, from Bedford Street to Cliffs Road
		• Second Beach Road, from Beach Street to end

Motion carried (CNL/2026/130)

11 NOTICE OF MOTION - FILLING EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Notice of Motion lapsed as Cr Benedict Ong was not present to move and speak to the motion.

The meeting concluded at 5.32 pm

.....
MAYOR

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 29 OCTOBER 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 October 2026 as a correct record.

Attachments

	Title	Page
A⇩	Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 October 2026	30

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Council

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Thursday 29 October 2026, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor	Cr Cherry Lucas	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Cr Jo Galer
	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	

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Briggs (Chief Executive Officer), Carolyn Allan (Chief Financial Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager City Services), Nicola Morand (Manahautū - General Manager Community and Strategy), Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Mike Costelloe (General Manager, Arts, Culture and Economic Development), Anna Nilsen (Group Manager Property), Christian German (Capital Delivery Manager – Property Services), Simon Smith (Acting Group Manager Transport), Simon Spiers (Team Leader Regulation Manager – Transport), Lauren Mead (Senior Financial Accountant), Janet Fraser (Corporate Planner), Bonnie Wright (Manager Compliance Solutions), Cazna Savell (Team Leader Animal Services), Anne Gray (Business Advisor – Compliance Solutions), Monique Devereaux (Head of Communications) and Robyn Dillon (Manager Governance)

Governance Support Officer Lauren Riddle and Rebecca Murray

1 OPENING

Bishop Michael Dooley (Catholic Bishop of Dunedin) opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

2.1 **Naomi Lindsay, Regional Manager for Hospitality New Zealand** spoke on behalf of Otago Hospitality New Zealand members regarding significant increases in commercial rates, noting that Dunedin motel operators had reported increases of between 21% and 46%. She advised that Hospitality New Zealand and the Otago Motel Association would submit a formal letter requesting that Council investigate the increases and sought clarification on the methodology used to assess commercial rates.

Ms Lindsay also requested a full audit of hotel and motel rates, clarification on the allocation of Three Waters-related rates, consideration of a compliance-based differential rating system, and emphasised the importance of maintaining a thriving local economy while ensuring commercial rates were fair and equitable. She responded to questions.

2.2 **Angelina Kiore and Lemalu Feleti (Co-Chairs/Trustees) and Pip Laufiso, (General Manager) of the Te Moana Āhua Ake Charitable Trust** spoke in support of securing the future of Otago Polyfest, highlighting its significance as the region's largest annual cultural event and its contribution to education, cultural expression, community wellbeing, leadership and workforce development. They advised that the 2026 festival involved 175 performing groups, approximately 9,000 performers, 1,400 teachers, tutors, parents and support people, and attracted around 3,000 audience members.

The presenters outlined the challenges associated with delivering the festival, including increasing administrative demands on volunteers and uncertainty arising from annual funding applications, and requested that Council consider a three-year funding commitment through the Long-Term Plan to provide greater certainty, support future growth, and ensure the ongoing educational, cultural, leadership, wellbeing and community benefits delivered by the festival.

2.3 **Xavier Ennals-Pellett, Co-President of the Geography and Environmental Management Society (GEMS), University of Otago**, spoke to the Draft Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy, requesting greater recognition of tertiary students within the strategy and noting that many students live outside the identified priority areas.

Mr Ennals-Pellett highlighted the need for safety improvements at key pedestrian crossings, improved lighting on walking and cycling routes, and greater collaboration with the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic to better understand student travel patterns. He advised that these matters were reflected in the Society's submission and responded to questions.

Cr Benedict Ong entered the meeting at 9.19 am.

2.4 **Kim Morgan, member of the Performing Arts Advisory Panel**, supported by Cindy Driver, **s**poke on the Draft Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan noting that the Panel represented a broad range of performance disciplines and brought expertise to its work

Dr Morgan advised that the Panel's work complemented other Council strategies and initiatives, highlighted the contribution of the performing arts to the wellbeing of the city and requested

that Council recognise the performing arts as an essential part of Dunedin's social, cultural and community life. Dr Morgan responded to questions.

2.5 **Julie Pearce and Ohad Dar, from the McMaster Road Working Group** spoke on the DCC Sealing Extension Programme. Cr Lucas (as Chairperson) confirmed the circulation of information provided by the working group to elected members in advance of the meeting.

Ms Pearce advised that the sealing of McMaster Road had been under consideration for more than 20 years and expressed concern that the programme had been cancelled without consultation. She noted that the road served approximately 90 residents as well as through, commercial and tourist traffic, and highlighted safety and amenity concerns arising from dust, loose gravel and reduced traction.

The Working Group submitted that sealing the road would provide long-term benefits for residents and the wider Saddle Hill community, including its function as an alternative route to Old Brighton Road, and requested that Council prioritise McMaster Road for sealing and provide a clear written decision and indicative timeframe for the work.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/ Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Extends Public Forum beyond 30 minutes

Motion carried

2.6 – Paul Coffey, Dunedin Tracks and Trails Trust, supported by Rachel Elder, spoke in support of funding for the Trust's projects. He outlined progress on key trail developments and highlighted the opportunity to open the Caversham Tunnel as part of a connected regional cycling and walking network, citing associated safety, wellbeing, tourism and economic benefits.

He requested that Council commit $1 million towards opening the tunnel, noting that it would provide a safe and continuous link between existing trails and strengthen connections to wider regional cycle tourism networks. Mr Coffey responded to questions.

2.7 Kate Wilson – Dunedin Tunnel Trails Trust

Ms Wilson spoke to a presentation on the Dunedin Tunnels Trail project, advising that design work was progressing in partnership with KiwiRail and Council and expressing support for the development of the Caversham Tunnel Trail as part of a well-connected regional trails network. She outlined the purpose and scope of the Dunedin Tunnels Trail report, which had been circulated separately to elected members, and advised that the proposed trail network would benefit a wide range of users, including recreational users, local communities, students and visitors, while improving cycling connections for a significant proportion of Dunedin residents.

Ms Wilson responded to questions.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Accepts the apology of Mayor Sophie for absence.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/113)

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Lucas appointed Cr Andrew Simms as Deputy Chairperson for the meeting.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Confirms the agenda with the following alterations:

- That the Public Excluded section of the agenda be taken immediately following the adjournment for lunch.
- That Item 15 – 2026 Annual Reports for the Dunedin City Holdings Group (DCHL) be taken at 12 noon on Friday 30 October due to the availability of DCHL staff.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/114)

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

There were no updates to the register.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** Elected Members' Interest Register; and

b) **Confirms** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Teams' Interests.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/115)

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Doug Hall):

That the Council:

Confirms the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 September 2026 as a correct record.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/116)

REPORTS

7 DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

A report from Civic and Finance sought approval and adoption of the Annual Report for the Dunedin City Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

The Chair, Audit Risk and Assurance Committee (Bruce Robertson) spoke to the report and was supported at the table by the Chief Financial Officer (Carolyn Allan) and Corporate Planner (Janet Fraser) and Senior Financial Accountant (Lauren Mead).

Mr Robertson confirmed the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee's recommendation to adopt the Annual Report, receive the Letter of Representation and the signed Audit Report.

Mr Robertson, Ms Allan and Ms Mead responded to questions.

Cr Treadwell left the meeting at 10.04 am and returned to the meeting at 10.05 am.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 10.16 am and returned to the meeting at 10.19 am.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 10.42 am and returned to the meeting at 10.49 am.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 10.44 am and returned to the meeting at 10.49 am.
Cr Mandy Mayhem left the meeting at 10.44 am and returned to the meeting at 10.49 am.
Cr John Chambers left the meeting at 10.44 am and returned to the meeting at 10.46 am.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 10.55 am and returned to the meeting at 11.10 am.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 10.57 am and resumed at 11.10 am.

Cr Russell Lund left the meeting at 11.11 am and returned to the meeting at 11.12 am.
Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 11.11 am.

Following a show of hands in favour, Deputy Mayor Lucas (as Chairperson) invoked Standing Order 20.2 - Time limits on Speakers, with the Mover of the motion to have not more than 5 minutes to speak and for exercising their right of reply, and other members to not more than 3 minutes to speak to the motion.

Cr Benedict Ong returned to the meeting at 11.16 am.

Moved (Cr Lee Vandervis/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the Dunedin City Council Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

b) **Delegates** the Chief Executive the authority to make any minor editing required to the approved Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026.

c) **Authorises** the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Statement of Compliance and Responsibility on behalf of Council.

d) **Receives** the Letter of Representation to the auditors.

e) **Authorises** the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Letter of Representation to the auditor on behalf of Council.

f) **Receives** the Report to the Council on the audit of Dunedin City Council and Group from The Audit Office.

g) **Receives** the Audit Report on the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026; and

h) **Adopts** the audited Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/117)

8 FINANCIAL REPORT - PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

A report from Finance provided the provisional financial results for the period ended 31 August 2026 and the financial position as at that date. The Chief Financial Officer (Carolyn Allan) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 11.41 am and returned to the meeting at 11.42 am.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 11.56 am and returned to the meeting at 11.58 am.

Moved (Cr Lee Vandervis/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the Financial Performance for the period ended 31 August 2026 and the Financial Position as at that date.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/118)

9 HEARINGS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REVIEW OF KEEPING OF ANIMALS BYLAW

A report from Corporate and Regulatory presented the recommendations from the Hearings Committee on the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (the Bylaw) following a review.

Cr Mandy Mayhem (Chairperson for this Hearings Committee) spoke to the recommendations of the Hearings Committee, including a revised statement of proposal (at Attachment C) on matters relating to cats for further consultation on those restrictions only. Cr Mayhem responded to questions of the report.

Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Anne Gray (Business Advisor – Compliance Solutions), Bonnie Wright (Manager Compliance Solutions), and Cazna Savell (Team Leader Animal Services) responded to questions.

Cr Christine Garey left the meeting at 12.11 pm and returned to the meeting at 12.14 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 12.47 pm and returned to the meeting at 12.49 pm.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Doug Hall):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** that the Hearings Committee has heard and considered submissions on the Keeping of Animals Bylaw review.

b) **Notes** the minutes of the Hearings Committee hearings and deliberations on the Keeping of Animals Bylaw review.

c) **Notes** the additional staff information on estimated costs associated with increased education, microchipping and de-sexing for responsible cat ownership.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/119)

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Doug Hall):

That the Council:

d) **Adopts** a revised statement of proposal on matters relating to cats for further consultation on those restrictions only.

e) **Approves** a revised draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw that includes a proposal for specific cat restrictions, for further consultation on those restrictions only.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/120) with Crs Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against

10 PROPOSED EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

A report from Transport recommended approval of temporary road closure applications relating to the following events:

i) Motorsport Hillclimb

ii) Green Island Market Day

iii) Santa Parade

iv) Graduation Parades

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Resolves** to close the roads detailed below (pursuant to Section 319, Section 342, and Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA 1974)):

i) Motorsport Hillclimb

Saturday, 14 November 2026	7.30am to 6.00pm	• Flagstaff Whare Flat Road, between Rollinsons Road and Longridge Road
Sunday, 15 November 2026	7.30am to 6.00pm	• Three Mile Hill Road, between Halfway Bush Road and Silverstream Valley Road

ii) Green Island Market Day

Saturday, 5 December 2026	7.00am to 3.00pm	• Main South Road, between Howden Street and Church Street • Jenkins Street, between Main South Road and Shand Street

* *Parking restrictions will be in place in Howden Street and Shand Street*

iii) Santa Parade

Sunday, 6 December 2026	8.00am to 2.00pm	• George Street, between Duke Street and Regent Road
	2.00pm to 5.00pm	• George Street, between Regent Road and The Octagon • Octagon Central Carriageway, between George Street and Princes Street • Princes Street, between The Octagon and Moray Place • Moray Place, between Princes Street and Lower Stuart Street

iv) Graduation Parades

Saturday, 12 December 2026 AND	11.00am to 11.45am (12 & 19 December) 10.00am to 10.45am (16 December)	• Great King Street, between Frederick Street and Albany Street
Wednesday, 16 December 2026 AND	11.10am to 12.00pm (12 & 19 December) 10.10am to 11.00am (16 December)	• Frederick Street, between Great King Street and George Street • George Street, between Frederick Street and Moray Place

Saturday, 19 December 2026	11.10am to 12.30pm (12 & 19 December) 10.10am to 11.30am (16 December)	• Moray Place, between George Street and Upper Stuart Street • Filleul Street, between Moray Place and St Andrew Street
	11.30am to 12.15pm (12 & 19 December) 10.30am to 11.15am (16 December)	• Intersection of George Street and Moray Place

Motion carried (CNL/2026/121)

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Reason for Confidentiality
C1 Ordinary Council meeting - 24 September 2026 - Public Excluded	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.		
C2 Code of Conduct Complaint in relation to Councillor Benedict Ong	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person. S7(2)(f)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers,	S48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	

	employees and persons from improper pressure or harassment. S7(2)(g) The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	
C3 Representation Review - Appointment of Independent Review Panel and Confirmation of Terms of Reference	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.	S48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
C4 Dunedin City Council Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2026 - Confidential Attachments	S7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. S7(2)(h) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

This resolution 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, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.

b) **Move** into Public Excluded session at 1.30 pm.

c) **Adjourns** the meeting for lunch until 1.30 pm.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/122)

The meeting adjourned at 12.57 pm and resumed in Public session at 3.33 pm to consider Item 11 - Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan.

11 ŌTEPOTI PERFORMING ARTS ACTION PLAN

A report from Corporate Policy and Ara Toi sought adoption of the draft Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan 2026 that consisted of the Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan and its Implementation Plan.

The General Manager, Arts, Culture & Economic Development (Mike Costelloe) and Ara Toi Partnerships Team Leader (Amie Taua) and Danielle Tolson (Policy Analyst) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Mickey Treadwell left the meeting at 4.03 pm and returned to the meeting at 4.04 pm.
Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 4.07 pm and returned to the meeting at 4.08 pm.

Following debate the motion was put.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Christine Garey):

That the Council:

a) **Adopts** the Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan 2026.

b) **Delegates** authority to the Chief Executive Officer to incorporate minor editorial amendments.

c) **Notes** the Implementation Plan for the Ōtepoti Performing Arts Action Plan 2026 (Attachment B)

Motion carried (CNL/2026/123)

Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 4.35 pm
Cr Christine Garey left the meeting at 4.35 pm and returned to the meeting at 4.37 pm

12 NOTICE OF MOTION - ELECTORAL SYSTEM POLL

In accordance with Standing Order 26.1, the following Notice of Motion has been received from Cr Andrew Simms for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting being held on Thursday, 29 October 2026.

Cr Andrew Simms spoke to the Notice of Motion for a poll to determine the electoral system to be used for future elections of the DCC to be held in conjunction with the 2029 Local Body Elections.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Receives** the Notice of Motion.

b) **Resolves,** pursuant to the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, to hold a poll in conjunction with the 2028 triennial general election to determine the electoral system to be used for future elections of the Dunedin City Council.

c) **Resolves**, that the poll ask electors to choose between:

i) First Past the Post (FPP); and
ii) Single Transferable Voting (STV)

d) **Notes** that the outcome of the poll will determine the electoral system to be used for Dunedin City Council elections from the 2031 triennial general election, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

e) **Requests** that the Chief Executive undertake all actions necessary to give effect to this resolution, including compliance with statutory requirements relating to the conduct and public notification of the poll.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (8).
Against: Crs Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem and Steve Walker (5).
Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2026/124)

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting until 12.00 pm on Friday 30 October 2026.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4.57 pm on Thursday 29 October 2026 and reconvened at 12.00 pm on Friday 31 October 2026.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Extends the meeting beyond six hours.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/125)

Cr Doug Hall entered the meeting via Zoom at 12.02 pm.

15 2026 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE DUNEDIN CITY HOLDINGS GROUP

A report from Civic appended the 2026 Annual Reports of Dunedin City Holdings Ltd (DCHL) Group companies for noting.

The Chair, DCHL (Tim Loan) and General Manager DCHL (Peter Hocking) spoke to the reports and responded to questions.

Cr Benedict Ong entered the meeting at 12.15 pm.
Cr Mickey Treadwell left the meeting at 12.37 pm and returned to the meeting at 12.39 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 12.57 pm.
Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 12.58 pm.
Cr Doug Hall left the Zoom meeting at 1.01 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall returned to the meeting at 1.02 pm.
Cr Doug Hall rejoined the meeting via Zoom at 1.03 pm.
Cr Jo Galer returned to the meeting at 1.05 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 1.07 pm.
Cr Christine Garey left the meeting at 1.07 pm.
Cr Steve Walker left the meeting at 1.08 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall returned to the meeting at 1.10 pm.
Cr Steve Walker returned to the meeting at 1.11 pm.
Cr Christine Garey returned to the meeting at 1.12 pm.

Moved (Cr Lee Vandervis/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

Notes the 2026 Annual Reports of:

i) Dunedin City Holdings Limited
ii) Dunedin City Treasury Limited
iii) Aurora Energy Limited
iv) City Forests Limited
v) Delta Utility Services Limited
vi) Dunedin International Airport Limited
vii) Dunedin Railways Limited
viii) Dunedin Stadium Property Limited
ix) Dunedin Venues Management Limited

Motion carried (CNL/2026/126)

Moved: (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting until 1.35 pm.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 1.24 pm and reconvened at 1.35 pm.

Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 1.35 pm.

13 HEARINGS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED PARKING CHANGES - SEPTEMBER 2026

A report from Transport presented the recommendations of the Hearings Committee on proposed parking changes for Council approval, as reviewed in the Committee meeting on 14 September 2026.

Cr Cherry Lucas (Chairperson) spoke to the recommendations. General Manager City Services (Scott MacLean), Acting Group Manager Transport (Simon Smith) and Team Leader Regulation Management – Transport (Simon Spiers) responded to questions.

Cr Doug Hall rejoined the meeting via Zoom at 1.43 pm.
Cr Benedict Ong returned to the meeting at 1.47 pm.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Lee Vandervis):

That the Council:

a) **Adopts** the proposed changes to parking and traffic restrictions shown in the September 2026 update of the Dunedin City Council's traffic and parking restrictions database with any amendments proposed;

b) **Notes** that the Hearings Committee has considered feedback from consultation on the proposed changes relating to changes and restrictions;

c) **Notes** that all other parking restrictions previously approved by the Council remain unchanged.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/127)

14 EDGAR CENTRE OPTIONS REPORT

A report from Property presented the findings of the Wool Store roof investigations, sought Council's approval of a preferred roof replacement option, and direction on whether the potential to install photovoltaic (solar) panels should be investigated as part of the project.

The General Manager, City Services (Scott MacLean) and Group Manager Property Services (Anna Nilsen) and Christian German (Capital Delivery Manager – Property Services) responded to questions.

Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 2.05 pm and returned to the meeting at 2.06 pm.
Cr Brent Weatherall left the meeting at 2.28 pm and returned to the meeting at 2.30 pm.
Cr Mickey Treadwell left the meeting at 2.34 pm and returned to the meeting at 2.36 pm.
Cr Lee Vandervis left the meeting at 2.56 pm.

Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 3.02 pm and returned to the meeting at 3.05 pm.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 3.07 pm and reconvened at 3.18 pm.

Cr Benedict Ong returned to the meeting at 3.21 pm.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for five minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 pm and reconvened at 3.38 pm.

Moved (Cr Russell Lund/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** 'Rolled-on-site' profiled non-insulated metal roofing without translucent sheeting panels for the roof replacement solution for the Edgar Centre Wool Store.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/128)

Moved (Cr Russell Lund/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

b) **Directs** Property Services to commission an independent structural engineering peer review of the necessity and extent of the structural alterations and strengthening required for a conventional long-run profiled metal roof replacement of the Edgar Centre Wool Store.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Jo Galer, Doug Hall, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Mandy Mayhem, Andrew Simms and Steve Walker (8).
Against: Crs Christine Garey, Marie Laufiso, Benedict Ong, Mickey Treadwell and Brent Weatherall (5).
Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2026/129)

Moved (Cr Russell Lund/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

c) **Directs** Property Services to prepare a feasibility study to include all structural implications with the addition of a potential roof mounted solar system.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/130) with Crs Galer, Lund, Lucas and Mayhem recording their vote against.

Cr Cherry Lucas advised that the remaining items be carried over to the 5 November 2026 Council meeting and be considered first on the agenda.

16 COMMUNITY RANGER OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

Deferred to the Council meeting being held on 5 November 2026.

17 PRIORITISATION AND FUNDING OF SEAL EXTENSIONS OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

Deferred to the Council meeting being held on 5 November 2026.

18 CAVERSHAM TUNNEL ACCESS FOR DUNEDIN TUNNELS TRAIL OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

Deferred to the Council meeting being held on 5 November 2026.

The meeting concluded at 4.14 pm.

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DEPUTY MAYOR

REPORTS

SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ACT - MĀORI REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Department: Mana Ruruku and Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 This report informs Council of changes to voting rights and quorum arrangements for non-elected members of Council committees, including Māori representatives appointed to Council committees and the current quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori, introduced by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026.

2 From 18 March 2027, non-elected committee members will generally no longer be able to vote or count towards a quorum unless a statutory exception or an Order in Council exception applies. They may continue to participate and provide advice.

3 The changes directly affect mana whenua representatives appointed to Te Pae Māori, the Finance and Performance Committee, the Policy and Planning Committee and the Grants Subcommittee, together with the mātāwaka representative appointed to Te Pae Māori. They also affect the quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori, which currently require the participation of at least two mana whenua representatives.

4 The Minister of Local Government has invited councils seeking an exception to submit a request by 18 November 2026. While this date has been provided to support the timely consideration of requests, it is not a statutory deadline and does not preclude councils from applying afterwards.

5 Te Pae Māori has considered the implications of the legislation and recommended that Council seek a Ministerial exception to retain the existing voting rights of Māori representatives across these committees and preserve the current quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori.

6 The Minister has invited councils seeking an exception to submit a request supported by a Council resolution by 18 November 2026. While this date has been provided to support the timely consideration of requests, it is not a statutory deadline and does not preclude councils from applying afterwards.

7 This report seeks Council's decision on whether to request an exception from the Minister to retain voting rights and/or quorum rights for appointed Māori representatives on Council committees, consistent with the recommendation of Te Pae Māori. The matter is brought directly to Council because any application must be supported by a Council resolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the changes to voting rights and quorum for non-elected members arising from the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 and their implications for Māori representation on Council committees.

b) **Notes** the recommendation of Te Pae Māori that Council seek a Ministerial exception to retain existing voting rights for Māori representatives on Council committees and the current quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori.

c) **Approves** seeking an exception under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 to retain the voting rights of:

   i. The four mana whenua representatives and one mātāwaka representative appointed to Te Pae Māori.

   ii. The two mana whenua representatives appointed to the Finance and Performance Committee.

   iii. The two mana whenua representatives appointed to the Policy and Planning Committee.

   iv. The mana whenua representative appointed to the Grants Subcommittee.

d) **Approves** seeking an exception to retain the existing quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori, being five members, including at least two elected members and two mana whenua representatives, with appointed Māori representatives remaining eligible to count towards the quorum.

e) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to finalise and submit an application to the Minister of Local Government, supported by this Council resolution, the recommendation of Te Pae Māori, the views of kā rūnaka and relevant supporting information.

f) **Notes** that the Minister is not obliged to recommend an exception and that Council must ensure its committee voting and quorum arrangements comply with the legislation from 18 March 2027 if an exception is not granted.

BACKGROUND

8 The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal assent on 18 September 2026 and amends the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Among broader changes to the purpose, accountability and administration of local government, it introduces restrictions on voting and quorum rights for non-elected members of specified Council committees.

9 The relevant provisions are Schedule 7, clauses 23(4), 30A(6B) and 31A of the Local Government Act 2002, with transitional arrangements addressed in Schedule 1AA, clause 67. Section 260A provides for further exceptions by Order in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government.

10 In a letter dated 29 September 2026, the Minister advised councils that compliance is required from 18 March 2027 and invited councils seeking an exception to submit a request by 18 November 2026. The Minister's letter is attached to the accompanying report on community representatives on Council committees. The November date is the Minister's requested application date rather than a statutory deadline expressly stated in section 260A.

Existing Māori representation on Council committees

11 Council's current Committee Structure and Delegations provides for mana whenua and mātāwaka representation across several committees, recognising the role of Māori in contributing to Council governance, strategic direction and decision-making.

12 The existing appointments are:

Committee	Māori representation
Te Pae Māori	Four mana whenua representatives, two from each rūnaka, and one mātāwaka representative
Finance and Performance Committee	One representative from each rūnaka
Policy and Planning Committee	One representative from each rūnaka
Grants Subcommittee	One mana whenua representative

13 Te Pae Māori is co-chaired by the Mayor and a mana whenua representative. Its membership comprises of five elected members, four mana whenua representatives and one mātāwaka representative.

14 Its existing quorum is five members, including at least two elected members and two mana whenua representatives. This arrangement reflects the mana-to-mana purpose of the Committee and the expectation that mana whenua participate in its formal consideration of matters.

15 The Finance and Performance Committee and Policy and Planning Committee each include representatives from Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, alongside elected members. These appointments provide for mana whenua participation in strategic, financial, policy and planning decisions.

16 The Grants Subcommittee includes one mana whenua representative and two community representatives alongside five elected members. The mana whenua representative contributes to decisions relating to the allocation of Council grants. This report focuses specifically on the mana whenua representative. The implications for community representatives are being considered separately.

17 These arrangements have been established by Council to support meaningful Māori involvement in governance and decision-making. They also contribute to Council's wider partnership commitments through Te Pae Māori and Te Taki Haruru, the Council's Māori Strategic Framework.

Recommendation from Te Pae Māori

18 Te Pae Māori considered the implications of the legislative changes at its meeting on 9 November 2026:

Moved (Mr Matapura Ellison/Mr Edward Ellison):

That the Committee:

*a) **Notes** the changes to voting rights and quorum for non-elected members arising from the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 and their implications for Māori representation on Council committees.*

*b) **Advises** Council that Te Pae Māori Committee supports the development of an application to the Minister of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport seeking an exception to retain voting rights and quorum provisions for mana whenua representatives on:*

a) Te Pae Māori;
b) the Finance and Performance Committee;
c) the Policy and Planning Committee; and
d) the Grants Subcommittee.

and requests that the views of each rūnaka and the mātāwaka representative be incorporated into any application.

*c) **Notes** that any application would require a Council resolution, that the Minister is not obliged to recommend an exception, and that Council must prepare compliant arrangements from March 2027 if no exception is made.*

Motion carried (TPMCC/2026/017)

19 The Committee recommended that Council seek an exception from the Minister to retain the voting rights of Māori representatives on Council committees as currently provided for in the Committee Structure and Delegations.

20 Te Pae Māori also recommended that an exception be sought to preserve its existing quorum arrangements, recognising that mana whenua participation is integral to the Committee's purpose as a mana-to-mana forum.

21 The recommendation reflects the importance Te Pae Māori places on maintaining the existing partnership and governance arrangements between Council, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka.

22 Council is now asked to consider this recommendation and determine whether an application should be made to the Minister.

DISCUSSION

What changes for non-elected members

23 Unless an exception applies, non-elected members will cease to be eligible to vote on formal committee decisions and will not be counted when determining the number required for a quorum or whether a quorum exists.

24 The practical governance consequences are that appointed members may remain on committees and subcommittees, speak, provide advice and expertise, and participate in discussions. However, participation in deliberations is distinct from having a formal vote on funding decisions or contributing towards the legal quorum of a meeting.

25 These changes apply to Te Pae Māori, the Finance and Performance Committee, the Policy and Planning Committee and the Grants Subcommittee, subject to any applicable statutory or Ministerial exception.

26 The legislation does not require Council to remove Māori representatives from its committees. They do, however, change the extent of their formal involvement in decisions and require a review of each above-mentioned committees' existing governance arrangements.

Implications for Māori representation

27 Māori representation on Council committees is an established component of Council's governance and partnership arrangements. It provides opportunities for mana whenua and mātāwaka to bring their perspectives, knowledge, priorities and responsibilities directly into Council processes.

28 The Local Government Act 2002 continues to contain provisions relating to Māori participation in local government decision-making, including section 4, section 14(1)(d) and section 81(1).

29 These provisions recognise the importance of maintaining opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making. They do not automatically provide an entitlement to vote on Council committees under the amended legislation.

30 Council has given practical effect to its commitment to Māori involvement through governance appointments, its relationship with kā rūnaka, through the Manatū Whakaaetaka Relationship Agreement and its Māori Strategic Framework Te Taki Haruru.

31 The removal of voting rights would change the nature of these arrangements. Māori representatives could continue to contribute to discussions and provide advice and expertise, but would no longer participate as voting members in formal decisions or recommendations made by the committees.

32 While the level of impact varies between committees, the change would represent a reduction in the formal decision-making responsibilities currently held by appointed Māori representatives.

33 The recommendation from Te Pae Māori is that Council seek to retain these existing arrangements through the exception process provided for in the legislation.

Te Pae Māori – voting rights and quorum

34 Te Pae Māori was established as a mana-to-mana forum between Council, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka. Its purpose is to support an enduring strategic relationship, providing a forum for partnership, dialogue and advice on matters of shared importance.

35 The Committee's membership and quorum arrangements reflect this purpose. The current quorum requires five members to be present, including at least two elected members and two mana whenua representatives.

36 This is an important distinction from other Council committees. Te Pae Māori is not simply a committee that includes Māori representation; its structure is explicitly intended to support a shared governance-level relationship between Council and Māori.

37 Unless an exception applies, mana whenua and mātāwaka members will no longer count towards quorum. The existing requirement for a minimum of two mana whenua representatives would therefore not be compatible with the new statutory quorum provisions.

38 If the quorum of five members were retained without an exception, all five elected members would be required to attend for a lawful quorum. Alternatively, Council could amend the quorum to provide for meetings to proceed with fewer elected members. Neither approach would preserve the existing legal requirement for mana whenua participation.

39 Council and mana whenua could agree that important business should not progress without mana whenua involvement. However, an agreed expectation of participation would not replace the statutory quorum requirement.

40 The proposed exception would preserve the current quorum of five members, including at least two elected members and two mana whenua representatives, and allow the appointed Māori members to continue counting towards the required total.

41 It would also preserve the voting rights of the four mana whenua representatives and one mātāwaka representative, retaining the existing arrangements for formal Committee recommendations and resolutions.

42 Te Pae Māori's recommendation recognises that these arrangements are fundamental to the Committee's mana-to-mana purpose. Preserving both voting and quorum rights would enable the Committee to continue operating in the manner intended when it was established.

Finance and Performance Committee

43 The Finance and Performance Committee includes one representative from each rūnaka. The Committee provides governance oversight and exercises delegated authority on financial, investment, rating and performance matters.

44 Mana whenua participation provides an opportunity for rūnaka perspectives to be incorporated into decisions concerning Council resources, financial priorities and organisational performance.

45 Under the new legislation, mana whenua representatives could continue to contribute to discussions but would no longer vote on formal Committee resolutions unless an exception applies.

46 Te Pae Māori has recommended that Council seek to retain these existing voting rights, recognising the significance of mana whenua involvement in finance and performance decisions.

Policy and Planning Committee

47 The Policy and Planning Committee also includes one representative from each rūnaka and is responsible for overseeing the development, review and implementation of Council strategies, policies, frameworks and plans.

48 This Committee considers matters with potential long-term implications for mana whenua, including land use, infrastructure, environmental planning and the future development of Ōtepoti Dunedin.

49 Māori representation provides a direct mechanism for mana whenua perspectives and responsibilities to be considered at the governance level.

50 Without an exception, mana whenua representatives would retain their ability to provide advice and contribute to deliberations but would lose their formal voting rights.

51 Te Pae Māori has recommended retaining those rights through a Ministerial exception, recognising the significance of mana whenua involvement in strategic planning and policy decisions.

Grants Subcommittee

52 The Grants Subcommittee includes one mana whenua representative alongside elected members and appointed community representatives.

53 The Grants Subcommittee makes decisions on the allocation of Council grants within approved policies, budgets and delegations. Mana whenua participation provides a Māori perspective within these funding decisions.

54 Without an exception the mana whenua representative would cease to be eligible to vote on grant allocations, although they could continue to participate in discussions.

55 Te Pae Māori has recommended that Council seek to retain the voting rights of the mana whenua representative.

56 The Grants Subcommittee's quorum arrangements will require separate consideration because the current quorum includes external representatives. An exception relating only to Māori voting rights would not, by itself, preserve those existing quorum requirements.

57 The position of the two appointed community representatives is being considered separately. This report seeks an exception only for the mana whenua representative's voting rights on the Grants Subcommittee.

Alignment with Council's Māori partnership commitments

58 Council's relationship with mana whenua is guided by its statutory responsibilities, established partnership arrangements and Te Taki Haruru, the Māori Strategic Framework.

59 Te Taki Haruru provides a framework for Council, mana whenua and mātāwaka to work together and recognises the importance of Māori participation, leadership and influence in matters affecting Ōtepoti Dunedin.

60 In particular, the pou of Autūroa and Autakata recognise the importance of enduring influence, mana, whakapapa and the relationship of mana whenua to place.

61 The current governance appointments provide one mechanism through which these principles are reflected in Council processes. Retaining voting rights would maintain the formal participation that accompanies these appointments.

62 The proposed exception would not create additional Māori representation or extend current delegations. Its purpose is to preserve the voting arrangements already established by Council and, for Te Pae Māori, the existing quorum requirements.

63 Maintaining existing arrangements is not by itself sufficient to establish the statutory case for an exception. Council must demonstrate why those particular voting and quorum rights are necessary or desirable in the context of each committee's functions.

Existing statutory exceptions and ministerial process

64 The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 provides some limited exceptions for non-elected members appointed to certain committees or appointments constituted or required under another enactment or any Treaty Settlement to retain their voting rights and participation as part of the quorum.

65 Council's established relationship with mana whenua, and appointments are made in support of the Treaty relationship but does not establish that a particular appointment meets the statutory exception as a committee required by a Treaty Settlement, and the committees to which mana whenua are appointed come within the ambit of the Local Government Act 2002.

66 Under section 260A, an Order in Council may provide an exception for a class or type of committee, a particular committee, or a class or type of non-elected member. Exceptions may be time-limited or indefinite and subject to conditions.

67 The Minister must be satisfied that an exception is necessary or desirable before recommending it. The Minister has indicated that exceptions are expected to be rare and must be supported by clear and specific justification.

68 An application would need to explain:

a) The issue the exception would address and why existing governance arrangements would not adequately address it.

b) The role and functions of each committee and the Māori representatives appointed to it.

c) Why voting rights, and in the case of Te Pae Māori quorum rights, are necessary or desirable.

d) How Council would manage its governance arrangements without an exception.

e) The safeguards in place to maintain democratic legitimacy and public accountability.

f) How the exception fits within the broader statutory framework, including any relevant precedents.

69 The proposed application would identify the affected appointments individually and provide the justification relevant to each committee.

70 For Te Pae Māori, the case would focus on the Committee's purpose as a mana-to-mana forum and the importance of retaining quorum arrangements that require mana whenua participation.

71 For the Finance and Performance Committee, Policy and Planning Committee and Grants Subcommittee, the application would focus on the specific governance functions undertaken and the contribution of mana whenua voting participation to those functions. It would also emphasise that elected members form the majority of voting members.

72 Council would retain responsibility for setting committee structures, appointing members, determining delegations and ensuring that decisions remain subject to the appropriate statutory and public accountability requirements.

73 Submitting an application to the Minister does not guarantee that an exception will be granted or preserve voting rights once the new provisions take effect. Council is required to prepare for compliant arrangements regardless of whether an application is submitted.

Decision sought from Council

74 Te Pae Māori has recommended that Council pursue an exception for the existing Māori representative appointments and Te Pae Māori quorum arrangements.

75 Council must determine whether it supports that recommendation and considers there are sufficient grounds to seek an exception from the Minister.

76 Council's decision should distinguish between the ability of Māori representatives to participate in discussions and the formal decision-making rights currently associated with their appointments.

77 The central consideration is whether preserving those rights is necessary or desirable to maintain the effectiveness of the established governance and partnership arrangements, while recognising the Government's intention that committee voting generally be reserved for elected members.

78 Any application will also need to address the particular circumstances of each committee.

OPTIONS

79 Two options are presented for Council's consideration. Neither changes Council's obligation to ensure its governance arrangements comply with the legislation from 18 March 2027.

Option One – Seek a Ministerial exception for Māori representation

80 Council approve Te Pae Māori's recommendation and seek a targeted exception under section 260A to retain existing voting rights for Māori representatives on the identified committees, together with Te Pae Māori's current quorum arrangements.

Advantages

- Supports the recommendation of Te Pae Māori and acknowledges the importance of its role in advising Council on matters affecting Māori representation, relationship and partnership.
- Maintains the existing governance relationship between Council, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka, including their participation in formal committee decisions.

- Supports continuity with Council's established approach to Māori involvement in decision-making under sections 4, 14(1)(d) and 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.
- Aligns with the principles and intent of Te Taki Haruru, particularly Autūroa and Autakata.
- Maintains Te Pae Māori's quorum arrangements, ensuring that mana whenua participation remains a formal requirement for the Committee to conduct its business.
- Provides an opportunity for Council to demonstrate its commitment to the existing partnership arrangements, even if the Minister ultimately declines the exception.

Disadvantages

- The Minister has indicated that exceptions will be rare, and there is no guarantee that an application will be successful.
- Preparing an application will require staff resources, legal advice and supporting evidence for each committee and appointment.
- Council will need to demonstrate why an exception is necessary or desirable notwithstanding the Government's policy of limiting formal voting rights to elected members.
- Council may still need to prepare alternative compliant governance arrangements if the exception is declined or only partially granted.
- An application may create expectations among stakeholders that existing arrangements will continue, despite the outcome remaining uncertain.

Option Two – Do not seek a Ministerial exception

81 Council decides not to pursue an exception. Māori representatives could remain appointed in a non-voting capacity, with Council amending the relevant committee voting, quorum and governance arrangements before 18 March 2027.

Advantages

- Aligns directly with the new legislative requirements and the Government's general approach to formal committee voting.
- Avoids the administrative and legal resources required to prepare an exception application.
- Provides certainty about the governance amendments that will be required.
- Enables Māori representatives to continue contributing knowledge, advice and perspectives to Council committees.
- Allows Council to implement governance arrangements that are fully consistent with the default legislative framework.

Disadvantages

- Does not give effect to Te Pae Māori's recommendation to retain existing voting and quorum arrangements.
- Reduces the formal decision-making role of Māori representatives across the identified committees.
- Requires changes to Te Pae Māori's quorum arrangements, removing the existing legal requirement for mana whenua participation.
- May affect the effectiveness and perceived integrity of established mana-to-mana governance arrangements.
- May have implications for Council's relationships with kā rūnaka and mātāwaka, particularly where the existing appointments have been established to support shared governance-level participation.
- Requires additional work to review committee delegations, Terms of Reference and relevant partnership arrangements.

NEXT STEPS

82 Subject to Council's decision, staff will finalise an application to the Minister of Local Government seeking an exception for the specified Māori representative appointments and Te Pae Māori quorum arrangements. A draft application letter is attached as Attachment A.

83 As Council is considering this report after the request date any exception, if granted, may not take effect until after these legislative changes commence. There may therefore be a period during which appointed mana whenua representatives are unable to vote or be included in the quorum. Staff will review each committee's Terms of Reference, membership, quorum requirements and delegations to ensure that compliant arrangements can be implemented from 18 March 2027 if an exception is not granted or is only partially granted.

84 Staff will confirm the position of each rūnaka directly and ensure that the application accurately records the scope of Te Pae Māori's recommendation, including the position of the mātāwaka representative.

85 The application will provide the necessary justification for each committee and appointment, explaining why retaining voting rights and, for Te Pae Māori, existing quorum rights, is considered necessary or desirable.

86 Any subsequent decision by the Minister will be reported to Council, together with any amendments required to the Council committee's governance arrangements.

Signatories

Author:	Robyn Dillon – Manager Governance
Authoriser:	Richard Briggs – Chief Executive

Attachments

	Title	Page
⇩A	Application for an exception for Māori representatives on Council committees	60

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, cultural, economic, and environmental interests of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Future Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

This decision is relevant to Council's strategic framework as it concerns the governance arrangements through which Council considers and implements its strategies, policies, plans and partnership commitments.

Māori Impact Statement

The outcome of this report directly affects the participation of mana whenua and mātāwaka representatives in Council decision-making processes. The option to seek an exception to retain existing voting rights for Māori representatives on specified committees and preserve the current quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori, supports the continuation of established partnership and governance arrangements between Council, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka.

Sustainability

Sustainability implications are indirect and arise through the continued inclusion of Māori perspectives in Council decision-making processes.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no direct implications for the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, Financial Strategy or Infrastructure Strategy. Any approved exception would maintain existing governance arrangements rather than create new programmes, services or expenditure commitments.

Financial considerations

The financial implications are limited to staff time and any legal support required to prepare and submit an application to the Minister. No additional budget is required at this stage.

Significance

While important from a governance and partnership perspective, it does not alter service levels, assets or funding, and remains consistent with existing policies and strategies. It is considered low significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS
Engagement – external Te Pae Māori has considered the legislative changes and recommended that Council pursue an exception. Staff will also confirm the position of each rūnaka before finalising any application.
Engagement - internal The report has been prepared collaboratively by Mana Ruruku, Corporate Policy and Legal Services.
Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc. There is a risk that an exception application is not approved. Regardless of Council's decision, compliant voting and quorum arrangements must be in place from 18 March 2027.
Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest have been identified.
Community Boards There are no implications for Community Boards.

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

xx xx 2026

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL APPLICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION UNDER SECTION 260A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 - MĀORI REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) seeks an exception under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to retain the existing voting rights of appointed Māori representatives on specified Council committees and to retain the current quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori.
2. This application is made in response to the changes introduced by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 (the Act) and follows a Council resolution supporting the request.
3. DCC acknowledges the Government's policy intent that voting on council committees should generally be reserved to elected members, and understands that exceptions are expected to be granted only where a clear and specific justification demonstrates that an exception is necessary or desirable.

Scope of the requested exception

4. The Council seeks to retain voting rights for:
    a. Four mana whenua representatives and one mātāwaka representative appointed to Te Pae Māori.
    b. Two mana whenua representatives appointed to the Finance and Performance Committee.
    c. Two mana whenua representatives appointed to the Policy and Planning Committee.
    d. One mana whenua representative appointed to the Grants Subcommittee.
5. Council also seeks an exception to retain the existing quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori, requiring a quorum of five members, including at least two elected members and two mana whenua representatives.

Background

6. For many years, the Council has provided for mana whenua and mātāwaka participation within its governance framework through appointments to key committees. These arrangements recognise the role of Māori in contributing to Council governance, strategic direction and decision-making and form an important component of the relationship between Council and Māori in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

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7. The current arrangements align with and support Te Taki Haruru – the Māori Strategic Framework, and give practical effect to the Council's commitment to meaningful Māori participation in local government decision-making.

8. Without an exception, appointed Māori representatives would continue to participate in discussions and provide advice but would no longer be able to vote or count towards quorum requirements from 18 March 2027.

Why an exception is necessary or desirable

Te Pae Māori

9. Te Pae Māori is a unique mana-to-mana forum established to support an enduring strategic relationship between Council, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka. Its purpose extends beyond consultation and advice by providing a governance-level mechanism for partnership, dialogue and shared consideration of matters of significance.

10. The Committee's current membership and quorum arrangements are integral to that purpose. Requiring the participation of mana whenua representatives as part of a lawful quorum ensures that the Committee can only undertake formal business where both Council and mana whenua are represented.

11. If the requested exception is not granted, the statutory requirement for mana whenua participation would be removed. While Council and mana whenua could agree informally not to proceed in the absence of mana whenua representatives, such an arrangement would not provide the same legal recognition of the Committee's mana-to-mana purpose.

12. DCC therefore considers it both necessary and desirable to preserve the existing voting and quorum arrangements for Te Pae Māori.

Finance and Performance Committee

13. The Finance and Performance Committee exercises important governance oversight functions in relation to financial management, investment, rates and organisational performance. Mana whenua representatives contribute perspectives that assist the Committee in considering the long-term implications of decisions affecting the district and its communities.

14. Retaining voting rights would preserve the existing governance contribution of mana whenua without altering the Committee's delegated authority, membership balance or elected-member accountability. Elected members would continue to comprise the majority of voting members, ensuring democratic accountability remains intact.

Policy and Planning Committee

15. The Policy and Planning Committee oversees the development of strategies, policies, frameworks and plans with long-term implications for the district. Many of these matters directly affect the interests, responsibilities and relationship of mana whenua with place.

16. The participation of mana whenua representatives as voting members supports the integration of Māori perspectives into the Committee's formal recommendations and decisions. Retaining those voting rights would preserve established governance arrangements and support informed decision-making without diminishing the accountability of elected members.

Grants Subcommittee

17. The Grants Subcommittee makes decisions on the allocation of Council funding. The participation of a mana whenua representative provides a Māori perspective on funding priorities and outcomes for the community.

18. The requested exception would maintain the current voting role of the mana whenua representative and preserve the established contribution that position makes to funding decisions. It would not alter the Subcommittee's delegations, accountability mechanisms or overall governance structure.

Democratic Accountability and Safeguards

19. DCC recognises the importance of democratic accountability. The requested exception would not create additional Māori representation, expand existing delegations or alter the Council's responsibility for governance oversight. It would simply preserve arrangements already established and operating effectively within the Council's governance framework.

20. On committees that hold decision-making authority (all but Te Pae Māori), elected members would remain the majority and Council would continue to retain responsibility for determining committee structures, delegations, and appointments. Committee decisions would remain subject to the same statutory obligations, transparency requirements and public accountability mechanisms that currently apply.

Conclusion

21. DCC considers that the requested exception is both necessary and desirable for maintaining established governance and partnership arrangements with mana whenua and mātāwaka. The exception would preserve existing decision-making arrangements rather than create new rights or governance structures, while ensuring that key committees, particularly Te Pae Māori, can continue to operate in the manner originally intended.

22. DCC respectfully requests that you recommend an Order in Council under section 260A providing for the requested exception.

Nāku noa, nā

Sophie Barker
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN
TE KOROMATUA O ŌTEPOTI

SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ACT - COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Department: Corporate Policy and Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 This report informs Council of changes to voting rights and quorum arrangements for non-elected members of Council committees, including the community representatives appointed to the Grants Subcommittee, introduced by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026.

2 From 18 March 2027, non-elected committee members will generally no longer be able to vote or count towards a quorum unless a statutory exception or an Order in Council exception applies. They may continue to participate and provide advice.

3 These changes directly affect the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee, whose roles currently include participating in decisions relating to the allocation of Council grants. The changes also have implications for the Subcommittee's quorum arrangements.

4 The Minister of Local Government has invited councils seeking an exception to submit a request by 18 November 2026. While this date has been provided to support the timely consideration of requests, it is not a statutory deadline and does not preclude councils from applying afterwards.

5 This report seeks Council's decision on whether to request an exception from the Minister to retain voting rights and/or quorum rights for the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee. The matter is brought directly to Council because any application must be supported by a Council resolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the changes to voting rights and quorum arrangements for non-elected members arising from the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 and their implications for the community representatives appointed to the Grants Subcommittee.

b) **Notes** the role of community representatives in supporting transparent, informed and community-focused decision-making in the allocation of Council grants.

c) **Approves** the preparation and submission of a request to the Minister of Local Government for an exception under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 to

retain voting and quorum rights for the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee, subject to legal advice.

d) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to finalise and submit the application to the Minister of Local Government, supported by this Council resolution and the information required by the Minister.

e) **Notes** that the Minister is not obliged to recommend an exception and that Council must ensure compliant voting, quorum and delegation arrangements are in place from 18 March 2027 if an exception is not granted.

BACKGROUND

6 The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal assent on 18 September 2026 and amends the Local Government Act 2002. Among broader changes to local government accountability, governance and administration, it introduces restrictions on voting and quorum rights for non-elected members of specified committees.

7 The relevant provisions are Schedule 7, clauses 23(4), 30A(6B) and 31A of the Local Government Act 2002, with transitional arrangements set out in Schedule 1AA, clause 67. Section 260A provides for further exceptions by Order in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government.

8 In a letter dated 29 September 2026, the Minister advised councils that compliance is required from 18 March 2027 and invited councils seeking an exception to submit a request by 18 November 2026. This letter is provided as Attachment A. This is the Minister's requested application date rather than a statutory deadline expressly stated in section 260A.

Grants Subcommittee arrangements

9 Under Council's current Committee Structure and Delegations, the Grants Subcommittee comprises:

- Five elected members of Council.
- One appointed mana whenua representative.
- Two appointed community representatives.

10 The Subcommittee's quorum is currently five members, including at least three elected members and two external representatives.

11 The Grants Subcommittee is responsible for assessing grant applications and making funding allocations within the policies and delegations established by Council. The two community representatives participate in this decision-making process alongside elected members and the mana whenua representative.

12 Council confirmed its preferred governance arrangements for grant allocations in February 2026, retaining a Grants Subcommittee with community representation as part of its approach to grants decision-making.

13 Community representation brings local knowledge, sector experience and an understanding of community needs into decisions about the distribution of public funding. This enables community perspectives to be considered alongside Council priorities, funding criteria and accountability requirements.

14 The legislative changes affect both community representatives and the appointed mana whenua representative. This report focuses specifically on the two community representatives. The implications for mana whenua representation are being considered separately.

DISCUSSION

What changes for non-elected members

15 Unless an exception applies, non-elected members will cease to be eligible to vote on formal committee decisions and will not be counted when determining the number required for a quorum or whether a quorum exists.

16 The practical governance consequences are that appointed members may remain on committees and subcommittees, speak, provide advice and participate in discussions. However, participation in deliberations is distinct from having a formal vote on funding decisions or contributing towards the legal quorum of a meeting.

17 These changes do not require Council to remove community representatives from the Grants Subcommittee. They do, however, change the extent of their formal involvement in decisions and require a review of the Subcommittee's existing governance arrangements.

Implications for the Grants Subcommittee

18 Community representation has been an established component of Council's grants decision-making arrangements. The inclusion of community members provides an opportunity for people with relevant community experience and knowledge to contribute directly to decisions about funding local organisations, projects and activities.

19 Under the current arrangements, community representatives participate as voting members. Their contribution extends beyond providing advice to helping determine how grants funding is allocated, within the policies and budgets established by Council.

20 Removing voting rights would change the nature of this contribution. Although community representatives could continue to express views, provide expertise and contribute to assessment discussions, the formal decisions would rest with the elected members of the Subcommittee.

21 This may reduce the direct influence of community perspectives on grant allocations and alter the balance between elected-member accountability and community participation that underpins the existing governance model.

22 There are also practical implications for quorum arrangements. The current requirement for two external representatives to be included in the quorum would need to be reviewed because, without an exception, non-elected members cannot legally be counted towards quorum.

23 If the current quorum of five were retained without an exception, all five elected members would be required to be present to achieve that number. Council would therefore need to

consider whether revised arrangements would provide sufficient flexibility for the Subcommittee to continue operating effectively.

24 The impact is particularly relevant because the Grants Subcommittee exercises delegated decision-making authority over the allocation of Council funds. Its arrangements must support effective decisions while maintaining public confidence, transparency and accountability.

Community participation in decision-making

25 Council's grants system provides an important mechanism for supporting community organisations, activities and projects across Ōtepoti Dunedin. Decisions on funding involve consideration of community needs, competing priorities, the benefits of proposed activities and the effective use of public resources.

26 Appointed community representatives can bring experience and perspectives that complement those of elected members, including knowledge of community organisations, local challenges and opportunities, and the practical impacts of funding decisions.

27 Retaining community involvement in grants decisions can support accessibility, transparency and community confidence in the grants process.

28 The legislative changes reflect the Government's intention that formal committee voting decisions should generally be made by elected representatives, who are directly accountable to the public through local elections.

29 Council must therefore consider whether the benefits of retaining voting rights for its community representatives provide sufficiently strong grounds to request an exception to the general statutory position.

30 Council can decide to retain appointed community representatives in an advisory capacity. Council is specifically being asked to decide whether their existing role in formal funding decisions warrants an exception to preserve voting and/or quorum rights.

Existing statutory exceptions and ministerial process

31 The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 provides some limited exceptions for non-elected members appointed to certain committees or appointments constituted or required under another enactment or any Treaty Settlement to retain their voting rights and participation as part of the quorum.

32 Council's appointment of community representatives to the Grants Subcommittee does not, by itself, establish that these statutory exceptions apply. Legal advice is required to confirm the basis of the appointments and the appropriate exception pathway.

33 Under section 260A, an Order in Council may provide an exception for a class or type of committee, a particular committee, or a class or type of non-elected member. Exceptions may be time-limited or indefinite and subject to conditions.

34 The Minister must be satisfied that an exception is necessary or desirable before recommending it. The Minister has indicated that exceptions are expected to be rare and must be supported by clear and specific justification.

35 An application would need to explain:

a) The issue the proposed exception would address and why existing governance arrangements would not adequately address it.

b) The role of the Grants Subcommittee and the two community representatives in grants decision-making.

c) How Council would manage grants decisions without an exception.

d) The safeguards in place to maintain democratic legitimacy and public accountability.

e) How the exception fits within the broader statutory framework, including any relevant precedents.

36 Council's existing structure, in which elected members form the majority of the Grants Subcommittee and retain responsibility for setting policies, budgets and delegations, would be relevant to demonstrating appropriate democratic accountability.

37 An application could seek to preserve voting rights, quorum rights, or both. The application must clearly identify the two community representative appointments and provide a justification for the specific rights sought.

38 Submitting an application to the Minister does not guarantee that an exception will be granted or preserve voting rights once the new provisions take effect. Council is required to prepare for compliant arrangements regardless of whether an application is submitted.

Decision sought from Council

39 Council is asked to determine whether the current governance arrangements for the Grants Subcommittee provide sufficient grounds to seek a Ministerial exception for the two community representatives.

40 In making this decision, Council may wish to consider the value of direct community participation in funding decisions, its recently confirmed grants governance arrangements and the practical implications of changing the Subcommittee's quorum requirements.

41 Any exception application would relate specifically to the two community representatives. The position of the mana whenua representative is a separate consideration, although any changes to quorum arrangements must take account of all appointed members.

OPTIONS

42 Two options are presented for Council's consideration. Neither changes Council's obligation to ensure its governance arrangements comply with the legislation from 18 March 2027.

Option One – Seek a Ministerial exception for the two community representatives

43 Council would approve an application to the Minister under section 260A seeking to retain voting and quorum rights for the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee.

Advantages

- Maintains the established role of community representatives as active participants in grants decision-making.
- Supports community knowledge and perspectives being reflected directly in the allocation of Council funding.
- Reinforces Council's commitment to meaningful community participation and transparency in its grants processes.
- Aligns with Council's recently confirmed governance model for grant allocations.
- Provides an opportunity to retain existing quorum arrangements, subject to the scope of any exception granted.
- Demonstrates Council's support for the community representatives it has appointed, even if the Minister does not approve the exception.

Disadvantages

- The Minister has indicated that exceptions will be rare, and there is no guarantee the application will be successful.
- Preparing an application will require staff and legal resources.
- Council will need to demonstrate why an exception is necessary or desirable notwithstanding the Government's policy of limiting formal voting rights to elected members.
- Council may still need to amend the Subcommittee's governance arrangements if the exception is declined or only partially granted.
- An application may create uncertainty regarding future governance arrangements until a decision is received from the Minister.

Option Two – Do not seek a Ministerial exception

44 Council would decide not to pursue an exception and retain the two community representatives in a non-voting capacity, with amendments to the Subcommittee's quorum, delegations and related governance arrangements before 18 March 2027.

Advantages

- Aligns directly with the Government's general policy that voting rights should rest with elected representatives.
- Avoids the staff and administrative resources required to develop an exception application.
- Provides certainty about the need to amend the Subcommittee's governance arrangements.
- Enables community representatives to continue contributing knowledge and advice without formal voting responsibilities.

- Allows Council to implement governance arrangements that are fully consistent with the default legislative framework.

Disadvantages

- Reduces the formal decision-making role of community representatives within the grants process.
- Changes the current model through which community perspectives are incorporated into funding decisions.
- May affect perceptions of the independence, inclusiveness and accessibility of the grants process.
- Requires changes to Council's recently confirmed Grants Subcommittee governance model.
- Requires amendments to quorum arrangements and potentially other aspects of the Subcommittee's Terms of Reference and delegations.

NEXT STEPS

45 Subject to Council's decision, staff will prepare and submit an application to the Minister of Local Government seeking an exception for the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee. A draft application letter is attached as Attachment B.

46 The application will set out the rationale for retaining community voting and quorum rights, the Subcommittee's role and governance arrangements, and the safeguards in place to maintain democratic accountability.

47 Staff will also review the Grants Subcommittee's Terms of Reference, membership, quorum requirements and delegations to ensure that compliant arrangements can be implemented from 18 March 2027 if an exception is not granted.

48 Any subsequent decision by the Minister will be reported to Council, together with any amendments required to the Subcommittee's governance arrangements.

Signatories

Author:	Robyn Dillon – Manager Governance
Authoriser:	Richard Briggs – Chief Executive

Attachments

	Title	Page
⇩A	Letter from Minister Watts	72
⇩B	Application for an exception for community representatives on the Grants subcommittee	74

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, cultural, economic, and environmental interests of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Future Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

This decision relates to Council's governance arrangements and the way community perspectives are incorporated into decision-making. It supports the governance framework through which Council implements its strategies, policies, plans and funding decisions.

Māori Impact Statement

The report focuses on the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee. The implications for the mana whenua representative are being considered separately.

Sustainability

Any sustainability implications are indirect through the grants decisions made by the Subcommittee.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no direct implications for the Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, Financial Strategy or Infrastructure Strategy. Any approved exception would preserve existing governance arrangements rather than create new expenditure commitments or levels of service.

Financial considerations

The financial implications are limited to staff time and any legal support required to prepare and submit an exception application. No additional funding is sought through this report.

Significance

While important from a governance and partnership perspective, it does not alter service levels, assets or funding, and remains consistent with existing policies and strategies. It is considered low significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

No formal external engagement has been undertaken.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS
Engagement - internal The report has been prepared collaboratively by Community partnerships, Mana Ruruku, Corporate Policy and Legal Services.
Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc. There is a risk that an exception application is not approved. Regardless of Council's decision, compliant voting and quorum arrangements must be in place from 18 March 2027.
Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest have been identified.
Community Boards There are no implications for Community Boards.

Hon Simon Watts

Minister for Building and Construction
Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue
Minister for Auckland

29 SEP 2026

Mayors and regional council chairs
By email

Dear Mayors and Chairs

Voting at council committee meetings

On 18 September 2026, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal assent. The Act reserves voting rights on council committees, joint committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies ("specified committees") for elected members only.

As I have stated previously, the purpose of this change is to strengthen democratic accountability. Councils may continue to appoint non-elected members to specified committees to provide expertise, stakeholder perspectives, or community representation. However, unless an exception applies, non-elected members must not vote and are not counted toward the quorum of the meeting.

Your council must comply with the Act from 18 March 2027. The purpose of this transition period is to ensure you have enough time to change the structure of or delegations to your council's specified committees, if required.

The Act also provides for certain exceptions. These include committees or appointments that are required under or for the purposes of another enactment and arrangements required to give effect to Treaty settlements.

Additionally, the Act provides for the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government, to grant exceptions where the Minister is satisfied these are necessary or desirable. Exceptions may be time-limited or indefinite, and with or without conditions.

My expectations are that exceptions will be granted rarely. The Government's policy is that non-elected members should generally be non-voting. Councils seeking an exception will therefore need to demonstrate a clear and specific justification that supports the statutory test that the exception is necessary or desirable.

The next page of this letter contains information on how requests for exceptions will be considered.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand | +64 4 817 6814 | s.watts@ministers.govt.nz

If your council considers that an exception may be required, I encourage you to submit a request in writing to the Minister of Local Government by 18 November 2026 enclosing:

- A copy of a resolution from your council in support of the exception.
- Information about the issue the exception would address, why existing governance arrangements would not adequately address the issue, and how the council would manage the issue without an exception.
- Information about the role of the committee, the proposed role of non-elected members, and the steps that would be taken to maintain democratic legitimacy and public accountability.
- Information about how the exception fits within the broader statutory framework, including any comparable precedents.

Requests regarding a joint committee should ideally have the support of all councils who are members of the joint committee.

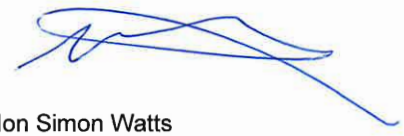
Requests should contain sufficient information for the Minister to recommend the exception to the Governor-General.

Officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) will assess any requests received and provide advice to the Minister of Local Government after the election. It is my intention that decisions will be made and communicated early next year, and exceptions will come into force at the end of the transition period.

If you require more information:

- Visit the MCERT website at www.mcert.govt.nz/our-work/local-government/local-government-system-improvements/.
- Contact your MCERT Local Government Partnership Director.

Yours sincerely



Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

xx xx 2026

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL APPLICATION FOR AN EXCEPTION UNDER SECTION 260A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 - COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) seeks an exception under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to retain the existing voting rights and quorum rights of the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee.
2. This application is made in response to the changes introduced by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 (the Act) and follows a Council resolution supporting the request.
3. DCC acknowledges the Government's policy intent that voting on council committees should generally be reserved to elected members, and understands that exceptions are expected to be granted only where a clear and specific justification demonstrates that an exception is necessary or desirable.

Scope of the requested exception

4. The Council seeks to retain voting rights and quorum rights for the two appointed community representatives on the Grants Subcommittee.

Background

5. The Grants Subcommittee is responsible for allocating funding through a range of Council grant programmes that support community organisations, initiatives and activities across Dunedin.
6. The current membership of the Subcommittee includes two appointed community representatives. These appointments were made to bring community knowledge, experience and perspectives into the grant allocation process and to support informed and transparent funding decisions.
7. The Council recently confirmed the governance arrangements for the Grants Subcommittee, including the continued appointment of community representatives as full members.
8. Without an exception, the appointed community representatives would continue to participate in discussions and provide advice but would no longer be able to vote or count towards quorum requirements from 18 March 2027.

Why an exception is necessary or desirable

50 The Octagon | PO Box 5045 | Dunedin 9054, New Zealand | **T** 03 477 4000 | **E** dcc@dcc.govt.nz | www.dunedin.govt.nz
DunedinCityCouncil @DnCityCouncil

9. The allocation of community funding differs from many other Council decision-making functions because it directly concerns community organisations and initiatives that contribute to the interests and vitality of Dunedin's communities.

10. The appointed community representatives contribute knowledge and experience derived from their involvement with community organisations, networks and activities. Their participation assists the Subcommittee to understand the practical implications of funding decisions and the needs of a diverse range of community groups.

11. The current arrangements support community perspectives being reflected directly in funding decisions through participation in formal decision-making, rather than solely through consultation or advisory processes.

12. Retaining voting rights would preserve the existing governance model for the Grants Subcommittee and maintain the role that community representatives currently play in the allocation of Council funding.

13. The requested exception would not alter the Subcommittee's delegated authority, expand its powers, or diminish the accountability of elected members. Elected members would continue to comprise the majority of voting members and remain responsible for the overall governance framework within which grant funding decisions are made.

14. DCC therefore considers it desirable to retain the existing voting and quorum arrangements for the two appointed community representatives.

Democratic accountability and safeguards

15. DCC recognises the importance of democratic accountability. The requested exception would not create additional appointed positions, expand existing delegations or alter Council's responsibility for governance oversight. It would simply preserve arrangements already established and currently operating effectively within the Council's governance framework.

16. Elected members would remain the majority on the Grants Subcommittee and Council would continue to retain responsibility for determining committee structures, delegations and appointments. Decisions of the Subcommittee would remain subject to the same statutory obligations, transparency requirements and public accountability mechanisms that currently apply.

Conclusion

17. DCC considers that the requested exception is desirable for maintaining the established role of community representatives in the allocation of Council funding. The exception would preserve existing decision-making arrangements rather than create new rights or governance structures, while enabling the Grants Subcommittee to continue operating in the manner recently confirmed by Council.

18. DCC respectfully requests that you recommend an Order in Council under section 260A providing for the requested exception.

Nāku noa, nā

Sophie Barker
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN
TE KOROMATUA O ŌTEPOTI

RATES REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT POLICY

Department: Finance and Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 At the 12 November 2026 meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee the committee resolved as follows:

Moved (Chairperson Lee Vandervis/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Committee:

*a) **Recommends** that Council approves the proposed Rates Remission and Postponement Policy, with any amendments, for consultation.*

*b) **Recommends** that Council approves that the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy be consulted on through the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 process.*

Motion carried (FAPCC/2026/014)

2 This report now seeks Council's approval:

a) For proposed changes to the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (the Policy) and

b) That the Policy be consulted on through the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 consultation process.

3 The Policy has been reviewed with changes proposed. The proposed changes update the Policy to improve practices and allow for greater flexibility. The Policy with tracked changes is provided at Attachment A and a clean version at Attachment B.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the proposed Rates Remission and Postponement Policy, with any amendments, for consultation.

b) **Approves** that the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy be consulted on through the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 process.

BACKGROUND

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)

4 Section 102(2)e of the LGA provides that a local authority must have a policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land, and under section 102(3) of the LGA may adopt either or both of the following policies:

a) Rates remission policy

b) Rates postponement policy.

5 Policies adopted under that section must state the objectives sought to be achieved by the remission and postponement of rates, and the conditions and criteria to be met for rates to be remitted or postponed.

6 The policies must be reviewed at least once every six years and be consulted on.

Dunedin City Council Rates Remission and Postponement Policy ('the Policy')

7 The Dunedin City Council (DCC) has a Rates Remission and Postponement Policy that covers the following:

a) Remission of rates for financial hardship,

b) Postponement for rates financial hardship,

c) Remission of penalties,

d) Remission for certain targeted rates on farmland,

e) Remission for certain targeted rates on farmland and commercial land used by the same ratepayer as a single entity,

f) Remission of certain targeted rates for a family flat,

g) Remission of land voluntarily protected for conservation purposes,

h) Remission of rates following a natural disaster or calamity,

i) Remission of rates for unexpected events, and

j) Remission of rates on Māori freehold land.

k) Of note, DCC does not offer postponement of rates for Māori freehold land

8 There are several hundred applications for rates remissions every year.

a) The majority of these relate to remission of penalties and for remission of certain targeted rates for a family flat. For example, there are approximately 90-100 family flat rates remissions per year.

b) Very few relate to extreme financial hardship and Māori freehold land. For example, for financial hardship, in the last five years there were seven applications for rates remission or postponement.

9 Since the Māori freehold land remission policy was adopted six years ago there have been two applications under this policy via the Ngai Tahu Law Centre.

DISCUSSION

10 In accordance with the LGA, a review must be carried out at least every 6 years. The Council has opted to review this policy in line with the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 process so changes can go out for consultation at the same time. The Policy was last reviewed as a part of the 9-year plan 2025-34 process.

11 Reasons for the key proposed changes and potential implications are discussed below.

12 **Add the definition of "Ratepayer":** is the person who is named as a ratepayer in the rating information database and the district valuation roll for the rating unit or the separate rating area.

13 **Removal of the definition of "Unexpected Event"** as this criterion is no longer in the policy (see below at paragraph 19 for further explanation).

14 **Update of Section 1:** General Provisions

a) Updated 1.4. to read "All applications will be assessed independently. Any previous approval of a remission does not guarantee that a remission will be granted in future years or circumstances, as individual circumstances and eligibility criteria may change."

b) Addition of clause 1.6 "An approved remission of postponement can be ended should any of the following criteria be met:

1.6.1. The eligibility criteria are no longer met,

1.6.2 The use or occupation of the property changes,

1.6.3 Information provided in support of the application is found to be incorrect or misleading, or

1.6.4 Council considers that continuing the remission or postponement is no longer consistent with the purpose and objectives of this policy.

15 **Update of Section 2:** Remission of rates for financial hardship

a) Update of 2.2.3 to "It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship" Applicants are now required to provide evidence of financial hardship from a recognised budgetary advisor as DCC staff are not trained to assess finances for financial hardship.

b) Update of 2.2.4 to clarify that an application only applies to the current year and a separate application would need to be provided for any future years.

c) Removal of the condition in clause 2.2.5, "The ratepayer is not in arrears from a previous year." This is recognising that those facing financial hardship often won't seek help until they are in arrears.

d) Addition of clause (now 2.2.5) "The ratepayer has not received government rates rebate for the same rating year". The Rates Rebate Act 1973 sets out the rules for rates rebates. It considers the full rates owing (minus any remissions applied) as a part of the calculation for eligibility. Receiving a rates remission can preclude an applicant from receiving a rates rebate. If a ratepayer requires assistance beyond the rates rebate a full remission of the rates is the more appropriate mechanism. This criterion has been added to provide an either/or support mechanism for the ratepayer.

16 **Update of Section 3:** Postponement if rates for financial hardship

a) Update of 3.2.3 to "It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship" (see reasoning above in 15 a).

17 **Update of Section 4:** Remission of Penalties

a) Update of 4.2.7 to remove "or as soon as practicable and offers a reasonable excuse for tardiness" to remove the ambiguity.

18 **Removal of Section 6:** Remission for certain targeted rates of Farmland and Commercial land used by the same ratepayer as a single entity.

a) This section is not required as this is covered by Section 20 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

19 **Update to Section 7:** Remission of certain targeted rates for a family flat (now Section 6)

a) Update to 7.2 to add "for the current rating year and beyond" this allows for the remission to continue until there is a change in the situation as per the general requirements.

20 **Removal of Section 9** (Remission of rates following a natural disaster or calamity) **and Section 10** (Remission for rates for unexpected events), **and replace with a new section (new section 8)** (Other remissions deemed fair and equitable)**:**

a) Both section 9 and 10 have been reviewed and found to be not fit for purpose. The original intention for both sections is to provide remission of rates for unexpected events. However, the wording and criteria were too restrictive and could not be applied in scenarios where it would have made sense to.

b) A new section **"Other remissions deemed fair and equitable" (new section 8)** has been developed to allow for flexibility when providing rate remissions in those instances where Council has deemed it is fair and equitable to do so.

OPTIONS

Option One – Recommended Option

21 Accept the recommended changes to the policy, with any amendments provided from Council feedback.

Advantages

- The Policy will be more accessible.
- DCC staff won't be required to assess if a ratepayer is in financial hardship.
- Ambiguity in wording has been removed.
- Providing clearer criteria on when the Council could end an approved remission or postponement if required.

Disadvantages

- No disadvantages have been identified.

Option Two – Status Quo

22 Leave the policy in its current form.

Advantages

- The Policy will continue to operate as it does currently.

Disadvantages

- The Policy will remain restrictive.
- DCC staff can be exposed in make judgements about financial hardship.
- Ambiguity in wording creating confusion in applying the policy.
- Ambiguity on when Council could end an approved remission or postponement.

NEXT STEPS

23 Should the updated Policy be approved by Council, this will then under-go legal review.

24 The Policy, including any amendments, will be consulted on as part of the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 consultation.

Signatories

Author:	Hayley Knight - Assurance Manager Rula Abu-Safieh Talahma - Senior Policy Analyst
Authoriser:	Carolyn Allan - Chief Financial Officer

Attachments

	Title	Page
⇩A	Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy - tracked changes	85
⇩B	Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy - Clean version	97

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Environment Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

The review of the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy contributes to the Financial Strategy and Revenue and Financing Policy. The Rates Remission and Postponement Policy provides a rates relief for ratepayers and is a form of affordability guardrail for the community.

Māori Impact Statement

The policy for Māori freehold land is aligned to legislation.

Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

Any decision to change the rating policies may impact on the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan and Financial Strategy.

Financial considerations

There is a financial impact from the remission of rates. There may be financial implications for the Council from the proposed amendments.

Significance

The proposed amendments to the policy are considered of low significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The policy will however be consulted on in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

Engagement – external

There has been no external engagement in reviewing this Policy. External engagement will occur as a part of the Long-Term Plan consultation process.

Engagement - internal

Finance, In-House Legal Counsel, and elected members have been engaged while reviewing this Policy.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There is a risk for remissions granted being larger than budgeted. Following Council approval of the draft Policy, a legal review will be undertaken.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS
Conflict of Interest There is no known conflict of interest.
Community Boards There are no implications for Community Boards.

RATES REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT POLICY			
Approved by:	Council		
Sponsor:	Chief Financial Officer		
Department responsible:	Finance		
Date approved:	July 2027~~5~~	**Reviewed:**	November 2026~~4~~
Next review date:	2030	**DOC ID:**	

Purpose

- To support fairness and equity of the rating system.
- To provide certainty about sources and levels of funding.
- To provide financial assistance or support for ratepayers where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their rate payment obligations.
- To provide greater consistency, equity and clarity around the rating of Māori land.
- To support broader Council policy objectives.

Scope

The Dunedin City Council (the Council) sets rates under section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Rates are used by the Council to fund the balance of its costs once all other funding sources are taken into account.

Section 102 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides that a council may have a rates remission and postponement policy (the Policy). Section 102(3A) of the Local Government Act (Rating) 2002, requires that any remission or rates postponement policy must also support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

The Policy contains the full details of each remission and postponement scheme as well as outlining the objectives and criteria for each scheme and applies to every ratepayer or their agent (as defined within the Policy).

Once adopted this Policy must be reviewed at least once every six years.

Definitions

"Current rating year" is 1 July to 30 June of the year of application.

"Financial hardship" means that the ratepayer is unlikely to have sufficient funds after the payment of rates for the care of any dependents, reasonable living expenses, health care, and provision for the maintenance of their home and chattels.

"Land use" is whereby a person: leases the land; resides on the land; de-pastures or maintains livestock on the land; stores anything on the land; and/or uses the land in any other way.

"Māori freehold land" is land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order "Multiple owners" in respect to Māori freehold land, is land owned by more than one person.

"Ratepayer" is the person who is named as a ratepayer in the rating information database and the district valuation roll for the rating unit or the separate rating area.

"Rates instalment notice" is a quarterly rates invoice for a rating unit.

"Rating unit" has the same definition as the Rating Valuations Act 1998.

"Register" is a database maintained for the purpose of recording properties of which the Council has agreed to remit.

"Remitted rates" are rates for which the requirement to pay is remitted.

~~**"Unexpected event"** is any event that is resolved as an unexpected event by the Council, this may include but it not limited to a declared State of Emergency or a pandemic or other event.~~

1 General provisions

1.1 All applications under this Policy must be made in writing, using the prescribed form unless expressly declared otherwise in this Policy. Copies of the prescribed forms may be obtained from the Council Offices or Customer Service Centres.

1.2 All applications must be made by the ratepayer or their authorised agent, (excluding a mortgagee of the ratepayer).

1.3 A reference to a ratepayer is reference to all persons entered on the Council's rating information database in respect of that rating unit.

1.4 All applications will be assessed independently. Any previous approval of a remission does not guarantee that a remission will be granted in future years or circumstances, as individual circumstances and eligibility criteria may change.

~~1.4 All applications will be considered on their individual merits and on a case-by-case basis.~~

1.5 The extent of the rates remission is at the sole discretion of the Council. This Policy does not provide for the permanent remission of rates and the remission may be cancelled or reduced at any time.

1.6 An approved remission or postponement can be ended should any of the following criteria be met:

1.6.1 The eligibility criteria are no longer met,

1.6.2 The use or occupation of the property changes,

1.6.3 Information provided in support of the application is found to be incorrect or misleading, or

1.6.4 Council considers that continuing the remission or postponement is no longer consistent with the purpose and objectives of this policy.

2 Remission of rates for financial hardship

Objective

2.1 To assist ratepayers experiencing financial hardship while providing for the collection of rates.

Conditions and Criteria

2.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates for the current rating year may be made by a ratepayer (or their agent) who can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet all of the following criteria:

2.2.1 The rating unit to which the application relates is the primary private residence owned and occupied by them, or farmland occupied by the ratepayer.

2.2.2 The ratepayer does not own (or have an interest in) any other rating units, including investment properties (whether in the district or another), except for farmland which may include several rateable units that are used as one farming unit.

2.2.3 It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship.~~The ratepayer does not have the financial capacity to pay their rates when demanded or the payment of the rates would create financial hardship for the ratepayer~~.

- ~~The ratepayer may be required to seek, and provide evidence of, financial advice from an appropriate outside agency with relevant expertise, for example financial mentors, or the like.~~

2.2.4 The remission will only apply for the rating year in which the application is made. Any future year will need a separate application.

2.2.5 ~~The ratepayer is not in arrears from a previous rating year.~~The ratepayer has not received government rates rebate for the same rating year.

~~2.2.5~~

3 Postponement of rates for financial hardship

Objective

3.1 To assist ratepayers to continue to live in their own home where they are experiencing financial hardship which temporarily affects their ability to pay rates.

Conditions and criteria

3.2 Applications for postponement of up to 100% of rates for the current rating year may be made by ratepayers (or their agent) who can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet all of the following criteria:

3.2.1 The rating unit to which the application relates is the primary private residence owned and occupied by the ratepayer, or is farmland occupied by them.

3.2.2 The ratepayer does not own (or have an interest in) any other rating units or investment properties (whether in the district or another), except for farmland

which may include several rateable units that are used as one farming unit.

3.2.3 It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship~~The ratepayer does not have the financial capacity to pay their rates, or the payment of rates would create financial hardship~~.

3.2.4 There are no outstanding rate arrears owed in respect of the rating unit.

3.3 The ratepayer may be required to make arrangements acceptable to the Council for payment of future rates.

3.4 A postponement will apply from the beginning of the rating year in which the application is made and will end at the conclusion of the rating year.

3.5 The Council will require a ratepayer to make an application each year for continued postponement.

3.6 Any postponement will continue to apply for the applicable rating year or until the earliest of the following:

3.6.1 the death of the ratepayer(s); or

3.6.2 the ratepayer(s) cease to be the owner or occupier of the rating unit; or

3.6.3 the ratepayer(s) cease to use the property as his/her residence; or

3.6.4 a date specified by the Council; or

3.6.5 at the ratepayer's request.

3.7 Notwithstanding the above, if the total amount postponed exceeds 20% of the property's most recent Capital Valuation, or Council considers that continued postponement will cause the capital value limit to be exceeded, the postponement will cease, and the total postponed amount will become due for payment. In this circumstance, a payment arrangement may be entered into.

3.8 The Council may charge an annual fee to cover the Council's administrative and financial costs, on postponed rates for the period that the rates are postponed.

3.9 The postponed rates or any part thereof may be paid at any time. The ratepayer may elect to postpone the payment of a lesser sum than that which they would be entitled to have postponed pursuant to this Policy.

3.10 Postponed rates will be registered as a statutory land charge on the rating unit title. This means that the Council will have first call on the proceeds from the sale or lease of the rating unit. All costs associated with the statutory land charge will be met by the ratepayer, including but not limited to preparation and registration of the statutory land charge.

3.11 Penalties will not be applied or will be remitted for any rates that have been postponed.

3.12 The ratepayer agrees to meet any Council costs associated with granting the postponement.

4 Remission of Penalties

Objective

4.1 To set parameters for the Council to remit penalties where it is fair and equitable to do so, and to encourage ratepayers to pay arrears and keep payment up to date.

Conditions and criteria

4.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of any penalties may be made by ratepayers who can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet one or more of the following criteria:

4.2.1 Compassionate reasons (including the illness or death of a spouse or partner).

4.2.2 The rate account went to the wrong address.

4.2.3 The ratepayer did not receive an account.

4.2.4 The Council made a mistake.

4.2.5 Previous owners did not pay rates in full before property sale was completed or the Council was not notified of the sale at settlement.

4.2.6 Monies received on time but credited to a different rate account due to a ratepayer supplying an incorrect reference number.

4.2.7 Previous history of prompt payment and is paying the rate account within 10 working days of the instalment due date~~, or as soon as practicable and offers a reasonable excuse for tardiness~~.

4.3 An application for this remission need not be in writing unless the penalty exceeds $200.

4.4 Penalties will not be applied where a ratepayer has entered into a repayment agreement satisfactory to the Council and makes the agreed regular rate payments.

4.5 Where a ratepayer has not paid the first instalment by the due date of that instalment but pays the total annual rates and charges by the second scheduled instalment due date, late payment penalties on the first instalment will be remitted.

5 Remission for Certain Targeted Rates on Farmland

Objective

5.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing for relief from certain targeted rates for rural land, which is non-contiguous, farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.

Conditions and criteria

5.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of applicable targeted rate(s) may be made by ratepayers of rural land, which is non-contiguous, farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.

5.3 Applications may be made in respect of any targeted rate set on the basis of a fixed dollar charge per rating unit. The ratepayer will remain liable for at least one set of each type of

charge and must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet the following criteria:

5.3.1 The rating units must be owned by the same ratepayer.

5.3.2 Only one of the units may have any residential dwelling situated on the rating unit which is occupied by the ratepayer as their principal private residence.

5.4 Where any of the rating units lies within the district of an adjoining Local Authority which applies their sets of Targeted Rates to the rating units in the District, the Council may waive the applicable targeted rate(s) on those rating units.

5.5 If a remission is approved, the ratepayer will only be charged one set of targeted rates each rating year.

5.6 A remission will apply from no later than the beginning of the next rating year commencing 1 July from which the application is made until the occupier no longer meets the criteria above.

~~**6 Remission for certain Targeted Rates on Farmland and Commercial Land used by the same Ratepayer as a Single Entity**~~

~~**Objective**~~

~~6.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing relief from certain targeted rates on Farmland and Commercial properties where the ratepayer occupies and uses the adjoining land as one unit.~~

~~**Conditions and criteria**~~

~~6.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of applicable targeted rate(s) may be received from ratepayers of rural land and commercial land, which is contiguous, farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.~~

~~6.3 Applications may be made in respect of applicable targeted rate(s) set on the basis of a fixed dollar charge per rating unit. The ratepayer will remain liable for at least one set of each type of charge and must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet the following conditions:~~

~~6.3.1 all rating units must be occupied by the same ratepayer~~

~~6.3.2 all rating units must be used by the ratepayer as a single entity~~

~~6.3.3 all rating units must be contiguous or separated only by road, railway, drain, water race, river or stream~~

~~6.3.4 the number of Community Services Targeted rates is limited to the number of inhabited dwellings on each rating unit~~

~~6.3.5 the occupier is unable to negotiate a lease compliant with the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.~~

~~6.4 If a remission is approved, the ratepayer will only be charged one set of targeted rates each rating year.~~

~~6.5 A remission will apply from no later than the beginning of the next rating year commencing 1 July from which the application is made until the occupier no longer meets the criteria above.~~

~~7~~6 **Remission of certain Targeted Rates for a family flat**

Objective

~~7.1~~6.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing relief from certain targeted rates where the ratepayer occupies and uses a second self-contained dwelling on their property for family use and does not rent the flat on the open market separately from the main dwelling.

Conditions and criteria

~~7.2~~6.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of applicable targeted rate(s) for the current rating year and beyond may be made by ratepayers that have a second self-contained dwelling on their property, owned by the same ratepayer.

~~7.3~~6.3 Applications may be made in respect of any targeted rate set based on a fixed dollar charge per rating unit. The ratepayer will remain liable for at least one set of each type of charge and must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet the following conditions:

~~7.3.1~~6.3.1 All rating units must be occupied by the same ratepayer

~~7.3.2~~6.3.2 All rating units must be used by the ratepayer as a single entity

~~7.3.3~~6.3.3 The number of Community Services Targeted rates is limited to the number of inhabited dwellings on each rating unit

~~7.4~~6.4 If a remission is approved, the ratepayer will only be charged one set of targeted rates each rating year.

6.5 A remission will apply from no later than the beginning of the next rating year commencing 1st July from which the application is made until the occupier no longer meets the criteria above.

~~7.4.1 .~~

~~8~~7 **Remission of rates on land voluntarily protected for conservation purposes**

Objective

~~8.1~~7.1 To encourage property owners to protect and enhance significant indigenous biodiversity within the city.

~~8.2~~7.2 The policy is intended to support the Council's goal of identifying and protecting areas of ecological significance by recognising private land with high biodiversity value and to promote and encourage more landowners to participate in the process.

Conditions and criteria

~~8.3~~7.3 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates for the next rating year commencing 1 July may be made by ratepayers where a rating unit meets all of the following criteria:

~~8.3.1~~7.3.1 The rating unit is within the city. It may be a part of a larger property in which case the area concerned shall be separately rated; and

~~8.3.2~~7.3.2 The rating unit is scheduled as an Area of Significant Biodiversity Value (ASBV) in the Second Generation District Plan (2GP) Appendix A1.2; or the land has been assessed for ecological significance and meets one or more of the criteria in 2GP Policy 2.2.3.2 and the landowner has agreed for the land to be scheduled as an ASBV in 2GP Appendix A1.2 in the next appropriate plan change; or the land is protected by a covenant formally registered for the protection of indigenous biodiversity values (e.g. Department of Conservation, conservation covenant), and

~~8.3.3~~7.3.3 The conservation of the rating unit contributes to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity across Dunedin. This could include, but is not limited to, the following features:

- A specific area of indigenous vegetation; or
- A specific visual or scenic feature of the landscape; or
- A specific area of indigenous vegetation connected to traditional mahika kai or other indigenous uses; or
- Any specific feature the conservation of which, in the view of the Council, meets the Council's goal regarding the environment.

~~8.4~~7.4 When determining an application, the Council shall have regard to the following matters:

~~8.4.1~~7.4.1 the desirability of preserving particular natural or historic or cultural features within the district.

~~8.4.2~~7.4.2 whether, and to what extent, the preservation of particular natural or historic or cultural features might be prejudicially affected if rates remission is not granted in respect of the land on which they are situated.

~~8.4.3~~7.4.3 whether, and to what extent, preservation of particular natural or historic or cultural features are likely to be encouraged by the granting of rates remission.

~~8.4.4~~7.4.4 the extent to which the preservation of different types of natural, historic, and cultural features should be recognised by different criteria and conditions for rates remission, and whether different levels of rates remission should apply.

~~8.4.5~~7.4.5 the extent to which rates remission should be available where the preservation of natural, historic or cultural features does not restrict economic utilisation of the land; such other matters as the Council considers relevant.

7.5 The Council may impose conditions on a property owner when granting relief.

Explanatory Note - Where the rating unit is owned or used by and for the purposes of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust it is non-rateable under the Local Government

(Rating) Act 2002.

~~**9 Remission of rates following a natural disaster or calamity Objective**~~

~~9.1 To provide rates relief to ratepayers where the use of any rating unit has been detrimentally affected by erosion, subsidence, submersion or any natural disaster, and where Government funds that rates relief.~~

~~**Conditions and criteria**~~

~~9.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates may be made by ratepayers where a rating unit meets all of the following criteria:~~

~~9.2.1 The rating unit is uninhabitable, or its use is detrimentally affected by erosion, subsidence, submersion or any natural disaster.~~

~~9.2.2 The Government has established and approved a reimbursement scheme for rates remitted for such properties.~~

~~9.2.3 Applications for this remission must be in writing describing the nature of the event, the steps being taken to return the rating unit to a usable state and provide an estimate of the time the rating unit is expected to be affected.~~

~~9.3 All applications must be made within three (3) months of the event.~~

~~9.4 The Council can set additional criteria for each event, as criteria may change depending on the nature and severity of the event and available funding at the time.~~

~~9.5 The remission will apply only to each single event and to the rating unit affected by such an event.~~

~~9.6 The remission will apply for the period which the rating unit is uninhabitable or its use is detrimentally affected.~~

~~9.7~~7.6 ~~The Council may require other records, such as insurance claims, as part of the approval process~~.

~~**10 Remission of rates for unexpected events Objective**~~

~~10.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing rate relief for any unexpected event where it may be considered appropriate to do so.~~

~~**Criteria**~~

~~10.2 The Council may remit any rate or rate penalty for any unexpected event, where it considers that is appropriate, fair and equitable to do so.~~

~~An unexpected event is any event that is resolved as an unexpected event by the Council, this may include but is not limited to a declared State of Emergency or a pandemic or other event.~~

8 Other remissions deemed fair and equitable.

Objective

8.1. To provide flexibility for circumstances not otherwise addressed by this policy where rates relief is considered fair, reasonable, and consistent with the intent of the policy.

Conditions and Criteria

8.2. The Council may approve, decline, or partially approve an application for remission of any rate or rates penalty where:

a) the circumstances are not adequately addressed elsewhere in this policy; and

b) the Council is satisfied that granting relief is fair and equitable.

8.3. The Council may attach any conditions considered necessary and may require supporting information before making a decision.

~~11~~9 Māori freehold land

~~11.1~~9.1 Council recognises the complexities of Māori freehold land ownership, especially when there are multiple owners, or it is without a management structure in place. Due to the nature of the ownership structure, or its location/isolation, or for other reasons; it can be a challenge for owners to develop or reside on their whenua.

Rateable Māori land

~~11.2~~9.2 Rates are payable on Māori freehold land, unless the land comes under one of the exceptions in the legislation, or Council decides to remit (not collect) or postpone collection of rates for the land.

~~11.3~~9.3 A person using Māori freehold land is liable for the rates if the land is in a rating unit in multiple ownership that is not vested in a trustee; or a separate rating area.

~~11.4~~9.4 Where trustees are liable to pay the rates on rateable Māori freehold land (Section 93 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002) trustees are to declare income received from the land to ascertain rates liability, if requested by the local authority.

~~11.5~~9.5 Examples of non-rateable Māori freehold land

- Wholly unused Māori land,
- Ngā whenua rāhui kawenata land,
- A Māori burial ground or urupā,
- Land used for the purpose of a marae,
- A Māori reservation

[This is not a complete list of non- rateable Māori freehold land, refer to Part 1, Schedule 1 Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 for complete list]

~~12~~10 Remission of rates on Māori freehold land

~~12.1~~10.1 The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 introduced changes to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, to add a new purpose to that Act to facilitate the administration of rates in a manner that supports the principles set out in the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. Accordingly, the Local Government (Rating) Act (Rating) 2002 requires that councils have policies for the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land, that recognise that the nature of Māori freehold land is different to general land, and that remission policies help deal with these matters and support whenua Māori landowners.

Objective

~~12.2~~10.2 The objectives of this Policy are to:

~~12.2.1~~10.2.1 Support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Conditions and Criteria

~~12.3~~10.3 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates may be made by ratepayers on Māori freehold land.

~~12.4~~10.4 A register titled the Māori Freehold Land Rates Remission Register (the Register) will be maintained by the Council to record properties for which it has agreed to remit rates pursuant to this Policy.

~~12.5~~10.5 Rates may only be remitted where the rating unit has been entered onto the Register.

~~12.6~~10.6 The criteria for eligibility for entry to the Register are as follows:

~~12.6.1~~10.6.1 The land listed on the application must be Māori freehold land.

~~12.6.2~~10.6.2 The matters listed in Schedule 11 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 will be taken into account.

~~12.7~~10.7 The Council reserves the right to seek further information as it deems necessary.

~~12.8~~10.8 The application must include reasons why the remission is sought and demonstrate the objectives of this Policy that will be achieved by the granting of the rates remission.

~~12.9~~10.9 Where the land is vested in multiple owners, a copy of the minutes authorising individuals to act for the other owners should be enclosed, if it can be practicably obtained.

~~12.10~~10.10 The Register will be reviewed annually, and eligible landowners may need to re-apply at the request of the Council. If the land has been developed within this period and/or any use of the land has become capable of generating an income, the rates will cease to be remitted from 1 July the following year.

~~12.11~~10.11 The Council may at its own discretion add the land to the Register without an application if it is considered reasonable in the circumstances to do so in accordance with

the eligibility requirements in Clause 10.6.

~~13~~11 Postponement of rates for Māori freehold land

~~13.1~~11.1 There is no specific policy for the postponement of rates on Māori freehold land., however other Council rates postponement policies may apply.

Associated Documents:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021
- Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
- Rating Valuations Act 1998

RATES REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT POLICY			
Approved by:	Council		
Sponsor:	Chief Financial Officer		
Department responsible:	Finance		
Date approved:	July 2027	**Reviewed:**	November 2026
Next review date:	2030	**DOC ID:**	

Purpose

- To support fairness and equity of the rating system.
- To provide certainty about sources and levels of funding.
- To provide financial assistance or support for ratepayers where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their rate payment obligations.
- To provide greater consistency, equity and clarity around the rating of Māori land.
- To support broader Council policy objectives.

Scope

The Dunedin City Council (the Council) sets rates under section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Rates are used by the Council to fund the balance of its costs once all other funding sources are taken into account.

Section 102 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides that a council may have a rates remission and postponement policy (the Policy). Section 102(3A) of the Local Government Act (Rating) 2002, requires that any remission or rates postponement policy must also support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

The Policy contains the full details of each remission and postponement scheme as well as outlining the objectives and criteria for each scheme and applies to every ratepayer or their agent (as defined within the Policy).

Once adopted this Policy must be reviewed at least once every six years.

Definitions

"Current rating year" is 1 July to 30 June of the year of application.

"Financial hardship" means that the ratepayer is unlikely to have sufficient funds after the payment of rates for the care of any dependents, reasonable living expenses, health care, and provision for the maintenance of their home and chattels.

"Land use" is whereby a person: leases the land; resides on the land; de-pastures or maintains livestock on the land; stores anything on the land; and/or uses the land in any other way.

"Māori freehold land" is land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order "Multiple owners" in respect to Māori freehold land, is land owned by more than one person.

"Ratepayer" is the person who is named as a ratepayer in the rating information database and the district valuation roll for the rating unit or the separate rating area.

"Rates instalment notice" is a quarterly rates invoice for a rating unit.

"Rating unit" has the same definition as the Rating Valuations Act 1998.

"Register" is a database maintained for the purpose of recording properties of which the Council has agreed to remit.

"Remitted rates" are rates for which the requirement to pay is remitted.

1 General provisions

1.1 All applications under this Policy must be made in writing, using the prescribed form unless expressly declared otherwise in this Policy. Copies of the prescribed forms may be obtained from the Council Offices or Customer Service Centres.

1.2 All applications must be made by the ratepayer or their authorised agent, (excluding a mortgagee of the ratepayer).

1.3 A reference to a ratepayer is reference to all persons entered on the Council's rating information database in respect of that rating unit.

1.4 All applications will be assessed independently. Any previous approval of a remission does not guarantee that a remission will be granted in future years or circumstances, as individual circumstances and eligibility criteria may change.

1.5 The extent of the rates remission is at the sole discretion of the Council. This Policy does not provide for the permanent remission of rates and the remission may be cancelled or reduced at any time.

1.6 An approved remission or postponement can be ended should any of the following criteria be met:

- 1.6.1 The eligibility criteria are no longer met,
- 1.6.2 The use or occupation of the property changes,
- 1.6.3 Information provided in support of the application is found to be incorrect or misleading, or
- 1.6.4 Council considers that continuing the remission or postponement is no longer consistent with the purpose and objectives of this policy.

2 Remission of rates for financial hardship

Objective

2.1 To assist ratepayers experiencing financial hardship while providing for the collection of rates.

Conditions and Criteria

2.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates for the current rating year may be made by a ratepayer (or their agent) who can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet all of the following criteria:

2.2.1 The rating unit to which the application relates is the primary private residence owned and occupied by them, or farmland occupied by the ratepayer.

2.2.2 The ratepayer does not own (or have an interest in) any other rating units, including investment properties (whether in the district or another), except for farmland which may include several rateable units that are used as one farming unit.

2.2.3 It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship..

2.2.4 The remission will only apply for the rating year in which the application is made. Any future year will need a separate application.

2.2.5 The ratepayer has not received government rates rebate for the same rating year.

3 Postponement of rates for financial hardship

Objective

3.1 To assist ratepayers to continue to live in their own home where they are experiencing financial hardship which temporarily affects their ability to pay rates.

Conditions and criteria

3.2 Applications for postponement of up to 100% of rates for the current rating year may be made by ratepayers (or their agent) who can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet all of the following criteria:

3.2.1 The rating unit to which the application relates is the primary private residence owned and occupied by the ratepayer, or is farmland occupied by them.

3.2.2 The ratepayer does not own (or have an interest in) any other rating units or investment properties (whether in the district or another), except for farmland which may include several rateable units that are used as one farming unit.

3.2.3 It is deemed by a recognised budgetary advisor that the applicant is in financial hardship.

3.2.4 There are no outstanding rate arrears owed in respect of the rating unit.

3.3 The ratepayer may be required to make arrangements acceptable to the Council for

payment of future rates.

3.4 A postponement will apply from the beginning of the rating year in which the application is made and will end at the conclusion of the rating year.

3.5 The Council will require a ratepayer to make an application each year for continued postponement.

3.6 Any postponement will continue to apply for the applicable rating year or until the earliest of the following:

3.6.1 the death of the ratepayer(s); or

3.6.2 the ratepayer(s) cease to be the owner or occupier of the rating unit; or

3.6.3 the ratepayer(s) cease to use the property as his/her residence; or

3.6.4 a date specified by the Council; or

3.6.5 at the ratepayer's request.

3.7 Notwithstanding the above, if the total amount postponed exceeds 20% of the property's most recent Capital Valuation, or Council considers that continued postponement will cause the capital value limit to be exceeded, the postponement will cease, and the total postponed amount will become due for payment. In this circumstance, a payment arrangement may be entered into.

3.8 The Council may charge an annual fee to cover the Council's administrative and financial costs, on postponed rates for the period that the rates are postponed.

3.9 The postponed rates or any part thereof may be paid at any time. The ratepayer may elect to postpone the payment of a lesser sum than that which they would be entitled to have postponed pursuant to this Policy.

3.10 Postponed rates will be registered as a statutory land charge on the rating unit title. This means that the Council will have first call on the proceeds from the sale or lease of the rating unit. All costs associated with the statutory land charge will be met by the ratepayer, including but not limited to preparation and registration of the statutory land charge.

3.11 Penalties will not be applied or will be remitted for any rates that have been postponed.

3.12 The ratepayer agrees to meet any Council costs associated with granting the postponement.

4 Remission of Penalties

Objective

4.1 To set parameters for the Council to remit penalties where it is fair and equitable to do so, and to encourage ratepayers to pay arrears and keep payment up to date.

Conditions and criteria

4.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of any penalties may be made by ratepayers who

can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet one or more of the following criteria:

4.2.1 Compassionate reasons (including the illness or death of a spouse or partner).

4.2.2 The rate account went to the wrong address.

4.2.3 The ratepayer did not receive an account.

4.2.4 The Council made a mistake.

4.2.5 Previous owners did not pay rates in full before property sale was completed or the Council was not notified of the sale at settlement.

4.2.6 Monies received on time but credited to a different rate account due to a ratepayer supplying an incorrect reference number.

4.2.7 Previous history of prompt payment and has paid the rate account within 10 working days of the instalment due date.

4.3 An application for this remission need not be in writing unless the penalty exceeds $200.

4.4 Penalties will not be applied where a ratepayer has entered into a repayment agreement satisfactory to the Council and makes the agreed regular rate payments.

4.5 Where a ratepayer has not paid the first instalment by the due date of that instalment but pays the total annual rates and charges by the second scheduled instalment due date, late payment penalties on the first instalment will be remitted.

5 Remission for Certain Targeted Rates on Farmland

Objective

5.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing for relief from certain targeted rates for rural land, which is non-contiguous, farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.

Conditions and criteria

5.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of applicable targeted rate(s) may be made by ratepayers of rural land, which is non-contiguous, farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.

5.3 Applications may be made in respect of any targeted rate set on the basis of a fixed dollar charge per rating unit. The ratepayer will remain liable for at least one set of each type of charge and must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet the following criteria:

5.3.1 The rating units must be owned by the same ratepayer.

5.3.2 Only one of the units may have any residential dwelling situated on the rating unit which is occupied by the ratepayer as their principal private residence.

5.4 Where any of the rating units lies within the district of an adjoining Local Authority which applies their sets of Targeted Rates to the rating units in the District, the Council may waive

the applicable targeted rate(s) on those rating units.

5.5 If a remission is approved, the ratepayer will only be charged one set of targeted rates each rating year.

5.6 A remission will apply from no later than the beginning of the next rating year commencing 1 July from which the application is made until the occupier no longer meets the criteria above.

6 Remission of certain Targeted Rates for a family flat

Objective

6.1 To support fairness and equity of the rating system by providing relief from certain targeted rates where the ratepayer occupies and uses a second self-contained dwelling on their property for family use and does not rent the flat on the open market separately from the main dwelling.

Conditions and criteria

6.2 Applications for remission of up to 100% of applicable targeted rate(s) for the current rating year and beyond may be made by ratepayers that have a second self-contained dwelling on their property, owned by the same ratepayer.

6.3 Applications may be made in respect of any targeted rate set based on a fixed dollar charge per rating unit. The ratepayer will remain liable for at least one set of each type of charge and must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they meet the following conditions:

6.3.1 All rating units must be occupied by the same ratepayer

6.3.2 All rating units must be used by the ratepayer as a single entity

6.3.3 The number of Community Services Targeted rates is limited to the number of inhabited dwellings on each rating unit

6.4 If a remission is approved, the ratepayer will only be charged one set of targeted rates each rating year.

6.5 A remission will apply from no later than the beginning of the next rating year commencing 1st July from which the application is made until the occupier no longer meets the criteria above.

7 Remission of rates on land voluntarily protected for conservation purposes

Objective

7.1 To encourage property owners to protect and enhance significant indigenous biodiversity within the city.

7.2 The policy is intended to support the Council's goal of identifying and protecting areas of ecological significance by recognising private land with high biodiversity value and to promote and encourage more landowners to participate in the process.

Conditions and criteria

7.3 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates for the next rating year commencing 1 July may be made by ratepayers where a rating unit meets all of the following criteria:

7.3.1 The rating unit is within the city. It may be a part of a larger property in which case the area concerned shall be separately rated; and

7.3.2 The rating unit is scheduled as an Area of Significant Biodiversity Value (ASBV) in the Second Generation District Plan (2GP) Appendix A1.2; or the land has been assessed for ecological significance and meets one or more of the criteria in 2GP Policy 2.2.3.2 and the landowner has agreed for the land to be scheduled as an ASBV in 2GP Appendix A1.2 in the next appropriate plan change; or the land is protected by a covenant formally registered for the protection of indigenous biodiversity values (e.g. Department of Conservation, conservation covenant), and

7.3.3 The conservation of the rating unit contributes to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity across Dunedin. This could include, but is not limited to, the following features:

- A specific area of indigenous vegetation; or
- A specific visual or scenic feature of the landscape; or
- A specific area of indigenous vegetation connected to traditional mahika kai or other indigenous uses; or
- Any specific feature the conservation of which, in the view of the Council, meets the Council's goal regarding the environment.

7.4 When determining an application, the Council shall have regard to the following matters:

7.4.1 the desirability of preserving particular natural or historic or cultural features within the district.

7.4.2 whether, and to what extent, the preservation of particular natural or historic or cultural features might be prejudicially affected if rates remission is not granted in respect of the land on which they are situated.

7.4.3 whether, and to what extent, preservation of particular natural or historic or cultural features are likely to be encouraged by the granting of rates remission.

7.4.4 the extent to which the preservation of different types of natural, historic, and cultural features should be recognised by different criteria and conditions for rates remission, and whether different levels of rates remission should apply.

7.4.5 the extent to which rates remission should be available where the preservation of natural, historic or cultural features does not restrict economic utilisation of the land; such other matters as the Council considers relevant.

7.5 The Council may impose conditions on a property owner when granting relief.

Explanatory Note - Where the rating unit is owned or used by and for the purposes of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust it is non-rateable under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

8 Other remissions deemed fair and equitable.

Objective

8.1 To provide flexibility for circumstances not otherwise addressed by this policy where rates relief is considered fair, reasonable, and consistent with the intent of the policy.

Conditions and Criteria

8.2 The Council may approve, decline, or partially approve an application for remission of any rate or rates penalty where:

8.2.1 the circumstances are not adequately addressed elsewhere in this policy; and

8.2.2 the Council is satisfied that granting relief is fair and equitable.

8.3 The Council may attach any conditions considered necessary and may require supporting information before making a decision.

9 Māori freehold land

9.1 Council recognises the complexities of Māori freehold land ownership, especially when there are multiple owners, or it is without a management structure in place. Due to the nature of the ownership structure, or its location/isolation, or for other reasons; it can be a challenge for owners to develop or reside on their whenua.

Rateable Māori land

9.2 Rates are payable on Māori freehold land, unless the land comes under one of the exceptions in the legislation, or Council decides to remit (not collect) or postpone collection of rates for the land.

9.3 A person using Māori freehold land is liable for the rates if the land is in a rating unit in multiple ownership that is not vested in a trustee; or a separate rating area.

9.4 Where trustees are liable to pay the rates on rateable Māori freehold land (Section 93 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002) trustees are to declare income received from the land to ascertain rates liability, if requested by the local authority.

9.5 Examples of non-rateable Māori freehold land

- Wholly unused Māori land,
- Ngā whenua rāhui kawenata land,
- A Māori burial ground or urupā,
- Land used for the purpose of a marae,
- A Māori reservation

[This is not a complete list of non- rateable Māori freehold land, refer to Part 1, Schedule 1 Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 for complete list]

10 Remission of rates on Māori freehold land

10.1 The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 introduced changes to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, to add a new purpose to that Act to facilitate the administration of rates in a manner that supports the principles set out in the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. Accordingly, the Local Government (Rating) Act (Rating) 2002 requires that councils have policies for the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land, that recognise that the nature of Māori freehold land is different to general land, and that remission policies help deal with these matters and support whenua Māori landowners.

Objective

10.2 The objectives of this Policy are to:

10.2.1 Support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Conditions and Criteria

10.3 Applications for remission of up to 100% of rates may be made by ratepayers on Māori freehold land.

10.4 A register titled the Māori Freehold Land Rates Remission Register (the Register) will be maintained by the Council to record properties for which it has agreed to remit rates pursuant to this Policy.

10.5 Rates may only be remitted where the rating unit has been entered onto the Register.

10.6 The criteria for eligibility for entry to the Register are as follows:

10.6.1 The land listed on the application must be Māori freehold land.

10.6.2 The matters listed in Schedule 11 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 will be taken into account.

10.7 The Council reserves the right to seek further information as it deems necessary.

10.8 The application must include reasons why the remission is sought and demonstrate the objectives of this Policy that will be achieved by the granting of the rates remission.

10.9 Where the land is vested in multiple owners, a copy of the minutes authorising individuals to act for the other owners should be enclosed, if it can be practicably obtained.

10.10 The Register will be reviewed annually, and eligible landowners may need to re-apply at the request of the Council. If the land has been developed within this period and/or any use of the land has become capable of generating an income, the rates will cease to be remitted from 1 July the following year.

10.11 The Council may at its own discretion add the land to the Register without an application if it is considered reasonable in the circumstances to do so in accordance with the eligibility requirements in Clause 10.6.

11 Postponement of rates for Māori freehold land

11.1 There is no specific policy for the postponement of rates on Māori freehold land., however other Council rates postponement policies may apply.

Associated Documents:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021
- Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
- Rating Valuations Act 1998

PRINCES STREET CONNECTION - ACCELERATED DELIVERY FUNDING

Department: Transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 At the meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held on 12 November 2026, the Committee resolved to:

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Committee:

a) ***Recommends*** *that Council approves additional expenditure of up to $1,500,000 for the Princes Street Connection Project in the FY 2026/27.*

b) ***Notes*** *that the budget for 2027/28 will be reduced by the corresponding value through the 10-year plan 2027-37 process.*

c) ***Notes*** *that there is a planned underspend in the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport Programme of up to $1,500,000 within the Harbour Arterial Project which offsets the overspend for the Princes Street Connection project in 2026/27.*

d) ***Notes*** *that delaying delivery of the project to align with budget timelines will increase the length of disruption to businesses and the public.*

e) ***Notes*** *that the proposed change reflects accelerated project delivery, not an increase in overall project scope or cost.*

Motion carried (FAPCC/2026/0018) *with Crs Lee Vandervis and Russell Lund recording votes against.*

2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to an overspend of $1,500,000 to deliver Stage One of the Princes Street Connection Project in 2026/27. This will be offset by an underspend in Harbour Arterial Efficiency Improvements of $1,500,000. 10-year plan 2027-37 budgets have been adjusted to reflect this change and overall approved 9-year plan 2025-34 project and Shaping Future Dunedin Transport Programme budget will be unchanged.

3 The Princes Street Connection Project is a multi-year transport project that will deliver improvements along Princes Street to support better safety outcomes and improve the efficiency, reliability and accessibility of bus journeys. The project was adopted by the Council as part of the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport programme in 2021.

4 On 27 May 2026, the Council re-confirmed Stage One of the project for delivery through Annual Plan deliberations:

Moved (Cr Steve Walker/Mayor Sophie Barker):

That the Council:

*b) **Approves** the Princes Street Bus Priority and Corridor Safety Plan project ($3.2 million) remain in the 2026/27 capital expenditure budget.*

Division

The Council voted by division

For: *Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell, Steve Walker and Mayor Sophie Barker (8).*
Against: *Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Benedict Ong, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (7).*
Abstained: *Nil*

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 7

Motion carried (CNL/2026/099)

Moved (Cr Steve Walker/Mayor Sophie Barker):

That the Council:

*c) **Approves** the next stage of the Harbour Arterial Efficiency Improvement project ($1.5 million) remain in the 2026/27 capital expenditure budget.*

Division

The Council voted by division

For: *Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell, Steve Walker and Mayor Sophie Barker (9).*
Against: *Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Benedict Ong, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (6).*
Abstained: *Nil*

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 6

Motion carried (CNL/2026/100002)

5 Budget for the project delivery is split over three financial years, to a total value of $7,034,000 and is co-funded by NZTA at a funding assistance rate of 51%.

6 This report proposes a budget overspend of $1,500,000 to increase the available 2026/27 capital from $3,200,000 to $4,700,000.

7 There is budget available to cover the associated overspend, as improvements related to stage two of the Harbour Arterial efficiency improvements will not be delivered this financial year.

8 A corresponding decrease to the Princes Street Connection budget will be reflected in subsequent year budgets and updated through the 10 year plan 2027-37 process.

9 The proposed change does not increase the total project budget. The improvements planned in the first year reflect an accelerated programme, rather than an increase to scope that would require an uplift overall budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Approves** an overspend to the value of $1,500,000 for the Princes Street Connection Project in FY 2026/27.

b) **Notes** that the budget for 2027/28 will be reduced by the corresponding value through the 10-year plan 2027-37 process.

c) **Notes** that there is a planned underspend in the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport Programme of $1,500,000 within the Harbour Arterial Project which offsets the overspend for the Princes Street Connection project in 2026/27.

d) **Notes** that delaying delivery of the project to align with budget timelines will increase the length of disruption to businesses and the public.

e) **Notes** that the proposed change reflects accelerated project delivery, not an increase in overall project scope or cost.

BACKGROUND

10 Princes Street is Dunedin's main public transport route between South Dunedin and the Central City, with up to 64 buses per hour travelling along the corridor in peak hours. It's a high-traffic area for pedestrians and the project addresses safety issues reported by our community, particularly at intersections and for pedestrians. It will also improve accessibility and the reliability and efficiency of our public transport, creating safer connections for everyone who uses Princes Street.

11 In 2021, Council adopted the projects included in the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport programme, including the Princes Street Connection Project. Through the 9 year plan 2025–34, the project was confirmed for delivery, with the stage one budget reconfirmed through Annual Plan deliberations on 27 May 2026.

12 The total budgeted allocation for Princes Street Connection project, including NZTA co-funding is $7,034,000 over the three years.

13 The Princes Street Connection Project is divided into three stages:

a) Stage One: King Edward Street to Andersons Bay Road

b) Stage Two: Andersons Bay Road to Stafford Street

c) Stage Three: Stafford Street to Moray Place

DISCUSSION

14 Stage One of the project was initially intended to only provide for improvements at the intersection of South Road, Maitland Street and Princes Street.

15 Staff reviewed the project timeline and identified an opportunity to increase the scope of Stage One, expanding the work area to span the length of The Oval. As part of this change, the below benefits can be realised:

a) Key safety concerns from the public are addressed across the length of The Oval at one time, rather than only addressing a single intersection and waiting for additional improvements,

b) Reduction in the amount of time disruption to the community alongside The Oval, for businesses, sports ground users, residents and commuters.

c) Security in construction costs for a larger portion of the overall project, and good value for money by proposing a larger package of work to the construction market and

d) Improved safety for all road users, including pedestrians.

16 With the accelerated scope, the project will deliver road safety improvements sooner at the intersections of South Road, Maitland Street, Lees Street, Jones Street and Melville Street. Additional improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport are incorporated into this stage.

17 Changes for parking have been consulted on in advance to ensure community feedback is factored into planning and to simplify the construction process. A Hearings Committee is scheduled for 17 November 2026 to review the proposed changes to parking relating to this project.

18 The scope of Stage One includes the following:

a) construction of a four-leg roundabout at the intersection of Princes Street, South Road and Maitland Street,

b) bus stop improvements and removal of redundant bus stops,

c) intersection narrowing of Lees Street, Jones Street and Melville Street,

d) new angled parking on Maitland St, Lees Street and Jones Street,

e) one-waying of Jones Street (proposed as part of parking consultation), and

f) changes to parking restrictions.

19 Significant targeted engagement was undertaken with affected residents, business owners and stakeholders regarding the above changes to help inform the design, prior to public consultation on parking changes.

20 This engagement spanned several months, including letter drops, meetings and emails with affected businesses and residents in the area. Various changes were made to the concept designs following this engagement and prior to the public consultation.

21 The procurement process for Stage One is complete, with a preferred supplier identified to complete the works, however, the budget in this financial year is insufficient deliver all works.

PROJECT FINANCIALS AND PROPOSED CHANGE

22 Under the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport programme, Council has an approved budget for 2026/27 of $3.2M for Stage one of the Princes Street Connection Project. This budget includes co-funding from NZTA at a funding assistance rate of 51%.

23 After completing the procurement process and identifying a preferred supplier, staff have confirmed that there is a shortfall of $1,500,000 from the approved budget required to complete construction of Stage one of the project.

24 This shortfall, and requested overspend, is offset by the $1,500,000 allocated to delivering Harbour Arterial Efficiency Improvements in 2026/27. This money is allocated to Harbour Arterial Stage two and sits within the same Shaping Future Dunedin Transport programme as the Princes Street Connection Project.

25 Due to the rephasing of this project into later years, the budget will not be utilised in this financial year.

26 With the proposed overspend, subsequent year budgets will be updated to reflect the corresponding budget decrease through the 10 year plan 2027-37 process.

27 The below table indicates the current budget and proposed shift:

Budget elements	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
APPROVED Capital Budget	*$3,200,000*	*$2,100,000*	*$1,734,000*
PROPOSED Capital Budget (including overspend in 2026/27)	$4,700,000	$2,100,000	$234,000

OPTIONS

28 Two options are proposed regarding the budget. The preferred option supports an accelerated delivery programme, minimising disruption to the public.

29 The status quo option will delay delivery of the project to span two financial years, aligning with the current approved budget.

30 Neither option results in an increased total budget, and the improvements planned reflect an accelerated programme, rather than an increase to scope that would require an uplift overall budget.

Option One – Recommended Option

31 Council approves an overspend of $1,500,000 to provide sufficient funding to deliver all elements of Stage One in this financial year (2026/27). This brings the 2026/27 project cost to $4,700,000.

Advantages

- Construction timeline aligns well with preferred construction season and is complete before cold season, when weather can delay construction
- Disruption timelines are limited in the area for businesses, residents and the general public
- Road safety benefits are realised in the near-term future
- Improved parking options are constructed in the near-term future

Disadvantages

- Council has not budgeted for this value of work to be completed this financial year.

Option Two – Status Quo

32 Council delays delivery of Stage One to span across two years to align with existing approved budgets.

Advantages

- No change is required to existing capital budgets for the Princes Street Connection Project.

Disadvantages

- Construction timeline is delayed and misses preferred construction season. Risks increase of inclement weather interrupting construction and increasing required timeline for delivery.
- Disruption timelines are increased in the area for businesses, residents and the general public
- Project will take longer to deliver, and cost more
- Road safety benefits are not realised in the near-term future
- New parking areas will not be constructed or confirmed until later

NEXT STEPS

33 The contract for construction will be awarded to the preferred supplier.

34 The timeline for delivery will be determined by the decision of this Committee, based on the allocated budget for delivery.

Signatories

Author:	Abbey Chamberlain - Senior Transport Planner Simon Smith - Acting Group Manager Transport
Authoriser:	Scott MacLean - General Manager, City Services

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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 well-being of communities in the present and for the future.
This decision promotes the economic well-being of communities in the present and for the future.
This decision promotes the environmental well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

The Princes Street Connection Project gives effect to the strategic focuses of the Dunedin City Integrated Transport Strategy 2013 by helping to achieve a safe, efficient, and accessible transport network.

These transport improvements align with the broader regional transport direction set in the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-31, which sets a vision of a transport and land use system that provides integrated, quality choices that are safe, environmentally sustainable and support the regions' wellbeing and prosperity.

Māori Impact Statement

This report aligns with the principles of Te Taki Haruru, the Dunedin City Council's Māori Strategic Framework, which seeks to strengthen relationships between the Council, mana whenua and the wider Māori community and support long-term wellbeing outcomes.

Mana whenua have expressed an interest in the Princes Street Connection Project, with several areas of significance located along the corridor. Staff have been working with Mana Ruruku on applying Te Taki Haruru to the project and ensuring cultural alignment. Staff have also been liaising with Aukaha on how best to incorporate a narrative into the project that acknowledges the stories and significance of the area. Opportunities for engagement with mana whenua will continue to be explored as project development continues.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Sustainability

As highlighted in the Zero Carbon Plan 2030, on-road transport is a major generator of carbon emissions, primarily through vehicle kilometres travelled. More uptake of public transport reduces vehicle kilometres travelled by private vehicles. The Princes Street Connection Project supports emissions reduction through public transport improvements that make public transport a more attractive and accessible option. With the Otago Regional Council bus fleet transitioning to a fully electric fleet over the coming years, the public transport fleet will provide a low carbon alternative to other modes of transport.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

An overspend in 2026/27 is required for delivery of the recommended option. A corresponding decrease for 2027/28 will be recorded against the project financials.
The overspend will be offset by not delivering forecast $1.5M of Harbour Arterial Efficiency improvements.

Financial considerations

The preferred option requires an increased budget of $1,500,000 for 2026/27. This increase in budget required is mostly offset by an underspend also coming from the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport Programme, for not delivering $1.5M of Harbour Arterial efficiency improvements.

Significance

This report is of low significance.

Engagement – external

Public consultation on this project has been undertaken in 2022 and 2026.
Engagement with the construction market has been undertaken through the open market procurement process and a preferred supplier has been identified to deliver Stage One of the works.

Engagement - internal

Internal discussions have occurred to determine impacts and feasibility of delivering all of Stage One in 2026/27.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

Risk in Council delaying a decision on the budgets which delays construction start.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest identified.

Community Boards

There are no Community Boards in the affected area.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the Council excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Reason for Confidentiality
C1 Confirmation of the Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting - 29 October 2026 - Public Excluded	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person. S7(2)(f)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees and persons from improper pressure or harassment. S7(2)(g) The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege. S7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the	.	

	commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. S7(2)(h) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.		

This resolution 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, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.