Otago Regional Council

Council
MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Aonui, 180 High Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 24 June 2026, commencing at 10:30 am.

24 June 2026 https://www.youtube.com/live/8e2-bcZ342Y?si=AGmNLKS9DPrsZCtb
25 June 2026 https://www.youtube.com/live/ecQmdM2BDFc?si=iswnusN2L8LJe0RT

DRAFT

PRESENT

Cr Hilary Calvert	*(Chair)*
Cr Kevin Malcolm	*(Deputy Chair)*
Cr Chanel Gardner	
Cr Neil Gillespie	
Cr Matt Hollyer	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Michael Laws	*(online)*
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Alan Somerville	
Cr Kate Wilson	

1. WELCOME

Cr Noone said a reflection to open the meeting at 10:30 am. Chair Calvert welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) online, Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Dianne Railton (Team Leader, Governance), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded:
That the apologies for Cr Robbie Byars be accepted.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1 Mr Trevor Goodin spoke on behalf of the Oamaru Community Shuttle Service, Cr Calvert thanked Mr Goodin for attending.

3.2 Mr Zane Eggleton on behalf of CCS Disability Action – Waitaki Voice & Action, Cr Calvert thanked Mr Eggleton for attending.

3.3 Mr Russell Lund and Neil Johnstone, spoke on behalf of the Dunedin Stormwater Group, Chair Calvert thanked the group for attending.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Chair Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:
That the Council accept the additional documents and change in order to the agenda:
1. Supplementary Agenda 25 June 2026
2. Public Excluded Agenda 25 June 2026
3. Rates Resolution Attachments to Matter 9.9 Rates Report and Rates Resolution 2026-2027
4. Matter 1.2 South Dunedin Future to be heard after matter 9.4
5. Matter 1.1 Local Government Reform to be heard after matter 9.14.
MOTION CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises. Cr Gardner declared a conflict of interest in regards to Matter 9.11 and signalled her intention to abstain from the vote.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded
That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.
MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

There are currently no open actions for Council.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

8.1. Chairperson's Report

Chair Calvert was available for questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:
1) Notes *this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

8.2. Chief Executive's Report

Richard Saunders was available for questions on the report.

Resolution: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:
1) Notes *this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

9.1. Ōamaru Community Transport Trial

[YouTube 43:17] This report provided an evaluation of the Ōamaru community shuttle community transport trial to understand the benefits and costs of the trial. The trial commenced in November 2025 and is due to conclude on 30 September 2026. Portfolio lead, Cr Somerville introduced the report. Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-186: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:

1) Notes *this report.*
2) Notes *that the Ōamaru community transport trial concludes on 30 September 2026 and that there is no further financial assistance budgeted for community transport.*
3) Notes *the commitment and significant effort and donation of time to the trial by the Ōamaru Steering Committee and volunteers, and thanks them for their input and contribution.*
4) Notes *that the learnings from the trial will inform the development of the Community Transport Framework, which will set out Council's community transport strategy and eligibility requirement, to be brought back to Council for formal approval at a later date.*
5) Notes *Council will be presented with options to implement an Ōamaru to Dunedin bus service in a separate report at the 24 June 2026 Council meeting.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Ōamaru Public Transport Investigations

[YouTube 54:30] This paper reported on the ORC Annual Plan 2025/26 direction to complete an investigation into an Ōamaru to Dunedin public transport service. The report sought Council's approval to implement a subsidised Ōamaru to Dunedin bus service from 1 October 2026. Portfolio lead Cr Somerville introduced the report. Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-187: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the implementation of provisional item 1 in the PTC 2025/1 Unit 1 contract commencing 1 October 2026.*
3) ***Notes*** *that fares for the service will be set by the separate fare structure review paper.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.3. Public Transport Fare Structure Review

[YouTube 1.31] The purpose of this report was to provide Council with detail of how a zonal fare structure and fare capping could be applied in Otago, and to seek Council's approval to consult on draft changes to Otago's public transport fare structure. Portfolio lead Cr Hollyer introduced the paper. Jack Cowie (Transport Planner), Robyn Hyde (Transport Planning Lead), and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

At 12:06 pm Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That *Council adjourn for 5 minutes.*
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-188: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *Option 1 to undertake consultation on all three topics: zonal fare structure, fare capping and the removal of cash fares**, as follows:***
   a) *Consult on a four zone and a five zone option for Dunedin; and*
   b) *Consult on a one zone and a two zone option for Queenstown; and*
   c) *Consult on a fare capping scenario of two daily and 10 weekly trip cap and*
   d) *Consult on fare capping scenario of two daily and 8 weekly trip cap; and*
   e) *Consult on the impact of the removal of cash as a means of payment for bus fares.*
3) ***Notes*** *the public consultation period will be between 10 and 29 July 2026.*
MOTION CARRIED

At 12:40 pm Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That *Council adjourn for lunch until 1 pm.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.4. Approval to make the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 Operative

[YouTube 2:41:20] This report sought the Council's approval to make the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 operative. Portfolio lead, Cr Wilson, introduced the report. Simon Anderson (Partner, Ross Dowling Lawyers), Fleur Matthews (Manager, Policy and Planning) and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Policy and Planning), were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-189: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *that all appeals on provisions of the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 have been resolved.*

3) ***Notes*** *that all amendments under clause 16 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 have been made and there are no variations under clause 16A of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
4) ***Approves****, under clause 17 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021.*
5) ***Approves****, under clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, public notice being given on 27 June 2026, making the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 operative on 9 July 2026.*
6) ***Notes*** *that under clause 17(3) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council's Common Seal shall be affixed to the Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 and witnessed by two Councillors.*
7) ***Notes*** *that when the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 becomes operative, the Otago Regional Policy Statement 2019 will cease to be operative.*
8) ***Notes*** *that the housing bottom lines for Dunedin and Queenstown will be included in the Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 under section 55(2A)(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
9) ***Notes*** *that public notice will be given on 15 July 2026 of the amendment of the Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 to include the housing bottom lines for Dunedin and Queenstown under section 55(2A)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson, Cr Calvert.
AGAINST	Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws.
ABSTAINED	Cr Gardner.

MOTION CARRIED
8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstained.

Cr Gardner left the meeting at 2:23 pm.
Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 2:25 pm.

1.2. South Dunedin Future - 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures

[YouTube 3:20 24 June 2026] The purpose of this paper was to provide an outline and update on the South Dunedin Future (SDF) programme, present the latest technical reports relating to the three Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin, and seek approval of Councils to engage with affected communities and other stakeholders. At this stage, Councils have committed to completing the SDF programme only, with any future decisions on land use, infrastructure, and implementation subject to further consideration by Councils through long-term planning and financial processes. Portfolio lead Cr Robertson introduced the paper. Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), Jonathan Rowe (Programme Manager), Tom Dyer, (GM Science), and Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport) were available to respond to questions on the report.

At 2:48 pm Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That *Council adjourn for 5 minutes.*
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution CM26-190: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

That the Council:

South Dunedin Future Technical Reports

1) ***Notes*** *the background of the South Dunedin Future programme, including the Council-approved programme plan and strategy, and the work undertaken since the previous report to Council in September 2025.*
2) ***Notes*** *the contents of the attached South Dunedin Future technical reports, including:*
   a) *Three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin, which provides an overview of the futures including the key features, actions, and associated costs and benefits;*
   b) *South Dunedin Stormwater Modelling Report, which describes technical assessments of feasibility of a range of potential stormwater-related interventions intended to mitigate flood and other risks affecting South Dunedin;*
   c) *South Dunedin Groundwater Modelling Report, which describes early-stage technical assessments to determine the feasibility of groundwater drainage systems aimed at managing risks from shallow and rising groundwater across South Dunedin; and*
   d) *Economic Assessment of the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin, which evaluates the economic performance of each of the futures against a status quo scenario.*
3) ***Notes*** *these four reports have undergone external technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the reports or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.*
4) ***Notes*** *that additional reports have also been completed on the health and equity implications of the three proposed adaptation futures, the potential property implications of various adaptation actions, and on initial due diligence on potential future development in Ocean Beach Domain. Summaries of these reports are included in this paper, and the full reports will be available on the South Dunedin Future webpage.*
5) ***Endorses*** *the attached South Dunedin Future technical reports for the purposes of community engagement, noting any future decisions on land use, infrastructure, and project implementation would be subject to further consideration by Councils through long-term planning and financial processes.*

Community Engagement

6) ***Approves*** *progressing to the next step of the SDF programme, which involves staff engaging with partners, stakeholders and affected communities to seek feedback on the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin and a status quo option.*
7) ***Notes*** *the proposed communications and engagement activities, including range of media and public communications, and mix of public and targeted stakeholder engagements planned for early-July to mid-August 2026.*

Final stage of the SDF programme

8) ***Notes*** *that following completion of community engagement in August 2026, feedback will be analysed, and key findings reported to Councils in September 2026.*
9) ***Notes*** *that community feedback will also inform a multi-criteria assessment of the three proposed adaptation futures against a decision-making framework previously approved by Councils, and that results of this assessment will be reported to Councils in September 2026.*
10) ***Notes*** *the final stage of the SDF programme will involve identifying a preferred adaptation future as the basis for finalising a climate adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin for Councils' consideration and approval by 30 June 2027.*
11) ***Notes*** *staff will seek to align the final stage of the SDF programme with Council's Long-Term Plan (2027-36) to promote coherence and support efficient transition to implementation of the masterplan and related activities from 1 July 2027.*

Other Options

***12) Notes** other options explored in this paper, which include:*

a) One or both Councils requesting further technical, economic, or other work on the climate and natural hazard-related risks affecting South Dunedin and potential responses, including those outlined in the proposed adaptation futures, before seeking approval of Councils to undertake planned engagement with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities; and

b) One or both Councils directing an alternative course of action from those described in previous options above.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Malcolm voted against.

Resolution CM26-191: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

***13) That** a South Dunedin engineered flood protection system be designed and costed for inclusion in a future report for public consultation, this work is to be undertaken in partnership with the Dunedin City Council.*

***14) Delegates** the Chair in consultation with the CEO the ability to approve minor modification to the consultation topics to align with decisions made by Dunedin City Council.*

BY DIVISION

FOR	Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson, Cr Calvert.
AGAINST	Cr Somerville, Cr Robertson.
ABSTAINED	None.

MOTION CARRIED

9 in favour, two against.

At 3:00 pm Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

***That** Council adjourn for 15 minutes.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.5 Interim Governance Group for Regional Spatial Planning

[Youtube 4:56] This paper sought Council's approval to nominate two elected member representatives to the Interim Regional Spatial Planning Governance Group, a cross-council governance body being established to provide early elected member oversight of regional spatial planning across Otago. Portfolio lead Cr Calvert introduced the report. Marianna Brook (Principal Advisor Mayoral Forum and Local Government Reform), and Fleur Matthews (Manager Policy and Planning) were available to respond to questions on the report. Cr Wilson sat back from the table.

Resolution CM26-192: Cr Hollyer Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes** this report.*
2) ***Approves** the nomination of two elected member representatives to the Interim Regional Spatial Planning Governance Group, being Cr Kate Wilson and Cr Neil Gillespie.*
3) ***Delegates** authority to the Interim Regional Spatial Planning Governance Group to appoint an independent Chair at its first meeting.*
4) ***Notes** that Kā Rūnaka will be invited to nominate representatives for the Interim Group, should this be their preference, at the Te Rōpū Taiao Otago hui on 3 July 2026.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Wilson abstained.

9.6. Large Scale Environment Fund

[YouTube 5:00] This paper presented options to Council for the delivery of the Large-scale Environmental Fund. Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environment), Soraya Engelken (Project Delivery Specialist Freshwater & Biodiversity), and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-193: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *the report*
2) ***Appoints*** *the Finance and Environmental Delivery Portfolio leads to a Large Scale Environmental Fund Governance Group*
3) ***Requests*** *that the Governance Group work with staff to complete the following tasks:*
4) *Develop a terms of reference for the Governance Group including but not limited to, delegations for future funding decisions and timing for reporting back to Council*
5) *Refine and finalise the key criteria, process and associated templates to support the Large Scale Environment fund process*
6) *Instruct the staff working group to commence work identifying a range of priority projects for initial funding*
7) ***Requests*** *that a report from the Governance Group be prepared for Council, no later than August 2026, which includes the terms or reference, final criteria and documents, and early thinking about potential priority projects for investment.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Kelliher voted against.

9.7. ECO Fund Approvals 2026

[YouTube 5:23] This report sought approval of the recommended applications for Council to fund through the ECO Fund March 2026 round. Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environment), Elodie Letendre (Environmental Funding Lead), and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-194: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council:

1) ***Approves*** *the reallocation of $27,479.94 (Hill Country Erosion Management), $9,890.28 (Biodiversity Enhancement on Protected Private Land), and $3,766.82 (Weed Removal and Revegetation) to provide funding towards the projects from Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust ($32,327.45) and Open Valley Urban Ecosanctuary ($8,809.59) (Option 1).*
2) ***Approves*** *the funding recommendations of the ECO Fund Assessment Panel for the March 2026 round to a total value of $*919,800*, as outlined in tables 3 to 8 (Option 3).*
3) ***Notes*** *that the annual review of the ECO Fund will be completed by September 2026 and the outcome of this review will be presented to Council for endorsement to enable the funding categories and criteria to be communicated prior to the next round in early 2027.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.8. Funding Agreement with MPI for Wilding Conifer and Wallaby Programmes

[YouTube 5:30] The report sought approval to sign annual funding agreements with the Ministry for Primary Industries/Manatū Ahu Matua (MPI) for funding and operational delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme in Otago for the remaining four-year term of the signed Services Agreements (2025-2030) and also commence delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme from 1 July, annually for the remaining four-year term of the signed Services Agreements (2025-2030), if signed funding agreements are not received prior to 1 July from MPI. Portfolio lead Cr Noone introduced the report. Libby

Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-195: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Delegates*** *the Chief Executive to sign the annual funding agreements for and on behalf of Council for the remaining four-year term of the signed Services Agreement (2025-2030).*
3) ***Approves Option 3*** *to commence delivery of works for the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme from 1 July, annually, for the remaining four-year term of the signed Services Agreements (2025-2030).*
4) ***Notes that Council will carry some financial risk for delivery ahead of the receipt of formal*** *funding agreements, but that risk is considered low.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.9. Rates Report and Rates Resolution 2026/2027

[YouTube 5:34] This report provided details of each of the rates to be set, and to recommended that Council adopt the rates resolution for the 2026-2027 financial year. Portfolio lead Cr Gardner introduced the paper. Sarah Munro (Group Financial Controller) and Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-196: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded
That the Council:

1) ***Receives*** *this report, the revised Rates Funding Impact Statement 2026-2027 and the 2026-2027 Rating Resolution sample tables, sample analysis and sensitivity graphs (circulated separately).*
2) ***Adopts*** *the revised Rates Funding Impact Statement 2026-2027.*
3) ***Adopts*** *the Rating Resolution for the 2026-2027 financial year.*

MOTION CARRIED

9.10. Update on LIDAR Progress and Funding

[YouTube5:59] This report updated council on the progress of the Otago Regional LiDAR Collection programme. Portfolio lead, Cr Kelliher introduced the paper. Andrew Welsh (Spatial Analyst), Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards), and Tom Dyer (GM Science) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-197: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That the Council:

1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *the Ministry for the Environment additional financial contribution to the Otago Regional LiDAR Collection programme.*
3) ***Notes*** *the progress of the Otago Regional LiDAR Collection programme.*

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone left the meeting at 4:25 pm.
Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 4:27 pm.

Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:
That *matter 9.13 be brought forward in the agenda to be heard next.*
MOTION CARRIED

9.13 Developing the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 Community Outcomes and LTP Engagement Approach.
[YouTube 6:07] This report sought Council endorsement of Community Outcomes for the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan (LTP). Additionally, this report set out an approach to engagement and communication with the community while developing the LTP in order to build buy-in to the LTP ahead of formal consultation in early 2027. Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner), Ian Telfer (Manager Partnerships and Engagement), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), and Amanda Vercoe (GM Customer and Strategy) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-198: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Endorses*** *the Community Outcomes for the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 as described in this report.*
2) ***Notes*** *the approach for ongoing engagement with the community throughout the Long-Term Plan process.*
MOTION CARRIED

At 4:40 pm Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Hollyer Seconded
That Council adjourn until 9:00 am 25 June 2026.
MOTION CARRIED.

The Council reconvened on Thursday, 25 June, at 9am.

Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That the apology for lateness by Cr Laws be accepted.
MOTION CARRIED

9.11. Final ORC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2026 for Adoption
[YouTube 3:00] The purpose of this paper was to present Council with the final version of the ORC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2026 (the Strategy) for consideration and adoption. Portfolio lead Cr Gillespie introduced the paper. Shay van der Hurk (Senior Advisor Strategy), Hillary Lennox (Manager Strategy), and Amanda Vercoe (GM Customer and Strategy) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-199: Cr Gillespie Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Adopts*** *the Otago Regional Council Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2026, replacing the Biodiversity Strategy 2018, and Biosecurity Strategy 2019.*
MOTION CARRIED
Cr Gardner abstained.

9.12. Compliance Targets 2026/2027
[YouTube 21:00] This report sought Council's approval of the 2026/27 Compliance Targets as required to be set under the Annual Plan 2026/27. Portfolio lead, Cr Noone introduced the report. Alex King (Manager Consents/Manager Environmental Delivery Data & Systems), Simon Wilson (Manager Compliance), and Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-200: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Approves*** *the targets set out in the attached Compliance Audit and Performance Monitoring Schedule 2026-27 (Option 1).*
MOTION CARRIED

Cr Gillespie left the meeting at 9:42 am.
Cr Gillespie returned to the meeting at 9:47 am.

9.14. Community Survey Action Plan
[YouTube 43:00] The purpose of this report was to provide councillors a draft 2026–27 action plan for consideration. The action plan is based on insights from the 2026 Community Survey to determine future focus areas and where improvements could be made. Vicki Roach (Brand and Marketing Team Lead), and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-201: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
2) ***Approves*** *the 2026 Community Survey Action plan that will be implemented in the Financial Year 2026-27.*
3) ***Notes*** *that the Communications and Marketing team will report back on the progress of the 2026-27 Action plan at the March 2027 council meeting.*
MOTION CARRIED
Cr Gillespie and Cr Kelliher voted against.

At 10:01 am Cr Laws joined the meeting, online.

At 10:05 am Cr Noone Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded
That *Council adjourn for 15 minutes.*
MOTION CARRIED

1.1. Local Government Reform
[YouTube 1:24 25] This report provided Council with an overview of the local government reform programme and the voluntary Head Start reorganisation pathway. It set out the functions, assets, and regional context relevant to how ORC's functions may be reorganised. It was intended to support a shared, well-informed understanding across the region as Otago councils consider whether to progress an outline proposal, and to inform any contribution that ORC makes to that work. Richard Saunders (Chief Executive) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution CM26-202: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded
That the Council:
1) ***Notes*** *this report.*
MOTION CARRIED

Cr Noone left the meeting at 10:49 am.
Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 10:52 am.
Cr Noone left the meeting at 11:33 am.
Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 11:36 am.
Cr Gillespie left the meeting at 11:33 am.
Cr Gillespie returned to the meeting at 11:42 am.

10. MATTERS FOR NOTING

[YouTube 2:36] There was an opportunity for any questions on the reports.

Resolution CM26-203: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded

That the Council

1) Notes *the following papers:*

10.1 Clutha Delta Natural Hazards Adaptation Programme Update
10.2 Coast and Estuaries Update
10.3 2024 Climate Strategy Implementation and Effectiveness Report
10.4 Indigenous Biodiversity Ecosystems

MOTION CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

None received for this meeting.

12. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:

That the public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):
1.1 Minutes of Council 25 February 2026
3.1 Appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit & Risk Committee.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
2.1 Minutes of Council 25 February 2026	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 – Section 7(2)(b)(ii). To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

3.1 Appointment of an Independent Member to the Audit & Risk Committee	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a)that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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.

13. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the meeting closed at 11:58 am.

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Chairperson Date