
Council Information Session/Workshop

AGENDA

Notice of Information Session/Workshop:

A Council Information Session/Workshop will be held on:

Date: **Thursday 16 May 2024**

Time: **9.30 am - 12.00 pm**

Venue: **Council Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6439418430?omn=86418455067>

Meeting ID: 643 941 8430

Membership

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor James Gough
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Victoria Henstock
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett
	Councillor Sara Templeton

14 May 2024

Principal Advisor

Mary Richardson
Interim Chief Executive
Tel: 941 8999

www.ccc.govt.nz

Please Note:

This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.

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Presenter: Mary Richardson – Interim Chief Executive

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Presenter: Helen White - General Counsel / Head of Legal and Democratic Services

4. Better Off Funding update..... 15

11.45am-12.00pm

Presenters: Mary Richardson – Interim Chief Executive and Libby Elvidge – Principal Advisor,
Citizens & Community

1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

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

2. Local Water Done Well Update

Reference Te Tohutoro: 24/596719

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Mary Richardson – Interim Chief Executive

1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

Purpose and Origin of the Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Mayor and Council with information about the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) legislative framework and process. Provide an opportunity for Council to discuss options going forward.
Timing	This workshop is expected to last for 60 to 90 minutes.
Confidentiality	The workshop and any shared information are not confidential.
Outcome Sought	<p>The Council has an understanding of LWDW legislative framework and process.</p> <p>The Council has an understanding of its requirements under LWDW framework, including timelines.</p>
Next Steps	Staff paper of options and proposed process and timeline.
Key points / Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LWDW framework replaces the previous Three Waters reforms and establishes a new approach to water services. LWDW puts the onus on the Council to develop a financially sustainable plan that ensures safe water, meets upgraded infrastructure standards, and allows for future growth. Transparency and potential collaboration between councils are encouraged. <p>Key deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-2024: Core LWDW legislation enacted. Within 12 Months from the above: Council's Water Services Delivery Plan must be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for approval. Mid-2025: Further LWDW legislation on long-term sustainability, structure, and regulation is expected.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this coversheet.

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Mary Richardson - Interim Chief Executive
Approved By	Mary Richardson - Interim Chief Executive

3. Elected Member Professional Development

Reference Te Tohutoro: 24/758001


Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Helen White, General Counsel / Head of Legal and Democratic Services

1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

Purpose and Origin of the Workshop	To seek elected member guidance on how they would like future professional development budgets (covering individual and group training, and conference and course attendance) allocated.
Timing	This workshop is expected to last for 30 minutes.
Confidentiality	The workshop and any shared information are not confidential.
Outcome Sought	Guidance from Councillors on how they would to allocate the elected members' professional development budget for the Mayor and Councillors.
ELT Consideration	N/A.
Next Steps	<p>Following councillor feedback staff will prepare a revised version of <i>Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019</i>. It would separate Section 9 which covers <i>Attendance at conferences, courses, training, professional development and travel</i> into a stand-alone policy.</p> <p>If required, a report with proposed amendments could go to Council on 19 June 2024 for consideration and decision. This would also include an updated draft policy on the balance of the <i>Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019</i>.</p>
Key points / Background	The current policy is set out in section 9 of the <i>Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019</i> (please refer to the link below) which provides for:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$4,000 is allocated to each councillor for individual training as of right (covers course/conference fees, accommodation, travel). • An additional \$2,000 is available for Committee Chairs. • Elected members formerly appointed by Council to an external organisation can attend conferences or seminars held by that external organisation (prior approval of Council required). <p>Policy needs a review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee structure has changed with only one Committee of the Whole. • There is no budget specifically allocated for Council representatives on external organisations. • The current budget has no specific allocation for group professional development (e.g. post- election induction). This is currently being met by any collective underspend by councillors.
<p>Useful Links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019. https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/policies/finance-and-funding-policies/elected-members-expenses-allowances

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A 	Elected Member Professional Development	24/818784	9

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	David Corlett - Democratic Services Advisor
Approved By	Helen White - General Counsel / Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Elected member Professional Development

Purpose

To seek elected member guidance on how they would like future professional development budgets allocated.

Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019

- Annual allocation of up to \$4 000.00 per councillor for individual training (course and conference fees, accommodation, travel)
- Councillors self-direct individual training
- Up to \$2 000.00 for Committee chairs
- No express allocation for:
 - Council representatives on external bodies
 - Training for groups/governing body as a whole
 - Other responsibilities such as portfolio holders

Is there appetite for change?

Budget allocation for 2024/25 is **\$78 585.00**

Are you content with the current policy?

What aspects would you be interested in changing?

Possible options

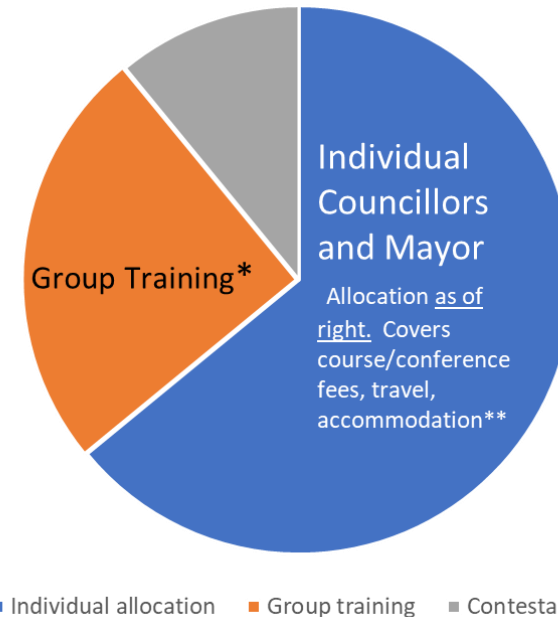
Option 1:

- a. Individual EM professional development
- b. Group professional development

Option 2:

- a. Individual EM professional development
- b. Group professional development
- c. Biddable funding for conferences, courses, meetings etc.
 - LGNZ conference
 - Elected members formally appointed as Council representative on external organisations (NZ based Global Cities Group).

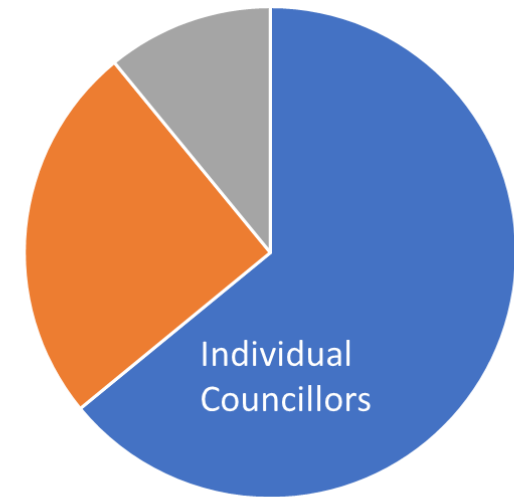
Option 3: No change



Allocation of Budget for the year ending June 2025

1. Which option is preferred?
2. What percentage of the budget should be allocated to each of the chosen areas?
3. If there is to be contestable funding how are the relative merits of each bid to be accessed?

\$78,585 (2024/2025)	
Individual councillors	Remaining for group training <u>and</u> biddable
\$4,000 each = \$68,000 (current)	\$10,585
\$4,500 each = \$76,000	\$2,585
\$3,500 each = \$59,500	\$19,085
\$3,000 each = \$51,000	\$27,585



■ Individual allocation ■ Group training ■ Contestable

Next Steps

Following councillor feedback staff will prepare, **if required**, proposed amendments to Section 9 of the *Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy 2019*.

Report to Council on 19 June 2024 for consideration and decision.

4. Better Off Funding update

Reference Te Tohutoro: 24/788899



Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Libby Elvidge, Principal Advisor Citizens and Community

1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<p>Purpose and Origin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For councillors to provide input into the Council’s response to the Department of Internal Affairs letter (Attachment A) regarding Better Off Funding. Cabinet has directed the Department of Internal Affairs to work with councils to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the status of current BOF projects; and Identify, by mutual agreement, if any opportunities exist to redirect unspent BOF to increase investment in water infrastructure or help establish new water services delivery organisations.
<p>Timing</p>	<p>This information session is expected to last 15 minutes.</p>
<p>Confidentiality</p>	<p>The session and any shared information are not confidential.</p>
<p>Outcome Sought</p>	<p>Direction from councillors for the Council’s response to DIA on Better Off Funding projects.</p>
<p>ELT Consideration</p>	<p>ELT have been kept informed of the correspondence from DIA.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Staff will respond to the DIA letter by the requested deadline of Friday 17 May 2024.</p>
<p>Key points / Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council was allocated \$30.61m for Better Off Funding. The previous Government created this funding pool to recognise the impact on councils resulting from shifting three waters assets and service delivery from councils to Water Service Entities. The Council took a strategic approach to using its funding allocation to ensure proposed projects met the Government’s wellbeing criteria and aligned with Ngā Rūnanga priorities and the Council’s own strategic direction. The projects the funding was allocated to were agreed to by the Council on 7 December 2022 (item 12). These are included in a Funding Agreement with DIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Travel: \$2m City Safety: \$2.08m Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning: \$1.65m Community Facilities: \$10.88m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Partnerships: \$4m - Papatipu Runanga Priorities: \$3.1m - Trees and Biodiversity: \$6.9m • All seven projects are underway and have been scheduled through to 30 June 2027, as per the Funding Agreement. • The new Government has confirmed that councils will retain existing funding allocations of BOF. DIA will work in partnership with councils to identify, by mutual agreement, any opportunities to redirect unspent BOF to increase investment in water infrastructure or to help establish new water services delivery organisations.
Useful Links	

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A  	Letter from DIA dated 18 April 2024 - Transitioning BOF	24/798818	17

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Libby Elvidge - Principal Advisor Citizens & Community
Approved By	Mary Richardson - Interim Chief Executive



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

45 Pipitea Street
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18 April 2024

Mary Richardson
Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
Mary.Richardson@ccc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Mary

Transitioning Better Off and Council Transition Support funding arrangements to support Local Water Done Well – next steps

Earlier this month the Minister of Local Government provided an update about the next stage of Local Water Done Well (LWDW).

This included Cabinet decisions in relation to how current Better Off and Council Transition Support arrangements would be retained to support the implementation of LWDW.

Following the Minister's announcement you would have received an email from Michael Lovett, Department of Internal Affairs Deputy Chief Executive Local Government branch, outlining these decisions and indicating that the Department would be in touch with further information.

Better Off funding

Cabinet has directed the Department to work in partnership with Crown Infrastructure Partners and councils to:

- Review the status of current Better Off projects, including expenditure incurred to date and currently committed expenditure; and
- Identify, by mutual agreement, if any opportunities exist for your council to redirect unspent Better Off funding to increase investment in water infrastructure or to help establish new water services delivery organisations.

Given the direction received from Cabinet, and recognising the need for increased investment in water infrastructure as identified through councils' long-term planning, we encourage councils to consider reprioritising remaining funding that is not already allocated for water infrastructure where this is possible.

We note that councils have active projects underway and have made commitments for future spend based on receiving Better Off funding from the Department. We would therefore like to work through the specific circumstances of your Better Off project portfolio with you.

Current status of your Better Off funding

Your maximum funding amount under the Better Off funding agreement is \$30.610 million, of which \$6.377 million has been paid (or is currently due and payable by the Department). This leaves \$24.233 million in remaining Better Off funding.

Reviewing current Better Off projects and identifying redirection opportunities – council action required

We would like to hear from you about whether you see any opportunities to redirect any of your unspent Better Off funding, to increase investment in water infrastructure or to help establish new water services delivery organisations.

To help inform your initial thoughts, please find attached (in Schedule 1) your council's current Better Off projects. This Schedule also includes an indicative view, based on the information the Department holds, on where there may be opportunities to investigate potential redirection of funding.

Please let us know your thoughts, or let us know if you would like to set up a time to discuss with the Department, by emailing waterreformfunding@dia.govt.nz by 17 May 2024.

We have provided a copy of this letter to your council's appointed relationship manager at Crown Infrastructure Partners, who will also be in touch with your council's nominated Better Off contact to provide further information as required.

Once we have received your initial position on potential redirection opportunities, we would like to discuss this with you and mutually agree your remaining Better Off programme by 30 June 2024.

Any mutually agreed changes will be confirmed through a formal contract variation when the Local Government Water Services (Transitional Provisions) Bill passes into law, which is expected around mid-2024.

I would like to reiterate that any potential redirection of Better Off funding would only occur where agreed to by your council.

In the meantime:

- For existing Better Off projects, the Department will continue to pay claims as these are submitted by councils in accordance with the terms of the Better Off funding agreement.
- Any project substitution requests (or other changes to project scopes) that increase allocations of funding to non-water activities will not be approved by the Department and Crown Infrastructure Partners until we have agreed your remaining Better Off programme.

Council Transition Support funding

Cabinet has also agreed that current Council Transition Support funding will be retained but that remaining funding be used by councils for work relating to LWDW. This includes supporting the establishment of new water services delivery organisations, or other planning work to support the transition to LWDW.

Existing Council Transition Support funding contracts are for establishment and transition activities relating to the previous Government's Three Waters Reform programme. The repeal of the Water Services Entities Act 2022 earlier this year removed the legislative basis for carrying out the permitted funding activities under existing contracts.

Current status of your Council Transition Support funding

Your maximum funding amount under the current Council Transition Support funding agreement is \$4,527,000, of which you have been paid \$3,772,500. There is \$754,500 of unpaid funding remaining.

New Council Transition Support funding agreement – council action required

The Department is currently developing a new funding agreement which will allow any unpaid funding from the original arrangement to be used for LWDW activities.

To access this funding under the new arrangement, your council will need to advise the Department of the LWDW activities and timeframes for which this funding will be used.

Note that the end date under the new funding agreement will be 30 June 2025, to enable the remaining unspent funding to be applied to LWDW activities in the next financial year, including the preparation of Water Services Delivery Plans and investigating new organisational structures for water services delivery.

If your council has incurred costs on Three Waters transition activities up to 31 March 2024 that exceed the amount of funding already paid to you, please let us know by emailing waterreformfunding@dia.govt.nz.

We will ensure that the new funding agreement enables you to be paid for these eligible costs incurred (even though they relate to historical Three Waters transition activities), however the total funding available will not exceed the total funding amount under the original funding agreement.

Next steps

Our Grants and Funding Team will send you the new funding agreement later this month.

Nāku noa, nā



Hamiora Bowkett
Executive Director, Water Services Policy
Department of Internal Affairs

SCHEDULE 1: YOUR BETTER OFF PROJECTS

The following table sets out the current status of your Better Off projects, based on the Department’s records.

Status of Better Off projects (from the Department of Internal Affairs records)					
Project	Project classification	Contract value	Paid (or payment request submitted)	Remaining	Notes
Trees and biodiversity	Environment	\$6,900,000	\$1,470,896	\$5,429,104	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
City Safety	Community services	\$2,080,000	\$1,554,000	\$526,000	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Community facilities	Community infrastructure	\$10,880,000	\$1,659,568	\$9,220,432	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Papatipu Rūnanga priorities	Community infrastructure	\$3,100,000	\$67,500	\$3,032,500	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Community partnerships	Community infrastructure	\$4,000,000	\$1,074,716	\$2,925,284	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Active Travel	Transport & roading	\$2,000,000	\$400,000	\$1,600,000	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Community coastal hazards adaptation planning	Climate change & natural hazards	\$1,650,000	\$150,000	\$1,500,000	Confirm whether your council would like to investigate any redirection opportunity
Total		\$30,610,000	\$6,376,680	\$24,233,320	

Your maximum funding amount under the Better Off funding agreement is \$30.610 million, of which \$6.377 million has been paid (or is currently due and payable by the Department). This leaves \$24.233 million in remaining Better Off funding.

We would like to discuss this with your council to confirm whether you would like to redirect any remaining unspent funding for projects that are not for water infrastructure or services. Any such redirection would only occur with the mutual agreement of your council.