
Workshop - Council NOTES

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2026
Time: 10 am
Venue: Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
<https://councillive.ccc.govt.nz/meeting-calendar/>

Present

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauer
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor David Cartwright
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Pauline Cotter
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Nathaniel Herz Jardine
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett

Principal Advisor

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

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<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>



The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors MacDonald and McLellan.

Councillor Moore was not present during item 2.

Councillor Fields left the workshop at 10.20 am and returned at 10.23 am during item 2.

Councillor Cotter left the workshop at 10.54 am and returned at 10.56 am during item 2.

Councillor Harrison-Hunt left the workshop at 10.46 am and returned at 10.56 am during item 2.

2. New Zealand Transport Agency Update

James Caygill, Director of Regional Relationships, and Richard Osborne, Regional Manager, System Design, joined the table and provided the Council with an overview of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) role and an update on its current work.

Key presentation points:

- The NZTA is the Crown entity responsible for planning the land transport system, investing the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF), regulating safety rules, delivering major transport projects, managing the state highway network, and providing customer services that support people to access, pay for, and use the transport system.
- The NZTA operates under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and must give effect to the Government Policy Statement (GPS). The GPS is issued every three years and sets the Government's transport priorities, expected NLTF revenue and funding ranges for activity classes such as maintenance, public transport, state highway improvements, safety, walking and cycling, and rail.
- The next GPS is being drafted now, with a draft expected mid-2026, though the General Election at the end of the year may result in further changes. The final GPS will be issued mid-2027, with the NZTA issuing its National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) after that.
- The NLTP is the three year programme that sets out the activities that can be funded through the NLTF. The NLTF is funded mainly through fuel taxes and Road User Charges. The NLTP includes both national and local activities and is updated as project timing and funding availability change.
- Funding Assistance Rates (FARs) determine the portion of eligible costs on a council's project are funded by the NLTF. Average FARs sit around 53%, with individual authority's rates varying. A large factor in determining FARs is ability to pay. The Council's FAR is currently 51%. NZTA will review the FAR policy before the 2027–2030 NLTP.
- Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs) set each region's 10-year objectives and proposed activities. The starting point for the Council feeding into the RLTP is its Long Term Plan (LTP). Canterbury's next RLTP needs to be completed by March/April 2027, prior to the finalised GPS being issued. The NZTA will give an indication of budgets by the end of 2026, but these may change with Central Government policy.
- To be considered for the NLTF, a Council project needs to be in its LTP, in the RLTP (consistent with the GPS) and in the NLTP (which gives effect to the GPS). Inclusion in the NLTP is necessary but not sufficient for funding. Councils must be able to fund their own local share of any projects. Projects that fail to obtain NLTF funding can be fully funded by the Council. Councils

benefit from having a broad programme of work that can be targeted to Central Government priorities and should consider early investment to prove ideas.

- For the 2024–27 NLTP, funding requests exceeded available revenue by more than \$5 billion, and similar prioritisation is expected for the 2027–30 programme. Increasing costs attributable to the Emergency Works Policy are also putting pressure on the fund.
- Integrated Delivery Contracts (IDCs) for state highway maintenance have reached the preferred-supplier stage. The preferred suppliers for Canterbury are HEB and Isaac. Final negotiations are underway. The NZTA offers opportunities to other contractors via contestable work packages.

Key discussion points:

- Elected members and the NZTA representatives discussed the following:
 - The Hornby Access and Development Project and how this will flow into the NLTP 2027-2030.
 - Pedestrian safety improvements on highways.
 - Improving highway maintenance in terms of litter and weeds, including clearer information for the public on areas of responsibility.
 - The importance of close operational ties between the Council, NZTA and other service providers to align work programmes.
 - The ability of the NZTA to prioritise issues, such as resilience, being constrained by the GPS priorities.

The workshop adjourned at 10.59 am and reconvened at 11.15 am with the public excluded.

5. Items Closed to the Public Ngā Take mō te wāhanga o te hui e rāhui ana ki te hunga tūmatanui

The session went into public excluded to consider the confidential items advertised at the end of the public agenda.

The public were re-admitted to the workshop at 3.05 pm.

Deputy Mayor Henstock chaired the workshop during item 4.

The Mayor left the workshop at 3.06 pm and rejoined at 3.21 pm.

Councillor Barber was not present during item 4.

Councillor Harrison-Hunt was not present during item 4.

Councillor Johanson was not present at the start of item 4. He rejoined the workshop at 3.08 pm.

Councillor Cotter was not present at the start of item 4. She rejoined the workshop at 3.10 pm.

Councillor Donovan left the workshop at 3.14 pm during item 4.

Councillor Moore left the workshop at 3.20 pm during item 4.

4. Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory FY 2024/2025

Carey Graydon, Principal Advisor Climate Resilience, and Lisa Early, Team Leader Climate Resilience, joined the table to present the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for FY 2024/2025.

Key presentation points:

- The Council has a target of being net carbon neutral by 2030. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory is independently verified each year and is used to identify emissions reduction opportunities.
- The 2024/2025 inventory includes new emission sources: staff commuting, staff working from home, expanded Parks maintenance activities, and emissions from new facilities opened during the year.
- The inventory does not include Christchurch City Holdings Limited's, or other Council Controlled Organisations', emissions.
- The current inventory reports gross emissions only. From next year sequestration from trees will be included to provide a net emissions position.
- Total gross emissions for FY24/25 are reported as 40,665.54 tCO₂-e. This is an increase of 7,811.54 tCO₂-e from the previous year. The main reasons for the increase are a significantly higher emissions factor for electricity (not higher consumption), higher influent loading at the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant, newly included staff commuting and working-from-home emission figures, and increased fuel use associated with Parks services being brought in-house.
- Staff will bring a draft Emissions Reduction Plan to a future workshop.

Key discussion points:

- Elected members discussed the following:
 - The Council resolution to include the staff commuting and working from home emission figures and the difficulty this has for making comparisons to previous years' inventories.
 - The increased loading at the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - The influence of the national electricity emissions factor on the Council's emissions despite the majority of its electricity being from renewable sources.

The workshop adjourned at 3.22 pm and reconvened at 11.31am on Wednesday, 11 March 2026.

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Mayor Henstock, Councillor MacDonald and Councillor McLellan, who were not present at the reconvened workshop.

Councillor Keown was not present at the start of item 5. He joined the workshop at 11.33am.
Councillor Barber was not present at the start of item 5. He joined the workshop at 11.35am.

3. Cathedral Square Revitalisation Project Update

Hanna Pirie, Senior Project Manager and Mark Stevenson, Head of Planning and Consents, joined the table to present the Cathedral Square Revitalisation Project Update.

Key presentation points:

- Several stages of the current programme have already been delivered, including works outside the Distinction Hotel. Stage 9b has been approved and is timed for completion ahead of the Sheraton Hotel opening. Stage 9a is underway and needs to progress to support the proposed new hotel between the Square and Te Pae. Work has begun on an updated concept for Cathedral Square.
- A staged procurement process is planned to appoint an integrated design team for long-term revitalisation work. An Expression of Interest (EOI) will be released on 10 March 2026 to shortlist suitable design teams, with evaluation and shortlisting expected by late April 2026. Shortlisted teams will take part in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process during May–June 2026, with contract award anticipated in July 2026. The initial commission will focus on concept design only.
- Engagement will build on previous work, including Share an Idea, the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan, and Regenerate Christchurch. Ongoing communication with surrounding properties will continue, including developers, CCRL and user surveys. Further engagement is planned with Council, neighbouring landowners, and key stakeholders, alongside public consultation. The approach aims to balance the need for broad input with avoiding excessive consultation. More detail will be provided in future briefings.
- The timeline includes public release of the EOI, a workshop on design objectives, further engagement with neighbouring properties, concept design development, public consultation on the concept, Council decision, detailed design, and construction.
- The presentation provides information and reassurance for Council. Council will workshop this project in the future.

Key discussion points:

- Consultation processes should include engagement with event organisers, developers, nearby businesses and building owners. Officers confirmed ongoing communication and collaboration with key parties, including the Cathedral team and developers in the area.
- A need to establish clarity and understanding of the overall vision for the square, including opportunities that could allow for event space, green space or other uses.
- Concern was raised about incurring cost before there is certainty on the timing of the Cathedral reinstatement and nearby developments. The design work will be structured to be ready when the timing is right, with work phased and coordinated around other development.
- Consideration was raised about how vehicles, including tourists, move through the area. Transport is an integral part of the project, including traffic movements and demands.
- Concern at the cost and whether this work is a priority within available budgets.
- Conceptual work is through the EOI process, further work will include Council teams.

- Officers advised this process is looking at the financial model for this work and will return to Council for approval for further funding through the LTP process.
- EOI is a two stage process, which will shortlist proposals. Officers will test design objectives with the Council. Seeking interest from companies with local knowledge, with the potential to partner internationally.
- Previous planning can help inform the work, but the environment has changed since then and there is more awareness about private development.

Workshop concluded at 12.04pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026.