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## **Council Workshop**

### **NOTES**

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**Date:** Tuesday 2 June 2026  
**Time:** 10.03 am  
**Venue:** Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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#### **Present**

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
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 Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett

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The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

## **1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha**

There were no apologies received.

## **2. Government reform programme: Head Start Pathway**

David Griffiths, Head of Strategic Policy and Resilience; Luke Adams, Principal Advisor Policy; and Thomas Lee, Principal Advisor Policy joined the table to present Item 2 (refer to agenda report and attached presentation) and to answer questions from elected members.

### **Key presentation points:**


- The Government has opened a voluntary three month “Head Start” window for councils to submit reorganisation proposals, with a focus on unitary authorities.
- Proposals must:
  - Involve two or more territorial authorities
  - Represent a majority of councils or population
  - Be assessed against deliverability, planning alignment, governance simplification, economies of scale, and local voice.
- Proposals must also demonstrate:
  - Viable grouping of councils, noting Canterbury is considered a complex region, with potential for up to three unitary authorities
  - Ability to deliver regional functions
  - Continuity of Treaty settlement arrangements.
- Failure to participate will result in a compulsory backstop process following the 2028 elections.
- Outline proposals must be submitted by 9 August 2026, with detailed design for accepted proposals to follow in 2027, and implementation prior to the 2028 local body elections.

### **Key discussion points:**

- Alongside deciding the number of unitary authorities, consideration needs to be given to the functions that might be best suited to cover a wide regional area e.g. for water catchment or transport planning.
- Comment regarding deliverability and completion of transition by 2028, and whether larger authorities actually lead to efficiencies.
- The effects on the upcoming Representation Review (and its timeline), and on Long Term Plans, which councils are already working on.
- The opportunities this presents for leadership in strengthening regional capabilities and allowing a stronger voice when dealing with central government.
- The importance of working with other councils to consider representation and governance models.
- Community engagement and how community boards and residents can feed into decision making.
- Interest in understanding the role of community boards in existing unitary authorities in other parts of New Zealand.

- The challenges of incorporating strategies, policies and bylaws from multiple existing authorities into one.

#### **Attachments**

- A Government Reforms - Head Start Pathway - Presentation [⇒](#) 

Councillor Moore left the workshop at the conclusion of Item 2 and did not return.

#### **The workshop adjourned at 10.50 am and reconvened at 11.15 am.**

Deputy Mayor Henstock, Councillor Barber, Councillor Cartwright and Councillor Harrison-Hunt were not present at 11.15 am and returned to the workshop at 11.17 am during consideration of Item 3.

Deputy Mayor Henstock left the workshop at 11.28 am and returned at 11.29 am during consideration of Item 3.

### **3. Governance Update - Q3 2025/2026 (January - March 2026)**

Sean Rainey, Manager Official Information; and Matt Boulton, Team Leader Governance Process joined the table to present Item 3 (refer to agenda report, presentation and attached summary presentation) and to answer questions from elected members.

#### **Key presentation points:**


The report covered governance performance from January to March 2026 and showed:

- 100% compliance with legislative and process requirements, with all eligible meetings live streamed with voting records published.
- 76% of informal Council workshops being open to the public, and 98% for Community Boards.
- 412 elected member requests received and dealt with in the quarter, including some with multiple/complex questions.
- 584 LGOIMA requests received, with only one late response, and an average response time of 7.3 days.

#### **Key discussion points:**

- The viability for elected member inquiries to be tracked when they are follow ups on projects rather than new queries, and how changes/delays to projects can be communicated to elected members as a matter of course.
- The response time expected of Council units and how they are expedited.
- Visibility of the volume of resident inquiries related to major events e.g. rainfall or boil water notices.
- That queries are dealt with by community board staff where appropriate.

#### **Attachments**

- A Quarterly Governance Update Q3 2025 - 2026 updated presentation [⇒](#) 

Deputy Mayor Henstock left the workshop at 11.31 am and returned at 11.33 am during consideration of Item 4.

Councillor MacDonald left the workshop at 11.31 am and returned at 11.49 am during consideration of Item 4.

Councillor Cotter left the workshop at 11.48 am and returned at 11.50 am during consideration of Item 4.

Councillor MacDonald left the workshop at 11.53 am during consideration of Item 4.

#### **4. Resource Recovery Quarterly Update - Q2 and Q3 FY26**

Tania Lees, Team Leader Operations Resource Recovery; and Melanie Hayman, Contract Supervisor Transfer Stations joined the table to present Item 4 (refer to agenda report and presentation) and to answer questions from elected members.

##### **Key presentation points:**

- A collection route realignment for kerbside collection is planned to address growth-related pressures and improve operational efficiency and customer experience for approximately 8,700 properties.
- Contamination of recovered materials (recycling) has reduced consistently, with most material recovered and sent to end markets. Best practice environmental improvements have also been put in place at the EcoCentral site to support neighbouring properties and stormwater discharge.
- The new Ōtautahi Christchurch Organics Processing Facility in Hornby has had resource consents granted and is expected to begin operation in 2027, allowing the closure of the Bromley plant.
- The Parkhouse transfer station will be the first of three to be redeveloped, beginning with the modification of existing refuse transfer buildings on site and later followed by the construction of new resource recovery and household goods buildings.
- Education continues with a focus on reducing contamination. Policies for illegal dumping, litter and free waste dumping are scheduled to be introduced/reviewed and consulted on, as is the Draft Waste Minimization Plan, and a campaign encouraging correct battery disposal has been launched.

##### **Key discussion points:**

- Aspects of the Waste Management Minimisation Plan (WMMP) including the suggested establishment of a litter team that can provide relevant data, and separate 'glass only' bins in pedestrian areas. The WMMP is being consulted on in July – August.
- The (reduced) amount of gas from landfill powering council buildings (the Waste Water Treatment Plant).
- Confirmation that targeted fees for waste bins compared to recycling organics bins are consistent across the city.
- Battery recycling locations and promotion/education to support uptake; advice that some sites are commercially run at no cost to ratepayers.
- How lost bins can be notified, e.g. the app, call centre, online, and the relative higher cost of physical alternatives like an instruction sticker on the bin.
- Frequency and scope of bin contents audits, the process when bins on a street or larger area are missed (contractor returns to complete collection), soft plastics recycling at supermarkets, and the high proportion of recyclables able to go to market.
- The idea of having drop-off stations for building materials at transfer stations/eco-store.
- Gaps in recycling/composting opportunities that could be considered in future.
- Requests for data to be provided in future on:
  - battery disposal drop-off uptake

- achievement of targets for waste to landfill
- separated glass at eco-stations

Councillor MacDonald returned to the workshop at 12.04 pm during consideration of Item 5.  
Councillor MacDonald left the workshop at 12.10 pm and returned at 12.16 pm during consideration of Item 5.  
Councillor Scandrett left the workshop at 12.40 pm during consideration of Item 5.

## **5. Draft Council Emissions Reduction Plan**

Carey Graydon, Principal Advisor Climate Resilience; and Lisa Early, Team Leader Climate Resilience; and Bruce Rendall, Head of Facilities and Property and Alexis Patrylak, Three Water Planner – Climate Resilience joined the table to present Item 5 (refer to agenda report and presentation) and to answer questions from elected members.

### **Key presentation points:**

- The Draft Emissions Reduction Plan is a strategic, Council-wide plan to reduce emissions and attempt to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030. Good early progress has been made.
- The Plan covers the Council’s operational emissions only and focuses on steps that are both cost-effective and practical. As a result costs overall are expected to be lower than if the initiatives were not implemented.
- The Council’s highest emissions come from wastewater treatment (64.44%), electricity (22.37%) and fuel (6.2 %) and key initiatives include solar installations, fleet electrification, boiler replacements, the rebuild at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and energy efficiency improvements.
- A number of other co-benefits exist from the proposed actions, including greater reliability, resilience and less reliance on international supply chains.
- A gap remains to reach net zero by 2030, which can be partly addressed by tree planting, and as technology and costs change, additional actions could be added in future.

### **Key discussion points:**

- Whether building or resource consents could be fast tracked for new technologies such as solar to encourage private uptake.
- Alignment of emissions reduction across other councils and Council Controlled Organisations.
- Measures such as staff commute, business travel and adoption of new technologies, especially for heavy plant; advice that further investment wouldn’t create better outcomes.
- The benefits of replacing diesel boilers with electric, introduction of solar and air/ground source heat pumps in terms of increased reliability, reduced costs and improved resilience.
- The criteria for considering what measures to implement, including being primarily fit-for-purpose, cost-effective/lower cost in addition to reducing emissions, and maintaining current Levels of Service.
- The beneficial effect of the tree planting programme and the balance of grazing and revegetation on Council land.
- The benefits of using electricity produced by council-owned solar assets compared to the costs of sourcing from or selling to the ‘national grid’ due to the ‘grid emissions factor’ (applied to all electricity sources for the national grid).
- Requests for data to be provided on:

- The cost/benefit analysis for emissions reduction previously provided.
- Forecasts vs actual results including for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, once new systems have been running for a sufficient time.
- Actual emissions totals as well as proportional share.
- Actual emissions vs 'paper emissions'.
- Savings from the Zilch car scheme.

**Workshop concluded at 12.41 pm.**