

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	2 July 2026 10.07am -11.01am
Venue	Chambers
Topic	Long-term Plan Workshop
Facilitated by	Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode)
Elected Members present	Mayor John Funnell, Cr Duncan Campbell (via MS Teams), Cr Rachel Cameron, Cr Nicola de Lautour, Cr Ngāhuia Foreman, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kylie Leonard (via MS Teams), Cr Steve Manunui (via MS Teams), Cr Wahine Murch (via MS Teams), Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr Hope Woodward (via MS Teams)
Officers present	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (H Tattle), General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services (T Hale), General Manager Organisation Performance (S Matthews), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Executive Manager – Mayor’s Office (J Later), Programme Manager (J Walton), Policy Advisor (A Wilson), Legal and Governance Coordinator (M Cammell)
Public / media present	7 members of the public
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	LTP Workshop Presentation (A3956212)
Public or closed¹	Public

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

Taupō District Council

Notes²

The purpose of this workshop was to recap earlier Long-term Plan (LTP) workshops, support direction for the 2027 LTP, and understand the LTP in the context of Head Start.

The Senior Policy Advisor introduced the topic and acknowledged that it had been a while since the last LTP workshop because focus had shifted to Head Start following Central Government's announcement regarding Simplifying Local Government in early May.

The Chief Executive noted that there had not been a decision made about Head Start yet but within the next 10 years of the Long-term Plan, there would be structural reform regardless of whether Taupō District Council participated in the Head Start process in time for the 9 August deadline.

In response to queries, the following was clarified and discussed:

- The definition of Council's "core services" would be coming in the Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Bill. Rates caps would come through under different legislation. The Bill would go through a second reading in early July. There had not been any more information about the rates cap legislation at the time of this workshop and there likely would not be until 2027.
- Staff will present Elected Members a list with things they "Must Do," "Should Do" and "Could Do." The Elected Members could then identify what was important to them and Council staff would prepare a cost estimate to present to Councillors. Ultimately, it was Elected Members who would determine what affordability targets they would like the staff to achieve.
- There would be a Revenue and Financing Policy review as part of the LTP. As a result, there could be a shift to a user pays structure for fees and charges. Staff would bring an analysis of that option to Elected Members for review.
- The Mayor highlighted that Elected Members' phone numbers and email addresses were easy to find and they were willing to ask questions on the community's behalf. He noted that it was important to get feedback from the public.
- Dates had yet to be confirmed for public consultation on the LTP.

The workshop closed at 11.01am.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.