

Council meeting 30th April 2025 – Summary News:

Below is a brief summary of the decisions from the Council meeting held on the 30th April 2025. You can read the full reports online in our agenda:

<https://www.kaikoura.govt.nz/council/meetings-calendar-agendas-minutes>

Draft Annual Plan 2025/2026:

The draft plan was endorsed which is broadly keeping in line with year 2 of our LTP 2024-34. We are sticking to the plan. The draft annual plan highlights that the overall rates requirement is slightly down on our LTP estimates although the independent QV property revaluation has had a significant impact in terms of rates distribution. Debt has remained in line with LTP forecast. No material changes were made to the fees and charges schedule either, although a new MPI levy has been introduced from central government that needs to be passed onto users.

Outcome:

The report was received by Council and the annual plan will be presented in June for Council final approval. A copy of the draft annual plan can be found on our website and communications to the community will be undertaken between now and June.

Innovative Waste Kaikoura: Draft Statement of Intent (SOI).

In February 2025 Council provided its Letter of Expectation to Innovative Waste Kaikōura Ltd. (IWK) following feedback from Council workshops and the Council meeting in February. The Letter of Expectation set out high level shared priorities and specific areas of focus for IWK from a Council perspective with specific call outs for consideration of the environment. The draft Statement of Intent has been prepared by IWK and outlines the scope of the activities to be undertaken, and the performance targets and other measures by which the performance of the company may be judged in relation to its objectives, amongst other requirements.

Outcome:

At the April 30th meeting, elected members received the Innovative Waste Kaikōura Ltd. (IWK) draft Statement of Intent 2025/2028. No further feedback was provided and IWK will now finalise their SOI.

Walking, Cycling and Horse-Riding Strategy:

The proposed rewrite of Kaikōura's Walking and Cycling Strategy will be a forward-looking exercise (up to the year 2050), aimed at producing a vision and a set of tangible actions. The result will be a strategy that impacts positively on the health and wellbeing of our residents and our role as a tourism provider in the walking, cycling and potentially horse-riding spaces. The revised strategy will pick up and build on the previous work by outlining some new actions to facilitate greater access to active transport and outdoor tourism in our district. It will also offer a chance to incorporate some of the aspirations of the Kaikōura Spatial Plan (2024).

Outcome:

Council approved KDC's intention to revise the A to B Carbon Free Walking and Cycling Strategy (2009), and the establishment of a working group chaired by a member of the Council to lead this work. This project will differ from the previous rendition as it will include horse-riding and youth play in the consultation scope. It will be forward-looking, capturing the list of preferred projects within scope up to 2050.

Approval for the release of the three Reserve Management Plans:

Today, Council approved the final reserve management plans for publication for three area:

- South Bay Forest Reserve.
- South Bay Domain/Racecourse Reserve.
- Top 10 Holiday Park Reserve.

Visitor Accommodation:

A report was presented to Council today in response to a research paper prepared by the University of Otago (the research paper), which provided recommendations to improve Kaikōura's housing affordability and rental stock.

The statistics outlined in the research paper, combined with qualitative interviews and comparative international housing markets, indicate an excess of housing being used for visitor accommodation, leading to a lack of stock for locals and seasonal workers. This phenomenon may be also driving up rental prices to excessive levels for those on lower wage roles. While Kaikōura's rental prices are in line with national averages, rent affordability is relative to the incomes of those paying the rent.

We currently have a visitor accommodation policy in place within the District Plan for residential and rural properties, but it has not been enforced to the extent required to assess the true impact of the policy. We recommend enforcing our current policy fully to determine the influence it has on the rental market.

We have also recommended that we keep monitoring the situation over the next 12 months and be open to trying other options to meet our broader housing goals once we determine the effect of our policy as currently drafted.

Outcome:

Council agreed that KDC needs to more actively implement the visitor accommodation requirements in the District Plan. Community compliance will be monitored via regular reporting to Council. In 12 months' time the policy will be reassessed against the district's broader housing goals.

Discretionary Grants Applications 2025 – 2026:

This is the fourth year of the discretionary grants process being run. The application period for funding from the 2024/2025 financial year ran from 1st March to 31st March 2025, with decisions being made by elected members at the April Council meeting. Successful applicants will receive funding after 1 July 2025.

Outcome:

The Council received 19 applications for the discretionary grants fund that totalled \$213,516.12, with only \$100,000 available in the fund for distribution. The Council were pleased to be able to support 14 of those applications which ranged across different sectors being: sports, environmental, arts & culture and community welfare. Responses to all applicants will be released within the next couple of weeks.

KDC and Takahanga Hub Memorandum of Understanding:

In November 2023 the Takahanga Facility Project Team engaged Global Leisure Group (GLG) to progress discussions on a structure/ownership and operational model. One of the outcomes was the proposal to create a “Sports Hub” with the view that the Hub would create a more holistic use and management of the sports groups by aiming to operating as a collective rather than standalone sport clubs.

In April 2025, the Hub was fully incorporated having met the criteria for establishment. Core members of the Hub Board presented to Council on the 16th of April to provide an update on the journey undertaken, next steps and aspirations of the Hub.

In parallel to this, the Takahanga Multisport courts were being upgraded/repairs with phase 1 now complete. Part of this action (phase 1) was that an MOU between KDC and ‘users’ would need to be established. Given the Hubs incorporation it seems appropriate that the MOU is between KDC and the “Hub”.

The development of the MOU has been taking shape since late 2024, in consultation with user groups, as the Multisport Courts neared completion of phase 1.

It should also be noted that the Hub is likely to be a key stakeholder in the consultation for the creation of the Takahanga Domain Reserve Management Plan.

Outcome:

The Council resolved to approve the draft MOU for the CE to finalise with Council’s feedback included. Feedback received was to include wording to reflect the intent for the wider community use/access to remain.