

**Community & Services Committee**  
**19 August 2021**

**Report for Agenda Item 4 | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 4**

**Department: Community Services**

**Title | Taitara Queenstown Lakes Community Facility Strategy 2021 2031**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO**

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- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval on the Queenstown Lakes Community Facility Strategy 2021 2031

**RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

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That the Community & Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular;
2. Approve the Queenstown Lakes Community Facility Strategy 2021 2031.

Prepared by:



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11/08/2021

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Thunes Cloete  
GM Community Services

11/08/2021

## CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

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- 2 Our community spaces are often at the core of what makes our local towns and communities so special. They are where we connect, learn, and play, and are vital in maintaining the lifeblood of our communities. Community facilities are an important part of the Queenstown Lakes community.
- 3 The development of a Community Facilities Strategy was identified as a key gap following the completion of Our Community Spaces report in December 2018.
- 4 Historically, facility development within the Queenstown Lakes Region has been ad-hoc and community led in response to localised needs. The existing facilities, and the organic development process which have worked in the past, can no longer keep up with the rate of growth within the Queenstown Lakes region.
- 5 The development of the Strategy was been delayed due to COVID and from feedback from the Community & Services Committee Workshop on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to ensure that the Strategy was complementary to the Draft Queenstown Lakes – Central Otago Sub-Regional Recreation & Sport Facilities Strategy. The types of groups that the focus of the strategy provides for include local community organisations, social service sector groups and passive recreation groups, i.e. yoga, Bridge, boot camps etc.
- 6 The strategy provides a framework to guide Council's decision making over the next 10 years in the development of new facilities (strategy will be reviewed every 3 year); major upgrades and optimisation of existing facilities; potential divestment of facilities no longer meeting community needs and partnership opportunities with other providers of community facilities. It is not a detailed action plan but provides Council a basis on which to make strategic community facility investment decisions in the future.

## ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

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### 7 SECTION 1: Vision and Context

In 2018 with the support of regional funders (Central Lakes Trust, Community Trust South and the Otago Community Trust), Council commissioned a report on community facilities, groups and services across the District titled “Our Community Spaces”.

The aim of this was to gain insight into the opportunities and challenges that exist for community groups in our district, particularly in relation to facilities. This data has been useful for all community groups, Council and other funders to better plan for the future.

In October 2019 QLDC contracted Impact Consulting to draft a Community Facility Strategy for Council based on the Our Community Spaces research, a large number of other policies, plans and strategies Council had undertaken previously and best practice from other Councils around New Zealand. This work was completed at the end of January 2020.

The vision suggested for this strategy is “A network of fit for purpose, affordable community facilities that connect and support resilient, healthy and vibrant communities”

## 8 SECTION 2: Strategic Alignment & Principles

A number of key community facility strategy principles were developed that reflect both the partnership with Te Tiriti and the QLDC Vision Beyond 2050. The principles identified were an integrated network, collaboration, best placed/future proofed, affordable and sustainable, accessible and inclusive and flexible & efficient use.

These principles outline agreed approaches to community facility provision, planning and prioritisation, which will **protect, maintain and improve** the current and future quality of life and liveability of our local communities.

## 9 SECTION 3: Provision Measures

The strategy identifies two main provision objectives, the 10 min Urban Neighbourhoods and a Facility Hierarchy.

- **Objective 1:** The 10-Minute Neighbourhood; This planning principle can be summarised as: *‘the ability to meet most everyday (non-work) needs locally, primarily within a 20-minute return walk, cycle or local public transport trip of home’.*
- However due to regional topography and a dispersed population base, this objective will not always be achievable for Council. The measure is included as international best practice for liveable cities and an aspirational target to be applied, where possible, in planning future urban spaces.
- **Objective 2:** Facility Hierarchy: Facilities will be classified by their intended catchment and role within the wider network, including 1) Neighbourhood, 2) Local, 3) Destination and 4) Regional level facilities.
- **Note:** Some Regional Level facilities may be located outside of the QLDC geographic area, in partnership or collaboration with other local authorities.

## 10 SECTION 4: Prioritisation & Investment

A series of stages has been identified in the strategy to guide the assessment and prioritisation of community facility investment.

These stages are (a) Identify potential actions, from community need, engagement and consultation; (b) determine QLDC priorities, to determine priority assessment and to enable budget allocation within the Ten Year Plan, (c) Undertaken additional investigation, through a draft concept plan, feasibility or business case, and (d) Confirm funding, Budget allocation is approved for appropriate project delivery.

## 11 SECTION 5: Community Consultation

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 a draft of the strategy was released seeking community feedback through the Let's Talk webpage, an online survey and drop in sessions at the Queenstown Events Centre and Wanaka Recreation Centre.

- Feedback was received from 30 individuals and groups (15 groups - see Let's Talk Summary - Appendix 2). Two people attended the Queenstown drop in session and 8 people in Wanaka.
- The engagement document include 3 questions and the responses are below
  - What is your position on the provision measures?
    - Support 9
    - Neutral 7
    - Oppose 2
  - What do you think about the proposed prioritisation and investment framework?
    - Agree 12
    - Disagree 2
    - Don't know 3
  - Do you think the community facilities strategy provides good recommendations to guide Council now and into the future?
    - Yes 12
    - No 2
    - Don't know 3.

Key themes included;

- General agreement that it is a good strategy and there is support of the guiding principles and support for the "10 minute neighbourhood" which would require extending bus infrastructure to Wanaka and smaller communities (e.g. Glenorchy, Kingston, Hawea, Luggate, Albert Town). Also agreement on the statement regarding protecting open space and to ensure that it is not compromised or eroded.
- A number of facility specific comments were made including;
  - That the Queenstown Memorial Centre / Rugby Club/Squash Club should not be demolished for an arterial road when other viable alternatives are available. Council's already committed that a new facility will be built prior to demolition of the Queenstown Memorial Centre.
  - A need to upgrade the Wanaka hockey turf to full size with children and adults having to travel to Cromwell on a school night. The Central Otago Hockey Association Facilities Strategy indicates a hub and spoke approach to hockey turfs in the region. The Wanaka Recreation Centre Masterplan has indicated a possible increase to a full turf within the next 10+ years.
  - That Hawea Flat Hall must be kept affordable for the community and that QLDC should be obliged to support the local school where currently their school hall cannot fit everyone in. There should be an opportunity to partnership. Council officer's advice is that The Ministry of Education is

responsible for its own facility development to ensure schools have the appropriate level of facilities for their communities. Council officers are already in discussion with the school around the usage of the Hawea Flat hall.

- Strong agreement that Lake Hayes Estate & Shotover Country community need a community facility.
  - That Wanaka and Queenstown need a dedicated performing arts centre that would attract more arts related events to the region. Council has committed to Te Atamira Arts and Cultural Centre at Remarkables Park in the Ten Year Plan. A new Performing Arts Trust has been setup in Wanaka but no discussion has been had with Council at this stage regarding their desire for a facility.
- That the Strategy provide for active transport i.e. lots of bike parking, good lighting and paths at all community facilities and that they are part of an integrated commuter network that enables easy travel by bus, bike, walking and car-pooling.
  - That the strategy should include that money for community facilities be split proportionally between Queenstown and Wanaka based on population. Council officers advise that community facilities are based on a 30% cost recovery model and that community facilities development be based on an appropriate level of service for the communities they serve.

12 This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002:

**Option 1: Council adopt the Community Facility Strategy**

Advantages:

- 13 A decision making framework is agreed to help guide future QLDC and other funders investment into community facilities
- 14 Approach community facility development as part of an integrated and collaborative network that are accessible, affordable and inclusive

Disadvantages:

- 15 Possible negative feedback regarding under investment into community facilities from growing communities

**Option 2: Keep the status quo**

Advantages:

None

Disadvantages:

- 16 Ad hoc decisions on future and current facilities investment are made in isolation
- 17 Pressure from groups to build facilities based around their individual needs rather than taking a collaborative approach
- 18 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it enables QLDC to have a framework for future investment by Council into community facilities across the District.

#### > MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

- 19 The Council has not received any input from Iwi into this Strategy.

#### RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

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- 20 This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 Ineffective management of community facilities within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). This risk has been assessed as having a high inherent risk rating.
- 21 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by providing a strategy and framework to guide Council's decision making and investment into community facilities.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

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- 22 There are no financial implications in the development of the strategy however there are potential significant financial implications both from a capital development and operational/maintenance expenditure view to Council through the development of an implementation plan. These financial implications will be identified through the Implementation plan and are included within the Ten Year Plan process.

#### COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

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- 23 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
  - The Community Facility Strategy aligns with the Thriving People: Our environments and services promote and support health, activity and wellbeing for all vision contained within the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/vision-beyond-2050/>
  - The Community Facility Strategy aligns with the QLDC Disability Policy through inclusion and access to all facilities. <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Disability-Policy-May-2018.pdf>
- 24 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy.
- 25 This matter is included in the Annual Plan and Ten Year Plan

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

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26 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by enabling spaces for a range of community services and activities;
- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies.

## ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

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A	Queenstown Lakes Community Facility Strategy 2021 2031
B	Let's Talk Summary