

## Submission to Draft 9-year LTP Plan -DCC

The Dunedin Area Citizens Association have considered this plan and make the following submission:

1. It is of concern that once again costs to ratepayers are going up!!! Projected Rates increase of 10.5% as from 1 July 2025 -p.8 (Staff originally recommended 9.95% in Jan. 2025). Over the last three years rates have increased a cumulative 42%. We note that 65% of DCC revenue still comes from rates -see p.25. Many local residents on fixed incomes are struggling to meet these rates increases and do not find the Central Government Rates Rebate Scheme helpful. LTP provides for a rates increase of no more than 12% p.a. in the first 3 years -see p.23.

2. Water charge in the rate (currently \$590) is going up at 15% p.a. in the first three years (see p.22 of Local Water Done Well Consultation Document with eventual water metering signalled even if preferred "in house" water service delivery is retained. -see p.24. DACA supports keeping future water delivery "in house" as further costs for setting up a CCO are avoided.

Kerbside Collection rate going up in 25/26 from \$301 to \$343 p.a. Smooth Hill to eventually replace Green Island at \$92.4M with treated toxic waste from Kettle Park going to the new landfill. see pp.34-36. We remain unconvinced that eventually moving to Smooth Hill is the best option in the long term and note ORC consent to continue at Green Island is for 35 years. It seems that Councillors have not been given the full facts and figures to fully determine the validity of alternative options, including an absolute assurance that the flightpath to Momona will not be compromised by a potential bird strike. Furthermore, we question the wisdom of shifting treated Kettle Park toxic waste to this new location with all the potential environmental concerns that it may bring. Surely if the groynes are reinstated at Middle/St Clair Beach the sand will stabilise the coast thus avoiding the need to dig up Kettle Park at all and save further expense of \$37.8M? Is "managed retreat" in this area the best way to protect Victoria Rd?

Is the DCC's fixation with climate change and its desire to achieve zero carbon goals the best use of ratepayer's money or is this ideologically driven by certain members of staff so that even the reconfiguration of Princess St to the tune of \$7M in the next four years is planned? (see p.32-33)

3. There has not been a balanced budget in the last 5 years and none planned for 25/26.-see p.8 Total Actual Revenue for 2025 -\$395M. Actual Expenditure \$430M leaving a deficit of \$35M and planned to reduce to \$3.68M in 25/26. We remain unconvinced that this will be achieved unless further spending aspirations are drastically tightened by Council decree. Personnel costs of \$83M in 24/25 represent 19.29% of total Expenditure and you will note from the attached charts that EFTs have significantly increased in the last 8 years and also the number of highly paid managers. This rising cost was highlighted by DACA last year and nothing seems to have changed. We urge Councillors to look at this on-going cost more closely and trust that with the appointment of a new CEO in October 2026 lots of issues with staffing that are of deep concern to local ratepayers will be finally addressed. Furthermore, a complete audit of Council



finances to check for fraud, waste and abuse of ratepayer money is long overdue. The on-going dysfunctional relationship between governance and operations is also of concern to ratepayers. While the Draft LTP makes no mention of the expected Dividend from DCHL -\$12.48M (2025) 2026 -\$10.99M; we understand this will be financed by Debt and this is concerning.

4. Core Council Debt will be \$817M by 2026 and forecast to reach \$1.092B by 2034. Currently 174% of Revenue and projected to increase to 177.4% next year (\$817M) -see p.27. Interest cost as percentage of Total Expenditure -7.84%.

**There are no plans in this LTP to retire, reduce or pay off debt. Debt Ceiling is 250% of Revenue as set by the Local Government Funding Agency. We would make the point that this guideline seems meaningless as the percentage figure can increase as Revenue increases and still remain within the set guidelines.**

5. Apart from 3 Waters Capital projects (p.26) P.9 sets out what's in the draft budget and following discussions with certain Councillors at our public meetings we support the following being retained in the LTP: Changing places bathroom, Railway Station area; Immediate infrastructure upgrades to South Dunedin; Destination playgrounds; Dunedin Railways; events, festivals, music, and heritage. However, we caution that some of the items are debt funded and this needs to be reviewed in the light of our overall debt situation. As stated in a separate paragraph we do not support the establishment of Smooth Landfill and cannot see why the Peninsula Connection cannot be deferred until LTA funding is reinstated by Central Government as is the case for the Tunnels Trail. We also question the provision of \$2.8M for grass verge maintenance, given that most local verges around the City are mowed by adjoining owners at no cost to the DCC. P.9 of the draft LTP sets out what is not in the budget, and we fully support these decisions. To this we would add there is no justification for "rainbow crossings" near George St and the present controversy over Foulden Maar would suggest leasing the area to the University to manage.

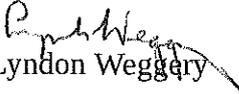
6. While the LTP doesn't mention disposal of surplus properties to retire debt there is a question on p.43 as to the future of the Fortune Theatre and we support removing it from the strategic asset list to facilitate eventual sale that should ultimately include disposing of Sammys.

Also, a question on p.44 as to international visitor fees for Toitu and the Art Gallery which we don't support as this was tried without success at the Art Gallery some 25 years ago. Sunday Parking charges are proposed on p.28, but we would favour better enforcement of existing time limits instead. Although it is conceded that many Sunday workers use the all day free car parking for their convenience this reflects the shortage of car parking in the CBD. Furthermore it is submitted that all day free Sunday car parking could be seen as an incentive to support struggling retailers within the CBD precinct.

7. Last year we submitted concerns on the need to urgently review the policy on Grants and was told this was being attended to. Unfortunately, p.29 of the LTP indicates that for the \$6.6M



in question this has not yet been completed, and we question why the delay?

  
Lyndon Weggery

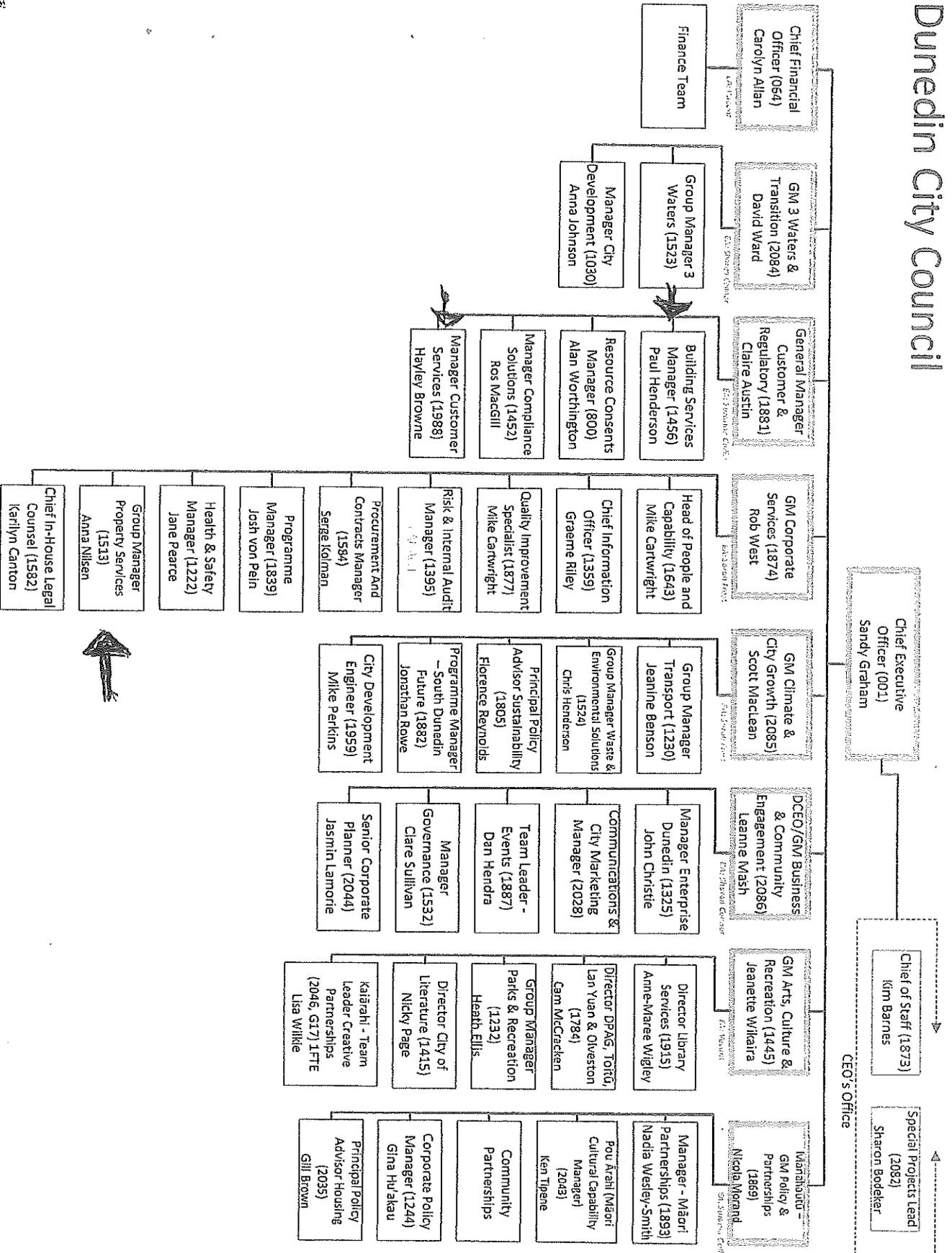
Chairperson, Dunedin Area Citizens Association



DCC PERSONNEL COSTS		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES		\$ 53,536,000	\$ 57,429,000	\$ 62,353,000	\$ 67,488,000	\$ 65,970,000	\$ 68,287,000	\$ 75,285,000	\$ 83,091,000
ELT		\$ 1,755,000	\$ 1,974,000	\$ 1,947,000	\$ 1,988,000	\$ 2,323,000	\$ 2,107,000		
CEO		\$ 384,447	\$ 377,742	\$ 453,477	\$ 435,204	\$ 468,860	\$ 418,080	\$ 449,758	\$ 483,652
Severance Payments		\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 39,513	\$ 34,775	\$ 68,886	\$ 37,410	\$ 69,422	\$ 40,041
		\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,912	\$ 34,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 6,701	\$ 37,421	\$ 6,200
			\$ 15,720	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,000		\$ 17,807	\$ 5,470
			\$ 3,537		\$ 9,800	\$ 6,855		\$ 14,366	
					\$ 5,000	\$ 5,163		\$ 12,594	
					\$ 1,400				
FTEs		529.41	557.76	596.9	610.28	594.38	626.26	664.76	652.02
FT equivalent other		147.68	149.87	150.11	156.43	168.6	137.63	200.91	209.29
Less than \$60,000		529	530	528	505	487	424	483	472
\$60,000 to \$79,999		184	187	188	193	188	214	227	206
\$80,000 to \$99,999		110	141	159	169	167	173	205	183
\$100,000 to \$119,999		32	35	50	80	84	110	129	141
\$120,000 to \$139,999		18	18	19	20	21	29	47	90
\$140,000 to \$159,999		6	10	15	13	12	17	21	27
\$160,000 to \$199,999		7	8	9					
\$160,000 to \$179,999					8	8	10	11	13
\$180,000 to \$199,999								6	10
\$200,000 to \$379,999		4	4	6					
\$180,000 to \$279,999					8	6	7		
\$200,000 to \$259,999								6	6
\$280,000 to \$459,999					2	3	6		
\$260,000 to \$459,999								6	
\$260,000 to \$499,999									6
Total number of employees		890	933	974	998	976	990	1141	1154
				Pre covid	3 months covid				



# Dunedin City Council



**Notes:**

- 1. Risk (currently under Enterprise Dunedin) will transfer to Customer & Regulatory in Oct 2024
- 2. Anne Waree Wigley - seconded as Director Library Services until 31 March 2024
- 3. Florence Reynolds - parental cover for Jinky MacTavish
- 4. Heath Ellis - seconded as GM Parks & Recreation until 31 March 2024
- 5. Mike Cartwright - Substantive role Quality Improvement Specialist; Concurrent Head of People and Capability
- 6. Nadia Wesley-Smith - Fixed term until 9 Feb 2024
- 7. Nicola Morand - seconded from role 1859

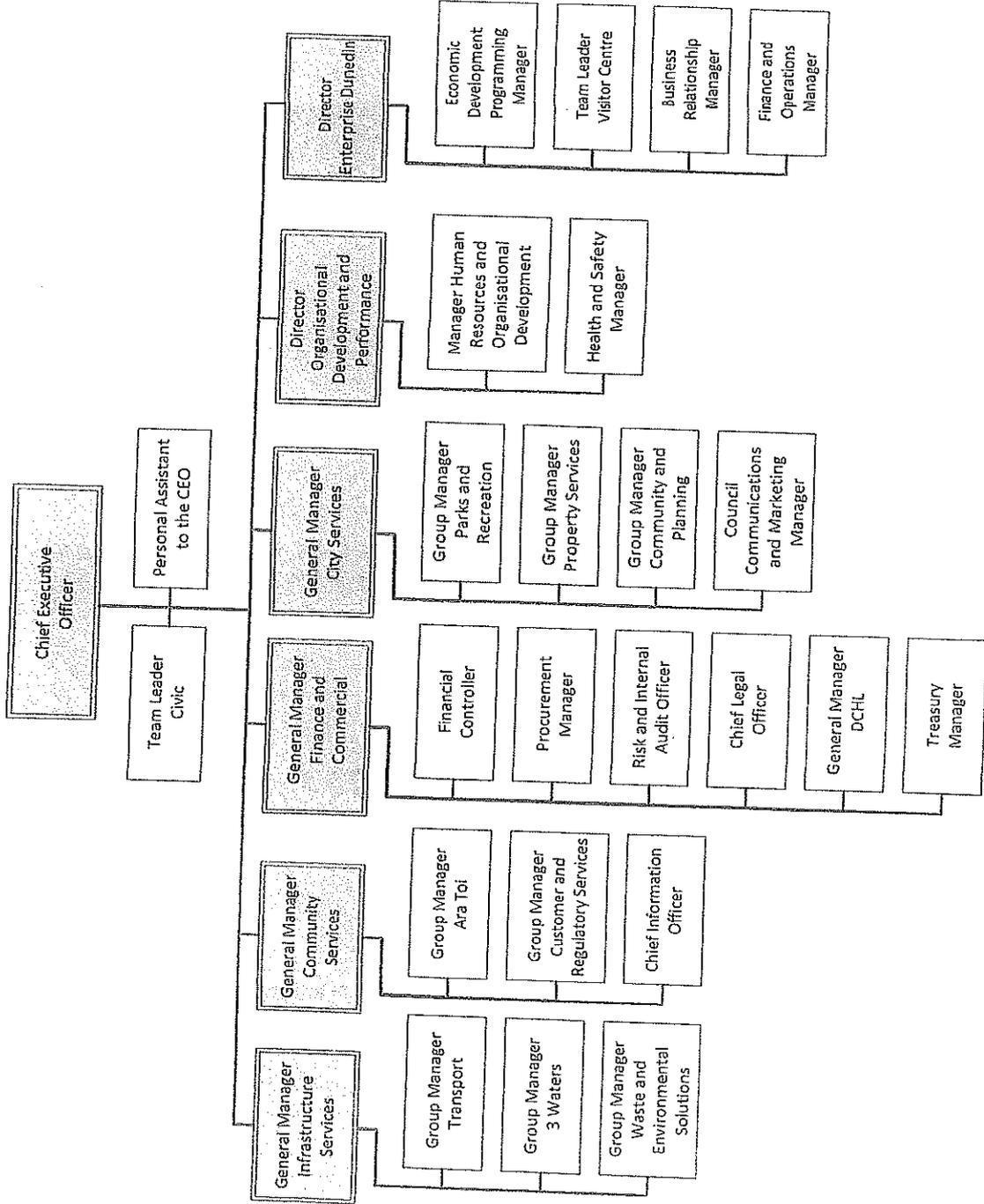


Date: 17 Jan 2024

**Key:**

ELT position

# Dunedin City Council



KEY:

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) =  

Date: October 2018