Weekly Executive Update Report

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General Updates

1 Council diary and decisions

1.1 The Te Pae Māori Committee was held on Monday 9 November and the Finance and Performance Committee will be held on Thursday 12 November.

1.2 Meetings for the remainder of 2026 are;

a) Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee on Friday 20 November
b) Council on Monday 23 November at 8:30am
c) Council (a 2-day meeting) on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 November at 8:30am
d) Council on Wednesday 2 December at 8:30am
e) Council on Thursday 3 December at 9:00am
f) Council on Friday 4 December at 9:30am
g) Council (a 5-day meeting) from Monday 7 to Friday 11 December at 8:30am

1.3 You can watch a live stream of public meetings here, or play them back at a later time (117) Dunedin City Council - YouTube

1.4 You can catch up on decisions made at the Thursday 5 November Council meeting here November 2026 - Dunedin City Council

2 A brighter and more energy-efficient Civic Centre

2.1 A major lighting upgrade at the Civic Centre is producing impressive results, substantially reducing the amount of electricity needed to operate the building.

2.2 The new LED lighting, smart controls and daylight harvesting have reduced lighting load by approximately 82.5%, saving an estimated 344,000 kWh of electricity each year.

2.3 More broadly, annual electricity consumption across the Civic Centre has fallen by around 34%, from approximately 1.0 GWh to 658,000 kWh per year. This is particularly positive given that additional air-conditioning equipment and other electrical loads have been added to the building during this period.

2.4 EECA supported the initiative through its energy-efficiency co-funding programme and has now approved its final contribution, taking total external funding received to $68,840 plus GST.

2.5 The completed project provides an excellent example of how practical improvements to our existing buildings can deliver real and measurable reductions in energy use and ongoing operating costs.

3 Edgar Centre roof replacement progresses

3.1 Council has confirmed the preferred roof replacement solution for the Edgar Centre Wool Store, approving a rolled-on-site profiled metal roof without translucent panels. This provides direction for Property Services to progress the project following the detailed investigations and options assessment undertaken to date. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2027.

3.2 The next phase will include an independent structural engineering peer review of the proposed strengthening requirements, including consideration of the structural implications of a potential future roof-mounted solar system.

4 Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti Dunedin Public Libraries update

4.1 The library app will soon be updated to enable customers to find and place holds on "on order" titles, find out more here https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/services/free-mobile-app.

4.2 Due to changes in formats, supplier availability and declining usage, we're saying farewell to three lending collections – Maps, Playaways and Hot Pick magazines. We continue to have a map collection in Heritage at City Library, as well as atlases and travel guides in the lending collections. We have lending copies in print as well as digital formats via BorrowBox? We continue to provide options in CD and MP3 formats, and digital platforms. We're happy to receive feedback via the Tell us what you think form.

4.3 Roxanne Unwin, Programme Coordinator, is presenting about the development and impact of Taupuni Oro Music Studio at South Dunedin Community Library at the International Association of Music Libraries (NZ) online conference.

4.4 Some months ago, we decided to rescue the cane chairs that had belonged to Alfred Reed and recover them. The beautiful William Morris Arts and Crafts print The Strawberry Thief was chosen as a nod to his collecting of books by William Morris's Kelmscott Press, of which we have some very beautiful examples.



4.5 Have your say! Click here to take part in the nationwide Public Libraries of New Zealand Community Impact Survey.

5 Employee Engagement and Wellbeing Survey

5.1 Each year, the DCC undertakes an Employee Engagement and Wellbeing Survey to understand employees' experience of working at DCC and identify opportunities to improve. 65% of employees completed the 2026 Engagement and Wellbeing Survey, providing a broad view of employee experience across DCC. The results put overall engagement at 59%, up four percentage points from 2025.

5.2 Results are now being shared across DCC, with teams reviewing their results and identifying areas for action.

6 MCERT Climate Adaptation Preparedness Information Request

6.1 A draft response to the Ministry for the Environment's Monitoring Climate Adaptation Preparedness (MCERT) information request has been prepared and is currently with ELT for review and endorsement.

6.2 The response highlights DCC's progress since 2024, including adoption of the Climate Adaptation Policy and initiation of the Climate Resilience Framework, Citywide Climate Risk Assessment and Citywide Climate Adaptation Plan programme. It also identifies ongoing challenges relating to adaptation funding, affordability and implementation. Following Executive Leadership Team feedback, the response will be finalised and submitted to central government.

7 Zero Carbon & Climate Adaptation and Resilience meetings

7.1 This week, on Tuesday 10 November the Zero Carbon Alliance Collaboration Group met to discuss progress made in 2026, and priority work areas for 2027. The Collaboration Group includes Senior Leadership from each of the six Zero Carbon Alliance partners and meets twice yearly to provide oversight of the Zero Carbon Alliance work programme, and direction on future work areas.

7.2 Staff from DCC's Zero Carbon and Climate Adaptation and Resilience teams attended the annual Otago Climate Officers Group (OCOG) meeting in Alexandra on Thursday 5 November. Representatives from Otago Regional Council and the five district councils participated. OCOG is a well-established regional network that supports collaboration, knowledge sharing and coordinated climate action across Otago. The group reports to the Otago Mayoral Forum, which has identified climate change as a focus area for the current triennium. OCOG agreed four priorities for joint work in 2027: climate mainstreaming, regional spatial planning, energy resilience, and climate hazard information and risk management. These workstreams will support greater alignment and coordination of climate-related activities across the region.

8 Join us for Christmas in the Garden on Saturday 5 December!

8.1 Council will kick off the festive season at the Dunedin Botanic Garden on Saturday 5 December, from 3pm to 8pm, with a free, family-friendly afternoon of Christmas cheer.

8.2 The DKCM Christmas All Stars return to lead a stellar bandstand line-up, joined by Rainbow Rosalind, The Prince of Purple, Hot Steppers and The Andy P Band, with the Eclipse Cheerleading Squad adding extra sparkle.

8.3 MC Melanie Kerr will keep the energy high, while families can enjoy games, activities and a very special visit from Santa.

8.4 Attendees can bring a picnic or enjoy food from the food trucks and Aster Café, then settle in with whānau and friends.

8.5 Event organisers will postpone the event to Saturday 12 December if wet weather requires and will share updates on the DCC Facebook page.

8.6 Find out more here: https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/news-and-events/whats-on/christmas-in-the-garden



9 Parks and recreation update

Aquatics

9.1 The Te Puna o whakaehu spa pool tiling work is now underway and we expect to reopen the spa pool mid-December 2026.

9.2 Enterprise Dunedin staff are working with the Major Events group regarding the use of the St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool during the 2027 World Surfing Pro Event.

Botanic Garden

9.3 The Botanic Garden counted a total of 1542 visitors to the Information Centre in the period 28 October to 3 November 2026.

9.4 A new exhibition, *The Botanicalists II: The Bud Awakens*, has started in the Botanic Garden Information Centre and will run until Tuesday 29 December. This exhibition is by the Botanicalists a group of South Island artists who are brought together by a passion for botanical arts. This is their second exhibition at the Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Parks Planning

9.5 Coastal Dune Reserves Management Plan Review has begun engagement: Please go to Currently consulting on - Dunedin City Council to give us your feedback.

9.6 The second stage of the Rotary Park (Rotary Club project) track development is due to start in November / December 2026. This will eventually link Rotary Park with surrounding streets.

Sports grounds and venue bookings

9.7 Bookings for the week to Wednesday 4 November

Field Bookings	206
Gymnasium Bookings	24

Lights	0
Change facilities	39
Athletics Track and fields	12
Botanic Gardens	1
Reserves & Carparks	12
Pavilions and function rooms	0
Total:	296

City Sanctuary

9.8 So far this year Dunedin residents and volunteers have contributed an amazing 22,398 hours towards predator control in the form of trapping, track cutting, attending upskill events, cleaning and servicing traps, doing their own pest monitoring, and so much more.

9.9 Thanks to the awesome work of Orokonui Ecosanctuary, the Dunedin Botanic Garden breed-for-release programme, and the predator control efforts around Orokonui by the Halo Project, kākā are spreading their wings and heading to the city with a Kākā seen in the Town Belt.

9.10 Read more about City Sanctuary here and find out what to do if Kākā visit your backyard.

Park Operations

9.11 Absorption testing of several older soft-fall playground surfaces is complete. One surface, at Leighton Park, failed, and we have scheduled work to resolve this within the current financial year. Work on Riselaw Road Playground continues, with completion expected this week and a handover inspection planned for next week.

9.12 Track maintenance at Mt Cargill is complete and the track is open. Flagstaff track maintenance continues, with the work due for completion and the track due to reopen soon. Updates can be found here Tracks closures - Dunedin City Council

9.13 Sportsfields are now using grass wickets as well as artificial wickets.

9.14 As we head into Dunedin's windy season there is minimal storm damage to date.

9.15 The horticulture team have completed all plantings now until Autumn.

9.16 Development of the new area at Green Park Cemetery continues, with sealing of the new road expected this week.

9.17 Mosgiel Memorial Gardens CCTV is back online following repairs to the system after all three Wi-Fi units were deliberately vandalised.

9.18 Restoration of the Kuri (Dog) sculpture on Magnet Street has been completed, pictured below.





10 3 Waters update

10.1 A challenging sewer repair beneath Lindsay Creek on North Road was successfully completed on Wednesday 4 November 2026.

10.2 The 375 mm sewer pipe has been serving the area since 1907 and sits around 4 metres below road level, in the creek bed beneath the bridge. Over time, several defects near the northern bridge abutment had allowed groundwater to enter the pipe, adding unnecessary water to the wastewater network.

10.3 Working in such a difficult location called for some careful planning and a smart solution. After managing wastewater flows, inspecting the pipe with CCTV and thoroughly cleaning it, the team installed four Smart Lock patch liners to seal the damaged sections. **T**his was the first time this repair technology has been used on the DCC sewer network.

10.4 To keep disruption to a minimum, contractors worked overnight from 7pm to 7am, with traffic management in place, while keeping the sewer operating throughout the work.

10.5 The repair was successfully completed, extending the life of this 119-year-old sewer and significantly reducing the amount of groundwater entering the wastewater network. It's a





great example of how modern technology can be used to give some of our oldest infrastructure a new lease on life.

11 Transport update

11.1 The bitumen price index has risen by 80% since the Middle East Conflict 2026 (MEC-26) began. This will have a material impact on deliverable quantities in bitumen reliant maintenance and renewal activities.

11.2 The work at Kettle Park is underway to extend the geobag structure to further protect the landfill. Fulton Hogan established a work base at the end of Moana Rua Road and will start operating on the beach during the first half of next week.

11.3 Approximately 32 coastal erosion hotspots have been identified along the Taieri Mouth Road transport corridor. Among these sites, 6 present a high risk to the transport corridor (erosion 3 m or less from the road or directly undermining the road), 9 present a medium risk to the transport corridor (erosion 3- 6 m away from the road) and 13 present a low risk to the erosion corridor (signs of erosion and slope instability more than 6m away from the road). Due to restricted beach access in winter, only two sites can be stabilised each year during favourable summer conditions. We are aiming to work on two of the high-risk sites before next year's storm season, and we have started developing options for the other high-risk sites.

12 The NZ Coastal Society (NZCS) Conference is on in Dunedin this week

12.1 The 2026 New Zealand Coastal Society (NZCS) Conference is being held at Tūhura Otago Museum in Dunedin from 10–12 November 2026, bringing together coastal professionals, including scientists, engineers, planners, government practitioners, iwi and hapū representatives, from across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

12.2 The annual conference provides a key platform for sharing knowledge, addressing emerging coastal challenges and strengthening collaboration across research, practice and policy. This year's conference is centred around the whakataukī *He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka — a choppy sea can be navigated by the canoe*. This whakataukī reflects the importance of collective effort, shared purpose and collaboration in navigating uncertainty and change. In this spirit, the conference is focused on building coastal resilience through interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthening connections between coastal professionals and supporting more resilient coastal environments and communities.

12.3 Chaired by Raphael Krier-Mariani, the conference is supported by Dunedin City Council as its platinum sponsor and marks its return to Dunedin for the first time in a decade. Hosting the conference provides a valuable opportunity to showcase Dunedin's coastal environments, management initiatives and challenges, while bringing together leading coastal experts to discuss local, national and international approaches to coastal resilience.

12.4 This year's conference is welcoming approximately 170 coastal professionals, including 18% students, with 77% of delegates travelling from outside Dunedin, including participants from across the Tasman. Beyond facilitating knowledge exchange and professional collaboration, the conference provides valuable opportunities for students and emerging professionals to establish connections within the coastal sector. It is also expected to deliver economic benefits to Dunedin through accommodation, hospitality, transport and venue services, while strengthening the city's profile as a centre for coastal science, engineering and resilience.

12.5 Further information about the conference, including the programme and event details, is available on the NZCS Conference 2026 website.

13 Community Partnerships update

13.1 The Dunedin City Council Community Partnership team welcomes correspondence from community groups at community@dcc.govt.nz and invites you to read more about the team activities here on the updated webpage Community Partnerships - Dunedin City Council.

Enviroschools

13.2 Our Enviroschools team is working with schools across Dunedin on a range of environmental projects. The team is delivering Marine Metre Squared with Port Chalmers, completing annual reviews with John McGlashan, Waitati and North East Valley, and teaching Black Trakka tunnel footprint identification with Elmgrove. It has also led urban wetland planting and wetland health monitoring with East Taieri, run Bumblebee activities with Āraiteuru pōwhiri, and is taking its Bumblebee Roadshow to Clutha schools.

13.3 Read more about their activities here Enviroschools | News and Events

Taskforce Green

13.4 Taskforce Green provided general tidy up support to two properties, spent a day mulching at the Northern Cemetery to support the Heritage Roses, and spent another day weeding along the Coastal Connection. The team also continues to weed-eat verges at the 29 sites it looks after across the city, remove graffiti and paint the playground at St Leonards School.

Keep Dunedin Beautiful

13.5 Keep Dunedin Beautiful is working on its next mural project and having plaques printed for previously completed murals. The team is also supporting community groups with their clean-ups and connecting public enquiries with volunteer groups.

Community

13.6 Wednesday drop-in sessions for community groups at South D Library continue – *feel free to email if you want to know more!*

13.7 Rates Relief Grants assessments are underway, and letters are being sent out to Community Grant applicants this week.

13.8 Āraiteuru Marae will host a Manaakitanga Pōwhiri on Saturday 14 November welcoming newcomers to the city and the whole community. The event will run from 10.30am-2pm. Some of our staff will be attending to help on the day.

14 City of Literature update

Ōtepoti Dunedin Writers' Workshop on today

14.1 Ōtepoti He Puna Auaha Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature is proud to partner with Ōtepoti Dunedin Writers' Workshop. Established over 50 years ago, Ōtepoti Dunedin Writers' Workshop is a friendly group that welcomes all writers, established and emerging.

14.2 Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss and practise writing across all genres, with expert writers invited throughout the year to run workshops and offer individual feedback on internal competition entries. Today's meeting is at 5.30 p.m. on the 4th Floor, Dunedin City Library. *New members are warmly welcomed*.

Octagon Poetry Collective tonight at the New Athenaeum Theatre

14.3 Ōtepoti He Puna Auaha Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature is also proud to partner with Octagon Poetry Collective on its free Poetry Nights. Octagon Poetry Collective brings together local and visiting poets, on the second Wednesday of each month, for readings followed by an open mic. A supportive stage is offered to both experienced and new writers to listen, perform, and connect.

14.4 Poetry Night is taking place tonight at 7 p.m. at the New Athenaeum Theatre in The Octagon, shortly after the Ōtepoti Dunedin Writers' Workshop. The Poetry Night will feature two local multi-award-winning poets Sue Wootton - Otago University Press Publisher and former Burns Fellow - and Megan Kitching, who was the inaugural Caselberg Trust Elizabeth Brooke-Carr Emerging Writer in Residence. *Everyone is welcome to bring a poem to share or just come along and enjoy the words*.

