Open briefing: Reserves Investment Strategy reset for Long Term Plan

17 April 2026 – 10.10am

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Fauono Laban, Cr Barratt, Deputy Mayor Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Puketapu, Cr Ravi, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Yung, and B Spedding (via visual-audio link).

Staff: J Miller, Chief Executive; J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; A Moore; Head of Connected Communities, C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive Office; S Sandhu, Assets Manager – Sportsground; A Nelson, Head of Parks and Reserves; and J Young, Democracy Advisor

Apologies

Cr Tonga-Grant was not present.

Presenters

A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities and Nelson, Head of Parks and Reserves.

Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to introduce the Reserves Investment Strategy and provide members with an overview of the associated investment fund and the draft project list for consideration in the Long Term Plan (LTP) process.

Introduction

Members received a briefing on the Reserves Investment Strategy (RIS) and the proposed reserve investment programme for the LTP, including the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund, projected to reach $50M by 2037. The presentation outlined the approach to prioritising reserve projects, focusing on optimising assets, managing maintenance, rationalising lower-value assets and tracks, and investing in high-value green spaces in response to rising housing density and community demand.

Presentation by Andrea Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – Previous Council Papers

Slide 3 – Purpose of Briefing

Slide 4 – RIS Timeline

Slide 5 – RIS Balancing Act

Slide 6 – Alignment with the Target Operating Model (TOM) and Assets Review

Slide 7 – RIS Matrix Criteria

Slide 8 – Reserves Purchase & Development Fund

Slide 9 – New Projects – Black Creek Wainuiomata Shared Path

Slide 10 - Why Wainuiomata? – A Transformative Opportunity

Slide 11 - Why Wainuiomata? – A Transformative Opportunity

Slide 12 – Vision and Objectives – What Could Black Creek Become?

Slide 13 – Before and After Images

Slide 14 - New Projects

Questions and discussion points

- The Head of Parks and Reserves advised that the assessment matrix was designed to provide an objective framework for comparing projects, with criteria including growth, accessibility, socioeconomic factors, and population needs. The Director Neighbourhood and Communities noted that the strategy was intended to respond primarily to areas experiencing growth and increased demand for access to green space, while also recognising equity considerations for communities with fewer transport or recreational opportunities.
- The Head of Parks and Reserves advised that community interest and local support for projects would also be considered, even though the criteria did not require every area to receive investment.
- The Director Neighbourhood and Communities advised that the assessment matrix considered maintenance costs, accessibility, and existing gaps in reserve provision to support equitable access to green space, while noting that final project prioritisation would remain Council's decision.
- In response to comments from a member regarding the prioritisation of specific reserve and track projects, including the Taitā–Stokes Valley linkage and Holborn Reserve, the Head of Parks and Reserves advised that the RIS operated within a fixed funding envelope and that not all projects could be delivered within the programme timeframe. He noted that the assessment model was designed to consistently compare projects across factors such as affordability, community access, and overall value.
- The Director Neighbourhood and Communities advised that future work through the Target Operating Model process, including the rationalisation of reserve assets and tracks, would inform future prioritisation decisions. Members were invited to submit additional projects or reassessment requests for consideration in the next iteration of the matrix and associated LTP reporting.

Next steps

- There would be further opportunity for members to discuss and refine the assessment criteria and project prioritisation before the LTP was finalised.
- Requests from members regarding the prioritisation of the Taitā–Stokes Valley linkage track and Holborn Reserve would be considered as part of the ongoing assessment process.
- Members were advised to submit additional projects or reassessment requests to inform the updated assessment matrix and future reporting to Council.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1: OPEN 10am Reserves Investment Strategy re-set for LTP - Briefing - 170426.pptx

The briefing closed at 10.33am