



Open Briefing: City centre and riverside projects update

3 June 2026 – 10.05am

Attendees

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

Staff: A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; R Hardie, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; L Desrosiers, Head of Business and Urban Development; B Gale, Urban Design Lead; J Allen, Housing and Development Lead; E Ananad, Head of Capital Delivery; J Randall, Democracy Administrator.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Presenters

L Desrosiers, Head of Business and Urban Development and B Gale, Urban Design Lead

Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to present the proposed city centre street upgrades plan and Riverside Park design, and to seek feedback on both.

City centre street upgrades – Presentation by L Desrosiers, Head of Business and Urban Development and B Gale, Urban Design Lead

Slide 1 – **Street Upgrades (header)**

Slide 2 – Purpose

Slide 3 – Priority areas

Slide 4 – Engagement activities

Slide 5 – Engagement reach

Slide 6 – General sentiment

Slide 7 – **Area specific feedback (header)**

Slide 8 – Andrews Avenue

Slide 9 – Andrews Avenue – feedback

Slide 10 – Andrews Avenue – way forward

Slide 11 – Dudley Street

Slide 12 – Dudley Street – way forward

Slide 13 – High Street South

Slide 14 – High Street South – feedback

Slide 15 – High Street South – way forward

Slide 16 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Daly Street and Margaret Street

Slide 17 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Daly Street and Margaret Street – Feedback

Slide 18 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Daly Street and Margaret Street – way forward

Slide 19 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Bunny Street and Knights Road

Slide 20 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Bunny Street and Knights Road – feedback

Slide 21 – City Link Bridge Corridor: Bunny Street and Knights Road – way forward

Questions and discussion points

- More bus stops are proposed for Queens Drive as Bunny Street cannot accommodate the current bus volumes. Officers are considering converting the Queens Drive taxi stand into bus stops to allow buses to continue south along Queens Drive. Additional cycle stands will also be needed to support the connection to the proposed City Link Bridge.
- Officers have a long-term plan for a cycling connection from The Beltway to the city, and Bunny Street will be part of that route. Some businesses have raised concerns about parking losses in Bunny Street due to the cycleway. The cycleway does not currently connect to the network at the east end, so could create a safety concern. The changes planned for Bunny Street would make it easier for Queensgate to expand near the existing bus stops.
- Officers will investigate possibilities for more parking in the city centre area and will create a package of options ahead of Council's Committee meeting in September 2026.
- Officers will consider accessibility measures for the city centre, such as smooth surfaces, tactile footpath markings, and calibrated crossings to improve safety for people with disabilities.

- Officers will investigate whether a raised crossing closer to Knights Road would improve pedestrian safety.
- Officers have undertaken traffic modelling to look at traffic flows on Queens Drive after the upgrades and are assessing the impact on parking and on traffic flow at the City Fitness corner. Officers will present the findings to Council's Committee meeting in September 2026.
- Officers will investigate the feasibility of installing traffic lights on both Knights Road and Bunny Street, and the impact of having two sets of traffic lights located so close together.

Riverside projects – Presentation by L Desrosiers, Head of Business and Urban Development and B Gale, Urban Design Lead

Slide 1 – **Riverside Park (header)**

Slide 2 – Riverside Park map

Slide 3 – Riverside Park – design features

Slide 4 – Riverside Park – design features

Slide 5 – Feedback (1)

Slide 6 – Feedback (2)

Slide 7 – Way forward

Questions and discussion points

Officers agreed to respond to the following:

- The cost of replacing structures in the floodplain, the expected frequency and cost of flooding, and whether examples of flood recovery from other cities have been considered.
- Whether more trees are planned than shown in the design sketches and how they may affect access to the river.
- Whether parking could be extended further into the green space.
- Whether lighting can be included in the park area to allow it to be used after dark.

Next steps

- September 2026 – Seek Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee approval of the concept design
- October 2026 – Detailed design starts
- November 2026 – Seek Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee approval of Traffic Resolution
- From 2028 – Street Upgrades construction starts
- From 2030 – Riverside Park construction starts
- 2031 – All works completed

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: Street Upgrades and Riverside Park

The briefing closed at 10.44am