



Central Otago Heritage Trust
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Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122
Alexandra 9340

24 April 2021

RE: Submission on the CODC Long-term Plan (LTP)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the LTP.

Please find enclosed our submission covering our feedback and recommendations for the **District Museum Function**.

This submission is made jointly by the Central Otago Heritage Trust and our following members:

- Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery
- Clyde Museum
- Cromwell Museum
- Maniototo Early Settlers Museum
- Teviot Museum

We would like to speak to our submission at the relevant CODC hearing.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any queries.

Kind regards

PP. *M. J. Ritchie*

David Ritchie
021 220 9560
Chair- Central Otago Heritage Trust

On behalf of: Central Otago Heritage Trust and the five museums listed above.

1 ABOUT US

1.1 Central Otago Heritage Trust

- The Central Otago Heritage Trust (COHT) established in 2008 and Trustees elected by Central Otago's major heritage organisations to represent their collective interests for the preservation, protection and celebration of Central Otago's rich heritage.
- The [Central Otago Heritage Strategy](#) and [Plan](#) were developed in 2016-2017 through consultation with our member groups. These documents were ratified and adopted by members in early 2018. The Central Otago Heritage Trust receives financial support from the Central Otago District Council to employ a part-time Heritage Coordinator to help implement the Strategy and Plan.
- The Trust Board appreciates the support of Council and the community for this funding and advise that we intend to apply to Council's contestable pool of funds in the new financial year, for continued support of a heritage grant.

1.2 Trustees:

- David Ritchie (Chair), Greg Bodeker, Russell Garbutt, Lynda Gray, John Kerr, Ross Naylor, Kristy Rusher & Graye Shattky. David Campbell is the Council Representative.

1.3 Our Members

- Alexandra Miners Village & Riverside Park Trust
- Central Lakes Trust
- Central Otago District Council
- Central Otago Environmental Society
- Central Otago Libraries
- Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery
- Clyde Museum
- Cromwell Museum
- Department of Conservation
- Drybread Cemetery Trust
- Heritage New Zealand Pohere Taonga
- Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust
- Otago Museum
- Promote Dunstan
- St Bathans Heritage and Environmental Protection Society
- Teviot Valley District Museum Committee
- Teviot Valley Heritage Trust
- Upper Clutha Historical Records Society

1.4 Main Points of our Submission

- (i) We support the development of the 'Museum Sector Strategy' that will guide the District Museum Function.
- (ii) We propose an alternative option to the four District Museum Function options presented in the LTP. It has been acknowledged and agreed by Council staff that the Council's preferred option is unlikely to succeed without the support from the sector. The sector does not support Councils' preferred option.

2 OUR SUBMISSION

This submission is made jointly by the Central Otago Heritage Trust and our following members:

- Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery
- Clyde Museum
- Cromwell Museum
- Maniototo Early Settlers Museum
- Teviot Museum

2.1 Review of the District Museum Function

We support the development of the District Museum Sector Strategy that, when finalized, will be the guiding document for the District Museum Function coordination.

Just over two years ago, the Trust encouraged the Council to undertake a review of the museum sector and provided draft terms of reference for that purpose. We have advocated for a sharing of resources and a strong cohesive network approach to coordinating museums. This would need to be balanced with strong individual museum identities that would continue to be local community-led and run.

It is pleasing to see that the Council has made some progress on the development of the District Museum Strategy. However, the first draft released in January 2021 did not receive a positive response from the sector. The main feedback was the absence of strategic goals.

COHT met with Council staff and suggested that a workshop be scheduled with the five museum representatives to work through the document. We also recommended that Ian Griffin, the Director from Otago Museum, facilitate this session. With five museums, COHT and CODC representatives in attendance, the group quickly developed and agreed to eight strategic goals in one session:

1. Value relationships with mana whenua and other communities
2. Recognise that each museum has a unique story to tell.
3. Museum offerings are relevant for locals and visitors.
4. Identify and share skills, ideas and resources – human and physical.
5. Work together to secure sustainable resourcing.
6. Work with stakeholders to develop relationships based on mutual trust.
7. Commit to the care and development of our collections.
8. Recruit, retain, support and value our volunteers and friends.

This workshop demonstrates what can be achieved when museum representatives are engaged collectively in a workshop context. All museums saw the value in greater collaboration and expressed willingness to build on what had been achieved at this session.

2.2 LTP District Museum Function options

Council's Long-term Plan proposes four options for the 'District Museum Function'.

1. **In-house museum function.** Move the delivery of the district museum function in house by council (Council's preferred option)
2. **Status Quo.** Continue to provide a grant to Alexandra District Museum Inc, to deliver the museum function.
3. **No funding.** Provide no money for a district museum function

4. **Extend the role outlined in option 1** (above) to incorporate heritage in addition to the museum focus.

2.2.1 Our Preferred Alternative Option

The following option was discussed between COHT and Saskia Righarts at CODC prior to the Long-term Plan consultation phase. Saskia recommended we put this option into our LTP submission. At this meeting it was acknowledged that the Council’s preferred option is unlikely to succeed without the support from the sector.

The sector does not support Council’s preferred option.

We strongly recommend an alternative Museum District Function Option

Option Details	Funding	Impact of District Rateoayers
<p>Our Alternative Option: Move the delivery of the district museum function to an independent body that is coordinated by the museum sector (e.g., A Trust)</p>	<p>Ratepayer Funding: \$50,000</p>	<p>No additional rates increase as already funded at \$3.50 per ratepayer, with an increase in service level.</p>

It is important to note that with this alternative option Council is still responsible for museum capital and infrastructural planning and budgets.

Examples of successful, quasi-independent bodies that are set up to co-ordinate sector activities currently supported by Central Otago District Council include:

- 1. Central Otago District Arts Trust (CODAT)**

CODAT is a Charitable Trust, funded by Council, which supports local artists and the arts. CODAT was founded in 2009 to implement [The Arts Strategy](#). This document followed discussions facilitated by CODC, Central Otago artists and representatives of local art genres. These groups formed CODAT to further develop the Central Otago arts sector. CODAT has eight Trustees and is supported by a part-time coordinator who is paid from CODC funding. CODAT reports back to Council on progress in achieving objectives and tasks in the agreed plan.

- 2. Central Otago Heritage Trust (COHT)**

COHT is a Charitable Trust, funded by Council to represent their collective interests for the preservation, protection and celebration of Central Otago’s rich heritage. Trustees elected by Central Otago’s major heritage organisations. The Trust is tasked with coordinating the implementation of the [Central Otago Heritage Strategy](#) and [Plan](#). The Trust, comprising of 8 Trustees and a Council representative, is supported by a part-time coordinator who is paid from CODC funding. COHT reports back to Council on progress in achieving objectives and tasks in the agreed plan.

2.2.2 How our proposed option would work

The Independent body set-up to coordinate the District Museum Function would operate in a similar way as CODAT and COHT, described above.

For example: The independent body (e.g., a Trust) would represent the collective interests of the Museum sector. The Trust would be tasked with co-ordinating the implementation of the Museum Sector Strategy and Plan (currently under development). Trustees would be elected by the district museums and would be supported by a paid part-time coordinator funded by Council (50K). A Council representative would be co-opted to attend Trust meetings. The Trust would report back to Council on progress in achieving objectives and tasks in the agreed plan.

Benefits of this option

Our proposed option offers the following benefits to the museum sector, Council and the community:

- The model advocates a 'by museums for museums' perspective whereby the sector takes greater ownership of the strategy.
- Increases the ability of museums to work as a network to foster greater sharing of ideas and resources.
- Is a cost-effective model – overhead costs are kept to a minimum allowing more dollars to be spent on delivering outcomes.
- Allows Council to take a more hands-off approach, while still having assurance that goals are being met through regular reporting.
- Foster stronger relationship with Council based on mutual trust.
- There would be no additional rates increase as already funded at \$3.50 per ratepayer, with an increase in service level.

Thank you for the opportunity to give written feedback on the LTP. We would like to speak to our submission at the relevant CODC hearing.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback regarding the LTP. We wish to speak to our submission at the relevant CODC hearing.

Kind regards

PP. 

David Ritchie (Chair - Central Otago Heritage Trust)

On behalf of:

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- Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery
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