

# Our ongoing collaboration within local government

Southland’s councils and their neighbouring Otago local authorities have a history of collaboration and engagement on initiatives that cover a wide spectrum of services and business activities. The Councils will continue to look at, and for, opportunities for effectiveness and efficiency gains throughout the range of activities and outcomes that they are expected to deliver for their communities and businesses.

The economies of scale and the cost-effectiveness of working jointly or collaboratively, and avoiding duplication, provide the rationale for the sharing of ideas and effort.

Areas the councils are currently working together on include:

- climate change
- regional spatial planning
- responding to Government reform

Existing shared services arrangements (formal and informal) that have been operating for several years are set out in the table below:

	Tangata Whenua (Māori) Engagement	Emergency Management	Regional Planning, Strategy, & Development	Transport Planning	Libraries	Computer Services	Climate Change	Building Control
Gore District Council	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Southland District Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Invercargill City Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Environment Southland	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Otago Regional Council	✓			✓				
Queenstown Lakes District Council	✓				✓			
Clutha District Council	✓				✓	✓		✓

The recommendations in the *He piki tūranga, he piki kotuku The future for local government* report alongside the *Beyond 2025 Southland – Regional Long Term Plan* provide further platforms for conversation on these opportunities.

The Council through this Long-term Plan commits to continuing its involvement in investigating and joining collaborative processes and shared projects with its neighbouring councils where there are advantages and efficiencies in doing so for the council and the community.