Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review 2026 Feedback

22 January – 13 February 2026

Full submission booklet

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/01/2026

First name: Janet **Last name:** Hadley

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

No

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

Yes

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

I think the Council has given the Swim Squad a good start and it is now time it stood independently.

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

No, thankyou.

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

*Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/01/2026

First name: Barry **Last name:** Linwood

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

No

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

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No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

Until they find some other kind of permanent funding I feel the council can use some of our rates to train & inspire our present squad of swimmers & our future swimming squads will know that funding is taken care of by their council & community

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Having family members my generation (Gen x) who have been in swimming squads around the country & been trained by Olympic & Commonwealth coaches. Their children are now in swimming squads & funding is essential for this to continue going forward for future generations.

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 22/01/2026

First name: Shannon **Last name:** Johnson

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

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2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

Yes

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

It would be ok for the council to cease providing a swim squad as long as there is a suitable external provider willing to take this on, and as long as the set up with ADC is feasible eg the lane hire cost may need to be heavily discounted to allow an external provider or club to make it work.

If there was no one willing to take on the swim squad, then it would be really sad to see this disbanded and in this case I would want to see the ADC continue to provide the squad.

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3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

Jeff the current squad coach is amazing. My kids have really enjoyed his coaching.

There is a bit of a dysfunction at the moment whereby kids get stuck at level 7 and don't get admitted to squad. There's a real bottle neck here and from experience kids become despondent and lose interest in swimming because they get stuck with younger kids and often don't progress because they lose motivation and swimming 1x per week isn't really enough to improve. Perhaps an external provider would be more likely to admit them to squad earlier and this would help hold their interest and also they improve so much faster when they reach squad because they swim more than just once per week.

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4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 22/01/2026

First name: Alisha **Last name:** Cornwall

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

it would take away a valuable resource to the community, increasing fees and potentially leading to relying on volunteers to coach, which would ultimately lead to a lot less people participating in the competitive sport

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 23/01/2026

First name: Kate **Last name:** Parkin

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

Yes

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

I think it would be good to have a consistent approach provided by the person delivering the programmes.

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

it would be good for the council to focus on providing better training and ensuring consistency across the learn to swim tutors.

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 23/01/2026

First name: Sarah **Last name:** Carstens

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

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2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

our children of mid canterbury will be hugely disadvantaged if they cannot swim competitively. This is a grossly unfair proposal to our local children who love to swim. Jeff and the team are excellent. What a terribly short sighted and hopless proposed reallocation of funds. Where is the Council's community nexus and focus on fostering our youth into disciplined swim training? Our family (two squad swimmers and one up and coming) are Extremely dissappounted at this proposal.

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4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided*

for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

Yes

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 23/01/2026

First name: Iso **Last name:** Barlass

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

because i have been in the swim team for 3-4 years and I enjoy it so much, it is one of my main sports and there are so many new people joining and it would be an enormous disappointment if the swim squad was cancelled.

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

No

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 24/01/2026

First name: Richard **Last name:** Mckernan

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

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3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

To Whom it may concern

Currently we pay $35.65 plus 16.90 for the gym. So that works out at almost $2500 a year prior to fees to actually compete in Races. Name another sport that is so exorbitant, for what we get it seems a lot. If the counsel feels that they no longer want involvement it would mean association with a Christchurch club. However it is possible that we could be a satellite squad. Whilst disappointed, we can understand the counsels position. Would we be able to have a discounted weekly pool rate?

I find it interesting that you have an expression of interest, yet it hasn't been opened up to other providers. There are more questions than answers. As long as we have access to the pool at a reasonable rate we are not opposed to it.

Thanks RIchard

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4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 27/01/2026

First name: Greg **Last name:** Howard

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

No

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

Yes

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

as a committee member on a local soccer club, being involved directly in fundraising and knowing just how much work goes into keeping the club financial, applying for grants and continually working on the survival of the club/sport in this area, I wholeheartedly agree that their should not be a singular bias toward swimming in this district. It may fail without funding but that is no reason to pay coach's with tax payers money. Great work.

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

I hope this proposal goes through, if the current squad does not manage to keep the swim team afloat, then thats life. It is not the responsibility of the council to ensure their survival, only that the facility is there for use as you say.

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 30/01/2026

First name: Amanda **Last name:** Ward

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

i think it would be very mean to just dump the programme without an alternative provider locked in. It would he the beginning ofthe end for competitive swimming in ASHBURTON

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 03/02/2026

First name: Liz **Last name:** McCallum

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

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2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

Swim squad should be viewed as part of the overall learn to swim programme - an ultimate goal to aim for and achieve and a natural progression beyond level 8. I am not sure why council are looking at the operational costs of squad in isolation rather than as part of the swim school overall.

If part of the councils rationale for no longer supporting swimming (squad) is that it would provide a consist approach across sporting codes then why are they not looking to offer the management of the entire learn to swim programme to external parties? (To be clear, again, I believe council should retain control of all levels of swim training)

Finally, under the community grants section of the councils own website the Sports NZ Rural Travel Fund states that it was developed 'in response to concerns from councils about the lack of participation in sports by young people living in Rural communities'. I am saddened that the same concern has not been applied by our own council to their own excellent rural swim programme - can Council guarantee that swim participation in our rural community will not be adversely

affected by their proposed changes.

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

If an alternate provider does take over I hope that the council will offer pool lane use at NO COST to ensure operational overheads remain low thus ensuring that offering a swim squad remains a viable option.

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No

Swim Squad Programme Delivery Review

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 11/02/2026

First name: Pjee **Last name:** Soriano

Feedback

1. Are you currently a member, or do you have a child who is currently a member of Council's Swim Squad Programme?

Yes

2. Do you support the proposal for Ashburton District Council to cease providing a Swim Squad Programme?

**Please note, this proposal is only referring to Ashburton District Council's involvement in the programme provision. An alternative provider could look to develop the same or similar programme.*

No

Why do you support / not support this proposal?

why change?we are new to the team but we can see the difference with her training with the team

3. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

None

4. Would you like an opportunity to speak to Council about this proposal?

**Please note, there is no hearing currently scheduled for this, but an opportunity can be provided for you (e.g. via public forum at a Council meeting).*

If you select yes, please make sure you have provided your contact details.

No