



Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 21 February 2024 commencing at 9:00am.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin (via Teams), S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Mrs A Small	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms G Nock	- Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- 3-Waters Transition Manager
Mr M Dunn	- Manager – Programmes and Projects
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs B Fowler	- Senior Financial Accountant
Ms E Roberts	- Revenue Manager
Ms M Yule	- Project Accountant
Mr P Wimsett	- Three Waters Transition Manager
Ms A Rule	- Policy and Planning Advisor
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council prayer.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 22 November 2023 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Johns/Sutherland

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Six Month Performance Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2023

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report of the Senior Financial Accountant dated 15 December 2023 that provided the Performance Report for the six months ending 31 December 2023 and provided an indication of the year end result. The meeting agreed to consider items in a differing order to that presented in the meeting papers, as follows:

- External funding
- Pensioner housing Deep Dive
- Operational performance to 31 December 2023
- Service Performance to 31 December 2023
- Capital Expenditure report
- Treasury report
- Debtors report
- Forestry report
- Solid Waste Deep Dive
- Treasury Headroom
- Quick Facts
- Management report questions / future work requests

External Funding – it was asked that in regarding funding for recovery structure, that an update be provided on progress being made on governance and iwi

partnership allocation. Her Worship the Mayor undertook to provide further detail on this.

Some concern was expressed by councillors regarding external funding, noting the change of Government had recently seen some projects committed to by the previous Government withdrawn. The Chief Executive provided assurance that contracts were in place and funds were available. There had been no indications from the Government of the funding being withdrawn, and noted that each project would move at a different pace and the funding drawn down as required.

It was noted that the Food Secure Communities project that was externally funded was completed under budget. It was confirmed that funds not utilised would be returned.

Pensioner housing – noted that this item was requested due to its self-funding aspect and the increased staff time being needed. Noted that the general maintenance budget was \$127,000 this year, whereas previously it had been much less. Budgeted renewals were also increased this year. It was noted that the pensioner housing reserve was not regenerating sufficiently over time, and it was expected that the pensioner housing reserve would be overdrawn as at 30 June 2024. The current programme of works had been developed to enable Council to maintain the standards required for rental housing stock. Agreements were being looked at to phase out such things as changing lightbulbs, batteries in smoke alarms. It was noted that once the housing stock reached a better maintained level, it would take less staff time to manage the portfolio.

Councillor M F Long joined the meeting at 9:25am.

It was noted that improved asset management was underway to help understand the requirements of Council's housing stock going forward. It was asked that additional reporting to Council be undertaken.

Operational performance – in response to questions around performance, an undertaking was given to provide more commentary in reporting.

Concern was expressed about the Council's ability to deliver on its work programme, due to the resourcing gaps being experienced. An explanation was provided on the drivers for the variances being reported. It was agreed that for the third quarter report more clarity would be included to explain the impacts on BAU and separate out Cyclone Gabrielle.

Service performance metrics – concerns were expressed about the trends in the key metrics, however it was noted that this trend was being seen across all councils in the country, and the Tararua District Council's metrics were more favourable than some other Councils. The Council noted the impact of transparency on community perceptions of performance.

It was noted that the metrics on performance would be included in quarterly

reports going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21am and resumed at 10:36am.

Capital expenditure report – it was noted that the larger projects were individually reported through the capital programme reports included in the agendas of the relevant committees.

Treasury report – the Council noted concerns were being expressed in the community regarding the LGFA covenant, and a belief of some that should Council default on its loan repayments that individual ratepayers' properties could be taken by the lenders. It was reiterated that there were protections in legislation, and the LGFA covenants and debenture held by Council take security over rating revenue, not over individual properties.

Debtors report – it was asked that Norsewood be included in the table of ratepayers per town in future reports.

That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 15 December 2023 concerning the Six Month Performance Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2023 be received.

Sutherland/Long

Carried

8.2 **Forestry Management Report**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report of the Tararua Alliance Engineering Services Manager dated 10 February 2024 that provided an update on the current position of Kaiparoro Forest and Birch North Forest.

That the report from the Tararua Alliance Engineering Services Manager dated 10 February 2024 concerning the Forestry Management Report be received.

Wards/Wallace

Carried

8.3 **Management Report**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report of the Finance Manager dated 10 February 2024 that provided an update on matters relating to financial and service performance.

The Finance Manager was asked to provide clarification of the amounts shown for kerbside refuse in the Solid Waste activity report.

With regard to the table provided outlining the costs of insurance, it was asked whether the value of assets could be included for information.

In response to a request for a future deep dive to be provided on community funding, it was noted that a report would be on the agenda for consideration by

the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee on that topic at its 6 March 2024 meeting.

That the report from the Finance Manager dated 10 February 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Gilmore/Chase

Carried

9. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 11:59am.

Mayor