



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 1 May 2024 commencing at 9:30am.

## **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 (via Teams) and S M Wards

### **In Attendance**

- Mr P Jones - Chairperson – Audit and Risk Committee (via Teams)
  
- Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive
- Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
- Ms K Tani - Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
- Mr H Featonby - Group Manager - Infrastructure
- Ms J Smith - Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
- Ms G Rainey - Contract Specialist
- Ms G Nock - Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager
- Mr K van der Oord - Communications Team Manager
- Mrs S Walshe - Finance Manager
- Mrs B Fowler - Senior Financial Accountant (via Teams)
- Ms M Yule - Project Accountant (via Teams)
- Ms A Rule - Policy and Planning Advisor
- Ms F Chase - Facilities Manager
- Mrs A Dunn - Manager – Democracy Services

## **2 Welcome and Meeting Opening**

The meeting opened with karakia.

## **3. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business**

Nil

#### **5. Reports**

##### **5.1 Adoption of the Consultation Document, Draft Long Term Plan and Supporting Information**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report of the Group Manager - Corporate & Regulatory dated 23 April 2024 that sought adoption of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan Consultation Document (CD) and Supporting Material for consultation.

It was agreed that the two items would be taken separately, starting with the consultation document, followed by the draft Long Term Plan document.

Officers introduced the documents, acknowledging the effort that had gone into bringing together the consultation document and draft Long Term Plan. An explanation was provided of the content of the consultation document, noting it contained seven consultation items, provided background information on the circumstances that the Council operated under, and what was proposed for the next ten years. It was noted that some cosmetic changes including corrections to typographical errors were being made, and that minor changes had been provided by the Audit team overnight.

An outline of the minor changes recommended by the Auditors. These included the following:

- changing of the word “budgeting” to “funding” in the rates smoothing section of the document;
- Infrastructure Strategy section – include graph from the draft Long Term Plan document;
- Debt headroom section – change to a graph; and
- Include headings on graphs throughout the document.

Changes had also been recommended from the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, which included:

- Providing more information on the average decreases included in the infographic on page 16 of the consultation document;
- For options 2 and 3 of rates smoothing, to reflect that there will

be interest costs applicable to these options.

Minor corrections were also noted from committee members for inclusion.

In conclusion the committee noted the legislative relief provided by the Government in light of its signalled intention to repeal water services legislation, and noted the option chosen by Council to consult on the Long Term Plan with an unaudited consultation document, and adopt its Long Term Plan no later than 31 July 2024.

***That the report from the Group Manager - Corporate & Regulatory dated 23 April 2024 concerning the Adoption of the Consultation Document, Draft Long Term Plan and Supporting Information be received.***

***That the Finance and Performance Committee adopts for consultation the unaudited 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan consultation document.***

***Collis/Long***

***Carried***

With regard to the draft Long Term Plan document and supporting information, an introduction was provided outlining the journey to date, including the pre-engagement undertaken with the community. The application of the strategic framework and alignment of that throughout each activity was outlined.

An outline of the Infrastructure and Financial Strategies was provided, noting that together these strategies were Council's enablers, and told the story of the challenges faced. It was highlighted that the issue of affordability underpinned both of these strategies. An explanation was provided of how these strategies differed to the previous Annual Plan, and year one of the previous Long Term, and the definition of what affordability meant to the Tararua District Council was discussed. The impact on debt head room in year five of the Long Term Plan was noted.

With regard to the impact on rates, it was noted that more information would be provided through the "Frequently Asked Questions" that would be published. An explanation was provided of what was driving rating incidences for each sector, for example rating valuation impacts, un-funding of depreciation for roading. Rating remissions for non-contiguous rating units were proposed to be removed. It was noted that properties connected to services were impacted by cost rises, and the Uniform Annual General Charge had been reduced to lessen this impact. A roading differential rate was proposed to be introduced that had shifted incidence as well.

It was noted that ratepayers would receive a "mock" rates invoice that would demonstrate how the Long Term Plan would impact their rates.

*Cr S A Wallace left the meeting at 11:07am.*

***Recommended***

***That the Finance and Performance Committee adopts for consultation the Draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan and other Supporting Material detailed in paragraph 9 of the report; and***

***That the Chief Executive is authorised to approve any final edits required to the Consultation Document, Draft Long-Term Plan and Supporting Material in order to finalise the document for printing and distribution.***

***Johns/Sutherland***

***Carried***

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 11:35am.

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Mayor