



Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on Wednesday 20 November 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, S M Gilmore, M F Long, K A Sutherland (via Teams), and S A Wallace (via Teams).

In Attendance

- Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive
- Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
- Mrs K Tani - Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
- Ms S Lowe - Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience (via Teams)
- Mrs S Walshe - Finance Manager
- Ms S Ellis - Democracy Support Officer

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with Prayer.

3. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor P Johns and Councillor S Wards be accepted and leave of absence be granted from the meeting.

Gilmore/Chase

Carried

4. Public Forum

There were no requests for Public Forum.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

No additional items of business were notified.

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

No conflicts of interest were declared.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 May 2024 (as circulated) , Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 June 2024 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 19 June 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 First Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 30 September 2024

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 21 October 2024 that provided information regarding financial and non-financial performance for the three months of the 2024/25 financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, and indicated expected year-end results.

In regards to a recent survey surrounding the effectivity and satisfaction with Council services and the negative responses received, it was noted that more emphasis should be placed on informing the public around the reasons for an increased cost, and on establishing why concerns may exist with some areas.

Additionally, it was recommended that measures be taken to enable the public to understand why council rates may increase in response to council debt.

Cr S Gilmore recommended that a conservative approach be taken regarding the interest rates over the last 12 months to mitigate variance between the budget and current projection.

Cr S Gilmore raised concerns regarding the brevity of reporting, noting a preference for multiple tables and representations of data so trends could be identified. It was noted that in 6 months there was an intention to revamp the current style of reporting which would provide more trend analysis and would better fit what should be shown to councillors. It was asked that, until then, all data from the beginning of the current triennium be included in the reports.

Clarification was given regarding the direct debit system.

It was asked that reporting for self-funded activities be provided in future.

It was asked to change the wording on all documents to 'pensioner housing' from

'housing for the elderly.'

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16am, and reconvened at 10:32am.

It was noted that there existed potential for an unfavourable debt rating. It was advised that a document was in circulation surrounding rate tables for all councils, and that when compared with the data provided the worst case debt rating would equate to A-. It was noted that this could be provided to the committee if desired.

It was recommended to analyse what the potential benefit of a 15 basis point reduction would be without the 3 waters assets, and not to raise borrowing limits.

Comments were made regarding the risks of continually decreasing the current staff training budget given the reticence to do so during the Long Term Plan process.

It was asked that the alignment of some graphs be edited in future.

That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 21 October 2024 concerning the First Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 30 September 2024 be received.

Gilmore/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8.2 Management Report

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report from the Finance Manager dated 13 November 2024 that provided an update on matters relating to financial and service performance.

It was suggested that the audit investigation include information surrounding direct debit payments, as this was reasonably within scope.

It was recommended that the committee consider what should be audited, as their considerations could be factored into the program.

That the report from the Finance Manager dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Chase/Franklin

Carried

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. 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 11:05am.

Mayor