



Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 5 March 2025 commencing at 1:00pm.

## **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, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

### **In Attendance**

Ms R Bell (online) - RMB Consulting

Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive

Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory

Mr H Featonby - Group Manager – Infrastructure

Mrs K Tani - Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing

Mr P Wimsett - Chief Advisor

Mr M Dunn - Three Waters Manager

Mrs S Walshe - Finance Manager

Mr K Van der Oord - Communications Team Manager

Mrs B Fowler - Senior Financial Accountant

Mrs S Anthony - Democracy Support Officer

## **2. Welcome and Meeting Opening**

The Mayor opened the meeting with Prayer.

## **3. Apologies**

Nil

## **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

A declaration of conflict of interest was declared by Erana Peeti-Webber in relation to Dannevirke Multisport Complex Incorporated.

## 7. Confirmation of Minutes

*That the minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 20 November 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Chase/Franklin*

*Carried*

## 8. Reports

### 8.1 Adoption of Consultation Document for Local Water Done Well

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report from the Chief Advisor dated 28 February 2025 which presented the proposed consultation document for Local Water Done Well in Tararua District, for consideration and adoption. An overview of the development process and consultation document was provided.

It was noted that page 24 on stormwater is no longer necessary in the document, reiterating that stormwater will move out of Council into the Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) along with the debt, this is confirmed as permitted by the Department of Internal Affairs. The action to handover stormwater has also been proposed to be carried out by all other Councils involved in the local agreement.

There was a concern that the Mayors message on page 4 has an opening heading showing a quote with no reference. The Mayor responded that this was quoted by Robin Potangaroa from Ngāti Kahungunu and will ensure this is updated to include the reference associated with this quote.

There was a concern about the noted similar size of communities within the local agreement between the four Councils and that there are notable size differences in population. It was responded that the districts were similar with the services compared to larger cities and districts.

Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the workload from staff involved and for discussions over four councils who have worked very well together.

It was advised that South Wairarapa adopted their consultation document this

morning and have added to the Frequently Asked Questions an addition to be made available to the other councils that consumers will receive an invoice from both the council and from the new entity, if selected, in the future and by transferring the debts and assets to the new entity the obligations around payment are not eliminated. This was highlighted by the Advisory Oversight Group to be added to the FAQs. The Advisory Oversight Group meeting minutes will also be released at the same time all four councils have adopted their consultation documents.

The following timeline dates for public consultation on page 32 of the consultation document were proposed to be altered to align with other councils:

1. Monday 10 March 2025 be moved to Friday 14 March 2025 - public consultation opens
2. Wednesday 9 April 2025 to be moved to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - public consultation closes

***That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 28 February 2025 concerning the Adoption of Consultation Document for Local Water Done Well be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council adopt the consultation document for Local Water Done Well for the consultation being held from 14 March 2025 to 22 April 2025.***

***That the Tararua District Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive and/or Advisory Oversight Group members to make any minor amendments to the consultation document required following final review.***

***Wallace/Wards***

***Carried***

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:04pm, and reconvened at 2:10pm*

## **8.2 Management Report**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report from the Finance Manager dated 26 February 2025 that provided an update on matters relating to financial and service performance.

It was noted there was an error in table 3.5 under 'Food Secure Communities' where funds received shows the amount of \$38,628.00, this should read \$50,000.00.

It was advised that the credit rating process shows year 4 will take Tararua District Council close to debt limits. It is an item on agenda for discussion with treasury consultations monthly and will be addressing in years 2 and 3. The LTP is based on 3 Waters remaining with Council. Next steps in this process will include

knowledge of the Councils 3 Waters direction so analyses can be completed for cost vs benefits, and further analysis of revenue and debt with 3 Waters removed from Council. This will be reported back to the committee, and related workshops to be held will be informed by the Finance Manager.

***That the report from the Finance Manager dated 26 February 2025 concerning the Management Report (as circulated) be received and the contents noted.***

***Chase/Gilmore***

***Carried***

### 8.3 **Six Month Performance Report - Period Ending 31 December 2024**

The Finance and Performance Committee considered the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 19 February 2025 that sought Council to receive and comment on the performance report for the six months to 31 December 2024. And to provide an indication of the year-end result.

It was agreed by the meeting to present the Capital Expenditure Report first as per previous meetings.

**Capital Expenditure Report** – there was concern about release of funding for the Akitio toilet block which is included in the LTP. It was requested that inquiries be made to the tourism infrastructure fund to follow up on release of funds.

It was requested that Cr S Wallace and Mayor T Collis be informed when communications would be released regarding the Norsewood water flushing programme to the public.

It was also requested to keep the community informed of any updates regarding the Carnegie Hall as this is an area of high interest in the community.

*Cr Erana Peeti-Webber left the meeting at 2:51pm*

**Operational Performance report** – it was noted that items 5 & 6 highlighting operational performance on page 64 item 13 - transportation activity error, should read 'favourable' not 'unfavourable' variance.

**Pensioner housing** – it was proposed that a deep dive will be completed in an upcoming management report.

**Service Performance results** – it was proposed that further analysis be completed in relation to public conveniences due to the large number of complaints received and costs to the Council, and for this analysis to be made available to public to better inform.

Footpaths have had a reduction in funding from NZTA and concern was expressed as they deteriorate. It is being monitored by staff. It was proposed that

information is gathered including CRMs to build a case for further support.

Feedback was received regarding survey time to complete and difficulty. It was requested that a detailed audit of survey results be available to ensure one individual is not completing the survey multiple times. The Finance Manager agreed to follow this up with the survey providers and update the committee.

*Cr Sharon Wards left the meeting at 3:37pm*

**Treasury report** – It was noted that a consistently higher interest rate was being paid than budgeted. A request was made for further analysis to compare fixed rates vs floating rates over the past financial period to identify benefits of either option.

**Debtors report** – an overview was provided by Rebecca Bell of RBM Consulting – a handout was provided to highlight change in figures to 10.3.3 and 10.3.4 of the report.

A request was made for an update on any legal challenges that have been received regarding outstanding rates. It was reported that there is interest but there has been no formal legal challenges made at this stage. There are some ratepayers who have since made payment arrangements following initial legal consultation. There are three people who have yet to be connected with as difficult to contact.

***That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 19 February 2025 concerning the Six Month Performance Report - Period Ending 31 December 2024 be received.***

*Long/Sutherland*

*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 4:15pm.

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Mayor