



## **Performance and Monitoring Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Performance and Monitoring Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 4 March 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

### **1. Welcome and Meeting Opening**

Cr S M Wards (Chairperson), Mayor S M Gilmore, Crs P M Naylor (Deputy Chairperson), C L Corlett, and K E R Te Waaka

#### **In Attendance**

Cr E Kennedy

Mr C Haines	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Engagement
Ms T McDonald	- Chief Financial Officer
Ms J Smith	- General Counsel
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mr P Sinclair	- Emergency Management Advisor
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **3. Public Forum**

There were no requests for public forum.

### **4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

Nil

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

Nil

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1 Emergency Management Report**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Emergency Management Advisor dated 18 February 2026 that provided an oversight to the Performance and Monitoring Committee on Emergency Management.

In speaking to the report, the Emergency Management Advisor highlighted the recent appointment of Mr Mike Dunn as Controller noting this was signed off by the Joint Committee.

He drew the committee's attention to paragraph 6.3.1 of his report, noting that a word had been missed out and it should read twenty schools.

With the recent extreme weather events and a declaration of emergency during this reporting period, he commended Mayor Scott Gilmore on his calm and thorough response to these events.

He noted that following the February severe weather event, work continued on continual improvements for readiness and response to emergency events. He gave an example of the GIS mapping and situational viewer that had been developed so that when roading teams go out, they can use quick capture and that photo and information, including GPS information, would then come straight in to the Emergency Operations Centre. Work also continued with community involvement and preparedness as well and gave an example of an upcoming meeting to be held with the community in Herbertville on improvements that can be made following the February event. He advised that Horizons Regional Council were working on lowering the level of the alert on the Wainui River so more warning could be given in the future. He spoke about the ongoing training of officers as well.

A question was asked about the tools that marae were equipped with to cope with emergencies, seeking understanding of Council's role in this, what Council's relationship was with marae to support the community in emergency events and expectations of marae. In response the Emergency Management Advisor noted that Council was involved in equipping marae through the recovery fund following Cyclone Gabrielle. He talked about the process of meeting with marae to ask what they needed, and this was to do with marae preparedness for response. He noted the participation by marae in various training courses such as civil defence centre training. They did have another training programmed in February however this was postponed due to the extreme weather event. He noted they have contacts

for all the marae in the district and our Welfare officer was in contact with relevant marae during recent event. He noted that they had also put in civil defence radios at marae.

In response to a request for an update on progress of the Emergency Management Bill, it was noted that the Bill had recently been out for consultation right, and the Regional Council had taken the lead for submitting on the Bill. There was no update from Central Government on where the Bill was at recently.

With regard to local emergency plans, the Emergency Management Advisor noted they had standard operational procedure plans, including earthquake plan, welfare plan, tsunami plan. These plans are reviewed annually. It was asked that once the Emergency Management Bill had been enacted, that the operational plans be reviewed to ensure they align. It was also asked that an update be provided to the Performance Monitoring Committee to provide oversight of any new legislative requirements and to ensure these are reflected in Council's strategies.

There was some discussion about the impact of the telecommunications outage in Eketahuna following the severe wind event in October, with inability of volunteers of the fire service to receive messages. It was asked whether the Council could assist in liaising with the telecommunications companies. In response the Emergency Management Advisor noted that the telecommunications companies were represented in the Emergency Management Response Group meetings and talked about actions taken following recent events to ensure generators were ready to be installed at cellphone towers in the event that they were needed. It was noted that officers were looking into options for having additional starlinks available in towns through the district, however the issue of security needed to be addressed.

The Mayor advised that there had been discussions at regional level about the lack of a rain radar in this region, and noting the positive impact having a rain radar would have. He noted it would be helpful for the team to document the advantages that a rain radar for the region would provide, to help the Mayors in pushing the need for a rain radar politically.

The Mayor acknowledged the team for all they do to keep everyone safe in the district. He noted that it was a pleasure at the recent Joint Strategy meeting to move the motion to approve the appointment of Mike Dunn as additional controller. He talked about the recent weather event, where the Emergency Operations Centre was activated and expressed thanks to all those involved that dropped their day roles and moved into Emergency Operation Centre roles, including working through the night. He noted the support he received as a new Mayor was exceptional, and he also acknowledged the support from Horizons Regional Council that helped him to make his declaration. He was also heartened by how the community responded to the event. Thanks were also given for other staff that stepped up to assist in the business as usual space to support those

working in the Emergency Operations Centre.

During further discussion on the impacts of losing connectivity during storm events, it was highlighted that the 111 Emergency Calling Service will still work even if the caller's network was not operational. However it was important for callers to stay on the line, as the service will search through other networks to find connectivity and sometimes this took a bit of time, however the call would still go through.

It was asked that the action register record an item for monitoring of the impact of the Emergency Management Bill, so once enacted the impact on Council procedures to be reported back to the Performance Management Committee.

***That the report from the Emergency Management Advisor dated 18 February 2026 concerning the Emergency Management Report be received.***

***Gilmore/Corlett***

***Carried***

## 6.2 **Management Report**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer dated 25 February 2026 that provided an update on matters relating to the Performance and Monitoring Committee.

Questions for clarification were asked regarding other ways of collecting data, for example community feedback, direct customer feedback when using services, and other real time data. In response the purpose of reporting on KPIs published in the Long Term Plan was noted, however richer data could be added to reports to the committees and the Council.

With regard to the setting of performance measures, it was noted that the Council would have influence over setting the next set of measures in the Long Term Plan 2027-37, and these would be refined through Long Term Plan workshops.

With regard to specific questions of clarification around existing performance measures, clarification was provided as to how these were measured.

With regard to the performance measure around abandoned calls, explanation was requested to be provided about what constitutes an abandoned call, for example how many rings before someone ends the call for it to be deemed abandoned.

It was also asked that data be provided on reduction in facility bookings, as to what could be influencing reduced use.

With regard to the grass maintenance contract, it was noted that the reporting on the current Long Term Plan would not include data on complaints, however it could be included as a performance measure in the next Long Term Plan. It was

noted that the Community Connections Committee had requested reports to be provided to their future meetings on complaints received, and high level audit outcomes.

For reporting on playgrounds with defects it was asked whether actual numbers could be included rather than percentages. It was noted there was opportunity to address this in the next Long Term Plan.

Another potential performance measure suggested for the next Long Term Plan was for digital presence, to measure interactions rather than followers

*The meeting adjourned at 10:53am and resumed at 11:10am*

In consideration of the Pensioner Housing deep dive, it was highlighted that this activity was not rates funded. It was noted that more information would come back to Council for discussion at workshop, especially in light of the Simplifying Local Government Bill and options for this activity. Clarification was also provided that the rents sat at the lower quartile of rentals according to Ministry of Building Innovation and Employment data, and that there was a waiting list for the units.

It was asked that further detail be provided to a Long Term Plan workshop providing a breakdown of overheads and staff costs. It was also requested that a comparison to a similarly-sized portfolio of another Council be provided, including their costs.

***That the report from the Chief Financial Officer dated 25 February 2026 concerning the Management Report be received.***

***Naylor/Te Waaka***

***Carried***

## **7. Items not on the Agenda**

7.1 Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 11:53am.