



## **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 3 June 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, E L Peeti-Webber and K E R Te Waaka

#### **In Attendance**

Cr E F Kennedy  
Cr S A Wallace

Mr C Haines	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms T McDonald	- Chief Financial Officer
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Strategic Advisor
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance and Revenue 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. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- 6.1 *That the minutes of the Performance and Monitoring Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Naylor/Corlett*

*Carried*

## 7. **Reports**

### 7.1 **Emergency Management Report**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Emergency Management Advisor dated 13 May 2026 that provided an oversight on Emergency Management, including operational capability, community resilience and welfare activities, rural and lifeline considerations, iwi and marae engagement and significant weather events occurring within the district during the reporting period.

The Emergency Management Advisor reported that as an outcome from the debrief after the February weather event, the river level monitor for the Wainui River at Herbertville was lowered. It now first raises the alarm at 5.5 metres, with a further alarm at 6.5 metres, which gives more time for residents to evacuate. It was noted that flooding from the river affects the campground from 6.8 metres.

Another achievement that he highlighted was the Marae Preparedness and Resilience event held 8 April 2026, that had 20 attendees. The event will be repeated in the near future.

He then spoke about two severe weather events in April, one being Cyclone Vaianu and the other a significant rain event impacting Akitio and Herbertville. In that event water did come around houses in Akitio and the Herbertville campground residents were on standby to evacuate.

It was asked whether there was a way to monitor soil moisture on hills across the district. In response, it was advised that there is currently no data available that tracks soil moisture at a district-wide level.

Members expressed thanks to all staff involved in responding to the recent weather events, especially to the Tararua Alliance and their roading team for their work in quickly re-opening impacted roads.

***That the report from the Emergency Management Advisor dated 13 May 2026***

***concerning the Emergency Management Report be received.***

***Gilmore/Te Waaka***

***Carried***

## 7.2 **Service Performance Report - 31 March 2026**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Finance and Revenue Manager dated 27 May 2026 that provided an update on Council's performance against the service levels within the Long Term Plan for the period to 31 March 2026.

With regard to the table in item 3.8 of the report, clarification was sought as to whether the last year results column related to end of year, or year on year as at quarter 3. It was agreed that column headings would be updated to be clearer going forward.

It was noted that the results of community survey were still to come in, as the deadline for submissions had been extended to 14 June 2026.

An update was sought on the level of responses to the survey so far, and in response it was advised that responses were tracking well, with over 100 completed to date. In comparison to previous years, where there were paper surveys and telephone calls to people, this was not too much different.

The challenge of setting measures through the Long Term Plan process was important to ensure that measures that were set would be meaningful to Council, and that these were measuring things that were important to Council.

It was clarified that survey questions had not changed from previous years as the data needed to be comparable. Results were reported through the Annual Report each year.

A suggestion was made to undertake surveys on a quarterly basis so these could be tracked during the year. It was noted that this was something that this committee could give some thought to.

***That the report from the Finance and Revenue Manager dated 27 May 2026 concerning the Service Performance Report - 31 March 2026 be received.***

***Naylor/Peeti-Webber***

***Carried***

## 7.3 **Annual Report Preparation Update**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 20 May 2026 that provided an update on the preparation of the Annual Report 2025-26, including progress to date, key milestones, matters requiring ongoing management and the next steps towards completion.

Officers noted a correction in the information reported in the timeline for next steps, noting that the final review of the Annual Report would be undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer rather than Chief Advisor. It was noted that the pre-final audit was scheduled for 25 June 2026 and officers were confident that they would have all required items delivered to the Audit team this week.

In response to a question about improvement of efficiencies and coordination, clarification was provided that officers had used AI to develop a dashboard that would provide live data tracking on outstanding items. The online dashboard would be reported to the Executive Leadership Team meeting each week.

With regard to the reported risk to delivery that could arise from limited availability of key personnel or resources due to conflicting deadlines, it was asked whether this was worse in Long Term Plan years due to the same resources undertaking Long Term Plan work, and whether these resources would also be impacted by the work required for the local government reform. In response it was noted that it was the same staff required to do this work, and there were conflicting priorities and plans in place to mitigate as much as we can. It was further noted that this year was more complex as the same personnel were involved in Local Water Done Well work as well as the Headstart conversations. This was being monitored and additional resources could be brought in to assist if needed.

It was further noted that the recent changes to roles in the Rates and Revenue team and Finance team would allow officers to do more cross-training which would help with the workload.

It was asked that officers keep track of the impacts and costs of the additional work being undertaken in response to the changes coming from Central Government so that elected members could share the impacts and costs with Central Government through any advocacy opportunities that arise.

Concern was also expressed about the potential impact of the additional work on the auditors and any potential issues for meeting audit deadlines.

***That the report from the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 20 May 2026 concerning the Annual Report Preparation Update be received.***

***Corlett/Naylor***

***Carried***

#### **7.4 Long Term Plan 2037 - Progress Report**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Group Manager - Strategy and Information dated 19 May 2026 that provided an update on progress of the Long Term Plan.

In presenting the report, it was highlighted that the initiation phase of the project was now complete and the project had moved into the planning and delivery phase. It was noted that although there were fixed dates for certain aspects that

were not moveable, there was flexibility to allow for changes for some aspects. To date everything was tracking to plan.

It was asked that thanks be passed on to the team, noting the Long Term Plan represents the Council's most important work as an elected body, providing the greatest opportunity to make a meaningful impact and drive change. Through its oversight role, the Council has the ability to intervene when necessary to ensure that governance and operational perspectives remain aligned.

It was noted by the Mayor that some limited relief could be available for smaller Councils that go into the Headstart. The importance of focusing on the first three years of the Long Term Plan was highlighted to ensure that strategy was well aligned. While it was useful to take a longer-term view, the initial three-year period was considered the most critical. This was an area that he would be advocating for, although determining the type and extent of any relief required would be challenging.

Officers noted that the Long Term Plan provided an opportunity to position the Council effectively in the event that amalgamation proceeds, while also ensuring strong preparation for the first three years of delivery if it does not go ahead.

***That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Information dated 19 May 2026 concerning the Long Term Plan 2037 - Progress Report be received.***

***Gilmore/Naylor***

***Carried***

## 7.5 **TDC Transition & Establishment of Waiti Waters - May 2026 Update**

The Performance and Monitoring Committee considered the report of the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 26 May 2026 that provided an oversight of the transition of water services to Waiti Waters Limited.

In speaking to the report, the Chief Strategic Advisor noted that the project was largely in the information gathering stage. He highlighted that responding to information requests was creating internal workload pressures, particularly alongside the Long-Term Plan, the current Annual Plan process, and the reform work underway. However, these requests were not unexpected, as they were similar to those previously required during engagement with the Department of Internal Affairs' transition unit.

The types of information being sought followed familiar lines, such as details on fixed assets to inform debt calculations, as well as input into the development of the new strategy required under the Water Services Act.

In response to a question about preparations for staff transition, it was advised that a full list of staff able to transfer immediately in the first grouping had been provided to the transition team. This group was primarily made up of operational staff. A second list had also been prepared identifying staff that would be appropriate to transfer at a later stage, and those staff had been informed. It was

noted that the main challenge for the Council was the issue of stranded overheads, and it was also acknowledged that there had been some confusion added through the broader government reform programme.

*Councillor Te Waaka left the meeting at 10:31am.*

It was advised that there were elements we did not yet fully understand and would need to work through. Councils across New Zealand will be facing similar challenges, and this is a point of tension within the Local Water Done Well programme. The reforms that have been implemented—such as the move to a CCO model and ring-fencing—also create issues for staff who currently have responsibilities that partially support these functions.

*Councillor Te Waaka returned to the meeting at 10:34am.*

With regard to the costs of establishment, it was noted that a report seeking Council authorisation to draw against the loan facility in advance of 2026/27 financial year would be provided to the Council's 24 June 2026 meeting.

A question was asked regarding the situation with the Wellington CCO, where the cost of water meters was reportedly high, about how this Council could ensure a similar situation did not happen here. In response it was advised that this would be covered off in the Statement of Expectations where a key part covers requirements for efficiency and affordability. It was noted that the Board was aware of affordability challenges.

It was noted that the Board was meeting in Pahiatua on Friday.

***That the report from the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 26 May 2026 concerning the Tararua District Council Transition & Establishment of Waiti Waters - May 2026 Update be received.***

***Peeti-Webber/Corlett***

***Carried***

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

8.1 Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 10:40am.