

Report of a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 6.03pm

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Bolger (Chairman), Crs Beale, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), Principal Planner/Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), HR Manager (Susan Jones) and Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Suzanne Lucas)

Apology Cr P Grant apologised for absence.

Bernadette Hunt, Ceri Macleod and Richard McPhail attended the meeting at 6.05pm

1. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2018

The Council perused a financial report from the Accountant.

Cr Bolger commented that graph on page 6 was very useful and It was also noted that the variance in 3 Waters related to emergency work on the Otama water supply. Aquatic Services had high electricity charges which contributed to an unfavourable variance.

The Chief Financial Officer commented that variances were the same as had been highlighted previously but timing differences had impacted the reporting. He felt comfortable that it can be managed. He also stated that the reporting included budgeting for the Pyramid Bridge replacement but as this was to be completed in the future it would be moved out to allow more accurate reporting.

The Manager asked that corrections be noted on page 2 which should read 57% of annual budget spent and 34% of year to date budget spend. On page 11, a figure of 45% should be corrected to 3% progressing (request for proposals for detailed design have been issued).

Cr Beale asked if the Council had received results from the aeromagnetic survey since it had been two years since the survey had been conducted.

The Chief Executive agreed information on the survey was overdue and it was time for a report.

Cr Dickson asked for clarification of the exact costs of the four items contributing to the unfavourable variance in central administration – the aeromagnetic survey, regional initiatives budgets, new phone system and unexpected recruitment expenses.

The Chief Financial Officer replied they would be added into the next report.

Cr Highsted asked why the increase in costs at the Multisports Complex and suggested a full report was needed on it in order to understand the shift in cost changes.

Cr Bolger explained that the market rate of electricity had risen.

The Officer stated a more detailed report would be presented at the next meeting to give a clearer indication of what would be detailed in the annual report.

Cr Phillips asked for clarification around the charges for electricity at the aquatic centre, event centre and Ice rink.

The Officer explained that they were combined for reporting purposes. He added the electricity charges for the aquatic centre and event centre were on track.

Cr Davis asked if the 3 Waters variance was due to trade waste.

The Manager explained that previously trade waste was charged on a monthly rate but now there had been a move to demand charging and also that Silverfern Farms were encouraged to get on top of discharge.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the report be received.

2. MAYORAL OFFICE – UPDATE REPORT

A report from the Economic Development and Social Capacity and Health Coordinators had been received.

His Worship elaborated on the report and explained that 40% of residents in the district were over 50 years of age, and there were only narrow bands of younger people coming through. Therefore, there was a real need to attract families to the district.

Cr Bolger welcomed Mr Richard McPhail to the meeting as well as Bernadette Hunt, Social Capacity and Health Coordinator and Ceri Macleod, Economic Development Coordinator.

Mrs Macleod introduced herself, gave an insight into her background and explained her role working from out of the Mayoral office.

Mrs Hunt explained her role within the Mayoral office and the importance of the Ready for Growth action plan and associated projects.

Mr McPhail said that it was an interesting time for the steering group with 80 individuals from the community participating in the workshops.

The Chief Executive reflected on how busy the Council was as an organisation and yet there was a high expectation that the Council would bring ideas from the summit into reality. The current resourcing was not geared up for the initiative prior to Mrs Macleod and Mrs Hunt filling the roles and it was working well. He added that expenditure for the initiatives was based on securing outside funding.

His Worship added that Mrs Macleod and Mrs Hunt are very accessible and can be contacted any time.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 6.46pm