

Report of a meeting of the Operations Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 9 October 2018, at 4.28pm

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

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), 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 Standring), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh) Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Principal Planner/Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Animal Control Officer (Mr David McKewen) and Junior Planner (Ms Fran Davies).

**Apologies** Crs Beale and Davis apologised for lateness.

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**1. GORE STORMWATER MASTER PLAN AND LEVEL OF SERVICE (SC1597)**

A report had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager advising that the Council's existing stormwater reticulation network had capacity issues which caused flooding of private properties and the road reserve during large rainfall events. In addition, approximately 40% of the Gore and 25% of the Mataura wastewater network was a combined system (ie carried in a single pipe). Therefore, during any flooding event, the wet weather overflows were often contaminated with wastewater. Investigations had been carried out in recent years to resolve individual issues within the network. However, due to the extent of the capacity issues, the requirement for significant investment to be made to make any meaningful improvement had generally hindered progress. The flooding issues reported on the Gore network were significantly worse than in Mataura. Stage 1 of the Master Plan had therefore focused on Gore. A copy of stage 1 of the Master Plan, developed in conjunction with WSP Opus had been circulated with the agenda.

The Manager said the report was the culmination of about 12 months' work and staff had worked with Opus towards developing a sustainable stormwater programme.

One of the key elements looked at was the levels of service and the findings were that a one in five year event was an appropriate level of service to plan for.

The Chief Executive said stormwater was probably the poor cousin of freshwater and wastewater and a weather event galvanised attention when one hit the district. Stormwater would become more of an issue for local authorities in the future. The report was about setting the Council on a journey about managing its risk and where it wanted to be. An implementation plan would be worked on by the staff and presented to the Council at a later date.

Cr Gardyne said going from a one in two year event to a one in five year event could cost \$65 million which equated to around \$400,000 for each of the 153 properties affected.

Cr Dickson asked if there may be any central Government funding forthcoming in the future. His Worship said he did not know and everyone was waiting. He said there would be an expected increase in service provided.

The General Manager said the Government expected local authorities to have a master plan. An implementation programme could be developed. Any infrastructure planning needed to take account of climate change and be a cost effective programme. He said it would be a long term solution. It could not be resolved overnight.

Cr D Grant said another way of looking at the issue could be to borrow \$175 million now and getting the work completed within ten years. Interest rates were very low.

Cr Phillips was concerned that the current infrastructure was due for upgrading and \$175 million was only part of the equation.

Cr Gardyne said it came down to what the Council could afford to spend each year. His Worship agreed and said a lot of it could be subjective and dependent on what happened in the District over the next few years. It would be a moving target.

Cr Sharp said the information received by the Floodbank Working Party from an Environment Southland scientist was that with climate change there would be more moisture in the air, more droughts and higher floods. He said 100 year floods were now 50 year events. That needed to be balanced with whatever work may be undertaken by the Council.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the Council adopt a 20% (1 in 5 years) annual exceedance probability (AEP) design level of service for its stormwater reticulation network,**

**AND THAT a separate report outlining the implementation plan for the recommendations from the stage 1 Master Plan be submitted to the Council.**

**2. ELIZABETH STREET AND ST ANDREWS STREET STORMWATER SEPARATION AND SERVICE RENEWALS (SC1744)**

A report had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager advising there were significant capacity issues in the combined wastewater network in Elizabeth Street. During heavy rainfall events, the capacity issues regularly resulted in raw wastewater overflows into private property and the road reserves. There were two low lying properties at 8 St Andrews Street and 20 Elizabeth Street which were badly affected by flooding issues. As a consequence, Elizabeth Street had been deemed the number one priority for stormwater separation works. A copy of a report prepared by WSP Opus had been circulated together with an estimated project budget for 3 Waters services. The estimated cost for Elizabeth Street was \$2.36 million.

The Manager said there were severe wastewater capacity issues in Elizabeth Street which had resulted in reasonably frequent flooding issues. The master plan had proposed that Elizabeth Street should drain to the Ardwick Street pump station. Three stages of work were proposed. While doing the work in Elizabeth Street and considering the age of the existing infrastructure, there were efficiencies to be gained and undertake a full service renewals. The total cost was \$2.36 million.

Cr D Grant referred to a 30% contingency and asked if that was normal given the work to be undertaken. The Manager confirmed it was, especially for underground services. Preliminary investigations of the site and ground conditions had not yet been carried out which was usual for this stage of such a project.

Cr Highsted asked in terms of funding, was it being funded through existing budgets? The Manager advised existing budgets had been rearranged in the LTP.

Cr Dickson asked if there were any issues with having waste and stormwater pipes in the same trench. The Manager advised there were required minimum separation distances in the Council's Bylaw.

Cr Reid asked about the laterals and the connections to individual properties. The Manager said at this stage for Elizabeth Street, it was proposed to take the connections to the boundary and then at a later date, once the stormwater main had been extended to the Ardwick Street pump station, to separate them out at individual properties. The Manager added a decision on connecting the laterals into individual properties was not required today.

Cr D Grant assumed if the work was undertaken at Elizabeth Street, the same would have to be done all over the township.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the Council approve the installation of a new stormwater main and the replacement of the water and wastewater mains in Elizabeth Street with an estimated project budget of \$2.36 million,**

**THAT a report be submitted to the Council seeking approval of the tender for these water services,**

**AND THAT the Council consider funding the private property separation for cost-effective implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan with a further report being provided to the Council at a later date.**

### **3. 3 WATERS OPERATIONS REPORT – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018**

An operational report from the 3 Waters Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was considered by the Committee.

The Manager added that recent rainfall had boosted the levels at Coopers Well. Regular rainfall through the next few months was needed, but the levels were better than they had been 3-4 weeks earlier.

Cr P Grant asked if there was any reason that pumping 700m<sup>3</sup> from the showgrounds maybe affecting Coopers Well. The Manager did not believe it was having any impact on Coopers Well. The showgrounds was downstream of Coopers Well.

His Worship added when the aquifer was tapped at the showgrounds, the Council had been told it was a defined aquifer.

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

### **4. REPORT FROM TRANSPORT MANAGER**

An operational report from the Transport Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was considered by the Committee.

Cr Reid said the safety work undertaken on Eccles Street and Coutts Road was very good. She asked about PowerNet and the street lighting. The Manager said the Council had had a long standing relationship with PowerNet to undertake the maintenance of street lights. He said with the LED lights now installed, it would be more of a memorandum of understanding between the company and the Council.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the report be received.**

The meeting concluded at 5.02pm