

Tabled Documents: Finance/Performance Committee, 26 March 2015

Item 6 Chair's Report

**Item 7 Financial Highlights and Commentary to 28 February
2015**

Commentary on significant variances

Item 6

Report to Finance/Performance Committee 26 March 2015

I am envisaging that this meeting will not be too long so I want to use it as a final opportunity for members to raise any questions regarding the Long Term Plan adoption this afternoon at Council. The finance team have put in long hours over the last few weeks partly as a consequence of the hiccup we have had due to the software issues. Once we have adopted the plan there will be the opportunity for questions to be raised over the performance and accountability of the software provider. I appreciate the answers provided back from the finance team to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee regarding issues that this Committee raised and I would ask that for completeness those answers are copied back to this Committee. I do note that there were questions raised about budgets for PC replacements and District Promotions still to come back. However I appreciate the pressure the finance team have been under.

Recently I reported back on the training I have had through LGNZ on the role and functions of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Chief Executive is arranging for that training to be also made available in-house to the other members of that Committee and I will ask if it is possible for other Councillors to be part of that training.

Recently at the LGNZ Zone and Rural and Provincial meetings the question of remuneration for Councillors came up with the President of LGNZ seeking direction from councils to take back to Government. The Prime Minister has taken a political stance in respect to the salaries of MPs which has been taken up by some councils as a lead in the local government area. I would be interested in your views.

Andy Watson

Chair

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Tabled at Finance/Performance

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Item 7

Finance/Performance Committee 26 March 2015

Significant Variances in the Financial Highlights and Commentary to 28 February 2015
10% and greater than \$2,500.

Community Leadership
Council
Expenditure is down \$42,529
This is due to the fact the annual LGNZ subscription is not yet due.

Community Wellbeing		
Community Awards	District Promotions and Development	Rural Fire
Expenditure is down \$2,629	Expenditure is up \$91,913	Expenditure is up \$18,293
This activity includes the Creative Communities Scheme and the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund, which are currently open for applications.	This is due to the increased expenditure around the Town Centre Plans and the Bulls Community Centre	This is due to the costs associated with the Santoft Road Fire in February 2015

Environmental & Regulatory Services			
District Planning	Dog Control	Resource Consents	Stock Control
Expenditure is down \$30,101	Expenditure is down \$12,361	Expenditure is up \$39,883	Revenue is up \$16,078
This is a one-off amount that was included to cover appeals to the Environment Court, of which there have been none.	This is due to a decreased spend on legal fees.	This is due to the external contractors for the Bonny Glen resource consent.	This is due to recovery of costs associated with retrieving stock from State Highways.

Community & Leisure Assets			
Libraries	Domains	Cemeteries	Swim Centres
Expenditure is down \$42,228	Revenue is up \$101,455 and expenditure is down \$30,118	Expenditure is down \$11,576	Revenue is down \$29,258
This is due to a decreased number of magazine subscriptions and less software maintenance.	The higher revenue is due to the grant for the Shelton Pavillion, and the decreased expenditure is due to outstanding invoices.	This is due to a lower number of repairs required.	This is due to the terms of the contract for the management of the Marton Swim Centre; revenue is issued as a credit note and deducted from the invoice.
Public Toilets	Halls	Forestry Investments	
Expenditure is down \$438,022	Revenue is down \$3,408	Expenditure is up \$4,044	
This is due to a decreased use of the Wallace Development toilets, compared with the High Street toilets, and a decreased spend on 'reinstatement after vandalism' at these toilets.	This is due to lower than expected usage.	This is due to the purchase of carbon credits for blocks formally deforested	

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