



Rangitikei District Council

Finance and Performance Committee Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 25 May 2017 – 9:30 AM

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Present: Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Cath Ash
Cr Soraya Peke-Mason
Cr Graeme Platt
Cr Lynne Sheridan
Cr David Wilson
His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

Also Present: Cr Richard Aslett
Cr Jane Dunn

In attendance: Mr Ross McNeil, Chief Executive
Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager
Mr George McIrvine, Finance & Business Support Group Manager
Ms Nardia Gower, Governance Administrator

Tabled Document **Item 7 Chair's Report**
Chair's Report
Item 12 Nine-Month Statement of Service Performance
Community and Leisure assets

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Council Prayer

The Chair read the Council Prayer

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

That the apologies for absence from Cr Rainey and the late arrival of Cr Sheridan and Cr Peke-Mason be received

Cr Wilson / His Worship the Mayor. Carried

4 Members' conflict of interest

Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of order of business

The Chair confirmed the Order of Business as in the agenda. Debt Management Central will give their presentation listed as Item 9, at 10:30

6 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved minute number	17/FPE/013	File Ref
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That the minutes of the Finance/Performance Committee meeting held on 27 April 2017 be taken as read and the amended version is a true and correct record of the meeting.

Cr Ash / Cr Wilson Carried

7 Chair's Report

The Chair spoke briefly to his tabled report.

Resolved minute number	17/FPE/014	File Ref	3-CT-14-1
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That the Chair's Report to the Finance/Performance Committee meeting on 25 May 2017 be received.

Cr Belsham / Cr Ash. Carried

8 Progress with strategic issues

The Committee noted the commentary in the agenda. Work has started in investigating what land is suitable for new residential development in and around Marton, having regard for existing services and suggesting where such development would be best targeted.

The workshop programme for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan has two sessions on the revenue and financing policy.

9 Debt Management Central

Martyn Boyce provided a presentation on the Office's work. he highlighted the following points:

Purpose of Debt Management

- Reduce the amount of debt owed across the region by working with Councils

Dedicated Team

- Better response than Councils
- Initiate court proceedings
- Assist with disputes
- Monitor payment arrangements

Cost and Time efficient

- Money in the bank promptly
- Systems to generate bulk mail to customers and banks
- Rates 10% +GST
- Sundry Debt can be charged

Tailored Packages

- Aged debt
- Mortgage demands
- Arrears letters
- Council letterhead or theirs
- Tailored dashboards to track success

Dedicated Software

- Generates shared efficiencies
- Tracks progress of debt/payment
- Automatic next steps
- Flexible and tailored letters

Non Contentious Legal

- Minimal preparation
- Expertise in court processes
- Prompt Action

Arm's Length

- Separating debt from Council
- It's not the Council organisation doing the chasing
- Adds a layer of authority
- Perception

Mr Boyce asked for feedback as to what Rangitikei District Council could do better in terms of retrieving rates debt. He suggested that Implementing mortgage demands sooner could help. He noted the high level of work by Ms Bright.

It was noted that Maori land holdings with multiple owners can be more complicated to recover rate debt from. My Boyce stated that his business focuses on communication and has a project underway on how better work with this situation. He further noted that he works to identify when a rates remission may be possibly either due to land locked land or the land being native bush.

His Worship the Mayor left the meeting at 11:03 / 11:04

Cr Wilson left the meeting at 11:15 / 11:17

10 Financial Highlights and Commentary – April 2017

Mr McIrvine spoke to his attached report, highlighting some of the information.

- There is some money that Council cannot receive until committed to the Bulls Community Facility project.
- Noted: interest rates are up slightly
- Strategic overview shows that Council is \$20,000 in the black
 - A note was made that some housing upgrade work has not occurred, this has been due to difficulty in securing available builders. The issue will be forwarded for comment from the Assets/Infrastructure meeting.
- Capital renewal spend: There will be approximately \$1.13 million in carry forwards for Slip lining. Adjustments to the carry forwards are currently being made and the formalised review will be tabled at Council meeting later today in order to finalise the annual plan and before the rates resolution next month.
- It was noted that Taihape Memorial Park carryover has already been dealt with.
- Long term overdue debt is decreasing. One contributing factor is that rates are being paid at time of property sale including any penalties.
- In regards to abandoned land – if a neighbouring property pays the rates for 20 years they can apply for property transfer.

Cr Peke Mason arrived at the meeting at 9:54

The Committee sought clarification on claims to the New Zealand Transport Agency. the main points of that discussion were:

- NZTA is billed every month;
- Claims have to be lodged within 5 days.;
- Council has 15 days at end of the financial year to get all bills in;

- External review of claims is a good practice.

The Committee discussed the value in advertising the presentation by Quotable Valuations at next month's meeting to the public. Staff agreed to take this on.

Page 19 'Rangitikei District Council Action to Collect Overdue Rates' – the Committee asked that this information is split into rural and urban. Councillors would like to identify where the struggles are in repaying rates in order to focus work in their community.

Mr McIrvine explained the direct debit system; Council assists rate payer debtors to take control over overdue debt. With the agreement of the ratepayer, a direct debit is set up to help manage cash flow and pay rates.

It was noted that work on the Mangaweka campground has been on the books for 2 years with no commencement of that work to date despite all consents granted. This is due to no viable tender being received through Tenderlink. The Committee asked that this be raised at the next Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the merits of combining information centres with libraries, noting that indicative reports from some other New Zealand libraries showed reduced use. It was noted that in Marton and Taihape the two services (Information and Library) operate out of the one location and the future Bulls Community Centre will see the two under one roof. Marton library's offer of computers with free internet connection and the adjacent ICT hub is resulting in high usage.

Motion

That the Finance Performance committee request that Chief Executive produces a report that shows the benefits to rate payers of the \$387,000 spent on information centres.

Cr Platt / Cr Peke- Mason. Lost

Resolved minute number	17/FPE/015	File Ref	5-FR-4-1
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That the Financial Highlights and Commentary- April 2017, be received.

Cr Peke- Mason / Cr Sheridan. Carried

11 Annual Residents Survey

Ms Servante spoke to the headline results of the Annual Resident's survey. The full report will be prepared and uploaded to the website within the next month. More detailed analysis and subsequent improvement plans will be prepared at an activity level and taken to either Assets/Infrastructure (for assets activities) or Policy/Planning (for non-asset activities) committees in July 2017.

Ms Servante informed the Committee that the process used to engage survey submitters involved sending letters to all on the electoral roll with a request that they respond to the online survey. Of the 622 that responded, 100 requested paper copies. It was noted that the demographic that responded highest to the survey was in the older age bracket and identified as European descent. It was suggested that the younger generation may not be on the electoral roll.

The Committee sought an understanding of the value in carrying out resident surveys. It was agreed that much of the value depends upon actions that Council takes following analysis. Further to that, it is standard practice from the sector to seek feedback from residents and it is stipulated within Council's performance management framework, which is subject to annual audit. Previously the survey had been conducted by an external agency; cost-savings had been achieved by resourcing it in-house.

Survey feedback from previous years has resulted in action such as the Taihape pool improvements and the \$6 million invested into the rebuild of the Marton water plant.

Initial feedback from this year's survey has indicated that Council is considered better at communication and feedback and has achieved a higher satisfaction rate for roading than in previous years.

Resolved minute number **17/FPE/016** **File Ref**

That the headline results of the Annual Resident's Survey be received.

Cr Wilson / Cr Sheridan. Carried

12 Nine-Month Statement of Service Performance

The nine-month statement is attached.

Resolved minute number **17/FPE/017** **File Ref** **5-FR-1-2**

That the Nine-month Statement of Service Performance be received

Cr Wilson / Cr Sheridan. Carried

13 Merits of a development contributions policy

This presentation was postponed to be provided to the Council meeting later in the day. It outlines the statutory requirement for a development policy and how it operates in practice.

14 Youth Award Scheme 2017

Ms Bowler was available to answer questions regarding the attached report. The Chair commended Ms Bowler on a well written report.

The Committee requested that the potential for a specific award for 'Youth for the Environment' be considered. It was noted that the awarding of nominations was at the discretion of the panel.

Resolved minute number **17/FPE/018** **File Ref** **4-EN-12-6**

That the report "Youth Awards Scheme 2017" be received.

Cr Ash / Cr Sheridan. Carried

Resolved minute number **17/FPE/019** **File Ref** **4-EN-12-6**

That the Finance/Performance Committee approves the Rangitikei Youth Awards 2017 as outlined in the report "Youth Awards Scheme 2017".

Cr Sheridan / His Worship the Mayor. Carried

Cr Dunn arrived at 11:19

Cr Aslett arrived at 11:24

His Worship the Mayor left the meeting at 11:24 / 11:26

15 Waiver of internal costs of building consent – Edale

At its meeting of 27 April 2017, Council resolved that the outstanding invoice relating to the building consent fees for Edale Trust Board be brought to the Finance/ Performance Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2017.

Edale applied for the consent as the prospective building owner; the house was intended to be on a right to occupy lease.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration to the next meeting/when the substantive issue of providing a loan was being discussed.

16 Late Items

There were no late items

17 Future Items for the Agenda

Quotable Valuation will give a presentation at next meeting, 29 June 2017.

18 Next Meeting

Thursday 29 June 2017, 9.30am

19 Meeting closed

11.26 am.

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: