



Rangitikei District Council

Finance and Performance Committee Meeting

Agenda – Thursday 29 August 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

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The quorum for the Finance and Performance Committee is 4.

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 3 November 2016) 10.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

1 Welcome

2 Council Prayer

3 Public forum

4 Apologies/Leave of Absence

5 Members' Conflict of Interest

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

6 Confirmation of order of business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, be dealt with as a late item at this meeting.

7 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the Finance/Performance Committee meeting held 25 July 2019 are attached.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Finance/Performance Committee meeting held on 25 July 2019 [as amended/without amendment] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

8 Chair's Report

A report will be tabled at the meeting.

File ref: 3-CT-14-1

Recommendation:

That the 'Chair's Report' to the 29 August 2019 Finance/Performance Committee meeting be received.

9 Progress with strategic issues

Advocacy by His Worship the Mayor (including Ministerial discussions) has continued for unlocking the Māori land-locked land in the north of the District. In response to the direction from Judge Harvey, Council has formally indicated its desire to be an interested party to the

proceedings of the Waitangi Tribunal proceedings on landlocked land in the Taihape region. This has been approved.

The Hunterville/Tutaenui rural water pre-feasibility study is complete. An application to the Provincial Growth Fund for a feasibility study was submitted on 3 May 2019.

Progress continues with the proposed new civic/community centres in Bulls and Marton. Tenders for constructing the Bulls centre were considered by Council on 30 August 2018, and a preferred contractor identified for negotiation. At its meeting on 15 November 2018, Council confirmed a contract with W & W Construction (2010) Ltd. Construction has started. Monthly updates are provided to Council.

The value of placemaking initiatives was reinforced to all Community Boards and Community Committees at their meetings in February 2019.

Consideration was given by the Policy/Planning Committee's meeting on 13 July 2017 to services provided by information centres (with a further report to Council's meeting on 27 July 2017).

Two workshop discussions have been held on economic development and District promotion and a potential budget envelope identified. A draft policy on using the legislative provisions for development agreements to incentivise housing and other developments was considered at the Finance/Performance Committee's October meeting and a revised draft considered at meeting in January 2018. A further workshop session was held on 23 August 2018, considering Wellington City Council's policy on rates remission for first home builders. A draft policy was considered by Policy/Planning Committee on 13 September 2018; at its meeting on 25 October 2018, Council approved public consultation for this draft policy; the policy was adopted at Council's meeting on 31 January 2019. Overtures have continued to interest developers in providing new housing on Council's two vacant blocks in Bulls.

Priorities for economic development were one of the key choices in the Consultation Document for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan. The Government's Provincial Growth Fund (announced in February 2018) is a potentially significant mechanism to stimulate development and growth in the Rangitikei. An appointment to the Economic Development Advisor role has been confirmed. An update was provided to the Committee's February meeting and is now a standing agenda item. A workshop was held on 11 April 2019 to ascertain Elected Members' priority actions for residential growth, business, education and promotion. Following discussion with iwi partners, further work has been done on a strategy, *and provided* to the Committee's July 2019 meeting.

A District Plan Change was notified on 22 August 2019 proposing the rezoning of approximately 217 ha of rural land between Wings Line, SH0-1, Makirikiri Road and the Main Trunk Railway to industrial. The associated section 32 analysis showed the potential for increased economic activity and employment opportunities.

Council submitted to the Horizons Regional Council long-term plan supporting the proposed establishment of a regional facilities fund. However, there were varying responses from other councils so the proposal will not proceed. However, at its meeting on 12 July 2018, the Assets/Infrastructure Committee considered a presentation on the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Sport Facility Plan and recommended to Council that it consider that plan as a tool

to guide the future planning, development, management and operation of sports facilities in the Rangitikei and wider Manawatū-Whanganui region.

In March 2018, Chorus advised an accelerated timetable for the roll-out of fibre in Rātana/Whangaehu, Marton, Mangaweka, Hunterville, Taihape and Bulls, to be completed by June 2022. At the Digital Local Government Partnership Launch on 15 August 2018, the Minister for Government Digital Services indicated that the rollout of rural broadband would be completed by the end of 2021.

Rates modelling is part of the new financial modelling software which has been used as the basis of preparing the financial statements for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan and for the 2019/20 Annual Plan.

The review of the revenue and financing policy is complete and included in the draft Long term Plan – analysis of all expenditure activities has now been undertaken in Council workshops.

Impact of forestry on roading has been considered in the roading asset management plan and in developing the Traffic and Parking Bylaw.

The Independent Assessment Board released its report on the Council's operations under the Local Government Excellence Programme. Actions to effect the suggested improvements are in progress. A report was included in the agenda for the Committee's November 2018 meeting. *The next assessment is scheduled for late March 2020.*

MW LASS collaboration has been used to provide insurance cover for below-ground infrastructure assets from 1 July 2017.

Staff are continuing to manage the Rangitikei.com website.

10 Financial Highlights and Commentary – July 2019

A presentation will be made to the meeting.

File ref: 5-FR-4-1

Recommendation:

That the memorandum 'Financial Highlights and Commentary – July 2019' to the 29 August 2019 Finance/Performance Committee meeting be received.

11 Statement of Service Performance

A draft full-year Statement will be tabled at the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the 'draft full-year Statement of Service Performance' to the 29 August 2019 Finance/Performance Committee meeting be received.

12 Questions raised at previous meeting

There were no questions raised at the previous meeting.

13 Economic Development Project and Activity Report - August 2019

A report is attached.

File ref: 4-ED-1-NGHS

Recommendation:

That the 'Economic Development Project and Activity Report - August 2019' to the 29 August 2019 Finance/Performance Committee meeting be received.

14 Economic Development Strategy

The draft document will be tabled and is to be presented to the Committee.

Recommendation:

That the draft 'Economic Development Strategy' to the 29 August 2019 Finance/Performance Committee meeting be received.

15 Late Items

As agreed at item 6.

16 Future Items for the Agenda

Grant funding and utilisation of the website* (November)

17 Next Meeting

26 September 2019, 10.30 am.

(This will be the last meeting for the triennium)

18 Meeting Closed