

# MINUTES



P O Box 747, Gisborne, Ph 867 2049 Fax 867 8076  
Email [service@gdc.govt.nz](mailto:service@gdc.govt.nz) Web [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)

MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz (Chair), Josh Wharehinga (Deputy Chair), Colin Alder, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhona Tibble and Nick Tupara.

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## MINUTES of the FINANCE & PERFORMANCE/WHAKAHAERE PŪTEA ME ŌNA HUA Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 9:00AM.

### PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Colin Alder, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Director Engagement & Maori Responsiveness Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble, Revenue Team Leader Fiona Scragg, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

**Secretarial Note:** Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann attended the meeting via audio visual link.

#### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

#### 3. Governance Work Plan

Noted.

#### 4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

## **5. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

## **6. Public Input and Petitions**

There were no public input or petitions.

## **7. Extraordinary Business**

There was no extraordinary business.

## **8. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

## **9. Adjourned Business**

There was no adjourned business.

## **10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff**

### **10.1 DECISION Reports Finance**

#### **10.1.1 22-247 Gisborne District Disaster Relief Trust Exemption**

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Tibble arrived at 9.06am.

Questions of clarification included:

- The Mayoral Relief Fund is central government funding and managed and overseen by the Mayor. The Disaster Relief Trust is a charitable Trust and a vehicle to receive donations and to distribute those donations.
- The funding from Central Government is used first otherwise it has to be returned. Should there be a shortfall in this funding the Trustees of the Disaster Relief Trust assess individual applications.

MOVED by Cr Robinson, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua Committee:

1. Continues to exempt the Gisborne District Disaster Relief Trust from the Council Controlled Organisation provisions of the Local Government Act 2022 for a further three years ending 14 November 2024.

**CARRIED**

### **10.2. INFORMATION Reports Finance**

#### **10.2.1 22-254 RSSO Shareholder Update Report**

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann gave a brief update on the role of the Regional Sector Shared Services Organisation (RSSO).

Questions of clarification included:

- In relation to the Local Government Reforms, the RSSO will continue as the status quo and allow the sector to prepare for changes and demonstrate a commitment to achieve efficiency of scale across the sector, ensuring relationships are maximised and not duplicated.

- Council purchases the services they wish to engage in.
- There are 7 staff members and 7 contractors working for Te Uru Kahika which is the newly established identity for the Regional Sectors collective efforts.
- The Chief Executive is the conduit to control the operational spend for its shareholders.

Her Worship the Mayor explained that she is the Deputy Chair of the Regional Sector Group and also the Regional Representative on the National Council of New Zealand.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Cranston

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **10.2.2 22-280 Financial Report - 31 October 2022**

Questions of clarification included:

- Capital grants are received once the work has been completed.
- The \$2m grant represents work not completed or not invoiced. The roading spend involves maintenance and operational costs. Maintenance delays have occurred because of the weather events.
- Cost escalations can occur should there be a delay in funding approval to commence a project.
- By 30 June Council has to either find the money for the overspend or cut works in other areas of the roading budgets to ensure it sits within budget.
- Prior to commencing work approval from Waka Kotahi is required, however with emergency works Council does an initial response to allow roads to be opened for whanau to get in and out of their properties and goods and services to be delivered.

MOVED by Cr Gregory, seconded by Cr Tibble

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **10.2.3 22-238 Treasury Report - 30 September 2022**

For the Committees information, Chief Finance Officer Pauline Foreman gave background information on the Treasury Report.

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Parata

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

#### 10.2.4 22-279 Rates and Sundry Invoice Debt Management as of September 2022

Revenue Team Leader Fiona Scragg attended and answered questions of clarification:

- Commend Council regarding the one-on-one relationships and tailoring solutions that have been introduced.
- To make more people aware of the rates rebate scheme Council staff visit retirement villages, work with budgeting agencies and Ministry of Social Development and have also held morning teas at Council. Staff will look at further promotion.
- Council is carrying out a strategic review of Maori freehold land within the district and as part of this process the findings will be reported to Council. The report is due to be completed in March 2023 so will be taken to Council early 2023.
- Changes were made to the Rating Legislation in 2021 for Maori Freehold Land and Council's Rates Remission Policies have been superseded by the rating legislation.
- A low income household is defined as the combined income for a household. Also taken into account are dependents eg if there are 2 children there is a reduction for each child.
- A big mihi for the Rural Support Roadshow which has made it possible for whanau living in rural communities to understand the rates rebate and their obligations. The initiative of the Rural Roadshow was from staff member Angelee Brown.
- Maori freehold land that is not rateable must meet certain criteria in the Rating Act. Land that has QEII covenants, the covenant area is excluded from rating. Some of the PMA land is definitely rated but highly eroded areas are taken into account.

MOVED by Cr Pahuru-Huriwai, seconded by Cr Ria

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

#### 10.2.5 22-174 Kiwa Pool Fees and Charges Submissions

General Manager of Comet Swimming Club Rochelle Somerton and Greg Meade attended and spoke to their submission.

Questions of clarification included:

- Spectators are not charged when attending Comet Swim Club.
- Should Option B be adopted the impact for Comet would be an increase in fees, however, should this be the only scenario would hope to make it work. Outside funding is not an option at present. A staged increase over years would be much easier.
- With the increase to \$13 Comet are noticing that the third or fourth child in the family are not having swimming lessons as parents cannot afford it. Comet will often assist children with swimming lessons should parents be suffering hardship.
- Important to find the right mix that works for Council and works for our community.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Tibble

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

## **10.3 INFORMATION Reports Performance**

### **10.3.1 22-260 Quarterly Activity Report - Quarter 1 Financial Year 2022-2023**

#### **Land Rivers and Coastal:**

- The Waipaoa River Flood Control is heavily impacted by ground conditions and at the moment conditions are not conducive to digging. The work programme is being managed so that it is sustainable for Council to fund and also for the contractor to carry out the work. Further funding will need to be sought in the next Long Term Plan for continuation of this project. Because of similar weather conditions this year work could not be commenced in October at Manutuke. Works planned under this Long Term Plan were supercharged by the Provincial Growth Funding.
- It will not be known until May 2023 if the application for funding from Central Government for an additional \$9m to further accelerate construction of the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme is successful or not.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are agreed and set during the Long Term Plan process. There are interim reports on how Council is progressing during the year. Results are then reported on in the Annual Report.
- When the Long Term Plan budgets are set ie a 3 year fix on spend, an important part is how Council consults with the community around priorities. When work is outside the remit of Council's annual budgets, then a formal process needs to be followed.

#### **Roads and Footpaths:**

- With increasing costs eg diesel, the maintenance and operational budgets are under pressure. Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment set the guidelines when it comes to fuel variations and are done consistently across the country. Not all contracts are open to the fuel escalations, there are some that are not by virtue of when they were negotiated, or the new rates were already calculated in the contract. Council is aware of the impact the emergency works and flood responses will have on the operational budgets, and once it is known where this is tracking a report will be presented to Council on what the programmes will look like and where the roading budgets will be adjusted in order to accommodate the extra spends during the year.
- There are a number of communities still to be opened up following the rain events and an update will be provided to the affected communities. Council is encouraging whanau to contact Council should they be having issues around roading access.
- There is a Walking and Cycling Strategy for Tairāwhiti. A number of different avenues are looked at when discussing walking and cycling whether it be in partnership with the township upgrades or whether it be when funding becomes available. These are Long Term Plan discussions.
- The Fare Box Recovery is set up as part of the Regional Land Transport Plan and the Long Term Plan. There is a wholesale review happening on how public transport is managed across the district. This will come as part of the setting of the Regional Land Transport Plan and will be taken to the Regional Land Transport Committee first and then to Council.

**Solid Waste:**

- The report from Tonkin and Taylor on the Paokahu Landfill will be sent to Rongowhakaata Trust.
- Options for kerbside recycling will be bought to Council in 2023.
- Key milestones regarding the Better off Funding have been met and approved by the Funder.
- Council have put in place remediation options to stop rubbish from falling into the ocean from the Tokomaru Bay old landfill site. Signage with regard to some previously popular swimming holes that are now not suitable for swimming will be dealt with by Council's Environmental team.

**Water Supply:**

- A review of the Revenue & Financing Policy was carried out in line with the Long Term Plan. The review looked at morphing and justifying the infrastructure rates and the consistency of how it was applied. There will be a further opportunity to look at the issues when reviewing Policies in the next Long Term Plan.

**Urban Stormwater:**

- The underspend in Capex is due to access onto private property. The team are developing alternative routes so Council does not end up in the same position.

**Liveable Communities:**

- Council has made an offer to the Patutahi Reserve Board to assist them with becoming a Charitable Trust however to date have not heard back from Board members.
- The reason for the consultation, project management and handover protocols for public art works not being started will be emailed to the Committee and this will also include who will be involved in engagement during the handover process of the public art.

**Regional Leadership and Support Services:**

- Strengthening and improving the LGOIMA process is around increasing the members of the Democracy team that can assist with LGOIMA responses as it is an onerous process and at the moment handled by one person. There has also been improvement around alerting staff around timeframes.
- Some inroads are being made into the recruitment of staff following pay parity. The labour market remains critical in the entire country. The report to the Audit & Risk Committee highlighted where Council is sitting with respect to other Councils.

**Commercial Operations:**

- The Waikanae Top Ten Holiday Park is owned by Gisborne Holdings Ltd (CCTO) and should they have availability Council will house people there during a severe weather event when people cannot travel back to the coast.
- Monitoring of the bathing water has begun. Results are uploaded on the LAWA (Land and Water Aotearoa) website. A link to the website including a specific link to the bathing contact recreation page, will be emailed to Councillors as it holds all Council's water quality information and also information from other Councils including the bathing water information.

- Water monitoring is carried out throughout the year however very specific bathing water monitoring is undertaken during the peak season.

MOVED by Cr Robinson, seconded by Cr Pahuru-Huriwai

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### 10.3.2 22-185 Tairāwhiti Museum Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Michael Muir Chair of Gisborne Museum of Art and History Trust attended and gave a brief background to the Tairāwhiti Museum.

Questions from Councillors included:

- Work is being carried out on the Jack Richards gallery to allow further exhibitions to be on display.
- The variety of works that have been on display is encouraging and commend Museum staff for their hard work
- To bring together all assets of Museum under one umbrella allowing a sense of improved efficiency across the whole of the organisation would be difficult as there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the C Company and they own their building and Wyllie Cottage is listed with Heritage New Zealand.
- The large tree between Wyllie Cottage and the Museum is causing issues as leaves are falling into the guttering and need to be cleared. Conversations are still in-train regarding the replacement of the roof.
- Patronage is picking up as cruise ships are now returning to Tairāwhiti and the return of functions following COVID.

The Committee conveyed thanks to Eloise Wallace Director of the Museum. Eloise was unable to attend the meeting as she was in Wellington.

MOVED by Cr Gregory, seconded by Cr Pahuru-Huriwai

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea Me Ōna Hua:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

## 11. Public Excluded Business

**Secretarial Note:** These Minutes include a Public Excluded Section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 11 Public Excluded Business of Council.

**12. READMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Re-admits the public.

**13. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.00pm.

Rehette Stoltz

**MAYOR**