

Marlborough District Council

<p>Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the COMMUNITY & FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street, Blenheim on MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2008 commencing at 1.30 pm</p>
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Present

Clrs G A Hope (Chairman), G S Barsanti, J L Andrews, C R Bowers, F D Maher, G Taylor, N W Weetman and Mayor A T Sowman.

Also Present

Clrs W O Brice, E I Davidson, T R Harrison, P J O'Sullivan.

In Attendance

Mr A R Besley (Chief Executive), Mr W R Watts (District Treasurer) and Ms J R North (Committee Secretary).

A.08/09.288 *Council* **Introduction of Additional Item** -

Clrs Hope/Maher:

That the following additional 'in public' item not previously included on the Order Paper be admitted for consideration in view of there being insufficient time for the listing of the item on the original agenda; and so that the item can meet the requirement of the approved timeline ie; reporting to this meeting of the Community & Financial Planning Committee (24 November 2008)

- **2008 Triennial Revaluation.**

Carried

A.08/09.289 *Arts* **Millennium Public Art Gallery** *C180-01*

Cressida Bishop, Chief Executive Officer and Rick Wilson, Chair of the Millennium Public Art Gallery Trust gave an overview of recent and future developments at the Art Gallery.

Clrs Hope/Barsanti:

That the information be received.

Carried

NOTE: Chairman, Clr Hope, in declaring an interest in the following item on the Marlborough Research Centre, stood down from the chair, and Clr Barsanti assumed the chair.

A.08/09.290 *EconomicDevt* **Marlborough Research Centre** *E045-01*

Representing the Marlborough Research Centre Trust were John Marris, Trust Chair, and Ivan Sutherland, Marlborough Research Centre Board Chair, in respect of the Trust's Annual Report for the 2007/08 year including financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Mr Marris was pleased to see a simplified governance structure in place to consolidate and streamline the relationship between the Marlborough Research Centre Board and the Marlborough Wine Research Centre Board.

A partnership with HortResearch, the principal science provider, was consolidated and the balance of research transferred to the management of that Crown research institute in 2007, creating welcome efficiencies for the Centre.

Mr Sutherland reported that the Marlborough Wine Research Board has been reviewed and change introduced within a 12-month timeframe. He commented that they now have a simplified but strengthened governance structure under which he is confident the Wine Research Centre interests will be well served.

Clrs Taylor/Barsanti:

That the Marlborough Research Centre Trust's 2007/08 Annual Report and its audited financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2008 be received.

Carried

A.08/09.291 *EconomicDev't* **The Horoirangi Project *E045-01***

Nelson's Wakatu Incorporation is investigating the establishment of a new seafood and aquaculture centre at The Glen, near Nelson city. The project has been named Horoirangi Centre for Seafood and Aquaculture Innovation.

Jane Kennedy, Horoirangi Project Manager presented the project to the meeting.

It is envisaged Horoirangi will develop collaboratively and progressively over a number of years. Wakatu will advance the project on a commercial basis, possibly in partnership with other organisations and will most likely start by developing aquaculture ponds along similar lines to the neighbouring Cawthron Institute.

It is Wakatu's belief that the complex could develop significantly to involve commercial aquaculture and scientific research facilities plus complementary activities involving seafood and marine education and Maori cultural tourism. If successful they believe the project will have significant benefits to the seafood, aquaculture, education and tourism sectors of the Top of the South and wider New Zealand.

Ms Kennedy advised that Wakatu will discuss its concepts with organisations from the seafood and aquaculture industries, science and research institutes, government agencies, regional business and development agencies, Maori development bodies, councils, other iwi businesses, tourism interests, education interests, politicians, community and other organisations. Detailed planning will take place and a formal business case developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Clrs Hope/Weetman:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Clr Andrews (2.25pm).

A.08/09.292 *EconomicDev't* **Marlborough Regional Development Trust *E045-03***

The Chairman's (Graham Lindsay) report was presented by Deputy Chair, Vern Harris, along with trustee, Hamish Macfarlane, in response to Marlborough Regional Development Trust being required to provide to Council, a Business Plan for the ensuing year, a report on its activities for the past financial year including a report on whether it achieved the outcomes and objectives set out in the Business Plan for the relevant period, and its audited annual accounts.

Trustees, Liz McElhinney and Neil Sinclair both stood down during the year, and John Cuddon and Hamish Macfarlane were appointed in their place.

Nick Gerritsen, one of the founding trustees of the MRDT, has now resigned because of pressure of work; the Trust consider they were fortunate, due to his expertise, to have retained his services for as long as they did ie; eight years.

The Trust reported on the following projects which are on-going and will continue into 2008/09 as resources permit: - Progress Marlborough; Marlborough Sustainability Response Plan; Future Footprints; Green Drinks; Workforce Development Strategy; Affordable Housing; Aviation Heritage Centre; Broadband Fibre-Optic Rollout; Video Conferencing; National Whale Museum; Scheme Administrator – Venture Capital; Reach the World; Marlborough on the Web.

Clrs Maher/Barsanti:

That the Marlborough Regional Development Trust's audited financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2008 and its 2008/2009 Business Plan be received.

Carried

A.08/09.293 *EconomicDevt* **Destination Marlborough *E045-02***

Destination Marlborough Trust provided a Business Plan for the ensuing year, a report on its activities for the past financial year including a report on whether it achieved the outcomes and objectives set out in the Business Plan for the relevant period, and a copy of their unaudited annual accounts.

Dominic Moran, Chief Executive Officer along with Joe Ferraby, Chairman of the Trust, expanded on their achievements for 2007/08 and commented on major focus points for 2008/09.

A priority for the Trust in 2008/09 is to complete the process to have a new Blenheim i-SITE constructed, through the Marlborough District Council, in front of the existing Railway Station that incorporates strong elements of the Marlborough experience for visitors with a full range of visitor and booking services.

Mr Moran advised that they were having ongoing discussions with major shareholders. A report on the issue of a new Blenheim i-SITE will be presented to Council's budget meeting in February 2009.

Clrs Barsanti/Hope:

That Destination Marlborough Trust's unaudited financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2008 and its 2008/2009 Business Plan be received.

Carried

A.08/09.294 *Council* **Picton Ward Forum Proposal *C405-01***

Council and the Picton community have been exploring ways of enhancing communication between both parties on regional and Picton specific issues as a result of a petition to Council in 2006 to consider the formation of a Picton Community Board under the Local Government Act 2000 being declined.

It was reported that there have been some interesting discussions at a working group level which have identified a structure and a way forward.

The Picton Working Group did not wish to progress any further without acceptance in principle by Council of this process which will then able the group to pilot a selection of issues to both formalise the structure and processes in detail and ensure that the identified system will work as outlined in the briefing paper to the Committee.

They would need, from Council, support resources, secretarial services, facilitator, meeting space etc. Clr Bowers did not see the need for an employed facilitator and believed that the Forum itself could manage that role.

Clrs Weetman/Bowers:

1. **That Council agree in principle to the Picton Ward Forum as outlined in the briefing paper presented and that selected issues be identified and progressed as pilots for this format of engagement.**
2. **That a proposal for ongoing support of this group be submitted for the 2009/2010 LTCCP process.**
3. **That Council staff continue to provide support services in the interim to enable the progressing and development of the Picton Ward Forum concept.**

Carried

A.08/09.295 *Council* Horton Park Pavilion Insurance I270-01

A request had been received from the Horton Park Pavilion Committee, who consists of the Cricket and Netball Associations, for Council to reconsider their insurance charges as they did not have the funds to pay the 2007/08 charge of \$3,825.00 nor the 2008/09 charge of \$3,303.00. The initial lease for the site required the Pavilion Committee to insure the pavilion for replacement.

The Committee was conscience of being consistent with the application of council's funding policies for community buildings as many other community and sporting groups are in a similar situation with the buildings that they occupy.

Consequently, councillors wished to consider, in more depth, the issue of insurance as part of the budget meeting in February 2009 and accordingly recommended that a report be brought to that meeting.

Clrs Maher/Andrews:

That an in-depth report on the issue of insurance be brought to Council's budget meeting in February 2009.

Carried

**A.08/09.296 *Treasury* Treasury Management Report for Period
ended 30 September 2008 T270-01**

Council's Treasury Management Report for the quarter ended 30 September 2008 was presented to the Committee by the District Treasurer, Bill Watts.

Clrs Barsanti/Hope:

That the Treasury Management Report for the period ended 30 September 2008 be received.

Carried

**A.08/09.297 *Finance* Financial Report for Council – Period
Ended 30 September 2008 F045-06**

The District Treasurer presented the financial report for Council for the period ended 30 September 2008.

Clrs Taylor/Weetman:

That the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2008 be received.

Carried

A.08/09.298 *Finance* **Financial Report for Support Services
Department – Period Ended 30 September
2008** *F045-07*

The financial report for the Support Services Department for the period ended 30 September 2008 was presented by the District Treasurer.

Clrs Barsanti/Andrews:
That the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2008 be received.

A.08/09.299 *Finance* **Debtors' Overdue Report** *A135-04*

The Debtors' Reconciliation as at 30 September 2008 was presented to the Committee for information.

Clrs Barsanti/Hope:
That the information be received.

Carried

A.08/09.300 *Rates* **Rates Reports** *R135-15*

The Rate Levies Status Report and Rate Arrears Aged Balance Report as at 31 October 2008 were reported on. Council collected 24.53% of the overall rates levy for 2008/2009 (including arrears) compared with 24.58% at the same time last year.

Clrs Barsanti/Andrews:
That the reports be received.

Carried

A.08/09.301 *Rates* **2008 Triennial Revaluation** *R090-16*

A report relating to the 2008 triennial revaluation was presented by District Treasurer, Bill Watts.

A schedule of the 'average' land and capital revaluation movements for Council's geographic rating areas was presented to the Community and Financial Planning Committee on 17 October 2008, together with an indication of the revaluation range movements within those areas. All of the land and capital value movement ranges (and the area averages) are detailed on Council's website under Rates/Valuations at: <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/rates/valuations.cfm>.

Mr Watts advised that a revaluation of the District does not increase Council's rating income, but it does redistribute the incidence of valuation based rates between individual ratepayers. This means that even if Council was to levy the same amount in total for the year following a revaluation, some ratepayers will have rate increases, while others will have rate decreases.

Mayor Sowman/Clr Hope:
That the report be received.

Carried

**A.08/09.302 PExcluded Decision to Conduct Business with the
Public Excluded**

Clrs Bowers/Andrews:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Debtors' Overdue Report**
- **Investigations 2008**
- **Insurance Issues 2008**
- **Rating Issues**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Debtors' Overdue Report Investigations 2008 Insurance Issues 2008	In order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as provided for under Section 7(2)(a).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
Rating Issues	In order to maintain legal professional privilege as provided for under Section 7(2)(g).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

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