



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the  
PLANNING, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street, Blenheim  
on THURSDAY, 23 March 2017 commencing at 9.00 am**

**Present**

Cllrs T E Hook (Chairperson), M A Peters, J L Andrews, J A Arbuckle, C J Brooks, M J Fitzpatrick, G A Hope, D D Oddie, L M Shenfield, N P Taylor and Mayor J C Leggett

**Also Present**

Clr G I T Evans

**In Attendance**

Messrs M F Fletcher (Chief Financial Officer), D G Heiford (Manager, Economic, Community & Support Services), M J South (Financial Services Manager), N Henry (Manager, Strategic Planning & Economic Development) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

**Apologies**

**Cllrs Brooks/Arbuckle:**

**That the apology for absence from Cllr Dawson be received and sustained.**

**Carried**

**A.16/17.348 Declaration of Interests** -

The Mayor declared an interest in Item 8 – Cornerstone Café Additional Footpath Occupation on George Street.

ATTENDANCE: Benje Patterson, Infometrics was present for the following item.

**A.16/17.349 Marlborough Economic Profile 2016**

**E100-007-01**

Benje Patterson of Infometrics presented members with an update on Marlborough's current economic profile. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1753747).

Mr Patterson presented a picture of quite strong growth for the year but noted that there are some risks on the radar that members need to keep an eye on.

It was reported that Marlborough's overall economy grew by 3.4% in 2016 with GDP growth at 1.7% which is slightly down on the year before but above the average of the past decade. It was noted that this sustained growth has created job growth of 2.4% over the last year with 600 jobs being added to the local economy. This is likely to be the similar trajectory for the next couple of years.

Mr Patterson advised that the majority of these jobs were in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, as well as the processing of these primary goods. Construction, health care and social assistance, accommodation and hospitality also made strong contributions to jobs growth.

Members were advised that the electronic card spending on retail purchases was up 3.1% over the December quarter from a year earlier but the partial data from Paymark shows this growth slowed in the December month. It was noted that retailers from the south side of Blenheim suggest spending in southern parts of the district has been severely hit by a lack of through traffic south post earthquake, while Picton has fared better due to more cruise ships this season and people staying longer on arrival from the ferry rather than heading south immediately.

It was reported that during the summer period visitor spend was evenly split. It was noted that during the winter period 80% is domestic spend with one-third coming from Christchurch. Due to SH1 being closed this could mean less visitors from the Christchurch region. It was suggested that targeting Auckland, Wellington and Nelson regions to plug the gap should be considered.

Members were advised that Marlborough airport arrivals have increased significantly. It was also noted that Nelson Airport is likely to reach the one million passenger mark this year. It was suggested that this could provide an opportunity to market Marlborough to visitors coming into Nelson to include us on their itinerary.

It was noted that as visitor numbers increase there needs to be a continued focus on the value of the visit rather than just volume.

Members were advised that house sales in the Marlborough region have increased by 8.6% compared with the previous year. It was noted that mortgage interest rates are ticking up and this provides strong incentives to build. It was suggested that with earthquake repair work and work around neighbouring regions increasing skills shortages are inevitable which could result in delays in building and building costs increasing.

It was requested that the Mr Patterson's presentation be circulated to members.

**Cirs Shenfield/Andrews:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Sue Avery, Small Business Advisor, Business Trust Marlborough was present for the following item.

## **A.16/17.350 Business Trust Marlborough E100-005-007-01**

Ms Avery made a presentation to the Committee on the activities of the Business Trust Marlborough. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1753647).

Ms Avery introduced herself and the Trustees for the Trust that were present at the meeting - Roger Gill (MDC Representative), Karen Draper, Neville Higgison and John Coull, it was noted that David Hall (Chair) put in his apologies as he unable to attend today.

Members were advised on the services that the Business Trust Marlborough provide. Ms Avery noted that she had originally been employed at four hours per week and this has grown to 22 hours per week which is a direct indication of the demand that has been generated for the service.

Ms Avery noted that following the November earthquake the Trust had provided support for businesses affected and noted that she is still seeing a lot of ongoing effects with businesses, particularly smaller business. It was noted that from the 31 March the Trust will have 15 sponsored Business Mentors available to match with individual businesses in each Marlborough and Kaikoura area. It was reported that the Trust database proved a valuable asset in maintaining and disseminating information to members.

Members were advised that the Trust Richard Coon of Angel Investment Group has asked that the Trust work alongside the group. This association will provide fledgling business with funding avenues and high level mentoring. It was noted that the Trust is in a unique position as it is the only Angel Investor group in NZ to require applicants to link with a business mentor (through Business Trust Marlborough) as part of the process.

Ms Avery noted that if Councillors had any further queries following the meeting today then she was more than happy to put them in contact with Mr Coon.

Members were advised on the highlights for the six months following the last report and noted that the information doesn't include the matches that were made as a result of the earthquake. This information will show in the next report to the committee.

It was reported that there has been one Kick Start Your Business Training course which was well attended with another one planned.

Members were advised that the Trust had held an After AGM function with all food & beverages served at the event provided by the Business Trust's clients. Ms Avery thanked members for attending the event as it meant a lot to the business owners to have Councillor support.

It was noted that the MBIE road show, "Taking Care of Business", will be coming to Blenheim on 29 March and publicity is underway for this event.

Ms Avery advised that four new mentors will be on board by the end of June and asked members to give consideration to people they consider would be suitable mentors.

Mr Roger Gill spoke to members on the strategic direction that the Board is working towards he also acknowledged the continued outstanding results that Ms Avery has achieved.

**Cirs Arbuckle/Brooks:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Russell Smith, Chairperson Youth Trust, was present for the following item.

## **A.16/17.351 Marlborough Youth Trust – Request**

### **C150-002-019-01**

The report to the Committee sought approval for the Marlborough Youth Trust to receive funding assistance of \$15,000 to meet the projected staffing shortfall.

Members were advised that the Marlborough Youth Trust has a Partnership Agreement with Council for the provision of services and activities for the youth of Blenheim and the surrounding areas. The Trust receives \$40,000 from Council as an annual operating grant. It was noted that Council had approved a carryover to the 2015-16 year of \$80,000 towards the costs associated with the development of a Youth Development Centre.

Mr Smith reported that the Trust has begun the process of building its operational plans and capacity to ensure it is ready to do an effective job of running the Youth Development Centre when it opens. To enable the Trust to do this Jo Lane has been employed as a part-time Manager. Ms Lane was present at the meeting and was introduced to members. It was noted that there is a view to expanding this role as operational demands increase along with service provision, ultimately making up the processes and services incorporated in the new youth centre.

It was noted that the coordinator role has been replaced with a Youth worker, Jenny Young, who was at the meeting and was introduced to members. It was noted that with the employment of a manager Ms Young will be able to concentrate on engagement with youth, while the manager ensures that operational goals, direction and plans are achieved.

Members were advised that in the next financial year the Trust will apply to other funders to finance the Manager's role, however, as it has been necessary to implement this part-time position now at a period where there are four months to go until the end of the financial year there is a need to source funds to support the position until the new funding round.

Members were advised that the Trust has just about completed a draft business plan for the proposed new youth development centre and it is very clearly identified in that document to have good structures before the new facilities is up and running. It was noted that the Manager's role is quite critical for the ability of the Youth Centre to function effectively and to allow Ms Young to focus on youth.

In response to a query on whether they will be submitting to the Annual Plan. Mr Smith advised that they would as they need to move so that a generation of youth don't miss out on what the eventual youth centre will be able to offer. It was noted that they are envisaging the centre as Hub that will be able to provide a lot of 'stuff' for youth.

**Cirs Andrews/Hope:**

1. That the report be received.
2. That approval be given for a one off grant of \$15,000 to be allocated to the Marlborough Youth Trust from the \$80,000 Youth Development Centre funding to assist with staffing costs.

### **Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy, was present for the following two items.

## **A.16/17.352 Clean Water Consultation Document L225-09-04**

The report to the Committee provided information to members on the proposed central government reforms for the management of freshwater and sought consideration on establishing a process for the Council to respond to these proposed reforms.

Mr Hawes advised as freshwater is a significant resource in a Marlborough context it is appropriate to consider the implications of the proposals for the Council's management of freshwater. The Clean Water Consultation Document report was attached to the agenda for members' information.

It was noted that the consultation document includes a target of ensuring that 90% of rivers and lakes are swimmable by 2040. A primary target is to make 80% of rivers and lakes swimmable by the earlier date of 2030.

Members were advised that E. coli is proposed as an appropriate indicator for swimmability in rivers and toxic algae is proposed as an appropriate indicator for swimmability in lakes. It was noted that the state of Marlborough's water quality relative to other regions is favourable. According to the Ministry for the Environment, 94% of our rivers and lakes are swimmable and 74% are excellent.

It was noted that although our rivers and lakes exceed the national target, the relevant objective still requires the quality of water to be improved. There is therefore an expectation that the proportion of rivers and lakes that have excellent water quality from a swimmability perspective will increase.

Members were advised that there appear to be a few anomalies when the information is compared to the Council's own state of the environment monitoring results. It was noted that staff are currently considering the swimmability information for Marlborough in the context of data it holds and will have the opportunity to discuss any anomalies with the Ministry before the end of the submission period.

Clr Hook advised that the closing date for submissions is 28 April 2017 which is prior to the next Committee meeting. It is therefore recommended that a sub-committee be established to consider and approve a Council submission. It was noted that this same process was used for the Council's submission on the document "Next Steps for Freshwater". It was reported that the group would be guided by what staff present by way of technical data.

Members were advised that Clrs Hope and Brooks, as rural representatives on this Committee, had been approached to form the sub-committee along with Clr Hook. It was noted that other Councillors are able to provide comment to this group.

Clr Evans advised that he wished to be considered for appointment to the sub-committee as he is also a rural representative and has considerable expertise to offer in this area.

It was noted that Clr Evans had circulated a draft submission at the beginning of the meeting. There was considerable discussion on whether this then created a bias as part of Council may be in variance to those views. Clr Evans advised that he would withdraw his submission but noted that he wanted the opportunity to provide a clear understanding of what farmers are facing.

It was suggested that it was important that Clr Evans' views be presented to that committee and shouldn't be side lined because he has a particular viewpoint. It was noted that he had offered to focus all his energy on assisting the group to provide a robust submission.

Mr Heiford then spoke to members and advised that as Clr Evans is not a member of this committee he is not eligible to be appointed onto the sub-committee but this does not preclude him from providing comment to that group.

Clr Arbuckle noted that the Cleanwater report identified a \$100M Freshwater Improvement Fund, approved by Government last year, which looked to support projects that improve freshwater management over the next 10 years. He noted that the fund would only cover a maximum of 50% of the total project cost and queried whether Council needed to consider putting funding aside in the LTP to match this Government funding.

Mr Hawes advised that there is other criteria for funding but the LTP review is an appropriate place to consider putting funding aside. It was also noted that \$200,000 is the minimum request for funding and consideration needs to be given on whether this is set too high.

**Cirs Hook/Oddie:**

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That Cirs Hook, Hope and Brooks form the sub-group of this Committee to consider and approve a Council submission on the document "Clean Water – 90% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040".**

**Carried**

## **A.16/17.353 Review of Aquaculture Provisions R425-02-19-04**

The report to the Committee sought approval to fund the community representatives participating in the Aquaculture Review Working Group (ARWG).

Members were advised that the Committee has previously decided to utilise the ARWG to assist it with the review of marine farming provisions in the Marlborough RPS, Marlborough Sounds RMP and Wairau/Awatere RMP. In addition to industry representatives and representatives from central government, the Council has appointed four community representatives to the group, two from SAG and one each from the Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust and the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents Association. It was noted that the representatives have sought reimbursement for their participation in ARWG.

It was suggested that if the Committee agrees to this request then it is proposed that the reimbursement occurs at the Council commissioner rate of \$80 per hour. This could be applied to preparation for, attendance at and travel to the MARWG meetings.

Members were advised that three of the community representatives reside in the Marlborough Sounds and one resides in Dunedin. All will have to travel to Blenheim for meetings.

It was noted that the community representatives on the ARWG are at present volunteering their time to participate in the review process. It was noted that the ARWG is meeting fortnightly from 29 March 2017 through to early June. There will be a total of six meetings scheduled. The meetings are scheduled to run from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm (i.e., a meeting duration of 6 hours). Allowing for two hours of preparation per meeting totalling 192 hours.

Members were advised that to date, the Council has generally not provided reimbursement for community or stakeholder participation in review processes. The exception was the Iwi Working Group with representatives reimbursed for preparation for, and attendance at the Council commissioner rate.

It was noted that the community representatives on the Marlborough Salmon Working Group convened by MPI in 2016 were reimbursed by MPI. Three of the four community representatives on the ARWG participated in the MPI working group.

There was wide discussion on whether reimbursement was appropriate as they would then become paid positions which could then become contestable. It was suggested that there are a large number of people who sit on committees and receive no payment and whether by remunerating members of this group it would become an expectation for any future groups.

A number of viewpoints were discussed with suggestions of providing for travel costs only and whether participants could seek funding from the organisations that they are representing. It was noted that the selected members are representing their respective organisations but not necessarily its views.

Members were advised that for this particular review process members need to have technical knowledge in this area and the members that have been selected by their respective organisations have this. It was noted that the representatives were also on the salmon working group for exactly that reason. It was noted that the outcome from this group is vital as what we are trying to achieve is important.

The Mayor moved a motion that the representatives be reimbursed based on the hourly commissioner rate to a maximum of five hours and actual travel costs within Marlborough reimbursed at \$0.70c/km, this to include reimbursement of any water taxi costs.

Following further discussion the suggestion was made that there needed to be further information provided. Council's Chief Executive, Mr Wheeler, suggested a further report could be submitted for discussion at the Council meeting scheduled for 6 April.

The Mayor withdrew his motion and members agreed that the recommendation before them lie on the table for further discussion at the 6 April Council meeting.

**Cllrs Shenfield/Brooks:**

**That the issue of reimbursement for ARWG community member participation in the review process lie on the table.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 10.49 am and reconvened at 11.00am.

ATTENDANCE: Jamie Lyall, Manager Property and Community Facilities was present for the following item. Mayor Leggett declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting.

## **A.16/17.354 Cornerstone Café Additional Footpath Occupation on George Street PN330202#06**

The report to Committee sought approval for the removal of two parking bays on George Street for the purpose of providing additional Cornerstone Café outdoor dining.

At the beginning of the meeting additional supporting documentation was circulated to members.

Members were advised that Mr Derry is seeking to convert two parking spaces on the George Street side of the café into additional outdoor dining space. It was noted that the Cornerstone currently has a licence to occupy footpath space on the eastern side of the cafe for outdoor dining. The northern aspect on the George Street side will enhance the diner's experience by providing a sunny place in the late afternoons.

It was noted that Mr Derry has made contact with neighbouring businesses and they are all supportive of the initiative proposed. The Blenheim Business Association has also given its support to the proposal.

Members were advised that the hours of operation will be breakfast until late evening and this will further provide vibrancy to the area during the day.

Following discussion it was noted that the development needed to be designed as close as possible to the Bythell Place development and that the applicant obtain a liquor licence before final approval is given. It was reported that all construction costs will be met by the applicant.

**Cllrs Fitzpatrick/Andrews:**

- 1. That subject to the owner of the Cornerstone café obtaining approvals from neighbouring businesses and meeting compliance with Council policy that Council agree in principle to licensing an area of outdoor dining of 31.5 square metres located on George Street.**
- 2. That Council agree to the removal of two carparks on the basis that all construction materials are to be the same as those used in the Bythell Place development and that all costs are to be met by the applicant.**
- 3. That the applicant obtain a liquor licence for the activity.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Leggett returned to the meeting following the conclusion of the above item.

## **A.16/17.355 2017-18 Statement of Intent – MDC Holdings Limited S400-004-004-16**

Mr Fletcher presented the MDC Holdings Limited (MDCH) 2017/18 Draft Statement of Corporate Intent (SOI) to members. The SOI was included with the agenda for members' information.

Members were advised that schedule 8 Local Government Act 2002, requires MDCH to deliver to Council a completed SOI by 30 June of each year for the next year (year ending 30 June 2018) and two subsequent years. It was noted that a draft is provided to Council for its consideration and comment. Any comments are then provided to the Directors of MDCH for their consideration before completion of the Final SOI.

It was noted that the draft SOI includes subsidiary Performance Targets in accordance with an Audit NZ recommendation.

Mr Fletcher advised that the objectives and activities have been updated to include the figures of Marlborough Airport (MAL) and MDCH as a parent company. It was noted that Port Marlborough NZ Ltd is under the Port Companies Act where others are in the Local Government Act which means that it must prepare its draft Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI) by July and for MDCH and MAL it is February. As a result the MDCH SOI includes the year 2 targets of PMNZ's SCI.

It was reported that if there is a significant change to PML's performance targets and financials the Committee will be advised and a revised SOI presented.

In response to a question from Councillors, members were advised that Marlborough airport does have conference and meeting facilities which will prove particularly beneficial for business meetings so that participants can fly in, use these facilities and fly out without having to spend extra time travelling to meeting venues. It was reported this is a growing area, particularly in cities, where the time to travel to meeting venues can take almost as long as the meeting itself due to traffic.

**Clr Peters/The Mayor:**

**That Council approve the Draft 2017-18 Statement of Intent for MDC Holdings Limited.**

**Carried**

## **A.16/17.356 MDC Holdings Limited (Parent accounts) Half Yearly Report as at 31 December 2016 S400-004-010-17**

The Chief Financial Officer, Mr Fletcher presented the unaudited financial statements for MDC Holdings Limited (MDCH) (parent accounts) for the six months to December 2016 to the Committee.

The report gave explanatory comments on the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Financial Position. It was reported that MDCH made a profit of \$1,511,000 for the period to December 2016 compared to \$456,000 for the same period last year. Removing the impact of the non-cash swap revaluation the profit is \$824,000 for the period to December 2016 compared to a \$522,000 profit last year. It was noted that the \$302,000 increased profits were mainly due to lower interest rates on floating loans and increased dividend payment from PML.

Members were advised that an interim dividend payment of \$700,000 was approved by the Board and paid to MDC in August 2016. A final dividend payment of \$558,000 was approved by the Board on December 2016 and is due to be paid on 28 February 2017.

**Clrs Peters/Shenfield:**

**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

## **A.16/17.357 Marlborough Civic Theatre Trust C600-005-C01-01**

The report to the Committee provided an update on the activities of the Marlborough Civic Theatre Trust.

Mr Fletcher spoke to this item and noted that the Trust had a meeting on Tuesday night and adopted and revised their strategic plan. It was noted that Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan is to be financially sustainable and that the Trust is identifying different ways of achieving that goal.

It was noted that January has been a very quiet time for the theatre and has resulted in the Theatre moving into a loss situation. This is due to fixed costs such as wages and interest continuing with little revenue being generated. It was noted that the remainder of the year should see a better balance between revenue and expenditure.

It was noted that financial forecast to 30 June 2017 is a year end deficit of \$36,008 compared to \$1,241 surplus reported in the February 2017 meeting. It was noted that the main contributor is the Trust's decision to further reduce the charges for local productions. It should be noted that the forecast deficit is after allowing \$150,000 depreciation which is a non-cash expense and also takes no account of pledges and grant income.

There was general discussion on whether the reduction on local productions was something new or whether it is simply a continuation of what had been provided by the previous theatre. It was advised that this is an increased discount as the Trust want local productions to have every opportunity to utilise the theatre.

Members were advised that the main item outstanding to complete the first stage of the theatre is the lift which is being worked through by the contractor. The fit out of the kitchen is underway with actual costs proving higher than originally estimated. The revised cost remains within the amount of Grant and Pledge money received.

Members were advised that the completion date for the kitchen is scheduled for April.

**Clrs Brooks/Fitzpatrick:  
That the report be received.**

### **Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Clr Andrews withdrew from the meeting at 11.31 am.

ATTENDANCE: Jane Tito, Smart Business Officer, was present for the following two items.

## **A.16/17.358 Sister Region Relationship with Ningxia, China D050-001-S02, E100-005-005-05**

The report to the Committee provided an update on the relationship with the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China and discussed formalising the current relationship into a Sister – Region Relationship that is underpinned by both economic development opportunities and strengthening of knowledge and understanding between the two regions. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1753885).

Members were advised that Marlborough has been developing a relationship with the Ningxia region of China, primarily on the basis of links established between individuals in the two wine industries. It was noted that there is an identified need for technical assistance for grape growing and wine making, with Marlborough identified as a good partner due to its technologically advanced production, the free trade relationship between China and New Zealand, and the availability of Marlborough wine industry expertise during the Ningxia October vintage.

It was noted that there had been further discussions with local businesses which confirmed interest in exploring a link with Ningxia. The Chinese consulate in Christchurch confirmed that there was a good fit between the two wine regions, and discussions also took place with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT) to inform them of the developing relationship. Council's Sister-City have been kept updated on progress with this developing relationship. A Sister Region Memorandum of Understanding with the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China was signed in April 2016.



Members were advised that reciprocal visits have taken place in the past two years by government, industry and education representatives. It was noted that bilateral education agreements were signed in 2016, and discussions are underway for a winery project in Ningxia with a Marlborough winemaker.

It was noted that a full Sister Region agreement has been drafted by the Ningxia government. This was considered by the Sister City Sub-Committee on 1 March 2017 and recommended that the full agreement be signed by Council.

Members were advised that the costs of maintaining the relationship with Ningxia will be met by the existing Sister City and economic development budgets.

**Cirs Hope/Taylor:**

**That a Sister-Region Relationship Agreement with Ningxia, China is recognised and that it be signed at the appropriate time.**

**Carried**

## **A.16/17.359 Economic Development Project Update** **E100-001-01, E100-005-002, E100-005-005-08,** **E100-005-010-01**

The report to the Committee provided an update on the activities of the economic development and commercial events team. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1753894).

Members were advised that Smart Business Marlborough has received seven new enquiries - two tourism related, one a high end accommodation development and a venture catering to demand at a site outside of Picton, two filming opportunities, hospitality venture and an electrical and business service in addition to 15 earthquake queries.

Ms Tito noted that a number of businesses that had approached Council for Smart Business Marlborough assistance/advice have provided positive feedback on the goals they have achieved.

Ms Tito noted that about 16 businesses had received informal advice and feedback received was very positive as they had been able to utilise the earthquake Government assistance for which they had not been aware of. The Council had sought the assistance of Business Trust Marlborough and the Smart & Connected Township groups' database to distribute a question set on those affected by the earthquake.

Members were advised that the Only Marlborough Welcome signage for several towns has been sent to Marlborough Roads for installation. It was noted that Council has re-approached Ward and will begin the process of discussions regarding the welcome signage following the signs being put on hold due to the November earthquake.

It was noted that images taken during the photography part of the welcome signage project have been used in a number of mediums promoting Marlborough.

Ms Tito noted that the Marlborough Regional Investment Profile was completed in December 2016. It is targeted at overseas investors and is made available to the NZ trade teams across the world.

In response to a query regarding smart business connections between other roles like compliance or planning within Council, it was noted that internal communication is working extremely well and is well utilised.

**Cirs Brooks/Arbuckle:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Adi James, Community Advisor-Marlborough Townships, was present for the following item.

## **A.16/17.360 Small Townships Programme Update**

**R510-022-00**

The report to the Committee provided an update on the Small Townships Programme, including the Community Projects Fund. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1754218).

Members were advised that the Council has been working closely with the Wairau Valley Residents Association to plan and implement a number of projects identified in the Growing Marlborough Strategy, as well as projects that meet the current objectives of the community. A draft Township Plan was developed and is being used to inform the current projects. A draft plan had been circulated to members at the beginning of the meeting.

It was noted that a Community Drop in day will be held in Wairau Valley on 30 April 2017 to discuss the Township Plan and prioritise any future projects.

It was noted that the footpath along SH63 was been completed and has helped with improving accessibility through the township and has especially been beneficial given the huge increase in traffic after the earthquake. A planned picnic area in the church carpark had to be redesigned to take in to account the increased use of the public toilets. This has now been divided into two stages with the Residents Association maintaining it at the moment. With the completed planting area it is starting to feel more like a place where people live rather than just driving through.

Members were advised the toilet is due to go in this week and the signage has been approved. It was noted that some of the future projects discussed include a Multi Use Loop Track, Morse Street Entrance, Morse Street / Community Hall Pocket Park and community space these projects have been identified in the township plan.

In response to a query on whether all the projects would be completed through the Small Townships funding Ms James advised that she will work with communities quite intensively for the first 2-3 years assisting in completing a number of projects. The other projects identified will stay on the list and these are projects that are identified as ones that the community can undertake or could be considered by Council for future planning. Ms James will also provide assistance in advising groups on how to seek funding from other sources.

It was noted that Renwick is in the same phase with a quick win project being undertaken while the township plan is being developed. A number of other projects being undertaken by the community itself.

Ms James advised that work is due to start with Spring Creek and Havelock and contact will be made with Ward next month.

**Clrs Peters/Fitzpatrick:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **A.16/17.361 Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 31 January 2017**

**F275-002-16**

Mr Fletcher, Chief Financial Officer presented Council's financial report for the period ended 31 January 2017.

The Income and Expenditure Statement reported an operating surplus of \$3.78M for the year to date which is \$2.09M improvement on the \$1.69M budgeted. Total operating income for the January year to date is ahead of budget by \$2.07M (4%) and overall operating expenditure is less than budgeted by \$0.02M (0%).

Budgeted capital expenditure for the year is \$71.9M including \$22.648M of carryovers from the 2015-16 financial year. Actual expenditure of \$18.22M to the end of January is \$4.63M higher than the same period last year (\$13.59M) and \$22.6M less than budgeted for the year to date. It was noted that there are indications that there is likely to be deferrals and carryovers to 2017-2018 of approximately \$18.09M.

**Clrs Peters/Taylor:**

That the financial report for the period ended 31 January 2017 be received.

Carried

## **A.16/17.362 Information Package**

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Cllrs Shenfield/Arbuckle:

That the Planning, Finance & Community Information Package dated 23 March 2017 be received and noted.

Carried

## **A.16/17.363 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded**

-

Cllrs Hope/Shenfield:

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

- Debtors' Overdue Report
- Hearings Commissioners

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 Hearings Commissioners	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.

Carried

The meeting closed at 12.39 pm.

Record No: 1754021