



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**
held in the Council Chambers and via Zoom, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2022 commencing at 1.00 pm

Present

Clrs N P Taylor (in the Chair), J L Andrews, C J Brooks, B G Dawson, M A Peters, Mayor J C Leggett, Mr R Hunter (iwi representative)

Present via Zoom

Clr M J Fitzpatrick (Deputy)

Also Present

Clrs G A Hope, J D N Croad, B A Faulls and T P Sowman

Also Present via Zoom

Clrs J A Arbuckle and D D Oddie

In Attendance

Jamie Lyall (Manager – Property and Community Facilities), Mike Porter (Democratic Services Manager/Zoom Management) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

In Attendance via Zoom

Mr Richard Coningham (Manager – Assets & Services Department)

Apologies

Clrs Taylor/Dawson:

That the apology for absence from Clr F D Maher be received and sustained.

Carried

A&S-0622-373 Declaration of Interests -

Clr Andrews declared an interest in Item 6 – Kensington Place Reserve Tree Transfer.

At this point Clr Taylor drew members' attention to the Information Package noting that Waka Kotahi has approved funding of \$85.3M for the storm recovery across the Marlborough roading network resultant of last July's storm. The funding is at a Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) of 95%. This is extremely positive for Marlborough and the 95% FAR is one of the highest FAR rates Waka Kotahi has given and is the largest single budget for a region for a storm recovery event since the Kaikōura earthquake.

Clr Taylor acknowledged the significant level of support Marlborough has received from Waka Kotahi and Government Ministers following the July storm event.

ATTENDANCE: David Craig, Management Accountant – Operations, was present for the following item.

A&S-0622-374 Financial Report for the year to 30 April 2022

F275-001-02

The Financial Report for the Assets and Services and Property and Community Facilities (including parking) Departments for the year to 30 April 2022 was presented to members.

Mr Craig noted for the reporting period there is a surplus of \$6.4M. Income is favourable to budget by \$35.3M, expenditure is unfavourable to budget by \$28.9M and Capex is unfavourable to budget by \$39.4M.

The major variances between year to date actual and budget were noted as: Roothing emergency reinstatement costs following the July 2021 storm event are above budget by \$26.9M and are offset by increased roading subsidies of \$25.6M. Other flood damage repair costs of \$2.1M have been incurred to date, mainly within the Flood Protection Activity, and will be subject to an insurance claim. Any resulting shortfall will be funded from Emergency Reserves. There are associated savings of \$0.6M in minor works contracts.

Roothing subsidy for capital expenditure is below budget by \$2.9M due to challenges in resourcing the renewals programme in conjunction with emergency works.

Network and Asset Management costs are unfavourable to budget by \$1.4M. Council budgets for 60% of this cost under its roading renewal activities.

Development contributions (\$0.8M) and Reserve fund contributions (\$0.9M) are both favourable to budget because of levies charged for the latest stages of the Rose Manor, Wai Iti and Patchett Way subdivisions and Duncannon worker accommodation.

Vested assets are favourable to budget by \$8.3M. Accounting entries have been completed for vested assets of \$8.8 million including stages 7C-E of the Rose Manor subdivision, Westwood stage 2, Wai Iti stage 1 and Patchett Way developments.

Trade waste revenue is unfavourable to budget by \$782,000. Charges are based on the volume of water used through the metered connections of commercial and industrial properties that have a sewer flow greater than the average domestic property.

Dump fee revenue is favourable to budget by \$792,000 reflecting the fee increase implemented to recover the \$10 per tonne Waste Levy increase imposed by Central Government. The associated Waste Levy payments are unfavourable to budget by \$507,000.

The Regional Landfill ETS obligation is unfavourable to budget by \$844,000 due to the increased NZ Unit (Carbon Credit) pricing.

Grant expenditure is favourable to budget by \$455,000. Approval has been given to make quarterly advance payments to Marlborough Kaikōura Trail Trust for Whale Trail funding. Work on the Wairau bridge clip on cycle lanes is progressing.

It was noted that capital expenditure is behind budget in most activities due to timing of projects which have been impacted for many reasons including finalising community consultation, obtaining land access, obtaining resource consents, the availability of external professional expertise and receiving an acceptable contract price and contractor availability. Other projects have been deferred with resources being diverted to flood damage repairs. These were further detailed, including an update on key projects, in the agenda item.

Year to date capital expenditure of \$50.4M remains well ahead of the comparative period for last year at \$43.6M.

Members were advised that the forecast values have been updated to reflect the best estimate of expected year end results. Further work is continuing to improve the accuracy of the forecast values with a particular focus on capital expenditure.

Cirs Peters/Dawson:

That the financial report for the period ended 30 April 2022 be received.

Carried

A&S-0622-375 SH 6 Wairau River Bridge – Land Disposal

PN538480#08

Jamie Lyall, Council's Manager – Property and Community Facilities noted that the purpose of the report was to gain the Committee's approval for the disposal of Council land occupied by the State Highway 6 River bridge. An aerial depicting the land for disposal was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

It was noted that the Land is 3500 square metres and is valued at \$1,500 plus GST. NZTA will cover all costs, including Council's, for the acquisition and transfer of the Land.

ATTENDANCE: Jane Tito, Council's Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, was present for the following two items. Robert Hutchinson, Council's Parks & Open Spaces Officer was present via Zoom for the following two items.

A&S-0622-377 Kensington Place Reserve Tree Transfer

R510-009-K03-03

Ms Tito noted that the purpose of the report was to consider a staff request to transplant three juvenile Oak trees from Kensington Place Reserve for replanting in other reserves in Blenheim.

It was reported that following recent pruning works on the trees, it was identified that there is significant competition amongst the trees in the small space they are growing in, and they are now starting to show effects of this competition. The transplanting of three selected trees will allow the other trees to grow and expand in a more-healthy manner.

Members were advised in accordance with the Council's Tree Policy a mail out survey of around 84 homes within Nottinghill subdivision was undertaken and wider community feedback was also sought via media coverage.

There were 11 responses received, all from residents, with all 11 supporting the removal of the trees. Submission comments were included in the agenda item.

Members discussed the proposal, noting community support, and agreed that transplanting the trees is a good option and could possibly be considered for other tree issues in future. It was noted that it does come at an increased cost to Council but is a good alternative in this instance.

It was requested that a report be provided in a future Information Package on the outcome of the tree transplant.

Clrs Brooks/Dawson:

That Council confirm the removal and transplanting of three Oak trees from Kensington Place Reserve to be replanted in other Reserves in Blenheim.

Carried

NB: Cllr Andrews declared an interest in the above item and did not take part in discussions nor vote on the issue.

A&S-0622-378 Tree Removal Request - Kart Raceway Recreation Reserve

R510-009-B02-03

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to consider a request from the Marlborough Karting Association for the removal of seven Eucalyptus trees growing in two groups on the Kart Raceway Recreation Reserve, in Wither Road, Blenheim.

Members were advised that the reason for the request from Karting Association is that trees are of such a size there is a significant increase in shading of the track and increased loading of detritus material on the track.

An arboriculture assessment has been undertaken of the trees highlighting that the western group of trees was in healthier condition than the eastern group of trees. The arborists report was attached to the item in the agenda for members' information.

In accordance with the Council's Tree Policy a media survey of the wider community has occurred. There were seven responses received with one person supporting the removal of the trees and six seeking retention of the trees.

During discussion it was noted that there is merit in the request for removing some of the Eucalyptus trees, specifically the eastern grouping, given they are only in fair health as assessed by the arborist. The removal of the western group is inconsistent with the provisions of the Tree Policy as they are in a healthy condition.

It was noted that the trees provide character and amenity to the surrounding area but this will decrease as the eastern group declines in health.

Clr Brooks noted the bird life currently benefiting from the trees and proposed that the Kart Club be required to develop and implement a planting plan in collaboration with Council staff for their lease area. This could compensate for the loss of trees as well as help achieve the policies of the reserve management plan.

Members agreed to add 'in collaboration with Council Parks & Open Spaces staff' to recommendation 2.

Clr Arbuckle requested that the planting plan be circulated to the Marlborough Landscape Group for consideration.

This request generated some discussion and it was noted that the final decision on the request rests with Council but Clr Arbuckle is welcome to follow-up the work and report back to the Landscape Group. It was noted that the Parks and Open Spaces team do engage with the Landscape Group as and when required.

Cirs Brooks/The Mayor:

1. **That Council confirm removal of the eastern group of Eucalyptus trees and pruning of the western group of trees as outlined in the Arboriculture assessment undertaken by David James Tree Services (dated 1 March 2022);**
2. **That conditional to approval being given in Recommendation 1, the Kart Club shall develop and implement a planting plan in collaboration with Council's Parks & Open Spaces staff within the land area the Kart Club leases from Council.**
3. **That the costs associated with removal and pruning of the trees should fall 50/50 between Council and the Kart Club.**

Carried

A&S-0622-379 Information Package

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Cirs Andrews/Brooks:

That the Assets and Services Information Package dated 16 June 2022 be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 1.40 pm.

Record No. 22118265