



**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim  
on TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

**Present**

Cirs J A Arbuckle (Chairperson), B G Dawson (Deputy), S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, A R Burgess (from 9.11 am), J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, R J Innes, B A Faulls, G A Hope (from 9.04 am), B J Minehan, J C Rosene, T P Sowman and Mayor Nadine Taylor

**In Attendance**

Mr M F Fletcher (Chief Financial Officer), Mr D G Heiford (Manager, Economic, Community & Support Services) (remotely) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

**Apologies**

Cirs Croad/J A Arbuckle:

**That the apology for absence from Clr M R K Flight be received and sustained and the apologies from Clr A R Burgess for lateness and Mayor Taylor and Clr B G Dawson for withdrawing from the meeting early be noted.**

**Carried**

**EFC-0323-304 Declaration of Interests** -

Clr B G Dawson declared an interest in Item 4 – Business Trust Marlborough Six Month Report 2022/23 and Public Excluded Item 1 – Marlborough Tech & Innovation Hub.

Clr D A Dalliessi declared an interest in Item 7 – Welcoming Communities Advisory Board – Appointment of Council Representative.

Clr S J Arbuckle declared an interest in Item 10 – Review of Director Fees.

Cirs J D N Croad, J A Arbuckle and Mayor Taylor declared an interest in Item 10 – Review of Directors Fees and Item 12 – MDC Holdings Limited – 2023-24 Statement of Intent.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 9.34 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Nick Brunson, Infometrics, and Neil Henry, Council's Manager, Strategic Planning & Economic Development were present for the following item.

**EFC-0323-305 Infometrics Marlborough Annual Economic Profile**

**E100-007-01**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to receive a presentation from Infometrics on the latest Marlborough economic data, covering the 2023 Economic Profile and the most recent quarterly results. A two page summary of the annual report was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

It was noted that Council contracts Infometrics Ltd to provide a detailed annual economic profile on Marlborough district, and quarterly economic reports. These reports are made available via the Council website.

The annual and latest quarterly reports can be found here: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/about-marlborough/infometrics-economic-and-community-data>

To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown and can be viewed via the following link: [https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Infometrics\\_Marlborough\\_Slide\\_Deck-21-03-23.pdf](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Infometrics_Marlborough_Slide_Deck-21-03-23.pdf)

Members asked a number of questions and indicated their appreciation for the detailed information presented.

**Cirs Croad/J A Arbuckle:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Mr Brian Dawson, Manager Business Trust Marlborough, and Aaron Marshall, Chair Business Trust Marlborough were present for the following item.

**EFC-0323-306      Business Trust Marlborough Six Month Report**  
**2022/23** **E100-005-007-02**

Brian Dawson presented the Business Trust Marlborough's six monthly report. The report detailed the activities of the Business Trust Marlborough in the financial year of 2022/23 and was attached to the agenda item for members' information. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2360660).

Mr Dawson acknowledged the presence of Beth Barnes, Deputy Chair Business Trust Marlborough who was seated in the public gallery.

Members were advised that the Trust's performance against agreed KPI's for the 8 months is on track for achieving or exceeding by year end.

Members asked a number of questions covering what engagement looks like and start-up weekends. It was noted that Council provides the Trust with a \$50k annual grant and has approved that this be CPI indexed.

**Cirs J A Arbuckle/Dalliessi:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

NB: The order of the agenda was altered at this point and the following Item 10 and Item 12 were heard ahead of Item 5.

NB: Clr J A Arbuckle declared an interest in the following two items - Review of Director Fees and MDC Holdings Limited – 2023-24 Statement of Intent, Clr Dawson assumed the chair.

**EFC-0323-307      Review of Director Fees** **S400-004-012-22**

Council's Chief Financial Officer, Martin Fletcher noted that the purpose of the report was to consider the MDC Holdings Ltd's Directors Fees recommendation from its 2022 Annual General Meeting which is to increase the directors' fees for MDC Holdings Ltd and to continue the process adopted by the Council of the annual adjustment of Directors Fees.

Members were advised that the proposed Directors Fees will also cover Marlborough Airport Ltd.

**Cirs Dawson/Hope:**  
**That Council:**

1. **Agree to increase the Directors Fees for MDC Holdings Ltd to;**
  - (a) **Director \$12,500; and**
  - (b) **Chair \$25,000;**
2. **Note that proposed Directors Fees also cover Marlborough Airport Ltd; and**
3. **Agree to continue the process adopted by Council on 20 September 2016 for the annual adjustment of Directors Fees.**

**Carried**

NB: Cirs Croad, J A Arbuckle (The Chair) and Mayor Taylor declared an interest in the above Review of Director Fees and did not take part in discussions nor vote on the issue.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Adrian Ferris, Council's Corporate Accountant, was present for the following item.

**EFC-0323-308 MDC Holdings Limited – 2023-24 Statement of Intent** **S400-004-010-23**

Council's, Chief Financial Officer, Martin Fletcher and Adrian Ferris, Council's Corporate Accountant presented the MDC Holdings Limited (MDCH) 2023/24 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 2024) and two subsequent years.

Members were advised that the 2023/24 draft SOI is consistent with the 2022/23 SOI. It was noted that the significant points are that the targets for Port Marlborough NZ Limited (PML) have been based on its 2022-23 SCI. The statutory timing for preparing Port Company SCI's is 31 July for the draft and 30 September for the final document, which is some seven months after MDCH is required to submit a draft SOI to Council.

Mr Fletcher advised that if the PML 2023-24 SCI is significantly different, MDCH will present an amended SOI to Council. Performance measures of the Subsidiaries have now all been aligned under People, Planet, Prosperity, and Partnerships and Group Performance targets are now included.

**Cllrs Dawson/Rosene:**  
**That Council approves the Draft 2023-24 Statement of Intent for MDC Holdings Limited.**

**Carried**

NB: Cllrs Croad, J A Arbuckle and Mayor Taylor declared an interest in the above MDC Holdings Limited 2023-24 Statement and did not take part in discussions nor vote on the issue.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Dawson withdrew from the meeting at 10.12 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Peter Coldwell, Chief Executive, and Alistair Schorn, Business Advisor, Marlborough Chamber of Commerce, were present for the following item.

**EFC-0323-309 Marlborough Business Confidence Survey** **E100-010-01**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide details of the recent Marlborough Business Confidence survey undertaken in conjunction with Marlborough Chamber of Commerce in late 2022. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2360659).

The survey provided a picture of recent, past and future thinking as an indicator of economic health in the region. 233 responses were received with high participation rates by larger businesses.

It was noted that feedback will be provided to the respondents, Chamber members news coverage – Marlborough Express etc, inputs to RSLG and Smart+Connected Groups etc.

**Cllrs Croad/Adams:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Dorien Vermaas, Council's Economic Portfolio Manager, attending remotely and Mark Unwin, Economic Development Programmes Manager, was present in the room for the following item.

## **EFC-0323-310 Economic Development Update**

**E100-010-01**

Ms Vermaas advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the activities of Council's Economic Development team between December and March. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2360652).

As part of the presentation topics covered was Refresh Brand Marlborough, a collaboration with Destination Marlborough on telling the Marlborough Story together. Members requested that prior to the brand being finalised for release it be presented to Councillors.

During discussion it was noted that engaging with the industry itself is important to ensure they are brought along with the Marlborough Story. The current situation in the Marlborough Sounds regarding the lack of access, in particular for farmers, was noted and it was raised whether there is an opportunity to create a specific sub brand around the Sounds. It was agreed that this be a topic of discussion for a workshop.

It was reported that Screen Marlborough received 4 enquires – 1 local, 2 national TV and 1 international. Have finished the Marlborough Film Permitting Guide, this was achieved in collaboration with DOC and iwi. Finished the website for the sawmill studios [www.sawmillstudios.co.nz](http://www.sawmillstudios.co.nz) and have finished the Marlborough/Nelson pages in the 'Lookbook' Aotearoa New Zealand locations.

In respect of agritech and innovation, a presentation was made to four Central Government Industry Transformation Plan (ITP) managers on the Marlborough Economic Wellbeing strategy. This highlighted what Marlborough's economy consists of, what we need and what is wanted from Central Govt.

Members were advised the Marlborough Tech week is running from 13 – 20 May. An invitation to the CEO Agritech NZ to visit as part of Tech Week has been sent.

Members were advised that an outcome of conversations with all food stakeholders is a digital project for Marlborough food producers that will provide assistance in increasing visibility, resilience and identifying distribution channels.

It was noted that Marlborough will be hosting a trade show for Marlborough food producers and trade buyers from across New Zealand will be invited to attend. Talks have been happening with Nelson and Tasman regarding a possible Trade Show for the wider top of the south.

In response to a query on what other funding is being applied for, Ms Vermaas advised that ED team have an account manager in Kanoa who provides guidance to Council on other funding opportunities in Central Government and the team continually seek other funding opportunities where possible.

Members were advised that there are a number of KPIs for the Economic Development team and it was suggested that consideration be given to including information on the KPIs in future reports.

**Clrs J A Arbuckle/Croad:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.53 am and resumed at 11.07 am

## **EFC-0323-311 Welcoming Communities Advisory Board – Appointment of Council Representative**

**C150-002-028-01**

The report seeking Council approval for the appointment of Clr Dalliessi as the Council representative on the Welcoming Communities Advisory Board was presented.

**Cirs Rosene/Croad:**  
**That Council approve Councillor Dalliessi as the Council representative on the Welcoming Communities Advisory Board.**

**Carried**

NB: Clr Dalliessi declared an interest in the above Welcoming Communities Advisory Board – Appointment of Council Representative and did not take part in discussions nor vote on the issue.

**EFC-0323-312      Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee**  
**D050-001-S03**

The Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 February 2023 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

**Cirs Faulls/Minehan:**  
**That the Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 February 2023 be ratified.**

**Carried**

NB: The Chair noted that the following item had been included on the agenda as the Assets & Services meeting scheduled for 7 March 2023 had been cancelled.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Geoff Dick, Council's Senior Rivers Technical Engineer, was present for the following item.

**EFC-0323-313      July and August 2022 – Flood Damage Repairs**  
**Estimate and Repair Progress Update**  
**L150-026-01-01**

Council's Senior Rivers Technical Engineer, Mr Geoff Dick noted that the purpose of the report was to provide Council with an estimate of repair costs for flood damages incurred during the July and August 2022 flood events, including initial emergency response and provide a brief update on repair works completed or underway. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2360651).

Attached to the report was the July, August 2022 Flood Damage Estimate for members' information.

Mr Dick advised that the flooding impacts from the August storm caused additional flood damage to Wairau Scheme assets, along managed tributaries and along river frontages for many farms and private properties. There has been a large number of calls by landowners for recovery advice and assistance where appropriate.

It was noted that assessment of additional necessary repairs to Wairau Scheme assets plus any additional work recommended in Wairau Scheme tributaries plus outlying areas is now considered complete. The schedule was attached to the agenda item. Mr Dick advised that in addition a programme of follow up capital works is recommended for future consideration to further reduce the risk of similar flooding in identified hazard areas.

Mr Dick advised that Council has applied for Government assistance for capital upgrades for the next three years of 60%, approximately \$16M, Council's 40% share is budgeted for in the LTP.

The areas where capital upgrades are considered appropriate or worthy of further investigation to reduce the risk of future flooding in known hazard areas were detailed in the agenda item. It was reported that most of these upgrade projects will require further Council consideration and/or budget included in the next LTP to address. It was noted that Andersons Floodway and the Rarangi Road drainage upgrades will also need to be addressed as part of the Wairau scheme rates review.

**Cirs Croad/Adams:**

1. That the report be received.
2. That Rivers staff be authorised to continue with the July/August 2022 flood damage repairs as per the schedule attached to this report.
3. That the Committee notes the seven areas for potential capital upgrades. Given the community interest in all these upgrades further reports to the Assets & Services committee are proposed as options, costs and community input information becomes available.

Carried

## **EFC-0323-314 Sale of Assets Proceeds Policy**

**F225-000-01**

Mr Fletcher noted that the purpose of the report was to present an order of preference for the use of proceeds from Asset Sales including Carbon Credits.

It was noted that from time to time Council looks to sell assets. The paper presented did not cover when a particular asset should be sold as the motivations for sale are generally asset specific. It was noted that there is a strategy in place for the sale of buildings.

The following five options were presented to members.

- a) If the asset was purchased from a particular Reserve, credit that Reserve.
- b) Reinvest in income generating assets.
- c) Reinvest in public good assets.
- d) Repay debt.
- e) Use the proceeds to reduce rates.

Members were advised that the use of asset sales proceeds for a one-off reduction in rates is not recommended.

**Cirs J A Arbuckle/Hope:**

**That Council:**

1. **Agree the following order of priority for the use of funds generated following the sale of Council assets as:**
  - (a) **Repay the relevant Reserve if the initial purchase was funded from that Reserve.**
  - (b) **Reinvest the funds in a suitable income generating asset.**
  - (c) **Reinvest in a public good asset.**
  - (d) **Repay debt.**
2. **Note that asset sales proceeds, if used to reduce rates in any one year, will have a significant negative impact on the following year's rates.**

Carried

## **EFC-0323-315 Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – February 2023**

**L300-018-001-02**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update to the Committee on the operations of the library service.

The information contained within the report was noted and Clr Rosene drew members' attention to the Marlborough District Libraries being recognised as Working to be Dementia Friendly, with Picton Library and Service Centre being the first Library in New Zealand to be recognised in this way.

It was noted that every two years revalidation is required. The Picton Librarian has collected evidence of Picton's continued relationship with Marlborough Alzheimers and has submitted an application for renewal.



It was noted the list of overdue Building Consents is increasing as building projects are not being started due to the unavailability of materials and builders.

There are a number of invoices relating to the Resource Consent Annual Monitoring fees outstanding and emails have been sent requesting payment.

The Property Leases and Licences Debtors Report as of 28 February 2023 was attached to the agenda for Councillors' information.

**Cllrs Croad /Adams:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **EFC-0323-318      Rates Report as at 28 February 2023      F270-36-21**

Mr Fletcher advised that the purpose of the report was to advise the Council of the rates position as at 28 February 2023.

Members were advised on the current rating year arrears. It was noted 59.12% of the 2022-2023 rates have been collected which is a slight increase on the same period last year, which was 58.20%.

The third instalment of 2022-2023 rates is due for payment on 8 March and of the 1,534 properties that incurred a penalty on their 2022-2023 quarter 2 instalment, which was due for payment by 8 December, 168 accounts are still behind. This is an increase from the same period last year from 1,055 properties incurring a penalty with only 80 accounts behind. This is not unexpected, considering the current financial climate and the increased cost of living.

Members were advised that follow up work continues with these properties to contact the ratepayers re overdue rates and the Rates Team are continuously working with ratepayers to find mutually agreeable repayment plans to help them manage their rates payments.

It was noted that since 1 July 2022 34 Energy Efficiency Loan Rates applications have been approved for energy efficiency funding. These figures are less than the 64 applications received at the same time last financial year.

**Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Rosene:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **EFC-0323-319      Information Package      -**

**Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Rosene:**  
**That the Assets & Services Information Package originally scheduled for the 9 March 2023 meeting (cancelled) be received and noted.**

**Carried**



ATTENDANCE: Cllr Dawson rejoined the meeting at the 12.00 pm during the following item.

## **EFC-0323-320 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded**

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Innes:

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

- Debtors
- Marlborough Tech & Innovation Hub
- Land Acquisition

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:

<b>General Subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>Debtors</b>	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.
<b>Marlborough Tech &amp; Innovation Hub</b> <b>Land Acquisition</b>	To enable the Council, as holder of the information, to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) as provided for under Section 7(2)(i).	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 1.01 pm.

Record No: 2362464

Annexure

## Public Forum

1. **Robert Terry** – Topic: Free Public Defenders Service for Marlborough. A letter to Mr Terry from Dinah Okeby, Office of the Prime Minister, attached as Appendix 1, was circulated.

### Appendix 1

#### Office of the Prime Minister

MP for Remutaka  
Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



6 March 2023

Robert Frank Terry  
63 Lucas Street  
**Blenheim**

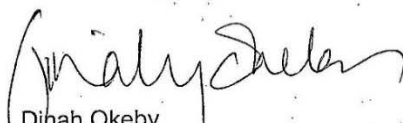
Dear Robert

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, to thank you for your letter of 29 January 2023 concerning the Public Defence Service.

The Prime Minister relies on his Ministerial colleagues to respond to issues that fall within their portfolio responsibilities. As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Courts, Hon Rino Tirakatene, I have forwarded your letter to his office for consideration.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Best wishes



Dinah Okeby  
Office of the Prime Minister

RECEIVED

20 MAR 2023

MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL