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**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

8 May 2026

Record No: 2693311
File Ref: D050-001-02
Ask For: Tiffany Wise

Notice of Council Meeting – Thursday, 14 May 2026

Notice of the Council Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on Thursday, 14 May 2026 to commence at 9.00 am.

BUSINESS

As per Order Paper attached.

JOHN BOSWELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



**Order Paper for the
COUNCIL MEETING
to be held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

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1. Confirmation of Minutes Council 2 April 2026
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4. Confirmation of Committee Report Audit & Risk Sub-Committee 23 April 2026
5. Level of Service Increase: Emergency Management
6. Level of Service Increase: Communications
7. Annual Review and Approval of Solid Waste Fess & Charges (2026/2027)

1. Karakia

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa
E te Atua tō mātou Kai-hanga,
ka tiāho te maramatanga me te ora,
i āu kupu kōrero,
ka tīmata āu mahi, ka mau te tika me te aroha;
meatia kia ū tonu ki a mātou
tōu aroha i roto i tēnei huihuinga.
Whakakī a matou whakaaro ā mātou mahi katoa,
e tōu Wairua Tapu.
Āmine.

God our Creator,
when you speak there is light and life,
when you act there is justice and love;
grant that your love may be present in our
meeting.
So that what we say and what we do may be
filled with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

2. Apologies

Clr Brian Dawson

3. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

4. Water Organisation Company Formation (attachments included)

(The Mayor) (Report prepared by Phillip Eyles)

L150-023-018-02

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council approval of the water organisation Constitution and confirmation of the water organisations company name: Marlborough Waters Limited (MWL).

Executive Summary

1. The constitution is a foundational legal document that establishes the water services council-controlled organisation (**CCO**) as a company. This paper sets out the key elements of the constitution, key drafting decisions and a summary of engagement.
2. Council have previously indicated that Marlborough Waters Limited would be their preferred name for the new water organisation. This is consistent with the naming convention used by other Marlborough District Council (**MDC**) entities such as Marlborough Roads, Marlborough Airport and Port Marlborough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. **Approve the water organisation Constitution as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee.**
 2. **Approve the name Marlborough Waters Limited for the new water organisation as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee.**
 3. **Authorise the Chief Executive and Solicitor to make any minor editorial/formatting amendments prior to publication.**
-

Background/Context

3. MDC has resolved to establish a standalone water organisation to meet its obligations under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (the Act). The Act requires a water organisation to be a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1993.
4. The Act also requires MDC to prepare the following foundation documents for a water organisation:
 - 4.1. **Constitution** – establishes the legal, operational, and governance framework between the water organisation and its shareholder/s, in this case MDC. The Constitution, ensures that:
 - 4.1.1. the council is not exposed to financial obligations without its explicit approval; and
 - 4.1.2. no disposal of strategic assets without governance approval.
 - 4.2. **Statement of Expectations (SoE)** – binding directive from the shareholder/s (council) to the water organisation on strategic priorities, performance targets, and financial expectations for the delivery of water services.
 - 4.3. **Water Services Strategy (WSS)** – sets out the water organisations intended approach to give effect to the Statement of Expectations. It is similar to the Long-Term Plan, and sets out the funding and revenue requirements, the pricing and charging approach, financial forecasting information, and strategic infrastructure and investment programme. The WSS purpose is to ensure the water

organisation delivers financially sustainable, compliant and reliable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

4.4. **Transfer Agreement** – transfers responsibility for water services provision and infrastructure assets and obligations from the shareholder Council/s to the water organisation.

5. The draft constitution for MWL has been developed by our external legal advisers following our instructions, and aligns with the minimum requirements of the Act, the Companies Act 1993, and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Assessment/Analysis

The Constitution for MWL

6. The constitution is a foundational legal document that is required by the Companies Act 1993. It defines the water organisation's legal structure, operating principles, and the relationship between MWL and MDC as their sole shareholder. Key features of the constitution include:
- 6.1. *the scope of MWL activities and their obligations* – e.g. to provide water services in the Marlborough region.
 - 6.2. *matters related to MWL shares* – MDC is the sole shareholder of MWL and holder of any shareholder rights.
 - 6.3. *matters related to the Directors of MWL* – these set out obligations that apply to directors of MWL. The Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy implements these requirements as they apply to the recruitment or reappointment of directors.
 - 6.4. *board proceedings* – requirements related to meetings. The Board is required to meet no less than 10 times per annum.
7. While most terms in the Constitution are common across similar companies, some key drafting decisions are specific to the water organisation Constitution. These are:
- 7.1. **Shareholder input into Water Services Strategy** – the MWL constitution has been drafted so that MDC can only provide comments on the WSS and Annual Budget. In short, this means that comments from MDC must be considered by MWL, but MWL are not required to adopt them. This approach was supported by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee at their meeting on 20 January 2026, and we have proceeded to draft on this basis. In practice, while the MDC can only make comments, our shared services model, and reporting requirements between MDC and MWL will mean there will be significant engagement between MDC and MWL on the development of the WSS, particularly on issues related to the investment programme and the impact on water charges.
 - 7.2. **Alternative Drafting Approach** – is that the constitution could provide for MDC to be able to require MWL to amend the draft strategy and/or enable MDC to approve the WSS. We do not recommend that Council adopt this alternative approach.
 - 7.2.1. This is because the nature of shareholder involvement in relation to the WSS directly impacts who is considered a “decision-making local government water service supplier”. This has significant implications in relation to:
 - a. *Who is subject to economic regulation.* if MDC is able to require amendments and approve the WSS, the Commerce Commission has confirmed that MDC would then be subject to economic regulation alongside MWL. This would have both resource and cost implications for MDC.
 - b. *The application of directors' duties under the Companies Act 1993.* If MDC is making the decisions on WSS investment, revenue and charging arrangements, this will “blur” directors' accountabilities, effectively making them “agents” for council decisions for investment or revenue levels. Wellington water is an example of the potential impact of those blurred accountabilities.

- c. *Borrowing arrangements with the LGFA*. In its correspondence to the sector, LGFA noted that, “all water CCO’s must have independent Board Directors”. The nature of shareholder involvement has direct bearing on the independence of the Board. This could have significant impact on MWL’s access to finance.

7.3. **Distributions (Dividends)** – While the Act allows MWL to pay dividends to MDC, we have assumed that the intention is that MWL will direct its “earnings” from water revenues either to increasing investment in water services or reducing water charges. For this reason, we have instructed our legal advisers that MWL will not pay out dividends.

7.3.1. However, there is the option that the Constitution could be drafted so that ‘The Company must not pay any Distributions in any way, directly or indirectly, to the Shareholder unless first approved by the Shareholder’. In our view, while this does provide optionality, we think there is a risk this exception could be perceived as a precursor to privatisation.

7.4. **Treaty of Waitangi Obligations** – the original drafting included a reference to the water organisation obligations under the LGA (which includes upholding the principles of the Treaty) but did not explicitly reference the Treaty of Waitangi. Following our engagement with Te Taihū (who requested that there be some explicit reference) we have amended the earlier draft of the constitution to provide that the water organisation must comply with, *all applicable statutory and regulatory obligations relating to Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi, including those set out in the LGA02 and LG(WS) Act*. We think that this drafting provides an appropriate balance between explicit recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi while ensuring those obligations are anchored in the existing legislative obligations e.g. under the LGA that would apply to the water organisation.

Company name

- 8. This paper also seeks your confirmation that the water organisation will be called Marlborough Waters Limited. Marlborough Waters Limited has been used widely within the programme team and other documents as the ‘working title’ for the new water organisation. We have adopted this as a “working title” because it is consistent with the naming convention applied to other Council entities, e.g. Port Marlborough, Marlborough Roads, and Marlborough Holdings
- 9. We have reviewed the approaches that have been taken by other Councils in naming their water organisations. Wellington was gifted the name Tiaki Wai (Carers for Water) by local iwi, and Waikato choose the name IAWAI (Flowing Waters) from a short-list put forward by staff in collaboration with Waikato-Tainui iwi. In the South Island, all the CCOs incorporated so far have English names, such as Coast Waters, Selwyn Water and Southern Waters. While they bring some benefits, the approaches taken by Tiaki Wai and IAWAI would create challenges for establishment programme timelines if they were adopted. We also note the potential for a future name change if the current water organisation arrangements change e.g. future mergers between water organisations.
- 10. While a “working title” has been sufficient to enable key preliminary actions like the reservation of the name ‘Marlborough Waters Limited’ at NZ Companies Office and registering the domain names ‘marlboroughwaters.co.nz’ and ‘marlboroughwaters.nz’, we think it is now prudent to formally confirm the name Marlborough Waters Limited. This is because as the establishment programme progresses, the transaction cost of changing the name will have greater significance. Some examples of those upcoming activities include:
 - 10.1. **Brand development** – this is scheduled to begin 1-2 months after the Board is established, e.g. August-September 2026, and is likely to take three months to complete.
 - 10.2. **Website development** – this is dependent on the Brand Development being completed and is likely to take 3-5 months to complete.
- 11. As we progress through the establishment programme, we will be seeking your approval or feedback on other foundational documents. The next documents you can expect to approve will be the Statement of Expectations for Marlborough Waters Limited.

Option One (Recommended Option) – Approve Constitution and confirm the name Marlborough Waters Limited for the new water organisation.

Advantages

12. Critical input to recruitment and appointment of the MWL board of directors.
13. Allows other interdependent workstreams to proceed without delay.
14. Marlborough Waters Limited has been the informal working name for the water organisation for several months and has already been generally well accepted. It is also consistent with the naming convention for other Council entities.

Disadvantages

15. Risk that some stakeholders, staff or Iwi may feel there was insufficient consultation on the Company Name.

Option Two – Further revision/consideration of the Constitution and/or Company Name

Since a water organisation Constitution and Company Name is necessary to deliver the Water Services Delivery Plan, the only viable alternatives to approving the current recommendations would be one or more of the following: further revision of the Constitution terms; consideration of a new Company Name; and/or additional consultation on the proposed Company Name.

Advantages

16. Providing stakeholders, iwi and/or water organisation staff with input into the Company Name would build trust and buy-in.

Disadvantages

17. Depending on their nature further revisions of the constitution could delay the establishment of the Board.
18. There is likely to be conflicting views on any alternative Company Name, which may be difficult and time-consuming to resolve to the satisfaction of all parties, whereas Marlborough Waters is consistent with the current naming approach for MDC entities and appears to have general acceptance.

Next steps

19. The water organisation will initially be incorporated with the MDC Chief Executive as the sole Director, who will then be replaced by the water organisation Board once they are appointed in July 2026. Once approved the Constitution will be registered with the Companies Office.
20. Upon approval of the Marlborough Waters Limited name and the establishment of the Board, the water organisation establishment team can begin development of the Marlborough Waters brand and associated communication material.

Presentation

A short update on key aspects of the paper will be given by Phillip Eyles.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Summary of Iwi Feedback

Page [7]

Attachment 2 – Constitution

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Author	Phillip Eyles, Strategic Delivery Manager
Authoriser	Richard Connigham, Interim Chief Executive Water Organisation

Summary of decision-making considerations

Fit with purpose of local government

The proposal clearly sets out the governance relationship between MDC and the new water organisation, in terms of the rights, powers, and duties of the company, the board, directors and shareholders.

<i>Fit with Council policies and strategies</i>	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	☐	☐	✓
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Social well-being	☐	☐	✓
Economic development	☐	☐	✓
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	✓
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters	✓	☐	☐
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✓

This proposal contributes to the 3 Waters category by progressing the establishment of the new water organisation as stated in the Water Services Delivery Strategy.

Nature of the decision to be made

The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.

Financial considerations

There are no known financial implications.

Significance

The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement

Engagement has been conducted with the eight iwi who comprise Te Tauihu, and their feedback has been summarised in Appendix 1.

Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc

There are no known significant risks or legal implications as the Constitution has been drafted by Simpson Grierson in line with DIA recommendations.

Climate Change Implications

There are no known climate change implications to this decision.

Attachment 1 – Summary of Iwi Feedback

No	Comment/Suggestions	Decision
1	▪ Requested explicit recognition of: – water as a taonga, – the need to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and – to give effect to applicable Treaty Settlement redress.	▪ This was covered indirectly in the Constitution by referring to the water organisation obligations under the LGA. ▪ However, we have made this existing obligation more explicit by adding Clause 3.1 (b) 'all applicable statutory and regulatory obligations relating to Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi, including those set out in the LGA02 and LG (WS) Act'. This is the approach taken by Tiaki Wai.

Attachment 2 – Constitution

CONSTITUTION OF MARLBOROUGH WATERS LIMITED

[Note – Marlborough Waters Limited in a working title and subject to Council approval]

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SCHEDULE 2 SHAREHOLDER RESERVED MATTER

MARLBOROUGH WATERS LIMITED
(Company)

CONSTITUTION

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy means the Shareholder's policy for the appointment and removal of directors, as amended by resolution of the Shareholder from time to time.

Board means the Directors, provided they meet the required quorum, acting together as a board of Directors.

Board Skills Matrix means a matrix setting out the skills which are required to be represented on the Board, by being held by one or more Directors in office, as adopted and amended from time to time by the Shareholder or its delegate.

Business Day means a day (other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday) on which registered banks are open for business in the Marlborough region, New Zealand.

Chairperson means the chairperson of the Board appointed in accordance with clause 11.8.

Companies Act means the Companies Act 1993.

Company means Marlborough Waters Limited, a company incorporated in New Zealand under company number [to be inserted on incorporation].

Constitution means this constitution of the Company (including the Schedules) as amended from time to time.

Director means a person appointed as a director of the Company in accordance with this Constitution.

Distribution means the payment of a dividend and any other “distribution” as that term is defined in section 2 of the Companies Act.

Financial Year has the meaning given to it in section 4 of the LG(WS) Act.

Independent Director means a director who is neither a current elected member of any Local Authority that is a Shareholder nor a current employee of any Shareholder or the Company.

LGA means the Local Government Act 2002.

LG(WS) Act means the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.

Local Authority has the meaning given to it in section 5 of the LGA.

Major Transaction has the meaning given to that term in the Companies Act.

Service Area has the meaning set out in the LG(WS) Act and as at the date of adoption of this Constitution is the district of Marlborough District Council (within the meaning of the LGA).

Shareholder means any person for the time being registered in the Company's share register as the holder of one or more Shares in the Company and, as at the date of adoption of this Constitution, means Marlborough District Council.

Shares means the shares in the Company on issue from time to time.

Shareholder Reserved Matter means matters of the nature listed in SCHEDULE 2.

Special Resolution means a resolution that is approved by 75% of the votes of those Shareholders entitled to vote and voting on the question.

Statement of Expectations has the meaning given to it in section 220 of LG(WS) Act.

Subsidiary has the meaning given to it in the Companies Act.

Water Organisation has the meaning given to it in section 4 of the LG(WS) Act.

Water Services has the meaning given to it in section 4 of the LG(WS) Act, which will be the water services transferred by the Shareholder to the Company in accordance with the Transfer Agreement between the Shareholder and the Company.

Water Services Annual Budget has the meaning given to it in section 220 of the LG(WS) Act.

Water Services Annual Report has the meaning given to it in section 220 of the LG(WS) Act.

Water Services Half-Yearly Report means the document referred to in section 248 of the LG(WS) Act.

Water Services Strategy has the meaning given to it in section 220 of the LG(WS) Act.

1.2 Interpretation: In this Constitution, the following rules of interpretation apply, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa, and a gender includes other genders;
- (c) another grammatical form of a defined word or expression has a corresponding meaning;

- (d)** words in this Constitution have the same meaning as in the Companies Act unless inconsistent with the context;
- (e)** a reference to a party, person or entity includes:

 - (i)** an individual, firm, company, trust, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, body corporate, estate, state, government or any agency thereof, municipal or local authority and any other entity, whether incorporated or not (in each case whether or not having a separate legal personality); and
 - (ii)** an employee, agent, successor, permitted assignee, executor, administrator and other representative of such party, person, entity;
- (f)** a reference to dollars or \$ is to New Zealand currency and excludes every tax and duty;
- (g)** a reference to a clause or schedule is to a clause or schedule of this Constitution;
- (h)** a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them;
- (i)** references to the word 'include' or 'including' are to be construed without limitation;
- (j)** references to any form of law are to New Zealand law, including as amended or re-enacted;
- (k)** a reference to a document or instrument includes the document or instrument as novated, altered, supplemented or replaced from time to time;
- (l)** "written" and "in writing" include any means of reproducing words, figures or symbols in a tangible and visible form;
- (m)** any obligation falling due for performance on or by a day other than a Business Day will be performed on or by the Business Day immediately following that day; and
- (n)** an obligation not to do something includes an obligation not to allow or cause that thing to be done.

1.3 If there is any conflict:

- (a)** between a provision in this Constitution and a mandatory provision in the Companies Act, the LG(WS) Act, or the LGA, then the mandatory provision in the Companies Act, the LG(WS) Act, or the LGA will prevail; and

(b) between:

- (i) a provision in this Constitution and a provision in the Companies Act which is expressly permitted to be altered by this Constitution; or
- (ii) a word or expression defined or explained in the Companies Act and a word or expression defined or explained in this Constitution,

then the provision, word or expression in this Constitution will prevail.

2. CAPACITY

2.1 Water Organisation: As at the date of its incorporation, the Company is a Water Organisation in terms of section 44 of the LG(WS) Act.

2.2 Business of the Company: The Company must not carry on any business other than the provision of, or preparation for the provision of, Water Services and activities that are related to, or necessary for, the provision of, or preparation for the provision of, Water Services, in order to meet the objectives of the LG(WS) Act for the Service Area

2.1 Expansion of Scope of Business: Subject to the prior approval of the Shareholder, and no earlier than 12 months after the date of the Company's incorporation, the Company may consider opportunities to provide water services to areas outside the Service Area on the basis that:

- (a) the Board may consider and provide a recommendation to the Shareholder on those opportunities;
- (b) the Board's recommendation will be non-binding; and
- (c) any decision to expand the scope of the Company's business to provide water services to areas outside of the Service Area will be subject to the approval of the Shareholder (and any applicable legal requirements including consultation).

2.2 Capacity: Subject to this Constitution, the Companies Act, the LG(WS) Act, the LGA and any current Statement of Expectations, the Company has full capacity, rights, powers and privileges to carry on or undertake any business or activity, do any act, or enter into any transaction.

3. WATER ORGANISATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Obligations: The Company must comply with:

- (a) its obligations under the LGA and LG(WS) Act, including preparing, adopting and publishing its Water Services Strategy, Water Services Annual Budget, Water Services Half-Yearly Report and Water Services Annual Report;
- (b) all applicable statutory and regulatory obligations relating to Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi, including those set out in the LGA02 and LG(WS) Act

(c) Parts 1 – 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and

(d) all other laws applicable to the Company and its Business activities.

3.2 Shareholder Input: The Shareholder is entitled to comment on the Company's draft Water Services Strategy and draft Water Services Annual Budget, and the Company must consider those comments. However, the Shareholder will not have the power to require changes or approve the final Water Services Strategy or final Water Services Annual Budget.

3.3 Use and Ownership of Assets: The Company must not:

(a) use any of the assets of its Water Services networks as security for any purpose; or

(b) transfer the ownership of its Water Services infrastructure or of any other interest in a Water Service to any third party,

except to the extent permitted by the LG(WS) Act.

3.4 Statement of Expectations: The Board must ensure that the Company gives effect to and carries out its objectives in a manner which is consistent with the Statement of Expectations provided to it by the Shareholder.

3.5 Auditor: The auditor for the Company will be the Auditor-General.

4. SHARES

4.1 Initial Shares on Issue: All shares at the time of incorporation of the Company will be fully paid, ordinary shares which are equal ranking in all respects.

4.2 Pre-emptive Rights: Section 45 of the Companies Act does not apply to the Company.

4.3 Issue of Shares: The Board may issue Shares only with the prior approval of the Shareholder and in accordance with this Constitution and the LG(WS) Act or superseding legislation.

4.4 Transfer of Shares: No Shares may be transferred to any person without the prior approval of the Shareholder.

4.5 Shareholder Meetings: The Shareholder has the right to receive notice of and attend every meeting of the Company.

4.6 Rights Attaching to Shares: Subject to the rights of any class of Shares which confer special rights, each Share confers on the holder the right to:

(a) one vote on a poll at a meeting of the Shareholder on any resolution, including any resolution to:

- (i) appoint or remove a Director or auditor;
 - (ii) adopt a constitution;
 - (iii) alter the Company's constitution;
 - (iv) approve a Major Transaction;
 - (v) approve an amalgamation of the Company under section 221 of the Companies Act; or
 - (vi) put the Company into liquidation; and
- (b) an equal share in the distribution of the surplus assets of the Company.

4.7 For the avoidance of doubt, this clause is effective if and only when there are share classes.

4.8 Types of Shares: Subject to this Constitution and the written approval of the Shareholder (other than in the case of the initial issue under clause 4.1), the Board may:

- (a) issue Shares at any time to the Shareholder and in any number;
- (b) issue Shares in different classes which have different rights; and
- (c) divide existing Shares into different classes which have different rights.

5. CALLS ON SHARES

5.1 Company May Make Calls: The Company may, with the prior approval of the Shareholder, make calls on the Shareholder in respect of any amount unpaid on its shares that is not, by the conditions of issue, made payable at a fixed time or times.

- (a) The Shareholder must, subject to receiving at least 90 days' written notice specifying the time or times of payment, pay to the Company at the time or times so specified or otherwise agreed between the Company and the Shareholder any amount so called.
- (b) Any call may only be revoked or postponed with the approval of the Shareholder.
- (c) The Shareholder remains liable to pay, in accordance with the relevant notice and decision of the Shareholder, any call in accordance with the relevant notice, notwithstanding any subsequent transfer of the relevant Shares.

5.2 Terms of Issue: Money payable in accordance with the terms of issue of a Share will be deemed to be a call made and payable in accordance with the terms of issue, provided that no such amount will be payable without the prior approval of the Shareholder.

5.3 Interest: If an amount called in respect of a Share is not paid before or at the time appointed for payment, the person from whom the amount is due must pay:

- (a) interest on that amount from the time appointed for payment to the time of actual payment at such rate as the Company, acting reasonably, may determine; and
- (b) all expenses which the Company has incurred or may incur because of non-payment.

The Company may, subject to approval by the Shareholder, waive payment of any such interest wholly or in part.

6. RIGHT TO LIEN AND FORFEITURE

6.1 Liability Not Extinguished: The Shareholder's liability for all money owing under a call made under clause 5 is not extinguished by a transfer of the Share in respect of which the money is owed, unless otherwise agreed by the Shareholder.

6.2 Lien: The Company has a first lien on the proceeds of sale of any Share registered in the name of the Shareholder for any amount properly payable by the Shareholder to the Company that has been approved by the Shareholder in accordance with this Constitution, including:

- (a) any money payable in respect of that Share;
- (b) any other money expressly approved by the Shareholder; and
- (c) any amount the Company is required by statute or regulation to pay in respect of that Share or the Shareholder,

provided that the lien does not extend to contingent or uncalled amounts and may not be enforced, nor may any rights be exercised in respect of it, without the prior written approval of the Shareholder.

6.3 Company May Sell Shares: The Company must not sell any Share on which it has a lien without the prior written approval of the Shareholder.

- (a) Any such sale may only occur if:
 - (i) the amount secured by the lien is due and payable; and
 - (ii) the Company has given the Shareholder at least 90 Business Days' written notice requiring payment of that amount.
- (b) The Company may not take any steps to enforce a lien, including the sale of Shares, without the prior written approval of the Shareholder.

6.4 Director's Certificate: A certificate signed by a director stating that the power of sale in clause 6.2 has arisen and is exercisable by the Company is conclusive evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

6.5 Authority to Complete Transfer: The Board may authorise any person to complete a transfer of Shares to a purchaser to give effect to any sale under clause 6.2.

7. DISTRIBUTIONS

7.1 Distributions: The Company must not pay any Distribution in any way, directly or indirectly, to the Shareholder.

8. COMPANY ACQUIRING ITS OWN SHARES

8.1 Company may acquire its own Shares: With the prior written approval of the Shareholder, the Company may acquire its own Shares and any Shares so acquired will be deemed to be cancelled immediately on acquisition.

9. SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS

9.1 Annual meeting: The Board must hold an annual Shareholder meeting in accordance with section 120 of the Companies Act unless in the case of any annual meeting, everything required to be done at that meeting (whether by way of resolution or otherwise) is done by written resolution in accordance with section 122 of the Companies Act. Nothing in this Constitution prevents the Shareholder from agreeing to hold meetings more frequently than annually, whether by resolution or separate agreement.

9.2 Special meetings: A special Shareholder meeting:

(a) may be called at any time by the Board; and

(b) must be called by the Board on the written request of the Shareholder.

9.3 Proceedings at Shareholder meetings: The provisions of Schedule 1 to the Companies Act as modified by this Constitution, govern proceedings at Shareholder meetings.

10. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

10.1 Reporting: Subject to clause 10.2:

(a) the Board must prepare the reports required by the Shareholder by notice in writing to the Company (such notice must comply with the requirements in section 249(4) of the LG(WS) Act), in accordance with the requirements specified in that notice;

(b) within eight months of the start of each Financial Year of the Company, the Board must prepare, adopt and deliver to the Shareholder (in accordance with section 248 of the LG(WS) Act) a Water Services Half-yearly Report, which must include information required to be included by any current

Statement of Expectations, and publish that report in accordance with section 223 of LG(WS) Act; and

- (c) within three months of the end of each Financial Year of the Company, the Board must prepare, adopt and deliver to the Shareholder (in accordance with section 243 of the LG(WS) Act), and publish in accordance with section 223 of the LG(WS) Act, its Water Services Annual Report for that Financial Year, which must include the information required to be included by:
 - (i) the Statement of Expectations;
 - (ii) the Companies Act; and
 - (iii) section 246 of the LG(WS) Act.

10.2 Information to be withheld: Nothing in this clause 10 requires the inclusion in any Statement of Expectations, annual report, financial statements or quarterly report required to be produced under this Constitution of any information that may be properly withheld if a request for that information was made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

11. DIRECTORS

11.1 Independent Directors: All Directors must be Independent Directors.

11.2 Number of Directors: Subject to clause 11.3, the minimum number of Directors is three and the maximum number of Directors is five.

11.3 Establishment Director: For the first six months after the incorporation of the Company, the minimum number of Directors is one.

11.4 Appointment and removal of Directors:

- (a) **By Shareholder:** The Shareholder may appoint, remove or replace any Director at any time by resolution in accordance with the Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy and by notice in writing to the Company. The Shareholder will ensure that each Director is appointed on the basis of their competency to perform the role, and so that the Board collectively has an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge, and experience in relation to providing Water Services.
- (b) **Removal:** Every Director will hold office subject to the provisions of this Constitution and may at any time be removed by the Shareholder under clause 11.4(a). Section 156 of the Companies Act will not apply to the Company.

11.5 Skills of Directors:

- (a) A person may only be appointed to be a director if the person has, in the opinion of the Shareholder, the skills, knowledge, or experience to:

- (i) guide the Company, given the nature and scope of its activities; and
 - (ii) contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Company.
- (b) All Director appointments must be made in accordance with the Board Skills Matrix, with the aim of ensuring that the Board as a whole has the skills required by the Board Skills Matrix.

11.6 Term of Appointment: Unless otherwise approved by the Shareholder:

- (a) No person may be appointed as a director for a term of more than three consecutive years (**Term**).
- (b) A Director may be reappointed at the expiry of his or her Term of appointment provided that no Director may be appointed for more than nine consecutive years.

11.7 Vacation of office: A Director vacates office if that Director:

- (a) resigns by written notice of resignation to the Company. The notice is to be effective when it is received at that address or at a later time specified in the notice;
- (b) reaches the end of their Term and is not reappointed;
- (c) is removed from office in accordance with clause 11.5;
- (d) becomes disqualified from being a Director pursuant to section 151 of the Companies Act or clause 11.17; or
- (e) dies.

11.8 Appointment of Chairperson:

- (a) The Shareholder may appoint a Chairperson.
- (b) The Chairperson will hold office until:
 - (i) they cease to be a Director of the Company; or
 - (ii) a new Chairperson is appointed by the Shareholder.

11.9 Powers of the Board:

- (a) Subject to clause 11.9(b) and any restrictions in the Companies Act, the LG(WS) Act, or this Constitution, the business and affairs of the Company must be managed by or under the direction or supervision of the Board.
- (b) The Board has, and may exercise, all the powers necessary for managing, directing and supervising the management of the business and affairs of the Company except to the extent that this Constitution, the Companies Act or

the LG(WS) Act expressly requires those powers to be exercised by the Shareholder or any other person.

11.10 Prohibited matters: Notwithstanding clause 11.9(b), the Board must not, and must not cause the Company to:

- (a) incur indebtedness to any person other than the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited or a New Zealand registered banking institution; or
- (b) grant a security interest over any of the assets of the Company except as permitted by the LG(WS) Act.

11.11 Shareholder Reserved Matters: Notwithstanding clause 11.9(b), but subject to any restrictions in the LG(WS) Act, the Board must not, and must not cause the Company to enter into any transaction or matter that is a Shareholder Reserved Matter, unless first approved in writing by the Shareholder.

11.12 Solvency test: Notwithstanding any approval obtained pursuant to clause 11.10, the Board must not cause the Company to borrow or raise any money, or enter into or incur any guarantee or other liability of any nature, if the effect of doing so would be that the Company will not satisfy the solvency test (as that term is defined in the Companies Act).

11.13 Proceedings of the Board: The provisions of the Schedule 3 to the Companies Act as modified by this Constitution govern proceedings at meetings of Directors.

11.14 Directors' duties: In addition to the duties set out in the Companies Act, the Directors must assist the Company to meet the requirements set out in the Statement of Expectations or the LG(WS) Act.

11.15 Directors to act in good faith: A Director, when exercising powers or performing duties, must act in a manner which that Director believes to be in the best interests of the Company (notwithstanding that it may not be in the best interests of the Shareholder).

11.16 Indemnity and insurance of Directors and employees: The Company may indemnify and effect insurance in accordance with any part or all of section 162 of the Companies Act provided that:

- (a) the Board must ensure that particulars of any indemnity given to, or insurance taken out for, any Director, or employee of the Company are immediately entered in the interests register; and
- (b) the Board may impose any conditions in relation to any indemnity or insurance if the conditions do not contravene the Companies Act.

For the purposes of this clause 11.16 "director" includes any former director, "employee" includes any former employee and "Company" includes any related company.

11.17 Disqualification of Directors: A person will be disqualified from holding the office of Director if he or she:

- (a) is or becomes disqualified from being a director under any provision of the Companies Act or the LG(WS) Act; or
- (b) is not or ceases to be an Independent Director.

11.18 Remuneration of Directors:

- (a) The Shareholder will determine the total sum available to the Board each year to make remuneration payments in accordance with clause 11.18(b).
- (b) The Board may not authorise any form of remuneration to be paid to a Director without Shareholder approval and unless such payment is made and authorised in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act and the Shareholder resolution passed in accordance with clause 11.18(a).
- (c) The Board may authorise the reimbursement by the Company of reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses incurred by Directors in attending Board meetings, Shareholder meetings or in relation to any other affairs of the Company.

11.19 Other offices with company held by Director:

- (a) Any Director may act by himself or herself or by the Director's firm in a professional capacity for the Company, and the Director or the Director's firm will be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if the Director were not a director. Nothing in this clause authorises a director or the Director's firm to act as auditor of the Company.
- (b) A Director may hold any other office or place of profit in the Company (other than the office of auditor) in conjunction with the Director's office of Director for such period and on such terms (as to remuneration and otherwise) as the Board may determine, subject to the necessary reporting disclosures and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

12. INTERESTS OF DIRECTORS

12.1 Disclosure of interests: A Director must disclose particulars of any interest in a transaction or proposed transaction of the Company in accordance with section 140 of the Companies Act.

12.2 Interested Directors: As set out in section 139 of the Companies Act, a Director is "interested" in a transaction to which the Company is a party if:

- (a) they are a party to the transaction or may derive a material financial benefit from it;
- (b) they have a material interest in another party to the transaction;

- (c) they are a director, officer or trustee of another party to the transaction;
- (d) they are a director, officer or trustee of a person who may derive a material financial benefit from the transaction;
- (e) they are a parent, child or spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of a person described in clauses 12.2(a) to 12.2(d); or
- (f) they are otherwise directly or indirectly materially interested in the transaction.

12.3 Interested Directors may not act: A Director who is interested in a transaction entered into, or to be entered into, by the Company must not do any of the following:

- (a) vote on or sign a document relating to that transaction on behalf of the Company; or
- (b) do any other thing in their capacity as a director in relation to that transaction,

provided that a director may vote, sign documents and otherwise do any other thing in their capacity as a director with regard to any matter relating to the following:

- (c) any payment or other benefit of the kind referred to in section 161 of the Companies Act in respect of that Director in accordance with clause 11.18;
- (d) the entry into an indemnity or insurance arrangement in respect of that Director in their capacity as a director of the Company in accordance with clause 11.16; or
- (e) transactions in which a director is interested solely in their capacity as a director of a Subsidiary of the Company.

12.4 Interests register review: The Board will review the interests register at the beginning of every Board meeting.

12.5 No prohibition regarding quorum: No prohibition under this clause 12 will prevent the attendance of a Director at a Board meeting from counting for quorum purposes.

13. NOTICES

13.1 Service: Notices may be served by the Company on any Director or on the Shareholder, either by personal delivery, by posting it in a prepaid envelope addressed to the recipient at their last known address (or, in the case of a company, its registered office) or by email to the email address of such Director or the Shareholder.

13.2 Service by Post: A notice served by post will be deemed served five Business Days after (but exclusive of) posting.

13.3 Service by Email: A notice served by email will be deemed to have been served on the day following completion of its transmission or, if such day is not a Business Day in the

place of intended receipt, then on the next Business Day at that place. In proving service by email, it will be sufficient to prove confirmation of delivery to the recipient's email address from the transmitting system.

14. LIQUIDATION

14.1 Distribution of Surplus Assets: Subject to clause 14.2 of this Constitution, on the liquidation of the Company, the assets, if any, remaining after payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company and the costs of winding up will be distributed to the Shareholder.

14.2 Distribution in Specie: On liquidation of the Company, the liquidator, with the approval of the Shareholder and subject to any other sanction required by law, may distribute some or all of the assets of the Company in specie to the Shareholder.

15. METHODS OF CONTRACTING

A deed which is to be entered into by the Company may be signed on behalf of the Company by:

- (a) two or more Directors;
- (b) a director, and any person authorised by the Board, whose signatures must be witnessed; or
- (c) one or more attorneys appointed by the Company.

16. INFORMATION

16.1 Parts 1 to 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 apply to the Company while it is a Water Organisation.

16.2 The Ombudsman Act 1975 applies to the Company while it is a Water Organisation.

17. AMENDMENT

This constitution may only be amended by Special Resolution of the Shareholder.

SCHEDULE 1

BOARD PROCEEDINGS

1. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Board will meet no less than 10 times per annum, or as otherwise resolved by the Board and approved by the Shareholder.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

- 2.1 A Director or, if requested by a Director to do so, an employee of the Company, may convene a meeting of the Board by giving notice in accordance with this clause.
- 2.2 At least ten Business Days' notice of a meeting of the Board must be given to every Director who is in New Zealand or, if not in New Zealand is readily contactable by the Company. The notice must include the date, time and place of the meeting and the matters to be discussed.
- 2.3 An irregularity in the notice of the meeting is waived if all Directors attend the meeting without protest as to the irregularity or if all Directors entitled to receive notice of the meeting agree to the waiver.
- 2.4 The notice of meeting must be a written notice delivered to the Director, or sent to the postal or email address which the Director provides to the Company for that purpose, or if a postal or email address is not provided, then a written notice to their last place of residence known to the Company.

3. METHOD OF HOLDING MEETINGS

A meeting of the Board may be held in any of the following ways:

- 3.1 **Physical Meeting:** by a number of the Directors who constitute a quorum being assembled together at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting;
- 3.2 **Other Means:** by means of audio, or audio and visual, communication by which all Directors participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other throughout the meeting; or
- 3.3 **Combination:** a combination of 3.1 and 3.2.

4. QUORUM

4.1 At any meeting of Directors:

- (a) for the first six months after the incorporation of the Company, if there is only one Director in the Company, one Director present constitutes a quorum;

- (b) at all other times, a quorum will only be present if at least three Directors are present; and
- (c) any resolution, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, will be passed if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of it.

4.2 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time of the Board meeting, the Chair can decide to adjourn the meeting to the same day and time of the following week, or to another date, time, and place. No business can be conducted if a quorum is not present.

5. VOTING

5.1 Every Director has one vote.

5.2 The Chairperson has a casting vote.

5.3 A resolution of the Board is passed if it is agreed to by all Directors present without dissent or if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of it.

5.4 A Director who abstains from voting is not presumed to have voted in favour of, or dissented to, the relevant resolution of the Board.

6. MINUTES

The Board must ensure minutes are kept of all proceedings at meetings of the Board.

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by all Directors then entitled to receive notice of a Board meeting, is as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held.

7.2 A copy of every Directors' resolution must be entered in the minute book of Board proceedings.

8. OTHER PROCEEDINGS

Subject to any contrary provision in this Constitution and to any contrary rule of law, the Board may regulate its own proceedings.

SCHEDULE 2

SHAREHOLDER RESERVED MATTER

- (a)** Addition of new shareholder
- (b)** Approval to provide services outside the Service Area
- (c)** Liquidation or winding up of Company
- (d)** Amalgamation
- (e)** Issue of, changes to, or buy-backs of, shares
- (f)** Major Transactions (as defined in the Companies Act)
- (g)** Adoption, revocation or amendment of the Constitution
- (h)** Material changes to the nature of the Company's business
- (i)** Giving financial assistance for the purposes of purchasing shares

5. Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy (attachments included)

(The Mayor) (Report prepared by Phillip Eyles)

L150-023-018-02

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council approval of the Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy (**the Policy**) to support the upcoming Water Organisation Board (**the Board**) recruitment process.

Executive Summary

2. A Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy has been prepared to ensure there is a transparent, consistent and merit-based process for the appointment and remuneration of directors. The Policy has been reviewed by external Legal Counsel at Simpson Grierson, and the eight iwi who comprise Te Taihū.
3. The Policy will support the Board recruitment. This is scheduled to run from mid-May to the end of June, with the new Board in place by mid-late July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Approve the Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee (WSGOC).
2. Note the Water Organisation Board Appointment Process and Dates.

Background/Context

4. While there is no legislative requirement¹ to have a Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy, the adoption of a policy by Council will ensure a transparent, consistent and merit-based process for the appointment and remuneration of directors. The policy will also ensure that the community has visibility and confidence in the water organisations directors' recruitment and appointment process.

Assessment/Analysis

5. **Establishing the Board** - We are seeking your approval to this policy to enable us to proceed with the recruitment of a Board chair and directors. While the Water Organisation Advisory Group has been operating since January 2026 and providing valuable direction and advice to the establishment programme, they do not have the legislative mandate to provide comments and/or make decisions on key foundational documents, such as the Statement of Expectations and Water Services Strategy. To ensure that we can make those decisions when they are needed, we are proposing that the Board be established and operational as soon as practical after 1 July 2026.
6. **Key Components of the Policy** - To support the recruitment and appointment process, we have developed a Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy. As noted above, the intention is that the policy will provide a transparent, consistent and merit-based process for the appointment and

¹ Section 48(6)(a) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

remuneration of directors. The Policy is intended to be enduring and will apply as relevant to the reappointment or removal of directors. Key features of the Policy include:

- 6.1 **Establishment of a Water Organisation Appointment Panel** – While full Council will appoint the individual directors to the Board of the water organisation, we are proposing the establishment of a Water Organisation Appointment Panel (**the Panel**) to oversee the recruitment process, shortlist candidates, undertake interviews and make recommendations on the directors' appointments to Council. We are proposing that the Panel will include three Council representatives (as determined by the Mayor), the Chair (or an experienced independent director if the Chairperson position is vacant), and an iwi representative.
 - 6.2 **Board Skills Matrix** – While we are recruiting individual directors, it is the collective capability of the Board that will be critical to its success. To build that collective capability we have identified the individual skills of the directors as either *essential* (required by all directors) or *specialist* (required by at least 1 director). A similar approach has been used by Queenstown Lakes District Council. This approach enables the Panel to target the specialist skills we require to ensure the Board collectively has the balance of skills and expertise it needs. As part of the policy development, we have engaged with Te Taihū iwi, who provided their feedback on both the essential skills and specialist skills related to understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori. The skills matrix has been updated to reflect that feedback.
7. We will review the policy following the initial appointment process and will advise you if it needs to be updated.

Option One (Recommended Option) – Adopt the Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy

Proceed with the Board recruitment with the Policy in place.

Advantages

8. Provides a transparent and defensible process for the appointment of Directors.
9. Removes the actual or perceived conflict of interest for Councillors and employees currently working with the Water Organisation Advisory Group, and any other Council CCO Board members who may apply.

Disadvantages

21. Development of the policy has required additional work and engagement albeit that much of this work will have had to be undertaken informally to support the recruitment process.
22. There will be some ongoing resource requirement for Council, as the policy should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

Option Two – Director Appointments without Policy

Proceed with the Board recruitment without a Water Organisation Appointment of Director Policy in place, given this is not a legislative requirement.

Advantages

23. More flexibility in deciding the approach to appointment, and potential composition and skill sets of the Board.

Disadvantages

24. Lack of transparency around the Board appointment process, potentially undermining community confidence in the appointment process and the Board.
25. Lack of guidance for councillors and the appointment panel around process and combination of skills and experience required by directors.

Next steps

26. We have engaged Sheffield, an external recruitment agency, to manage the external facing elements of the Board Recruitment. This is to ensure a robust and impartial recruitment process. Sheffield has significant experience in Board recruitment and are currently recruiting the Boards for Southern Waters, Kaikōura-Hurunui Water Services, Coast Waters, and the Queenstown Lake Districts Water Organisation.
27. Sheffield will start advertising the Chair and Director positions on 15 May subject to Council approval of this Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy. The advertisement period is expected to run from 15 May – 1 June 2026, and the appointment panel is expected to undertake shortlist interviews in the week of 22 June 2026. The Board recruitment timeline is included in Attachment 2.
28. Subject to the timing of the interviews, an extraordinary Council meeting is likely to be called the week of 29 June 2026 to approve the appointment of the Chair and Directors.
29. It is intended that the Board will be established and operating by the end of July 2026.

Presentation

A short update on key aspects of the paper will be given by Phillip Eyles.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Summary of Iwi Feedback	Page [31]
Attachment 2 – Water Organisation Board Recruitment – Indicative Process and Timelines	Page [32]
Attachment 3 – Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy	Page [33]

Author	Phillip Eyles, Strategic Delivery Manager
Authoriser	Richard Conningham – WSO Establishment Chief Executive (Acting)

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal enables a transparent and merit-based director appointment process that will identify a Board with the necessary skills and experience, at a fair and reasonable remuneration rate.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	☐	☐	✓
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	✓
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	✓
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters	✓	☐	☐
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✓
This proposal contributes to the Social well-being category by building community trust and transparency in Council governance decisions. This proposal contributes to the 3 Waters category by identifying the combination of skills and experiences needed to set the Board up for success.			
Nature of the decision to be made The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations There are no known financial implications.			
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement Engagement has occurred with the eight iwi who comprise Te Taihū.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc There are no known significant risks or legal implications as MDC are exceeding the legislative requirements for appointment of a Director.			
Climate Change Implications There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

Attachment 1 – Summary of Iwi Feedback

No	Comment/Suggestions	Decision
1	- Iwi supported the inclusion of a ‘strong understanding of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi’ as an Essential skill. - Suggestion that an in-depth understanding of Te Ao Māori should also be included as an ‘Essential’ skill rather than a ‘Specialist’ skill.	- MDC considers that an in-depth understanding of Te Ao Māori is likely to be a specialist skill and changing it to an essential skill could significantly limit the candidate pool. - MDC expects the Board will want to build its own Te Ao Māori capability as part of their professional development, and in response to the requirements in the Statement of Expectations.
2	Requested clarity on how the iwi representative for the Board Appointment Panel would be identified, and if there was an expectation of rotation across the eight iwi over successive recruitment rounds.	MDC advised at the Iwi Feedback Meeting on 21 April that it was up to Te Tauihu iwi how they select their representative, and iwi were comfortable with this approach.
3	Requested clarity on whether a director with demonstrated iwi/Māori engagement experience would be actively targeted during recruitment, rather than treated as desirable only.	- Consistent with the legislation, Board directors will need to bring a mix of skills, knowledge, and experience in relation to providing water services. - The intention is to select a Board that provides a complementary range of skills and experience that cover all the ‘Specialist’ skills between them, meaning there would be at least one director with demonstrated iwi/Māori engagement experience.
4	- Requested clarity on how iwi would be engaged beyond the appointment of the initial Board, such as Board reappointment and Chair appointment decisions. - Also requested clarity on how iwi would be involved in director performance reviews, particularly in regard to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and engagement obligations.	- The Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy is intended to be enduring and will apply to future appointments and reappointments. - More work is needed to identify the arrangements for performance review requirements in relation to the Board. - However, the intention is that once established, the water organisation will report to and be monitored by the <i>Finance subcommittee</i>. This is consistent with monitoring for other CCOs. The <i>Finance subcommittee</i> currently performs this monitoring role in relation to Marlborough Port and Marlborough Holdings. - The <i>Finance committee</i> includes an Iwi representative.

Water Organisation Board Recruitment

Indicative Process and Timelines

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May	3	4	5 WSGOC Endorse Board Recruitment Policy	6	7	8 Send Policy to Council	9
	10	11	12	13	14 Council Approve Board Recruitment Policy	15 Advertisement Period Starts	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
June	31	1 Kings Birthday Advertisement Period Ends	2 Sheffield Sends Summary to Appointment Panel	3	4 Appointment Panel Meeting - Agree Longlist	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11 Sheffield sends Longlist Summary to Panel	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
July	28	29 Sheffield Conducts Reference Checks	30 Send Board Recommendation to Council	1	2 Extraordinary Meeting to approve Board	3 Board Offers. Negotiations/Due Diligence	4
	5	6	7	8	9 Advise Directors of Chair Appointment (where critical)	10 Matariki	11
	12	13 All Director Contracts Finalised	14 Board Announcement	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
					Board Induction		

Council - 14 May 2026

Attachment 3 – Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy

Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy

Whāinga - Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out an objective and transparent process for the:

- identification and consideration of the skills, knowledge and experience required of directors of the water organisation,
- appointment of directors to the water organisation; and
- remuneration of directors of the water organisation.

The water organisation is a council-controlled organisation (**CCO**) established in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (**LGWSA**). Whilst section 57(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**), requires councils to have in place a policy for the appointment of directors, Section 48(6)(a) of the LGWSA provides that sections 57 of the LGA does not apply to water organisations that are CCOs.

Marlborough District Council has determined that this policy supports the transparent, consistent and merit based process for the appointment and remuneration of directors to the water organisation.

Korahi - Scope

This policy applies to the appointment process of directors to the Board of the water organisation.

Whakamāramatanga - Definitions

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Term	Definition
Council	Marlborough District Council
Water Organisation	The Marlborough Water Organisation – <i>being a water organisation established by Marlborough District Council under section 44 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (LGWSA).</i>
Board	The collective body of all directors of the water organisation, acting together in their governance capacity as directors within the meaning of the Companies Act 1993.
Chief Executive	Chief Executive of Marlborough District Council
Mayor	Mayor of Marlborough District Council
Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee	A Committee responsible for overseeing the establishment of the water organisation for the Council. At the time of the policy being implemented, the Committee was made up of the following members: Nadine Taylor, Mayor John Boswell, Chief Executive

Term	Definition
	David Croad, Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Finance Committee Gerald Hope, Elected Member and Chair of Strategy and Community Partnerships Committee Brian Dawson, Elected Member and Chair of the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee Barbara Faulls, Elected Member and Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee
Finance Sub-Committee	Following the establishment of the water organisation, the Finance Sub-committee will be responsible for ongoing monitoring of the water organisation, including Board performance reviews, and oversight of future Director appointments.

Tauākī – Statements

The objectives of this Policy are to ensure:

- that the process of appointing directors to the Board of the water organisation, including the Chair, is undertaken in an objective and transparent manner, while protecting individual privacy;
- that Board appointments are determined based on:
 - an assessment of skills, knowledge and experience, with regard to the nature of scope of the water organisation objectives and activities and the desire for diverse representation;
 - the contribution that Board Members can make to the Board as a whole and to the achievement of the water organisation's objectives and activities; and
 - the context in which Council, as a publicly accountable body operates.
- maintain continuity through succession of Board Members and Board Chairs.

Tauākī – Statements

1 Appointment Panel

The Appointment Panel will oversee the recruitment and selection of the directors who will constitute the Board.

The panel shall consist of:

- Three elected members, as determined by the Mayor.
- An iwi representative, as determined by chairs of the eight (8) iwi who comprise Te Taihū.
- The person who shall be the Chairperson of the Board (unless such role is vacant at the time of recruitment).
- If the Chairperson position is vacant at the time of recruitment the Chief Executive may appoint a suitably experienced independent director with relevant governance and commercial experience in relation to the operation of water/utilities/infrastructure entities.
- Any additional panel members as directed by the Chief Executive where appropriate.

The Appointment Panel is responsible for ensuring the recruitment process is fair, transparent, and aligned with the governance needs of the water organisation.

Applications and panel deliberations will be confidential and managed in accordance with Council's privacy and information management obligations. While the process is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (**LGOIMA**), the details of applicants and record of interviews is subject to the Privacy Act 2020 and shall not be disclosed.

2 Board Skills Matrix

A water organisation Board Skills Matrix has been developed (Appendix A) to identify the collective competencies required across the Board. Directors will be appointed based on their ability to contribute to the overall capability of the Board and must collectively provide an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge and experience relating to the provision of water services, as required under section 48 of the LGWSA.

The skills matrix includes, but is not limited to, the following key attributes:

- demonstrated governance experience in organisations of similar complexity and scale to the water organisation;
- financial oversight and accountability, including the ability to critically review current and proposed activities to ensure value for money;
- strong leadership capability and cultural competence to support delivery of organisational outcomes;
- commitment to public sector values, accountability to Council, and responsiveness to the community;
- demonstrates a strong understanding of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and a readiness to promote improved outcomes for Māori.
- an inclusive and adaptive leadership style that supports effective governance and decision-making.

Council is committed to appointing a broad, diverse, and highly capable range of individuals to the Board. This will require the appointment of directors who will bring a balanced mix of skills, experience, perspectives, and personal attributes that support strong governance and long-term organisational success. The LGWSA requires the directors of the water organisation to be appointed on the basis of their competency to perform the role.

Our recruitment approach will actively seek diversity across professional backgrounds, gender, ethnicity, age, cultural identity, geographic representation, and lived experience, with the Board regularly reviewing its composition to identify gaps and ensure it collectively possesses the governance, financial, sector-specific, risk, and leadership capabilities required to fulfil its responsibilities effectively. It is expected that the Board will be made up of 3-5 individuals.

The skills matrix has been developed specific to the skills required for the establishment phase of the water organisation and may be amended from time to time by Council, as appropriate, but must retain the key attributes listed above once the water organisation has been established.

3 Eligibility

The following persons are not eligible for appointment as a water organisation director as required by the LGWSA:

- an elected member of Council
- an employee of Council or the water organisation
- any person otherwise disqualified by legislation, the water organisation constitution, trust deed, or other governing document
- any person disqualified from acting as a director under section 151 of the Companies Act 1993
- any person with a conflict of interest that the Appointment Panel determines cannot be appropriately managed.

The LGWSA states that an elected member or employee of the Council that is the shareholder of the water organisation cannot be appointed as a director.

4 Appointment Process

The following sets out the key steps for the appointment of Directors of the Board. It is consistent with the requirements relating to Directors that are set out in the constitution of the water organisation. This policy is also intended to apply to the reappointment and/or future appointment of directors:

4.1 Advertising

Once a vacancy on the Board has been established:

- the Chief Executive may appoint an external recruitment agency to lead the recruitment process;
- a role description and advertisement will be prepared, aligned with the identified governance competencies and skills requirements;
- the vacancy will be advertised through appropriate channels (e.g. Seek, governance networks, sector groups, and LinkedIn); and
- the advertisement will remain open for approximately 10 working days, to allow sufficient time to attract suitable candidates.

4.2 Interview

The Appointment Panel will (with support as required from the external recruitment agency (if appointed) and/or the Council's People & Capability Team):

- review applications following the advertisement closing date and shortlist candidates against the skills matrix.
- develop interview questions aligned with the skills matrix and governance competencies required for the role, which include scenario-based questions to assess governance judgement, strategic thinking, and decision-making capability
- where the appointment relates to the Chairperson, place particular emphasis on:
 - demonstrated governance leadership experience
 - the ability to lead board discussions and decision-making effectively
 - experience working constructively with executive leadership and key stakeholders.
- conduct interviews with shortlisted candidates, including second interviews where required.
- undertake a minimum of two reference checks for preferred candidates.
- undertake due diligence including verification of qualifications, criminal history checks, and confirmation that candidates are not disqualified from acting as a director (preferred candidates must provide written consent to act as a director and confirm that they are not disqualified from holding office under the Companies Act 1993).

4.3 Conflicts of Interest

Candidates must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest as part of the appointment process. The Council's Conflict of Interest Policy shall be applied to determine any conflicts. This Policy will be shared with candidates to assist them to determine any conflicts as part of the recruitment process.

Where a person sits on a board of another MDC CCO, any potential conflict of interest will be assessed in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy.

The Appointment Panel will assess declared conflicts and determine whether appropriate measures can be implemented to manage them. Any conflicts must be formally recorded prior to confirming an appointment.

Further guidance on conflicts of interest is provided in sections 139–149 of the Companies Act 1993 and by the Office of the Auditor-General.

4.4 Remuneration and Appointment

The Appointment Panel will consider the appropriate remuneration of directors, including the chairperson, taking into account:

- the need to attract and retain appropriately qualified directors as required by the LGWSA;
- remuneration levels for directors of comparable CCOs in the local market;
- remuneration levels for directors of other MDC CCOs;
- professional remuneration advice where required; and
- any other relevant factors.

4.5 Council Decision

Following completion of interviews and due diligence, the Appointment Panel will make a recommendation to Council for the appointment of the preferred candidate(s) and their terms of appointment. The Panel must ensure that no verbal offer is made to the preferred candidate until the appointment has been formally approved by Council.

A decision on the appointment of board members will be a decision for the whole Council. In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders the meeting to appoint the successful candidates will be a public excluded meeting to protect the privacy of the candidates. Such a meeting would be accompanied by an agenda and reasons for the meeting being held with the public excluded shall be in accordance with LGOIMA. The successful candidate(s) will be advised after the Council decision and will be informed accordingly. Following this, the appointments will be made public information, but the Council deliberation process will remain confidential to protect the privacy of the individual candidates.

Upon Council approving the appointment of the recommended candidate(s), a member of the Appointment Panel will verbally offer the directorship to the successful candidate(s), including the appointment of the Chairperson. Upon verbal acceptance of the offer, a formal director contract will be prepared and issued. This contract will include:

- Term of appointment - the maximum tenure is three terms of up to three years each subject to the relevant company constitution in place and any other criteria on performance and renewal of terms that the Board deem appropriate to fulfil their duties under the Companies Act 1993 and the LGWSA;
- Remuneration and other related financial arrangements;
- Director insurances;
- Key expectations and obligations of the role, as per the role description.

Following formal acceptance of this offer, the appointments will be announced as appropriate. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified by the Council.

5 Induction

Newly appointed directors will participate in a structured induction programme, which may include but is not limited to:

- governance expectations and statutory obligations
- the relationship between Council and the water organisation
- strategic priorities and operational context of the water organisation
- director duties, conflicts of interest, and relevant policies.

6 Reappointment

Subject to any constitutional term or policy put in place by the Board, where a director's term has expired, and they have at least one remaining term, the director is to notify the Chairperson that they wish to renew their term. The Chairperson shall declare all directors seeking reappointment at least 15 working days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Board at which a vote will determine the reappointment of directors.

Where a reappointment is to be voted on, the Chairperson will notify the Chief Executive of their request who will convene the Appointments Panel to make a recommendation to Council. Council must approve by

resolution any reappointment. Board members should not be given any expectation that they will be offered a subsequent term of office.

Factors to be considered include:

- the views of the appointed Chairperson;
- whether the current Board skill composition is appropriate;
- whether any aspects of Board performance need to be taken into consideration;
- whether the process offers an opportunity for increasing Board diversity;
- whether the retiring Board Member is a potential candidate for future Chair, or alternatively whether there is a need to recruit a director as a future successor to the Chair;
- alignment of the Board with the Council's strategic goals, plans and strategies.

Regular Board rotation is encouraged. Directors will be appointed for a term of up to three years and may be reappointed at the expiry of his or her term of appointment provided that no Director is appointed for more than nine consecutive years (unless otherwise approved by the Shareholder). The Council considers it best practice for Boards to have in place policies and processes to ensure that the succession and refreshment of overall Board members occur over time but is staggered to ensure that there is continuity in membership in the Board.

7 Removal of Directors

Without limiting the right of the Council, the following are likely reasons for Council to remove a Board Member, where that director:

- misses consecutive meetings without prior apology and approval from the Chairperson and without good justification;
- no longer has the confidence of the Board or the Council;
- does not in the opinion of Council act in the best interests of the organisation;
- breaches the confidence of the Board in any way, including speaking publicly on Board issues without the authority of the Board;
- does not act in accordance with the principles of collective responsibility;
- fails to disclose a material or new conflict of interest that Council deems undesirable; or
- is convicted of a crime under the Crimes Act 1963, is being investigated by the Financial Markets Authority or the Serious Fraud Office,
- becomes disqualified from being a director under section 151(2) of the Companies Act 1993.

The Council may choose to remove a director, subject to notice and the exercise of natural justice rights of the person involved. The Council may exercise its rights to remove a director due to behaviours or investigations that may breach standards deemed appropriate to the role or may bring the Council into disrepute. Where the Board has concerns regarding the behaviour of one of its members, it must first bring the issue to the attention of the Chairperson. The Chairperson must inform the Council of any such request and undertake an investigation into the veracity of the allegations. The Chairperson may require a director to temporarily stand down as a director while any investigation is underway. The Council and the Chairperson must not compromise the privacy of any individual in the course of any investigation. The Council's Protected Disclosures Policy applies to the water organisation and the appointment of directors in addition to the water organisations own Protected Disclosure Policy to be developed in accordance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2022.

The Council will not make any payment by way of compensation to a director who has been removed from their position.

8 Consultancy Services

Directors, including the Chairperson:

- are not permitted by Council to provide consulting services to the water organisation.
- must disclose to the Chief Executive any consulting services they provide, or propose to provide, to any other water organisation. Such disclosures will be reviewed in accordance with Council's Conflict of Interest Policy.

9 Director Fees

The remuneration of directors will be determined based on legal or constitutional requirements as set by Council and the water organisation. Directors will receive the remuneration offered by Council in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment. Unless an alternative process is stated in a council organisation's constitution, or otherwise agreed, Council will set individual director and Chair remuneration. In all cases, the member's role specification will be used to establish market rates for comparable positions at the time of appointment or at each review.

The market rate either for an entire board or individual board members, may be reviewed by council officers or through such methods as commissioning an independent consultant to benchmark the level of fees paid. This will include reference to entities that are comparable to each council organisation and the annual Institute of Directors' Fees Survey or similar. The review should be undertaken once each triennium and will take into account factors such as the need to attract and retain appropriately qualified people, the external market for comparable positions, alignment with other MDC CCO directors, and the objectives of each organisation. It will also consider the size, scope and scale of the organisation, level of accountability and the type of expertise and specialisation required.

The final decision on Board members' remuneration will be made by a resolution of Council.

Fees will be set taking into consideration the following:

- the size and scale of the water organisation (for example turnover, value of assets, number of employees).
- complexity and scope of operations (for example complexity of issues, level of guidance for decision-making, relationship management responsibilities).
- accountability (for example scale of market risk, public interest and profile, potential risk to board member reputation, and other key risks).
- skills - the type of expertise and specialisation needed.
- The NZ Institute of Directors relevant latest survey median increase for directors.
- the external market for comparable positions, as well as alignment with other MDC CCO directors.

Special considerations may also be included in setting fees, such as a temporary increase in workload for the Board, or difficulties in recruiting particular skills.

10 Board Members Standing for Political Office

Board members who have been selected to stand as a candidate in a local body or general election should advise the Chair of their Board immediately. Chairs need to advise Council, through the Chief Executive as soon as any members of their Boards have been identified as candidates.

Any Board member who is formally selected to stand as a candidate for election at a local body or general election, or placed on any political party's list, must stand down from their Board position from nomination day until the election results are notified or such earlier day as may be determined.

This measure aims to ensure that governance of the water organisation is not distracted by the Board member's election activity, and to prevent the possibility of any conflicts of interest, real or perceived.

In the event that the Board member is successful in their bid for political office, they must formally retire from their Board position.

Tohutoro - References

Name	Location
Local Government Act 2002	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/84/en/latest/#DLM170873
Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2025/42/en/latest/#LMS1004209
Companies Act 1993	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/105/en/latest/

Whakahou - Record of Amendments/Revisions

Details	Approval by whom	Date
Policy Created by People & Capability	Council	

Appendix 1 – Board Skills Matrix

This skills matrix supports the Appointment Panel in evaluating the Board's overall capability and identifying the skills, knowledge, and experience needed when appointing new Directors. Council is committed to selecting a broad and diverse group of highly capable individuals. The aim is to ensure the Board collectively brings the right balance of governance expertise, professional competence, sector insight, and personal attributes to provide strong leadership and support the organisation's long-term success.

Skill / Experience Area	Description	Essential (All) or Specialist (Required by at least 1 Director)
Key Behavioural Attributes	Integrity & ethical conduct Collaboration Innovative and inquisitive mindset Respectful engagement Open-mindedness Commitment	E
Governance Experience	Experience serving on boards or governing bodies of similar complexity and scale to the water organisation; and understanding governance vs management roles, fiduciary duties, and board processes.	E
Strategic Leadership	Ability to contribute to long-term strategy, organisational direction, and performance oversight.	E
Financial & Commercial Acumen	Experience providing financial oversight and accountability, including the ability to critically review current and proposed activities to ensure value for money. Understanding of financial statements, budgeting, financial risk, and commercial decision-making.	E
Infrastructure Management	Knowledge of infrastructure management in three waters or related utility sectors.	E
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	Understanding governance responsibilities for organisational health, safety, and wellbeing frameworks and systems.	E
The Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Demonstrates a strong understanding of the principles of The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and awareness of Te Ao Māori concepts and principles.	E
Te Ao Māori	Capability to engage effectively with iwi and Māori organisations, an in-depth understanding of Te Ao Māori concepts and principles, and established Māori networks in Te Taihū.	S
Public Sector / Local Government Knowledge	A commitment to public sector values, and an understanding of local government frameworks, public accountability and the regulatory environment.	S

Political Acumen	Demonstrated ability to understand complex political issues with competing interests and navigate them diplomatically to achieve strategic goals.	S
Risk Management & Assurance	Experience overseeing organisational risk, internal controls, and assurance processes.	S
Audit & regulatory compliance	Familiarity with audit processes, regulatory compliance frameworks and requirements in one or more areas including public health, economic and environmental regulation.	S
Asset Management	Familiarity with asset management systems, including management of capital assets, operation and maintenance and asset lifecycle planning to meet level of service requirements.	S
Stakeholder & Community Engagement	Experience engaging with communities, iwi, government agencies, and other key stakeholders.	S
Legal / Regulatory Expertise	Knowledge of relevant legislation, regulatory frameworks, or governance obligations.	S
Environmental / Sustainability Knowledge	Understanding of environmental management, sustainability, or climate-related governance issues.	S
People & Culture Governance	Strong leadership capability demonstrated by effective oversight of organisational culture, executive performance, remuneration and succession planning, cultural competence and an inclusive, adaptive leadership style that strengthens governance and high-quality decision-making.	S
Digital / Technology / Innovation	Awareness of technology strategy, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and/or data governance.	S
Regional Knowledge	Connection to the Marlborough region, and an understanding of its communities, economy, and strategic issues.	S

Additional Considerations for Board Composition

When considering board appointments, the Appointment Panel may also consider:

- Independence of Directors
- Diversity of skills and professional backgrounds
- Gender and cultural diversity
- Knowledge of the region and community
- Availability and capacity to fulfil governance responsibilities
- Potential conflicts of interest

6. Option G – Murphys Creek Stormwater Upgrade (attachments included)

(Clr B Dawson) (Report prepared by J Cunliffe)

C315-25-076

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council approval to place an infrastructure project on hold for 12 months to allow further investigation to be undertaken.

Executive Summary

2. As part of the decision to implement Option G for Murphys Creek Stormwater Upgrade in 2017 (Attachment 1), a tender for Phase 3 of the works was conducted in mid-late 2025. The tender submissions received were significantly higher than current budgets.
3. As such, staff are recommending this project be placed on hold for a period of 12 months to allow for investigation into alternative options to mitigate stormwater challenges in Murphys Creek catchment.
4. Council remains compliant with existing stormwater discharge consents during this period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council place Option G project on hold for at least 12 months while further investigations on viable solutions take place, including, but not limited to, Status quo, Original Option G alternative, Pump Station at Murphys Creek outlet.

Background

5. Stormwater management in the Murphys Creek catchment has been the subject of community concern and technical investigation for nearly two decades. Key milestones include:
6. **2006–2007:** Consent application u061021 from MDC (Assets & Services) for an increase stormwater discharged to Murphys Creek from Adams Lane triggered significant community concern. This led to a short-term 5-year consent and the start of investigations to support a Murphys Creek “catchment wide” discharge consent application.
7. **2007–2012:** Westwood development reshaped northwest Blenheim and required restrictions on discharges to upper Murphys Creek. A large diameter trunk pipeline was installed along SH6 from Westwood to the Murphys Creek culvert near the present day Springlands Lifestyle Village. The pipeline is 800 metres long and became operational in May 2012.
8. **2007–2013:** Work progressed on hydrology, hydraulic modelling and the Blenheim Stormwater Strategy (adopted 2012). A Stormwater Action Group (SAG) was created in 2013 to coordinate cross-Council stormwater activities.
9. **2013–2014:** Attempts to reconsent u061021 to include a “whole of Murphys Creek catchment approach” met strong community opposition (22 submissions in respect of 23 properties along Murphys Creek). Mistrust was identified through a Cawthron Institute survey. A streamflow and water quality recorder was installed in 2013.
10. **2014–2015:** New rezoning accelerated need for servicing. Investigations confirmed limited feasibility of soakage in the northwest. Stormwater Procedures (2015) were developed to guide design
11. **2016–2017:** A Structured Decision-Making (SDM) process with the Murphys Creek Collaborative Stakeholders Group (MCCSG) resulted in Option G being selected from among 10 mitigations as its

preference for catchment wide stormwater management. Option G was recommended to Council by MCSG. Their recommendation was accepted and Option G was adopted by Council at its meeting of 27th April 2017. Subsequently \$3.8m for Option G was added to Council's 2018 Long Term Plan (LTP) (Attachment 1).

12. For clarity **Option G** related to Murphys Creek only – not for all of Springlands. Option G is not a singular project; it is a suite of activities, one to be delivered in 4 phases.

Phase 1: a key policy aspect, was the introduction of *stormwater neutrality* for all new urban developments in the Springlands Stormwater Management Area. Phase 1 of Option G was implemented from February 2020.

Phase 2: A proprietary stormwater treatment device installed in the Aston Street area as part of the Murphys Road stormwater network upgrade. This will treat stormwater from that section of the catchment before it discharges to Murphys Creek via Aston Street and McKendry Park not via Murphys Road and into the big pipe. Phase 2 was completed in February 2025.

Phase 3: (the subject of this paper) is a diversion of stormwater via piping from Murphys Creek to an alternate outlet at the Boyces Street Pump Station. Designs were completed and tendered in mid-2025. Tenders were not awarded and the project was placed on hold in December 2025.

Phase 4: is the retrofitting of stormwater treatment devices on some outlets into MDC's stormwater network in the vicinity of the Springlands light industrial/retail complex. Phase 4 would be scheduled following the completion of Phase 3 as the treatment devices would connect into the Phase 3 piping

13. **2018–2020:** Kaikōura earthquake impacts increased focus on Blenheim's northwest as a key area for urban growth. The Springlands Stormwater Management Area Plan (SSMAP) was written during 2019 and finalised in February 2020.

- The SSMAP supported an application for a new multi-site catchment wide consent for the discharge of stormwater from Springlands to the Taylor River.
- An extensively conditioned suite of consents, **u200218**, was granted in October 2020. Water quality monitoring required by conditions of consent commenced in December 2020. This consent expires in 2030 and will require consultation with the community as part of the application process.
- A compliance monitoring report for 2024-25 consent year has been prepared by the Regulatory Dept of Council. The consent is currently compliant. This is publicly available on the consent file via the MDC website. It is also being posted to the Springlands page on the MDC website. This and other relevant reports from Springlands can be found at: [Springlands - Marlborough District Council](#) (Attachment 2).

14. **2021–2022:** Post-pandemic a development surge led to rapid demand for stormwater services. Due to this increased demand Council Development Engineers adopted the stormwater neutrality approach already employed as part of the Springlands Stormwater Management Area Plan (SSMAP) for all of Blenheim moving forward in 2022.

15. **2023–Present:**

- One condition of **u200218** is that a governance group for Springlands Stormwater be established. The establishment process for this began with a community meeting in Springlands in May 2023. The first formal meeting of what is now known as the Springlands Stormwater Governance Group (SSGG) was held on Monday 3rd July 2023. There have been 10 meetings of SSGG to date.
- As part of the preparation for tendering Phase 3 works detailed site investigations (DSIs) in Boyce Street and Middle Renwick Road for Phase 3 works were undertaken during 2024. Groundwater was found in significant quantities. In the consultant's analysis and view this would pose major challenges in dewatering and for land stability during construction.

- Another infrastructure project in the area is currently experiencing the same constructability challenges envisaged for Phase 3. Work has ceased on that project while solutions are sought.

Assessment

16. The challenges anticipated in dealing with on-site groundwater during construction in this location and identified through the detailed site investigations have impacted this project in at least two ways:
 - Construction requires sophisticated and more expensive methods to counter the on-site conditions than originally anticipated.
 - There is inherent uncertainty that the methods proposed in Phase 3 (Boyce Street) would be cost effective. Projected disruptions to the public and businesses throughout the construction period would likely be prolonged.
17. Taken together these suggest that a 'rethink', and review is prudent.
18. A first principles approach is suggested. Cost effective options for and from 2026 need to be identified and evaluated.
19. The initial budget for Option G for Murphys Creek was set at \$3.8m in 2018. Since then, reviews of estimated costings for this project have occurred and the total budget was adjusted to \$6.5m.
20. \$1.8m in capital work has been incurred to date relating to construction in Aston St (Phase 2), and consultancy costs relating to design, and tendering for the Boyce St (Phase 3) works. Leaving a remaining budget of \$4.7m.
21. Tenders received in late 2025 for Phase 3 of Option G for Murphys Creek ranged from \$5.9m-\$6.4m
22. There is a shortfall of some \$1.7m in current funding.

Option One (Recommended Option): Place Option G on hold for 12 months; investigate other viable options

Advantages

23. Allows a fresh look at issues, options and solutions.
24. Enables a contemporary re-assessment of the relative merits of options identified.
25. Enables a costs and benefits analysis to support investments levels as potential options are evaluated.

Disadvantages

26. Delay in delivery of stormwater infrastructure to address community concerns in Murphys Creek catchment

Option Two: Increase budget to meet existing scope

Advantages

27. Sufficient budget based on tender submissions.

Disadvantages

28. Based on construction challenges with another inground infrastructure project that is occurring in this catchment currently, there is no guarantee that additional funding will address the challenges for this project.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Original Option G agenda item – 27 April 2017

Page [50]

Author	Jon Cunliffe; Stormwater Lead
Authoriser	Richard Coningham, Establishment CEO

Summary of decision-making considerations

Fit with purpose of local government

The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities and relates to the provision of a core public service (stormwater infrastructure) in a manner that is prudent, evidence-based, and financially responsible. The proposal relates to the delivery and timing of stormwater infrastructure, which is a core local authority function. It enables elected members to consider how best to provide infrastructure and services in a manner that is good-quality, cost-effective, and responsive to current information regarding feasibility, cost, and risk. No inconsistency with the statutory purpose has been identified.

Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	☐	✓	☐
Financial Strategy	☐	✓	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	✓
Environment & RMA Plans	✓	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters	✓	☐	☐
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✓

This proposal relates primarily to the LTP / Annual Plan, Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, and Three Waters activity.

- The proposal contributes to the Infrastructure Strategy and Three Waters outcomes by enabling reconsideration of infrastructure delivery in response to updated construction constraints, cost escalation, and risk. This is consistent with the LTP direction to ensure infrastructure investment is resilient, evidence-based, and delivers long-term value.
- The proposal contributes to environmental and regulatory outcomes by maintaining compliance with the existing stormwater discharge consent while options are reassessed.
- The proposal contributes to social and economic wellbeing by enabling continued consideration of how stormwater issues affecting the community are best addressed over the long term.
- The proposal may detract from alignment with the LTP / Annual Plan and Financial Strategy to the extent that it delays delivery of a project that is currently included within planned capital works programmes. This creates a timing variance between planned and actual delivery.

On balance, the identified tension relates to timing rather than direction, and provides an opportunity for reassessment of scope, cost, and methodology within future planning cycles.

Nature of the decision to be made

The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.

Summary of decision-making considerations

While the project relates to stormwater management within the Murphys Creek catchment, the decision sought is whether to proceed, defer, or reconsider delivery approaches, rather than to acquire, dispose of, or alter legal interests in land or water.

The relationship of Māori with ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga is unchanged by the recommended option, and existing engagement mechanisms through consent-based governance arrangements remain in place.

Financial considerations

The project is included within the current LTP capital programme; however, available budget is insufficient based on tender prices received for Phase 3. Updated information indicates that:

- remaining available budget is insufficient to meet current tendered costs;
- tender submissions exceed available funding; and
- there is uncertainty regarding construction methodology and potential cost escalation.

The financial implications of the options include:

- Proceeding with the current scope: would require additional funding and may expose Council to further cost uncertainty;
- Deferring the project: delays capital expenditure and enables reassessment of scope, cost, and delivery approach;
- Revisiting options: may result in revised costs, scope adjustments, or reprioritisation through future LTP or Annual Plan processes.
- Any decision requiring additional funding or reprioritisation would need to be considered through future Council planning and budgeting processes.

Significance

The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The recommendation does not involve asset disposal, changes to levels of service, or irreversible commitment of capital, and regulatory compliance under existing consents remains unchanged.

Engagement

Engagement has occurred over a number of years with the Springlands Stormwater Governance Group, established as a condition of Stormwater Discharge Consent U200218. Engagement outcomes to date include:

- ongoing community awareness of stormwater challenges;
- involvement in historical option selection (including Option G); and
- continued information sharing regarding project constraints and budget pressures.

No additional engagement is proposed at this stage, as the recommendation is to delay construction while further investigations are undertaken. Any substantive new option or funding proposal would require engagement consistent with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc

The options carry a range of legal, financial, and operational risks. Key risks identified include:

- Health and safety risks associated with construction in high groundwater conditions;
- Financial risks relating to cost escalation, funding shortfalls, and uncertainty in delivery costs;
- Operational risks associated with delays in addressing stormwater issues; and
- Reputational risks associated with perceived delays or cost increases.

Risk management approaches vary by option and may include:

- further technical investigation and design review;
- deferral of works until greater certainty is achieved;

Summary of decision-making considerations

- refinement of scope or delivery methods; and
- standard procurement, contract, and health and safety controls.

No immediate or unavoidable legal risks have been identified that require a particular course of action at this stage.

Climate Change Implications

In assessing the options, staff have considered the effects of climate change. Stormwater infrastructure is sensitive to changes in rainfall intensity, groundwater conditions, and long-term environmental patterns.

The proposal provides an opportunity to:

- review design assumptions in light of updated climate projections;
- consider resilience and adaptability of infrastructure solutions; and
- evaluate whether alternative approaches may better respond to future conditions.

There is no direct change to emissions or climate-related outcomes arising solely from the decision to proceed, defer, or reconsider the project at this stage.

8. Murphys Creek Stormwater – Option G

(Mayor Leggett) (Report prepared by Jon Cunliffe)

W410-001-02-03

Purpose

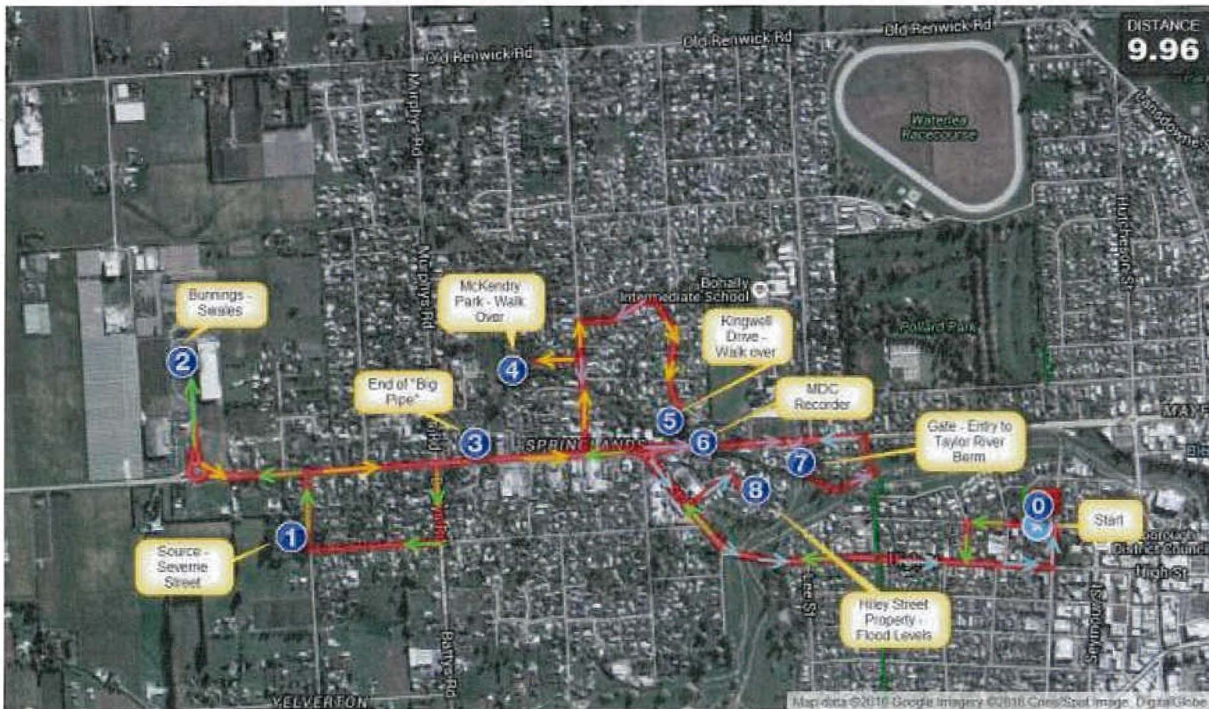
1. The purpose of this report is:
 - a) to recap on the background behind the Murphys Creek Structured Decision Making (SDM) Project
 - b) to set the scene for the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) on the project to make its recommendation to Council.
2. The CSG will formally recommend Option G as the Group's preferred option for Stormwater Management in the Murphys Creek Catchment. The CSG will be in attendance to provide further information.

3. The Cawthron Team will provide a short presentation and video. (5 mins)

Background

4. The project dates from June 2013.
5. On two occasions, (20 June and 11 July 2013) staff briefed residents in the Murphys Creek catchment of Council's intentions to apply for a consent to discharge stormwater from its stormwater network to Murphys Creek. This consent to replace an earlier resource consent. It would include provision for additional stormwater from rural land in the west of the catchment recently zoned for urban development.
6. Those briefings were not well received by residents.
7. In fact Council's proposals were strongly opposed at the time and were subsequently; notably through submission to the 2014 Annual Plan round.
8. The residents consolidated their energies in promoting an alternative concept. One was diverting stormwater direct to the Taylor River via an extension of the "Big Pipe". A rough estimate suggested an investment of the order of \$2.5M would be required for this. This represented a "flow only" mitigation. Treatment of stormwater was not envisaged.
9. In 2014 the Council commissioned the Cawthron Institute to:
 - a) Carry out an ecological survey of the Creek.
 - b) Prepare an inventory of all technical information available on Murphys Creek (from Council and other sources).
 - c) Devise a strategy for sharing that inventory among stakeholders.
10. In compiling this inventory the Cawthron Team spent a good deal of time talking to stakeholders.
11. The nature of the stakeholder feedback received during this contact was pivotal.
12. It became clear that there was a complex problem the parties relationships were stressed.
13. A different approach was required.

14. During 2015 Council further commissioned the Cawthron team to facilitate a Structured Decision Making (SDM) process for stormwater management in Murphys Creek.
15. Fundamental to the process was the establishment of a Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG). This would include local iwi and folk representative of a wide range of interests not only within the Murphys Catchment, but across Blenheim and the District as well. Science and technical advisors would be on hand to provide information to the CSG as and when required. Members of the CSG would commit their time and energy to following a predetermined process through to conclusion. (Refer Appendix 1)
16. The SDM project commenced with Workshop 1 on 2 March 2016 and concluded with Workshop 5 on 8 March 2017.
17. A field trip in the catchment was held on 23 March 2016.



18. The Appendix to this report includes the Terms of Reference for the CSG and the project.

The Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG)

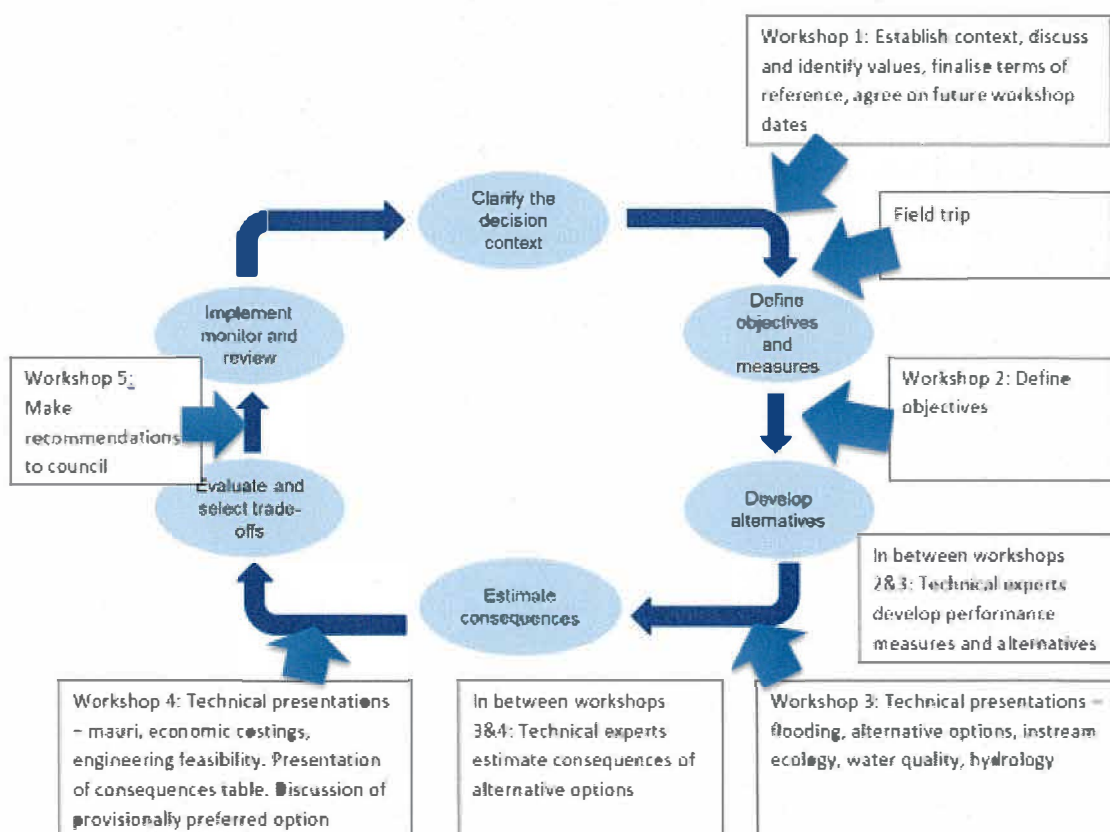
19. The CSG comprised

Stakeholder	Interests represented	Members
MDC - Councillors	Representatives of wider Marlborough ratepayers	Clr Peter Jerram Mayor John Leggett
Residents	Directly affected parties	Lindsay Dahlberg Pauline Davis Neville Grant Ross Inder Tom Miller Ferg Murray
Commercial/Industrial	Established businesses in the Murphys Creek	John Derry Gerardine Haack

Stakeholder	Interests represented	Members
	catchment	
Developer	Developers in the catchment	Phil Robinson
Chamber of Commerce	Commercial interests in the wider region	Vicki Nalder
Iwi	Tangata whenua, kaitiaki	Richard Hunter (Mandated by Ngati Rarua and Ngati Toa) Haysley MacDonald (Rangitane)
Department of Conservation	Environment	
Cawthron Project Team	Project Facilitation and Science/Research Advice	Natasha Berkett Mark Newton Jim Sinner Annika Wagenhoff
MDC	Science/Technical Advice	Geoff Dick Peter Hamill Steffi Henkel Stephen Rooney
MDC	Project Management	Jon Cunliffe
Davidson Group	Engineering Design/Costings	Ross Davis

The Structured Decision Making (SDM) Process

20. The SDM process followed is set out in the diagram below:



The Consequences Table

21. The Consequences Table has been an important tool in the context of solving the problem at Murphys Creek.

22. It has provided a place to record values and objectives and options. Importantly it has been the place to consolidate the CSG's views on the merits of the various options. It provided the focus for the options choice discussions during Workshop 5.
23. When looked at in the context of starting and finishing positions it is also a gauge of the movement in the positions of the various parties that occurred through the SDM process. (See the consequences table attached)

Option G: Collaborative Stakeholder Group's Recommended Option

24. As noted in the Consequences Table, ten options were contemplated during the course of the project. At the conclusion of Workshop 5 on 8 March 2017 Option G was the option which had unanimous support of those present. Following Workshop 5 a further two, who were unable to make the workshop, have also voiced their support for Option G.
25. Key features of Option G are:
 - a) On land that has been rezoned for urban development the allowable runoff from that land shall be 6 l/s/ha. This is equivalent to the stormwater that would run off the land if it were still in rural use.
 - b) Stormwater outlets from properties in the commercial/business area east of the Murphys Creek culvert across Middle Renwick Road will be retrofitted with filter/treatment devices.
 - c) Stormwater from these same areas that currently discharges to Murphys Creek will be diverted to the Taylor River via the Pump Station just downstream of the High Street bridge over the Taylor River.
 - d) A proprietary stormwater treatment device will be installed in the Aston Street area as part of the Murphys Road stormwater network upgrade. This will treat stormwater from that section of the catchment before it discharges to Murphys Creek.
26. The estimated cost for Option G is \$3.8M, Council currently has a budget of \$2.3M for the years 2022-24 for this project.

Value -->	Objective -->	Performance Measure	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D	OPTION E	OPTION F	OPTION G	OPTION H	OPTION H+	OPTION H++
			Existing Situation	Baseline Future	Partial Storage Mitigation	Existing Upgrades Fullgone and Formal Storage Mitigation	Partial Storage and Diversion to Drylot Mitigation	As for E but with Asian Street Upgrade included	Full Storage and other Mitigation	Maximum (Flow) Mitigation	Maximum (Flow) Mitigation plus Treatment	Maximum (Flow) Mitigation plus Attenuation AND Treatment
Streambed	Reduce streambed sediment Reduce presence of invasive plants	Deposited sediment cover (5% cover of streambed) Aquatic plant cover (5% cover of streambed)	-	-	0	0	+			-		
Aesthetic value	Reduce aesthetic value of Murphys Creek	Water clarity Number of large rocks observed protruding in stream Absence of rubbish in stream	-	-	-	-				0		
Water Quality	Improve water quality*	Water temperature (°C) Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) Water clarity Bacterial pollution (colony count per litre of water) Fertiliser pollution (phosphate per year) Fertiliser	-	-	-	-						
Stable stream banks	Reduce erosion of bank erosion	Erosion of bank erosion (meters)	-	-	-	-	0	0	+			
Flood control	Reduction in flood height/extent of flooding	Peak flood height in lower Murphys Creek reaches (m above sea level) Amount of debris deposited on private properties after flood (75% of average) Area of surface flooding in residential area	0	-	-	-	-	0	+	+		
Healthy ecosystem	Improve ecosystem health*	Presence and number of native, ex. and invasive invertebrate health (NGC) points Habitat suitable for desired species (quality score)	-	-	-	-						
Mauri	"Te he hua o te ika" - meaning life, wellbeing	Mara Whakapapa Whakawairangi	-	-	-	-	+					
Economic factors	Sustainable development Increase job opportunities for younger generation	NGDP growth Number of jobs	-	+	+	+			+			
Cost	Cost effective and affordable stormwater solutions to Council/property (RUC) Residents/businesses/developers in Murphys Creek subcatchment Council Option - Ref. Davidson Group Report, updated for 2016	Cost of solutions (1) to Council/property residents/businesses/developers in Murphys Creek subcatchment Developer Cost PLUS MDC (Developer) Cost	-	+	+	+	0	0				
Recreation	Improve or enhance recreational opportunities in stream**	Number of people undertaking recreational activity (swimming, fishing etc.) in the stream per week	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ownership												

Key	Rating	Rating explained
	-	Fails to meet Objective - dramatically
	-	Fails to meet Objective - slightly
	0	Meets Objective
	+	Meets Objective - slightly improves situation
	+	Meets Objective - dramatically improves situation

* Comment regarding Water Quality scores being the same as Healthy ecosystem scores:

Ecosystem health for waterways depends predominantly on two factors: water quality and habitat quality. The scores from the Habitat Assessments show that the habitat along Murphys Creek is not particularly good with similar scores at all the sites assessed. There is a lack of biological diversity due to the artificial channelisation and a lack of native overhanging vegetation. Additional stormwater is not going to change this situation. To improve the habitat, a restoration project and planting of native vegetation is needed – this is outside of the scope of this assessment. As a result water quality will be the main factor influencing ecosystem health in the context of stormwater management. The occurrence of additional life in the system is also captured by the numbering of water quality through the measurement of benthos.

** During the meeting we considered this objective in relation to the use by the general public and found that changes in the stormwater management are not going to change the opportunities the public has for recreational use. The objective agreed earlier was to 'improve recreational opportunities', so it is shown in pink here because it fails to meet that objective. But it is not a negative outcome - it is no change from status quo. If the objective is, however, defined around the recreational use by private land owners then the objective would be very closely tied to the water quality objective.

[illegible]

POLY ADDN NO.	ISSUED BY	DRAWN	PLN#
	DATE	SHEET	A1
CAD FILE	FILE NUMBER	DESIGN ORIGIN	SCALE
		DATE	1/2000
REVISION	DATE	A.E.C. PROJECT INC.	
CAD FILE	NEW NAME	OPTION G	

RECOMMENDED

1. That the report be received.
2. That Councillors receive the Collaborative Stakeholder Group for Murphys Creek, listen to their presentation and deliberate on their recommendation in favour of Option G, being their preferred option for the ongoing management of stormwater in the Murphys Creek catchment.

Appendix 1

Murphys Creek Collaborative Stakeholder Group

Terms of Reference

Version Control

Version No - of	Author	Changes made
1.0 of 1 st March 2016	Jon C	First draft as available to Stakeholder Group at first workshop on Wed 2 nd March 2016
1.1 of 3 rd March 2016	Jon C	Add "water and stormwater" management in Purpose. Note serious weight needs better definition. Replace map Appendix 1 with a more up to date version. Added suggested date for field trip to project timeline (tbc)
1.2 of 7 th March 2016	Jon C	Clarify role of Science Information Researcher

Contents

Purpose

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Membership

Protocol for Collaborative Deliberation

Respect and Communication

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Role of Facilitator

Role of Consultant to the SDM Process

The Role of Support Staff

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Appendix 1: Murphys Creek Stormwater Catchment

Purpose

Marlborough District Council, (the Council) as a Unitary Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide urban infrastructure for the management of stormwater under the Local Government Act. It also has a statutory responsibility for environmental management under the Resource Management Act.

The Murphys Creek Collaborative Stakeholder Group (MCCSG) represents a spectrum of resident, user, community, cultural and environmental interests that has been brought together by the Council to generate an agreed set of recommendations for the ongoing management of stormwater generated within the Murphys Creek catchment.

The recommendations from the MCCSG will include strategies and actions that are consistent with an accepted set of values for Murphys Creek determined collaboratively by it after having participated in a structured decision making (SDM) exercise facilitated by an independent party.

Subsequently the Council will give serious weight to the MCCSG's recommendations for the ongoing management of water and stormwater within the Murphys Creek stormwater catchment.

This document records the Terms of Reference for the MCCSG and describes the context, role and operating procedures for it.

Context

Background

Serious challenges to Council's management of stormwater in the Murphys Creek catchment have arisen in recent years. These have come about through Council's endeavours to provide for the needs of urban and business growth within the Murphys Creek catchment while simultaneously upgrading ageing stormwater infrastructure to meet expected levels of service.

Specifically in June 2013 Marlborough District Council publicly signalled its intention to apply for Resource Consent to discharge additional stormwater to Murphys Creek. This would be from the "fully developed" Murphys Creek catchment.

Many residents bordering Murphys Creek were opposed to Council's initial proposal, and some very strongly so. This is a matter of record and public submission. Although various "solution" options have been contemplated and a number of technical studies carried out there is currently no clear and agreed way forward. Strong opposition remains. There is currently a stalemate on an agreed or accepted solution.

Among the issues that have been articulated include (alphabetical order):

- Aesthetics
 - Rubbish in creek – plastic bags etc
- Ecology
 - Fish life diminished – trout and eels
 - No koura
- Stormwater Flows

- Volumes
 - Flow levels – flooding of properties
 - Flow velocity – bank erosion
- Water Quality
 - Contaminants in stormwater
 - Spills – eg Diesel
 - Sediment build up in creek
- Aquatic Weeds
 - Weed management - frequency
 - Hand cutting v spraying
 - Protect native species

In an endeavour to better understand information gaps and clarify stakeholder issues Council commissioned Cawthron Institute (June 2014) to carry out a social-ecological assessment of stormwater management in Murphys Creek.

It was clear from their Report (No 2735) that the Cawthron researchers identified among other things that Council had generated an unhealthy degree of mistrust amongst its stakeholders. This finding was pivotal in terms of next moves. In order to make progress the Council decided to use a Structured Decision Making (SDM) process as a means to engage a wide range of stakeholders to find common agreement on solutions for stormwater management.

Hence a collaborative stakeholder group, representative of most interests will operate under the guidance of an independent facilitator.

The group will make recommendations to Council that include a mutually acceptable solution.

Area of Focus – The Murphys Creek Stormwater Catchment

The extent of the Murphy's Creek stormwater catchment is shown in Appendix 1

Structured Decision Making

Structured decision making (SDM) is a collaborative planning and problem solving process that seeks to

- Engage stakeholders in a process that is formal, consensus-oriented, and deliberative
- Employ a strategy of learning through dialogue
- Build trust and legitimacy
- Find more durable solutions with less time in court.

In Structured Decision Making:

- there is a clear framework to identify values that relate to water bodies, and assess the consequences of alternative policy options.
- all values are equally legitimate in SDM.
- a methodical process allows for the consideration of alternatives, benefits and costs as required by Section 32 of the Resource Management Act.
- the balancing of alternatives is left to the end so that participants can clearly see what the different outcomes are.

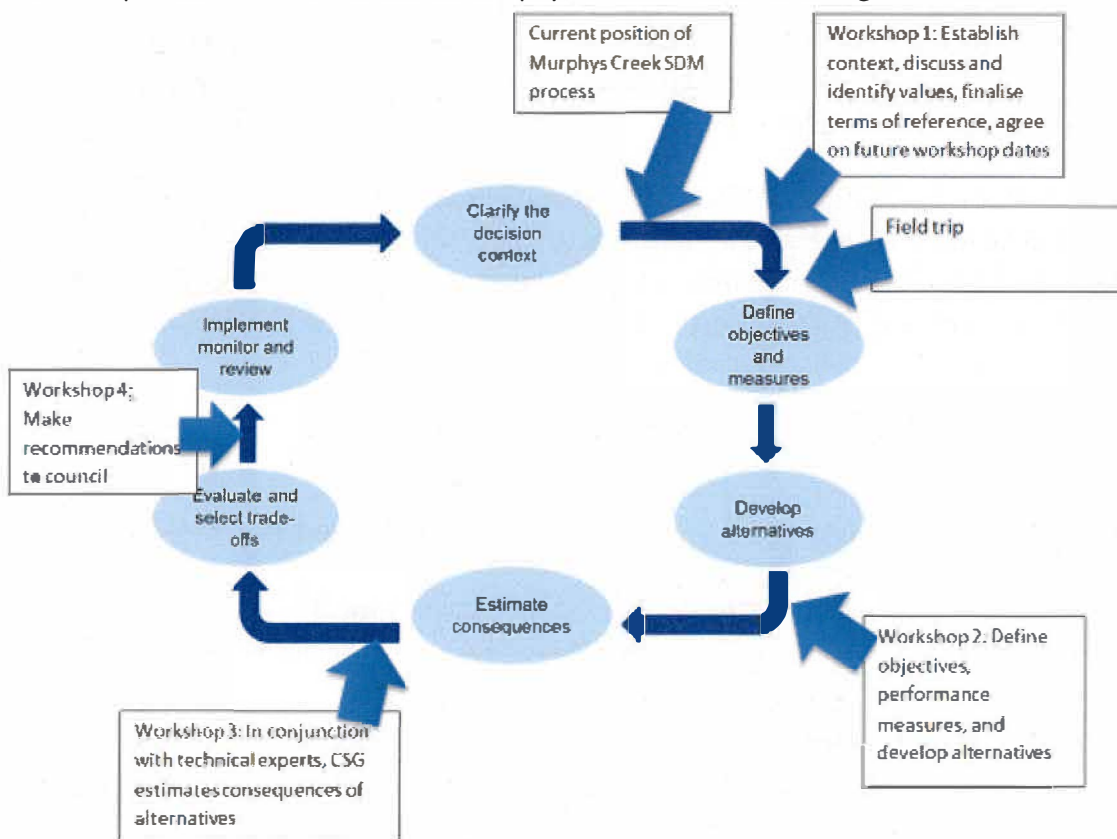
With complex and contentious issues, doing SDM well takes time.
The temptation to jump to solutions early should be resisted.

All members of the group need to reach a similar level of knowledge, understand each other's values, and share a degree of trust within the group before considering policy options (Sinner *et al.* 2014).

Note: Collaborative planning processes using SDM are currently underway in Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Auckland, Northland and in the Waikato.

Process: SDM and Stormwater Management in the Murphys Creek Catchment

The SDM process to be carried out for Murphys Creek is shown in the figure below.



Participants: Murphys Creek Stormwater Structured Decision Making (SDM) Project.

Table 1 Structure of a Collaborative Stakeholder Group for Murphys Creek stormwater Structured Decision Making (SDM) project.

Participant	Number	Interests represented
MDC - Councillors	2	Representatives of wider Marlborough ratepayers
Residents	5	Directly affected parties
Commercial/industrial	2	Established businesses in the Murphys Creek catchment
Developer	1	Developers in the catchment
Chamber of Commerce	1	Commercial interests in the wider region
Iwi (Council Iwi Liaison plus 1)	1/2	Tangata whenua, kaitiaki

Participant	Number	Interests represented
Department of Conservation	1	Environment
Total = 13/14		

There may be a number of observers to the process. Observers may be present and observe with the concurrence of the MCCSG membership. Observers do not actively participate unless it is the wish of the MCCSG that they do so.

Membership

Members of collaborative stakeholder groups are generally selected to reflect the broad interests in the subject matter under consideration (ie stormwater) and to provide a cross-section of values, understanding and perspectives. As a general principle it is expected that members will engage with their organisations and wider networks to share information and get feedback on matters being considered.

Members of the MCCSG have either been nominated by their respective sector or group to be their representative or identified as persons most likely/best placed to contribute their particular interest or perspective which has not been covered by other sector groups.

Those nominated by sector groups are expected to convey ideas and perspectives from their wider networks. However, the views expressed by members will be assumed to be their own until such time as they have been formally endorsed by their wider networks. A subsequent process, with a reasonable timeframe (to be decided by the MCCSG), will be required to get formal endorsement.

Some important points to remember about being a MCCSG member:

- Members are expected to make every effort to attend all meetings. Between sessions, members will be expected to interact with their wider networks to obtain feedback on policy options.
- In the event that there may be personnel changes and to assist the group in progressing at a reasonable pace, substitutes must be well briefed on the MCCSG process by the member they are replacing, and ensure they are up to date with MCCSG progress. Substitutes must also contact the facilitator (Mark Newton) in advance.
- If a meeting is missed, or if a substitute does participate, members will be expected to “catch up” and to raise any concerns arising from that meeting no later than the next meeting.

Protocol for collaborative deliberation

This process is not just another consultation exercise – it is a new way of decision-making. Rather than simply advocating for a particular point of view, participants will be expected to explore, consider and deliberate on solutions that accommodate diverse views and interests, and to refrain from tactics that are divisive.

The protocol includes matters relating to respect, communication and consensus decision making:

Respect and Communication

- Members must be willing to participate cooperatively for the “greater good” of sustainable stormwater management in the Murphys Creek catchment.
- All members agree to act in good faith. This means that members must commit to open, honest, constructive, robust and collaborative deliberations. To this end, we will follow the Chatham House Rule. This means that participants are free to discuss aspects of the process with other parties (excluding debating issues through media channels, see point below) but shall not attribute speakers or their affiliations to discussed options or opinions.
- MCCSG meetings are not open to the public; however Meeting Records and the list of participants will be made public.
- Contributions made within the Group will be “without prejudice”. That is, nothing said within the Group may be used in a subsequent planning or legal process except for any recommendations and agreements reach by the Group.
- Members agree to refrain from debating issues through public media channels and to keep the debate within the MCCSG.
- Members agree to show restraint and respect for other views when communicating with wider networks and to avoid promoting discord within the group.
- Any public statement about discussions or decisions by the group must be agreed by the group and made through an agreed spokesperson. This also applies to researchers, council staff and others who attend the meetings in support of the MCCSG.

Consensus decision making

- The group will strive to make decisions by consensus. Consensus is defined as every member (i.e. 100%) of the group agreeing that they accept the group’s recommendations to Council.
- At the end of the process, members and their networks will be asked to formally endorse and sign any recommendations that have been reached by consensus.
- Where 100% consensus cannot be reached on a topic or specific point, the reasons for disagreement will be noted, any alternatives defined, and the reasons for positions on the alternatives recorded.
- If the group reaches a consensus, members will be expected to support that consensus in subsequent public discussion, including appearing at any subsequent hearing if requested.

Project Support team

The makeup and roles of the project support team are set out in Table 2 below

Table 2 Roles of Project Support Team.

Position	Number	Organisation
Facilitator	1	Cawthron
Consultant to the SDM Process	1	Cawthron
Science Information Researcher	1	Cawthron
Project Support/Manager	1	MDC
Policy lead	1	MDC
Technical stormwater	1	MDC
Technical advisory/science leader	1	MDC

Role of Facilitator

The meetings of MCCSG will be led by an independent facilitator, who will:

- Ensure a fair and equitable group process
- Foster an atmosphere of respect, open-mindedness and group learning
- Design an enjoyable and productive process to enable the group to achieve its task
- Facilitate input from all members of the group, so that every voice is heard
- Provide guidance on collaborative deliberation techniques, including constructive ways to voice disagreements and negotiate potential conflicts.

Role of Consultant to the SDM Process

Advice and support will be available to assist with the running of certain phases of the SDM process.

Role of Science Information Researcher

A researcher will be available to assist in locating, collecting and interpreting any scientific information identified as needed by the MCCSG.

Role of Project Support/ Manager

The Project Support/Manager will provide necessary logistical support to members of MCCSG, the Facilitator and Support staff. If engaged in participatory activities the role will be advisory only, ie no deliberative decision making other than to manage the project to time.

The Role of Support Staff

The Policy lead would advise the MCCSG on whether or not various activities and/or options under consideration are provided for in the Plan and what if any Regulatory processes would ensue to ensure compliance with plan provisions.

The technical stormwater advisor/expert would provide direct advice to the MCCSG about the feasibility of stormwater management options explored by the group.

The advisory/science leader will liaise with other council staff about the knowledge requirements of the MCCSG.

Neither the Policy lead, nor the technical stormwater advisor and the advisory/science leader have any decision making capacity within the group. They would sit in on MCCSG workshops in an advisory role only.

Project Timeline

A timeline for the project follows. Some dates are to be confirmed at the first workshop to be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016.

- Interviews and residents meeting completed
- 1st Stakeholder Workshop (1): 2 March 2016
- Field trip: 9:00am, Wednesday 23rd March 2016 - tbc

- 2nd Stakeholder Workshop (2): Mid April 2016
- Ecological Assessment ca. 1-2 months and possibly other studies required to meet information requirements
- 3rd Stakeholder Workshop (3): Mid May, 2016
- 4th Stakeholder Workshop (4): Mid June, 2016
- Submit recommendations to MDC: July 2016

References and further reading

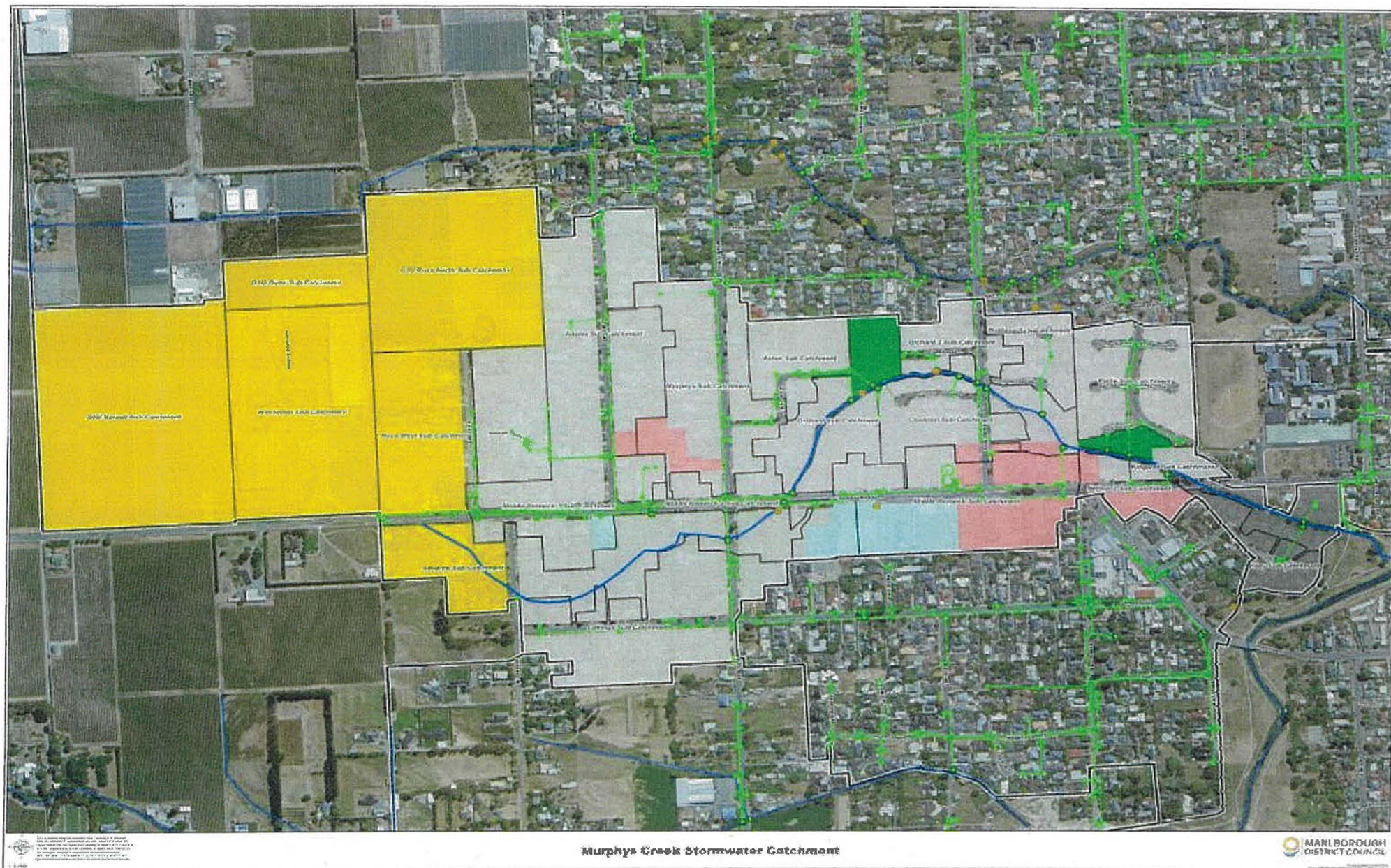
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Sinner J, Greenhalgh S, Berkett N, Sharp T 2014. Structured Decision Making for Collaborative Planning. Policy Brief No. 9. Landcare Research. Pp. 7. Available at <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/policy>

Appendix 1: Murphys Creek Stormwater Catchment



Members were advised that the Beech Whanau have also talked with local iwi and the four affected property owners/residents who will end up with new addresses and Council has been advised that there are no objections to the proposed names.

It was reported that the proposed names have been circulated by the Council to Iwi, local historians and Marlborough Roads for comment. Te Atiawa o Te Waka-a-Maui and Te Puni Kōkiri support the application. It was noted that no response has been received to date from other groups consulted.

Ms Hobbs advised that while there is an adjacent roadway and ROW that will require naming in the future, the ground work carried out by Takutai Beech in researching names for their ROW has opened up dialogue between MDC and Te Atiawa regarding creating a list of pre-approved appropriate names for the Picton area.

Mr Hunter/Clr Andrews:

That the existing private right-of-way at 316A Waikawa Road, shown on the appended plans, be named "Whitiao Way".

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jon Cunliffe, Resource Management Advisor, Mark Newton, Cawthron Project Facilitator and Members of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group for Murphys Creek were present for the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Clr Oddie rejoined the meeting at 2.38 pm.

P.16/17.402 Murphys Creek Stormwater – Option G

W410-001-02-03

The report to the Committee provided a recap on the background behind the Murphys Creek Structured Decision Making (SDM) Project and to formally recommend Option G as the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's preferred option for Stormwater Management in the Murphys Creek Catchment. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in Trim – Record No. 1775949).

Mr Cunliffe introduced the Collaborative Stakeholder Group members to the Committee and advised that Ross Inder would formally make the submission to members on behalf of the stakeholder group. It was noted that the Mayor and Mr Hunter were involved in the process with this group.

By way of background Mr Newtown advised that the Council commissioned the Cawthron Institute to provide a report and in compiling that report a good deal of time was spent talking to stakeholders. Through these discussions it became clear that a different approach was required. The Cawthron team were further commissioned to facilitate a Structured Decision Making process for stormwater management in Murphys Creek. It was noted that fundamental to this process was the establishment of a Collaborative Stakeholder Group.

Members were advised that by using the structured decision making process a consequences table was created. It was noted that the table was an important tool in the context of solving the problems at Murphys Creek.

Members were advised that ten options were contemplated during the course of the project and at the conclusion of the last workshop held in March 2017 Option G was the option which had unanimous support of those present. Mr Newton outlined the key features of Option G.

Mr Dick, Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager, joined the presentation and discussed the options offered. Noting that option A was the cheapest with Option H++ the most expensive. Mr Dick also discussed the rivers and drainage challenges for these options and noted that Option G does provide some future proofing.

Mr Inder spoke to members on behalf of the stakeholder group. He noted that Murphys Creek is not just for those living alongside the creek but for the whole of Blenheim. He advised that the consequences table clearly showed how far things have moved since 2013. Mr Inder went on to thank Mr Newton for his patience in enabling a solution to be found and acknowledged the considerable input from John Cunliffe, Geoff Dick and Stephen Rooney.

Mr Inder then formally recommended to members that the Collaborative Stakeholder Group wished to offer up Option G from the Consequences Table as the group's preferred option for Stormwater Management in the Murphys Creek Catchment.

It was noted that the estimated cost for Option G is \$3.8M. Council currently has budget of \$2.3M for the years 2022-24 for this project.

Cllrs Peters/Sloan:

1. That the report be received.
2. That Option G be noted as the Collaborative Stakeholder Group for Murphys Creek preferred option for the ongoing management of stormwater Manager in the Murphys Creek catchment.
 - (a) Key features - Option G:
 - i) On land that has been rezoned for urban development the allowable runoff from that land shall be 6 l/s/ha. This is equivalent to the stormwater that would run off the land if it were still in rural use.
 - ii) Stormwater outlets from properties in the commercial/business area east of the Murphys Creek culvert across Middle Renwick Road will be retrofitted with filter/treatment devices.
 - iii) Stormwater from these same areas that currently discharges to Murphys Creek will be diverted to the Taylor River via the Pump Station just downstream of the High Street bridge over the Taylor River.
 - iv) A proprietary stormwater treatment device will be installed in the Aston Street area as part of the Murphys Road stormwater network upgrade. This will treat stormwater from that section of the catchment before it discharges to Murphys Creek.

Carried

P.16/17.403 Renwick Residential Water Meters

W450-004-007-05

The report to the Committee sought approval to confirm the implementation of water meters for the Renwick residential community.

Members were advised that two public consultation meetings on implementing water metering have been held with over 80 residents, in addition to Councillors and Council staff attending. The community have indicated their support to progress metering and to apply a base free + volume usage charge which will cover the operational costs based on an average consumption per household and anything over this amount will be charged at a m³ rate as opposed to the current fixed price.

It was noted that Council staff would report back to the Havelock Water Group on tariff charging options once discussions with the Renwick community were complete. Members were advised that Council staff intend to present and recommend the Renwick water metering decision on tariff charging to the Havelock Water Group in the coming weeks.

Clr Brooks noted that a water meter trial is to be undertaken and advised that the residents have indicated they wished for it to be underway by this summer.

Mr Rooney advised that a trial will be conducted which will show what water is being used and how it is being used with information obtained available to residents over the summer period. It was noted that not all metering will be in before this summer. Members were advised that the owners of the properties in the trials will be contacted. It was noted that meter position and owners names will remain anonymous.

Clr Brooks agreed to inform the Renwick Water Users Group.

Cllrs Evans/Fitzpatrick:

That the Committee approve Renwick water metering be installed as per the current budget of \$626k in the years 2017-19 along with the continuing planning of Havelock water metering and the Combined Water Scheme and for Council staff to begin the investigation of metering options to confirm connection requirements.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Hope and Brooks withdrew from the meeting at 3.14pm

Attachment 2 – 2024-2025 Regulatory Compliance Monitoring Report of consent U200218 (Springlands Stormwater Discharge Consent)

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**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Marlborough District Council – February 2024 – July 2025 Compliance Report for – U200218

Assessment of compliance with consent U200218

This report sets out the compliance status for the discharge of stormwater in the Springlands Management Area. The information in this report is based on the Analysis of stormwater quality monitoring data (2024-2025) in relation to the Springlands Stormwater Management Area, Blenheim Report 4191 provided by Cawthron, dated 14 November 2025.

Compliance Status has been indicated using a monitoring traffic light system where **green** indicates compliance; **yellow** indicates technical non-compliance; **orange** indicates that a breach of effects or best practice consent conditions has occurred with minor actual or potential adverse environmental effects, and **red** indicates significant non-compliance where a persistent or significant breach has occurred causing adverse environmental effects.

Compliance Status: Compliant

Report prepared by: Tonia Stewart Environmental Protection Officer

Please note that the following consent conditions are representative only, they do not include the complete list of conditions of consent.

Condition	Comment	Compliance Status																								
7. The Consent Holder shall undertake water quality sampling of the parameters listed in Table 1 below at the locations outlined in Table 2 and shown in Appendix 2. The samples shall be taken monthly during base flows and two composite samples shall be taken per annum after at least a 10mm rainfall event. <table><tr><td>Temperature</td><td>Dissolved Oxygen</td><td>pH</td><td>Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus</td></tr><tr><td>Nitrate nitrogen</td><td>Ammoniacal nitrogen</td><td>Turbidity</td><td>Total suspended solids</td></tr><tr><td>E.Coli</td><td>Total and dissolved zinc, copper and lead</td><td>Hardness</td><td>Total hydrocarbons</td></tr><tr><td>Aluminium</td><td>Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons</td><td>Polychlorinated biphenyls</td><td></td></tr></table> Table 1: Parameters to be monitored <table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Grid Reference</th></tr><tr><td>Upstream of discharge</td><td>1678674E 5404038N</td></tr><tr><td>Discharge outlet</td><td>1678652E 5404100N</td></tr><tr><td>Downstream of discharge (allows for reasonable mixing)</td><td>1678737E 5404078N</td></tr></table> Table 2: Monitoring Locations	Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen	pH	Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus	Nitrate nitrogen	Ammoniacal nitrogen	Turbidity	Total suspended solids	E.Coli	Total and dissolved zinc, copper and lead	Hardness	Total hydrocarbons	Aluminium	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	Polychlorinated biphenyls		Location	Grid Reference	Upstream of discharge	1678674E 5404038N	Discharge outlet	1678652E 5404100N	Downstream of discharge (allows for reasonable mixing)	1678737E 5404078N	In accordance with Condition 7 of the five discharge permits, water quality sampling of all required parameters was undertaken monthly during baseflow conditions. In addition, two composite samples were collected per annum following rainfall events of at least 10 mm, occurring in April and June 2025.	C
Temperature	Dissolved Oxygen	pH	Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus																							
Nitrate nitrogen	Ammoniacal nitrogen	Turbidity	Total suspended solids																							
E.Coli	Total and dissolved zinc, copper and lead	Hardness	Total hydrocarbons																							
Aluminium	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	Polychlorinated biphenyls																								
Location	Grid Reference																									
Upstream of discharge	1678674E 5404038N																									
Discharge outlet	1678652E 5404100N																									
Downstream of discharge (allows for reasonable mixing)	1678737E 5404078N																									
8. The Consent Holder shall undertake an annual sediment sample from the Taylor River to measure copper, zinc, aluminium and lead. The sample will be taken from the downstream sampling location outlined in Table 2.	All sampling was undertaken as required on 17 February 2025 and a report dated 14 November 2025 was provided to Council.	C																								

9. Water quality and sediment sampling as outlined above in Conditions 7 and 8 will take place before any new additional stormwater discharges are initiated where diversion or other works are to take place in the SSMA that are linked to the Boyce Street Flood Control Structure discharge. Advice Note: The aim of this sampling is to provide baseline data which may be used to determine any changes from the activity described in the condition.	There have been no new stormwater discharge sites to creeks and streams in Springlands; however, a network upgrade in the Aston Street/McKendry Park area was completed in March 2025 and began discharging to Murphys Creek in early to mid-April 2025. Routine monthly water quality sampling at all 13 sites has been undertaken since December 2020, and sediment sampling has been completed in December 2020, October 2023, and February 2025.	C
10. The Consent Holder shall undertake annual monitoring in Murphys Creeks for a three year period to establish a baseline, as follows: a) Stream rapid habitat assessment including visual assessment of extent of deposited fine sediments; b) Macroinvertebrate sampling via the macroinvertebrate community index (as a general indicator of biological water quality and overall stream health).	a) Stream rapid habitat assessments were carried out in February 2024. The consent requirement is that an RHA assessment be undertaken for a 3 year period to establish a baseline, then once every subsequent 3 years. b) Macroinvertebrate sampling (MCI) sampling has undertaken in January 2025. <i>Compliant</i>	C
11. At the completion of the sampling outlined in Condition 10, the sampling outlined in Condition 10 shall be undertaken once every three years.	Macroinvertebrate (MCI) sampling was completed in January 2025 in accordance with Condition 10, and this sampling satisfies the requirement of Condition 11.	C
12. A fish survey will be undertaken during 2021 in Murphys Creek to establish the range and size of fish species/populations that are present in the Creek. This sampling shall be repeated once every three years.	Fish survey was undertaken on 21st February 2024. This will next be required in February 2027.	
13. The Consent Holder shall commission a report once in every calendar year from an appropriately qualified and experience freshwater scientist to provide a report based on the results of the sampling outlined in Conditions 7 to 12 and any other relevant information. The report shall include: a) Monitoring results; b) An assessment of the results against standards set in the Marlborough Environment Plan; c) Identification of any trends; d) Identification of any adverse effects and recommendations with respect to avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects.	Cawthron was commissioned to prepare a report (report 4194). The report includes: a) Monitoring results b) An assessment of the results against applicable standards c) Identification of trends d) Identification of adverse effects and recommendations in point 6.4 of the report as follows: PAHs, PCBs, and TPHs monitoring could be removed from Condition 7 now that a four-year baseline has been established; although PCBs detected in May 2025 may warrant source investigation, no PCBs have been detected in subsequent sampling. For future monitoring programmes informed by the Springlands 2020–2024	C

	findings, PAHs, PCBs, and TPHs should be monitored annually in water and downstream sediments for two years, after which they could be removed if no significant concerns are identified.	
14. A copy of the report outlined in Condition 13 shall be: a) Provided to the Compliance Manager of the Marlborough District Council; b) Placed on the Marlborough District Council website; c) Provided to members of the SSGG.	The report in condition 13 was provided to the compliance department on 17 November 2025. It is being reviewed by the SSGG. Has been placed on the MDC website.	C
15. The reports outlined in Condition 13 will form part of the three yearly review of the SSMAP outlined in Condition 16. Advice Note: If additional monitoring is recommended by the SSGG during the review process, this shall be treated as being required under the SSMAP and does not require a change of consent conditions.	Report will be included in the SSMAP in October 2027.	
16. Three yearly reviews of the SSMAP will be undertaken by the SSGG in conjunction with the Consent Holder. The first review will be undertaken by 31 October 2024; the second on or by 31 October 2027 and the third review will form part of the consent re-application process in 2030.	The SSGG has undertaken a review and provided a copy to Council on 29 October 2024. Not required for 2025.	
17. The review process will be facilitated by an independent party. The review shall consider, as a minimum, the effectiveness of the SSMAP as a tool for delivering on the following matters: a) What is working, what is not and what can be improved; b) Stakeholder and public expectations; c) Whether community awareness and understanding is improving; d) Whether the Mauri of the water is being restored; e) Whether the quality of the stormwater has improved; f) Identification of the types of activities operating in the SSMAP and determining associated risks to the stormwater network from those activities; g) Whether water quality/sediment monitoring programmes need reviewing to ensure the visions/objectives of the SSMAP are being met; h) Progress with retrofitting stormwater treatment devices to commercial or industrial activity connections to the public stormwater network; i) Any advances in stormwater technology and/or analysis of any monitoring data available; j) Assessing information gathered from one off surveys and any other scientific reports; and k) Whether the economic wellbeing of the community is being sustained.	Not required for 2025.	

The Consent Holder shall publish outcomes from the review process on the Marlborough District Council website.		
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Please Note:

Monitoring Fees

Pursuant to section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Marlborough District Council's (Council) schedule of fees, the consent holder shall be responsible for all costs associated with the monitoring of this consent in accordance with the schedule of fees.

The observations, results and determinations contained within this report represent the conditions as observed at the time of the site inspection undertaken by a MDC Compliance Officer, or at the time of review of all required data available to a MDC Compliance Officer at the point of report production. All observations, results and determinations, and therefore the ratings of compliance, are subject to change should there be a change in circumstances or material information from that referred to within this report.

Where non-compliance is noted on an inspection visit, remedial action is identified and advised to the consent holder in writing. A follow-up visit may confirm that appropriate remedial action has been taken. The consent holder shall receive an additional charge for the costs of the follow-up inspections undertaken by Council, or their agent, to ensure that compliance with consent conditions is met.

Privacy Statement and publication of information

Council needs to collect personal information (including names and contact details) to effectively monitor compliance with resource consents, plan requirements and the NES-PF. Personal information that you provide in response to this communication will be held and protected by Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. You can access and correct that information by contacting Council through the contact details below. The information that we receive from you will be made available to the public through Council's online resource consent files.



Marlborough District Council
15 Seymour Street, PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
www.marlborough.govt.nz

Telephone 03 520 7400
Fax 03 520 7496
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7. Proposed Budget for Annual Plan 2026-27

(will be separately circulated)

(Report prepared by Geoff Blake)

F230-A26-10

8. Level of Service Increase: Monitoring of Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

(Report prepared by Pere Hawes)

Purpose of report

1. To provide information to support deliberations for budget provision to continue monitoring Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Executive Summary

2. Council currently monitors energy use and greenhouse gas emissions across its operations, in accordance with the Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28, via a contract with CarbonEMS. That monitoring commenced in 2020.
 3. Until now the contract was funded via a one-off allocation of bulk funding to implement the Climate Change Action Plan 2020 and the updated Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28. That budget allocation has now been expended.
 4. If Council wishes to continue monitoring greenhouse gas emissions to assist with its strategic planning, then additional funding of \$22,000 (excl GST) per annum is required to enable the existing contract to continue.
 5. The provision of this budget would require an average rates increase of approximately 0.02%.
-

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council make a budget provision of \$22,000 per annum to continue monitoring energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.

Background

6. Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020 and the updated Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28 set out the actions to be taken to address greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the effects of climate change. The actions include monitoring of Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and using the information collected to identify and prioritise activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. In November 2020, Council entered a contract with CarbonEMS to monitor energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.
8. Under the contract, Council provides the contractor with energy and utility information. That information is entered into a database that is managed by the Contractor. The data is analysed to quantify emissions from Council operations, both direct emissions (e.g., sewage ponds, landfill, vehicle fleet) and indirect emissions (e.g., electricity consumption). The results of the analysis are reported to Council on a regular basis, providing information on total emissions but also breaking the emissions down by source and scope.
9. The contract value is \$22,000 (excl GST) per annum.
10. Emission reports have been regularly provided to Council.

Assessment

11. A previous one-off allocation of funds to implement the Climate Change Action Plan 2020 and the updated and Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28 has been expended. There is therefore no budget provision to continue the current contract with CarbonEMS.
12. The contract can be terminated by Council, but the contract requires six months' notice of termination. There are still likely to be costs incurred under the contract over that six-month period.
13. Ceasing the monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions would mean that Council is not implementing an action within the Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28. It will also mean that Council would not be able track progress with efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Council operations in the future.
14. To continue the contracted service would require an additional funding allocation of \$22,000 (excl GST) per annum to the Environmental Policy budget per annum. There is no other source of funding that the author is aware of that would allow the contract to continue as part of the climate change workstream.

Option One – Provision of additional funding

15. Council provides funding to the climate change work programme enabling the contract with CarbonEMS for monitoring energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations to continue.

Advantages

16. Council continues to receive data on energy use and climate change emissions across its operations on a regular basis, as it has done since 2020. This data can then be used for strategic planning purposes, including the identification of options to reduce emissions from Council operations.

Disadvantages

17. Given that there is no other source of funding for the climate change work programme, it is estimated that continuing to monitor energy use and greenhouse gas emissions would result in a rate increase of 0.02%.

Option Two – Cease monitoring of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations

18. Council ceases monitoring of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations and terminates the contract CarbonEMS.

Advantages

19. Ceasing the monitoring and terminating the contract with CarbonEMS would avoid a rates increase of approximately 0.02%.

Disadvantages

20. Council will not be implementing an action within the Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25-2027/28.
21. There may be community expectations that Council should lead by example in any efforts to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Marlborough. A decision to cease collecting emission data may result in community concern.
22. Cessation of monitoring energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations would make it difficult to identify options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from those operations or monitor progress with any initiatives implemented based on past reporting.

Author	Pere Hawes, Head of Environmental Policy
Authoriser	Hans Versteegh, Manager of Environmental Policy, Science and Monitoring

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service that is considered good-quality and cost effective. The continuation of monitoring Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions supports informed decision-making and transparency, enabling Council to plan effectively and act in the long-term interests of the Marlborough community. The relatively low cost (approximately 0.02% rates impact) is proportionate to the benefits of evidence-based planning and accountability for emissions reduction activities. This is consistent with the purpose of local government under the Local Government Act 2002, including promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	✓	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	✓	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters	✓	☐	☐
Land transport	✓	☐	☐
Parks and reserves	✓	☐	☐
This proposal contributes to the LTP / Annual Plan, Financial Strategy, and Environment & RMA Plans by supporting delivery of the Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25–2027/28 and enabling Council to monitor and manage its environmental footprint. It contributes to the Infrastructure Strategy, 3 Waters, land transport, and parks and reserves activity areas by providing emissions data across operational assets (e.g. wastewater, landfill, fleet, and energy use), supporting long-term asset management and emissions reduction planning. It contributes to social well-being and economic development by demonstrating leadership, meeting community expectations, and supporting sustainable regional development. No significant detracting impacts have been identified.			
Nature of the decision to be made			

Summary of decision-making considerations

The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. While the monitoring includes emissions from activities involving land and water (e.g. landfill and wastewater), the decision itself relates to continuation of data monitoring and contractual funding rather than a direct change in land or water use.

The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with ancestral land and water is indirectly relevant through environmental stewardship. Continued monitoring supports improved environmental outcomes, which aligns with the principles of kaitiakitanga; however, no specific impacts on sites, waahi tapu, or taonga have been identified.

Financial considerations

The project is not currently budgeted for and requires additional funding provision. To continue monitoring, an additional operating budget of \$22,000 per annum (excl. GST) is required within the Environmental Policy activity. This equates to an estimated average rates increase of approximately 0.02%.

Option One (recommended) provides ongoing access to emissions data to support strategic planning and emissions reduction initiatives.

Option Two avoids the rates impact but results in loss of monitoring capability, limiting Council's ability to track progress and meet its climate change commitments.

There are no identified alternative funding sources.

Significance

The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The decision relates to an operational funding allocation of relatively low value, with limited direct impact on levels of service. While it supports an important strategic programme, the financial and service impacts fall below typical significance thresholds.

Engagement

No specific engagement is proposed. No targeted engagement has been undertaken on this specific decision. The Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan and the Long Term Plan, which include emissions monitoring as an action, have previously been subject to community consultation.

A communications approach can be incorporated into broader reporting on climate change activities and Council performance.

Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc

The recommended option carries risks of ongoing financial commitment and reliance on contractor services. These risks will be managed through contract oversight and regular performance monitoring.

The report notes a reputational risk if monitoring is ceased (Option Two), including reduced ability to demonstrate progress on emissions reduction and potential community concern regarding Council leadership on climate change.

No significant legal or health and safety risks have been identified.

Climate Change Implications

In assessing the preferred option, staff have considered the effects of climate change. The preferred option directly supports climate change mitigation and adaptation by enabling Council to quantify and monitor greenhouse gas emissions across its operations (including direct and indirect sources).

This information is critical for identifying emissions reduction opportunities, prioritising actions, and tracking progress over time. Ceasing monitoring would reduce Council's ability to respond effectively to climate change and implement its adopted Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan.

9. Level of Service Increase: Council Community Events Contract

(Report prepared by Samantha Young)

E100-002-012

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for an increase in funding for Council's Community Events Contract

Executive Summary

2. Community events deliver significant social, economic and reputational value beyond their delivery cost
3. Event delivery costs have risen significantly and cannot be absorbed within existing budgets long-term.
4. Continued delivery of events within Council's Community Events Contract at the current scale and quality requires increased funding to reflect market conditions.
5. An increase of \$32,000 per annum is requested, with 50% of this cost to be met through existing budget reallocation for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.
6. A rates increase between 0.015% and 0.03% will be required to fund this additional budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves funding to increase the value of Council's Community Events Contract (incl. Blenheim CBD Summer Market) by \$16,000 per annum for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 and \$32,000 per annum ongoing from 2028/2029.

Background

7. For 26 years, Council has made a commitment to provide ratepayer-funded free community events that are fun, family-friendly, promote community connection, celebrate and showcase our region's attributes and act as catalysts for community well-being and civic pride.
8. In September 2022, Registrations of Interest were requested from interested parties to deliver three annual Council-owned community events. Additional community event ideas were sought at the same time. Pure Events Marlborough were confirmed as the preferred contractor to deliver the Council-owned events at a Council meeting on 2 March 2023.
9. The contract with Pure Events Marlborough commenced on 1 July 2023 and ends on 30 June 2026. In line with terms of contract, this has been renewed for an additional two-year term following Council staff's approval of required reporting.
10. To date, Pure Events Marlborough has met all requirements and conditions of contract and in the majority of cases, exceeded them.
11. The three Council-owned community events delivered by Pure Events Marlborough under the contract are:
 - Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival - multi-day event held in August showcasing high school jazz bands and ensembles from across the South Island. Includes multiple free public performances

held at venues around the region, masterclasses with acclaimed judges, competitions and a finale concert at the Whitehaven Theatre

- Blenheim Christmas Parade - Popular parade through Blenheim CBD featuring approx. 35 to 40 floats. This event attracts 3,000 to 4,000 people into town
 - New Year's Eve Picton Celebrations - Vibrant celebration centred on Picton Foreshore featuring live music, food vendors, children's entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display. This event attracts approx. 6,000 to 7,000 people
12. Additional to the three events above, Council also approved the 'Blenheim CBD Summer Market' to be included in the contract with Pure Events Marlborough, noting that this is not a Council-owned event. This street market with approx. 60 to 70 stalls has been held in Market Street and surrounds for many years on the Friday before the Marlborough Wine & Food Festival.

Assessment

13. Community events are a critical mechanism for achieving wider organisational and community outcomes. Their value extends well beyond the direct cost of delivery by:
- Strengthening community wellbeing, inclusion, and participation
 - Supporting local businesses, suppliers, artists, and contractors
 - Enhancing place-making, civic pride and the appeal of our towns and spaces
 - Providing accessible, free or low-cost recreational experiences
14. Event delivery costs have increased significantly both nationally and internationally in recent years, and sadly Marlborough has not been immune to these pressures. During the past two years of the Community Events Contract, rising costs have been absorbed through careful budgeting and redistribution of funds. This has enabled events to be delivered as planned, but this is not a viable long-term solution.
15. Key cost pressures currently being faced include:
- Increased supplier and contractor costs (e.g. staging, sound and lighting, infrastructure hire)
 - Higher staffing costs
 - Increased venue hire fees
 - Stricter health and safety and compliance obligations
 - Higher logistics and transport costs
16. To ensure the continued delivery of these popular events, which bring significant community, economic and reputational benefits, an increase in funding is required. This increase does not represent an expansion of activity, but rather a necessary adjustment to reflect current market conditions that are anticipated to continue. It will also provide greater certainty and stability for effective event planning and delivery.
17. Alternative funding opportunities continue to be explored, and Pure Events Marlborough have been successful in securing and maintaining sponsorship across all of the events. However, as previously reported, securing new sponsorship is becoming increasingly challenging in the current economic climate. Given the nature of the events there is also very little opportunity to increase any participation fees.
18. Considerable work has been undertaken to ensure cost-efficiencies and best use of funds for future events, and it has been identified that an increase of \$32,000 per annum would enable the four community events to be delivered to the current scale and standard. It is proposed that 50% of this increase is covered through reallocation of budget for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. It is not possible to offset funding for this activity in the future as the total budget is already fully allocated.

Option One - Recommended Option – Funding Increase

19. Approve funding to increase the value of Council's Community Events Contract (incl. Blenheim CBD Summer Market) by \$16,000 per annum for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 and \$32,000 per annum ongoing from 2028/2029.

Advantages

20. Enables Council-owned community events and the Blenheim CBD Summer Market to continue to be delivered at the high quality, scale and production value that the community have become accustomed to for the last 26 years.
21. Maintains community access to free events.
22. Supports local suppliers, contractors and creatives.
23. Maintains and protects Council's reputation for delivering much-loved community events.
24. Provides certainty for event delivery company enabling them to plan accordingly.

Disadvantages

25. Requires rates increase of approximately 0.015% for year 1 and 2 and a further 0.015% for year 3 onwards.

Option Two – Funding Decrease with Re-Allocation

26. Reduce Council's contestable Community Events Fund from \$28,000 to \$13,000 for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 financial years and reallocate the remaining \$15,000 to the Community Events Contract to support the delivery of the three Council-owned events only for the balance of the two-year contract term.

Advantages

27. See advantages identified in 'Option One' above
28. No rates increase required

Disadvantages

29. Reduces the number of community events that can be supported through the contestable Community Events Fund. Value of funding approved since fund's inception:
- 2023/2024: \$16,070, 7 events
 - 2024/2025: \$19,828, 11 events
 - 2025/2026: \$17,877 (to date), 9 events
30. By excluding a funding increase for the Blenheim CBD Summer Market there is a risk of the event needing to run at a reduced scale, or not continuing at all
31. Funding increase will need to be requested in the future for delivery of the Community Events Fund contract from 2028/2029 onwards

Option Three – Status Quo

32. Decline funding increase and retain current funding level.

Advantages

33. No rates increase required.

Disadvantages

34. Significant reduction in quality, scale and production value of events (exact level to be determined).

35. Failure to meet community expectations, resulting in possible dissatisfaction.

Author	Samantha Young, Events & Community Partnerships Manager
Authoriser	Neil Henry, Group Manager, Strategic Management

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective. The proposal supports the delivery of free, accessible community events that promote participation, inclusion, and civic pride across Marlborough. These events have been delivered for over 26 years and are widely attended, contributing to community connection and wellbeing. The proposed funding increase reflects rising delivery costs rather than expansion of service levels, ensuring continuity of existing levels of service in a cost-effective manner relative to community benefit. This is consistent with the purpose of local government under the Local Government Act 2002, particularly in promoting the social, economic and cultural well-being of communities, both now and in the future.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	X	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	X	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	X
Social well-being	X	☐	☐
Economic development	X	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	X
Arts & Culture	X	☐	☐
3 Waters	☐	☐	X
Land transport	☐	☐	X
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	X
This proposal contributes to the LTP / Annual Plan through the ongoing provision of community events that support Council's role in fostering connected, vibrant communities and reflecting regional identity. It contributes to social well-being by enhancing participation, inclusion, and access to free recreational opportunities, and to economic development through support of local businesses, suppliers, and creatives involved in event delivery. The proposal contributes to Arts & Culture by supporting events such as festivals and performances that showcase local talent and cultural expression. The proposal aligns with the Financial Strategy by transparently identifying funding pressures and proposing a modest and staged rates increase to maintain established levels of service.			

Summary of decision-making considerations
No material detracting impacts have been identified.
Nature of the decision to be made The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. The decision relates to operational funding for an existing service (community events contract) and does not involve acquisition, disposal, or changes to land or water assets. No specific impacts on sites of cultural significance, wāhi tapu, or other taonga have been identified. The events themselves are community-focused and contribute positively to shared public spaces and community use.
Financial considerations The project is not fully budgeted for and requires additional funding provision. The preferred option maintains current service levels outcomes and requires an increase in operating expenditure and equates to a staged rates increase estimated between 0.015% and 0.03%. Option Two avoids a rates increase but reduces funding available for the broader Community Events Fund, thereby limiting support for additional community-led events. Option Three avoids additional cost but notes a reduced quality and scale of events and potential failure to meet community expectations.
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The decision relates to a relatively modest increase in operational expenditure and does not substantially change the level of service provided but rather sustains existing delivery. While events are well-attended and valued, the decision does not trigger thresholds for high significance.
Engagement No specific engagement is proposed. The report notes continuation of these events reflects long-standing community expectations and participation, with events attracting significant attendance and ongoing community support. Given the proposal maintains existing services, targeted engagement on the funding increase has not been undertaken. A communications approach can be incorporated through general Council communications and event promotion.
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc The recommended option carries the risk of ongoing financial pressure due to increasing event delivery costs. These risks will be managed through contract management, ongoing monitoring of costs, and continued pursuit of sponsorship and efficiencies. The report notes risk under Options Two and Three of reduced event quality, reduced community access, and potential dissatisfaction if established events cannot be delivered at expected standards. No significant legal risks have been identified, and health and safety obligations are managed within standard event delivery and contractual arrangements.
Climate Change Implications There are no known climate change implications to this decision. The proposal relates to funding for community event delivery and does not directly impact climate change mitigation or adaptation activities.

10. Level of Service Increase: Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund / Marlborough Matariki Event Fund

(Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Purpose of Report

1. To provide information to support Council deliberations on establishing an annual budget provision for the Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund (Marlborough Matariki Event Fund).

Executive Summary

2. The Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund supports community-led events and activities that celebrate Matariki across Marlborough.
3. The fund is now in its fourth year and has, to date, been supported through carryover funding from the Community Events Fund and the Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy. This approach is not sustainable and presents an ongoing financial risk. Based on current projections, this funding source will no longer be available from 2027 onward.
4. Despite strong community interest and participation, the lack of a confirmed, ongoing budget has limited Council's ability to take a strategic approach. It has delayed meaningful engagement with iwi and the wider community to co-develop a longer-term framework for the fund, including priorities, outcomes, and delivery models.
5. Establishing a dedicated annual budget will provide certainty, enable forward planning, and support stronger partnerships with iwi and the community to deliver meaningful and culturally appropriate Matariki events.
6. An additional budget of \$25,000 is requested, to be funded by a rates increase equivalent to 0.02% on average.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That Council make a budget provision of \$25,000 per annum for the Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund / Marlborough Matariki Event Fund.
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Background

7. Matariki marks the rising of the Matariki star cluster and signals the beginning of the Māori New Year. It is a time for remembrance, celebration, and planning for the year ahead.
8. Matariki was formally recognised as a public holiday in New Zealand in 2022, reflecting its growing national significance as a time to acknowledge the Māori New Year, connect with community, and reflect on the past while looking to the future.
9. The introduction of Matariki as a national public holiday has increased expectations for communities across New Zealand to recognise and celebrate the occasion in meaningful ways.
10. In Marlborough, there is strong interest from community groups, schools, iwi, and arts organisations to deliver Matariki-related events and activities.
11. The Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund was established in 2023 to test community appetite for a coordinated and inclusive programme of celebrations across the region. This approach has proven successful, with 25 events funded to date, totalling \$86,170.

12. To date, the fund has relied on one-off or carryover funding sources, which has created uncertainty for both Council and event organisers.
13. This uncertainty has constrained long-term planning and delayed the development of a clear framework in partnership with iwi, which is critical to ensuring that Matariki celebrations are locally relevant, culturally appropriate, and aligned with tikanga Māori.
14. The proposed \$25,000 annual budget represents a modest investment in supporting community wellbeing, cultural recognition, and regional identity.
15. A dedicated and reliable funding source would enable:
 - Forward planning and earlier funding rounds
 - Stronger partnerships with iwi and community organisations
 - Development of a clear framework to guide the fund's purpose and outcomes
 - Increased quality and consistency of Matariki events across the region
16. Without a confirmed budget, Council faces:
 - Inability to sustain the fund beyond 2026
 - Continued reliance on uncertain carryover funding
 - Missed opportunities to support iwi-led and community-led initiatives
 - Reduced capacity to meet community expectations for Matariki celebrations
17. Matariki-focused contestable funding is increasingly being adopted by councils across New Zealand, with funding levels varying to reflect local priorities and capacity. Examples include:
 - Nelson City Council Community Matariki Grant – \$25,000
 - Hutt City Council Matariki Grant – \$150,000
 - Whangārei District Council Puanga Matariki Events Fund – \$20,000
 - Tauranga City Council Kaupapa Māori Event Fund – \$210,000
 - Matamata-Piako District Council Matariki Fund – \$5,000
18. Establishing this fund on an ongoing basis aligns with Council's role in supporting cultural expression, community connection, and inclusive regional events.

Assessment

19. The Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki Fund has demonstrated clear value over its initial years but is currently reliant on unsustainable funding sources.
20. Establishing a dedicated annual budget will provide certainty, enable strategic development in partnership with iwi and the community, and ensure Marlborough continues to appropriately recognise and celebrate Matariki as a nationally significant occasion.

Options

21. **Option 1 – Establish a new Levels of Service budget (Recommended)**
Provide an ongoing budget of \$25,000 per annum to support the delivery of community-led Matariki events. This provides certainty, supports forward planning, and enables stronger partnerships with iwi and the community.
22. **Option 2: Status quo (continue with carryover funding where available)**
Continue to support the fund through any available carryover funding from existing budgets. This

would have no immediate rates impact but is not sustainable, with current projections indicating no available carryover funding beyond 2027.

23. **Option 3: Do not fund the Matariki Festival**

Discontinue Council funding for the Matariki Fund and associated festival activity. There would be no impact on rates or existing budgets. Community groups may still choose to deliver events independently where funding can be secured from other sources.

Author	Nicola Neilson, Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager
Authoriser	Marianne Aitken, Group Manager Council Operations (Acting)

Summary of decision-making considerations

Fit with purpose of local government

The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.

The proposal supports Council's role in promoting community well-being, cultural expression, and inclusive participation by enabling community-led Matariki events across Marlborough. The report notes the proposed 0.02% rates impact enables delivery of measurable community and cultural outcomes in a cost-effective manner.

This aligns with the purpose of local government under the Local Government Act 2002, particularly in promoting the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

<i>Fit with Council policies and strategies</i>	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	✓	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	✓
Arts & Culture	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters	☐	☐	✓
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✓

Summary of decision-making considerations

This proposal contributes to the LTP / Annual Plan and Arts & Culture activities by supporting delivery of community events aligned with Council's role in fostering cultural identity, creativity, and inclusive participation.

It contributes to social well-being by strengthening community connection, participation, and sense of identity through region-wide Matariki celebrations.

It contributes to economic development through increased local activity associated with events and supporting local organisations and creatives.

The proposal aligns with the Financial Strategy as a modest and transparent rates-funded increase to support an established and valued community programme.

No material detracting impacts have been identified.

Nature of the decision to be made

The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. The decision relates to establishing an ongoing operational funding allocation for a contestable community events fund and does not involve changes to land use or water resources.

The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions is directly relevant to the subject matter of the decision. The fund is intended to support culturally appropriate Matariki celebrations and includes an explicit focus on strengthening partnerships with iwi in the development and delivery of events.

Option 1 supports improved engagement with iwi and enables co-development of a framework aligned with tikanga Māori, whereas Options 2 and 3 limit this opportunity.

Financial considerations

The project is not currently budgeted for and requires additional funding provision. The preferred option requires establishment of a new operating budget of \$25,000 per annum, equating to an average rates increase of approximately 0.02%.

Option 1 provides funding certainty and enables forward planning, improved partnership development, and delivery of consistent events. Option 2 (status quo) avoids an immediate rates impact but relies on diminishing carryover funding, which is projected to be unavailable beyond 2027 and therefore is not sustainable. Option 3 avoids any cost to Council but would result in the discontinuation of Council-supported Matariki events and reduced ability to meet community expectations.

Significance

The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The decision relates to a relatively low-value operational budget increase and does not significantly alter levels of service, although it formalises an existing activity. While the subject matter is of community interest, it does not trigger thresholds associated with high significance.

Engagement

No specific engagement has been undertaken on this proposal. The report notes that engagement with iwi and the community has been constrained due to funding uncertainty, and that establishing a confirmed budget will enable more meaningful engagement and co-development in the future.

Broader community views on Matariki and cultural activities have been captured through previous funding rounds and general community participation in events. A communications plan can be developed as part of implementation of the fund and future funding rounds.

Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc

The recommended option carries the risk of ongoing financial commitment and expectation to maintain funding for the programme. These risks will be managed through annual budget processes and periodic review of the fund's effectiveness and outcomes.

There is also a risk that failure to establish a sustainable funding source (Options 2 and 3) would result in inability to continue the fund, missed opportunities for iwi and community partnerships, and reduced ability to meet community expectations for Matariki celebrations.

<i>Summary of decision-making considerations</i>

No significant legal or health and safety risks have been identified as part of this decision.
--

<i>Climate Change Implications</i>

There are no known climate change implications to this decision.
--

The proposal relates to funding for community cultural events and does not have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions or climate change mitigation or adaptation activities.
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11. Level of Service Increase: Public Art Maintenance (attachment included)

(Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Purpose of Report

1. To provide information to support Council deliberations on establishing an annual budget provision for the maintenance of 21 Council-owned public art.

Executive Summary

2. Council owns a portfolio of public artworks located across Marlborough, including sculptures and heritage pieces in high-use public spaces.
3. There is currently no dedicated budget for routine maintenance, inspection, or conservation. As a result, work is undertaken on an ad hoc basis, often requiring reprioritisation of existing budgets and leading to deferred or undelivered activities.
4. Public artworks, particularly outdoor sculptures, are exposed to environmental conditions such as weathering, corrosion, and structural fatigue. Without regular maintenance, they can deteriorate and pose health and safety risks, including component failure.
5. The absence of a proactive maintenance programme increases the likelihood of higher-cost repairs or full restoration in the future. Early intervention is significantly more cost-effective than deferred maintenance.
6. Establishing a modest budget of \$20,000 will enable a dedicated and more planned approach to inspections, minor repairs, cleaning, and conservation, ensuring public safety.
7. The establishment of this budget would require a rates increase of approximately 0.02%.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council make a budget provision of \$20,000 per annum for the maintenance of Council-owned public art.

Background

8. Council's public art collection comprises over 20 pieces, including sculptures, pou, and other installations (excluding memorials, which are maintained separately by Parks and Open Spaces), and has developed over time through a combination of direct investment, grants, and community partnerships, contributing to placemaking, cultural identity, and visitor experience across the region.
9. Many artworks are installed in open, publicly accessible environments such as parks, streetscapes, and waterfront areas, where they are subject to environmental exposure and public interaction.
10. Unlike other Council-owned assets, public art has not historically been supported by a formalised maintenance programme or dedicated operational budget.
11. Industry best practice recommends regular condition assessments and scheduled maintenance, particularly for structural elements, fixings, and materials susceptible to degradation.
12. Failure to maintain these assets can lead to:
 - Structural instability or failure of components

- Increased risk of injury to the public
 - Accelerated deterioration requiring costly restoration or removal
13. Recent examples highlight the risks of deferred maintenance. The Whale Carving at Powerhouse Reserve in Picton was found to have significant rot and insect infestation and required removal following arborist assessments.



Image: Powerhouse whale carving showing significant rot and insect infestation

14. The Grant Williams Seedling Sculpture on the Taylor River is currently undergoing maintenance. Cracks were identified in the petal joints, which had gone undetected for an unknown period, presenting a significant potential risk to public safety. The artist is developing a maintenance plan, with repair and repainting costs expected to be significant.



Image: Seedling Sculpture undergoing maintenance

15. These examples highlight both the public safety risks associated with deteriorating artworks and the increased financial, cultural, and operational costs that arise when maintenance is not proactively managed.
16. The proposed \$20,000 annual budget represents a modest investment relative to the total value of Council's public art portfolio.
17. This funding would support a transition from a reactive to a planned maintenance programme, reducing long-term financial liability, improving asset management outcomes, and ensuring Council meets its obligations to provide safe public environments by identifying and addressing risks early.
18. Without this investment, Council is likely to face:
 - Increasing reactive maintenance costs
 - Greater risk of asset failure and associated liability
 - Eventual need for higher capital expenditure to restore or replace artworks

Assessment

19. Establishing a dedicated public art maintenance budget is a prudent and necessary step to ensure the safety, longevity, and value of Council-owned artworks.
20. The proposed funding will enable a proactive, cost-effective approach that protects both the public and Council's investment over the long term.

Options

21. **Option 1 – Establish a new Levels of Service budget (Recommended)**
Provide an ongoing budget of \$20,000 per annum to enable a planned maintenance programme. Enables regular inspections, preventative maintenance, and timely repairs, reducing long-term costs and improving public safety. Requires rates increase or reallocation from existing budgets.
22. **Option 2: Status quo (reactive maintenance)**
Continue to manage maintenance on an ad hoc basis by reprioritising existing budgets as issues arise. While this approach has no immediate impact on rates, it results in ongoing deferral of maintenance, a higher likelihood of asset failure, increased long-term repair or replacement costs, and continued exposure to public safety risks.
23. **Option 3: Do not undertake maintenance**
Do not provide funding for the maintenance of public art assets. While this would have no impact on rates or existing budgets in the short term, it would likely lead to asset deterioration, increased public safety risks, potential liability for Council, loss of cultural and community value, and the eventual need for removal or costly replacement of artworks.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Inventory of council owned public art

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Author	Nicola Neilson, Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager
Authoriser	Marianne Aitken, Group Manager Council Operations (Acting)

Attachment 1 – Inventory of council-owned public art

Title	Artist	Media	Year	Location
Veronika	Iosefa Leo	Limestone carving		Marlborough District Council DAB, front garden to left of main entrance.
Unknown	Lydia Geoff	Limestone carving		Bythell Place, Blenheim
Wise Man Tamaloa Poto	Iosefa Leo	Hand carved limestone	1995	Blenheim Library
Landscape Fragments	Stephanie Jewell	Limestone carvings	2005	Marlborough District Council, foyer
Seedling	Grant Williams	Fibreglass over stainless steel	2014	Taylor River, by ASB Theatre
Other Than	Wayne Taylor	Stainless Steel		On loan to Wairau Hospital (internal garden)
Mother and child	Wayne Taylor	Stainless Steel		Wairau Hospital
Riversdale Pukeko	Unknown	Wooden		Riversdale Reserve
Herd the Winemaker	John Fuller	Bronze	2009	Marlborough Airport
Horse head	Rupert Till	Wire	2017	Pollard Park
Rangitane Pou	Paul Johnson	Wooden carving	1994	Council Chambers
Figure	Iosefa Leo	Limestone carving		Nelson St, Blenheim, by river
Opaoa Bridge Pou whēnua	Reg Thompsett	Carved wood	2020	Opaoa Bridge, Blenheim
Tama-nui-te-rā	Robin Rawstorne	Kinetic/interactive, steel	2023	Market St/Adams Place
Pouwhenua, 28th (Māori) Battalion, Waitohi/Picton	John Mutu, alongside Ronald Petley, Hayden Parata- Ryland and Syd Eru	Carved wood	2020	Picton Foreshore
Picton Library Pou whēnua	Pita Rua	Carved wood	2020	Picton Library, south garden
Koru	Unknown	Limestone carving		i-Site, Picton
Bird	Lorraine Polglase	Limestone carving		Picton Library, south garden
Woman	Unknown	Limestone carving		Picton Library, south garden
Yin/Yang	Unknown	Limestone carving		Thorburn Reserve, Waikawa
Feather	Unknown	Limestone carving		Thorburn Reserve, Waikawa

Summary of decision-making considerations

Fit with purpose of local government

The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.

The proposal supports Council's role in providing and maintaining public assets that contribute to community wellbeing, cultural identity, and reducing long-term costs and managing risks associated with deterioration and public safety. The report notes Council-owned public art are located in high-use public environments and is part of the region's cultural infrastructure.

This aligns with the purpose of local government under the Local Government Act 2002, in promoting social and cultural well-being while ensuring services are delivered in a cost-effective manner over the long term.

<i>Fit with Council policies and strategies</i>	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	✓	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	✓
Arts & Culture	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters	☐	☐	✓
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	✓	☐	☐

This proposal contributes to the LTP / Annual Plan and Arts & Culture activities by supporting the ongoing care and preservation of public art, which contributes to placemaking, community identity, and visitor experience.

It contributes to the Infrastructure Strategy by treating public art as part of Council's asset portfolio and supporting a shift from reactive to planned maintenance, consistent with good asset management practice.

It contributes to social well-being by maintaining safe, accessible, and culturally meaningful public spaces, and to economic development through enhancing the attractiveness of the region for residents and visitors.

It contributes to parks and reserves where artworks are located within public open spaces.

The proposal aligns with the Financial Strategy through a modest and proactive investment that reduces future liability and avoids higher long-term costs associated with deferred maintenance.

No material detracting impacts have been identified.

Nature of the decision to be made

The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.

Summary of decision-making considerations

The decision relates to operational funding for the maintenance of existing Council-owned assets and does not involve acquisition, disposal, or change of use of land or water.

The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions has been identified through the presence of artworks of cultural significance within the portfolio, including pou and other Māori artworks.

The recommended option supports appropriate stewardship (kaitiakitanga) of these assets by enabling their ongoing maintenance and preservation. Options 2 and 3 may lead to deterioration or loss of culturally significant works over time.

Financial considerations

The project is not currently budgeted for and requires additional funding provision. The preferred option requires establishment of a new operating budget of \$20,000 per annum, equating to an average rates increase of approximately 0.02%.

Option 1 enables a proactive maintenance programme, reducing long-term costs and risks. Option 2 (status quo) avoids immediate rates increases but results in deferred maintenance, increased likelihood of higher future costs, and continued risk exposure. Option 3 avoids cost but is likely to lead to asset failure, increased liability, and eventual higher capital expenditure to repair or replace artworks.

Significance

The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The decision relates to a relatively modest operational budget increase and does not significantly alter levels of service, but proposes to formalise and improve delivery of an existing function. While the issue has safety implications, it does not meet thresholds for high significance.

Engagement

No specific engagement is proposed. The proposal relates to internal asset management practices and maintenance of existing infrastructure. While public art contributes to community identity, the decision to establish a maintenance budget is operational in nature. A communications approach may be incorporated through broader reporting on Council assets and public art initiatives.

Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc

The recommended option mitigates existing risks associated with asset deterioration and public safety. The report identifies risks including structural failure, public injury, and increased liability arising from lack of maintenance. These risks will be managed through the implementation of a planned maintenance programme, including regular inspections, preventative maintenance, and timely repairs.

Options 2 and 3 carry increased risks of asset failure, higher long-term costs, and potential legal liability.

Climate Change Implications

There are no known climate change implications to this decision. While artworks are subject to environmental exposure (e.g. weathering and corrosion), the decision itself relates to maintenance funding and does not directly impact climate change mitigation or adaptation outcomes.

12. Summary of Annual Plan Ideas Received

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Geoff Blake)

F230-A26-010

Purpose of Report

1. To receive information on community ideas submitted as part of engagement on Council's 2026–27 Annual Plan and the high-level staff responses to those ideas, for the Finance Committee's oversight and guidance role in relation to Annual Plan development.

Executive Summary

2. As part of engagement to support preparation of the 2026 – 27 Annual Plan, Council invited the community to submit ideas on how Council can best meet its objectives. A total of 50 ideas were received through an online engagement platform ('Dialogue') and subsequently reviewed by a small working group consisting of the Mayor, Councillor Croad, and key staff.
3. The ideas were assessed and grouped into action categories to indicate whether they relate to existing activities, require further work through future Long Term Plan (LTP) Levels of Service (LOS) discussions, or fall outside Council's role or current funding framework.
4. No ideas have been recommended for inclusion in the 2026 – 27 Annual Plan budget at this stage.
5. This report provides Council with an overview of the ideas received, the assessment approach taken, and the proposed treatment of those ideas, to support oversight in relation to Annual Plan development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. **Receive the information contained in this report.**
2. **Notes that no community ideas are recommended for inclusion in the draft 2026–27 Annual Plan budget.**
3. **Notes the categorisation of ideas into Business as Usual, Long Term Plan Levels of Service considerations, and out-of-scope matters.**
4. **Notes that relevant ideas will be considered through future Long Term Plan processes and existing work programmes.**
5. **Notes that this approach supports prudent financial management and that feedback will be provided publicly on the website.**

Background

6. In developing the 2026 – 27 Annual Plan, Council sought early community input by inviting ideas that align with Council's objectives as set out in the 2024 – 34 Long Term Plan. This engagement approach was adopted in place of a more formal consultation process to support early identification of community priorities.
7. Fifty ideas were submitted over a four-week period in November 2025 using an online engagement tool. The ideas covered a wide range of topics including community facilities, transport and infrastructure, environment and biodiversity, town centres, recreation, governance, and regulatory matters.

8. The ideas were allocated to relevant Group Managers for review and comment. Each idea was assessed and grouped into one of several action categories to support transparency and guide potential next steps before being formally assessed.

Assessment

9. **Assessment approach**

Community ideas were assessed against existing strategies, programmes, levels of service, funding frameworks, and statutory responsibilities. Ideas were categorised into the following groups:

- **Annual Plan Budget** – ideas where a specific budget could potentially be identified within the 2026 – 27 Annual Plan
- **LTP Levels of Service (LOS) Workshops** – ideas requiring further development and consideration as part of preparation for the next Long Term Plan
- **Business as Usual (BAU)** – ideas relating to activities already underway or within existing work programmes
- **For information / no action required** – ideas acknowledged but not requiring further work at this time
- **Not supported / out of scope** – ideas outside Council's role, responsibilities, or current funding framework

10. **Key outcomes**

- The majority of ideas relate to existing Council activities or programmes and are therefore classified as Business as Usual.
 - Several ideas raise matters that would represent new or amended levels of service and are more appropriately considered through future LTP LOS workshops.
 - A small number of ideas fall outside Council's role or are not supported within current planning and funding frameworks.
 - No ideas are recommended for inclusion in the 2026 – 27 Annual Plan budget at this stage.
11. This approach supports prudent financial management by ensuring that new or expanded commitments are not introduced through the Annual Plan without appropriate planning, prioritisation, and funding consideration.

Next steps

12. The information contained in this report will inform Annual Plan deliberations and provide Council with visibility of community ideas and staff responses.
13. Ideas identified for further exploration will be incorporated into future work programmes or considered through LTP Levels of Service workshops where costs, benefits, risks, and trade-offs can be assessed.
14. Feedback to the community will continue to be provided, as appropriate, to demonstrate how ideas have been considered and where they may influence future planning processes.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Submission Themes & Response Summary

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Author	Geoff Blake, Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser	John Boswell, Chief Executive

Attachment 1 - Submission Themes & Response Summary

Summary of Key Themes and Responses

Total ideas received: 50

Platform: Dialogue / Delib engagement tool

Timeframe: November 2025

Themes covered: Community facilities, transport and infrastructure, environment and biodiversity, town centres, recreation, governance and strategy

Community Facilities and Assets

Examples:

- Swimming pool covers (Seddon/Awatere)
- Community halls (French Pass and others)
- Sports and recreation facilities (Renwick Sports Centre, Blenheim Gymnastics)

Staff commentary summarised:

Many of these submissions relate to Council-owned assets and are addressed through existing maintenance programmes, renewals planning, or community partnerships. Where funding availability, safety considerations, or future service levels are involved ideas will be reviewed through existing work programmes or referred to Long Term Plan workshops. Some requests may be considered alongside broader reviews of Council's role in supporting community facilities.

Transport, Trails and Infrastructure

Examples:

- Traffic management and intersections
- Cycle trails (Whale Trail, Link Pathway, connections)
- Footpaths, bridges, and road upgrades

Staff commentary summarised:

Transport-related submissions are assessed in the context of Council's transport strategies, Marlborough Roads business planning, Waka Kotahi processes, and adopted levels of service. Several ideas will inform future investigations or be considered alongside current transport modelling and Long Term Plan development. Requests outside Council's direct role (for example, State Highway matters) will be referred to the relevant agency where appropriate.

Environment, Biodiversity and Rivers

Examples:

- Biodiversity restoration and pest control
- Tree planting and urban greening
- Willow removal, river management, and "Room for the River" approaches
- Integrated catchment management and riparian corridors

Staff commentary summarised:

Many environmental submissions align with existing Council programmes, reserve management plans, biodiversity strategies, river management frameworks, or grant schemes. Where ideas seek to expand current work or establish new policies, they are proposed for consideration through future LTP

levels-of-service discussions. Council continues to work with iwi, community groups, and partners to deliver environmental outcomes within available resources.

Town Centres, Place-Making and Economic Development

Examples:

- Picton town centre upgrades and beautification
- Strategic direction, investment strategies, and branding
- Heritage, culture, and identity initiatives

Staff commentary summarised:

Submissions on town centre development and regional or township-level strategy are closely linked to ongoing strategy and planning work. Several ideas will be considered through Long Term Plan workshops, where costs, benefits, timing and prioritisation can be assessed alongside other district-wide needs. Some proposals also sit outside Council's direct funding role and may involve public-private partnerships or external agencies.

Governance, Policy and Regulatory Ideas

Examples:

- Domestic cat management
- Parking restrictions and bylaws
- Protection of significant natural areas on private land

Staff commentary summarised:

Ideas involving new bylaws or regulatory approaches require scoping, assessment of statutory tests, and consideration of community and political appetite. These matters are not funded within the current Annual Plan and may be explored further through Long Term Plan processes if supported by Council. Existing voluntary or non-regulatory programmes will continue in the interim.

13. Minutes: Extraordinary Council 26 March 2026

That the Minutes for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0326-314 to Cncl-0326-315) be taken as read and confirmed.



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026 commencing at 8.30 am**

Present

The Mayor Nadine Taylor (in the Chair), Cllrs Scott Adams, Sally Arbuckle (via Teams), Allanah Burgess (via Teams), David Croad, Deborah Dalliessi, Brian Dawson (as at 8.40 am), Cyril Dawson, Barbara Faulls, Gerald Hope, John Hyndman, Thelma Sowman, Ben Stace, and Malcolm Taylor

In Attendance

Messrs John Boswell (Chief Executive), Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel), Claudia Mark (Solicitor), Tiffany Wise (Governance Manager).

The report and attachments referenced within these meeting minutes are available in the Council Order Paper for the 26 March 2026 meeting (<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings> and saved as CM Reference No: 2657819).

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Apology

Cllrs Croad and Dalliessi:

That the apology for absence from Cllr Raylene Innes and late attendance from Cllr Brian Dawson be received and sustained.

Carried

Cncl-0326-314 Declaration of Interests

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

ATTENDANCE: Tiffany Wise spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0326-315 Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy L150-029-05

Following receipt of community feedback through a special consultative procedure and a panel deliberation on submissions, Council considered a report seeking approval to adopt a district-wide Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (2026). The Governance Manager outlined the statutory framework under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, noting that the role of a local policy is confined to determining whether shops may open on Easter Sunday and the Act does not permit the imposition of conditions, trading hours, or employment requirements. It was confirmed that employees retain an unconditional statutory right to refuse to work on Easter Sunday, irrespective of whether a local policy is adopted.

The Submission Review Panel of Cllrs David Croad (in the Chair), Deborah Dalliessi and Ben Stace reviewed the 29 submissions received, noting a narrow majority (55%) in support of adoption. No submitters wished to be heard in support of their written submissions. Cllr Croad noted that submissions reflected divergent community views, with supporting submissions emphasising economic activity, tourism, visitor expectations,

and business choice, while opposing submissions focused on worker wellbeing, family and community time, and the cultural and religious significance of Easter Sunday.

Members discussed Marlborough's visitor economy, the importance of providing certainty to businesses and visitors, and the need for clarity within a complex and nationally restricted trading regime. Reference was made to the Long-Term Plan 2024–2034 objectives relating to economic development, tourism, and a predictable operating environment for local businesses. Ms Wise observed that Marlborough has had an Easter Sunday trading policy in place since 2017 and that adoption would maintain continuity with past practice. It was further noted that adoption of the policy neither compels shops to open, nor employees to work, but instead enables individual choice within the bounds of national legislation.

Following debate, the Mayor put the recommendations to the meeting.

Cllrs Croad and Dalliessi:
That Council:

- 6. Adopts the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (2026) as recommended by the Submission Review Panel.**
- 7. Authorises the Governance Manager and Solicitor to make any minor editorial/formatting amendments to the policy prior to publication.**
- 8. Directs and approves the Governance Manager to publish the adopted policy and notify Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) within 10 working days in accordance with practice outlined in section 5E of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990.**
- 9. Notes that, in accordance with section 5C(2) of the Act, the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (2026) must be reviewed no later than five (5) years after adoption, i.e., by 26 March 2031, and that the Governance Manager will schedule the review accordingly.**

Carried

Postscript: On 30 March 2026 notification of adoption was provided to the Employment Services Business Advisory office of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Receipt of notification was confirmed by MBIE with the local policy noted as active for Marlborough District. Record No: 2674768.

The meeting closed at 08.46 am.

N P TAYLOR
MAYOR

Record No. 2662680

14. Minutes: Extraordinary Council 16 April 2026

That the Minutes for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16 April 2026
(Minute Nos. Cncl-0426-336 to Cncl-0426-337) be taken as read and confirmed.



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Mayor Nadine Taylor (in the Chair), Cllrs Scott Adams, Sally Arbuckle (via Teams), Allanah Burgess, David Croad, Deborah Dalliessi, Brian Dawson, Cyril Dawson, Barbara Faulls, Gerald Hope, John Hyndman, Raylene Innes, Thelma Sowman, Ben Stace, and Malcolm Taylor

In Attendance

Messrs John Boswell (Chief Executive), Geoff Blake (Chief Financial Officer), Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel) Matt Kerr (MDCH Chair), Warren McNabb (Port Marlborough Chair) and Tiffany Wise (Governance Manager).

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Apology

None received.

Cncl-0426-336 Declaration of Interests

-

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have. No declarations were received.

ATTENDANCE: Matt Kerr, Warren McNabb, John Boswell, Geoff Blake, Setareh Masoud-Ansari spoke to the following item. On screen presentations were delivered and are preserved as CM record number: 2681331, 2681335, 2681339. The agenda for the meeting is preserved as CM record number: 2673300.

Cncl- 0426-337

**Approval of Statement of Proposal – 2026
Consultation to finance Port Marlborough's
share of the Waitohi Ferry Redevelopment
Project**

S400-005-012-05

Council considered a report seeking approval of a Statement of Proposal (SOP) to commence public consultation under the special consultative procedure on Council's potential involvement in financing Port Marlborough's share of the Waitohi Ferry Redevelopment Project. The Mayor outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to determine whether to proceed to consultation only, and that no decision on funding or borrowing was being made at this stage.

Representations were received from the Chair of Port Marlborough and the Chair of MDC Holdings Limited, who outlined the background to the project, the execution of an interim development agreement with Ferry Holdings, the proposed capped \$110 million contribution by Port Marlborough, and the governance, risk-mitigation, ownership, and funding arrangements underpinning the proposal. These included joint ownership of strategic assets through a special purpose vehicle, full operational control remaining with Port Marlborough, protections against cost overruns, staged funding drawdown, and the use of Crown-backed financial guarantees and bonds.

Council's Chief Executive, General Counsel, and Chief Financial Officer outlined the statutory context, confirming that the proposal falls outside the Long Term Plan cycle and requires consultation under the Local Government Act 2002, and emphasised that adoption of the Statement of Proposal would not commit Council to borrowing or expenditure. Financial commentary noted that the proposal is not expected to materially affect Council's borrowing capacity or credit rating, would not impose costs on ratepayers, and has the potential to support long-term dividend returns, while also outlining the implications of the alternative option of not providing financing support.

Councillors discussed the national and regional significance of the ferry redevelopment, the importance of securing long-term resilience, safety, and connectivity for Picton and the Cook Strait crossing, and the extensive governance and due diligence undertaken following the earlier iReX process. Members sought and received assurances regarding risk allocation, protection of ratepayers, timing of financial exposure, and the distinction between the decision to consult and any future funding decision. The importance of meaningful community engagement was emphasised, including accessibility of the consultation process, the holding of public meetings in Picton and Blenheim during the consultation period, and recognition of the cultural and historical significance of the Waitohi area.

Following discussion, Council agreed to adopt the Statement of Proposal, approve the proposed consultation approach as set out in Attachment 4.2 (as amended for clarity), agree to receive and hear submissions before making any determination on Council's involvement in funding arrangements, and authorise the Mayor and/or Chief Executive to make minor editorial corrections to the SOP prior to consultation commencing. The motion was put and carried.

Amendment Motion

For clarity of reference, Mayor Taylor put forward a recommendation for an amendment to the wording of the agenda paper's recommendation #3. That being, (italicised) "Approve the proposed approach to consultation *as set out in the Statement of Proposal at attachment 4.2*, and below under 'Communications and Engagement' proceed to go out to consultation;"

Mayor Taylor and Cllr Hope:

That Council agree to amend recommendation #3 to read as "Approve the proposed approach to consultation *as set out in the Statement of Proposal at attachment 4.2*, and below under 'Communications and Engagement' proceed to go out to consultation;"

Carried

Substantive Motion

Cllrs Hope and Croad:

That Council:

- 10. Adopt the attached Statement of Proposal for the purpose of consultation by way of special consultative procedure in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002; and**
- 11. Agree that no Summary of Information is required in the Statement of Proposal; and**
- 12. Approve the proposed approach to consultation as set out in the Statement of Proposal at attachment 4.2, and below under 'Communications and Engagement' proceed to go out to consultation; and**
- 13. Agree to receive and hear submissions on the Statement of Proposal, and, following consideration of those submissions, determine Council's involvement (if any) in the funding arrangements for the Waitohi Ferry Redevelopment Project; and**
- 14. Authorise the Mayor and/or the Chief Executive to correct any minor errors, omissions, or typographical matters in the Statement of Proposal following adoption of the Council's decision and before public consultation commences.**

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.27 am.

N P TAYLOR

MAYOR

Record No. 2681403

15. Minutes: Council 2 April 2026

That the Minutes for the Council Meeting held on 2 April 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0426-316 to Cncl-0426-327) be taken as read and confirmed,

Present

Mayor Nadine Taylor (in the Chair), Cllrs Scott Adams, Sally Arbuckle, Allanah Burgess (via Teams), David Croad, Deborah Dalliessi, Brian Dawson, Cyril Dawson, Barbara Faulks, Gerald Hope, John Hyndman, Raylene Innes (via Teams until 11.15am), Thelma Sowman, Ben Stace, and Malcolm Taylor

In Attendance

Messrs John Boswell (Chief Executive), Geoff Blake (Chief Financial Officer), Pere Hawes (Head of Environmental Policy), Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel), Claudia Mark (Solicitor), Jamie Lyall (Group Manager Property & Community Facilities), Glyn Walters (Head of Communications), Juliet Gibbons (Communications Advisor), Wayne Oldfield (Marlborough Roads), Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads), Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary), and Tiffany Wise (Governance Manager).

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Apology

None received.

Recognition of Service

A presentation from Mayor Nadine Taylor recognising the retirement and 46 years of service for Legal & District Secretary, Tony Quirk, commenced the meeting. Guest attendance and farewell comments were received by previous Marlborough District Council Mayors Liz Davidson, Gerald Hope, Alistair Sowman, and John Leggett.

Cncl-0426-316 Declaration of Interests -

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making where a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or external interest. The following pecuniary interests were declared, as recorded in the Elected Members' Interests Register:

- Mayor Taylor, Cllr. Brian Dawson and Cllr. Scott Adams declared a pecuniary interest in Marlborough Airport Limited – 2026-27 Statement of Intent (Cncl-0426-323) and MDC Holdings Limited – 2026-27 Statement of Intent (Cncl-0426-324).

All three members left Council Chambers prior to the discussion and did not participate in voting on these items.

Cncl-0426-317 Introduction of Additional Item -

The Mayor / Cllr Adams:

That the following additional item, pursuant to Standing Order 9.12, to deal with an item of business, namely Project Update – Peninsula Road Stopbank Repair & Upgrade, not included on the agenda be considered on the grounds that:

-
- The information required to enable a full and informed option analysis was not available until after the statutory agenda publication deadline;
 - The matter cannot be delayed because a Council decision is required to urgently advise contractors supplying materials for the project;
 - The item must be considered in the public-excluded section of the meeting, pursuant to section 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of LGOIMA, to protect commercially sensitive information and Council's negotiating position.

Carried

**Cncl-0426-318 MDC Holdings Limited – Directors Fees –
Motion to Withdraw**

S400-004-010-26

Council was advised, through the Mayor, that the report was originally presented to consider an increase to Marlborough Airport Limited directors' fees, assessed in accordance with the Institute of Directors' methodology and as part of the triennial review cycle to ensure fees remained aligned with comparable regional boards.

The Mayor moved to withdraw the report, noting that since the paper was prepared, economic circumstances for regional airports had materially changed, including increased financial pressure and the withdrawal of some services by Air New Zealand. It was acknowledged that while the proposed fee adjustment would have had minimal impact on the airport's overall financial position, the Directors had collectively requested that the paper be withdrawn as an expression of good faith and shared responsibility in the current economic climate, and to signal prudent restraint ahead of forthcoming decisions on funding, remuneration, and levels of service across Council.

With no objection from the members, the item was withdrawn pursuant to the Chair's authority under Standing Order 9 and was not considered further.

The Mayor / Cllr Croad:
That Council withdraw the paper for consideration currently.

Carried

Cncl-0426-319 Confirmation of Minutes

-

No requests for corrections were put forward.

The Mayor / Cllr Croad:
That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 February 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0226-267 to Cncl-0226-279) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Committee Reports

**Cncl-0426-320 Infrastructure & Community Facilities 26
February 2026**

-

No requests for corrections were put forward.

Cllr B Dawson / Cllr Adams:
That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. ICF-0226-280 to ICF-0226-286 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

**Cncl-0426-321 Environment & Planning Committee 5 March
2026**

-

No requests for corrections were put forward.

Clr Faulls / Clr Arbuckle:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. E&P-0326-287 to E&P-0326-301 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0426-322 Strategy & Community Partnerships 12 March 2026

No requests for corrections were put forward.

Clr Innes / Sowman:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. SCP-0326-302 to SCP-0326-308 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Taylor, Cllrs. Brian Dawson and Scott Adams exited Council Chambers prior to discussion of Cncl-0426-323 and Cncl-0426-324. Cllr. Gerald Hope assumed the Chair for discussion and voting on these items. Chief Financial Officer, Geoff Blake spoke to the items.

Cncl-0426-323 Marlborough Airport Limited – 2026-27
Statement of Intent **S400-002-012-27**

Council considered the draft 2026–27 Statement of Intent (SOI) for Marlborough Airport Limited (MAL), which sets out the company's objectives, planned activities and performance measures for the coming financial year and following two years. It was noted the draft SOI is broadly consistent with the current year's document and reflects a period of relatively stable passenger numbers, with forecasts of approximately 272,000 passengers for both the 2025/26 forecast and the 2026/27 budget year.

Members noted the continued low safety risk profile, expanded sustainability initiatives, and the expectation of a modest operating surplus, while also acknowledging that no dividend is forecast to be paid to MDC Holdings for the year. The importance of MAL's ongoing relationship with the New Zealand Defence Force was highlighted as a key strategic consideration given the shared use of the airfield. Councillors were satisfied that the draft SOI met legislative requirements and appropriately balanced financial sustainability, regional economic development, safety, and environmental responsibility.

Clarification was sought on the dividend distribution policy contained in the draft Statement of Intent, noting that the report showed Marlborough Airport Limited had not paid dividends for several years and was not forecasting dividends over the period covered by the Statement. Council was advised that while dividends had been paid in earlier years, recent decisions not to declare dividends reflected the Company's capital investment programme and financial position. Significant expenditure, including major runway resealing works, had required retention of cash and increased borrowings. The Board had therefore prioritised debt reduction over dividend distributions, particularly given the Airport's relatively modest profit levels.

It was noted that this approach was considered prudent in the current circumstances and that dividend achievability would be reviewed as the Airport's debt position and future cash flows were reassessed. Council was further advised that the Statement of Intent is an annual process, providing an opportunity to review dividend expectations in future years.

There being no further questions, the recommendation was put.

Clr M Taylor / Clr Sowman:

That Council approves the Draft 2026-27 Statement of Intent for Marlborough Airport Limited.

Carried

Cncl-0426-324 MDC Holdings Limited – 2026-27 Statement of Intent

S400-004-004-26

Council considered the draft 2026–27 Statement of Intent (SOI) for MDC Holdings Limited, which outlines the objectives, activities and performance expectations of the holding company and its subsidiaries for the coming financial year and following two years. It was noted that the draft SOI is consistent with the previous year's document and reflects MDC Holdings' role in overseeing and coordinating Council's commercial investments, particularly Port Marlborough and Marlborough Airport.

Members noted that debt facilities will continue to be made available to both subsidiaries, regular "no surprises" reporting will remain in place, and a letter of shareholder expectations will be provided to inform Port Marlborough's upcoming Statement of Corporate Intent. Councillors also noted that a dividend from Port Marlborough is expected at broadly similar levels to recent years.

Clarification was sought regarding the performance targets relating to group debt levels, as set out in the Statement of Intent, including whether the figures represented maximum thresholds or forecast debt levels over the period. Council was advised that the debt levels shown were forecast levels, based on current assumptions, including the anticipated timing and funding requirements of the proposed ferry project for Port Marlborough, which remains subject to Council approval. It was noted that, from a forward-looking perspective, MDC Holdings Limited is required to make reasonable assumptions about potential future commitments in order to present indicative financial targets. The clarification assisted members' understanding of the stated debt targets.

Overall, Council was satisfied that the draft SOI appropriately balances financial performance, prudent stewardship, and support for sustainable regional and economic development. There being no further questions or discussion, the recommendation was put and carried.

Clr Hope / Clr Hyndman:

That Council approves the Draft 2026-27 Statement of Intent for MDC Holdings Limited.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Taylor, Clrs. Brian Dawson and Scott Adams returned to the meeting with Mayor Taylor resuming the Chair. Governance Manager, Tiffany Wise spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0426-325 Local Governance Statement 2025 – 2028

D050-003-06

Council considered the updated Local Governance Statement, presented in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002, which requires a review of the statement for accuracy within six months of a triennial election. It was noted that the statement is intended to be a publicly accessible reference document outlining Council's governance structure, decision-making processes, and the key policies, bylaws, and legislative frameworks that guide Council's work, with links provided to ensure information remains current.

The Governance Manager advised that only minor updates were proposed, including the correction of a factual date relating to the Waste Minimisation Bylaw, and that delegation was sought for the Chief Executive to make minor and factual amendments during the triennium, with any material changes to be referred back to Council.

During discussion, councillors acknowledged the largely procedural nature of the review, with clarification provided that existing Standing Orders already enable the recording of division votes when requested, and that any broader changes to voting transparency would require a separate Council decision. Council was

satisfied that the statement met statutory requirements and appropriately supported transparency and public understanding of Council governance and subsequently resolved to adopt the Local Governance Statement 2025–2028 with the Waste Minimisation Bylaw review date corrected to reflect “2025”.

Clr Hope / Clr Croad:
That Council:

-
- 15. Receives the report.**
 - 16. Adopts the Local Governance Statement 2025–2028 as set out in Attachment 1.**
 - 17. Authorises the Chief Executive (or delegate) to make minor editorial or factual updates to the Statement during the triennium, where such changes do not materially affect governance arrangements.**
 - 18. Notes that any substantive changes will be brought back to Council for approval.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Head of Environmental Policy, Pere Hawes spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0426-326 Making PMEP Provisions Operative M100-12-01

Council considered the report seeking approval to make the approved provisions of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) operative, noting that this item marked the conclusion of a long and complex statutory process. The Environmental Policy Manager, Mr. Hawes, advised that the provisions had received ministerial sign-off and that this step represented a significant milestone, effectively bringing to a close a process that began with notification of the plan in 2016 and subsequent Variation 1 in 2020 following an extensive collaborative process with industry, iwi, central government and the wider community.

Councillors noted that the plan was now effectively almost fully operative, with only a very small number of outstanding appeal matters remaining, primarily relating to Aquaculture Management Areas, and that those matters were already before the Environment Court or subject to active resolution processes. In response to questions, Mr. Hawes confirmed that approximately 99.9% of the plan was now operative and provided clarity on the remaining statutory timelines, including the potential implications of forthcoming national resource management reforms and Council's submission to the select committee seeking to retain the PMEP through a transition period.

Councillors acknowledged the scale of the work undertaken over more than a decade and commended staff for achieving a high-quality, largely settled planning framework, noting that the PMEP is widely regarded as a benchmark for coastal and marine planning. Council subsequently resolved to make the approved PMEP provisions operative.

Clr Faulls / Clr Hope:
That Council:

-
- 1. Receive the report.**
 - 2. Notes the Minister of Conservation's approval of Variation 1: Marine Farming provisions, associated Policies 14.2.3 and 14.20.2, and Policies 9.3.9 and 14.15.2.**
 - 3. Approve the non-regional coastal plan provisions of Variation 1: Marine Farming that are not subject to appeal.**
 - 4. Approve Rule 2.7.6 and Standard 2.9.6.**
 - 5. Make operative the approved provisions of Variation 1: Marine Farming, associated Policies 14.2.3 and 14.20.2, and Policies 9.3.9 and 14.15.2, Rule 2.7.6 and Standard 2.9.6 via public notice as soon as practicable.**

Carried

Cncl-0426-327 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

The Mayor / Cllr Corad:

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

- Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes
- Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)
- Morgans Road No. 2 Bridge

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
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	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.
Morgans Road No. 2 Bridge	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 1.11 pm.

N P TAYLOR
MAYOR

Record No. 2682092

16. Committee Report: Regional Transport Committee 19 March 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. RTC-0326-309 to RTC-0326-313) be received and the recommendations adopted.



MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026 commencing at 1.00 pm

Present

Councillors Scott Adams (Chairperson), David Croad, Mayor Nadine Taylor and Ms Emma Speight (NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi)

Also Present

Councillor G A Hope and C M W Dawson

In Attendance

Mr H Meyers and Ms K Nalsund (NZ Automobile Association), Mr J Lyall (Property & Community Facilities Group Manager), Mr J Boswell (Chief Executive) (from 1.17 pm), Mr W Oldfield (Marlborough Roads), Mr D Ford (Marlborough Roads), Ms C Campbell-Lamberton (Marlborough Roads) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Also in Attendance via Teams

Mr J Collins

Apologies

Cllrs Adams/Croad:

Apologies for absence from Ms L Skilton, for lateness from Cllrs B Dawson and Stace, and for early withdrawal from the meeting from Cllr Hope be noted.

Carried

The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

All reports referenced in the minutes were circulated as part of the meeting agenda (CM Record No: 2651137).

RTC-0326-309 Confirmation of Last Meeting's Minutes D050-001-R01

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 September 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

The Mayor/Cllr Croad:

That the minutes of the Marlborough Regional Transport Committee held on 12 September 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Emma Speight, (NZTA Director Regional Relationships, Greater Wellington & Top of the South) and Damian Ford (Principal Network Manager, Transport Services, Marlborough Roads) presented the following item.

RTC-0326-310 NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Update R800-007-02

Ms Speight provided an update on work being undertaken by the NZ Transport Agenda Waka Kotahi and spoke to a presentation from a National perspective (filed in CM – Record No. 2651142) updating work being undertaken by NZTA. Ms Speight covered topics on 2027-30 NLTP development – Key Dates and Funding Assistance Rates (FAR); One Network Framework (ONF) and when to use ONF; State Highway Investment Proposal (SHIP); Roads of National Significance; National Ticketing Solution; Maintenance – Integrated Delivery Contracts (IDM); State Highway Speed Management – a targeted approach; State Highway schools VSLs – Delivery planning – timeline shows starting months for each region and Status across the motu.

As part of the presentation Mr Ford provided members with an update on work being undertaken by Marlborough Roads. Topics covered were Pavement Renewal Performance 25/26; Temporary Traffic Management Quarterly Report; State Highway Potholes Quarterly Report; Local roads potholes quarterly reporting.

Clr Adams/The Mayor

That the information be received.

Carried

NB: The order of the agenda was altered at this point and the following Item 6 Regional Public Transport Plan Update was heard ahead of Item 5 Regional Land Transport Plan Update.

ATTENDANCE: Damian Ford (Marlborough Roads Principal Network Manager) presented the following three items.

RTC-0326-311 Regional Public Transport Plan Update R800-007-02

Mr Ford provided the Committee with an update on the preparation of the Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP). To support the update a presentation was shown (filed in CM – Record No. 2651142)

NB: Reports attached to the agenda item are filed in CM – Record No. 2651141 and 2651140.

Mr Ford covered topics on Purpose of a RPTP; public consultation overview; public consultation feedback – short term improvement – current NLTP 24/27 and long term improvement – NLTP 27/30 and the next steps.

It was reported that Marlborough Roads has commenced planning for the 2027–2030 Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), of which the RPTP forms a key supporting component. Under section 119 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, Council is required to adopt a Regional Public Transport Plan where it intends to operate or contract public transport services or provide financial assistance for small passenger service vehicles.

Consultation was undertaken on proposed changes to the RPTP, including the 2025 Third Party Share and annual ticket price increases for the next two years.

The RPTP sets out the strategic objectives and approach for public transport over a ten-year period and outlines the existing network and proposed future developments, in accordance with section 120 of the Act. While the RPTP can stand alone, it has been intentionally integrated into the RLTP.

Public consultation undertaken in September 2025 indicated that 53 percent of respondents were satisfied with current services. Feedback identified opportunities for short-term improvements within the 2024–2027 National Land Transport Programme, including improved communication around service disruptions, national ticketing integration, and allowing dogs on buses. Longer-term aspirations for the 2027–2030 period included expanded services for Rarangi and Renwick, on-demand services, commuter routes, and additional routes, particularly servicing Summerset Village.

A briefing was held with Councillors on 5 February 2026, at which it was noted that the requested service enhancements would require increased funding from Council and NZTA. It was suggested that the feedback be considered during the preparation of the RLTP 2027–2030.

Clrs Croad/Adams:

That the Committee:

Receive the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan.

Approve the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan for referral and endorsement at the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee meeting on 9 April 2026.

Carried

RTC-0326-312 Regional Land Transport Plan Update R800-007-02

Mr Ford noted that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an update on the preparation of the Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

To support the report a presentation was provided (filed in CM – Record No.2651142). Mr Ford covered topics on the Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan and variable speed limits around schools.

NB: Reports attached to the item are filed in CM – Record No. 2651138 and 2651139.

Marlborough Roads has commenced preliminary planning for the next RLTP with a briefing held on 17 February 2026 with Committee members and non-voting ex-officio attendees present. The briefing provided background on the current RLTP and outlined potential long-term objective options.

Members were advised that the RLTP provides the strategic framework for the region's transport network, including 30-year objectives and ten-year investment priorities for both state highways and local roads. It identifies projects seeking funding from the National Land Transport Fund, including those put forward by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Marlborough District Council, and the Department of Conservation. Funding is confirmed through inclusion in the National Land Transport Programme.

During the discussion, the possibility of collecting DSI data linked to ferry traffic was raised, specifically to determine whether travel was to or from the ferry. Mr Ford advised that information is not currently analysed at that level; however, discussions have occurred about how much detail can be extracted and included in the Infrastructure & Community Facilities reporting. Work is underway to determine how the data can be collated and interpreted, noting this is still at an early stage and will be progressed over the coming months.

It was requested that a report be brought back to the Committee in due course outlining the scope and feasibility of what is possible.

It was also requested that the reports provided in this and future agendas be circulated to all Councillors for information.

Mr Ford advised that a programme of workshops has been scheduled during 2026 to progress development of the RLTP. The next workshop, on 22 April 2026, will focus on objectives, problem statements, and ten-year priorities.

Cllr Adams/The Mayor:

That the information be received.

Carried

Postscript: All Councillors receive the agenda and associated attachments at the time the agenda is circulated.

RTC-0326-313 Speed Management Update

R800-007-02

Mr Ford noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the Land Transport Rule: Setting Speed Limits 2024 and its implications for Council.

Members were advised that the Rule sets out the statutory framework for how speed limits are to be set and replaces the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2022. A number of changes were highlighted that affect Marlborough, including completed speed reversals on specified roads, requirements for variable speed limits outside schools, revised processes for future speed limit changes, and new criteria for determining speed limits by road classification.

It was noted that Road Controlling Authorities are required to make reasonable efforts to implement variable speed limits outside each school gate by 1 July 2026. All schools default to Category 1, requiring variable 30 km/h speeds, although schools may be classified as Category 2 with variable speeds between 40 km/h and 60 km/h. During previous deliberations, it was agreed that Marlborough schools be treated as Category 2 with reduced speeds of 40 km/h. Reduced speed periods must not exceed 45 minutes before and after school opening and closing times. Marlborough Roads has contacted schools to confirm operating times to ensure consistency.

Members were advised that speed limit changes under the 2024 Rule may be progressed through either a Speed Management Plan or an Alternative Method. Any future changes will require a Cost Benefit Disclosure Statement and consultation, with the Alternative Method allowing consultation limited to affected parties.

Schedule 3 of the Rule establishes default speed limits based on road classification, with urban streets generally set at 50 km/h, unless conditions justify a reduction to 40 km/h. Rural road speeds may range from 50 km/h to 100 km/h depending on form and function.

Marlborough Roads is working with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on speed limits affecting state highways and their interface with local roads, including school sites.

A proposal to establish a Speed Review Committee to assist with decision-making was presented. The Committee would consider school categorisation, timing of variable speed limits, methodologies for future speed changes, and implementation approaches.

Clr Croad/The Mayor:

- 6. That the information be received.**
- 7. That approval be given to establish a Speed Review Committee consisting of Councillors Scott Adams, Cyril Dawson, and Raylene Innes.**

Before the motion was put Emma Speights noted that it is for local speed limits only. Following receiving this information the Mayor proposed an amendment that 'Local Roads' be added to the motion to ensure clarity. The substantive motion was then put to the meeting.

- 8. That the information be received.**
- 9. That approval be given to establish a Local Roads Speed Review Committee consisting of Councillors Scott Adams, Cyril Dawson, and Raylene Innes.**

Carried

Items Not on Agenda

No items were raised that were not on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 1.55 pm.

Record No. 2666193

17. Committee Report: Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee 9 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. I&CF-0426-328 to I&CF-0426-335) be received and the recommendations adopted.



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2026 commencing at 10.45 am**

Present

Cllrs B G Dawson (in the Chair), S R W Adams (Deputy), J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, C M W Dawson, T P Sowman, B D Stace and Ms D McConnell (Iwi representative)

Also Present

Cllrs B A Faulls, G A Hope, J C Hyndman, and M J Taylor

Also Present via Teams

Cllrs S J Arbuckle and R J Innes

In Attendance

Mr J Lyall (Group Manager Property & Community Facilities), Mr G Blake (Chief Financial Officer) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary).

Apologies

Cllrs B Dawson/Croad:

That the apology for absence/lateness from the Mayor N P Taylor, be received and sustained.

Carried
I&CF-0426-328 Declaration of Interests

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No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

I&CF-0426-329	Adoption of the Regional Public Transport Plan	R800-003-003-11
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The Committee received the report on the adoption of the Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP). It was noted that Council is required to adopt an RPTP in order to operate public transport services and other small passenger services, including Total Mobility. The Committee was advised that the plan includes minor changes from the previous version, including provision for annual bus fare increases.

An initial presentation of the RPTP was made to Council prior to the public consultation process undertaken last year, and a subsequent workshop was held with Council in February 2026. The draft RPTP was approved by the Regional Transport Committee on 19 March 2026, with a recommendation that the plan be adopted by Council.

The Committee noted that the RPTP is a strategic document that sets the objectives and policies for public transport in Marlborough, outlines the public transport network, and provides a development plan for the next ten years. Adoption of the RPTP enables Council to seek co-funding from NZTA and to include public transport services in its next funding bid to the Regional Land Transport Fund.

It was reported that the Regional Public Transport Plan will be published on the Marlborough District Council website.

Cllrs Adams/C Dawson:

That Council receives and adopts the Regional Public Transport Plan.

Carried

I&CF-0426-330	Establishment of a Hearing Panel for Setting Speed Limits on Local Roads in Marlborough	R800-005-03
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The Committee received the report on the appointment of Councillors B Dawson (Chair), Faulls and Sowman to a hearing panel to consider submissions received and make recommendations on the Setting Speed Limits Rule 2024 for local roads in Marlborough.

It was noted that a hearing will be arranged to consider submissions on the Setting Speed Limits Review 2024 for local roads in Marlborough.

Cirs Adams/Croad:

That a Hearing Panel consisting of Councillors B Dawson (Chair), Faulls and Sowman be established to hear and determine any submissions received on the Setting Speed Limits Rule 2024 for local roads in Marlborough.

Carried

I&CF-0426-331 Regional Transport Committee D050-001-R01

The minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 were presented to the Committee for ratification.

Clrs Adams/Croad:

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 be ratified.

Carried

I&CF-0426-332 Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee
D050-001-H01

The minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 were presented to the Committee for ratification.

Clrs Croad/Stace:

That the Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 be ratified.

Carried

**I&CF-0426-333 Small Townships Programme
Sub-Committee D050-001-S03**

The minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 were presented to the Committee for ratification.

Cirs B Dawson/Stace:

That the Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 be ratified.

Carried

I&CF-0426-334**Information Package**

Cllrs Croad/Dalliessi:

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Information Package dated be received and noted.

Carried**I&CF-0426-335****Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded**

Cllrs B Dawson/Stace:

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

- Sub-Committee Minutes
- Waste Diversion

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
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	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.
Waste Diversion	To enable the Council, as holder of the information, to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) 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 12.36 pm.

Record No. 2683656

18. Committee Report: Arts, Culture & Heritage Sub-Committee 16 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of AC&H-0426-338 to AC&H-0426-341) be received and the recommendations adopted.

NB: The Arts, Culture & Heritage Sub-Committee minutes are normally received by the Strategy & Community Partnerships Committee. The minutes of 23 April 2026 are presented to Council for confirmation due to the sequencing of meeting cycles. Confirming the minutes at Council ensures procedural compliance with Standing Orders and good governance practice, enabling application notification processes to be progressed without delay.



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 16 APRIL commencing at 1.00 pm**

Present

Cllrs Allanah Burgess (Chairperson), Barbara Faulls and Thelma Sowman (Reserve) and Peter Meihana (Iwi Representative) (from 1.14 pm), Danny Knox (Community Representative), Kirsty Sykes (Community Representative), Phillipa Turley (Community Representative), Tamsin Cooper (Community Representative)

In Attendance

Nicola Neilson (Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager), Sophie Wool (Museum Coordinator), and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia from the Chair, Cllr Burgess.

Apologies

The Chair/Faulls:

That the apology for lateness from Peter Meihana be received and sustained.

Carried

AC&H-0426-338 Roles and Responsibilities – Declaring an Interest D050-001-G02

Committee members were reminded of their responsibilities when allocating the available funding under set criteria and were advised of what was expected of them when having an interest in a particular application. It was noted that the intention of declaring an interest is to ensure that those with an interest have no involvement in the decision making process.

Members were advised that once a member has declared an interest they must leave the room for that particular application. This is done to ensure that matters are processed without any influence and the rule needed to be applied strictly for the process to be seen as fair to all concerned.

It was noted that declaring an interest applies to those who are members or honorary members of an organisation and also where it could be perceived that a person has an interest in an organisation.

It was reported that the chairperson would make the final decision if there was dissension.

Cllr Faulls/Ms Turley:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Peter Meihana joined the meeting at 1.14 pm during the following item.

AC&H-0426-339 Clarification of Process for Decision Making D050-001-G02

Committee members' attention was drawn to the process for decision making that had been successfully used by previous Grants Sub-Committees. Members had been asked to familiarise themselves with the process prior to the meeting so this could be consistently applied when considering grant applications.

Members were reminded that at any time when an application is being discussed and a Committee member has declared an interest in, they must leave the room.

Ms Sykes/Ms Cooper:
That the information be received.

Carried

**AC&H-0426-340 Creative Communities NZ Arts Funding Scheme Allocation
 2025-26 – Round 2 C150-001-000-01**

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Sub-Committee allocates Creative Communities funding twice a year with closing dates in March and September each year.

Members were advised that the Creative NZ Allocation for 2025/26 was \$44,658.60 less funding allocated in round 1 meant there was a total available CCS funds to allocate in Round 2 of \$19,408.19.

Twenty Nine applications were received, 1 application was deemed ineligible, 28 were eligible to be considered for funding. Requests totalled \$119,319.25.

Members discussed the applications and made the following recommendations:

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 2.42 pm and resumed at 2.56 pm.

Organisation	Project Description	Actual
Rock Quest Charitable Trust	Smokefreerockquest & TOI event Condition: Tagged to venue hire.	\$3,400.00
Eternity NZ Trust	Marlborough Christmas In The Park	\$2,100.00
Little Marlborough Book Festival	Little Marlborough Book Festival 2026 Note: The applicant is encouraged to actively consider ways to increase accessibility for rural schools, either by taking the Festival out to rural school communities or by enabling and supporting rural schools to travel to Blenheim to attend the Festival.	\$800.00
Marlborough Chinese Community Incorporated	Create Chinese Lion Dance & Choir Show Note: Costumes not eligible.	\$1,400.00
Marlborough Civic Orchestra Inc	Schools Concerts	\$2,820.00
Waitohi Picton Open Art Studios group	Waitohi Picton Open Art Studios	\$820.00
Marlborough District Brass Band Inc	Provincial Brass Band Championships Note: Judges fees not eligible.	\$500.00
Envirohub Marlborough Charitable Trust /Conservation Kids NZ	CKNZ Creative Art Project Condition: Tagged to marketing, launching event, public artwork installation, recycled art workshop supplies.	\$1,250.00
Marlborough Repertory Society	Production: Little Grimley	\$2,000.00

Organisation	Project Description	Actual
Cathy Irons	Douce Ambiance	\$1,200.00
Fua Creative	Love to Sing	\$2,000.00
Santiago Vadillo Reyes	Amplified Video Lab Note: Costumes not eligible	\$1,100.00

SCHEDULE 'A' – Declined Applications

Organisation	Project Description
Marlborough Highland Dancing Society Incorporated	NZ Highland & National Dancing Champs Note: Suggest applying to Council's Commercial Events Fund.
Creative At Heart	Community Art Workshops
Philip Sim	Carving Tama-nui-te-rā (Kirsty Sykes declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting for this application.)
Queen Charlotte College - Arts Group	Waitohi Picton Community Art Exhibition (Kirsty Sykes declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting for this application.)
Blenheim Choral Society Inc	Musical Director for Blenheim Choral
Ewa Zielinska	Gumboats are your friend - a short doco
Mieke Davies	St Mary's School Maramataka Mural
Raffaela Dragani	Beyond the Blend Art Exhibition
Marlborough Art Society Inc	Two Art Exhibitions
Marlborough Floral Art Group	Floral Art Demonstration and Workshop
Lisa Noble	Graphic storytelling workshops
Andrea Navarro	Community Art for Wellbeing
Naad Charitable Trust NZ	Takadimi South Tour
Marlborough Latin American and Hispanic Community Inc	Latino Market 2026
Michelle Burns	Te Whare Tākaro, Toi me te Pūtaiao o Te

SCHEDULE 'B' – Ineligible

Organisation	Project Description
Ngāti Rārua o Te Wairau Society	Kawea mai te Kahu Kiwi ki te kainga
Fulton Foundation Marlborough	Stars in Your Eyes 2026 Note: Ineligible due to the application being a fundraiser

Ms Cooper/Clr Faulls:

10. That Council approve the above listed grants to Creative Communities NZ Arts Funding Scheme, applications totalling \$19,390.00
11. That it be noted that the applications listed in 'Schedule A' have been declined due to insufficient funds.
12. That it be noted that the applications listed in 'Schedule B' were deemed ineligible.

Carried**AC&H-0426-341 Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund 2026 C150-001-000-01**

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Sub-Committee allocates Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki funding once a year with the closing date in March each year.

Members were advised that the Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund allocation for 2026 was \$25,000.

Six applications were received and all were eligible to be considered for funding. Requests totalled \$30,365.00.

Peter Meihana advised the committee of his connections to all applications being considered. He remained present in the room and provided additional information but abstained from voting.

Members discussed the applications and made the following recommendations:

Organisation	Project Description	Actual
Marlborough Youth Trust	Matariki	\$1,700.00
Ngati Rarua O Te Wairau Society Incorporated	Te Umu Kohukohu	\$5,200.00
Omaka Marae	Lights Over Omaka 2026	\$4,050.00
Waikawa Marae	Matariki All-stars (Clr Burgess declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting for this application.)	\$4,800.00
Crossroads	Crossroads Matariki Dinner	\$3,350.00
Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust	2026 Rangitāne Annual Matariki Gathering	\$5,900.00

Ms Sykes/Ms Cooper:

That Council approve the above listed grants to Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund 2026 applications totalling \$25,000.00

Carried

Members reflected on what worked well and identified areas for improvement, noting the following:

1. Suggested additional criteria for Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund 2027 to be emailed to Nicci. Nicci and Allanah will meet to consider.
2. Relevant information held by staff to be circulated to members when applications are forwarded for consideration.
3. Proposed that applicants provide letters of support from relevant community groups for their event.
4. Members to be advised of events and are welcome to attend to undertake audits.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.32 pm.

Record No. 2683912

19. Committee Report: Strategy & Community Partnerships 23 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. SCP-0426-342 to SCP-0426-350) be received and the recommendations adopted.



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
STRATEGY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cirs G A Hope (in the Chair), R J Innes (Deputy), S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, B G Dawson, C M W Dawson, B A Faulks, J C Hyndman, T P Sowman, B D Stace, M J Taylor, Mayor N P Taylor and Ms R Niven (Iwi representative)

In Attendance

Mr N P Henry (Group Manager Strategic Management), Mr J Lyall (Group Manager Property & Community Facilities) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

In Attendance via Teams

Ms M L Aitken (Group Manager Council Operations)

Apologies

Cirs Hope/Innes:

That the apology for absence from Clr A R Burgess be received and sustained.

Carried
S&CP-0426-342 Declaration of Interests

-

Cirs Innes, Arbuckle and Faulks declared an interest in Item 4 – Destination Marlborough Update.

ATTENDANCE: Evelyn Arnold, Council's Strategic Planning Manager and Gemma Robinson, Council's Monitoring and Performance Manager, were present for the following item.

**S&CP-0426-343 Strategy and Performance Management
Update**

E101-000-001-01

Gemma Robinson, Monitoring and Performance Manager, and Evelyn Arnold, Strategic Planning Manager, presented an update on the work programme of the new strategic management function. The report outlined progress on the development of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan, including project governance arrangements, environmental scanning, direction setting, community engagement, strategic assumptions, framework design, and integration of community outcomes. Updates were also provided on the Te Korowai Continuous Improvement programme and how to manage the programme of actions and the non-financial performance, with a report scheduled for the 23 April 2026 Audit and Risk Committee meeting later today.

The Strategic Planning and Performance function was reported as continuing to mature, with increased focus on aligning strategic direction with Community Outcomes, Levels of Service, and measurable performance. Since the previous update, the Marlborough 2055 PESTLE analysis has been completed, a draft Strategic Framework has been developed with Councillors, technical assessment of draft Community Outcomes has commenced, and preparation has begun for community pre-engagement for the 2027–37 Long Term Plan in June. Future work will concentrate on consolidating strategic assumptions, progressing policy and performance matters through the Long Term Plan Working Group, validating Community Outcomes and success measures through staff workshops, and completing community pre-engagement. This work is intended to support clearer, evidence-based decision-making on service levels, affordability, and investment as development of the Long Term Plan continues.

The Te Korowai programme was discussed, including progress to date, prioritisation of actions, and development of milestones and dashboards to improve reporting back to Council, with initial reporting expected mid-year. Councillors also discussed references within the report to reliance on primary industries, suggesting broader recognition of primary industries in general as well as tourism, including cultural tourism.

In response to a query about an internal steering group, it was confirmed that one is not yet in place. It is intended that, once formed, the group will consist of senior leaders tasked with providing strategic guidance and programme oversight.

It was noted that the next steps include finalising and testing the draft strategic assumptions to inform levels of service, investment decisions, and development of the 2027–37 Long-Term Plan, while progressing key policy, strategy, and performance matters through the Long-Term Plan Working Group. Staff workshops will be completed to validate Community Outcomes and clarify measures of success, followed by community pre-engagement in June 2026 to help shape priorities ahead of formal consultation. Programme management arrangements for Te Korowai will also be established, with actions, milestones, and reporting confirmed.

The following amendments to the agenda item were noted: in paragraph 7(a) the word “will” is to be removed, and in paragraph 7(b) the date be amended to 23 April 2026.

Cllrs Dalliessi/Fauls:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Fauls, Innes and Arbuckle declared a conflict of interest and withdrew for this item.

ATTENDANCE: Tracey Green, Council’s General Manager Destination Marlborough, was present for the following item.

S&CP-0426-344 Destination Marlborough Update E100-004-01

Ms Green acknowledged Councillor Dalliessi for her attendance at numerous Destination Marlborough events, noting that the presence of the portfolio holder and other councillors had been recognised positively by the community.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2686911).

Ms Green provided an update on Destination Marlborough following its transition to a Council business unit. The report outlined activity delivered under the new operating framework and the shift toward a destination stewardship model, with increased emphasis on sustainable destination management, regional coordination, and alignment with Council strategies and the Marlborough Destination Management Plan. Since the transition, Destination Marlborough has continued to deliver promotional and marketing activity to support the visitor economy while expanding its role beyond marketing alone.

The report ‘Destination Marlborough July to March Update, April 2026’ was attached to the agenda for members’ information.

It was reported that the Destination Advisory Group has been established and will meet quarterly to provide structured industry and iwi input into destination priorities and decision-making. Development of a concise destination strategy is underway, bringing together key priorities, goals, and a long-term vision, with further reporting to come to the Committee. The Māori seat on the Advisory Group remains vacant pending identification of a representative.

Following discussion on the Advisory Group membership, particularly the Māori seat, it was suggested that the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group be circulated to members for information.

It was noted that activity updates from July 2025 to March 2026 included support provided to tourism operators to build trade readiness, with one-on-one assistance delivered to 13 businesses. Capability training delivery has reduced due to funding constraints, although demand for tourism AI capability training is increasing. The

“Pay to Play” model continues, with stronger participation observed in high-value activities and events, while some industry events remain challenging for participation.

An overview of visitor performance for the summer season was presented, noting that Marlborough’s domestic market was down 1% compared with the previous summer, while international visitor numbers increased by 3%. This compared with a national domestic decline of 2% and a national international increase of 9%. Short-term priorities include finalising Destination Management Plan priorities, progressing visitor experience initiatives in Blenheim, Havelock, and Picton, and supporting operators through ongoing economic and fuel-related challenges.

Members asked a number of questions at the meeting.

Cirs Dalliessi/Stace:

That the Destination Marlborough update report be received and noted.

Carried

S&CP-0426-345

Regional Events Update

E100-002-011

An update was provided on the activities of the Marlborough events sector. In the absence of the Events & Community Partnerships Manager, the Group Manager Strategic Management Neil Henry, presented the report. It was acknowledged that the report provided a comprehensive snapshot of the current position of the events sector as the summer season concludes.

Key events delivered during the period were noted, including the Marlborough Wine & Food Festival, which attracted more than 5,000 attendees with strong domestic and international visitation, the Marlborough Multicultural Festival celebrating its 20th anniversary, and the Havelock Mussel & Seafood Festival. The upcoming Saint Clair Vineyard Half Marathon was also highlighted, with organisers reporting strong ticket sales despite fuel price pressures. Members noted the importance of these long-established, well-run events in delivering economic and community benefits to the region.

Funding updates were provided, including completion of Round 2 of the 2025/26 Commercial Events Fund with \$57,978.76 approved across five events, progress with the Community Events Fund, and applications received for the Sport and Recreation Community Activity Fund. It was noted that contracts with Pure Events Marlborough and the Marlborough Multicultural Centre are due to expire on 30 June 2026 and are proposed to be renewed for a further two years, subject to approval of required reporting.

Progress updates were also provided on Marlborough Events Centre works, with the HVAC upgrade completed and renovation works underway in the Trade Hall and Green Room. Work on the Marlborough Winter Events Guide was confirmed to commence in early May.

During discussion, members raised the visibility of Māori and niche community events and acknowledged the challenges faced by volunteer-led events with limited promotional budgets. It was noted that Council provides support through the Community Events Fund and advisory assistance, and that event organisers are encouraged to engage directly with Council’s Events & Community Partnerships Manager to explore available support. Clarification was provided on the timing of Marketview reporting for recent events.

Cirs B Dawson/Innes:

That the information be received.

Carried

S&CP-0426-346

Commercial Events Fund Sub-Committee

E100-002-006-33

The Minutes of the Commercial Events Fund Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 March 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

An amendment to the minutes was noted, correcting *Ms R Innes* to *Clr Innes*.

Cirs Innes/Stace:

That the Minutes of the Commercial Events Fund Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 March 2026 be ratified.

Carried

S&CP-0426-347 Sport Rural Travel Fund Decision Making Panel C150-001-011-19

The Minutes of the Sport Rural Travel Fund Decision Making Panel meeting held on 26 March 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Clr Sowman/The Mayor:

That the minutes of the Sport Rural Travel Fund Decision Making Panel meeting held on 26 March 2026 be ratified.

Carried

S&CP-0426-348 Long Term Plan Working Group D050-001-L27

The Minutes of the Long Term Plan Working Group meeting held on 9 April 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Clrs Croad/Hyndman:

That the Minutes of the Long Term Plan Working Group meeting held on 9 April 2026 be ratified.

Carried

S&CP-0426-349 Information Package -

An amendment to the information package was noted, incorporate the standard Committee meeting details to cover page.

Clr Croad/The Mayor:

That the Strategy & Community Partnerships Information Package dated be received and noted.

Carried

S&CP-0426-350 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

Clrs Croad/Dalliessi:

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

- Marlborough Roads
- Marlborough Events Centre

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
- Marlborough Roads - Marlborough Events Centre	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 10.41 am.

Record No: 2687365

20. Committee Report: Audit & Risk Sub-Committee 23 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of A&R-0426-351 to A&R-0426-361) be received and the recommendations adopted.



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
AUDIT & RISK SUB-COMMITTEE**
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026 commencing at 2.00 pm

Present:

Mr Ian Marshall (Chairperson), Mayor Nadine Taylor, and Cllrs Scott Adams, David Croad, Briand Dawson, Barbara Faulls, and Gerald Hope.

In Attendance:

John Boswell (Chief Executive), Geoff Blake (Chief Financial Officer), Mr D Heiford (Group Manager Council Operations), Ms Stacey Young (Chief Information Officer), Ms Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel), Tessa Dever (Financial Reporting Manager), Chris Sutherland (Strategic Risk Manager), Jon Tapp (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Senior Advisor)(until 3.46 pm), Annie Thompson (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Co-ordinator)(until 3.46 pm), Anthea Merwood (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Senior Advisor)(until 3.46 pm), Mariane Aitken (Group Manager Council Operations), Rainbow Zhao (Systems Accountant), Evelyn Arnold (Strategic Planning Manager), Juliet Gibbons (Communications Advisor), Gemma Robinson (Monitoring and Performance Manager), Florence Zhang (Assistant Systems Accountant), Julian Tan & Trevor Makanza (via Teams – Audit New Zealand), Tiffany Wise (Governance Manager)

Apologies:

The Chair / Cllr Croad:

That the apology for late attendance for Cllr B Dawson be received and sustained.

Carried
Declarations of Interests

The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting, reminding Members of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have. No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: To accommodate the guest attendance of Julian Tan & Trevor Makanza from AuditNZ, agenda Item 7 was moved forward in the agenda order.

A&R-0426-351 2025-25 Annual Report Audit Planning
F274-A22-01

The Committee received and discussed the Audit Planning papers for the 2025–26 Annual Report. Julian Tan and Trevor Makanza (Audit New Zealand) presented the Audit Plan, Audit Engagement Letter and Audit Proposal Letter, outlining the proposed audit approach, key risk areas, group audit arrangements, materiality settings and the timetable to achieve statutory sign-off by 31 October 2026.

Particular focus was given to infrastructure asset valuations, impairment assessments, Local Water Done Well implementation, and the benefits of having a single auditor across the Council group to improve coordination and reduce duplication. The Committee noted management's proactive planning and collaboration with the auditor to support timely completion of the audit.

Members discussed how statutory reports (such as the Annual Report and Long-Term Plan) are technically compliant but complex and lengthy, largely due to legislative requirements, and acknowledged the opportunity to improve how Council shares its performance story by better linking results to outcomes, reducing duplication, or explaining performance in a way that is easier to understand while remaining compliant.

The Committee noted the audit fee proposal for the 2026 year, with only an inflationary increase, and the scope exclusions for potential flood-related and reform-related work, to be managed on a no-surprises basis if required.

The Chair / Cllr B Dawson

5. Recommend the Mayor sign the Audit Engagement Letter for 2026-28.
6. Recommend the Mayor sign the Audit Proposal Letter including the fee for one year.
7. Note the 2026 Audit Plan.
8. Note management's internal plan to achieve sign off by the legislative deadline.

Carried

A&R-0426-352 Previous Minutes

D050-001-05

No amendments were noted.

The Mayor/Clr Adams

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2025 (Minute No. A&R-1225-211 to A&R-1225-218) as a true record.

Carried

A&R-0426-353 Matters Arising for Ongoing Assurance – Previous Minutes

D050-001-05

A summary review of outstanding or action items from the previous minutes occurred.

1. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Update, 2024-2025 Annual Report Audit Status, and Insurance Renewal 2025/26
 - (a) Items were deemed as addressed within the reports of the current meeting.
2. Risk Management Progress Report and Update
 - (a) Chris Sutherland provided a verbal update that all risk profiles are reviewed regularly with a full review of 2025-26 profiles now complete.
 - (b) A future report will be brought to the committee as a review cycle update.

ATTENDANCE: Financial Reporting Manager, Tessa Dever, spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-354 Audit Recommendations – Status Update

F275-A23-05-02

The Committee received the Audit Recommendations Status Update and considered progress on the implementation of agreed actions arising from internal and external audit reviews. Ms. Dever outlined the current status of open recommendations, including those assessed as higher risk, and provided assurance on the controls in place while actions are completed. It was noted that the majority of recommendations are on track, with timeframes reflecting the complexity of some matters and the need to align improvements with broader system or process changes.

The Committee discussed matters raised in the update, including the importance of maintaining momentum on long-standing recommendations, ensuring clear ownership and accountability (noting a column identifying assigned officers/departments will be included in the next report), and providing appropriate interim mitigation where implementation extends over multiple reporting periods. Members noted commentary from the meeting that delays were generally attributable to resourcing constraints or dependencies on wider organisational initiatives rather than inaction, and that no material control failures had been identified as a result.

The Committee emphasised the importance of timely closure of audit recommendations as a key element of Council's assurance framework and good governance practice. Assurance was provided that progress continues to be monitored by management, with regular reporting to the Committee and escalation of issues where required.

The Chair / Clr B Dawson:

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee note the health and safety governance assurance report.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Health, Safety and Wellbeing Senior Advisor, Jon Tapp, spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-355 Health and Safety Governance Assurance Report -

The Committee received the Health and Safety Governance Assurance Report for the period December 2025 to March 2026 and considered the assurance provided around Council's health and safety systems, critical risk management and due diligence obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. Management outlined progress on the three key framework projects (Health and Safety Management System, Critical Risk Framework and Contractor Management), noting that drafts are well advanced and moving through internal review and consultation. The Committee noted the continued rollout and effective use of the DoneSafe reporting system and lone worker monitoring tools, and the emphasis being placed on worker participation, near-miss reporting and proactive risk awareness.

The Committee discussed incident and trend information, including the increase in reported events driven by improved reporting culture, and noted that two WorkSafe-notifiable incidents occurred during the period, with no further action being taken by WorkSafe. Members requested future trend reporting present 'near miss' incidents as separate to incidents as a way to assist in clarifying actual harm vs potential risk.

Members also noted targeted responses to emerging risks, including vehicle speeding, dynamic risk assessment practices, and security and personal safety matters at Council facilities, particularly libraries. Assurance was sought and provided that governance oversight remains focused on material and strategic health and safety risks, with further refinement of reporting and escalation processes underway, including work on incidents involving members of the public.

Overall, the Committee was satisfied that Council's health and safety systems are operating effectively, that officers are being supported to meet their due diligence responsibilities, and that continuous improvement remains evident.

Clr Adams / Clr Croad:

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee note the health and safety governance assurance report.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Strategic Risk Manager, Chris Sutherland, spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-356 Insurance Programme 2026/27 – Pre-renewal Update **C500-009-002-001-26**

The Committee received the report providing a pre-renewal update on Council's insurance programme for the 2026/27 year. Officers outlined the current insurance market conditions, the proposed approach to renewal and the key areas of focus, including policy structure, coverage limits, deductibles, asset valuations and claims history.

The Committee noted the continuing challenges in the local government insurance market, particularly in relation to natural hazard and infrastructure risks, and the importance of demonstrating robust risk management and loss prevention practices to insurers. Members discussed the adequacy of existing coverage and the balance between premium affordability, risk retention and financial resilience, including alignment with Council's risk appetite and funding strategies. Mr. Sutherland noted that Option 2 as presented in the agenda would be revisited with the Committee as part of the strategic review cycle.

The Committee also noted planned work to validate disclosures and assumptions supporting the insurance programme to ensure they remain accurate, complete and audit-ready. Assurance was also provided that the insurance claim process regarding the Recycling Centre fire was progressing well due to strong communication and documentation flow between parties throughout the process.

The Committee was advised that governance oversight of the renewal process will continue, and that any material changes to coverage, exclusions or premiums will be reported back to the Committee prior to finalisation.

Clr B Dawson / Clr D Croad:

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee:

- 1. Receive the Insurance Programme 2026/27 – Pre-Renewal Update report.**
- 2. Note the favourable insurance market conditions and stable claims experience, which support renewal at or near expiring terms.**
- 3. Note that no material changes to coverage, limits, or deductibles are proposed and that the current insurance programme remains aligned with the Council's risk appetite and governance expectations.**
- 4. Endorse the alignment of the insurance renewal period with the financial year, effective from 1 July 2026.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Chief Information Officer, Stacey Young spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-357 Cybersecurity Programme Update

The Committee received the Cybersecurity Programme Update and considered Council's current cyber risk profile, programme maturity and progress against planned initiatives. Management outlined key activities undertaken during the reporting period, including enhancements to security controls, ongoing staff awareness and training, monitoring and incident response capability, and engagement with external specialist providers. The Committee noted management's continued focus on protecting critical systems and information assets, and on maintaining alignment with recognised good-practice frameworks appropriate to the local government environment.

The Committee discussed the evolving cyber threat landscape, including the prevalence of phishing, ransomware and third-party risks, and the importance of maintaining strong preventative controls, timely detection, and clear escalation and response processes. Assurance was sought and provided that cybersecurity risks are appropriately reflected in the strategic risk register, that testing and review activities are planned, and that reporting remains focused on material risks and governance-level assurance rather than technical detail.

Overall, the Committee was satisfied that the cybersecurity programme is progressing appropriately, that known risks are being actively managed, and that continuous improvement remains a focus in response to emerging threats and Audit & Risk expectations.

The Chair / Clr B Dawson:

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee:

- 15. Receive the Cybersecurity Programme Update report.**
- 5. Note the progress made in strengthening cybersecurity governance, risk management, and organisational capability.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Chief Information Officer, Stacey Young spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-358 Cybersecurity Risk & Incidents Report

The Committee received the Cybersecurity Risks & Incidents Report and considered the information provided on material cyber risks, incidents and near-misses for the reporting period. Ms. Young outlined the nature and significance of reported activity, advising that incidents largely comprised phishing attempts, suspicious emails and other attempted intrusions consistent with the wider local government threat environment. It was noted that the majority of events were identified and contained through existing detection controls, with no incidents resulting in material data compromise, service disruption or financial loss.

Ms. Young outlined the effectiveness of Council's current security controls, including email filtering, endpoint protection, monitoring and escalation processes, and confirmed that response actions were undertaken in accordance with established incident management procedures. Where required, affected accounts were isolated, credentials reset, and additional monitoring applied. The Committee was advised that post-incident reviews are undertaken, with lessons identified and addressed through updates to controls, staff guidance and

awareness activities, and refinement of processes where appropriate. This included education reminders that work devices and tools (e.g.: email addresses) are to be utilised for work only.

The Committee discussed trends in reporting, noting that an increase in reported near-misses reflects improved staff awareness and willingness to report potential cyber risks. Assurance was provided that cyber incidents and emerging risks are appropriately reflected in the strategic risk framework and escalated where governance attention is required.

Clr Adams / Clr Croad:

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee:

1. **Receive the Cybersecurity Risk & Incidents Report for the period December 2025 to March 2026.**
6. **Note cybersecurity risks, incidents, and emerging external developments are being actively monitored and managed in accordance with Council's Cybersecurity Strategy.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Chief Information Officer, Stacey Young spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-359 Updated Artificial Intelligence Policy 1100-000-006-01

The Committee received the report presenting the updated Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy and considered the governance, risk and assurance matters arising from the use of AI across Council operations. Ms. Young outlined the purpose of the policy, noting that it has been refreshed to reflect the increasing availability and use of AI tools, evolving public sector guidance, and the need for clear organisational expectations. The policy was described as enabling innovation and efficiency while providing appropriate guardrails for responsible, ethical and lawful use.

The Committee discussed key risk considerations raised during the meeting, including data privacy and security, accuracy and reliability of outputs, intellectual property, transparency, and the potential for unintended bias. Members noted that AI tools are intended to support, not replace, professional judgement and decision-making, and that accountability for decisions remains with staff and elected members. The importance of controls around the use of sensitive or personal information, clear approval and escalation processes, and alignment with existing information management, cybersecurity and privacy frameworks was emphasised. Discussion was held regarding how the policy intersects with elected member's IT terms of use agreements and general awareness of allowed AI sites. Ms. Young also noted she would consider how to strengthen the verbiage regarding non-use of non-allowed AI sites in the policy.

The Committee also discussed staff awareness and capability, noting that guidance, training and ongoing monitoring will be important to ensure the policy is applied consistently and appropriately in practice. It was suggested an education workshop would be beneficial and prudent. Assurance was provided that AI-related risks are captured within existing risk management and governance arrangements, and that the policy will be reviewed and updated as technology, regulation and good practice continue to evolve.

The Chair / Clr Adams

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee receive the report on the updated Artificial Intelligence Policy.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Performance and Monitoring Manager, Gemma Robinson, spoke to the following item.

A&R-0426-360 Interim Non-Financial Performance Report

The Committee received the Interim Non-Financial Performance Report and considered the assurance it provides on Council's performance information ahead of year-end reporting. Ms. Robinson outlined the purpose of the interim report as a read-only snapshot of progress against performance measures, intended to identify emerging trends, areas requiring clarification, and any data or narrative issues early in the reporting cycle. It was noted that the report does not represent final results and that measures will continue to be refined and validated as activities progress through to year-end.

The Committee discussed matters raised through the interim reporting, including performance measures requiring improved narrative explanation, data quality considerations and the need to maintain clear links between results and the outcomes described in Council's planning documents. Members noted the importance of consistency between internal monitoring and externally reported performance, and the value of using interim reporting to support early challenge and continuous improvement while remaining compliant with statutory reporting requirements.

Assurance was provided that issues identified through the interim process will be addressed prior to final reporting, with a continued focus on clarity, completeness and audit readiness. The Committee noted that interim non-financial reporting supports effective governance oversight by enabling timely identification of risks and opportunities relating to Council's performance framework.

The Chair / Cllr Adams

That the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee Receive the Interim Non-Financial Performance Report for the six months ended 31 December 2025.

Carried

A&R-0426-361 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

Cllr Hope / Cllr Croad:

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

1. Confirmation of Sub-Committee Minutes 4 December 2025
2. Section 120 Report – Wither Hills Farm Park

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
Minutes	As set out in the Minutes	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.
Section 120 Report – Wither Hills Farm Park	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 3.43 pm.

Record No 2687172

21. Committee Report: Road Naming Sub-Committee 23 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of RN-0426-362 to RN-0426-366) be received and the recommendations adopted.

NB: Road Naming Sub-Committee minutes are normally received by the Infrastructure & Community Facility Committee. The Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting minutes of 23 April 2026 are presented to Council for confirmation due to the sequencing of meeting cycles. Confirming the minutes at Council ensures procedural compliance with Standing Orders and good governance practice, enabling consenting actions arising from the Road Naming Sub-Committee to be progressed without delay.


**Report from the ROAD NAMING SUB-COMMITTEE held in the
Committee Room, District Council Administration Building, Seymour Street,
Blenheim on THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026 commencing at 1.37 pm**
Present

Clrs Thelma Sowman (Chair), Brian Dawson and Cyril Dawson and Dawn McConnell (Iwi Representative)

Also Present

Clr Sally Arbuckle (from 1.49 pm)

In Attendance

Belinda Darrell (Road Name and Addressing Co-ordinator), Gina Ferguson (Group Manager Compliance and Monitoring), Anna Davidson (Resource Consents Manager) (from 1.45 pm) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

No apologies were received.

RN-0426-362 Road Naming Sub-Committee

The minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 January 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Updates:

1. The Road Naming and Addressing Policy was scheduled as an agenda item for this meeting; however, due to current workload pressures, it will be deferred to the next Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting.
2. Clr B Dawson attended the road sign unveiling at 267 Waikawa Bay.

Belinda Darrell reported that the sign was incorrectly installed. Marlborough Roads has been contacted to reinstall and will undertake the installation of all future road signs to ensure compliance.

Clrs B Dawson/C Dawson:

That the Minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 January 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried
RN-0426-363 Water Addressing
R800-007-06-08

The Committee received an update on the implementation of Water Addressing in the Marlborough Sounds, which went live on 13 April 2026. The report outlined the background to the initiative, noting that Marlborough District Council has historically not issued formal water addresses despite having New Zealand's largest coastline, with many Sounds properties accessible only by water and around 1,700 previously unaddressed.

Increasing requests from residents for formal addresses to support emergency response, deliveries, and property identification prompted Council to work with Toitū Te Whenua LINZ to implement a system aligned with national addressing standards.

Extensive stakeholder communication was undertaken with property owners, service providers, real estate agents, and emergency agencies. It was noted that existing jetty numbers remain unchanged and will continue to be managed by the Coastguard. This will be reiterated in letters to Sounds property owners.

Since going live, 171 applications have been entered into the system. There is a further 20 applications waiting to be added. This equates to 11% completion. Positive feedback has been received, along with an increase in RAPID number applications. Emergency services have also expressed interest in better understanding how Water Addressing integrates with their operational systems.

Belinda Darrel has met with the MDC Emergency Management Group and have discussed engaging with other emergency agencies to support awareness and consistent use of Water Addresses.

It was reported that the Coastguard had raised whether they could get access to the water addressing information during an emergency. Council's GIS team is working on this.

Cllrs Sowman/B Dawson:
That the report be received.

Carried

RN-0426-364 Peninsula Road, Spring Creek

ADDR260006

The Committee received a report on proposed addressing changes required on Peninsula Road, Spring Creek, arising from the relocation of the road off the Spring Creek stop bank.

The report noted that at the previous Road Naming Committee meeting on 22 January 2026, it had been advised that proposed addressing plans would be shared with affected property owners. Two addressing options were outlined, with the preferred option being to readdress affected properties to Ferry Road, and an alternative option involving readdressing to Dobson Street.

It was also noted that four rural properties would require future address changes due to RAPID addressing inaccuracies once those issues are resolved.

Members were advised that letters were issued to all affected Right of Way property owners in mid-February 2026 outlining the proposed changes. Following this, one property owner expressed concern about losing the Peninsula Road address and requested that the option of a new road name be considered.

Consultation with Land Information New Zealand supported consideration of a new road name given the number of affected properties. Subsequent discussions with all impacted owners resulted in agreement to comply with policy requirements by jointly proposing two potential new road names, with final agreement on those names still pending.

Belinda Darrell reported that to date no response has been received. A letter has been sent advising that a decision is required by Friday 1 May. If no response is received Belinda Darrell will meet with the three owners to make a decision. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Cllrs B Dawson/Sowman:
The report be received.

Carried

RN-0426-365 ROW Owner 34 – 40 Phillips Road

RN260001

The Committee considered a report on the proposed naming of a new private road associated with a subdivision at Ngākuta Bay. This was required under national addressing standards and Council policy, as the road will serve more than five primary address sites.

The report outlined the background to ongoing road naming and addressing confusion in the area, including the presence of several similarly named roads. This has caused difficulties for visitors, service providers, real estate agents, and emergency services.

Property owners preferred the renaming of the Right of Way rather than the use of Queen Charlotte Drive addresses. One corner property will retain its existing Queen Charlotte Drive address and be assigned the new road name as an alternative address.

It was reported that all affected owners were consulted and had unanimously supported proceeding with a new road name. Two names were proposed: Kōtare Lane as the first choice and Kingfisher Lane as the second choice, both reflecting a local natural coastal theme.

Members were advised that, subsequent to the finalisation of the agenda, a verbal objection was received from 30 Philips Road. It was noted that this property is not directly affected by the proposed road naming and was therefore not required to be consulted as per Council's Road Naming and Addressing Policy.

The complainant was spoken with, and concerns raised were addressed.

External consultation was undertaken with iwi and relevant organisations, with feedback supporting the first option. Assessment against the Road Naming and Property Addressing Policy and AS/NZS 4819:2011 confirmed that both names comply with duplication, length, usability, theme, and road type requirements, and that "Lane" is an appropriate classification for the proposed road layout.

It was noted that the road is private and signage will need to reflect this.

Clr C Dawson/Ms D McConnell:

That the Committee approve Kōtare Lane as the applicant's first choice of road name for the road approved under RN260001 and shown as Attachment 4.1.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Clr Arbuckle joined the meeting at 1.49 pm at the conclusion of the above item.

RN-0426-366 General Business

1. Request from the Mathews Family for a Road Name

Clr Arbuckle noted that she has been approached by the Mathews family, who have a long-standing generational association with Redwoodtown and the wider Marlborough area, who are requesting this be recognised through the naming of a road. The family are requesting that consideration be given to renaming Eighth Lane, which is in Redwoodtown, has no addressing and is currently used solely as a service lane and parking space be renamed to Mathews Lane.

It was reported that, under Council's Road Naming and Addressing Policy, road names may only be changed for the following reasons:

- (a) Spelling correction
- (b) Prevention of duplication in spelling or sound
- (c) Prevention of confusion arising from major layout changes to roading
- (d) Geographical corrections
- (e) Issues of cultural sensitivity
- (f) Is requested to do so by emergency services

It was noted that the request does not fall under any of these reasons, however, it was suggested that 'Te Ara' could be added before Mathews which may satisfy the duplication rule, this would need to be discussed with LINZ.

Members discussed alternative options and noted that naming the block of buildings along Eighth Lane in recognition of the Mathews family could be a suitable option. The naming of a seat was also discussed; however, this option had been raised with the Mathews family and was not supported.

It was noted that the Road Naming and Addressing Policy is currently under review, which will provide an opportunity to consider matters relating to changes to road names. However, until the review is completed, any request will be assessed in accordance with the current policy.

A copy of the policy to be forwarded to Cllr Arbuckle.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr B Dawson withdrew from the meeting at 2.05 pm at the conclusion of the above item.

2. New Development - 162 Old Renwick Road

Road naming application yet to be received. The development has 63 lots and four roads to be named.

1. McConnell Drive

Members were updated on the sign removal.

2. Next meeting – Thursday, 25 June 2026 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

The meeting concluded at 2.08 pm

Actions

	Description	Person Responsible	Date to Action
1.	A copy of the Road Naming and Addressing Policy be provided to Cllr Arbuckle	Belinda Darrell	23 April 2026 - Completed

Record No: 2686591

22. Committee Report: Environment & Planning Committee 30 April 2026

That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of E&P-0426-367 to E&P-0426-378) be received and the recommendations adopted.



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cllrs B A Faulls (Chairperson), S J Arbuckle, G A Hope, J C Hyndman, M J Taylor, Mayor N P Taylor (from 1.50 pm) and Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative),

Present via Teams

Cllr A R Burgess

Also Present

Cllrs J D N Croad

In Attendance

Ms G Ferguson (Group Manager Consents and Compliance), Mr A Johnson (Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Cllrs Faulls/Mr Harvey

That the apology for absence from Cllr R J Innes and Mr R McKinney (Iwi Representative) and The Mayor (for lateness) be received and sustained and the apology for non-attendance from Cllr Adams, B G Dawson, D A Dalliessi and B D Stace be noted.

Carried
E&P-0426-367 Declaration of Interests

-

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

The Chair advised that Public Excluded Item 1 – Feasibility Study is to be deferred and that no substantive discussion will occur with the item being addressed solely for the purpose of deferral.

Cllrs Faulls/Hope:

- 1. That the Public Excluded Item 1 – Feasibility Study be deferred to the next Environment & Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 28 May 2026 due to the presenter being unavailable for this meeting.**
- 2. That the item remain public-excluded when it is reconsidered, on the same grounds as originally stated in the agenda report.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor joined the meeting at 1.50 pm during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-368 Update on Sea Level Rise Modelling and Lower Wairau Hydrodynamic Assessment E320-003-001

The Committee received an update on Council's regional sea-level rise and coastal inundation evidence base, with a focus on targeted hydrodynamic modelling for the Lower Wairau Plain. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2687669).

Members were advised that the work forms part of Council's climate change and adaptation information-gathering phase and builds on the region-wide static ("bathtub") sea-level rise assessment completed in 2023. That earlier assessment identified the Lower Wairau Plain as a priority area for refinement due to its low-lying, highly managed landscape and the interaction between coastal, riverine and flood protection systems.

Dr Scott Stephens (Earth Sciences New Zealand, formerly NIWA) presented the findings of the commissioned hydrodynamic modelling. Noting that the modelling replaces the earlier static interpretation for the Lower Wairau Plain and provides a higher-confidence, location-specific understanding of inundation behaviour. Region-wide outputs have also been updated to height-increment layers for consistency, with no change to mapped spatial extent outside the Lower Wairau.

Key findings highlighted that inundation in the Lower Wairau Plain is controlled by defined pathways rather than elevation alone, with water movement strongly influenced by stopbanks, river channels, floodgates, lagoons and coastal barriers. Compared with the earlier static mapping, the area potentially affected by inland inundation is reduced, while coastal runup and overtopping are better resolved.

The modelling identified the central and southern Wairau coastal areas as the most sensitive, with overtopping possible under present-day sea level during extreme coastal storms. The Boulder Bank begins to overtop with small increases in sea level, while the northern Rarangi coastline is comparatively more resilient due to higher elevations and sediment accumulation, although impacts are still expected at higher sea-level rise increments.

Members were advised that coastal storm conditions elevate river water levels upstream, with effects detectable as far as the SH1 bridge under mean annual peak flows. The modelling was validated against observed storm events and field observations, providing confidence in the results for both present-day and future conditions.

It was noted that the updated modelling aligns with national guidance, including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the National Adaptation Plan, and updated Ministry for the Environment coastal hazards guidance, and is reflected in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (operative in part).

Next steps include publishing the updated mapping for internal and public use through Council's Smart Maps, and using the information to support future hazard risk assessment, spatial planning, consenting, infrastructure planning, and the development of adaptive planning approaches.

Members discussed the improved accuracy compared with the previous static modelling, the importance of careful public communication, and the relevance of the findings for flood scheme reviews and future infrastructure planning. The Committee acknowledged the work undertaken by staff and consultants.

**Cllrs Hope/Fauls:
That Council:**

- 1. Receive the Wairau Plains coastal flooding and sea-level rise assessment report.**
- 2. Approve making the technical information and updated mapping available for the community and partner organisations improving understanding of future climate change hazards.**
- 3. Approve the updating of the Coastal Flooding (SLR) Information currently held by Council to reflect the improved state of Council's 'best available data'.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Oliver Wade, Council's Principal Coastal Scientist, Matt Hippolite (Solucom) and Leigh Stevens (Salt Ecology) were present for the following item.

E&P-0426-369

Motuweka/ Havelock Estuary Restoration plan and Implementation Framework

E325-022-02

The Committee received an update on the recently completed ecological restoration plan for the Motuweka / Havelock Estuary, developed as part of the Te Hoiere Catchment Restoration Project. To support the update a powerpoint presentation was shown (filed in CM Record No. 2687667).

The report, Motuweka | Havelock Estuary Restoration Project, Restoration Plan and Implementation Framework (Solucom and Salt Ecology) was separately attached to the agenda and available on Council's website.

It was noted that Salt Ecology and Solucom were engaged in late 2024 to prepare the restoration plan, building on the progress of the Te Hoiere Project since its initiation in 2019. The plan responds to a desire to complement catchment-based actions with targeted estuary restoration, recognising the estuary as the receiving environment for ongoing freshwater improvements.

The presenters outlined that the plan was shaped through a collaborative process, including facilitated workshops held in November 2024 and April 2025. These workshops captured the values, knowledge, and priorities of iwi, government agencies, community representatives, industry stakeholders, and non-government organisations. Early engagement with Ngāti Kuia and Rangitāne informed the cultural and historical context and helped shape a shared vision for estuary restoration.

Members were advised that the restoration actions have been organised into a tiered implementation framework:

- *Immediate actions* - being proven, low-risk activities that can be undertaken under current estuary conditions and deliver early ecological benefits;
- *Medium-term actions* - requiring further planning, design, approvals or coordination to improve resilience, connectivity and habitat condition; and
- *Long-term actions* - involving longer planning horizons, higher investment and dependencies on improved catchment and estuary conditions, with potential for transformative ecological gains.

The plan also includes a Motuweka / Havelock Estuary planting guide to support consistent and effective restoration planting.

It was noted that sediment inputs from the wider catchment remain a key constraint on estuary restoration outcomes, reinforcing the importance of the ongoing Te Hoiere catchment programme and influencing the sequencing of restoration actions. The plan is intended as a flexible framework that can be implemented progressively as conditions, funding and partnerships allow.

Discussion highlighted the importance of strong leadership, clear roles and responsibilities, sustained funding, and partnerships between Council, iwi, community groups, industry and government agencies to successfully implement the plan. Members acknowledged the positive level of community engagement to date and the opportunities to align future restoration efforts with Council's planning and regulatory frameworks.

The Committee noted that Marlborough District Council will continue to work as a partner in the Te Hoiere Project to seek funding and support implementation of the restoration plan.

Clr Faulls/The Mayor:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Alan Johnson, Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-370 Kānoa Tranche 2 Hydrometric Funding and Resilience Programme E365-000-008

Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager, Alan Johnson, provided the Committee with an update on Kānoa Tranche 2 Hydrometrics Funding and associated flood resilience projects being delivered by Marlborough District Council (MDC) under the Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Members were reminded that the 2025 Environmental Monitoring Flood Network Risk and Resilience Review identified key risks and gaps in Council's hydrometric monitoring network, particularly during severe flood events. The review provided an evidence-based roadmap for strengthening the network through improved telemetry redundancy, power resilience, communications, and targeted sensor upgrades.

It was noted that the second tranche of Kānoa flood resilience funding was announced in October 2025, with \$96.8 million invested nationally across 32 flood resilience projects. As part of this programme, a national initiative supporting early flood warning system upgrades across 10 councils was also funded.

MDC has secured \$0.162 million from the Kānoa Tranche 2 telemetry component. This funding is being supplemented by existing Council budgets, including approximately \$50,000 in operational expenditure and up to \$150,000 per annum in capital expenditure, delivered on a 60:40 government-to-council funding split. Environment Canterbury holds the primary contract with MBIE/Kānoa and manages the sub-agreements with participating councils.

The Tranche 2 programme will be delivered over three years and focuses on upgrading nine critical hydrometric monitoring sites, along with a review of Council's digital telemetry and data pathways. These sites were identified as priority locations in the 2025 review due to their importance for decision-making during flood events and their current vulnerabilities, including power, communications, and access constraints during floods.

Members were advised that improvements to the hydrometric network have been progressing steadily, with several site upgrades already completed. The remaining Tranche 2 projects have been prioritised to improve network reliability, future-proof telemetry systems, and accelerate upgrades that would otherwise take longer under existing funding levels.

Key outcomes of the Tranche 2 projects include increased regional resilience to more frequent and severe flooding, strengthened operational readiness, improved climate change resilience, and enhanced regional safety and economic stability.

It was noted that completion of the Kānoa Tranche 2 upgrades and the associated MBIE contract is scheduled for 30 June 2029. Council is in the final stages of contract completion with Environment Canterbury and MBIE, with planning complete and project delivery underway. Progress updates will be provided to the Committee through future reports.

Cllrs Hyndman/M Taylor:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jenny Buck, Council's Catchment Care Advisor, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-371 Hill Country Erosion Programme E355-019-004

The Committee received an update on the Hill Country Erosion (HCE) Programme, a jointly funded initiative between central government and Marlborough District Council that works in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries, regional councils and landowners to reduce soil erosion on vulnerable hill country farmland.

To support the update a powerpoint presentation was shown (filed in CM Record No. 2687663).

It was noted that the programme aims to protect receiving environments by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff into rivers and harbours, retain productive topsoil, and build resilience to increasingly frequent and

intense weather events. Members were advised that preventing erosion in upper catchments is more cost-effective than managing downstream flooding and flood-control infrastructure.

The Committee was informed that Marlborough has a large and diverse land area, with approximately 89% classified as hill country, much of which is erosion-prone or actively eroding. The programme supports landowners through on-farm assessments, advice, erosion control planning, and financial incentives to implement appropriate land management responses.

A range of erosion control options available to landowners were outlined, including space planting of poplar and willow poles that allow continued grazing while stabilising soil; native afforestation involving retirement from grazing and planting of native species where erosion risk is high and grazing benefit is marginal; and natural regeneration through fencing to exclude stock and enabling native vegetation to re-establish where local seed sources are present.

Members were advised that the programme is landowner-led, with treatments selected to align with land use and farm systems. Financial assistance is provided on a shared-cost basis to ensure landowner investment and the long-term care of planted areas.

Since the previous update in October, final delivery figures for the 2025 season in Marlborough exceeded several targets, with 2,027 poplar and willow poles planted against a target of 3,000, 90,254 native seedlings planted compared with a target of 39,257, three hectares of exotic forestry completed meeting the target, and 73 hectares retired from grazing for native restoration against a target of 50 hectares.

Examples of completed and planned projects were presented, illustrating the programme's role in stabilising steep, erosion-prone land, reducing sediment runoff into waterways, and delivering co-benefits for biodiversity, farm productivity and community resilience.

Members commented positively on the effectiveness of the programme, the strong level of landowner participation, and the value of requiring shared financial contribution to ensure commitment and long-term success. The importance of using the programme for both erosion remediation and erosion prevention was also noted.

It was advised that MPI has opened the next national funding round for the Hill Country Erosion Programme. Marlborough District Council will be applying for continued participation, with the proposed 2027 funding round investing \$27.8 million nationally over four years from July 2027 to June 2031.

Cirs Fauls/Taylor:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: India Hamill, Council's Environmental Scientist – Freshwater Ecosystems, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-372 Check Clean Dry Programme E315-016-001

The Committee received an update on the Check Clean Dry Programme and its role in preventing the introduction and spread of high-risk freshwater pests in Marlborough.

To support the update a powerpoint presentation was shown (filed in CM Record No. 2687660).

A preserved golden clam specimen was passed around for members to view.

Members were advised that the Marlborough Regional Pest Management Plan provides the statutory and operational framework for preventing the establishment of emerging pest species not currently present in the region. Freshwater golden clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) were highlighted as a significant emerging biosecurity threat that aligns strongly with the intent of the Plan. Golden clams were first detected in the Waikato River in 2023 and are now subject to a national containment response. Experience in New Zealand and overseas indicates that eradication is not feasible once populations are established.

It was noted that the primary risk to Marlborough is human-mediated spread rather than natural dispersal. Key pathways include the movement of boats, trailers, fishing and monitoring equipment, machinery, and residual water or sediment between freshwater catchments.

The Committee was informed that Biosecurity New Zealand has contracted Marlborough District Council to deliver the Check Clean Dry ambassador programme for the 2025/26 summer season. The programme aims to educate water users about invasive freshwater species, particularly golden clams, and promote behaviour change to prevent their spread. Members noted that preventing establishment is significantly more cost-effective and environmentally sound than managing widespread infestation.

The biology and impacts of golden clams were outlined, including their extremely high reproductive rate and ability to form dense populations, which can result in serious ecological impacts and major costs to infrastructure through clogging of pipes and machinery. Members were advised that golden clams are currently only present in two locations in the North Island and have not been detected in the South Island.

The Check Clean Dry approach was described as the primary national tool for interrupting the spread of golden clams and other freshwater pests. The Programme supports this approach through education, community engagement, and ambassador activities at events and locations where water users are present. Members were advised that the programme also targets other invasive freshwater pests, including didymo, lagarosiphon and hornwort.

In addition to the ambassadorship programme, Council's Biosecurity Team continues to actively control several invasive freshwater species within Marlborough, including eel grass, parrot's feather, purple loosestrife, reed sweet grass and red-eared slider turtles. Recent collaboration with the Department of Conservation was noted, with joint resourcing helping to strengthen control efforts at priority sites.

Members discussed the importance of ongoing education, visitor awareness, and clear messaging at regional entry points, recognising Marlborough's role as a gateway to the South Island. The need to maintain and update statutory planning tools to respond to emerging pests was also noted.

It was confirmed that the Check Clean Dry ambassador programme will run through to the end of May, with Council continuing to monitor freshwater systems and provide ongoing education to minimise biosecurity pathways beyond the formal programme period.

Cirs Hope/Mr Harvey:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Dr Sarah Pearson, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-373 Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report for Blenheim and Picton 2025 E300-004-003-01

The Committee received the Annual Air Quality Monitoring Reports for 2025 for Blenheim and Picton, prepared by Environet Limited, providing an update on particulate matter air quality and compliance with national standards.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2687658).

Members were advised that particulate matter remains the primary air pollutant of concern in Marlborough. PM₁₀ is currently regulated under the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES), while PM_{2.5}, which poses a greater risk to human health, is not yet subject to a national standard but may be introduced through future Resource Management reforms.

In Blenheim, there were no exceedances of the NES PM₁₀ daily limit of 50 µg/m³ during 2025, and therefore no breach of the NES for the calendar year. The maximum daily PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations were 44 µg/m³ and 43 µg/m³ respectively, both recorded on the same winter day in June. These concentrations were slightly higher than those recorded in 2024 but remained lower than most years since continuous monitoring began.

The annual average PM₁₀ concentration in Blenheim for 2025 was 14 µg/m³, slightly above the 2024 level but below both the Ministry for the Environment guideline of 20 µg/m³ and the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 guideline of 15 µg/m³. The annual average PM_{2.5} concentration was 10 µg/m³, marginally higher than in 2024 but still well above the WHO guideline of 5 µg/m³.

Members were advised that daily PM_{2.5} concentrations exceeded the proposed MfE 24-hour guideline of 25 µg/m³ on 14 occasions, the lowest number of exceedances since monitoring commenced in 2017. Exceedances of the WHO daily guideline of 15 µg/m³ occurred on 71 days, consistent with 2024 results. Long-term trend analysis shows statistically significant declines in both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations since 2017, with recent improvements likely driven by emissions reductions associated with regulatory measures and changes in domestic heating, rather than meteorological conditions alone.

It was noted that while PM₁₀ standards are currently being met, Blenheim remains a polluted airshed and must record at least five consecutive years with no breaches before being redesignated as unpolluted, with the earliest possible date being July 2028. Members were advised that PM_{2.5} concentrations remain above proposed and international health guidelines, and that the introduction of a PM_{2.5} standard would require further reductions in emissions and likely more stringent air quality management.

Members were also advised that 2025 was the first full year of PM₁₀ monitoring for Picton following the establishment of a new monitoring site in late 2024. There were no exceedances of the PM₁₀ daily NES limit, with the highest recorded 24-hour average concentration being 23 µg/m³. The annual average PM₁₀ concentration was approximately 9.4 µg/m³, which is well below both MfE and WHO annual guidelines.

PM_{2.5} data for Picton could not be reliably reported due to ongoing technical issues with the monitoring equipment. Despite this limitation, overall results indicate that air quality in Picton is reasonably high, and PM₁₀ concentrations are unlikely to breach current or anticipated future standards. Members noted that Picton does not currently have a gazetted airshed and that local air quality is influenced by a broader range of emissions sources and topographical factors than in Blenheim.

The Committee discussed the health impacts of particulate matter, particularly PM_{2.5}, and the potential implications for Council should stricter national standards be introduced. The influence of meteorological variability, including the potential effects of future El Niño conditions, was also noted. Members acknowledged the value of the Picton monitoring programme in improving understanding of air quality in the township and informing any future policy or regulatory responses.

It was noted that Council's air quality webpages will be updated with the 2025 monitoring results and copies of the reports will be made publicly available.

It was noted that Sarah Pearson could be invited to present the air quality results to the Picton Business Group.

Cllrs Hyndman/Faulis:

That the "Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report - Blenheim 2025" and "Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report - Picton 2025" be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Karen Winter, Council's Environmental Health Officer, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-374 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy

E350-004-009-02

The Committee received a report outlining recommended amendments to the existing Gambling and TAB Venue Policy, following the required three-yearly review under the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020. The Draft Gambling and TAB Venue Policy and Statement of Proposal were attached to the agenda for members' information.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2687653).

Members were advised that territorial authorities are required to maintain policies governing the location, number, and establishment of Class 4 gambling venues (pokie machines) and standalone TAB venues, and

to review those policies every three years with consideration of social impacts. Marlborough District Council first adopted a gambling venue policy in 2004, with the most recent review completed in December 2023.

It was noted that the 2023 review introduced a sinking lid approach for Class 4 gambling venues, meaning that when an existing venue ceases operation or its licence lapses, no replacement venue may be established, resulting in a gradual reduction in venues and gaming machines over time. This sinking lid approach does not apply to TAB venues, and there are currently no standalone TAB venues in the district.

Since adoption of the current policy, a number of practical issues have arisen that highlighted ambiguity in parts of the wording, particularly in relation to the relocation of existing Class 4 venues. Members were advised that the proposed amendments do not change the underlying policy intent but are intended to clarify how the policy is interpreted and administered.

The proposed changes include clarifying the relationship between the sinking lid approach and the ability to relocate an existing Class 4 venue in limited circumstances, such as where a venue can no longer operate due to events beyond the operator's control, including fire or earthquake. The amendments also replace references to "owner or lessee" with "venue operator" to better reflect operational responsibility, add clearer definitions to support interpretation, and refine relocation assessment criteria, including consideration of proximity to sensitive sites.

A further proposed amendment relates to application fees, with the policy updated to reference the Environmental Health Fees Schedule rather than specifying a fixed fee in the policy itself. This would allow fees to be reviewed and adjusted annually in line with Council's fees and charges processes, rather than only at the time of a formal policy review.

Two options were outlined for the Committee's consideration. The recommended option is to amend the wording of the policy as proposed, which would improve clarity, reduce ambiguity, support consistent decision-making, and enable more flexible management of fees. The alternative option is to retain the status quo, which would avoid the need for consultation but would leave the identified ambiguities unresolved.

Members were advised that adoption of the proposed amendments requires Council approval to proceed to public consultation using the Special Consultative Procedure under the Local Government Act 2002. If approved, consultation would be undertaken on the Statement of Proposal accompanying the draft amended policy.

Cllrs Burgess/Arbuckle:
That Council:

- 1. Approve consultation on Option one for the amendments proposed for the Gambling and TAB Venue Policy 2026 using special consultative procedures under s83 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- 2. Approve a sub-committee of Mayor Taylor (as the Chairperson), Councillor Faulls and Councillor Burgess to hear and deliberate on any submissions received on the proposed policy changes.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 3.36 pm and resumed at 3.47 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Rachael Williams, Council's Compliance Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-375 RMA Compliance Strategy and Enforcement Policy 2026 – Endorsement E360-006-02

The Committee received a report outlining the proposed RMA Compliance Strategy 2026 and the updated RMA Enforcement Policy 2026, which together provide the strategic and policy framework guiding Marlborough District Council's compliance, monitoring and enforcement activities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Compliance Strategy and Enforcement Policy were attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Members were advised that Council has statutory responsibilities under the RMA to monitor compliance, investigate alleged non-compliance, and take enforcement action where appropriate. While there is currently no statutory requirement for councils to have a formal RMA compliance strategy, such a strategy is considered best practice and aligns with anticipated requirements under future resource management legislation. The proposed Compliance Strategy is a new, non-statutory document that sets out why and where Council directs its compliance and enforcement effort, using a risk-based and outcomes-focused approach aligned with the purpose of the RMA.

The Committee was informed that the Compliance Strategy is intended to improve transparency, consistency, and regulatory effectiveness by clearly explaining how Council prioritises limited resources, focuses on activities with the greatest environmental and public health risk, and delivers fair and proportionate regulatory responses. The Strategy provides strategic direction for compliance and monitoring activity without limiting Council's statutory discretion.

Members were also advised that the RMA Enforcement Policy 2026 represents an update to Council's existing Enforcement Policy first endorsed in 2018. The policy has been refreshed to reflect sector best practice, relevant case law, and the most recent Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines (2025), and incorporates the use of the 4Es model to support behaviour change.

It was noted that both documents are explicitly non-statutory, do not restrict Council's discretion, and do not replace the requirement for case-by-case decision-making in accordance with legislation, natural justice, and legal advice. Together, the Compliance Strategy and Enforcement Policy are intended to strengthen regulatory integrity, improve public confidence in Council's regulatory role, and support better environmental outcomes.

Members were advised that resource management reforms currently progressing through Parliament will include a phased transition away from the RMA, with compliance and enforcement functions continuing under existing powers during the transition period. The proposed Compliance Strategy will be subject to a regular two-year review cycle, allowing it to be updated as reforms progress and legislative requirements become clearer.

Subject to endorsement, the documents will be implemented across the Environmental Compliance and Monitoring function, published on Council's website, and supported through internal guidance and training. Engagement with iwi, community and industry groups will also be undertaken, with performance and outcomes monitored and reported through existing reporting processes.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Faulls:

1. That the report be received.
2. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the RMA Compliance Strategy 2026;
 - (b) endorse the updated RMA Enforcement Policy 2026; and
 - (c) note that both documents are non-statutory and do not limit Council's discretion in enforcing legislation.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Tonia Stewart, Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was present for the following item.

E&P-0426-376

**Marlborough Sounds Commercial
Wastewater Discharge Compliance
Monitoring 2024/2025**

E360-006-02

The Committee received a report on the Environmental Compliance and Monitoring Team's monitoring of treated commercial wastewater discharges to land adjacent to the Coastal Marine Area in the Marlborough Sounds for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2687650).

The Marlborough Sounds Commercial Wastewater Discharge Compliance Monitoring snapshot was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Members were advised that the report covers 14 commercial accommodation sites adjacent to the Coastal Marine Area that can accommodate more than 15 guests and operate under resource consents for the discharge of treated wastewater to land. Due to the scale of wastewater generated by these activities and their proximity to sensitive coastal environments, these sites are considered to present a higher potential risk to coastal water quality.

Council undertook 13 site inspections during February 2025, with one site not inspected as it was not operational at the time. Based on site inspections, ten resource consents were assessed as fully compliant, one was assessed as technically non-compliant, two were assessed as non-compliant, and none were assessed as significantly non-compliant.

Desktop monitoring of sampling data, discharge records and annual reports for the 2024/2025 period showed two resource consents were fully compliant, six were technically non-compliant, five were non-compliant, none were significantly non-compliant, and one could not be assessed due to insufficient information being provided.

Overall compliance for the reporting period showed three operators fully compliant with all assessed conditions, four technically non-compliant, seven non-compliant, and no significantly non-compliant operators. This represents an improvement compared to the 2023/2024 monitoring period, with an increase in fully compliant operators and a reduction in the number assessed as non-compliant. The most common causes of non-compliance related to incomplete or late provision of information, exceedance of consented discharge parameters, and exceedance of permitted discharge volumes, while technical non-compliance was generally associated with late reporting rather than environmental effects.

Members were advised that compliance improvements have been supported by increased engagement with operators, including a Council-led workshop held in October 2025 which was well attended. The workshop focused on practical guidance for managing on-site wastewater systems and included industry expertise and shared experience from operators. It was also noted that some operators have undertaken significant and costly upgrades to wastewater systems and discharge fields, particularly following damage caused by severe weather events, and that early results from these upgrades indicate improved and more consistent compliance.

Enforcement action during the period included formal letters of education issued to nine consent holders and letters of direction issued to two consent holders, with no cases requiring escalation to significant enforcement action.

The Committee acknowledged the improving compliance trend and the importance of continued monitoring and engagement, noting the challenges faced by operators in remote locations within the Marlborough Sounds. It was noted that increased monitoring and collaborative work with operators will continue during the 2025/2026 monitoring period and beyond, with a focus on further improving compliance and protecting the coastal environment.

Clr Arbuckle/Mr Harvey:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 4.25 pm during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Tonia Stewart, Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was present for the following item.

**E&P-0426-377 Dairy Shed Effluent and Stream Crossing
Survey 2025/2026 E330-001-004, E330-001-005**

The Committee received a report on the Compliance Group's monitoring of dairy shed effluent management, stream crossings, and associated freshwater regulations across Marlborough during the 2025/2026 dairy season.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2687646).

The Dairy and Stream Crossing Survey Snapshot was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Members were advised that there were 37 operating dairy farms in Marlborough during the monitoring period, compared with 38 in the previous season, continuing a long-term decline from 54 farms in 2016/2017. The sector currently has a combined herd size of approximately 13,010 cows, with individual herd sizes ranging from 57 to 1,000 cows.

All 37 dairy farms were inspected during the 2025/2026 season, achieving a 100 percent inspection rate. Thirty farms were assessed under the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan permitted activity standards, while seven farms operated under resource consents for dairy shed effluent disposal. All farms were found to be fully compliant with the relevant dairy effluent requirements, representing the first year that 100 percent compliance has been achieved across both permitted activities and resource consents.

Overall compliance for dairy shed effluent disposal showed 37 farms assessed as compliant, with no farms assessed as technically non-compliant, non-compliant, or significantly non-compliant. Members noted this as a significant milestone for the sector and an indicator of improved farm practices and sustained engagement between Council, industry bodies, and farmers.

It was reported that stream crossing elimination reached a major milestone during the season, with the final remaining stream crossing in the district removed. As a result, there are now no dairy cattle stream crossings remaining in Marlborough, following long-term efforts to reduce adverse effects on waterways.

Monitoring of National Environmental Standards for Freshwater requirements for synthetic nitrogen fertiliser showed that 100 percent of dairy farms submitted nitrogen data for the 2024/2025 reporting period, with all farms compliant with the national nitrogen cap of 190 kg N/ha/year. Seven farms were assessed as technically non-compliant due to late submission of data; however, no exceedances of the nitrogen cap were identified. Marlborough was noted as the only region in New Zealand to achieve full nitrogen data submission from all dairy farms.

Stock exclusion monitoring identified one dairy farm as non-compliant on two occasions for stock access to waterways, resulting in education followed by an infringement. Three farms were also found to be non-compliant with Intensive Winter Grazing regulations across both dairy and beef operations, with enforcement responses including one infringement, one formal warning, and one letter of education. The Committee noted that Stock Exclusion Regulations focus on excluding stock from waterways rather than the permanence of fencing, with temporary fencing considered compliant where stock exclusion is achieved.

Members were advised that 34 farms now have lined effluent storage systems, with four farms still operating unlined systems. These farms remain compliant at this stage, as PMEP requirements for lined systems will apply 24 months after the plan becomes fully operative.

The Committee acknowledged the strong compliance outcomes achieved across the dairy sector, the proactive investment made by farmers in effluent infrastructure and best-practice management, and the effectiveness of Council's continued engagement, education, and monitoring approach. Members commended the dairy industry for achieving full compliance and noted the intention to formally acknowledge this achievement.

Cirs Arbuckle/Fauls:
That the information be received.

Carried

E&P-0426-378 Information Package

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Cirs Fauls/Hope:
That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 4.32 pm.

23. Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

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

- Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes
- Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)
- Level of Service Increase: Emergency Management
- Level of Service Increase: Communications
- Annual Review and Approval of Solid Waste Fess & Charges (2026/2027)

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
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	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.
Level of Service Increases	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.
Annual Review and Approval of Solid Waste Fess & Charges (2026/2027)	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.