Minutes of a Meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 commencing at 9.00 am

Present

Clr J D N Croad (in the chair), B G Dawson (Deputy) (from 10 am), S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, D A Dalliessi, C M Dawson, B A Faulls, G A Hope, J C Hyndman, T P Sowman, M J Taylor and Mayor N P Taylor

Present via Teams

Clr R J Innes and Ra-Nae Niven (Iwi representative)

In Attendance

Mr G K Blake (Chief Information Officer) and N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Clrs Croad/Adams
That the apology for absence from Clr A R Burgess and Clr B Dawson for lateness be received and sustained.

Carried

Fin-0226-263 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Clr B Dawson joined the meeting at 10.00 am during this item.

ATTENDANCE: Tessa Dever, Council's Financial Reporting Manager, was present for the following item.

Fin-0226-264 Financial Report for the Year to 31 December 2025 F275-001-01

Geoff Blake noted that the purpose of the report was to present Council's financial results for the period ended 31 December 2025.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2622192).

Members were advised that an update had been made to the Quarterly Financial Report. A copy of the revised report was circulated to all members. Mr Blake outlined the reasons for the amendments and guided members through its contents, highlighting the key messages.

Topics covered in the report were financial highlights, income and expenses, capital expenditure, modified cash flow, treasury, rates and debtors and group of activities – financial summaries.

The following income statement major variances were noted - subsidy and grants revenue are down for both NZTA Revenue and other grants noting that these are directly tied to expenditure. Development Contributions, including land subdivision contributions, continue to be down even on revised budgets in the 2025/26 Annual Plan. Solid Waste revenue and expenditure are both under budget with lower than anticipated volumes. It is expected that there is some improvement with seasonality. Operational costs are tracking under budget, largely due to grant-funded project expenditure, lower solid waste costs, lower regulatory costs and insurance costs that remain below budget and are expected to remain so at year-end. These savings are partially offset

by minor allocation adjustments with Infrastructure costs below. Infrastructure costs are exceeding budget, the main driver of this is emergency works expenditure relating to the June/July weather event, with revenue received or receivable to offset the majority of this. Depreciation costs are up on budget, with the majority of the variance in roading following significant revaluation gain.

Mr Blake advised that, as indicated in the treasury report, the non-compliance has been resolved through the implementation of a swap, which brings Council back into compliance and is expected to maintain compliance going forward.

A number of questions and clarifications were sought from members with answers and information provided by Geoff Blake and Tessa Dever.

During discussion, clarification was sought on Council's fleet replacement programme, including whether the fleet is primarily diesel rather than petrol and whether vehicle lifespans are taken into account. Mr Blake advised that he would refer these queries to the relevant department for a response.

Clr Croad/The Mayor:
That the financial report for the year to 31 December 2025 be received.

Carried

Fin-0226-265 Submission to Department of Internal Affairs on the Rates Model (Rates Capping)

Geoff Blake noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the submission made by Council to the Department of Internal Affairs on 4 February 2026, in response to the proposed national rates target model. It was noted that the Chair had reviewed the submission prior to lodgement, and a copy of the submission was included with the agenda for members' information."

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 262191).

It was reported that in early December 2025 the Minister of Local Government announced the introduction of a rates target model for NZ, with targeted consultation opened and accompanied by a limited-detail factsheet.

Members were advised that the Council has aligned its submission with the positions of Local Government New Zealand, Taituarā and Te Uru Kahika, and had added further points regarding the funding of emergency event recovery and resilience, the treatment of government-mandated costs, and the exclusion of critical infrastructure such as roads, rivers, drainage and flood protection from the proposed rates target model.

Clrs Croad/Hope:
That the Council note the submission made to DIA on 4 February 2026.

Carried

Fin-0226-266 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

Clrs Croad/Faulls:
That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes**

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 Section48(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.

The meeting closed at 10.38 am.

Record No: 2629198