MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026 commencing at 9.00 am

Present

Clr J D N Croad (in the chair), B G Dawson (Deputy), S J Arbuckle, D A Dalliessi, C M Dawson, G A Hope, J C Hyndman, R J Innes, T P Sowman, B D Stace, M J Taylor and Mayor N P Taylor

In Attendance

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

Apologies

The Chair/Clr B Dawson
That the apology for absence from Clr S R W Adams, B A Faulls and Ms R Niven (Iwi representative) be received and sustained.

Carried

Fin-0826-47 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 9.20 am during the following item.

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

Fin-0826-48 Financial Report for the year to 30 June 2026 F275-001-01

Tessa Dever, Council's Financial Reporting Manager presented the preliminary financial results for the year ended 30 June 2026, noting that the figures remain subject to completion of year-end processes, audit review, inclusion of subsidiary results, final revenue and expenditure adjustments, asset impairment assessments, capital expenditure reviews, and depreciation calculations. It was noted that the final results reported in the Annual Report may differ from those presented.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26173618).

Members were advised that revenue was currently ahead of budget and expenditure below budget, reflecting strong subsidy and grant income, higher than anticipated development contributions, and generally well-controlled operating costs. It was noted that the reported position should be viewed positively, while recognising that some variances relate to the timing of expenditure and completion of projects.

Discussion occurred regarding capital expenditure performance. Ms Dever reported expenditure of approximately $84m against a budget of $121m and advised that a significant proportion of the variance related to project timing, programme rephasing, and budget provisions already included in future years. Forecasting accuracy had improved during the year and further improvements were anticipated.

Members were advised that borrowing remained within approved limits and covenant requirements, rates collection trends remained consistent with previous years, and no significant concerns were identified in relation to debtors or arrears. It was reiterated that arrangements were available for ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.

Members acknowledged the positive financial result while noting that the reported surplus should be considered alongside deferred capital expenditure and the ongoing delivery of capital programmes. Mr Blake confirmed that borrowing continued to be associated with capital investment rather than operating expenditure and undertook to provide further analysis of debt movements through upcoming reporting.

The Chair/Clr M Taylor:
That the financial report for the year to 30 June 2026 be received.

Carried

Fin-0826-49 Information Disclosure – Water Services

F275-001-01

Tessa Dever, Council's Financial Reporting Manager presented the Water Services Information Disclosure, advising that from 1 August 2026 the Commerce Commission requires regulated water service providers to publicly disclose specified information relating to water services, including dividend policy, growth funding policy, and water service charges. It was noted that Marlborough District Council, as the regulated supplier for the 2026/27 year, had completed the required disclosures and submitted them to the Commerce Commission ahead of the statutory deadline.

Members were advised that a more extensive disclosure regime will apply at the end of the 2026/27 financial year, including audit requirements. It was reported that ongoing engagement with the Commerce Commission regarding transitional arrangements and the potential need for exemptions where information is not readily available within existing Council systems. It was noted that the Commission had indicated a pragmatic approach during the transition to the new water services delivery model and establishment of Marlborough Waters Limited.

In response to a question regarding future water service charges, members were advised that the disclosure document was separate from work relating to the establishment of the new water services entity, although both processes draw on the same underlying financial information. It was further clarified that the current economic regulation framework applies to drinking water and wastewater services and does not presently include stormwater services.

The Committee noted the new legislative requirements and that further reporting obligations would evolve as the transition to the future water services arrangements progressed.

Clrs B Dawson/Sowman:
That the Information Disclosure for the year to 1 August 2026 be received.

Carried

Fin-0826-50 Marlborough Regional Forestry Joint Committee

D050-001-A05

The Minutes of the Marlborough Regional Forestry Joint Committee meeting held on 31 July 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Recognition was given to Phil Woodward of MRF Forestland Management, who was awarded the Top of the South Wood Council 2026 Skilled Professional of the Year Award and the Forestry Establishment Excellence Award. The Committee acknowledged Mr Woodward's significant contribution to the forestry sector, his professional excellence, and his longstanding service to the industry.

Clrs Hope/C Dawson:
That the Minutes of the Marlborough Regional Forestry Joint Committee meeting held on 31 July 2026 be ratified.

Carried

Fin-0826-51 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

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

- Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes
- Outstanding Debtors
- Marlborough Regional Forestry

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.
Outstanding Debtors	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.
Marlborough Regional Forestry	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 10.27 am.

Record No: 26173618