MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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, 13 AUGUST 2026 commencing at 12.45 pm

Present

Clr B G Dawson (in the Chair), Clrs J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, C M W Dawson, T P Sowman, B D Stace, Mayor N P Taylor and Ms D McConnell (Iwi representative).

Also Present

Clrs S J Arbuckle, G A Hope and R J Innes.

In Attendance

Mr J Lyall (Group Manager Property and Community Facilities) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary).

Apologies

Clrs B Dawson/Croad
That the apology for absence from Clr S R W Adams (Deputy) be received and sustained, and the apology for non-attendance from Clr B A Faulls be noted.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-52 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

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

I&CF-0826-53 Capital Projects Report for the year to 30 June 2026 F275-001-02

The Committee received the Capital Projects Report for the year ended 30 June 2026. Members were advised that the reported year-end capital expenditure position was $84.2 million against a budget of $121.0 million and was broadly consistent with projections reported at the end of quarter three. Members noted that final year-end accounting adjustments were still being completed and that some movement in the figures could occur before finalisation.

To highlight the report a PowerPoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26184489).

It was reported that Property and Community Facilities expenditure was reported at 48% of budget, with changes to the budgeting methodology for small townships and reserve-related expenditure incorporated into subsequent budgets to provide a more realistic allocation across future years. Roading expenditure totalled $43.5 million, representing 69% of budget. Members were advised that some emergency reinstatement costs had been classified as operational expenditure rather than capital expenditure in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In response to questions regarding the low-cost, low-risk programme, officers confirmed that funding had not been utilised because the projects submitted for subsidy had not been approved by NZTA.

The Committee discussed Three Waters capital expenditure, which was reported at 43% of budget. It was noted that some projects had been paused following previous Council decisions, including the Murphy's Creek stormwater project, while further work had been undertaken to develop a realistic and deliverable long-term capital programme. Members were advised that projects had been re-phased as part of the 2026/27 budgeting process and that, as transition arrangements progressed, completed assets would transfer to the new water services organisation, with any outstanding programme commitments transferring at the appropriate time.

Members requested that future reporting provide clearer distinction between variances arising from project timing, delivery constraints and deliberate Council decisions. Discussion also addressed the North West Periphery programme, with officers confirming that expenditure remained lower than budget primarily because development had not proceeded at the pace originally anticipated. It was noted that the programme was funded through development contributions.

The projects watch-list was reviewed. Members requested additional explanatory commentary in future reports where projects were identified as being at risk, particularly where project status reflected deliberate governance decisions rather than delivery issues. The Committee also discussed the reduction in the overall Sounds roading programme forecast, noting the anticipated return of approximately $40 million of funding.

In response to questions regarding the A&P Park project, members were advised that commencement of construction had been delayed, resulting in completion being deferred beyond the original programme. The project remains within budget, contingency funding remained intact, and only minor contractual changes had been made to facilitate the future installation of solar infrastructure.

Clr Croad/Ms McConnell
That the capital projects report for the year to 30 June 2026 be received.

Carried.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Mark Lucas, Council's Solid Waste Manager, was present for the following item.

I&CF-0826-54 Waste Management and Minimisation Performance – FY2025/26 W300-006-008-09

The Committee received the report on waste management and minimisation performance for FY2025/26 and was provided with an overview of current waste trends to support the ongoing statutory review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

To highlight the report a PowerPoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26184492).

Members were advised that kerbside refuse volumes had increased following the expansion of the kerbside collection service, while recycling volumes had increased significantly under the current collection arrangements. Waste composition analysis undertaken during the year indicated that a substantial proportion of material currently disposed of through kerbside refuse could potentially be diverted through recycling or other resource recovery initiatives.

Discussion focused on the significant reduction in landfill disposal volumes over the previous two years. It was reported that while increased diversion activity had contributed to lower landfill volumes, the available data showed that reduced economic activity, particularly within the construction, demolition and industrial sectors, was the primary factor influencing the decline. It was noted that landfill disposal volumes are closely linked to economic conditions and that current results should not be relied upon as the sole basis for forecasting future waste volumes.

The Committee noted that the information presented forms part of the evidence base for the statutory review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Future reports will present the Waste Assessment, proposed plan provisions and consultation documentation for Council consideration in accordance with statutory requirements.

Clrs C Dawson/Dalliessi
That the report be received.

Carried.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Robert Hutchinson (Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer) and Jane Tito (Manager, Parks and Open Spaces) were present for the following two items.

I&CF-0826-55 Notable Tree Removal - Morrington Reserve

R510-009-M03-07

Mr Hutchinson noted that the purpose of the report was to consider a request from a neighbouring resident seeking the removal of notable tree MEP 190D, a 90-year-old Ribbon Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) located within Morrington Reserve, Blenheim. It was reported that the tree is protected as a notable tree under the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan and that any decision to support its removal would require a subsequent resource consent process, including further statutory assessment and public consultation.

Mr Hutchinson outlined the assessment undertaken in accordance with Council's Tree Policy, including consultation with surrounding residents and the wider community. A postal survey of nearby properties resulted in 58 responses, of which 54 supported removal, three supported retention and one was undecided. Additional public feedback received from outside the survey area was more evenly divided.

Members were advised that qualified arborists had undertaken ongoing inspections and management of the tree and had assessed it as healthy, with tree failure considered unlikely under normal conditions. It was reported that while some remedial pruning and canopy reduction works had been completed, the tree would continue to require monitoring and maintenance. It was explained that although the tree did not present an immediate danger based on the arborist's assessment, there remained a possibility of branch failure during extreme weather events, consistent with risks associated with mature trees.

In discussion, members acknowledged the significance of the tree as part of a protected historic landscape and the broader value of notable trees to the district's character and environment. At the same time, concerns were expressed regarding its size, age, proximity to adjacent properties and school facilities, and the potential consequences should a major limb or the tree itself fail. Members also considered the level of community support for removal, the ongoing costs associated with managing the tree, and the opportunity to undertake replacement planting.

It was noted that this decision represented the first stage of the process only and that removal cannot occur without the necessary resource consent and associated statutory assessment required under the Marlborough Environment Plan.

Clrs Stace/Croad:
That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee recommends to Council that it provides permission to remove the Ribbon Gum- Eucalyptus *viminalis MEP 190D* within the Morrington Reserve, Blenheim.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-56 Riverside Park Fountain – Funding Request

R510-009-R06-01

The Committee considered a funding request relating to the potential replacement of the fountain located within Riverside Park adjacent to the Taylor River. It was noted that the original fountain, installed as part of the 2003 redevelopment of the area, had become increasingly unreliable following the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake due to silt and debris accumulation. The fountain infrastructure was removed in 2025 and subsequent assessment confirmed that the pump was beyond repair.

Members were presented with options for a replacement floating fountain system designed to better accommodate river conditions. The estimated installation cost was $52,000.

Members noted the level of community interest in the fountain's reinstatement, including a petition containing approximately 370 signatures requesting its replacement. Members acknowledged the fountain's contribution to the character and identity of the area, its visibility as an entrance feature to the central business district and the positive feedback received from users of the surrounding public spaces.

It was reported that no provision currently existed within operational budgets to fund replacement of the asset and that reserves budgets do not include depreciation funding for this type of renewal. Members discussed the financial implications of replacing the fountain, including the initial capital cost, future maintenance requirements, and the need to ensure that any reinstatement proposal was supported by adequate information regarding long-term ownership and operating costs. Members recognised that while the level of support demonstrated through the petition was significant, broader community consultation regarding expenditure priorities and funding implications remained appropriate.

During discussion, members expressed varying views regarding the timing of replacement. While support was expressed for the amenity value of the fountain, emphasis was placed on the importance of considering the proposal within the wider context of Council's long-term planning and financial decision-making processes. The possibility of external sponsorship or community funding was also raised as a potential means of assisting with future reinstatement.

Clr Dalliessi/The Mayor:
That Council refer the Riverside Park Fountain proposal to the 2027-37 Long Term Plan for wider community consultation.

Carried.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Cheryl Steiner (Council's Parks and Open Spaces Planner) and Ms Kiri Whiteman (Parks and Open Spaces Officer) were present for the following item.

I&CF-0826-57 Notification of Draft Cemeteries Management Plan R520-001-027-03

Members considered the draft Cemeteries Management Plan and the proposal to undertake public consultation on the document.

It was noted that the plan represents a new consolidated framework for the management, operation and development of Council-administered cemeteries and has been developed to bring together existing policies, operational practices and decision-making guidance into a single document. Ms Steiner noted that the draft plan largely reflects current practices and levels of service and does not propose significant changes to cemetery operations.

Members were advised that the draft plan is intended to simplify cemetery management by providing a single source of policy direction while statutory powers and enforcement mechanisms would continue to arise through relevant legislation and existing bylaws. The report also proposed revocation of the Policy for Implementing Exclusive Right of Burial. Ms Steiner advised that the policy provisions have been incorporated into the draft management plan and would, therefore, continue to apply through the new framework. It was noted that no substantive rights or provisions would be removed, with the intent being to consolidate existing requirements into one document. It was reported that consultation materials and communications would clearly explain this to the public.

The Committee noted that a future review of the Cemeteries Bylaw 2017 is scheduled for 2027 and that consideration of any proposal to revoke or amend the bylaw would occur as part of that process. Members were advised that retaining the bylaw in the interim would provide continuity while allowing the management plan consultation to proceed and enabling feedback received through the consultation process to inform future bylaw deliberations.

The proposed consultation process was outlined, including targeted engagement with iwi and hapū, funeral directors, cemetery trustees and the Department of Conservation, together with wider public consultation through Council's standard engagement channels. Members noted that the proposed approach was considered proportionate to the significance of the matter and consistent with the consultation principles of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Mayor/Clr Croad:

That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Approve the Draft Cemeteries Management Plan for public consultation, including the consultation on a proposal to revoke the Policy for Implementing Exclusive Right of Burial.**

2. **Establish a Hearing Panel consisting of Councillors Brian Dawson (Chair), Deborah Dalliessi and Benjamin Stace to hear submissions and recommend to Council decisions on those submissions.**

Carried.

I&CF-0826-58 Road Safety – RideOn Cycle Skills Education Programme R800-005-19

The Committee received an information report on the RideOn Cycle Skills Education Programme, following the recent transfer of responsibility for the programme to the Property, Roading and Community Facilities Department. Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to reintroduce the programme to the Committee and provide an overview of its delivery model, funding arrangements and outcomes as well as outline future reporting arrangements.

Members were advised that RideOn is a school-based cycle skills education programme delivered in accordance with the national BikeReady framework administered by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency. The programme is designed to improve participants' cycling skills, road awareness and confidence while promoting safe and sustainable transport choices. Members were informed that the programme has operated in Marlborough since 2011 and has grown from approximately 250 participants annually to more than 900 students each year. The programme also provides road safety education opportunities for adult groups, including refugee and migrant communities, and is jointly funded by New Zealand Transport Agency and Marlborough District Council.

Clrs Stace/Ms McConnell:
That the information be received.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-59 Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee D050-001-H01

The minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2026 were presented to the Committee for ratification.

The Mayor acknowledged the positive feedback provided through the Age Concern tenant representative report and commended the strong relationship, trust and engagement that has developed between Council, its housing management partners and senior housing tenants, noting that consistently high tenant satisfaction levels reflect the ongoing commitment and support provided to residents.

Clrs Croad/B Dawson:
That the Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2026 be ratified.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-60 Road Naming Sub-Committee R800-007-06-07

The Minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Clrs Sowman/C Dawson:
That the Minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2026 be ratified.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-61 Information Package -

Clrs Croad/Sowman:
That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Information Package dated 13 August 2026 be received and noted.

Carried.

I&CF-0826-62 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

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

- Sub-Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections).

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.

Carried.

The meeting closed at 2.36 pm.

Record No. 26184507