

Report of the ordinary meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 6 June 2017, at 5.37pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Bolger (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Communications and Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Senior Corporate Support Officer (Ceri Macleod), 3 Waters Project Manager (Mr Sam Bunting) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr P Grant apologised for absence.

1. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2017 (SC1480)

The Committee considered a financial report from the Chief Financial Officer for April 2017.

Cr Bolger noted the Council was tracking where it should be. In terms of the description of the Council's assets on page 12 of the report outlining an adjustment of the value of our assets, he asked whether the value of the Council's swaps were affected by interest rates.

The Chief Financial Officer said they were and these would be revalued at the end of the year.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Dickson THAT the report be received.

2. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING TREATMENT FOR PYRAMID BRIDGE PROJECT – ANNUAL PLAN 2018 (SC1480)

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Financial Officer regarding changes to the accounting treatment of Pyramid Bridge.

The Officer reaffirmed the changes did not represent a change to budgets or charges to the public, just a change in accounting methods due to cost sharing with the Southland District Council.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Officer confirmed the Gore and Southland District Councils would claim their relevant portion of NZTA funds.

Cr D Grant asked whether SDC were pushing for a two lane bridge and if so, what the impact would be on cost.

The Chief Executive said there was some support for a two lane bridge from SDC, but the enthusiasm was not shared by NZTA, as the principal funder. He said further discussions were scheduled between GDC, SDC and NZTA later in the month.

His Worship said this was an issue that had been previously discussed by the Committee. He said the meeting outlined by the Chief Executive would be worthwhile to explore all opportunities to ensure the District had the best asset possible.

Cr Gardyne said there was a need to ensure pipework was included as part of the tender.

Cr Bolger asked whether the Council's preference was for a two lane bridge.

The Chief Executive agreed it was the Council's preference, but said desire had to be tempered by cost.

Cr Sharp asked for further information on the cost of a two lane bridge.

The Transport Manager said costs could represent one and a half times the original cost. The cost/benefit ratio would be factored into discussions with NZTA, ie the cost may go up, but the benefits may not to the same degree.

The Chief Executive said this could be up to \$500,000 extra cost to the Council, with the same increase faced by the Southland District Council.

Cr Beale asked if a traffic volume report had been completed.

The Transport Manager said it would have been completed, along with report into predicted use in the future.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr D Grant THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm