

Report of a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 3 October 2017, at 5.07pm

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

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr Sharp apologised for absence.

1. CIVIC FINANCIAL SERVICES HALF YEAR REPORT AND SALE OF BUILDING (SC1910)

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer together with a copy of a letter and the half year report

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the report be received,

AND THAT the Council vote in favour of the sale of the Civic Assurance House building at the shareholders meeting on 5 October 2017.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Officer advised the Council of the current insurance arrangements that were managed through Willis Tower Watson and Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT).

2. GRANT - HOSPICE SOUTHLAND (SC1619)

Cr Dickson declared an interest in this item and did not participate in the discussion.

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer seeking the Council's approval to provide a grant to Hospice Southland to assist it with the rates it pays as part of its tenancy agreement at 11 Ordsal Street, Gore. Hospice Southland ran a second hand goods store at 11 Ordsal Street and had applied for a remission of rates under the Council's community and sporting organisations rates remission policy. Under the policy, the Council could remit 50% of the uniform annual general charge, the Southland regional heritage trust rate, the ward rate and the parks and reserves rate. Hospice Southland met the criteria by being a charitable community organisation, however, it was not the owner of the property and under the policy, the Council could only apply a remission of rates to the ratepayer.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Officer advised Hospice Southland did not receive any other grant apart from assistance with unwanted goods at the transfer station.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the Council make an annual grant to Hospice Southland, equivalent to the amount that would be remitted from the property's rates under the community and sporting organisations rates remission policy if Hospice Southland owned the property.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Beale thought the appropriate format for the grant request was through the Long Term Plan. He believed the shops run by Hospice Southland and the Salvation Army were some of the busiest in Gore. The shops were run as a business and he thought there would be a raft of other requests if it was granted.

Cr Beale moved as an amendment THAT the grant request be included in the draft LTP for consideration and public feedback.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Reid.

Cr Highsted opposed the amendment. The organisation was run to provide welfare to people with cancer. If it opened a "can of worms" with other organisations, then so be it.

In response to Cr Davis, the Officer said he would need to check the lease details for the Salvation Army that operated out of the former Smith's City building in Norfolk Street.

The Chief Executive noted the lease arrangements for the Salvation Army were based on goodwill and it was not strictly on a commercial basis. He added the Council made a number of grants and he did not think a grant to Hospice Southland would create a precedent. If it was approved, it would appear on the schedule of other grants provided by the Council.

Cr Beale had no issue with Hospice Southland, but he preferred the request be considered through a different process.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

Crs Beale, Reid and Gardyne voted against the recommendation and asked for their votes to be recorded.

The meeting concluded at 5.19pm