

Report of a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 4.53pm.

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

In Attendance Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory Community Services (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Project Manager Infrastructure (MR Hashem Ramezan-zadeh), Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken) Corporate Support Officer (Suzanne Lucas) and Economic Development Coordinator (Ceri Macleod), Social Capacity and Health Coordinator (Bernadette Hunt) – attended from 5.00pm, and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr Davis apologised for absence.

1. MAYORAL OFFICE – UPDATE REPORT

The Council perused a report from the Economic Development Coordinator and Social Capacity and Health Coordinator, Mayoral Office which provided an overview of Mayoral office achievements and progress to date in delivering a socio-economic agenda.

Cr Reid commented on the eyesore of the corner near the police station and the need for a tidy of that area or a display developed.

The Economic Development Coordinator said the owners had been contacted and were actively looking at a solution, and it was hoped there would be progress in the near future.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the report be received.

2. CLEAN AIR LOANS QUARTERLY REPORT (SC2303)

A report from the Chief Financial Officer had been received which summarised approved applications and interest free loans that had been issued to ratepayers.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Chief Financial Officer said the loan balance showed a capacity for further funds to be paid out.

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

3. CUSTOMER REQUESTS STATISTICS REPORT

A report from the Chief Financial Officer had been received which presented statistics relating to customer requests over the last 12 Months.

Cr D Grant commented on a report he had made regarding a leak on the corner of Irk and Medway Streets. This was an ongoing issue and several complaints had been made by other members of the public. He suggested a visible roading cone be placed near the leak to inform the public the issue had been reported. He asked if the customer request system noted repeat calls for the same issue.

The Officer said the system did accommodate repeat reports for same issue. That request would be investigated. He explained once a leak was reported the issue was triaged and there were 14 working days to attend to the leak. One of the first steps was to mark the area with blue paint to indicate the leak had been reported.

The 3 Waters Asset Manager told the committee the leak had been prioritised but other more significant leaks had taken precedence. At this time of year a big influx of leaks was common and there were limited resources to deal with those.

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

4. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2019

A report from the Accountant had been received together with a financial report for February 2019.

The Chief Financial Officer said there were no new variances to highlight and the Council was tracking favourably for the first nine months of the year.

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

5. QUATERLY DEBT REPORT (SC2168)

A report from the Chief Financial Officer had been received which covered the key details of the Council's debt and hedging profile.

The Chief Financial Officer informed the committee a \$3 million loan had just been rolled over at maturity and once it was included with the 2021 graph, the funding maturity profile would spread the risk.

The Chairman noted interest rates were less and would remain moderate in short to medium term. He was comfortable with the with the Council's present debt circumstance.

Cr Gardyne asked the rate of the rolled over amount. The Officer said it was a floating rate and was just under 2.5% and was hedged.

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

The meeting concluded at 5.13pm.