

Report of a meeting of the Operations Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 16 April 2019, at 4.52pm.

Present Cr Beale (Chairman), Crs Bolger, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and 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 one member of the public in the gallery.

Apologies His Worship the Mayor, Crs Davis and Dickson and the Chief Executive apologised for absence.

1. 3 WATERS OPERATIONS REPORT

A report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager had been received.

The Chairman asked if Coopers Wells levels had experienced any relief from recent rain.

The Manager replied there had been some relief but the river levels had dropped quite quickly, however a new bore was close to being commissioned. Referring to the Mataura water supply, the rain had saturated that catchment and the dam was consistently higher.

Cr Highsted noted consumption was tracking higher than it had in previous years. In response the Manager said he was not sure why this was the case but the levels would be monitored closely.

Cr Reid referred to the odour issues at the industrial hub that had previously caused concern and asked if any progress had been made to find a solution.

The Manager said specialist advice had been received and working with MVM, the issue was being managed to prevent on going issues.

Cr Sharp asked if anything had been undertaken to protect the second oxidation pond from the river.

The Manager replied that erosion protection had started and was to be completed by the end of the week.

The Manager reported there had been odour issues on Irk and Main Street and the cause had not been identified. An investigation was on going but CCTV inspection was difficult as the pipe had too much material built up in it which required cleaning before an inspection could commence.

The Chairman asked if any attention was given to checking drains in the main street near takeaway shops which were likely to have built up discharge in their wastewater drains.

The Manager said where there was trade waste discharge that property would have a trade waste consent. Additional monitoring was not undertaken due to the expense of that and an investigation would only be carried out if there was an issue.

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

2. REPORT FROM TRANSPORT MANAGER

A report from the Transport Manager had been received.

The Chairman said he had received a number of positive comments from East Gore residents regarding the new asphalt along the Esplanade footpath. He asked for progress on the heavy bypass at Avon Street.

The Manager said there had been a number of issues attached to that road including the seal and shape. Tests had been undertaken for achieving more stability along that area. This project had not been planned for, but it was hoped it could be achieved through existing contracts such as seal repair through Fulton Hogan. He said it might be possible to hold this work hold over the winter and commence repairs in the following season.

Cr D Grant asked if NZTA subsidised the heavy traffic bypass. The Manager said as it was elected by the Council to divert traffic around the bypass, any work undertaken was subsidised 55% by NZTA.

Cr Gardyne noted that tenders for Pyramid Bridge had closed and if the committee could be informed of the number of tenders received.

The Manager said a number of tenders had been received but he was not at liberty to discuss. On 1 May comparisons of the tenders would be undertaken.

Cr Reid commented that she had received a number of positive comments regarding the reconfiguration on Broughton Street and the new pedestrian crossing on that street.

The Manager said the issue with Ward and Sinclair and their encroachment on the reserve was still work in progress. A Survey of the site had been undertaken and would be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

In response to a question from Cr Gardyne regarding the repairs to Otama Road, the Manager reported that patching had been completed and the rest of the repair would follow.

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

3. PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT

A report from the General Manager Infrastructure had been received detailing progress on the infrastructure projects being undertaken by the Council.

The General Manager commented that there had been a good response with regard to tenders received for Pyramid Bridge construction. A process would be followed to ensure all legalities during the procurement process were adhered to. The evaluation process would be undertaken by a representative from the designers, Southland District Council, a property officer along with the Gore District Council.

Cr Sharp asked the estimated finish time for the construction of the bridge.

The General Manager said the intention was to complete construction within 14 – 18 months but additional time was needed for the resource consent process.

The Chairman asked for progress on the Gore water treatment upgrade. The General Manager said new membrane technology had come to light and once a number of trials had been undertaken a report will be submitted to the Council.

Cr D Grant asked if the Longford shared path was on hold until the water treatment plant upgrade was confirmed. The General Manager said it was a complex project. The business case had been submitted, and the decision on the proposed funding would be received in the near future but until then it was on hold.

Cr Highsted questioned the consultancy fees that had been paid to date and asked if more was to be spent.

The General Manger said it was the cost incurred to date.

Cr Highsted asking if the upgrade of the water treatment plant was within budget. The General Manager said the initial work and design had been completed and was ready for tender but there was still detail design to be undertaken. It was hoped this would not be more than more than a further 10-15%.

Cr Sharp asked how much money was put aside to pay for Pyramid Bridge. The Chief Financial Officer said the local share just under \$1m and would be funded by a loan. The depreciation in that year was used on other capital projects rated within that year and within that activity. Once the project was completed, that asset would be depreciated and that depreciation would be put in place to repay the loan on that asset.

Cr Gardyne asked how many cubic metres per day were being treated at the water treatment plants. The General Manager said on average 3500 to 3800 cubic metres per day but peak demand could reach 4,500 cubic metres. The initial upgrade was planned for 6000 cubic metres.

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

The meeting concluded at 5.43pm.