
Finance and Assurance Committee

OPEN MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of a meeting of Finance and Assurance Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill on 19 February 2025 at 9.30am. (9.32am – 11.33am)PE 11.04am – 11.33am))

PRESENT

Chairperson
Deputy chairperson
Councillors

Bruce Robertson
Rob Scott
Jaspreet Boparai
Don Byars
Paul Duffy
Darren Frazer
Sarah Greaney
Julie Keast
Christine Menzies
Tom O'Brien
Jon Spraggon

APOLOGIES

Derek Chamberlain
Margie Ruddenklau
Matt Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Group manager finance and assurance
Committee advisor

Anne Robson
Rachael Poole

1 Apologies

There were apologies for non attendance from Councillor Chamberlain and Councillor Wilson and from Councillor Ruddenklau who were on an approved leave of absence.

Moved Chairperson Robertson, seconded Deputy Mayor Menzies and **resolved:**

That the Finance and Assurance Committee accept the apologies.

2 Leave of absence

There were no requests for leave of absence.

3 Conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 Extraordinary/urgent items

There were no extraordinary/urgent items.

5 Confirmation of minutes

Resolution

Moved Chairperson Robertson, seconded Cr Frazer **and resolved:**

That the Finance and Assurance Committee confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

6 Public participation

There was no public participation

Reports

7.1 Finance and Assurance Committee work plan for the year ended 30 June 2025

Record No: R/25/2/3820

Group manager finance and assurance, Anne Robson spoke to the report and updated the committee on changes to the workplan.

A new report, Strategic Project has been added and will be a quarterly update until the completion of the project.

Resolution

Moved Chairperson Robertson, seconded Deputy chairperson Scott and resolved:

That the Finance and Assurance Committee:

- a) receives the report titled “Finance and Assurance Committee work plan for the year ended 30 June 2025”**
- b) notes amendments made to the workplan.**

7.2 Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2024

Record No: R/25/2/4172

Senior accountant, Joanie Nel and project accountant, Jo Hooper spoke to this report and gave an overview of the financial results for the six month to December 2024:

- NZTA roading program is behind due to NZTA funding not being synced to Councils financial year, and bridging finance is still to be released.
- committee is keen to discuss with staff in the future if quarterly financial reporting is often enough to allow the committee to make decisions.

Resolution

Moved Chairperson Robertson, seconded Cr Greaney and resolved:

That the Finance and Assurance Committee:

- a) receives the report titled “Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2024”.**

7.3 Draft 2025/2026 Annual Plan Financials and supporting information

Record No: R/25/1/694

Finance development co-ordinator, Nicole Taylor and financial accountant, Teresa Morgan spoke to this report and highlighted the following:

- 7.23% rate increase as opposed to forecasted 7.9%
- Mayor Scott is still advocating for roading with the new ministers
- District-wide projects will now be scoped to Council for approval
- No formal consultation on the Annual Plan, but there will still be lots of communication with our communities.

Resolution

Moved Deputy chairperson Scott, seconded Cr Duffy recommendations a – q, excluding recommendation m).

That the Finance and Assurance Committee:

- receives the report titled “Draft 2025/2026 Annual Plan Financials and supporting information” dated 15 February 2025.**
- determines that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**
- receives the draft 2025/2026 Annual Plan financial statements, detailed project listing, draft fees and charges as included in attachment A, B and D.**
- recommends to Council that the following changes be approved for 2024/2025 as requested by the following community boards and acknowledges that these changes have been already incorporated into the opening balance position for the 2025/2026 Annual Plan:**

Community Board Town: Project	Current budget (24/25)	Revised budget (24/25)	Recommended timing (year) and budget
Ardlussa			
P-10752 Balfour Playground – Equipment Renewal	\$120,000	\$120,000	Change funding from 100% loan fund to using \$24,356 from the Balfour gene reserve and a loan of \$95,644.
FFOOT100 A Waikaia Otta Seal Upper Newburn Road	\$65,000	\$0	Budget moved to 2025/2026.
Fiordland			

P-10933 Te Anau masterplan implementation	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$200,000 moved to 2025/2026.
Northern			
FBUILD003 – Lumsden information centre – exterior repaint	\$30,000	\$0	2025/2026 - \$30,000.
Community Board Town: Project	Current budget (24/25)	Revised budget (24/25)	Recommended timing (year) and budget
FBUILD001 –Garston playcentre building – exterior repaint	\$30,000	\$0	2025/2026 - \$30,000.
Oraka Aparima			
FFOOT004 Riverton – new footpaths	\$112,000	\$56,000	Project remains in 2024/2025 but reduced scope to be new dunnite footpath (one side of Richard Street) versus concrete.
Oreti			
Tree and hedge maintenance in Browns	\$75,000	\$28,000	Reduction to reflect actual cost.
Dipton repair/replace bridge across ditch	\$10,000	\$10,000	Change funding source to Winton/Wallacetown reserve from Dipton General Reserve as per Oreti minutes 18/12/23.
RSA Hall P-11440 in Refurbishment	\$40,000	\$40,000	As per minuted Aug 2024 resolution change scope and funding source from loan to Winton Hall Reserve.
Ryal Bush CC P-10577 Roof replacement	\$76,667	\$76,667	As per minuted Aug 2024 resolution change scope.
Limehills CC P-10565 NOW Heating replacement	\$18,000	\$13,000	As per minuted Aug 2024 resolution change scope, budget and funding source from loan to Limehills CC Reserve.
Dipton P-10559 Hall re-roof	\$122,000	\$76,667	Cost came in at around the \$76,667 BOF funding grant.
Winton P-10893 Anzac Oval Beautification Project	\$45,063	\$10,000	Reduction, as main project for Anzac Oval already CF to 2027/28, this years budget was CF from last year and covers maintenance work + removal of two big trees only, change funding source from Loan/Res to Winton Property Sales Reserve.
FFOOT001P Winton Footpath renewal project	\$245,100	\$0	Remove budget from 24/25 due to three year funding approval from NZTA/Waka Kotahi.
Tuatapere Te Waewae			
P-11444 Tuatapere Hall – Remove chimneys and structural report.	\$9,000	\$9,000	Change only to the scope to remove the structural report. New project name Tuatapere Hall – Remove chimneys.

P-11443 Orepuki Hall – Handrails, parking and landscaping	\$20,000	\$20,000	Change the funding of this project to move \$3,618 from reserve funding to loan funding. Total budget now \$9,259 reserves and \$10,741 loan.
Community Board Town: Project	Current budget (24/25)	Revised budget (24/25)	Recommended timing (year) and budget
FFOOT102A Tuatapere – New streetlight on Birch Street.	\$2,000	\$2,000	Change the funding of this project from loan to the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Reserve.
FFOOT001G Orepuki Footpath renewal project	\$54,503	\$0	Remove budget from 2024/2025 due to three year funding approval from NZTA/Waka Kotahi.
FFOOT001M Tuatapere Footpath renewal project	\$113,821	\$0	Remove budget from 2024/2025 due to three year funding approval from NZTA/Waka Kotahi.
Waihopai Toetoe			
P-10864 Edendale and Wyndham Creation of multi-use track	\$684,195	\$84,195	The annual plan budget of \$600,000 to be moved to 2025/2026.
FFOOT107 Gorge Road – Speed feedback sign at Gorge Road Invercargill Highway	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000 – 2025/2026.
FFOOT110 Gorge Road – Speed feedback sign at Tokanui Gorge Road Highway	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000 – 2025/2026.
FFOOT001R Edendale – Wyndham Footpath renewal project	\$242,563	\$0	Remove budget from 2024/2025 due to three year funding approval from NZTA/Waka Kotahi.
Wallace Takitimu			
Nightcaps: P-11201 – McGregor Park development	\$100,000	\$100,000	Change the funding of this project to move \$15,796 from loan to reserve funding. Funding split now as \$64,883 reserve and \$35,117 loan.
Nightcaps: FHALL054 – Nightcaps Hall – Repairs to exterior wall and minor repairs	\$93,820	\$0	Project moved to 2026/2027.
FFOOT001H Otautau Footpath renewal project	\$210,000	\$0	Remove budget from 2024/2025 due to three year funding approval from NZTA/Waka Kotahi.
Riverton Harbour Subcommittee			
P-11225 Riverton Harbour T-Wharf Renewal	\$300,000	\$200,000	The long term plan loan portion of the budget of \$100,000 to be moved to 2025/2026.

- f) acknowledges the resolution from the Ardlussa Community Board recommending to Council that a contestable fund for the development of cycles**

trails in Southland District be established and that this be funded by reserves or interest on the forestry portfolio

- g) acknowledges the resolution from the Fiordland Community Board recommending to Council that a contestable fund for the development of cycle trails in Southland be established**
- h) recommends to Council that at this time no contestable fund for the development of cycle trails be established due to the level of existing Council financial commitments**
- i) requests staff discuss with the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board the request for funding from the Central Western Archives**
- j) requests staff bring back to Council a report on the District Heritage Fund as part of the planning for the next Long Term Plan**
- k) recommends to Council that it support the Owaka Going Forward Group in the planning phase of a Dark Sky reserve and request staff to suggest they contact Great South to support them in this process.**
- l) acknowledges this Annual Plan includes, and recommends to Council the approval to repay \$3.23million of 42 internal loans at 30 June 2025 from the District Operations Reserve as detailed in attachment C.**
- n) agrees and recommends to Council that no formal consultation on the Annual Plan be undertaken due to no significant or material differences from year two of the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan.**
- o) recommends to Council that it undertakes the special consultative procedure in relation to the new or changed changes detailed in Attachment A where required or deemed appropriate.**
- p) recommends to Council that it approve the use of the relevant information provided in this report to support the provision of information to the community on the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26**
- q) acknowledges that changes to the financial and rate information may occur before finalising the Annual Plan 2025/2026 in June 2025.**

CARRIED

Moved Deputy chairperson Scott, seconded Cr Duffy

That the Finance and Assurance Committee:

- m) **considers the projected draft financial results, including the projected operating deficit for 2025/2026, to be financially prudent given Council's financial position and previous policy decisions around the funding of depreciation, noting the projected return to surplus in 2031/2032 as per the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.**

CARRIED

Councillor Byars and Councillor Boparai voted against recommendation m).

During the above discussion, Councillor Byars left the room at 10.19am and returned at 10.21am.

Public excluded

Exclusion of the public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolution

Moved Chairperson Robertson, seconded Cr Keast **and resolved:**

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

C8.1 Strategic project update

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
Strategic project update	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the</p>	That the public conduct of the whole or 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.

	<p>information would be likely to damage the public interest.</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p>	
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

The public were excluded at 11.04am..

Resolutions in relation to the confidential items are recorded in the confidential section of these minutes and are not publicly available unless released here.

The meeting concluded at 11.33am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of a meeting of the Finance and Assurance Committee held on 19 February 2025.

DATE:

CHAIRPERSON: