

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 30 JANUARY AND WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024, WHICH COMMENCED AT 9AM EACH DAY, TO CONSIDER BUDGETS IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024 – 2034.

PRESENT

Mayor D Gordon (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, Councillors A Blackie, R Brine, B Cairns, J Goldsworthy, T Fulton, N Mealings, P Redmond, J Ward and P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Millward (Chief Executive) (virtual), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), N Robinson (General Manager Finance and Business Support), G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Rooding), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), K LaValley (General Manager Planning, Regulation and Environment), S Salthouse (General Manager Organisational Development and Human Resources), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), J McBride (Rooding and Transport Manager), K Waghorn (Solid Waste Asset Manager), C Roxburgh (Project Delivery Manager), J Recker (Stormwater and Wastewater Manager), C Fahey (Water and Wastewater Asset Manager), G MacLeod (Community Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), R Hawthorne (Property Manager), D Roxborough (Implementation Project Manager - District Regeneration), M Bacon (Development Planning Manager), W Taylor (Manager Building Unit), W Harris (Planning Manager), B Charlton (Environmental Services Manager), S Nichols (Governance Manager), A Keiller (Chief Information Officer), P Christensen (Finance Manager), M Harris (Customer Services Manager), M McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation), K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader), H Street (Corporate Planner – Policy and Strategy), T Kunkel (Governance Team Leader), K Rabe (Governance Advisor), and E Stubbs (Governance Officer).

It was noted that there were approximately up to six people in the public gallery at varying times of the two day meeting.

Meeting Adjournments:

Tuesday 30 January 2024

The meeting adjourned at 10 am for refreshments and reconvened at 10.10am.

The meeting adjourned at 1.03 pm for lunch and reconvened at 1.45 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.24pm for refreshments and reconvened at 3.40 pm.

The public excluded portion of the meeting occurred from 10.10am to 10.25am.

Wednesday 31 January 2024

The meeting adjourned at 10.15am for refreshments and reconvened at 10.30am.

The meeting adjourned at 1.28pm for lunch and reconvened at 2.10pm.

The public excluded portion of the meeting occurred from 3.40 to 4pm.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received on the morning of Tuesday, 30 January 2024.

Councillor Blackie departed at 11.55am on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Ward

On Wednesday, 31 January 2024, an apology for lateness was received and sustained from Deputy Mayor Atkinson, who arrived at 9.32am.

The apology for early departure by Councillor Blackie on Wednesday 31 January 2024 be sustained.

CARRIED

2. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Councillor T Fulton declared an interest in Item 5.1, 'Oxford Health and Fitness Trust Loan Request,' as he was a member of the Trust.

3. **OVERVIEW AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

3.1 **Overview** - N Robinson (General Manager Finance and Business Support)

N Robinson commented that the Auditors were on site and Office of the Auditor General had undertaken a hot review (preliminary preview) of the Consultation Document (CD). All documentation for approval for consultation would be considered by the Council on 27 February. She spoke of the key documents, the communications plan on the website and advertisements through various medium, along with several 'drop in' sessions in the community.

N Robinson commented on the Risk and Assumptions section of the LTP and the Councillor involvement. Of the identified 21 risks, natural disasters were high (environmental) and those underpinned considerations to be made over the next few days.

There were no major changes to policies with assets being revalued in June 2022 and she spoke on the impacts on depreciation and funding. There were some changes to Development Contributions (DC) policy and schedules to support that had been distributed.

Comment was made on district growth, the use of StatsNZ information and the upgrade to high growth (from medium-high) with 4,950 new properties projected over the next 10 years. WDC is trending 700 homes this year so we are already ahead of the growth scale.

There are five key areas being considered for consultation which aligns with the Council vision, flowing down to 122 actions. Comment was made on the 17 facilities across the district and the need to meet the needs of the community. The Civic centre was previously put on hold and now is the appropriate time to re-evaluate the needs. Comment was made of the resilience team and the positive difference it would make to serve the community. The consultation was also seeking public views on the Rangiora Eastern Link Road and on loan funding.

The rates projections are 8.9% as the budget sits now, and any changes will impact on that. The team had stripped back without impacting on level of service and budgets included inflation, however it excludes kerbside collection and rates collect on behalf of Ecan and Hurunui District Council.

N Robinson spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which explained the rates, expenditure and operating revenue. J Millward reflected on the past workshops, inflation and movement from the last LTP. Mayor Gordon commented on the comprehensive overview provided and the Councils current position, the work of staff over many months to be as prudent as practical and balance the needs of the community. .

Councillors asked several general questions to clarify points mentioned in the presentation to assist their thinking over the next few days.

Mayor Gordon commented that the audit fees, letter and response following discussions at the Audit & Risk Committee had been commented on. The Development Contributions would be dealt with tomorrow as minor changes had been provided yesterday from staff.

Procedural Motion

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

That the Council receives the budget pack papers and approve the recommended budgets proforma, subject to debate of the meeting.

CARRIED

4. MEMO/ REPORTS

Utilities and Rooding Unit

4.1 Memo – 2024/25 Capital Works Programme Review – G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Rooding) and Colin Roxburgh (Project Delivery Manager)

C Roxburgh introduced the report noting that it was a similar format to what had been provided in the last couple of years. Greater scrutiny had been applied to project justification. A summary of the capital budget proposed had been provided in Table 1. In order to deliver the \$49 million capital programme, it was anticipated that an equivalent of 15.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff was required, and the available Project Delivery Unit (PDU) resource had been assessed at 13.2 FTEs, meaning around 19% of the work program would need to be delivered by external resources. It was a high workload however could be achieved. The proposed 2024/25 program was comparable to what had been delivered in the past at \$35 - \$74 million.

Mayor Gordon referred to Item 4.3 - funding of the Infrastructure Resilience Team and asked if that resource would lessen reliance on consultants. G Cleary explained from a PDU point of view, no. However, from an entire Utilities and Rooding perspective, it would increase overall capacity and decrease the reliance on consultants. Staff employed by the Council had a lower charge-out rate and did not have the costs associated with 'getting up to speed'.

Councillor Williams asked if enough development contributions were charged in order to cover drainage issues that may arise following the completion of a development, as otherwise, the Council had to cover those costs. C Roxburgh noted there was an upcoming development contributions report. As the philosophy behind drainage was that a development was designed to be drainage neutral, most developments did not have drainage development contributions, and it was critical to ensure developments did achieve neutrality. G Cleary added that some areas did have specific development contributions.

Councillor Williams asked, in the case the development did not achieve neutrality, was there a fund to put development contributions to correct? G Cleary referred to Mandeville, which was a classic example where retrofitting drainage was required. It was not possible to retrospectively put cost onto future development. It was a situation to avoid in the first place, and any new development was put under scrutiny. However, there were legacy issues to manage.

J Goldsworthy asked if the Infrastructure Resilience Team was decreased the 30% staff availability reduction that was applied. G Cleary replied no, but they would be beneficial, and there would be many efficiencies.

Moved: Councillor Goldsworthy

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Council

(a) **Receives** Memo no. 231121186900 for information.

CARRIED

4.2 **Mandeville Resurgence and Channel Diversion Upgrade Project - J Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager)**

J Recker spoke to the report which requested approval for the adoption of the existing drainage path upgrade option A for Stage 1 and to authorise further assessment of an alternative Stage 2 option that would divert stormflows into the Eyre River.

Councillor Fulton queried if staff had done a hydrology investigation in relation to directing water to the Eyre River. G Cleary replied that Stage 2 would include further investigation of the connections which would be carried out to direct flow to the Eyre River whereas Stage 1 was proposed to connect to the Ohoka Stream.

Mayor Gordon queried if staff had consulted with Mr Winters to address his concerns regarding possible increased flows to Ohoka and Silverstream Rivers. G Cleary answered that staff were currently working with the relevant Drainage Advisory Groups to assess river capacities, however the Stage 1 option dealt with upgrading pinch points and therefore should not negatively impact river flows downstream. The Mayor requested that staff contact Mr Winters to explain what was intended and why they believed this would not increase flows. In response to a query from Mayor Gordon, G Cleary replied that Stage 1 would not affect groundwater levels.

Councillor Redmond suggested that recommendation (b) and (c) below be removed to allow further investigation and consultation prior to a decision being taken. G Cleary stated that he did not recommend such an action as this matter had already been consulted on and for the Council to effectively consult on the Long Term Plan (LTP) they needed to have a preferred option and budget. The public would then have the option to state their preferred option, however any change to the preferred option would affect the budget.

Councillor Fulton queried the viability of Stage 1 and queried how many residents would benefit from this very localised option. G Cleary replied that the area that would benefit would be quite large and affect quite a number of residents as the impacts would be felt from No 10 Road to Bradleys Road and beyond.

Councillor Williams suggested that recommendation (b) be removed and an amendment to recommendation (c) which was to replace "Stage 1" to "Mandeville drainage". G Cleary replied that by not signalling a preferred option when consulting for the LTP would cause confusion and noted that by offering three options but only budget for the "preferred" budget would send the wrong message to the public.

Councillor Redmond asked what the difference in the budgets were for Option A and Option C. J Recker confirmed that Option A was estimated at \$1.6 million while Option C was estimated at \$5.3 million.

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231205195798.
- (b) **Approves** the proposed Stage 1 solution to upgrade the existing main drainage channel from Redfern Lane through Millfield subdivision and into Bradleys Road drain.
- (c) **Notes** that a total budget of \$1,675,200 has been added to the draft budgets for Stage 1 as part of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan. This budget has been split over 2024/25 and 2025/26.

- (d) **Authorises** Council Staff to further assess an alternative Stage 2 option that would divert stormflows into the Eyre River.
- (e) **Notes** that a total budget of \$20,940,000 has been added to the draft budgets for Stage 2 in the later part of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan and spread over six years.
- (f) **Notes** rating for Stage 1 is rated by the general account and Stage 2 will be considered as part of the rating review.
- (g) **Notes** that Stage 2 costs will be refined prior to the next Long Term Plan.
- (h) **Notes** that the design for the Stage 1 works will be submitted to the Utilities and Roading Committee for approval prior to construction.
- (i) **Circulates** this report to the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Ward supported the motion as this matter had been discussed in detail with plenty of information provided by staff. She believed that Stage 1 would provide an immediate solution for many residents while Stage 2 was assessed and progressed for later implementation. She believed that this was the right decision for the best long term solution and showed that the Council had listened to the public by avoiding the Kaiapoi and Silverstream Rivers.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson agreed with Councillor Ward, stating that a decision had to be made rather than continual discussions and consultations.

Mayor Gordon supported the motion and the comments made by his colleagues that a solution needed to be agreed on. Endorsing Stage 1 provided time to carry out further assessment and costing for Stage 2. Mayor Gordon noted that he had a lot of respect for Mr Winters' opinion which was based on local knowledge and appreciated the problems occurring on his properties which were located in both areas. Therefore he requested that staff meet with Mr Winters to explain what the Council could and could not do and why this was the preferred option.

Councillor Fulton noted the change in waterflows in the area and reiterated that cost effectiveness be considered prior to making any decisions. He reminded Council that many millions of dollars had been spent on repairs to properties and infrastructure after rain events and this cost should be taken into account which budgeting was considered in any future consideration.

Councillor Williams supported the motion however noted that a different Stage 1 had gone out for public consultation and raised his concern that the Ohoka Stream could not support further water than it currently carried. He requested that further evidence be brought to the Utilities and Roading Committee on the ability of the stream to cope with flood waters. He also had reservations on the costings provided and the impact on the Ohoka area.

Councillor Remond stated he had confidence in staff however he also respected local knowledge and would keep an open mind during the consideration of submissions on this topic, while acknowledging the budget implications.

Councillor Mealings noted that a robust consultation had been undertaken and believed that Stage 1 would alleviate problems for many residents. She noted that Stage 2 would be retained for a later financial year once assessment had been completed and funding identified.

Councillor Ward reiterated that a decision needed to be made and Stage 1 gave the Council some time to consider Stage 2 for the future and she looked forward to seeing the submissions from the public on this issue.

4.3 **Funding Flood Resilience and Improvements** – G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roading) and K Simpson (3 Waters Manager)

K Simpson introduced the report, which sought approval for the ongoing funding of the Infrastructure Resilience Team and funding of flood resilience projects. He noted that by the establishment of this team, the Council had been proactive in dealing with future flood events and other emergencies and would reduce the reliance on consultants. This team would originally be focused on drainage and flood-related matters; however, in time, it would also be available to assist other business units as required.

In response to a query by Councillor Goldsworthy regarding external funding, K Simpson acknowledged that during the earthquakes, money from the Government and insurance companies had been received to assist with the immediate aftermath. However, the good understanding of what would be required had allowed the Council to successfully attract further funding from the Government, such as 'Shovel Ready Funding'.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Williams

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231207197280.
- (b) **Approves** for consultation as part of the draft Long Term Plan the ongoing funding of the Infrastructure Resilience Team with an annual cost of \$480,000 to be funded 50% from operational budgets and 50% from capital works budgets.
- (c) **Notes** that the rating impact of the funding 50% of the Infrastructure Resilience Team from operational budgets on a District wide basis would increase rates by approximately \$9.75 (including GST) per ratepayer.
- (d) **Approves** for consultation as part of the draft Long Term Plan the Flood Resilience Projects capital works budget of \$20 million spread over 10 years of the Long Term Plans.
- (e) **Notes** that over the last decade Council has committed this level of funding to flood response and resilience in response to a series of events. Going forward this budget allowance enables this to occur in a planned and proactive manner.
- (f) **Notes** that the rating impact of loan funding the \$20 million for Flood Resilience Projects on a District wide basis over a 25 year period this would progressively increase rates by a total of approximately \$55.40 (including GST) per ratepayer over the next 10 years.
- (g) **Notes** that the combined rating impact of the Infrastructure Resilience Team and Flood Resilience Projects budgets will increase the overall rating take by 0.3% (of which 0.27% is operating expenditure) in year 1 of the Long Term Plan increasing to 1.8% in year 10 of the Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Godon commended staff for this initiative noting that extreme weather events were a regular occurrence rather than the once in 50 year event as previously forecast. He believed this was an investment in the future and would mean that solid data could be collected, which was vital for dealing with future events as well as providing protection for the communities within the district.

Councillor Williams believed that it was important that this team was used to support current infrastructure and the data used to improve future decisions on development and infrastructure.

Councillor Mealings agreed and believed that this was an excellent initiative stating that previously \$10 million was spent on unbudgeted projects. However this team would free up staff to deal with business as usual rather than delaying current projects while dealing with flood-related issues, which the Council had responsibility for managing.

K Simpson noted that the School Road report, which was lying on the table awaiting a decision, had not been included in the budget before the Council.

4.4 **2024/25 Development Contribution Schedule for Consultation with Draft Long Term Plan** – L Hurley (Project Planning and Quality Team Leader) and C Roxburgh (Project Delivery Manager)

L Hurley noted the report was to seek approval for the draft Development Contribution (DC) Schedules. The DC schedules and Council budget should align, and in completing the review, there were a several minor changes that needed to be updated in the budget. The schedule for review attached to the report included the changes anticipated in the budget, and if approved, the budget would then be updated before consultation.

L Hurley provided an overview of the minor changes, which included; four Tram Road safety improvements projects which had been in year 11 and were now in year 10, two sewer budgets in the Rangiora and Kaiapoi Sewer DCs that had been identified to be more appropriate to be within a Development Contribution Area meaning a targeted area would be charged, several reserve projects had been removed and the stage nine sewer in Rangiora budget had been updated. It was noted that once the final budget for Community Infrastructure was available, it would also be included.

L Hurley noted that the only change in the policy that reflected through to the schedules was the proposal to collect for the Mandeville amalgamation for 20 years rather than 10 years due to under-correction for the project.

Councillor Cairns enquired about contributions for West Kaiapoi, and L Hurley explained West Kaiapoi was a development area, so it paid additional DCs to the General Kaiapoi account. West Kaiapoi was Silverstream and shown in the schedule maps.

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240110002089.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft 2024/34 Development Contribution Schedules as per Attachment i, for consultation with the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (Trim No. 240112003479).
- (c) **Approves** the Draft 2024/25 Development Contribution maps as per Attachment ii, for consultation with the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (Trim No. 231124189055).

CARRIED

- 4.5 **Draft 2024 Utilities and Roading Activity Management Plans** – S Collin (3 Waters Asset Management Advisor), C Fahey (Water and Wastewater Asset Manager), J Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), Y Warnaar (Asset Planning Engineer (Roading)), J McBride (Roading and Transport Manager) and K Waghorn (Solid Waste Asset Manager)

K Simpson advised that the purpose of the report was to request the adoption of the Activity Management Plans for Three Waters, Transport and Solid Waste. The final version would be complete in May/June 2024 following an audit review.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231120185994.
- (b) **Adopts** the following completed draft 2024 Activity Management Plans for Water, Wastewater, Drainage, Stock water, Transport and Solid Waste, as the underlying documents to the Infrastructure strategy that will be consulted with the community through the LTP.

Scheme / Document Reference	TRIM Number
Utilities and Roading AMP Introduction Chapter 2024	231124189458
Water Supply AMP	230516070466
Wastewater AMP	230710103391
Urban Drainage AMP	230726112895
Rural Drainage AMP	230503062547
Stock water Race AMP	221219218512
Transport AMP Executive Summary	220328046305
Transport AMP Introduction	220328046307
Transport AMP Strategic Business Case	231003155657
Transport AMP Levels of Service	220328046309
Transport AMP Future Demand	221219218512
Transport AMP Risk Management	220623107321
Transport AMP Life Cycle Management Plan	221206210785
Transport AMP Financial Summary	221206210786
Transport AMP Asset Management Practices	221206210788
Transport AMP Plan Improvement and Monitoring	221206210789
Solid Waste Activity Management Plan	221219218511,

- (c) **Notes** that the final suite of Activity Management Plans, adjusted from Audit recommendations and for any changes made during the LTP consultation period, will be reported at the June 2024 Council meeting for adoption.
- (d) **Circulate** a copy of this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon commented that the plans were important documents which underpinned all asset management and activities for the future and noted that a large amount of work went into the plans. The Council had a 150-year infrastructure strategy, which had been commended by the Auditor General.

4.5(b) **2024/25 Development Contribution Policy for Consultation with Draft Long Term Plan** – L Hurley (Project Planning and Quality Team Leader) and C Roxburgh (Project Delivery Manager)

L Hurley noted changes to the Development Contribution Policy was primarily to provide clarity to existing provisions and to ensure staff processes were accurately reflected.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231211199172.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft 2024/25 Development Contribution Policy as per Attachment i, for consultation with the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (Record No. 231031173300).
- (c) **Approves** the Chief Executive to make minor wording amendments to the Draft 2024/25 Development Contribution Policy prior to consultation being undertaken in conjunction with the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, if required.

CARRIED

Community and Recreation Unit

4.6 **MainPower Stadium Management Agreement and Operational Funding** – M McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation)

M McGregor explained that ongoing discussions had occurred between the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust (NCSRT) and the Council regarding the MainPower Stadium Management Agreement. In particular, the NCSRT's loss in operating cost of the management of the community courts area. He advised that the revenue generated by the Stadium was not sufficient to meet the operating costs sustainably and ensure the availability of the facilities to the community at a reasonable cost. Hence, staff worked with the NCSRT to establish a rent review process and methodology that would see the NCRST pay the Council a fair lease fee, which also recognised the work being done by the NCRST. It was estimated that an additional \$100,000 in operational funding would be required per year to ensure the operational sustainability and upkeep of the Stadium.

In response to a question from Councillor Williams, M McGregor noted that the rent review conducted by the Council indicated that rentals for commercial health and fitness facilities in the district were between \$180 and \$220 per square metre. He confirmed that under the proposed model, the NCSRT would be expected to pay market rentals for the fitness centre, the physiotherapists' rooms, and the cafe at the Stadium.

Councillor Williams further questioned why an additional \$100,000 was required if the NCSRT would be increasing its revenue by charging market-related rentals for the commercial facilities. C Brown explained that all the profit made by the NCSRT was reinvested into the development of the sports and recreation programmes they host in the district. The NCSRT was best suited to deliver these sports and recreation programmes due to their skills and experience; it would cost the Council much more to deliver these programmes itself. The Council could re-tender the contact to a more commercial concern. However, the Stadium would then become income-driven and not community-driven. C Brown noted that even with the increased rental for the commercial areas, thereby increasing the Council's income, it was still insufficient to cover the fee the Council had to pay to the NCRST for the successful management of the Stadium.

Councillor Fulton enquired what would happen to clubs and community organisations if the fees for the use of the community courts area were market-related. C Brown advised that the clubs and community organisations would not be able to use the Stadium and would either disband or go elsewhere.

Councillor Redmond asked if the commercial rental was significantly higher, would it reduce the additional \$100,000 operating expenditure required. C Brown noted that the commercial rental would be based on an updated market valuation, and the rental received would be written off against the additional operating cost required.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Ward

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No 240118006993.
- (b) **Approves** a change in agreement for the operation of Mainpower Stadium indoor courts, administration area, and the function room from a lease agreement to a management agreement.
- (c) **Approves** the inclusion of an additional \$100,000 in the annual operating budget for Mainpower Stadium in the 2024-34 Draft Long-Term Plan.
- (d) **Notes** the Fitness Centre, Café and Active Health areas will remain under a commercial lease agreement.
- (e) **Notes** should the recommendations included in this report be adopted in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, staff will bring a report on the management agreement (including relevant performance measures) back for Council approval.
- (f) **Notes** that this report is considered as part of the budget commentary and financial spreadsheets being presented to the Council as part of the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan budget.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine commented that the Council needed to support the NCSRT's management of the Stadium to ensure that the facility remained available to clubs and community organisations. He commended the NCSRT for the work they were doing in sports and recreational development.

Councillor Ward concurred with the comments made by Councillor Brine. She congratulated the NCSRT on the implementation of the Reactivate Programme, aimed at finding more natural solutions to improving people's overall health to help reduce reliance on medications.

Councillor Williams supported the motion, noting that he was pleased that market-related rental would be paid for the commercial activities at the Stadium.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson supported the motion, however, he believed that the fees charged for the commercial activities at the stadium should be compatible with other similar facilities in the district to ensure the highest possible income for the NCSRT to plough back into the community.

4.7 **Summary of Recommendations for Sports Facilities Network Plan Review – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager)**

G MacLeod presented a summary of the recommendations for the Sports Facilities Network Plan Review (the Plan). The Plan outlined the significant issues associated with Greenspace and Aquatic activities and assets for the next ten years. The Plan identified future funding requirements and upgrades to maintain service levels, manage growth and renew existing assets. G MacLeod noted the addition \$1.3 million budget provision made for a shared project with the Southbrook Sports Club for the refurbishment of the Southbrook pavilion. He also highlighted the additional \$500,000 required as a contribution to groundworks for a second cricket oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora.

Mayor Gordon suggested that the addition of \$1.3 million and \$500,000 should be approved as placeholders in the draft 2024-34 LTP. He noted that there were many community organisations competing for funding, and Southbrook Sports Club and Canterbury County Cricket Association (CCCA) still needed to prove their commitment to the proposed projects. C Brown agreed that this would be the best way forward, and he suggested that the CCCA be invited to present their proposed future plans to the Council.

Mayor Gordon questioned if the district would lose the CCCA investment if the Council did not signal its commitment to the development of a second cricket oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora. C Brown noted that the CCCA wanted to establish a second home in Rangiora; however, to do so, they needed to develop a lighthouse training facility at great cost. Proven Council buy-in would make it easier for them to raise the necessary funding, thereby retaining first-class cricket in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Williams questioned what guarantee the Council had that the Southbrook Sports Club would maintain a new clubhouse, as the Council would not own the building. C Brown advised that the ownership of the proposed new building still had to be determined. He acknowledged that it would be better if the Council owned the building. C Brown noted that it was not the club's fault that they could not maintain its facilities due to the high increase in operating costs because if they increased their club fees accordingly, community members would not be able to join.

Councillor Williams further enquired about the continued cost to the Council for the long-term maintenance of the proposed new club building and cricket oval. C Brown confirmed that the operational costs of the proposed new building and cricket oval still had to be finalised and had therefore not been included in the budget. However, reports would be submitted to the Council in future detailing these costs.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson expressed a concern that the Council was setting a precedent by funding club buildings. C Brown explained that the Southbrook Pavilion was a key component of the Council's Community Facilities Network as it was not only a clubhouse, many community groups were using the facility to host a variety of activities. If the Southbrook Pavilion was no longer in use, the Council would have to provide a community hall or facility in the Southbrook area. He noted that the Council had funded car parks and changing facilities at several clubs in the past and therefore believed that the Council would not be setting a precedent.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Council

(a) **Receives** Report No. 240118007001.

- (b) **Approves** as a placeholder the addition of \$1.3 million into the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan for a shared project with Southbrook Sports Club as Councils contribution to the retention of a community building and changing block at Southbrook Park.
- (c) **Approves** as a placeholder the addition of \$500,000 in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan as a contribution to ground works for a second cricket oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora.
- (d) **Notes** the \$500,000 is a contribution towards Canterbury Country Cricket installing a second Cricket Oval. This being in year 2 and 3 of the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
- (e) **Notes** the second Cricket Oval would be leased and operated by Canterbury Country Cricket as per the conditions that they currently hold under Mainpower Oval.
- (f) **Notes** that this report is considered as part of the budget commentary and financial spreadsheets being presented to the Council as part of the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan budget.
- (g) **Notes** budget currently exists within Greenspace for sports facility provision, the recommendations of the review would fit within this budget, the exceptions being the Southbrook building and the Cricket Oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora.

CARRIED

Councillor Williams Against

Mayor Gordon commented that the Southbrook Pavilion was not fit for purpose and it needed to be brought up to code. He, therefore, did not dispute that a new club building was required. He also wanted the CCCA to remain in the Waimakariri. However, both the Southbrook Sports Club and the CCCA had much work to do to convince the Council to support the new club building and cricket oval, hence the approval as placeholders. Mayor Gordon noted that funding criteria had become more stringent, and it was a lot harder for community organisations to secure funding.

Councillor Brine endorsed the Council's support for the development of a second cricket oval in Rangiora. He commended the CCCA for the work they have been doing and did not doubt that the project would be a success under its management. However, Councillor Brine expressed concern regarding the Southbrook Sports Clubs Board of Trustees' commitment to the development of a new club building.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson supported the motion, however, he reiterated his concern that the Council was setting a precedent by assisting clubs with the development of facilities. He believed that the Council was already contributing to the Southbrook facilities by making the land available for development, and ratepayers could not afford to assist clubs' development any further.

Councillor Ward supported the motion as over 40,000 played sports at Southbrook per annum. She suggested that the community be canvassed to ascertain if they wish to retain the facility and, if so, they need to step up and take responsibility. Councillor Ward noted that she also supported the development of a second cricket oval in Rangiora as she was sure that the CCCA would be able to deliver the project successfully.

Councillor Fulton supported the motion as the Council had a responsibility to enable community groups to increase participation in sports across gender, ethnicity and capability. By not supporting sports clubs, the Council would be making it more challenging for some community groups to participate.

Councillor Redmond supported the comments made by Councillor Brine and Deputy Mayor Atkinson.

Councillor Williams expressed a concern that the Council could not afford to assist the Southbrook Sports Club and the CCCA. He was also concerned that the long-term operational costs of the proposed new building and cricket oval, which the Council may have to carry, were currently unknown.

Mayor Gordon concurred with the sentiments raised by previous speakers and stressed that the Southbrook Sports Club and the CCCA had much work to do to convince him to support the projects.

4.8 **Aquatics Plan Update Report** – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood provided an overview of the updated District Aquatics Plan, which was first developed in 2019. However, the plan did not anticipate the impact of the Covid pandemic on Council facilities. M Greenwood noted that attendance was once again up, and consideration was needed for the further development of facilities to ensure the Council was able to meet the community demand. The updated plan indicated a need for the development of Hydrotherapy facilities for mature residents, leisure activities at the Kaiapoi Aquatic Facility and the updating of the changing facilities.

Councillor Cairns enquired if the Aquatic Facilities Fees and Charges would be analysed to ascertain how many people used the various fee and concession options. He also asked if it was advisable to increase the fees for users from other districts. C Brown noted that the Fees and Charges could be analysed if required. However, if the Council increase the fees for users from other districts, its fees would be higher than Christchurch City Council, which offered more extensive services. This may lead to a loss in patronage.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240118007000.
- (b) **Notes** that development of Hydrotherapy and Leisure facilities would align with current community demand as detailed in the District Aquatic Plan.
- (c) **Notes** integration of the Dudley Pavilion and Dudley Pool facilities would see higher activation and engagement with efficient use of spaces aligning with recommendations in the District Aquatics and Community Facilities Network Plans.
- (d) **Notes** that the development of a hydro-slide would best be considered again in the future planning following the construction of Parakiore in Christchurch.
- (e) **Approves** funding for these projects being moved out beyond the current Long Term Plan cycle.

CARRIED

Councillor Williams Against

Councillor Mealings supported the motion and noted that the development of a hydroslide had youth support. However, with the market currently saturated with hydroslide developments in neighbouring districts it would be wise to wait and retest the market following the opening of Parakiore in Christchurch.

Councillor Williams did not believe that the Council could afford to develop the Hydrotherapy and Leisure facilities and he therefore did not support the motion.

Finance and Business Support Unit

4.9 Review of Rating Policy – M Harris (Customer Services Manager)

M Harris advised that in an effort to reduce the number of Council policies, multiple policies required under the Local Government Act 2002 were combined into a single policy.

There were no questions from elected members.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Atkison Seconded: Councillor Williams

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240117006130.
- (b) **Approves** the draft rating policy for consultation as part of the 2024 – 2034 Draft Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12 DECEMBER 2023

4.10 Oxford Health and Fitness Trust Loan Request – K Howat (Team Leader Parks and Facilities)

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Councillor Fulton withdrew from the Council Chamber and did not participate in deliberations.

K Howat advised that the Oxford Health and Fitness Centre was a popular facility for the local community since its opening. The Oxford Health and Fitness Trust (the Trust) owned and rented the facility to the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust (NCSRT), which managed the centre. The Trust had submitted a loan application to the Rata Foundation to build a 153-square-metre extension onto the existing gym facility. However, the Trust was aware that as a contestable fund, there was no guarantee their application would succeed. Hence, they had also approached the Council for a possible \$200,000 loan should their Rata application be declined.

Mayor Gordon enquired if staff were satisfied that the Trust would be able to repay the loan. K Howat advised that the Council acted as a guarantor for a \$150,000 loan when the Trust built the Fitness Centre in 2011, which the Trust paid off in six months. The Trust was in an excellent financial position, and its revenue was expected to increase with the projected membership increase enabled by the extension.

Councillor Redmond sought clarity on whether the Trust was requesting a loan or asking the Council to act as a guarantor for a loan. K Howat confirmed that the Trust was requesting a loan if their loan application to the Rata Foundation was unsuccessful.

Councillor Williams questioned if the Trust would also be repaying the interest on the loan. C Brown noted that if the Trust required the loan, a report, with the proposed Loan Agreement, would be brought to the Council detailing the cost of the loan and the proposed repayment schedule.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Atkinson Seconded: Councillor Ward

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231130192636.
- (b) **Approves** in principle a loan of \$200,000 to the Oxford Health and Fitness Trust for the cost of building extensions subject to the outcome of a Rata Foundation community loan application.
- (c) **Notes** that, should the loan be required, another report would be brought to the Council which would include the specific details around this loan.
- (d) **Notes** that the Pearson Park Advisory Group had been consulted and supported the proposed building extension.

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Atkinson supported the motion. He noted that the Trust wished to expand and was requesting the Council's assistance. He commended the Trust for running a profitable facility that would enable them to repay the loan, as they had done previously.

Councillor Ward noted that it was important that the Council supported community wellbeing and fitness in a growing community.

Mayor Gordon noted that the Oxford community worked hard to raise the money to build the Oxford Health and Fitness Centre. The centre was very popular, and he was pleased to see that they now had the opportunity to expand. He was confident that the Trust would be able to repay the loan.

Councillor Williams also supported the motion, as the Trust was not asking for a handout from ratepayers; they just required assistance.

4.11 **Draft Community and Recreation Activity Management Plan 2024** – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) and J Rae (Greenspace Asset and Capital Project Advisor)

C Brown introduced the report, which presented the draft Community and Recreation Activity Management Plan.

There were no questions from Councillors.

Moved: Councillor Brine Seconded: Councillor Ward

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231116185475.
- (b) **Adopts** the Draft Community and Recreation Activity Management Plan for the purposes of Long Term Plan consultation (TRIM 231116185502).
- (c) **Notes** the Activity Management Plan had been peer reviewed by a specialist consultant with changes made to reflect this prior to coming to the Community and Recreation Committee for adoption
- (d) **Notes** that the previous score from the consultant for the 2021 Activity Management Plan was 68%. The score for the draft 2024 Activity Management Plan was sitting at 73%, the industry benchmark sits at 70%.

- (e) **Notes** that the final Activity Management Plan would be adopted by the Council in conjunction with the adoption of the final Long Term Plan in June 2024.

CARRIED

4.12 **Community Facilities Network Plan (Draft 2023)** – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) and M McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation)

G McLeod introduced the report, which presented the draft Community Facilities Network Plan, and identified a list of recommendations for consideration as well as outlining key challenges and opportunities for community facilities.

C Brown commented that staff had recommended that the Council follow a set of criteria, yet to be developed, when asked to vest a community facility in the future so as to reduce maintenance and upkeep on elderly buildings.

Councillor Williams acknowledged that staff had consulted with user groups and stakeholders and queried whether any consultation had been undertaken with the general public. C Brown confirmed that the general public had not been consulted as yet; however, there were plans to do so in the near future.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Ward

THAT the Council

- (a) **Receives** Report No: 231115183576.
- (b) **Receives** the Community Facilities Network Plan as presented by RSL Consulting.
- (c) **Considers** the action implementation plan as part of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan.
- (d) **Notes** that staff had not proposed all recommendations for input into the 2024/34 draft Long Term Plan due to limited resources and prioritisation of funding.
- (e) **Accepts** the draft as it was presented and approves the Action Implementation Plan as part of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan document.

CARRIED

Councillor Ward supported the motion stating she agreed with the direction the Community and Recreation Unit had taken in relation to responsibility for aging facilities.

Councillor Mealings stated that she was supportive of further public consultation in the future to get the public's opinion on community facilities.

5. BUDGETS

5.1 Roothing and Transport

J McBride introduced the roading and transport budget noting the significant CPI increase of 25% and the ongoing impacts of wet weather events. There was a focus on maintenance and renewals. Another factor was the maintenance contract which had one year remaining on its right of renewal.

J McBride provided a list of capital projects scheduled for the next ten years. Two other important projects had been brought forward - the Rangiora Eastern Link Road and the Skew Bridge replacement. In December 2023 central government announced that all projects on hold in the Transport Choice Programme would not receive any further funding. This impacted the Kaiapoi to Woodend, Woodend to Ravenswood and Rangiora cycle connections.

Changes resulting in cost savings had been made to the Southbrook Futures, Kaiapoi to Woodend Cycle connection, Kaiapoi Rooding Improvements, Rangiora carparking building and Keir Street Rail Crossing projects by moving out to future years. The Williams Street bridge balustrade project had also been moved out and there was no allowance for maintenance in the short term.

In terms of fees and charges there had been no full review for some time and there were a number of changes proposed to reflect the current costs. As was noted in the recommendation the Greater Christchurch Partnership, commitments were likely to require funding not currently allowed for within the plan. This included the PT Futures Acceleration work and the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Business Case.

J McBride advised that a report would be brought to the Council in February 2024 regarding the Island Road/ Ohoka Road intersection and this was not in the current budget sheet. For the purpose of transparency G Cleary highlighted that there would also be a report to the Council on Oxford water emergency works in February 2024 that were not included in these budgets. The impact on rating was minor at around 0.02% overall.

Mayor Gordon asked if the budget papers included the Rangiora Eastern Link Road and the Skew Bridge replacement in partnership with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). J McBride advised yes that NZTA subsidy was assumed, however not on the growth portion of the Eastern Link project.

Councillor Williams referred to the 70% increase to footpath maintenance and queried if that represented an increase in the level of service. J McBride advised no, it was a combination of factors including increased costs as well as seeing a greater number of faults on the network which the current budget was not sufficient to address.

Councillor Williams referred to the increase in roading expense for Lees Valley and asked if options around a toll road or a targeted area for roading costs had been considered. G Cleary advised that neither option had been explored. A network approach was taken with roading and there was always a question of whether urban or rural ratepayers were paying their share. It would be a significant project for the Council to consider different rating options and would not be possible for this LTP.

Councillor Redmond asked how the recent central government announcement regarding removal of Transport Choices funding had been provided for in the LTP. J McBride advised staff were working on options to report back to the Council. There also needed to be a conversation with NZTA. The approach was likely to be a workshop, then report and Council decision, before LTP adoption. Funding would remain for the current financial year with budget considered for the following year. J McBride highlighted the difficulty with the NZTA funding cycle and the interim period between adopting the LTP and confirmation of NZTA funding in October.

Councillor Redmond asked that if Council did not proceed with the cycleways then would that lower the 8.9% rate rise? G Cleary confirmed that it would have an impact. A report would come to Council in time for deliberations.

Councillor Redmond commented that he did not believe that the Tuahiwi footpath surfacing project met the criteria and requested justification for its inclusion in the schedule. G Cleary ran through the criteria and highlighted that it fits well with the criteria of wellbeing as it was very significant to the Tuahiwi community and Ngai Tuahuriri had raised it as an important project to their community. There was a lot of foot traffic outside the Marae and through the township. At \$100,000 capital budget it was negligible in terms of rating impact. The impact was in 2025/26. However it was ultimately a Council decision.

Councillor Atkinson referred to increasing costs to provide better data to NZTA Waka Kotahi and asked if they should then be covering those costs since it was a government directive. J McBride advised that in terms of developing asset management plans there had been a shift to providing more evidence to support the funding of the 50% subsidised budgets. There had also been a number of legislative changes for example an asset management data set so there was standardised data across all authorities, this had been funded 100% by NZTA Waka Kotahi, however there were other data areas that had not been funded.

Councillor Atkinson referred to design costs for the Middlebrook Culvert at \$100,000 compared to Skew Bridge design costs of \$180,000 when the scale of design required was very different. J McBride suggested that the Skew Bridge design amount would be checked.

Councillor Blackie referred to budget increases for pavement and footpath maintenance and asked if concrete was cheaper than sealed surfaces. J McBride explained that concrete had a longer life but was more difficult to repair than asphalt.

Councillor Redmond referred to the \$500,000 cost to replace the bypass bridge in Lees Valley, which was a backup bridge and only to be used in limited circumstances. He asked if the option to improve the resilience of the ford had been considered. J McBride advised that an options assessment would be provided with potentially cheaper options. The \$500,000 was a high level assessment for 2024/25. Staff would come back to the Council on the costing.

Councillor Fulton asked if \$300,000 was a typical cost of culvert upgrade. G Cleary explained that it depended on the project and 'culvert' covered a wide range of structures. The \$1.4 million in the budget included a number of culverts.

Councillor Williams referred to cycle path renewals budget and asked if this would continue. J McBride advised that it was required from an asset management perspective. There would be a report to the Council once NZTA had provided information on subsidies and the Council could then make a decision on funding.

Councillor Williams asked if there had been development contributions for the Priors Road development. J McBride noted a memo had been provided to Councillors on Priors Road and a report would be presented at the 7 February 2024 Council meeting.

Councillor Atkinson asked about town centre cleaning and J McBride explained 30% was unsubsidised to reflect the higher level of service for Town Centres.

Councillor Atkinson asked for further explanation of the \$550,000 for Kaiapoi Park and Ride in 2026/27. J McBride explained this was an allowance for potential expansion if required. G Cleary noted it was provision for growth over four to five years and while the amount or timing may not be accurate, including it in the budget provided a placeholder and prevented a 'bow wave' effect.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

- (b) **Notes** that operations (maintenance and renewals) budgets have been under significant pressure across the Roothing and Transport portfolio due to significant CPI increases leading to a significant cost increase. On top of this, as a district we are contending with continuing growth and the ongoing impacts of wet weather events over consecutive years. The cumulative impacts are resulting in faster deterioration of the roading and transport network and increasing maintenance needs. Operations (maintenance & renewals) budgets have been adjusted to accommodate this.
- (c) **Notes** that the Rangiora Eastern Link Road has been included in the draft Long Term Plan for 2024-34.
- (d) **Notes** that Skew Bridge was previously in the Long Term however has been brought forward to now sit in the years 2024/25 to 2027/28.
- (e) **Notes** that Greater Christchurch Partnership commitments are likely to require funding not currently allowed for within this plan. This includes the PT Futures Acceleration work and the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Business Case.
- (f) **Notes** that the District Roothing & Drainage Maintenance contract will be due for renewal within the period of the Long Term Plan, and there is a high likelihood of increased rates.
- (g) **Notes** that due to the inclusion of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road in the Long Term Plan, the Southbrook Futures project has been moved out of the Long Term Plan.
- (h) **Notes** that the outcome the National Land Transport Programme funding request will not be known until after 31 August 2024, and there is a high risk that the full requested funding may not be met. This will remain a risk until the new National Land Transport Programme is announced. Should the full funding request not be fully met, then a further report will be brought back to the Council for consideration in October / November 2024.
- (i) **Notes** that on 20 December 2023, central government announced that all projects on hold in the Transport Choices Programme will not receive any further funding or proceed to implementation. This impacts the Kaiapoi to Woodend, Woodend to Ravenswood and Rangiora cycle connections, plus the new footpath programme, all of which will no longer receive funding for construction. As there has been no allowance for additional funding to cover any shortfall within the existing budgets, further work will be done to consider options and a staff submission report will be brought to Council in May, before the Long Term Plan is adopted.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon supported and acknowledged the work of staff noting it was an area of huge expectation from the community. He was supportive of the inclusion of the Eastern Link and opportunity to bring forward the Skew Bridge replacement to address congestion, and commended staff on putting those applications together. He expressed concern at the difficulties and frustrations around the misalignment of government process to local authorities timelines. Mayor Gordon expressed support for the Tuahiwi footpath noting the activities located in that area and that there were very few footpaths in the district not already sealed or planned to be sealed.

Councillor Redmond as the portfolio holder endorsed the comments of the Mayor, however he remained to be convinced on the Tuahiwi footpath. He noted the budget was addressing areas of historical underfunding. Roothing was a core activity of the Council and while it was a large increase, it was necessary.

5.2 Solid Waste

K Waghorn spoke to the Solid Waste budget highlighting the increase in site usage, landfill levy increase and increase in rubbish disposal rates. Individual targeted kerbside collection rates would be increased. A third staff member would be employed to help manage increased activities, particularly in the waste minimisation space. There was budget included for seeking Environment Canterbury discharge consents for 65 small community landfills. K Waghorn noted that the Council may be required to provide a mandatory organics service, and this would require consultation with residents.

Mayor Gordon referred to advertising around the standardisation of collections and asked if staff could come back with the communications plan. K Waghorn referred to the importance of consistency with neighbouring Councils. They had been waiting on the Ministry for the Environment communications plan and sharing its posts. Much of the campaign would be via Facebook.

Councillor Williams asked how the Council would be fitting into the new tyre stewardship programme. K Waghorn explained they were a collection point however were still waiting for further details on the scheme including what tyres were covered.

Councillor Cairns asked if the contamination education and auditing was making a difference. K Waghorn advised there would be a report to the Council, and while there were ongoing issues, it was keeping contamination to an acceptable level.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine thanked K Waghorn and the team for putting together a responsible budget that showed prioritisation.

5.3 Water

K Simpson advised that all capital expenditure projects and operating budgets were included in the budget sheets. A report would be presented to the Council in February 2024 for funding for emergency works for the Oxford Rural scheme.

C Fahey noted across the board there was an increase in percentage change from the previous Annual Plan forecast, and she advised the increases for each scheme. Increases were due to a number of factors, including insurance and changes to the development contributions income.

Key issues included the repeal of Three Waters and the LTP that had been written assuming Council ownership. Changes were still expected to the new Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR), which would present ongoing challenges and had a bearing on operating costs. There were ongoing source and storage upgrades for resilience and to cater for growth.

A consideration for a future LTP was how to rate water supplies, as this had been put on hold due to the Three Waters reform. In addition, the Council was still intending to pursue chlorine exemptions. This had not been budgeted for in this LTP as there was insufficient information on options and costs. Staff were awaiting the outcome of the next chlorine exemption application.

There were no significant changes proposed for the operating budget. There were increases to allow for inflation and maintenance tasks. It was possible there would be changes to requirements from Taumata Arowai (TA) in terms of compliance.

C Fahey highlighted LTP issues including a potential directive from the Director General of Health to fluoridate water supplies. This had not been allowed for in the LTP as there had been no clear direction from the Ministry of Health. Budget provisions had been made from year 11 of the LTP for climate change adaptation.

Staff were proposing slight increases to fees and charges, most significantly to the water connection team to reflect inflation and increased traffic management and labour required.

Mayor Gordon asked about district wide rating and G Cleary advised that it had not been proposed for this LTP but signalled as something that the Council may wish to consider. It was also topical for wastewater.

Mayor Gordon asked if there was value in retaining the Water NZ subscription as there were concerns about its neutrality. G Cleary advised that it had performed the important function of professional development for water unit operators.

Councillor Fulton asked about rates increases for schemes with new infrastructure and asked if there was a failing pipe network. K Simpson explained that in general the Council kept on top of leaks, however rural schemes with much longer lengths of pipework required more resource to keep on top of. The Council had a leakage rate of around 20%, commenting there were a number of ways of assessing leakage rates.

Councillor Redmond asked if there was a gap in the budget for the cost of CI and FI exemption allocations. K Simpson advised the cost of applications was included in the existing asset management maintenance budget.

Councillor Williams asked about operating expenditure for the Ashley Rural water scheme as that was administered by the Hurunui District Council (HDC). J Millward explained that the situation had been legally investigated three years ago. WDC struck rates, showed collection of rates and then passed those on. The number came from HDC.

Councillor Cairns asked about insurance; were all of the schemes insured and what was insured? G Cleary advised that there was standard insurance and there was also government back up in the event of a natural disaster.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that there are no new levels of service/performance measures proposed for this Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked staff, commenting that it was a massive piece of work, that he was proud of the performance in that space, and that the work was highly valued in the community. Questions were being raised with the Minister as the level of standard was impossible. The Council could demonstrate the ability to turn on CI at a moment's notice. It was a strong matter in the community. The level of cost to achieve compliance was out of step with affordability.

Councillor Mealings noted the 'behemoth' of assets and expressed pleasure at the provision for generators at the Ohoka water treatment plant.

5.4 **Wastewater**

C Fahey explained increased operating costs were due to rising costs such as electricity and insurance. The Council was starting to prepare for the Oxford Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) land consent expiry in 2031.

Key issues to consider in wastewater was the scrapping of the Three Waters reform with assets remaining with the Council. Territorial Authorities (TA's) had a role in providing oversight to the environmental performance of wastewater networks and new standards were expected to be released within the next three years. There was budget provided to improve wetlands at Kaiapoi and Woodend WWTPs to help with midge issues. The LTP had budget for projects related to private properties. A significant piece of work was the Kaiapoi capacity upgrade to improve delivery where the level of service was not being met. The Eastern District sewerage system Ocean Outfall discharge consent expired in 2039 and there was an allowance to start to prepare for that.

The capital budget had a 9% increase compared to the Annual Plan with projects proposed to ensure the Council continued to meet levels of service and new growth projects. The Oxford WWTP was a significant project that would have an impact on rates. There was also a growth related project for Rangiora.

Issues raised were uncertainty around additional requirements to meet wastewater standards and changes to government reform.

G Cleary added that overall the wastewater budget showed that the Council could continue to operate and maintain wastewater services with reasonable rating input and continue to address issues such as midge control for this three year period. There were upcoming challenges - the Oxford WWTP required substantial upgrades before consent expiry, and renewal of the Eastern District Ocean Outfall consent.

Councillor Atkinson referred to other districts having extreme difficulties renewing consents and asked if the Council was striving for higher standards than the current consent requirements, and if there was enough funding to investigate. G Cleary advised yes, they did believe there was adequate budget for investigations and they did strive to do better than requirements and this applied across all services. For example they were trying to achieve cultural monitoring which was not a current consent requirement as well as additional water sampling.

Councillor Atkinson asked if cost efficiencies with joining the Eastern Scheme would be looked at as part of the Oxford WWTP investigation. G Cleary advised yes, it would not be assumed to be off the table in considerations.

Councillor Fulton asked how infill and lifestyle growth was addressed. G Cleary noted that they did make provision for growth in Oxford WWTP level of services renewals. There was provision for peri—urban growth where provided in the proposed District Plan.

Councillor Fulton asked about development along Oxford Road and whether that increased feasibility to joining the Eastern WWTP. K Simpson noted that elongated areas including Cust and West Eyreton were a key part of planning.

Councillor Blackie sought clarification on variations in increases. G Cleary explained the commentary picked out main contributors to increases and there were variations between schemes; for example some were more reliant on pumping and so were more reactive to increases in electricity rates.

Councillor Williams asked if there was enough funding to assess what was required for the Ocean Outfall consent. K Simpson advised that ongoing work was being done to assess capacity through maintenance budgets. In year six to seven of the LTP, specific budget was provided for investigation work.

Councillor Redmond asked what was the design life of the Ocean Outfall. K Simpson advised that for a lot of the infrastructure it was much longer at 80-100 years than the consent period. Mechanical and treatment infrastructure had a design life of 50 years. A key part of the assessment was looking at maintenance of existing infrastructure with higher environmental standards and cultural expectations. They would look at maximising and retrofitting existing infrastructure.

Councillor Redmond asked if it were a possibility for a variation to apply for an extension to the consent. K Simpson believed that would be challenging as at 35 years the consent duration was already much longer than consents currently being approved for 10 to 15 years. The duration was not likely to be extended, rather reduced. Staff could look at that if formally requested.

Councillor Ward asked about the potential to pump water onto land for irrigation given that the water was pure. G Cleary noted that did happen in some areas, however it was a very small amount compared to irrigation volumes and it may be a lot of expenditure for little benefit. There were also issues with nitrification, however the Council would need to demonstrate consideration of all options.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that there are no new levels of service/performance measures proposed for this Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.5 **Wastewater**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that there are no new levels of service/performance measures proposed for this Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.6 **Drainage and Stockwater**

Drainage and Stockwater budgets were considered together, and there were no questions from members; however, the Mayor requested an update from Waimakariri Irrigation be arranged to ensure Councillors were kept informed.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.7 **Utilities and Roading Overheads**

G Cleary noted that the Unit was seeking budget for three new positions namely a Senior Roading Maintenance Engineer, a Strategic Transport Engineer and one Administrator to relive workloads. No other changes had been made as the unit had employed efficiencies and streamlined its processes.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon requested that staff provide further details regarding the resourcing requirements for the Greater Christchurch Partnership to allow him to understand what may be required in the future.

Councillor Williams queried the budget for Three Waters given the probable changes to be made by the Government in relation to water management. The Mayor acknowledged the work already carried out in relation to Three Waters reform, however noted that currently there was no clarity to how this would impact the Council.

Councillor Williams also queried the training budget given that the Council employed qualified staff. G Cleary replied that this budget was used to upskill staff when changes were made to policies and procedures and for professional development of staff. Councillor Williams then queried if the budget was used for further education. G Cleary replied that yes it could be used in that context for interns or graduates so as to retain quality staff.

5.8 **Project Delivery Unit**

Councillor Blackie queried the line item listed as 'Breaks' and C Roxburgh replied that this was for refreshment breaks and other work related to stoppages of work.

Councillor Williams queried the training budget when the unit used consultants. C Roxburgh replied that at times they needed to consult experts in certain areas where the Council had no in-house skill. The training budget was used to upskill 35 staff within their roles.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon stated that training was an essential part of being a good employer and in retaining staff.

5.9 **Water Unit**

Councillor Williams again queried the training budget and was referred to the previous two responses.

Councillor Williams queried the skill set of the staff in the Water Unit, asking if a plumber could be subcontracted to do some of the work being carried out by staff. C Roxburgh replied that running and managing a Water Unit was specialised work which required strict compliance with Government regulations and conditions. Staff used specialised equipment and tested water every day to mitigate health implications. The roles were very different from the role of a plumber. However there was the option of contracting the Water Unit side of the operations out if that was what the Council decided.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.10 **Libraries and Local Museums**

C Brown and D Roxborough presented the proposed options for the redevelopment of the Rangiora Civic Precinct being Rangiora Service Centre and the Trevor Inch Memorial Library (Trim Ref: 24129011978). C Brown explained that a Working Group, chaired by Councillor Goldsworthy, had been established to explore possible options for the proposed redevelopment. He highlighted the cost, impact, benefits and negative implications of the following identified options:

- Option A - Ground Floor Library Extension Only (2027/28)
- Option B - Two-storey Library and Service Centre Extension (first stage) (2029/30)
- Option C - Status Quo
- Option D – Full rebuild of two-storey Library and Service Centre Extension (2027/28)

In response to a question for Mayor Gordon, C Brown confirmed that the proposed Ground Floor Library Extension (Option A) did not include space for the museum.

Mayor Gordon enquired if the Council would be able to consider further options during future Long Term Plan processes if funding becomes available. C Brown confirmed that public consultation would be done on the Council's preferred option. However, the Council may consider other options if its financial position changes.

Councillor Ward questioned the real cost of the Council renting additional office space, including rentals, rates, utilities and loss of staff time. C Brown advised that all costs had been considered and commented that the operational costs, such as utilities and cleaning, would transfer to the new space.

Councillor Fulton sought clarity on the Ground Floor Library Extension, and C Brown noted that it proposed to extend the existing Trevor Inch Library to the west.

Councillor Redmond asked if a satellite library in Woodend or Ravenswood would alleviate the need to extend the Trevor Inch Memorial Library. C Brown explained that the proposed extension was needed to ensure service to the needs of the current Rangiora community. The Library would, therefore, need to be extended regardless of any additional libraries being developed.

The Council agreed that consideration of the proposed options for the redevelopment of the Rangiora Civic Precinct Rangiora Service Centre and the Trevor Inch Memorial Library would resume on 31 January 2024 to provide Councillors time to study the various proposed options.

With regards to the District Libraries Budget, C Brown reported that there were no significant changes proposed to the budget for the 2024/25 financial year. However, there was \$360,570 of additional budget required for payroll expenses, which included the added position of a Coordinator of Local History and Heritage. The position was established utilising the New Zealand Libraries Partnership Program (NZLPP) funding provided by the Central Government during Covid. However, the funding was coming to an end, and the Council wished to continue providing the service to the community, hence the additional budget requested.

Councillor Williams asked if the Council's cleaning services contract would go out to public tender and if the cleaning services contract would be subject to a Section 17A of the Local Government Act, 2002 review. C Brown confirmed that staff were in the process of reviewing a number of service contracts in a bid to amalgamate these services to ensure cost-effectiveness. The Council's cleaning services were being assessed as part of this review. However, a report would be submitted to the Council highlighting various options prior to the service contracts being put out to public tender.

Councillor Cairns enquired if there was a possibility of extending library hours to service the growing needs of the community within the existing budget. C Brown advised that extending the library hours would require more staff, which would require additional budget.

Councillor Cairns further enquired if library hours would be reviewed in the near future. C Brown noted that the 2024/25 budget was based on current operating hours, nevertheless staff would initiate a review if required by the Council. However, any increase in operating hours would require additional budget.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson questioned if recruiting staff would enable the libraries and aquatic facilities' hours and services to be extended. C Brown noted that the challenge was not attracting staff but rather the management of current staff availability due to illness, private commitments and leave.

Councillor Williams questioned the efficiency's District Libraries had made to reduce costs. C Brown explained that the District Libraries' previous budget requested funding for additional staff to continue to provide the current level of service, which had been removed from the current budget. The increase in the budget was a result of inflationary increases and the impact of population growth on existing services.

Mayor Gordon enquired if the Smart Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Shelves and the self-service kiosks allowed for staff to be deployed to other functions. C Brown confirmed that the new technology created long-term savings in that staff could be redeployed. He also noted that refurbishment plans for the Trevor Inch Memorial Library included the replacement of book shelving and the reduction of its book collection, which would allow for more space in the library for other functions.

In response to a question from Mayor Gordon S Hart reported that the District Libraries scored 95 percent and the staff 97 percent approval in the Council's previous Customer Satisfaction survey. The Libraries also had approximately 80 volunteers who assisted staff with the restacking of books and other tasks. Mayor Gordon suggested that the contribution of the volunteers should be quantified as they were a great resource to the Council, whose financial savings were being undervalued.

Councillor Williams asked why, with the use of smart technology and the increase in households in the district, the Libraries still need an increase in budget, which was 11.61 percent of rates. C Brown noted that the percentage of rates allocated to libraries had decreased over the last five years, and Library costs currently only amount to 8.85 percent of rates.

Councillor Redmond enquired if people could access the library service remotely and if this elevated the need for additional floor space. L Sole noted that library service could be accessed from home, which alleviated a small amount of the pressure. However, the Libraries had a large amount of dedicated people that visited the libraries daily.

Councillor Mealings noted that the budget included no new services and no capital expenditure. She asked if the increase in budget was due to an increase in operational costs such as insurance, cleaning and depreciation. C Brown agreed that the proposed increase was due to operational increases over which the Council had no control.

Councillor Fulton enquired whether the library services were tagged to population growth and development projections. C Brown confirmed that the industry standards do take into account population number and square meterage required, and the Trevor Inch Memorial Library reached saturation in 2014 based on the Rangiora population.

The discussion regarding the provision of funding for the Rangiora Civic Precinct Rangiora Service Centre and the Trevor Inch Memorial Library resumed after morning break on Wednesday 31 January.

C Brown highlighted that the proposed new recommendation excluded any provision for the Rangiora Museum, Civic Precinct laneway and wider landscaping improvements. There was a lot of work to be done and there was \$200,000 allocated to design and feasibility from Better Off Funding. The design would look at both options A and B however the \$16.8 million was provision only for a single level building. Staff would come back to the Council with further information on the civic space following design work, including affordability to the ratepayer. The \$16.8 million would be included in public consultation to receive feedback from ratepayers. It was noted that the \$16.8 million was \$4.2 million less than what had previously been provided for in the LTP.

Councillor Ward asked if staff would need to vacate from the building to build a potential Stage 2 upper level and was advised yes, there would be a lot of disruption in this approach as well as more costly in the long term. A comparison of costs could be provided for during the design phase.

Councillor Goldsworthy referred to the breach of lending policy and asked what year the project could occur. It was advised that there was more borrowing room in years six to eight.

Councillor Ward commented that the growth budget was conservative at 450 builds per year, however it was closer to 700 and asked with that growth path would Council be able to afford the extra amount for a larger building. N Robinson explained the modelling was frontloaded with higher growth in the first few years. J Millward acknowledged that the district did have a high growth rate however there was no better information from StatsNZ which modelling was required to be based on. It did have an effect on affordability. He noted the risk associated with a significant number of staff being located in premises under lease agreements, including the Farmers building.

Councillor Fulton asked about the proportion of staff in the Farmers building. C Brown explained that if Option B was taken then they could exit all lease buildings aside from Farmers. There was a right on renewal of lease until 2033.

Councillor Redmond asked if the library location had been considered in planning and if a larger space was more appropriate. C Brown commented that a library located in the town centre was key and there was no consideration to move as the cost would double as it would no longer be an extension but a 2,800m² new build. He acknowledged that digital offerings had increased but door counts had also increased.

Councillor Williams referred to the incorporation of the museum in the Kaiapoi library and asked if that was in option A. C Brown acknowledged the issues with the current Rangiora Museum and believed that it would be great to have the museum in the library for the \$16.8 million. He noted that in Selwyn and Rolleston museum display spaces had been incorporated into the library which decreased cost and required footprint.

Councillor Redmond asked if staff had considered a Café in the new space to provide income. C Brown advised that was included as Stage 2 of the preliminary design. Cafes were popular in libraries, however they did have an impact on local private retailers.

Councillor Williams asked how much of the Stadium loan would be repaid by 2029 and asked if a library could be considered beneath a carparking building. S Hart advised that the budget for a carparking building had been pushed out, and that would require a decision to move that funding forward with it being a substantial decision requiring further investigation from staff.

Councillor Fulton asked about the laneway, and C Brown explained that the original design had considered access via the main street to ensure that there was vitality and activation of the laneway. Currently, the landscaping was not good, including poor sight lines and a large power box.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024 -2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Approves** funding of \$16,800,000 for the construction of an at ground single level library extension of approximately 1345m² in 2027/28 for consideration as part of the Draft Long Term Plan for public consultation.
- (c) **Notes** that this excludes any provision for the Rangiora Museum, Civic Precinct laneway and wider landscaping improvements.
- (d) **Notes** that the funding identified above is in the first year of the next Long Term Plan and therefore Council will have another opportunity to revisit this budget before any construction would commence.
- (e) **Notes** the balance of \$200,000 Better off Funding that is allocated to design and feasibility of the Rangiora Library.
- (f) **Supports** staff continue to spend the Better off Funding toward investigating both a single level library only and a multi-story building with staff accomodation to ensure that any design considers constraints and opportunities for the future.

CARRIED

Councillor Williams Abstained

Mayor Gordon commented that it was a difficult decision that reflected the climate the Council was in. He fully supported the extension to the library and there was the ability in the next LTP to contemplate further options. He appreciated recommendation (f) which allowed staff to use Better Off Funding to continue to investigate potential for a multistorey building. The Rangiora Museum had problems that were a long way from resolution but he was concerned about the public reaction to a \$30 million project. He saw this approach as demonstrating prudence to not go in a direction the Council could not afford. He was concerned about adding to the debt profile and the risk this gave to the credit rating. In the next LTP they would have an idea where the economy was at. He did not have an issue with lease arrangements however suggested staff could look at other options in the district. He believed that the library did need to be located in the town centre. He looked forward to the feedback from the community in due course.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson believed that recommendation (f) was key and the Council was aware that it was a tough time for the community; however going backwards was not an option. He commented on the importance of the Kaiapoi Library to Kaiapoi Town Centre retail.

Councillor Ward was pleased to see some progress the civic project had been on the books since 2014 and it was time it was made a priority including the plan to bring the team into one space. She acknowledged the central location was important for retail. She was confident that the project would be affordable in a timely fashion as the district was a growth region.

Councillor Williams believed that the library was a nice to have and being conscious of the budget asked if it were affordable. He did not believe five years would improve affordability until overall debt levels improved.

Councillor Redmond, commented that while he supported continuing investigation, he was concerned about debt levels. He would support the motion as a placeholder to revisit at the next LTP as he needed to be convinced that the timing was right.

Councillor Mealings believed the library was for the public good; it was not a bookstore and there was nothing else that served the purpose of a library. She understood the debt level concern which was due to the earthquake and the Council's intergenerational investment including looking after infrastructure and not 'sweating the assets'. She believed it was a responsible approach to provide flexibility for the next LTP when the Council could better gauge the debt level, economy and population.

Councillor Fulton supported the motion commenting that recommendation (f) was key as it provided the ability to take time with design and too consider leasing and property arrangements. In the immediate term numbers through the library were increasing and the library needed to respond to the changing use of libraries. The district had been behind library space on a population basis since 2014.

Councillor Goldsworthy preferred option B, even if it were necessary to delay the project. He expressed concern that supporting option A now would mean that the build would meet current needs but not be fit for the future.

In right of reply Mayor Gordon expressed that libraries were essential for the community and not a nice to have. They were places where people came together to learn and feel safe and were highly valued by the community for that. While a larger facility would be great they needed to be aware of what was affordable and recommendation (f) allowed for further exploration. The Councillor's comment on intergenerational debt for projects was relevant and he used the example of the sports stadium. Putting the project in the budget indicated the formal direction of the Council and he urged his colleagues to support the motion.

5.11 Aquatic Facilities

C Brown highlighted the following proposed increases to the Aquatic Facilities budget:

- 5% increase across fees and charges.
- 6.5% increase in operational wages.
- 8% increase to Learn to Swim to support further growth and development of the programme.

Councillor Williams sought clarity on the expected training expenses. M Greenwood explained that the training budget covered first aid and Pool Lifeguard Skills training for lifeguards, the training of new staff members and the training of new Learn to Swim instructors. Lifeguards and Learn to Swim instructors' certifications lapse and staff, therefore, were required to undergo regular training to ensure they were certified to work with the public.

Councillor Williams further questioned if the training could be undertaken in-house to save costs. C Brown noted that much of the training was done in-house. However, the majority of the cost was for Lifeguards and Learn to Swim instructors' training.

Councillor Ward enquired if the Council facilities were losing younger patrons because they did not offer leisure facilities such as a hydro-slide. M Greenwood acknowledged that the Council may be missing out on people who wished to access a hydro-slide, however, this had a very small portion of the market.

Councillor Goldsworthy asked if the public would be consulted on the option to develop a hydro-slide in the district as part of the LTP process. C Brown commented that the public had previously been consulted, and staff did not believe that their response would fundamentally change if consulted again. He was of the opinion that more work was needed on the design of various leisure facilities options at Aquatic Facilities before further public consultation was undertaken.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- Approves** the draft budget for the 2024 -2034 Long Term Plan.
- Notes** the recommendations from the District Aquatic Plan for the development of Hydrotherapy, Leisure and integration of the Dudley Pavilion to meet current community demand for services
- Notes** that further development of the facilities in line with the recommendations of the District Aquatics Plan have been moved to fall outside of the current Long Term Plan period.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon commented that the development of a hydro-slide could be further explored in the future.

5.12 Community Team / Community Development

T Sturley emphasized the following proposed increases to the Community Development budget:

- The \$1.4 million in external funding acquired to support the establishment of several community projects, with no impact on rates.

- The rationalization of two part-time roles into a full-time resource resulted in the costs associated with the implementation and achievement of the objectives of the draft Waimakariri Arts Strategy being cost neutral to Council, with no impact on rates.
- Welcoming Communities was funded by Immigration New Zealand until 30 June 2026. However, there was an expectation from Immigration New Zealand that the Council would continue to fund the programme. Hence, provision had been made in the Draft LTP budget from 2026/27 to ensure the continuation of the programme.

Councillor Williams sought clarity on the \$170,825 budget provision made for projects. T Sturley advised that the funding would be utilized to support various projects such as the Food Secure North Programme, the Youth Futures Programme, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs and programmes aimed at the migrant community.

Councillor Cairns questioned the percentage of migrants in the Waimakariri community. T Sturley noted that it was clear that the Waimakariri's demographics were becoming more culturally and ethnicity diverse. There also seem to be an influx of more mature residents, who migrate with their extended families. It was important that the Council assist these residents to integrate into communities.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- Notes** that, in the last two financial years, around \$1.4 million in external funding has been acquired to support the establishment of these projects, with no impact on rates.
- Notes** that, with cost savings due to the rationalisation of two part-time roles into one fulltime, implementation of Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy can be achieved without impacting rates spend for 2024/25.
- Notes** that any new levels of service or performance measures are to be provided within a separate report provided to the Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Blackie congratulated the Community Team on a very responsible Budget.

Councillor Ward commended the Community Team for the care and support they provided to the community.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson concurred with Councillor Blackies comments. He commended the Community Team on the impact that the Welcoming Communities Programme was successful in connecting people moving into the district.

Councillor Cairns noted the people from all over the world were moving to the Waimakariri, changing the ethnic and cultural landscape of the district. He expressed his support for the work that the Community Team were leading to ensure that new residents were welcomed into communities.

Councillor Fulton also praised the Community Team on the work they were doing to welcome communities, especially in the farming sector which had seen an increase in migrant workers. He noted that various cultures in the Waimakariri District should be celebrated.

Mayor Gordon thanked Councillor Blackie for the work he had done in the development of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy, he was looking forward to the strategy being finalized. He noted the success of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs in assisting young people into employment. Mayor Gordon also acknowledged the work that the Community Team did during emergency events by supporting the victims of natural disasters.

5.13 **Greenspace and Community Facilities**

C Brown noted that an operating grant for Southbrook had been included in the current proposed budgets before the Council.

Councillor Williams requested that the Cycleway Landscaping budget of \$220,000 be included on the whiteboard as items to be reviewed given the Government's position on cycleways and the likelihood of not receiving external funding. He also queried including the Natural Environment budget of \$4.5 million for the same reason. C Brown noted that this budget did not only cover Significant Natural Areas (SNA) but also all plantings done by the Council. The Council had already committed to incorporating biodiversity in all plantings done by the greenspace unit and this budget covered those plantings and work.

Both Councillors Blackie and Mealings agreed with C Brown that the Government's direction on SNA's would not affect the budget required to ensure the Council upheld its stance on biodiversity. Councillor Mealings also noted that this budget could be reviewed prior to adoption in May 2024 once the public had voiced its opinion and there was more clarity with the direction the Government was following.

Councillor Williams noted his concern that there was duplication when dealing with planting, biodiversity and natural environment. C Brown replied that the budget for the unit was based on activity and although it appeared to be duplicated it was not as it was all the same budget.

Mayor Gordon requested if there was any other support for moving this budget to the list to be reviewed. Councillor Fulton stated he would also like this to be reviewed therefore the Natural Environment budget was added to the whiteboard list for review at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Cairns referred to C Brown's recommendation for Council not to vest any further community buildings and queried if there was a possibility for the Council to sell some of these buildings to recoup some of the expenses. C Brown replied that the buildings were in such bad repair that they would not be suitable to be sold 'as is'.

Councillor Redmond questioned the budget for street decorations and was informed that this was for installation of the Christmas trees and decorations, flags and lights and these budgets were transferred from the relevant business units.

Mayor Gordon noted that there seemed to be no budget for lighting design for town centres and C Brown responded that Management had considered this matter and due to the cost had decided to remove the budget however the Council could reinstate it if they preferred. Mayor Gordon mentioned some of the High Street lighting had been damaged during the Christmas period and queried if this would be covered by insurance. C Brown responded that it would not however could be covered by maintenance budgets.

In response to Councillor William's query regarding water installation for the airfield C Brown replied that this budget was included in a future financial year.

Councillor Redmond queried if the street decoration budget was sufficient given it was used to pay contractors for the installation of the Christmas trees. C Brown acknowledged that it probably was not adequate however could be revised later if required.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson questioned the need for upgrading the sound system at the Town Hall at this time and queried if this could be done at a later date. C Brown replied that currently, the sound system was being hired with an escalating cost. Staff believed it would be cost-effective to purchase the system, which could generate income in the future. It was agreed that the budget of \$100,000 would be added to the list for reviewing.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson queried the cost of \$30,000 per year for maintenance of the Kaiapoi marine precinct, noting over the 10 years this was a substantial expenditure. Staff then checked the figures for the previous financial year and agreed that this budget had been previously been consistently underspent and agreed that it should be reviewed to possibly \$20,000 for the next three years.

Councillor Redmond drew the Council's attention to the list of annual grants and queried if these were reviewed periodically to ensure that the recipients were still eligible for the grants. C Brown noted that the grants were reviewed regularly, especially after accountability forms had been returned, and acknowledged this item could be misleading as grants were not guaranteed for the full 10 years. He also acknowledged that a policy should be developed to ensure that grants were only paid to worthy recipients when required.

Councillor Williams enquired if there would be an increase to landing fees at the airfield. C Brown responded that the fee had increased from \$10 to \$12 per day, which staff believed to be a fair increase and consistent with other airfields.

Councillor Redmond asked if all landings were captured and C Brown replied that he was confident that approximately 99% of landings were captured. Concern was raised how this increase would be viewed by those concerned.

Councillor Ward noted that there was an expectation that there would be an increase given the increase to the levels of service.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

The Mayor acknowledged the work done by the Community and Recreation Unit noting that this was an area of business which was very much in the public domain and noticeable. The Unit did the Council proud by the great work achieved on behalf of the Council for the community.

5.14 **Community and Recreation Overheads**

There were no questions from Councillors.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.15 **Earthquake Recovery and Regeneration**

C Brown noted that there were no changes to this budget as the Kaiapoi Bridge Upgrade had been pushed out to a later year in the LTP.

Councillor Williams queried if the Kaiapoi Bridge should be included in the Earthquake Recovery budget as he believed it should be included in the Roding budget. D Roxburgh replied that there were aspects to the bridge repair that were relevant to the earthquake and therefore should stay within the Earthquake Recovery budget.

It was noted that the Kaiapoi Viewing Platform had been removed from the budget.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that a report will be provided regarding the Williams Street Bridge Balustrade Project scope and budget.
- (c) **Notes** that external funding provisions for the proposed Kaiapoi Community Hub Trust's development of buildings and associated facilities on site are not included in this budget and commentary.

CARRIED

5.15 **Property, Housing for the Elderly, Camping Grounds**

C Brown introduced the report noting the new, circulated specific recommendations. These referred to the library and civic centre rebuild and any additional maintenance to the current building. Further details on maintenance and renewals would come to the Council as a staff submission. C Brown outlined details of current leasing arrangements to accommodate staff in the Rangiora Town Centre.

R Hawthorne commented there were a number of projects to consider, including the library and civic centre, which would have a significant impact on the property budget. He noted the Waikuku Camp, where there had been a report to the Council in December 2023 detailing responses received to the market request for proposal. There were also 80 elderly housing units and proposals to expand this portfolio. In years one and two of the LTP, there was latitude to move the \$1 million funds for elderly housing without losing this grant, which would enable the delay of draw down on the debt facility. There were two sources of funding for units, \$2.5 million from Rata and \$1 million from Better Off Funding. A provisional sum had been provided for in the LTP.

Councillor Ward requested clarification on the lease. Currently, three venues were leased, including Victoria Street, for the Council Enterprise Project; there was currently some capacity in the system.

Councillor Redmond asked about budget for the provision of expanding the motor caravan site in Kaiapoi. C Brown advised that the Motor Caravan Association would fund the development themselves if the Council made the decision to make the land available to them.

The aspect of land contamination assessment was explained. It was not expected that contamination would be found at the potential motorcaravan expansion site, however as the land had previously been housing, the testing was a requirement of ECan prior to development. Previous testing had found trace elements well below threshold levels.

Moved Mayor Gordon

Seconded Councillor Redmond

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

- (b) **Notes** that funding for the upgrade / extension to the Civic Centre / Offices was previously sitting in years 5 and 6 of the LTP but has been moved to sit outside the 10 year LTP period.
- (c) **Notes** that currently, provision had been made in year 7 of the LTP budget for increased operational expenditure of 30% associated with the extension of the Rangiora Service Centre building. With the service Centre extension project being deferred this can be amended to reflect normal inflation over the remaining LTP years.
- (d) **Notes** that only moderate renewals and maintenance budgets exist for the Rangiora Service Centre building and the Ashley building. Due to the timeframe now contemplated for any major civic building upgrade / extension there will be additional budget required to cover anticipated expenditure over the next 10 years. A further report will be presented to Council, covering this matter, as a staff submission to the Long Term Plan prior to the 2024 LTP being adopted.
- (e) **Notes** that budget provision for the ongoing leasing of Victoria Street is identified for the full 10 year LTP period which provides for additional capacity for staff beyond the CES project timeline. Staff will advise further budget requirements for staff accommodation in advance of the next long term plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked staff, noting there was a lot going on in that space, and acknowledged the Property Portfolio Working Group, which looked at opportunities, particularly for elderly housing. He was keen to achieve a successful partnership with Abbyfields. He believed it was correct to add items regarding maintenance to future-proof the budget. Leasing in the Rangiora Town Centre was beneficial to the town and suggested staff should consider broadening leases to Kaiapoi also.

Councillor Redmond was supportive of elderly housing and thanked the Property Portfolio Working Group.

5.16 **Planning, Regulation and Environment Management Overhead**

K LaValley noted there were no significant changes. Potential regulation changes could come from the central government, however there was nothing budgeted at this time and staff would seek further funding from the Council if required.

Councillor Williams noted the legal fees and asked if fulltime legal counsel had been considered. K LaValley believed it was something for consideration, however the Council used different legal counsel with different specialities and one lawyer could not necessarily provide that.

Mayor Gordon asked if legal counsel was procured under an All of Government arrangement. K LaValley replied that was correct, in particular RMA advice was under an All of Government contract which provided competitive rates.

Mayor Gordon asked if there were examples of authorities having in-house legal counsel and was advised that Auckland and Christchurch City Council had such services.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon noted that this was an area that was under pressure currently with Private Plan changes and the District Plan Review. He acknowledged the work of staff explaining the process to the community. He commented that the Council was lucky to have experienced staff doing an excellent job.

5.15 **Plan Implementation Unit**

W Harris noted that the jump in income was to account for the actual income being higher than what was budgeted, and the increase was to bring that more in line with actuals, there were also changes to fees and charges. There was an effort to reduce costs of consultants by completing more work in-house, and they were looking to employ an additional planner to reduce consultant costs. W Harris noted the operating budgets in the commentary should have been expressed as thousands.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.16 **Development Planning Unit**

M Bacon advised of two corrections - the District Plan management budget from 2029/30 should be zero and expenses for Greater Christchurch partnership (GCP) should be \$134,000 rather than \$153,000.

M Bacon highlighted the GCP component which covered all the GCP staffing and resourcing. The additional budget of \$78,000 was an adjustment to reflect the current spend on GCP. In terms of LTP budget issues, these were not items for which they were specifically seeking budget. A large part of those projects had not yet been scoped and they would be brought back to the Council.

Mayor Gordon commented on the need for a clear understanding on how much resource was being allocated to the GCP.

Councillor Fulton asked about legal services and M Bacon advised that they were within budget; the Council required a lot of legal time due to complexity. It did not include the cost of appeal. K LaValley noted that there were other legal costs across the department for example resource consents.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked the team for their work.

5.17 **Building Unit**

W Taylor noted that there was a 10% increase in fees and charges. The change to cost compliance schedules was to bring this more in line with Council processes. Staff had started completing regular inspections of swimming pools. He noted that there was no provision for bad debt, for example chasing \$200 could be problematic.

Councillor Goldsworthy asked if building unit fees and charges were comparable to neighbours. W Taylor advised that they were 95% user pays and that during 'soft years' they were able to use retained earnings for staffing. In general they were similar to neighbouring councils.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson queried fees and W Taylor explained that \$720 was not a cost per hour, rather a provisional amount that work was charged against.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked staff congratulating the team on a superb job noting that it was an area that they rarely received complaints.

5.18 **Environmental Services Unit (ESU)**

B Charlton highlighted that ESU was bringing Environmental Health Services back in-house after previously being contracted out.

Mayor Gordon commented that staff received complaints regarding unlicensed vehicles and Warrant of Fitness expiry and requested consideration be given to how the Council could have a safe mechanism for that conversation.

Councillor Cairns asked if it were possible for a private provider to act as a pound for the Council, and also asked about desexing fees. B Charlton advised that desexing was provided at a high discount as desexed dogs were safer and less aggressive. With regard to the pound he believed the fee to recover a dog was reasonable and fair, and the fee increased for the second offence. It was the responsibility of the dog owner to look after their dog. It was comparable to neighbouring Councils. K LaValley noted that there was an upcoming project to relocate the dog shelter and that would be a good time to review operations and potential cost savings including private providers.

Mayor Gordon asked about the review of afterhours dog control and B Charlton advised that the service had improved.

Councillor Williams asked if costs were recovered from litter and abandoned vehicles. B Charlton advised that identified vehicle owners were charged for recovery however it did not always cover the whole cost. With littering there needed to be evidence and reasonable grounds to infringe a person.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon commented that the team carried out a difficult job and he appreciated the way in which they treated residents.

5.19 **Strategy and Business Unit**

M Maxwell highlighted key points from the Strategy and Business Unit budget. More than \$20 million budgeted for through Town Centres strategies had been deferred or removed. A small budget had been included for climate change and sustainability outcomes. A \$39,000 shortfall for Enterprise North Canterbury had been provided for and was offset by a decrease in event funding. Funding for external support to review the Oxford Town Centre funding had been removed as this would now be completed by staff.

Councillor Williams asked about expenditure for business relationships at \$176,000 and asked if there was a mechanism for getting this back from a developer. M Maxwell explained this was not external spend, rather it was an estimate of staff time, for example South MUBA investigations. S Hart noted that they had not traditionally sought compensation and it would be difficult to ask a developer to pay retrospectively, particularly if a project did not go ahead. Work behind the scenes could include research, reporting, scheduling and MOUs.

Councillor Williams referred to the \$70,000 increase to business relationships budget and asked if they were getting more business enquiries. S Hart advised yes, with amalgamation of the business units the level of resourcing had decreased and he outlined the priorities for the team.

Mayor Gordon and Councillor Williams referred to the Climate Change provision in the budget. M Maxwell highlighted that this was funded through Better off Funding that needed to be spent by 2026 and this would offset the cost.

S Hart provided some clarification around the \$39,000 ENC shortfall and the \$54,000 event funding grant. The wider town promotions associations had struggled and removing event funding would compound this. It was asked if ENC could pay for the shortfall through its reserves. There was agreement to these items being addressed later in the debate.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked the team for their work.

5.20 **Communications and Engagement**

A Gray advised that there were no changes to the proposed budget.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson commented that the training budget appeared light. A Gray commented that they were conscious of cost savings and were looking at in-house and Canterbury based training options.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked the team and reiterated to his colleagues that they could take advantage of the available superb communications team support.

5.21 Civil Defence Emergency Management

B Wiremu highlighted three considerations to the Civil Defence Emergency Management budget. Firstly there were potential costs savings in the current Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Siren System for tsunami evacuation. There was a growing trend in New Zealand to move away from sirens and shift to phone technology, Auckland had moved away from sirens and Christchurch City Council were awaiting a decision. He requested the Council consider their position on sirens.

Secondly the 34 dedicated, trained (non-NZRT12) volunteers used their own vehicles for emergency response and did not have a dedicated rapid deployment platform (van, trailer and equipment) that could sustain them in the field and equip them for different scenarios. The cost of this was around \$130,000 and was not included in the current budget. This would provide personal protective equipment and basic health and safety care resources for a third of the trained civil defence volunteers.

The third consideration was to provide support to Compass FM to build resilience into their radio service so it could continue to operate during an emergency as there was a joint opportunity for the Council, Mainpower and Hurunui District Council to support the station. There was also opportunity for a trilateral arrangement for the three organisations to have a two way radio system which was critical infrastructure during an emergency.

Mayor Gordon asked if NZRT12 vehicles were available for Civil Defence and could other Council vehicles be commandeered. B Wiremu replied yes, however in any emergency response NZRT12 would use its vehicles more often. He explained there was significant difference between NZRT12 and other volunteer teams. S Hart advised any Council vehicle could be used in an emergency. A van could accommodate an entire team more easily than an ute.

Councillor Mealings asked if it would be more appropriate to utilise siren funds for an equipped van as she recognised the Civil Defence function was being called on more and more often and was thankful for the volunteers who were called on in emergency situations. B Wiremu believed that was a good question and he raised the awareness of residents of the current siren system.

B Wiremu undertook to complete a staff submission for the considerations raised.

Councillor Williams asked about the figure of \$20,000 for SIM cards. B Wiremu advised that with radio technology evolving the radios could work through the cell network and SIM cards with radio/cell technology were more expensive.

Councillor Goldsworthy asked if neighbours discontinued emergency sirens effected the capacity of the Waimakariri network and B Wiremu advised no, the sirens were completely independent.

Councillor Cairns referred to the siren system used by the Christchurch City Council for Port Hills fires and asked if that had been considered for the Waimakariri. B Wiremu advised staff had looked at those however did not believe there was value in the system.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that a separate report will be provided to the Council upon completion of negotiations with MainPower, Hurunui District Council and Compass FM.

- (c) **Notes** the recent Auckland decision and Christchurch City Council pending decision, on moving away from sirens in favour of the national EMA system.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon looked forward to the staff submission on the issues raised. In terms of sirens, he was aware of the community's reliance on those. He noted the importance of the radio network during an emergency which had been demonstrated following Cyclone Gabrielle. He was open to hearing about how the Council could help build resilience for Compass FM and he saw value in ensuring equipment was provided to volunteers.

5.22 **Finance and AIM (Asset Information Management)**

P Christensen presented the Finance and AIM Budgets and advised that the rise in the budgets was due to the increase in Audit fees and the introduction of a Procurement Specialist Role.

Councillor Williams noted that the Council had previously approved funding of approximately \$55,000 for a procurement role, which was still included in the budget. He sought clarity on whether this funding would still be needed. J Millward explained that the previous funding was for a procurement specialist in the Project Delivery Unit who focused on contract management. The new procurement specialist would focus on procurement practises across the Council, hereby unlocking efficiencies.

Councillor Goldsworthy questioned the methodology of the proposed procurement analysis. P Christensen noted that the Council developed a Procurement Strategy based on a Procurement Maturity Assessment in August 2018. The new procurement specialist would be tasked with implementing the recommendations of the strategy to improve the Council's procurement.

Councillor Williams asked if the new procurement specialist was expected to realise savings for the Council. J Millward clarified that the new procurement specialist would be assessing the best way to procure goods and services. The Council was therefore expecting around 15 percent savings in the capital and operational contracts within 12 months.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.23 **Customer Services**

M Harris advised that the rates postage budget had been increased from \$47,550 to \$55,000 to cover continuing increases in postage of about 20 percent annually. Efforts were being made to encourage rates delivery by email and the proposed budget increase made allowance for both an increase in the cost of postage and fewer items being posted. M Harris further reported that the Land Information Memo (LIM) had remained low over the last year and was just starting to return to pre-Covid levels. The 2024/25 budgeted income had been increased by 10% in fees, which was mostly less than what neighbouring councils were charging.

Councillor Williams questioned the budget provision for discount in rates. M Harris noted that the Council offered a four percent discount to ratepayers who paid their rates in full before the due date of the first instalment.

Councillor Goldsworthy enquired if there was much financial incentive for the Council to receive early rates. M Harris stated that the benefits were difficult to quantify. However, there was the interest the Council received on the money paid early and also the savings on postage of future rate demands. She undertook to try and calculate the financial benefit to the Council.

Mayor Gordon asked what action had been taken to reduce posting costs. M Harris explained that every rates demand being posted included a notice requesting ratepayers to sign up for electronic rates delivery. Also, during interactions with ratepayers, staff encourages them to sign up for electronic rates delivery. Just prior to the festive season, the Council sent notices to all property owners in its database, without electronic contact details, requesting that they provide an email address. M Harris noted that in terms of the Local Government Act 2002, ratepayers had to sign up for electronic rates delivery; the Council was therefore not able to automatically email rates delivery just because they had an e-mail address.

Councillor Redmond questioned the significant increase in Debtors' Supervision. M Harris advised that the Council's Credit Controller's hours had increased to deal with fleet management. This was an accounting issue, and the cost would be transferred to the Fleet Budget.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

(a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked the Customer Service Team for the constant professional manner in which they dealt with the public.

5.24 **Canterbury Museum**

J Millward commented that the budget was increasing by 2.69 percent for the Canterbury Museum levy due to the total movement in the total cost for the Museum's development. However, the actual effect on the Council, taking into consideration its growth and the fact that it had equity, meant that the increase would only be 1.2 percent. He noted that last year, councils put forward a proposal not to fund depreciation on capital expenditure but only on assets with a short life, hence the 2.5 percent decrease in year one. J Millward observed that the operational levy should be stable until the capital expenditure had been finalised.

Councillor Williams enquired if the Council had obtained a legal opinion if it had to pay the Museum's development levy. J Millward advised that the Council had not requested a legal opinion as the levy was prescribed under the Canterbury Museum Trust Board Act 1993. The Canterbury Museum had previously obtained a legal opinion which confirmed that councils were liable for the operational and capital levies.

Mayor Gordon concurred with J Millward and noted that the matter was previously explored by previous council representatives, including legal advice, and it was found that councils were liable for capital levies. J Millward undertook to circulate the previous legal opinion to Councillors.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Approves** Canterbury Museum Annual Plan 2024/25 being referred to the contributing local authorities for a period of six weeks from Friday 15 March 2024 concluding on Friday 26 April 2024.
- (c) **Notes** Staff will arrange a suitable time for the Museum to present to our Council on its draft Annual Plan and the Museum Project.

CARRIED

5.25 **Information and Technology Services**

A Keiller highlighted the following key projects:

- The rolling out of the Council Enterprise System (CES) Programme
- Increase in Information Technology management contracts.
- eServices

Councillor Williams noted the high cost of the implementation of DataScope. He enquired if the Council had explored working with smaller neighbouring Councils in a bid to share costs. A Keiller advised that he was in the process of liaising with Hurunui and Kaikoura District Councils about possibly working together.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** the financial impact of the Council Enterprise System programme on the operating budget, although loan funded.

CARRIED

5.26 **Governance, Creative Admin and Quality and Risk**

S Nichols noted that a 20% increase in insurance had been factored into the budgets due to the global international market, weather-related events and the associated ongoing premium increases. The Council would be reviewing its current insurance before the upcoming renewal in July 2024. She also noted the increased cost of running elections due to the increase in printing and postage costs. These costs were nationally negotiated and, therefore, out of the Council's control.

Councillor Redmond questioned the scheduling of a Representation Review in 2026/27, commenting that the Council agreed to a Representation Review this financial year. S Nichols explained that the Council was not required to complete a Representation Review until after the 2028 election. Due to the lack of changes on the boundaries of the wards in Waimakariri District and the need to wait for any proposed changes by the Central Government, it was agreed not to have a Representation Review before the 2025 Local Government election.

Councillor Fulton enquired if the election operational practises and costs would also be reviewed. S Nichols advised that the running of the Local Government elections was strictly governed by legislation and was very prescriptive. Election practices were therefore not open to review.

Subsequent to a question from Councillor Williams, the Council agreed that the security should be dealt with in Public Excluded to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons as per S(7)(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.27 **District Management**

J Millward advised that the main increase related to an allowance of \$100,000 for Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Emergency Operations Centre funding for on call provisions for adverse events.

Mayor Gordon enquired if business continuity included after-hours technology support, and J Millward confirmed that it did.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
- (b) **Notes** that \$100,000 has been added to provide better participation for On-call availability in the Emergency Operations Centre and Business Continuity Planning.

CARRIED

5.28 **Organisational Development and Human Resources**

S Salthouse presented the budget for Organisational Development and Human Resources and took the information as read.

Councillor Williams sought clarity on the rising cost of the Employee Assistance Programme. S Salthouse explained that there had been a large increase in referrals to RAISE. The key reasons for the increase in referrals included workplace change, decomposition from work, stress, depression and personal problems.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the draft budget for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

5.29 **Rates Samples by Area**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Notes** the Rates Samples by Area.

CARRIED

5.30 **Uniform Annual General Charge**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council

- (a) **Approves** the Uniform Annual General Charge to remain at \$135 and consulted through the draft Long Term Plan
- (b) **Notes** that there has been deferral of expenditure, including depreciation funding, that would be funded in the next five years of the Long Term Plan. The review of the drainage rate is also to be undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year, that will need to be considered when next reviewing the Uniform Annual General Charge.

CARRIED

6. **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Tuesday 30 January 2024

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Atkinson

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- 6.1 WWTP Septage Receiving Facility – Request for additional budget

Wednesday 31 January 2024

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Williams

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- 6.2 Security at meetings

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:

Item No	Subject:	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public:
6.1	WWTP Septage Receiving Facility – Request for additional budget	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	LGOIMA Section7(2)(h) to enable local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
6.2	Security at meeting	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	LGOIMA Section7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING

Tuesday 30 January 2024

Recommendation to resume Open Meeting

Moved Mayor Gordon

Seconded Councillor Redmond

THAT the open meeting resumes and the recommendation in the report be made available to the public once the contract has been awarded, but the report, minutes and business discussed with the public excluded remain public excluded

CARRIED

Wednesday 31 January 2024

Recommendation to resume Open Meeting

Moved Councillor Redmond

Seconded Councillor Williams

THAT open meeting resumes and the business discussed with the public excluded remains public excluded.

CARRIED

OPEN MEETING

7. BUDGET SUMMARY

Mayor Gordon noted that there were only the following matters still to be discussed:

7.1 Tuahiwi Gritted Footpath Surfacing

S Hart advised that the request to upgrade the existing footpath surface from unsealed to asphalt came from the Tuahiwi community via the Rūnanga meeting. G Clearly noted that the footpath dealt with a high volume of pedestrian traffic due to the school, the Marae and the urupā being located on the path.

Mayor Gordon advised that he visited the Tuahiwi footpath with members of the Marae to discuss the placement of a memorial seat in remembrance of the late Denise Hamilton and Jono Tau. The Tuahiwi community was invested in the development of this footpath.

Councillor Williams enquired how many other unsealed footpaths there were in the Waimakariri District, which were older than the Tuahiwi footpath. G Clearly noted that there were not many in urban areas, as footpaths were being installed as urban development grew. However, he acknowledged that there were some unsealed footpaths in more rural areas such as Cust. G Clearly explained that Tuahiwi had become more urban in the last few years and the Council had provided the required infrastructure such as sewer and footpaths. The Council had also worked hard to get the speed limit reduced through Tuahiwi Village to make it safer for the community.

Councillor Ward questioned the cost of sealing the footpath. J McBride explained the process of sealing a gritted footpath and confirmed that the \$100,000 would cover all the costs.

Amendment:

Moved: Councillor Redmond Seconded: Councillor Williams

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Approves** the removal of the budgetary provision of \$100,000 to upgrade the existing Tuahiwi footpath surface from unsealed to asphalt.

LOST

A division was called:

For: (2) Councillors P Redmond and P Williams.

Against: (8) Mayor D Gordon, Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, Councillors R Brine, B Cairns, T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, N Mealings and J Ward.

Debate on the Amendment

Councillor Redmond believed that the sealing of the footpath would be an increase in the Council's level of service. Also, this was a new footpath, and there were other areas which had been waiting longer for sealed footpaths. In his opinion, the Tuahiwi footpath did not meet the Council's criteria, and it should, therefore, not be included in the schedule. The sealing of the footpath was not required to meet regulations, nor would it contribute to community wellbeing.

Councillor Williams agreed that the proposed sealing of the footpath would be an increase in the Council's level of service. He also believed that there were other areas such as Cust and River Road and Enverton Drive in Rangiora, which had a more urgent need for footpaths.

Mayor Gordon did not support the motion, noting the unique nature of the footpath in that it included access to a pre-school, a school, a Marae and a urupā. The footpath was well-used by the community, especially children. The Tuahiwi Community constructed the last footpath developed in the area. The Council had done extensive work with NZTA Waka Kotahi to reduce the speed limit through Tuahiwi Village, and providing a sealed footpath would further enhance the safety of pedestrians. Mayor Gordon acknowledged that there were other areas in the Waimakariri District that also needed sealed footpaths and noted that these paths would be installed once these areas were developed.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson also did not support the motion; he noted that the Tuahiwi footpath was not sealed when it was installed due to budget restraints and not because the Council believed an unsealed path would be better. However, he believed that the sealing of the footpath, which was much used by the community, specifically during funerals at the Marae and a urupā, would benefit the wellbeing of the community.

Councillor Ward commented that there was much foot traffic outside the Marae, and the proposed cost of \$100,000 was negligible in terms of the Council's larger Capital Budget. Hence she would not support the motion

Councilor Fulton did not support the motion and noted that the Tuahiwi Community was a growing community which needed functioning infrastructure. Tuahiwi Village could not be compared with Cust or West Eyreton, as it was a different lifestyle with different expectations.

Councillor Mealings commented that the Tuahiwi Village, with a pre-school, a school, a Marae and a urupā, should not be compared with rural areas such as Ohoka. It made sense to seal the footpath based on the number of people daily using the path.

Councillor Cairns also did not support the motion and suggested that the Tuahiwi footpath should be widened.

Councillor Redmond noted that the sealing of the Tuahiwi footpath was not subsidised, and he felt that there were other priorities in the district. Also, the Tuahiwi footpath was not included in the Council's Footpath Strategy. He agreed that the effect on rates would be minimal. However, he believed that it was sending the wrong message at a time when the Council needed to be prudent due to the economic climate.

7.2 **Proposed Drainage Upgrade on School Road in Woodend**

Mayor Gordon noted that a report would be submitted to the Council on the proposed drainage upgrade on School Road in Woodend. However, the estimated \$126,000 required for the proposed upgrade was not included in the current budget. G Clearly confirmed that a report on this matter would be submitted to the Council. The report would include comments from the Woodend-Sefton Community Board and the property owners.

7.3 **Cycle Network Plan and Cycleways**

Mayor Gordon commented that a report would be submitted to the Council on the proposed Cycle Network Plan and Cycleways in March 2024.

7.4 **Public Consultation on the Natural Environment Strategy (NES)**

C Brown explained that staff had included the full budget for the implementation of the Council's NES to guard against the need to increase the budget and, subsequently, rates.

Councillor Williams suggested that the consultation document should include a breakdown of what the Council was already spending on the environmental projects and the benefits to ratepayers. C Brown confirmed that this would be done.

Councillor Mealings noted that the NES was not necessarily new funding as the strategy was an amalgamation of the environmental work that the Council was currently doing.

Councillor Fulton questioned how the scrapping of environmental projects would affect the Council's standing as a partner in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee. C Brown explained that the provision had been made for the implementation of the Zone priorities, and the implementation of the NES would, therefore, not impact the Water Zone Committee. He noted that Environment Canterbury and the Water Zone Committee supported the work being undertaken by the Council.

7.5 **Rangiora Town Hall sound system upgrade**

C Brown noted that the provision had been made in the current budget for the installation of a sound system in the main theatre at the Rangiora Town Hall. A number of would-be users had indicated they were keen to have a sound system installed as it eliminated the need to hire an external sound system.

Councillor Williams questioned the cost of hiring a sound system. C Brown undertook to provide Councillors with the information.

Councillor Redmond noted that if the cost of the sound system was included in the venue rental, then the Council may receive requests for fee waivers. C Brown agreed that this may happen, however, the Council would have to consider each request on merit.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson noted that on reflection he was happy for the funding to install a sound system at the Rangiora Town Hall to remain in the budget.

7.6 **Enterprise North Canterbury (ENC) Event Funding**

S Hart advised that organisations were struggling to secure funding to host community events. He highlighted the economic and social benefit that community events had for the Waimakariri District.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Approves** the inclusion of budgetary provision of \$34,000 for Enterprise North Canterbury Event Grants.

CARRIED

Abstained: Councillor Williams

Mayor Gordon commented that events were important to the social well-being of the communities. He reiterated that organisations were struggling to secure funding to host community events in the current economic climate. Mayor Gordon raised a concern that the ENC grant funding criteria for events were too strict. He suggested that the Council needed to work with the ENC to relax the event funding criteria to allow more events to be hosted.

Councillor Cairns noted that he had been conducting interviews with promotions associations and other event stakeholders in the district. The common complaint was that the ENC's grant funding criteria was too restrictive.

Councillor Williams agreed that community events were important and he therefore suggested that the Council needed to investigate the possibility of removing bureaucratic red tape, which cost money, such as extensive traffic management. He did not support the motion as he believed that the ENC should use their reserve funding to host community events.

Mayor Gordon asked that the ENC's Chairperson be requested to report to the Council on the status of their reserve funding and the possible disbursement of the funding.

8. **CONFIRM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Council:

- (a) **THAT** all budget resolutions with reports be approved and recommended to Council for adoption on 27 February 2023.

CARRIED


9. **NEXT MEETING**

The Council will meet on Tuesday 27 February 2024 to consider a report seeking approval to consult on the draft Long Term Plan.

The next ordinary meeting of the Council is scheduled for 1pm on Wednesday 7 February 2024 in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.10 PM ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Mayor Dan Gordon

2 April 2024
Date