

Council Workshop, Council Chambers Fairlie, online via Teams		
Tuesday 5 March 2024 9:00am		
In attendance: Mayor Anne Munro and Councillors: Karen Morgan (online), Murray Cox, Scott Aronsen, Phillipa Guerin, Rit Fisher, Matt Murphy CEO Angela Oosthuizen and Executive: Murray Dickson, Chris Clarke, Alexis Kereikeepa, David Adamson Carolyn Gallagher, Dianne Keenan, Dianne Brandish, Sue Wilkins		
Topic	Notes	Actions
Overview Update	<p>Angela Oosthuizen, CE opened with a brief discussion about progress on putting parts of the LTP together. She stated that the financial model was now being reviewed with a view to have it finalised this week. This means that the AMP's and IS will then have to be updated .</p> <p>Angela also talked about how she had talked with other Councils who are deferring or postponing their LTP's. She said that she was certain that MDC was on the right track with updating everything for the LTP.</p> <p>Mayor asked Councillors for their feedback. Councillors were concerned about rates increases given the comments from the ratepayers association.</p> <p>Matters raised for discussion included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twizel meters installation • Cass River bridge and funding • Toilet cleaning costs and whether it should be user pays • Targeted rates increases driven by compliance costs • Wilding Pines and fire risk • Depreciation costs • IT costs • Secondary accommodation charges <p>CE – discussed the process of rating reviews to review how rates are set. From her experience it takes a long time is very complex about 6 months of preparation and 9 months of consultation, can be contentious. A special consultative procedure is required.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute depreciation schedule to Council - Sandy Hogg

	M Dickson – talked about new central government policy “regional deals” just announced and that staff are finding more about what this means for MDC.	
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Fees and Charges	<p>M Dickson talked to the fees and charges schedule that was circulated. He asked for questions. Secondary accommodation charges were discussed.</p> <p>Pensioner housing rents were discussed with sentiment to reduce increase. Commercial operators charges increase from \$5 to \$10 was discussed. Water connection charges discussed D Adamson outlined new rules that have to include backflow prevention and have to cover costs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M Dickson to check mobile traders fees with MDC bylaw which is per site for MDC. 2. Mayor asked question around voluntary fee Alps to Ocean cycleway
Topic	Notes	Actions
Financial Strategy	<p>M Dickson presented slides outlining contents and context of Financial Strategy. Discussion concerned the outcome of reserves expenditure and the CE responded that expenditure had more recently been in response to a major weather event and on roading.</p> <p>There was a discussion about internal borrowings. Internal reserves used minimized borrowing costs but these will be repaid with interest to the reserve over the life of the loan. M Dickson concluded with next steps is rates modelling to be done and included in AMPs, IS, FS and CD.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FS -Add comments about borrowing internally versus externally to keep rates down, prudent financial management.
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Rates remission and postponement policy	Sandy Hogg presented slides on the rates remission policy and separately on the rates postponement policy with changes reflecting MDC support the principles of the preamble to the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993. Rates postponement policy is not being used. Sandy explained the rates rebate system which is directed by Department of internal Affairs and is an online application based on prior years income levels. This was adjusted last year and it is unlikely to be increased further.	
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Revenue and financing policy	Murray Dickson presented slides and gave a comprehensive explanation of what is included in the extensive detail of this policy. Discussion concerned how other councils vary, user charges and how they are applied. Also, how we can present this information in a very clear way to enable understanding across the communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Murray Cox to send details of the Twizel and Fairlie medical centres to Council.
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Treasury Policy	Murray Dickson presented details of the Treasury policy and outlined changes to the policy in terms of links to other policies and references to committees which are no longer in place.	

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<p>Consultation document draft – WIP</p>	<p>Policy needs quite a bit of updating and revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Di Keenan presented slides outlining the context and key issues for consultation. • CE discussed context that over past few years Council has probably under rated then started to increase rates delivered on many projects but now inflation has hit with large impact on rates. • Cllr Guerin suggested that a positive tone about what has been achieved needs to be taken. • Discussion ensued about the four significant issues, and it was suggested to put in a different order be used. • Discussion also concerned rising costs, affordability, and LOS. About 18 months ago there was a public consultation about user pays for toilets and the feedback was against such an approach. This was then approved in Council as a policy. • It was then suggested that Council needs to consider re-introducing user pays in the consultation re public toilet cleaning. It was suggested that the historical decision be restated and that an option to consult on user pays be developed. • Items not in the LTP were discussed extensively and feedback on wording was given. • Discussion about water charging was also held with views shared about transparency of water charging implementation in LTP documents. 	
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<p>Community Development framework</p>	<p>Chris Clarke and Jared Gravatt presented slides about the Community Development Framework and described in detail the various components of the framework.</p> <p>New area for Council -Jared outlined his experience and his approach to working with community groups.</p> <p>The environmental scan will be undertaken by consultants experienced in developing the scan working alongside staff. Priorities will come out of this to guide future decision making.</p> <p>CE discussed Kaikoura experience and initiatives to work with community groups.</p> <p>Chris talked about his experience with Heartland services and how next steps is to engage with Heartlands with the framework.</p>	

Workshop concluded at 4:50pm.