23. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE NINE MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2010

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Council on service delivery and financial performance results for the nine months to 31 March 2010. The budgets and targets in this paper are based on those approved by Council in the 2009-19 LTCCP.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Attached are appendices showing summaries of:

- Performance against organisational targets as at 31 March 2010 **(Appendix 1**).
- Proposed changes to levels of service (**Appendix 1a**).
- Financial performance as at 31 March 2010 (**Appendix 2**).
- Significant capital projects (>$250,000) as at 31 March 2010 (**Appendix 3**).
- Housing development fund as at 31 March 2010 (**Appendix 4**).

Levels of Service

3. The following paragraphs detail Council's forecast performance against the levels of service, financial results and delivery of the capital works programme. In summary the forecasts for these targets are:

- Levels of Service: Forecast to be 89.7 per cent (target 85 per cent).
- Financial performance: Ratepayer cash operating surplus of $4.7 million partially offset by a capital works programme borrowing requirement of $2.2 million.
- Capital Works Programme: Gross carry forwards are forecast to be $47.7 million, 17.6 per cent of the programme (target 15 per cent).

4. The attached report (Appendix 1) shows the forecast of Council's expected year-end performance for Level of Service delivery. The target for 2009/10 is 85 per cent or more of 2009-19 LTCCP levels of service delivered to standard. The current forecast is 89.7 per cent. 5.1 per cent of levels of service are forecast as likely to fail, and 5.1 per cent are forecast as requiring intervention.

5. Appendix 1a contains details of the levels of service that require Council resolution to change. The level of service relates to the timeframe for the development of the Christchurch Economic Development Strategy and resulting work programme and have been proposed by the CDC Board. The LTCCP levels of service for Regional Economic Development enable the CDC Board to propose level of service changes to this activity if required.

Financial Performance

6. The key financials for the year are summarised in the table below, with more detail provided in Appendix 2:

	Year to Date Results			Forecast Year End Results			Forecast Carry Forward	
$000's	**Actual**	**Plan**	**Variance**	**Forecast**	**Plan**	**Variance**	**Carry Fwd**	**Result**
Financial Summary								
Operational Funding	253,888	251,161	2,727	348,794	344,591	4,203		4,203
Operational Expenditure	249,044	261,146	12,103	342,216	344,312	2,096	1,638	458
Cash operating surplus	4,844	-9,986	14,830	6,578	280	6,299	-1,638	4,661
Capital Works Programme	131,528	198,835	67,307	226,493	270,689	44,196	34,805	9,391
Works Programme Funding	97,031	115,957	-18,926	132,879	153,570	-20,691	9,070	-11,621
Works Programme Borrowing Requirement	**34,496**	**82,878**	**48,382**	**93,614**	**117,119**	**23,505**	**25,735**	**-2,230**

7. The forecast cash operating surplus is $4.7 million after allowing for projected carry forwards of $1.6 million . The forecast surplus is largely due to reduced interest expense and higher rates income, and includes an unbudgeted payment to Riskpool of $1.1 million (as mentioned in the December 2009 Performance Report). Significant forecast carry forwards are the energy strategy ($750,000) and heritage grants ($1.125 million).

8. The capital works programme is forecast to be $9.4 million under budget at year end, after allowing for projected net carry forwards of $34.8 million. However, this is offset by lower than expected development contributions and NZTA subsidy, amounting to $11.6 million. The overall forecast result is a $2.2 million deficit requiring funding.

Operational Funding

9. Operational funding is $2.7 million better than budget and forecast to increase to $4.2 million above by year end. The key variances are:

- Fees, Charges and Operational Subsidies are currently $1.2 million above budget, driven by higher than planned revenue from building consents ($1.7 million), cost recoveries relating to private plan changes ($0.8 million) and revenue from various community grants ($0.5 million). Partially offsetting these are NZTA operational subsidies which are $1.2 million under budget mainly as a result of delays in the transport capital programme, and revenue from fines and court recoveries which is $0.7 million under budget. The positive variance is forecast to remain through to year end.
- Dividends and interest revenue are both forecast to be higher than budget ($0.7 million and $0.4 million respectively). The dividends variance relates to the late receipt of the 2008/09 Transwaste dividend.
- Rates income is $1.9 million higher than budget mainly due to penalties.

Operational Expenditure

10. Operating costs excluding debt servicing are $10.4 million under budget year to date, $6.3 million of which mainly relates to timing issues around contract/maintenance costs, particularly in the Road Network ($2.5 million), Organic Material Collection and Disposal ($1.0 million), Recreation and Sports ($0.9 million), Parks ($0.8 million), Waterways & Land Drainage ($0.7 million), and Wastewater Supply ($0.6 million) areas. These maintenance programmes are forecast to be fully spent by year end.

11. Grants costs are also under budget by $3.0 million, $1.2 million of which is a timing issue relating to Community Grants not yet paid out as planned, but which are forecast to be paid out by year end. Another $1.3 million relates to Heritage Grants also not yet paid out ($1.1 million of which will be requested to be carried forward to next year).

12. Debt servicing costs are $1.7 million less than budget, mainly due to lower than planned interest rates. This positive variance is forecast to increase to $2.2 million by year end.

Capital Programme

13. The Capital Works Programme is currently $67.3 million behind budget (as shown in Appendices 2 and 3). The main driver of this variance is delays across the Streets & Transport area, which is $25.9 million behind budget. $4.8 million relates to the Transport Interchange, $2.2 million is a result of delays relating to design and schedule changes of some of the Bus Priority Routes, and $7.1 million is driven by delays on various Kerb & Channel projects. In addition Strategic Land Purchases are $7.3 million behind plan with fewer acquisitions identified than anticipated.

14. The current forecast highlights $47.7 million of projects (17.6 per cent of programme) needing to be carried forward to 2010/11, which exceeds the 15 per cent target. Key identified carry-forwards include: Strategic Land Purchases ($9 million), Graham Condon Leisure Centre ($7.2 million), Christchurch Transport Interchange ($4.6 million), Cashmere Forest Park ($3.0 million), Botanic Gardens Entry Pavilion ($2.6 million), and the Ferrymead Bridge ($2.1 million). Offsetting this is a forecast $12.9 million of work in the 2010/11 programme being undertaken this year, reducing net carry forwards to $34.8 million. In addition, $7.3 million of Vbase equity funding for the Town Hall refurbishment is being carried forward to 2010/11.

15. The LTCCP capital works programme includes a project for the technology required in the new Civic Building. As reported to the Council on 22 April 2010, the implementation of the data centre project incurs operational spend rather than capital spend as budgeted. This year's budget contains $955,000 of rates-funded capital for this project, which staff recommend is transferred to operational budgets to fund the data centre project.

16. Financial details of significant capital projects are shown in Appendix 3 including forecast carry-forwards and bring forwards. Council approval for carry forwards will be sought when the final position is known (when the Annual Report is brought to the Council for approval).

Capital Funding

17. Capital grants and subsidies are $9.2 million behind budget, nearly all being NZTA capital subsidies, which is in line with the current transport capital delays. A shortfall of $5.1 million is forecast at year end, although $2.4 million of this is forecast to be carried forward. The remaining $2.7 million is a result of the Government Policy Statement review mentioned in the September quarterly performance report to the Council, and will require additional Council borrowing.

18. Development contributions applied to the capital works programme are forecast to be $12.4 million less than budget. This includes $3.0 million which has been set aside for the Cashmere Forest Park and will be carried forward to be drawn down when the project occurs. The remaining $9.4 million variance relates to lower than expected development contributions able to be applied to the remainder of the capital works programme. This variance is driven by higher than budgeted parks and reserves development contributions and receipt of revenue at lower rates assessed under the 2004 and 2007 development contribution policies.

19. Asset sales are forecast to be $0.5 million higher than budgeted after taking into account $3.7 million of carry forwards for Sydenham Square and remaining Blenheim Road land sales.

Operational Activities

20. City & Community Long-Term Policy & Planning – This activity is $1.2 million under budget due to an underspend on consultants' fees, which is a result of both timing issues around the payment of invoices, and due to changes in the timing and delivery of some streams of work in a number of projects across the activity. The UDS has also required additional resources to address the preparation for upcoming appeals, which have been captured with the District Plan activity. These issues are also driving the $836,000 forecast underspend.

21. District Plan – This activity is $536,000 over budget and forecast to be overspent by $664,000 at year end, primarily as a result of various Council plan changes and appeals for which the costs are not recoverable (eg. Section 293 Belfast). Part of this overspend will be offset against the forecast savings in City & Community Long-Term Policy and Planning.

22. Heritage Protection – This activity is $1.5 million behind budget mainly due to planned Heritage grants not yet paid out ($1.3 million). This will result in a carry forward request of $1.1 million.

23. Energy Conservation – The forecast variance of $745,000 behind budget relates to delays in starting the Energy Conservation Programme and a carry forward will be requested.

24. Strengthening Communities – Currently $702,000 under budget due to an underspend in Christchurch Safe City Officers ($389,000), as well as Grants revenue being ahead of budget ($237,000) in a number of areas.

25. Community Grants – This activity is $1.0 million behind budget due to delays in scheduled grants payments, but is forecast to be on target at year end.

26. Cultural and Learning Services Capital Revenues – Variance is due to Development Contributions.

27. Regional Economic Development – This activity is $637,000 higher than budget and forecast to remain so. The majority of this variance relates to depreciation costs for the Town Hall, which was planned to be transferred to Vbase last year.

28. Neighbourhood Parks – Currently $0.9 million under budget due to lower than planned depreciation costs ($0.8 million). This variance is forecast to continue.

29. Sports Parks – This activity is $0.5 million under budget, driven by lower than planned depreciation expense ($281,000) and timing issues around maintenance costs ($212,000) however this activity is forecast to be close to budget at year end.

30. Garden and Heritage Parks – This activity is $562,000 behind budget, mainly due to timing of maintenance costs relating to work on statues/clocks/fountains ($366,000). It is forecast to be on budget at year's end.

31. Waterways & Land Drainage – This activity is $765,000 under budget due to savings on maintenance costs. A number of significant works commenced in March, and more are planned to commence in April. Overall, this activity is forecast to be close to budget at year end.

32. Parks & Open Spaces Capital Revenues – Currently under budget by $354,000, driven by Reserves DCs which are $2.8 million higher than planned, partially offset by Land Drainage DCs which are $2.6 million behind. The variance is forecast to increase to $491,000 ahead of budget at year end.

33. Recreation & Sports Services – This activity is $1.0 million under budget, mainly as a result of timing issues with some Pool Programme revenue and contract and asset expenses. It is forecast to be close to budget at year end.

34. Recreation and Leisure Capital Revenues – Variance is due to Development Contributions.

35. Organic Material Collection & Composting – This activity is forecast to be $1.0 million under budget at year end, due to lower than anticipated organics collection costs. The collection costs forecast has been revised down as the costs have been split between each bin type based on trends this year, with the corresponding cost increase being in Recycled Materials Collection.

36. Enforcement & Inspections – This activity currently has a $1.0 million unfavourable variance driven by a $700,000 fines revenue shortfall, primarily due to lower than planned revenue around Bus Lane enforcement. $830,000 for this is included in the year end forecast shortfall of $1.1 million.

37. Regulatory Approvals – This activity is $0.4 million under budget and forecast to remain at a similar level at year end. This variance is driven by higher revenue from Building Consents and LIMs, partially offset by higher than planned expenditure on consultants and legal fees. In addition, significant costs are expected to be incurred relating to weather tight homes claims. We are currently forecasting $776,000 of costs in the current year against a budget of $170,000. These costs are expected to be partially offset by additional consents/LIMs revenue.

38. Road Network – This activity is $1.2 million under budget, largely due to delays in contract commencement on carriageway repairs ($1.4 million YTD, although this is forecast to reduce to $0.5m by year end) as well as lower than planned costs relating to storm damage/emergency work ($0.5 million). There is also a $320,000 saving on electricity costs due to a reduction in charges from Meridian. Partially offsetting this is a $1.1 million shortfall in NZTA subsidy revenue.

39. Active Travel – Currently $548,000 under budget, driven by Footpaths & Berms maintenance ($407,000) as a result of mild weather.

40. Public Transport Infrastructure – This activity is under budget due to lower than planned depreciation costs ($391,000) as well as additional NZTA subsidy revenue ($250,000). This is due to a backdated increase in the subsidy rate from 50 to 60 per cent in this area. Both of these variances are forecast to continue.

41. Streets & Transport Capital Revenues – Currently $10.6 million under budget, $9.3 million of which relates to NZTA subsidies and $1.3 million to Road Network Development Contributions. This is forecast to improve but remain $6.9 million under budget at year end.

42. Wastewater Collection – This activity is under budget by $1.3 million due to depreciation costs ($1.0 million) and lower than planned electricity costs. A slight increase in depreciation costs is forecast ($0.8 million below plan by year end).

43. Wastewater Treatment & Disposal – Under budget by $1.1 million due mainly to lower than planned depreciation costs, in addition to efficiencies and reduced maintenance costs as a result of upgrades at the CWTP. The forecast underspend has been reduced to reflect only the efficiencies, with the maintenance budget forecast to be fully spent. There is still some uncertainty as to how the maintenance costs will be impacted when the fifth and sixth digesters come online.

44. Wastewater Collection & Treatment Capital Revenues – Variance is due to Development Contributions.

45. Water Supply – This activity is forecast to be $478,000 under budget at year end, driven by lower than planned depreciation costs ($372,000).

46. Water Supply Capital Revenues – Variance is due to Development Contributions.

47. Corporate Revenues & Expenses – Forecast to be $4.4 million better than budget, driven by net interest which is forecast to be $3.0 million below budget due to lower than planned interest rates; rates income, forecast to be $1.8 million higher than plan, and dividends revenue (Transwaste), which is forecast to be $0.7 million higher. Partially offsetting this is the forecast $1.1 million payment to Riskpool.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

48. As above.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

49. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

50. Yes – there are none.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

51. Both service delivery and financial results are in direct alignment with the LTCCP and Activity Management Plans.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

52. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

53. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

54. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

(a) Receive the report.

(b) Approve the change in level of service as detailed in Appendix 1a.

(c) Approve the transfer of $955,000 from the capital budget for the new Civic Building to operating budgets for the same purpose.