



Media Release  
29 October 2020

## **Council decisions – Wednesday 28 October**

### **Annual report shows Council in sound position**

The Council's annual report shows its financial position remains strong despite the impacts from Covid-19.

The report, adopted by the Council at its meeting this week, shows the district continued to experience high levels of population and economic growth during the financial year that boosted the Council's already strong economic position.

The Council largely kept to its budgeted spending, with expenditure \$1.8million under forecast, while the strong economic and population growth helped fuel a positive operating revenues and cash flow, largely made up of infrastructure assets being transferred to Council from developers and increased development contribution. (Note: Development contributions are retained to fund new infrastructure and support future growth associated needs that will arise due to the development. Vested assets are a non-cash item reflecting the transfer of infrastructure assets from developers to the Council. Neither of these are available to reduce rates.)

The strong economic position also leaves the Council with a good capacity to deal with uncertain times in the future.

### **Covid rates assistance retained for the remainder of the financial year**

Rates assistance brought in for people struggling because of the impacts of the Covid-19 global pandemic will be retained until the end of the financial year.

A review of the programme showed 39 ratepayers had taken up the option to extend the period they pay their rates. One of those had already paid their full rates balance and one was withdrawn from the scheme due to repeated failures to pay, leaving just 37 ratepayers involved in the scheme.

The package also reduced the late payment penalties from 10% to 3% for the 2020/21 financial year.

While the programme had been effective for those on it, the Council decided with so few ratepayers involved there was little need to continue the programme into the next financial year.

### **Rolleston Rugby Club new home at Foster Park confirmed**

The Rolleston Rugby Football Club was granted a lease for the club's clubrooms at Foster Park.

The lease marks the final stage in the club's move to Foster Park. The Council granted the club a lease for the land where the club rooms sit at the park at the same lease it was paying at Rolleston Reserve.

It is the first time the Council has leased an area of Foster Park to a single group. The club rooms were moved to Foster Park in February 2020 to allow for the development of the new Rolleston Town Centre on Rolleston Reserve.

### **Land sale confirmed for Lincoln**

The Council has confirmed it will sell a house backing on to the housing development on Millpond Lane in Lincoln.

The Council decided to sell 80 Moffat Street, which backs onto the five lots that are being sold to be developed into housing on Millpond Lane opposite the former Lincoln Country Club building.

The Council made the decision earlier this year to retain two further lots around and the Country Club building with a view to forming a new reserve in the area.

### **Biodiversity champion appointed**

Councillor Murray Lemon was appointed as the Council's biodiversity champion to work with other councils in Canterbury on biodiversity issues.

Canterbury's territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury are responsible for managing biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The new cross-council working group has been established after Environment Canterbury asked that all councils appoint a biodiversity champion to work together on biodiversity issues.

Working together on a shared approach to biodiversity across Canterbury aims to provide a stronger voice for working with central government, Canterbury-wide cost savings and shared information to help better protect and improve biodiversity across the province.

### **Camping upgrades and funding secured**

Tourism upgrades are nearing completion and further funding secured from two government funds.

Two toilet block upgrades should be open in the next two weeks with a new eight toilet block built at Lakeside Domain and a new public toilet added to the Springston Public Toilets, using funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

The Council also received just under \$220,000 from the Responsible Camping Working Group Fund for the maintenance of rubbish and recycling, upgrade of signage and for cleaning, emptying and maintaining a variety of toilet options at camping grounds, freedom camping sites and caravan dump stations.

*Note: Full reports can be found in the Council meeting Agenda at:*

[https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/353254/PUBLIC-AGENDA-Council-23-September-2020.pdf](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/353254/PUBLIC-AGENDA-Council-23-September-2020.pdf)

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