

# PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 04 March 2026, commencing at 9.00am

- Members Present:** Councillor Vaughan Dennison (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.
- Apologies:** Councillors Lorna Johnson and Kaydee Zabelin (early departure, on Council business), Councillor Orphée Mickalad (late arrival).

### **Karakia Timatanga**

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb opened the meeting with karakia.

**1-26**

### **Apologies**

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the apologies.

Clause 1-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb declared an interest in Item 15 (Six-monthly report on International Relations and Education Activities) and stated she would consider the item with an open mind.

**2-26**

### **Speed Management Plan - Hearing of Submissions**

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

## FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - PART I - 04 MARCH 2026

1. That the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee receive the submissions and hear submissions from presenters who indicated their wish to be heard in support of their submission.
2. That the Committee note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the procedure sheet.

Clause 2-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The Committee considered submissions on the Speed Management Plan with supporting oral statements including additional tabled material (appended to these Minutes).

The following persons appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submissions and replied to questions from Elected Members.

**Steve Wrathall (170)**

Steve spoke to his submission and made the following additional comment:

- Allowing drivers to get where they want to at reasonable speeds actually improves driver behaviour and increases respect for the law and for existing speed limits; in contrast, forcing drivers to travel at unreasonably slow speeds decreases driver compliance and increases tiredness and frustration.

**St James Catholic School (Andy Whitson) (173)**

Andy spoke to their submission, provided additional material, and made the following additional comments:

- Referenced example of parent who wears a high visibility vest while walking with his daughter to and from St James school, due to safety concerns around the speed with which some motorists pass through this area (refer tabled photograph).
- Spoke of an incident in Auckland recently where a student on road patrol was hit by a car.

**Turitea School (Troy Duckworth, Principal) (40) and Fraser Ponsford (73)**

Troy and Fraser spoke to their submissions and made the following additional comments:

- Propose a reduced speed zone at Turitea School during pick up/drop off times of 8.15-9.15am and 2.45pm-3.15pm.
- They don't want a fatality to be the thing that effects change.

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### **Catherine Millar (45)**

Catherine spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- Throughout New Zealand 36% of crashes are rural and 71% of those crashes result in deaths; there is a higher hit rate in rural communities than in urban centres.
- Long term a roundabout at the intersection of Longburn-Rongotea Road and No. 1 Line is supported, especially given Longburn-Rongotea Road will be a huge part of the proposed ring road around Palmerston North, meaning there will always be a high volume of traffic. This remediation is at least five years away.

### **City to Sea Rail Trust – Manawatū (Alice Williamson) (137)**

Alice spoke to their submission and provided additional material, appended to these Minutes. She made no additional comments.

### **Max the Plumber Ltd (Max Lichtnecker) (157)**

Max spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Would like to see a 70-80km zone on Longburn-Rongotea Road, No. 1 Line on all sides of the junction, as there is a lack of visibility due to the bridge.
- Rumble strips would help make motorists aware of the Stop sign ahead, like there is at the Karere Road intersection.
- It would be a lot easier for New Zealanders to have a consistently standardised system with a 70km zone approaching all major intersections.
- Would like to have the no engine braking signs moved to before Reserve Road, further away from the residential properties, to reduce noise and improve safety.

### **Peter French (177)**

Peter spoke to his submission, providing additional material noting earlier start and closing times for schools in the area, and made the following additional comment:

- Suggest Council staff contact the 40 schools again to obtain more information about foot and vehicle traffic at both the start and close of the day.

### **RACE Group & Kikiwhenua Group Ltd (Glenn Young) (179)**

Glenn spoke to their submission and made no additional comments.

### **Lorraine Cook (145)**

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Lorraine spoke to her submission and made the following additional comment:

- Noted reduced speed areas in other cities have the effect of making things feel calm, traffic moves smoothly, does not cause disruption.

### 3-26 **Speed Management Plan - Summary of Submissions**

Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Acting Manager Strategy and Policy and James Miguel, Senior Transport Planner.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad entered the meeting at 10.05am.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

#### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Speed Management Plan – Summary of Submissions' presented to the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee on 4 March 2026.

Clause 3-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

### 4-26 **Setting Council's Risk Management Appetite and Tolerance Levels**

Memorandum, presented by Stephen Minton, Risk Management Advisor.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

#### The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That Council re-confirm the risk appetite and risk tolerance levels as noted in section 4.1 and 4.2 of the memorandum titled 'Setting Council's Risk Management Appetite and Tolerance Levels' presented on 4 March 2026.

Clause 4.1-26 above was carried 13 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

#### **Against:**

Councillors Brent Barrett and Hayden Fitzgerald.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

2. That Council agree to review risk appetite and tolerance levels triennially hereafter.

Clause 4.2-26 above was carried 10 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

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**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and William Wood.

**Against:**

Councillors Brent Barrett, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 10.41am.

The meeting resumed at 11.00am.

**5-26**

**New Zealand Food Awards - Annual Report**

Report, presented by Jessica Papple, Manager Marketing and Rebekah Sulman, Associate Director Events and Sponsorships, Massey University.

Councillors Lorna Johnson and Kaydee Zabelin left the meeting at 11.30am.

Moved William Wood, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That the Committee decline the request to sponsor the New Zealand Food Awards.

Clause 5-26 above was carried 7 votes to 6, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

Councillors Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Orphée Mickalad and William Wood.

**Against:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb and Billy Meehan.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Grant Smith.

**Note:**

On a motion: 'That the Committee refer the continuation of Programme 2446 of up to \$64k over three years to support the New Zealand Food Awards as part of the Annual Budget 2026/27 deliberations in May', the motion was lost 6 votes to 7, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Brent Barrett, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru and Debi Marshall-Lobb.

**Against:**

Councillors Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and William Wood.

**6-26**

**Business Assurance Accountability Report**

Memorandum, presented by Emy Bastillo, Internal Auditor/Business Assurance Advisor & Desiree Viggars, Manager Legal Risk & Assurance.

Councillors Lorna Johnson and Kaydee Zabelin entered the meeting again at 12.00pm.

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Councillor Leonie Hapeta left the meeting at 12.11pm.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Business Assurance Accountability Report' presented on 4 March 2026.

Clause 6-26 above was carried 12 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

#### **Against:**

Councillors Mark Arnott and Hayden Fitzgerald.

**7-26**

**Health and Safety Report, 1 July to 30 September 2025 (Quarter 1) and Health and Safety Report, 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Quarter 2)** Memorandums, presented by Danny Kidd, Health and Safety Advisor and Sarah Morris, General Manager People & Capability.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandums titled 'Health and Safety Report, 1 July to 30 September 2025 (Quarter 1)' and 'Health and Safety Report, 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Quarter 2)' presented to the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee on 4 March 2026.

Clause 7-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 1.04pm.

The meeting resumed at 2.00pm.

Councillor Leonie Hapeta was present when the meeting resumed.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad was not present when the meeting resumed.

**8-26**

**Wellbeing Report, 1 July to 30 September 2025 (Quarter 1) and Wellbeing Report, 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Quarter 2)** Memorandums, presented by Connie Roos, Manager Employee Experience and Wayne Wilson, Manager People Operations.

Officers noted the following updates to the reports:

### **Quarter 1 Report: Table 5 Turnover**

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25/26 Sep 1/4

*Employee Initiated:* 20 should read 12

%: 15.2% should read 8.4%

**Quarter 2 Report: Table 5 Turnover**

25/26 Sep 1/4

*Employee Initiated:* 20 should read 12

%: 15.2% should read 8.4%

25/26 Dec 1/4

*Employee Initiated:* 15 should read 21

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandums titled 'Wellbeing Report, 1 July to 30 September 2025 (Quarter 1)' and 'Wellbeing Report, 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Quarter 2)' presented to the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee on 4 March 2026.

Clause 8-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

**9-26**

**Six-monthly report on International Relations and Education Activities**

Memorandum, presented by Gabrielle Loga, Manager International Relations and Kunal Chonkar, International Relations and Education Advisor.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad entered the meeting at 2.14pm.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the 'Six-monthly report on International Relations and Education Activities', presented on 4 March 2026.

Clause 9-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

**Note:**

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb declared an interest and stated she would consider the item with an open mind.

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**10-26 Committee Work Schedule**

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee receive its Work Schedule dated March 2026.

Clause 10-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

**Karakia Whakamutunga**

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 2.26pm.

Confirmed 1 April 2026

**Chair**