

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors

FROM: Chief Executive

REFERENCE: C780

DATE: 28 September 2006

SUBJECT: CEOs Report for October/November 2006

STAFFING

Generally staffing matters are proceeding smoothly. We have managed to recruit a new Building Control Officer and are endeavouring to recruit a second such employee. These moves will assist in reducing pressure and delays in the building services area.

It is interesting to note that our Customer Service Department has now been operating for approximately six months and the one stop shop is beginning to work successfully, but it has and will continue to involve a considerable amount of staff training and this has been progressing particularly well.

RATES INQUIRY

I enclose a media statement from the Minister of Local Government, Hon Mark Burton, setting out the terms of reference for the rates inquiry and bio details of the three panel members. It is notable that the inquiry is required to report to Government by 31 July 2007, which is a very tight target to meet for a full inquiry into all facets of rating. The terms of reference appear sufficiently wide to enable the panel to comment on all significant rating matters and possible solutions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING WORKING PARTY

This working party is completing its second report for the Central/Local Government Forum meeting on 6 December 2006. The information and research from this working party will be made available to the new rates inquiry and should provide the inquiry with significant background on this matter.

VISIT FROM DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND HOUSING

We recently had a visit from senior managers with the Department of Building and Housing to discuss some of our recent concerns regarding workload, future accreditation and increasing costs. The visit was certainly helpful in explaining the Department's objectives and what would be necessary to comply with accreditation timetable matters. There is no likelihood of any significant change in this policy, however, it does appear that councils will be given a more extended period of time to obtain full accreditation.

PORT NELSON LIMITED – FIRST QUARTER

I enclose a brief report from Port Nelson Limited covering their result for the first quarter of the 2006/2007 year.

LEE VALLEY DAM PROPOSAL

Background work is being carried out to facilitate funding partners to complete the feasibility study. We are currently engaged in discussions with our solicitor and taxation experts on how best to set up a governance structure for such a significant dam project. It is becoming apparent that if we are to go ahead seriously with this project, we will need to appoint a Project Manager as the workload involved is beyond the capabilities of the existing staff who already have their hands full with "normal" council duties.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN061116 Report CEOs.doc>