

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Community Services Chair

REFERENCE: C785

DATE: 23 November 2005

SUBJECT: Chairperson's Report

As this is the last Community Services meeting for this calendar year I would like to thank the members of the committee for their support and work during the year. We have had constructive discussions on many issues and I appreciate the contribution of all members. Next year we will be joined by other councillors and I look forward to the same level of contribution and constructive decision-making.

My thanks also to Community Services staff for their work this year – the department has a wide-ranging set of responsibilities and this is reflected in the diverse range of staff skills within the team. I also recognize the great amount of work which is going into the preparations for the budget discussion for next year's LTCCP round.

The change of structure for budget discussions this year will be an interesting, and perhaps challenging, exercise for Council and will hopefully bring a more global awareness of each department's role in the overall delivery of services to the community.

I would echo the comments of the Chairperson of Corporate Services regarding the ongoing affordability of various projects, both in terms of capital and operating costs. Members will recall that I raised this issue some months ago and I believe we should keep it firmly in mind when debating and deciding on these projects. The great enthusiasm and dedication of each community is not at question but this must be balanced with objective analysis of the financial impact on those communities, both now and into the future.

Continuing the theme of community facilities, I suggest that now that there are several very good facilities in place in our rural areas, Council could seriously consider using these venues for workshop-type meetings. The Council chambers do not lend themselves to group discussions or any type of break-out group work, whereas the versatility of some of the new venues would accommodate this extremely well.

The ongoing participation of the Youth Council and other young people merits a brief mention here. Hopefully we can encourage this even more in the future, it is

refreshing to hear how young people view the work of Council – increased awareness of, and input into, the role of Local Government is very healthy for us all.

Finally, I wish all Councillors and their families a relaxing and happy Christmas season and look forward to a year of challenging but satisfying work in 2006.

P K O'Shea
Chairperson

http://tdctoday:82/shared_documents/meetings/council/committees_and_subcommittees/community_services_committee/reports/2005/rcs051201_report_chairperson.doc