

Report No:	RCS12-07-02
File No:	
Date:	3 July 2012
Information Only – no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Community Services Committee
Meeting Date: 12 July 2012
Report Author: Cr Judene Edgar
Subject: Chairman's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report covers:

- Funding for Brightwater Community Development.
- Library "Makerspaces".
- Long Term Plan matters.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report RCS12-07-02.

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Subject: **Chairman's Report**

1. WELCOME

1.1 Welcome to today's Community Services Committee meeting. As you are all aware, Community Services Manager, Lloyd Kennedy, is on sick leave for the next few months. During his absence, the Community Services third tier managers will share his responsibilities by relieving in the role for one month each. Thanks to Jim Frater, Mike Tasman-Jones, Beryl Wilkes, Glennis Coote and Suzanne Westley for stepping up during Lloyd's absence and for Strategic Development Manager, Susan Edwards, who will support and guide them. Our best wishes also go to Lloyd and Val.

2. BRIGHTWATER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1.2 Through the Community Development Fund we were able to support an innovative and collaborative project led by the Brightwater Community Association. This was considered by the committee to be a perfect example of why the fund was established and the type of community-led projects with broad, long-term benefits that we sought to support. This project which has buy-in from a wide number of different community groups, as well as Brightwater School, is a community-wide project rather than an organisational project, which seeks to foster community pride, promote local history and capitalise on the tourism opportunities of Tasman's Great Taste Trail. Some of the key features of the project are a mural, pictorial information map, village green and a water wheel at Brightwater School.

3. MAKERSPACES

3.1 An article on the role of libraries as 'makerspaces' was recently shared with me. Modelled after hackerspaces, a makerspace is a place where young people have an opportunity to explore their own interests, learn to use tools and materials and develop creative projects. It could be embedded inside an existing organisation or standalone on its own. It could be a simple room in a

building or an outbuilding that's closer to a shed. The key is that it can adapt to a wide variety of uses and can be shaped by educational purposes as well as the students' creative goals.

- 3.2 Makerspaces provide opportunities for participatory learning. The concept of makerspaces has been very successful within the Richmond library and hopefully will be able to be incorporated into the design of the Motueka Library upgrade.

4. LONG TERM PLAN

4.1 Across all departments of Council in our endeavours to reduce rates (and debt), we have tried to cut back as much as possible. In signing off the Long Term Plan, we have reduced levels of service in many areas and deleted, delayed or modified projects. There will no doubt be backlash from the public as the impacts of some of these cost-saving measures are realised. This is always the unfortunate downside of belt-tightening. Balancing community needs and wants against affordability is never going to be an exact science and never going to meet everyone's expectations.

4.2 The impacts of funding changes will not necessarily be short-lived with no upturn in the global economy currently foreseeable. There are also a number of further areas where we have sought reviews, such as tourism funding, so that we can evaluate Council's ongoing role in funding these activities. The outcome of the local government reforms may also have some significant impacts on current areas of funding as the proposed change to funding of infrastructure and "public services" is yet to be defined. Further, we are wanting to systematically review and re-evaluate some of our larger capital projects.

5. RECOMMENDATION/S

5.1 That the report be received.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Community Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report
RCS12-07-02.**

Judene Edgar
Chair

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