

REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Chair, Corporate Services Committee

DATE: 14 February 2007

SUBJECT: **Corporate Services Chairman's Report**

Welcome to the first Corporate Services meeting for 2007. It has been a far more relaxed start to the year following the work we did prior to Christmas to get the draft annual plan largely completed and will hopefully mean that the consultation round will happen earlier and leave more time at the decision making end of the process. I had hoped that this would happen last year but with the audit process to work through it did not work out. I believe that it will be important to explain the new approach to the annual plan consultation in that it revolves around changes to the LTTCP although submitters can, and I expect will, suggest further changes, either additions or deletions.

One of the issues to keep in mind is how the current year's financial performance may affect the decisions on next year's budget for example as discussed at the Environment and Planning meeting. If there are areas of under-recovery in fees and charges showing up in the quarterly and six monthly reports there is a risk in building in the same level of revenue into the budget for the following year.

One of the challenges under the LTTCP is how to measure the performance of the Council in meeting its performance targets. The Corporate Services Department staff have developed a process for keeping a closer track of how each part of Council is progressing towards these targets, some of which are financial, but a large number of which are not and may be more difficult to measure. It will be necessary to show to the Audit Department in the annual report how the Council has measured compliance in these areas. Hopefully the system will allow managers particularly to see regularly if there are areas of concern and address them sooner rather than finding out late in the piece and be left with fewer options.

Lastly, David will report on the consultation process and timeframe for the Port Nelson share buy-back money. There are bound to be a wide range of views regarding its use and consequently some hard decisions to make but also opportunities to benefit a wide range of people for a long time to come.

Tim King
Chair
Corporate Services Committee