

REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Chairperson, Tim King

DATE: 22 November 2007

SUBJECT: **Chair's Report, November 2007**

Welcome to the first meeting of Corporate Services Committee for this term of Council.

For new Councillors who will already have a huge workload getting up to speed with the range of Council responsibilities, the manager is only too happy to sit down and answer any questions relating to Corporate Services operation at a time that suits you.

For all Councillors, the workshops on 5 and 6 December 2007 are extremely important to give direction to the staff preparing the draft annual plan for 2008/2009, so being well prepared is very important. Understanding the assumptions behind year 3 of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and any changes that may be required or desired, need to be addressed over this two day period.

The funding requirements recommendation in the agenda is, for existing Councillors, a change to the previous six weekly approval process and will enable the Corporate Services Manager to better manage the raising of loans as required instead of dealing with the time lag associated with the six week timeframe. Projects that do not proceed for whatever reason will not have the loans associated with them raised.

The job costing system has been in the pipeline for some time and it is good to see it finally being implemented. Hopefully as well as improving cost recovery it will provide another source of information to enable Council to run its business more efficiently.

The recommended use of the Port Nelson share buy-back money to pay off debt is, in my view, a prudent course of action. However, the benefits of going through the exercise comparing the options was worthwhile and further gains may be made in the way we manage our debt through a review of the Treasury Management Policy to be undertaken initially by the Audit Subcommittee and reporting back to Corporate Services in the new year.

As well as being the first, this is the last Corporate Services Committee for the year, so after the Council workshops enjoy a break over Christmas before we get into the real stuff in the new year.

Tim King
Chair