

REPORT

TO: Members, Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Tim King, Chair

DATE: 17 July 2008

SUBJECT: **Chair's Report for July 2008**

Welcome to this meeting of the Corporate Services Committee. Thanks to all for their time commitment over the last few months as we've worked through the annual plan, meetings, submissions and decisions. This is always a difficult process, made even harder this year by the difficult economic situation facing the community and the impact of oil prices, particularly on the engineering budget.

Financial reporting has been the subject of discussions amongst Councillors. The Corporate Services Manager and Accounting Manager have been working with NCS to enable us to provide a more graphical form of financial reporting which is demonstrated in the agenda and will hopefully be fully operational in time to be used as we work through the development of the LTCCP. It is anticipated that this will be used across all the committees of Council so that financial reporting in all departments is consistent and easy for Councillors, staff and the public to follow.

The report contained in the agenda on the loans raised in the 2007/2008 financial year shows that while the Council budgeted to raise \$25.2 million, the total amount of loans raised was only \$13.2 million. While there will be some projects completed and loans raised over the balance of the previous year and running into this year, there is still the likelihood that a significant proportion of these loans will not be used, despite the fact that the Council has collected the money to cover the cost of this borrowing. Given that one of the major concerns of both the Council and the wider community is the level of debt that the Council is forecasting over the current ten year and into the next ten year plan, I believe it is important that we are as accurate as possible in forecasting our capital works programme and then delivering on it. I understand that there are a range of circumstances which mean it is not always possible to complete these projects in the timeframes contemplated, but it is an area we need to put a significant amount of effort into improving.

Today we are considering the rates remissions for the 2008/2009 financial year. The majority of these remissions have been dealt with in previous years and are covered by our rates remissions policy. It would be good to focus on the new applications for remission, however, particularly for those who are new to the process, if you have any questions prior to the meeting on any of the applications, please contact Anthea Campbell, Council's Rates Officer on 543 8429..

Tim King