

# REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Members, Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** Tim King

**DATE:** 6 November 2008

**SUBJECT:** **Chair's Report November 2008**

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Welcome to the final Corporate Services Committee meeting for 2008. I have taken the opportunity to invite the Corporate Services staff to have morning tea with the Committee. I feel that it is a valuable opportunity for Councillors to meet all those involved, many of whom work behind the scenes and do not have a lot of opportunity to interact with us.

The dates for the revised District valuations have been altered slightly in discussions with Quotable Value, providing an extension to the time available to lodge objections into February 2009 which will hopefully make it easier for people who need to seek advice over this period of time. As covered in the Manager's report, a presentation will be made to the Council meeting in December 2008 prior to the release of the new valuations.

It was good to receive the unqualified audit opinion on the 2007/2008 Annual Report and positive comments from Audit NZ on the content and the relationship with our accounting staff which in no small measure reflects in the timeliness and lack of qualification that our accounts receive on an annual basis. Many thanks to Murray, Russell, Bryce and the rest of the team. I am sure they are looking forward to the return of the auditors for the draft LTCCP.

The recent workshops relating to the LTCCP demonstrated how much work has been done and still needs to be done between now and early in the new year to put the draft document together and then to take it out to the public and the challenge it will be to communicate so much information over what is a relatively short period of time. It has been good to see the level of input that has come from both communities throughout the district and different interest groups in the initial stages of the process. However this comes with an added expectation that those issues raised will be addressed in some way, shape or form.

The report in today's agenda covering the process for recovering rates that are not paid within the specified time highlights the significance lengths that Council staff go to to provide a case by case basis for what is in some cases, a significant issue for the people concerned. I believe our staff in this area do an excellent job dealing with this difficult issue.

While it is still some time away, and there is a significant amount of work to undertake prior to Christmas, if and when you do get a break over the holiday period, make the most of it with family and friends and hopefully return refreshed to meet the challenges of the new year.

Tim King  
Chair  
Corporate Services Committee