

# STAFF REPORT

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

**FROM:** Accounting Manager

**DATE:** 4 November 2008

**SUBJECT:** Financial Report

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## FINANCE SECTION

Work in the finance section has been far from business as usual over the past months. Tasks such as the annual accounts and LTCCP, combined with a General Ledger upgrade have fully extended the resources of the section. I am pleased to report that whilst it has been busy it has also been fulfilling as we have all extended our knowledge base on the many intricacies and interrelationships that make Tasman District Council.

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

It was very pleasing to have the 2007/2008 Annual Report receive an unqualified Audit Opinion, and be adopted by Council on Thursday 30 October 2008. Annual reports are continuing to expand in both size and complexity over time, thereby requiring an increasing level of resource. Sound financial systems together with a strong working history with Audit New Zealand have ensured Council has a good working relationship with the auditor. In appreciating this relationship the audit team also focuses on proving a continuity of personnel in the audit team, which in turn enhances that relationship.

Focus now goes on completing the publication of the report, which will become available to the public on or before Friday 28 November 2008. In recognition of the different modes folk take up information, the report will be produced in three mediums; the traditional bound copy, posted on Council's web site, and on compact disk.

Along with the full report, a summarised version is also completed highlighting the essential information along with a number of the key projects. This document is a condensed version of the full report, more palatable for public circulation, and will also be made available in the three different formats.

## **2009 – 2019 LTCCP**

Work on the LTCCP has consumed significant hours from a number of staff throughout Council, particularly the finance team as data is entered, altered, reviewed, and new iterations disbursed. It is pleasing to report that despite the frustrations, work has progressed at a good speed, a greater understanding of the process has been gained, and there has been a strong resolve to make the system work. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to work with such a committed and supportive team as we have worked through the various issues raised.

My appreciation for the resolve, loyalty, and dedication of those involved cannot be understated.

## **GENERAL LEDGER UPGRADE**

As reported previously the General Ledger has been upgraded. Whilst this has enabled us to now produce 20 year projections in the LTCCP, workload has prevented us from developing some of the other initiatives we are keen to roll out.

## **MONTHLY REPORTING**

With staff hours being extensively focused on those “tasks” detailed above, monthly financials for September 2008 have not been completed. It is our intention to complete full reports, including closed accounts for both October 2008 and December 2008.

## **END OF YEAR**

Although it is only the beginning of November, and there is still much we wish to accomplish before the end of this year, time has a habit of travelling very fast during this time. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Finance Team, to thank the Corporate Services Committee for your supportive approach to the new initiatives we have signalled, and together look forward to seeing the results of our endeavours in the near future.

Russell Holden  
Accounting Manager