

# REPORT

**TO:** Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** Tim King

**REFERENCE:** A501

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**SUBJECT:** Chair's Report, March 2009

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Finally, the LTCCP draft is complete and almost ready for release to the public. If size is any measure at all, it must be the best yet!! A comparison with previous plans shows a consistent expansion in thickness which it can only be hoped is not mirrored by its architects – us! However, as we all know, size doesn't matter and it will be the contents that we are judged on. My personal view is that it is a very well set out, professional looking document that contains all the information that people need to decide whether the priorities and direction of the Council is, in their opinion, right or wrong, achievable or not, and financially responsible or otherwise. I am sure a variety of opinion will be forthcoming.

Our draft LTCCP is clearly a ten year plan, not a one or two year plan with eight years tacked on the end as an after thought. I believe this is vitally important as the decisions made today around priorities, funding, borrowing and growth have impacts through and beyond the whole ten years. While some of the key areas of infrastructure spending are challenging, I believe it is important that they are laid out clearly and transparently so people can see the costs, the benefits, the proposed methods of funding and decide whether they share Council's view of the relative priorities of these projects.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the staff across every department of Council for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the draft LTCCP's preparation. Particular thanks to Susan Edwards for the lead role she has had in its development, which is illustrated by both the look and content of the two volumes and the passage and outcome through the Audit and Hot Review process.

This is the start of the key consultation process and hopefully the new format with the afternoon drop-in chat sessions around the district will be well received and enable a range of people to ask questions, have a discussion and provide their input. I encourage as many Councillors as possible to attend the various meetings around the district and to encourage other people that they meet in their day to day activities to have a say either through the formal submission process or just as comments and feedback to Councillors or staff.

It is clear there is another couple of very busy months ahead – roll on 30 June 2009!

Tim King  
Chair, Corporate Services Committee