

REPORT

TO: Members, Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Councillor Tim King, Chair

DATE: 7 September 2010

SUBJECT: **Chair's Report – RFN10-09-01**

Welcome to the last Corporate Services Committee meeting for this term of Council. Thank you to everybody for their attendance and input as the work undertaken by this Committee is not necessarily high profile or particularly exciting. It should, however, be noted that the Corporate Services Manager does find the intricacies of treasury management fun!

It is vital to ensure that this function is sound, given Council's reliance on borrowing to fund infrastructure development and replacement. The use of various financial instruments to secure facilities and reduce our overall cost of borrowing (currently 5.94% including margin) has been critical. This has ensured access to funding for projects commenced during this current term, and that future ventures that the new Council may wish to undertake, are achievable. The negotiation of the ANZ National Bank facility and the Debenture Trust Deed have been key parts of this process.

Over the three year term Council's Annual Accounts have been audited and passed each time with flying colours. A comprehensive LTCCP has been developed and my thanks on behalf of Council to all staff who have been involved in this process. It certainly involves a big commitment at a time when resources are already fully stretched.

Thanks also to the rating staff who have to deal with the issues raised by the public in response to Council's plans and the impact these have on rates. The perception that ratepayers have of Council is greatly improved by the professional manner in which staff handle each enquiry.

One issue that I would like to address is that of the structure of agendas and whether Councillors and staff time is being used efficiently. Important issues are often being discussed at the end of the day when people are tired, perhaps frustrated, and not always in the best frame of mind for making key decisions. Such issues should be raised first with information only items left to the end of meeting. I do acknowledge that a great deal of time and effort has been spent writing information only reports and staff may appreciate the opportunity to present these to the Council.

Reports could also be better arranged to cover decisions required, matters of strategic importance and information items, in that order. This would make it easier for Chairs to manage the time available and ensure Council's business is completed efficiently.

In the new term of Council, whoever is in the role of Corporate Services Chair may wish to progress these issues with other Chairs in an effort to manage the ever increasing workload of both Councillors and staff.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Chair's Report RFN10-09-01 be received by the Corporate Services Committee.

Tim King
Chair