

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Corporate Services Committee
FROM: David Ward
DATE: 6 April 2006
SUBJECT: Corporate Services Manager's Report – April 2006

Not unexpectedly the agenda for today's meeting is somewhat limited in content due to LTCCP preparation dominating the thoughts and working lives of staff within the Corporate Services Department during recent months. Those items contained in my report are simply of a catch up or general information basis.

1.1 LOAN ROLL OVER

The following recommendation is required to acknowledge a funds roll over that has taken place on 20 March 2006, for a three month period. The interest rate for this rollover facility was 7.67%.

Recommendation:

That a loan of \$1,661,353.75 be raised for the purpose of repaying at maturity the Tasman District Council General Renewal Loan No 47, 2006 and that such loan be known as the Tasman District Council General Renewal Loan No 48, 2006.

1.2 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Recommendation:

That:

i)		The Council shall borrow the sum of six million, seven hundred and sixty six thousand and three hundred and forty six dollars (\$6,766,346) from (Bank).
ii)		The loan documentation shall comprise the following:
	a)	Existing deed of charge entered into between Tasman District Council, Bank of New Zealand, National Bank of New Zealand, Westpac and ASB Bank Ltd.
	b)	A letter of offer from Westpac.

iii)	The Mayor and the Chief Executive are authorised to sign the loan documentation on behalf of the Council.																
iv)	The Chief Executive is authorised to sign a certificate, pursuant to s122ZG(3) of the Local Government Act 1974.																
v)	The loan advance of dollars shall be used to finance the following projects identified in Council's Annual Plans:																
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vi)	The Council shall charge rates revenue as security for the loan and the performance of its obligations pursuant to the loan documentation.																
vii)	The Council acknowledges that by charging rates revenue, the Council is deemed to have made a special rate of such amount each year, on the rateable value of every rateable property in the district, as is sufficient to provide in that year for the payment of its commitments in respect of the loan or loan documentation during that year plus 10% thereof until the loan is repaid or the obligations incurred under the loan documentation are fully performed.																
viii)	The Council has considered the risks and benefits to the Council of the loan and loan documentation and of the security to be given in relation to the loan and loan documentation.																
ix)	The Council is satisfied that the general terms and conditions of the loan and loan documentation and of the security to be given in relation to the loan and loan documentation are in accordance with the borrowing management policy adopted by the Council and, in particular, the limits and guidelines set out in that borrowing management policy.																
x)	The Council delegates to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Services Manager the authority to further determine the precise terms and conditions of the loan, loan documentation and																

		security, to be negotiated at the best current terms and conditions, such terms and conditions to be advised to the Council following the raising of the loan.
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2 RURAL PROPERTY NUMBERING

The contractor undertaking rural property address numbering in the Lakes Murchison Ward commenced activities on 6 April 2006. The starting point is an area comprising Valley Road, Kerr Hill Road, Korere Tophouse Road and adjoining side roads.

In total there are an estimated 1300 properties within the Lakes Murchison Ward who will receive rural property numbers. The exercise is scheduled for completion by 30 June 2006.

Concurrently staff have called for road names submissions within this Ward. These submissions close on 7 April 2006 and a verbal report on numbers, suggestions and process will be provided at today's meeting.

3 RATES REBATE SCHEME

Attached is an information sheet prepared by Department of Internal Affairs giving an overview of the rates rebate scheme that will come into effect on 1 July 2006.

Council staff are planning for anticipated enquiries from property owners who may receive some benefit from this scheme. An initial meeting has been held with Grey Power. Follow up meetings are scheduled with Work and Income and the Positive Ageing Forum. It is proposed to jointly promote the scheme, its timetable and the process to be followed with each of these named organisations.

Whilst the numbers that may benefit from the scheme are hypothetical at this stage staff are prepared for an influx of enquiries which will commence after the first rates bill for the 2006/2007 is issued at the start of August 2006.

4 VALUATION ISSUES

Quotable Value are reviewing those objections that they received to the recently released district property valuations, with the objective of having all issues considered prior to 1 July 2006. Of those considered to date the majority have been resolved with no amendment.

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW REFORM BILL

Attached for councillor information is a description of the proposed contents of the Local Government Law Reform Bill which will be considered over the next few months. There are a number of issues contained within the attachment that will be of particular interest to councillors and which may warrant further debate.

6 BETHANY PARK TRUST BOARD AGREEMENT VARIATION

Council has acted as guarantor for the Bethany Park Trust Board on a loan raised over 10 years ago for works undertaken at a property owned by them at Kaiteriteri. The Trust Board make all required payments to Council under the loan arrangements – the expiry date for the loan is 2016.

Recommendation

That Council agrees to vary the facility agreement between Bethany Park Trust Board and ASB Bank, acknowledging that this variation is directly as a result of a change in the Trust Board's banking arrangements.

7 LIBRARY WEBSITE UPDATE

At our last Committee meeting I advised councillors of scheduled updates to our website through the 2006 calendar year. The first update launch is for those aspects of the website specific to the library. A public launch will be held at the District Library at Queen Street, Richmond on Wednesday 19 April 2006 commencing at 5.30 pm. All councillors and partners will receive invitations for this event, the duration of which will be approximately 1.5 hours.

David Ward
Corporate Services Manager