

REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Chair, Corporate Services Committee

DATE: 11 July 2007

SUBJECT: Corporate Services Chairperson's Report

Welcome to this Corporate Services meeting, particularly to Murray as his first meeting as Manager of the Department, I am sure that he has found the last few weeks quite a learning curve and I am sure that he will do an excellent job in the position.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Councillors and staff for all the time put in over the Annual Plan period attending the public meetings and the following hearings and the constructive way the decision-making discussions were conducted. It doesn't get any easier deciding on the many varied requests we receive via submissions.

Just when you thought it was safe, the Port Dividend submissions process is ahead. You will have received the submissions and it appears that not surprisingly there is little in the way of consistency in what people see as the best use of the money. The hearing of those submissions and the consideration of the written ones is scheduled for the 25th of July.

The Rate enquiry is also due to report on the outcome of their investigations and it will be very interesting to see what they have made of the many submissions they have had from a wide range of groups with, I am sure, an equally wide range of ideas on how best to fund the activities of local government. I am not expecting a recommendation to radically overhaul the current property-based rating system but there may be some significant tinkering within the current framework around targeted rates, UAGCs etc. Like all such processes, it may be a case of watch what you ask for because it is not certain that any recommended changes will benefit all Council's ratepayers. Councils around the country use such a mix of the current funding tools and varying levels of debt that the effects of any changes are likely to vary from council to council.

Lastly my personal thanks to David Ward for all his help to me over the 9 years I have been on Council, I have enjoyed working with him in Corporate Services and I am sorry I missed his farewell but thanks to Trevor for an appropriately humorous send off.

Tim King
Chair
Corporate Services Committee