

REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Tim King

REFERENCE: A501

DATE: 19 January 2009

SUBJECT: Chair's Report, January 2009

Welcome to the first Corporate Services meeting for 2009. I hope you all had an enjoyable break with family and friends and are back full of energy and enthusiasm for the new year which promises to be challenging in a number of ways.

The final draft LTCCP will be one of the early challenges with all the time we put into this last year and staff have put in over the holidays, it will be good to get this out into the public arena for comment feedback and submission. It is likely that 2009 will be a difficult year for many people and I expect a significant amount of scrutiny over the financial impact of the Council's plans as we have seen from the impact and reaction to the valuations. The effect of any decision varies so much from person to person that is difficult to create a plan that addresses all those variables. It is clear that amongst the difficulties in the economic situation that there are some advantages, the main one for us is the potential for low interest rates over the first few years of the LTCCP and with our Treasury policies the ability to stretch the benefits of those over the following years.

The spectre of local government reorganisation has again been raised in the last few days with all the speculation over the commission into Auckland. This will present an ongoing point of discussion when it is released and it will be interesting to see the government's response and compare it to the response, or lack of it, to the rates inquiry.

As I went round the district over the holidays it was re-enforced what a great place we live in. Talking to people about why they come here to holiday or to live, overwhelmingly it is the outdoors, the weather and the friendly laid back feeling of the area. Thankfully we are not responsible for the weather, although I am sure Rodney Hide will find a way of blaming local government if the weather is not to his liking !!

Tim King
Chair
Corporate Services Committee