

Report No:	RFN11-08-07
File No:	C780
Date:	8 August 2011
<b><i>Information Only – no decision required</i></b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Corporate Services Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 18 August 2011  
**Report Author:** Tim King  
**Subject:** **Chair's Report – RFN11-08-07**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the Chair's regular meeting report.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Corporate Services Committee receives the Chair's Report – RFN11-08-07.**

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**Report to:** Corporate Services Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 18 August 2011  
**Report Author:** Cr Tim King  
**Subject:** **Chair's Report – RFN11-08-07**

Welcome to the Corporate Services Committee meeting.

## **1. LONG TERM PLAN REVIEW**

- 1.1 As if to highlight the challenging environment in which we continue to operate, the issues facing the US and world financial markets over the last few weeks remind us that we need to continue to focus on the key priorities for the Council. As we embark on our LTP review, it is likely to be in an environment of continued economic uncertainty.

## **2. ENQUIRY INTO HOUSING PROVISION AND COST**

- 2.1 On a matter not entirely related to Corporate Services, I note with interest that the Productivity Commission is undertaking an enquiry into housing provision and cost.
- 2.2 It is receiving strong submission, particularly from business/ property investment interests that allege restrictive council zoning is having a significant impact on the affordability of housing in New Zealand.
- 2.3 The outcome of this enquiry will be very interesting and may have impacts on future council planning processes.

## **3. AMALGAMATION ISSUES**

- 3.1 The continued debate around the two local councils financing policies, ie the use of debt versus the use of a mix of debt and cash funded depreciation is a little frustrating.
- 3.2 I have stated my clear understanding that neither approach is incorrect, that both require careful management so as to minimise the impact on ratepayers and that the required funding through rates or other sources is similar, regardless of which approach one takes.

- 3.3 I would also like to highlight the fact that despite our misgivings about some of the figures in the Local Government Commission's reports, they do confirm that both councils finances are prudently managed and able to deliver both the current requirements and those contained in their ten year plans.
- 3.4 I will provide copies at the meeting of Nelson City Council's key financial tables from their ten year plan so Councillors can compare the two and draw their own conclusions. It may also assist with any discussions that you have with ratepayers.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the report be received.

#### **5. DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**THAT the Corporate Services Committee receives the Chair's Report – RFN11-08-07.**