

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

14 DECEMBER 2011

---

## AGENDA ITEM D1

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

---

#### **Purpose of Report**

To report to Council on general activities since the Council meeting on 2 November 2011.

#### **Recommendations**

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that Council:

1. *Receive the report.*

#### **1. Finance**

The financial report for the month ending 31 October 2011 is included with the Council papers.

#### **2. General**

The Council was honoured to have the presence of His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Jerry Mateparae, at the Citizenship ceremony held on the 3 November at the Anzac Hall in Featherston. The eight new citizens were surprised and delighted that the Governor General was there and his presence made the occasion particularly memorable.

The day after the Citizenship ceremony Council had a farewell function at the Greytown Town Centre to mark the departure of Sylvia Lagah who has retired from her position as Librarian at Greytown Library. Council and colleagues gathered to mark the occasion and wish Sylvia well for the future.

A public meeting was held on 24 November to discuss the future of the Martinborough Town Hall. I chaired the meeting which was well attended and an excellent presentation was made by Michelle Grant of Eastern Consulting Limited in which she explained the earthquake prone status of the hall. Michelle's presentation included material on the damage suffered by the hall as a consequence of the 1942 Earthquake. This was an important element of the presentation as there has been a lack of understanding within the community as to the nature of the damage sustained by the hall in 1942. Michelle's presentation also included a number of possible options for the Hall. David Kernohan the architect who produced the Martinborough Town Hall Conservation Plan and David Lowe

who is an architect with a special interest in Heritage Buildings also addressed the meeting. A robust discussion was held and I think that the evening was useful in informing the community and in engaging them in the question of what Council does with the hall as we move forward.

Council Officers have been working on developing the Long Term Plan. This involves significant focus on producing the Asset Management Plans and in developing timelines for the significant activities that occur as we develop the LTP. Audit New Zealand staff have been on site and discussions have taken place with the Audit Director, and the Audit Manager which were useful in setting deadlines for the project.

### **3. CEO's Activities**

- 3.1** I attended the Society of Local Government Managers' (SOLGM) Annual Conference held in Rotorua from the 6 - 8 November.
- 3.2** On 14<sup>th</sup> November I attended a SOLGM Representation Review Forum in Wellington. The Forum included presentations by Gavin Beattie and Donald Riezebos of the Local Government Commission. The presentations were focused on requirements and good practice. A panel discussion was held that included Fran Wilde (Chair GWRC), Ian McKinnon (Deputy Mayor, WCC) and Jenny Rowan (Mayor, Kapiti Coast District Council). Input from Community Boards was provided by Mick Lester, Chair of The Community Boards' Executive Committee, LGNZ.
- 3.3** The Rural and Provincial Sector met in Wellington on 17-18 November. The agenda on the first day of the meeting included discussion on the development and preparation of Long Term Plans (LTPs). Tim Sole, CEO of Civic Assurance gave an excellent presentation on insurance post the Christchurch Earthquake. Ernst Zollner from NZTA spoke about the review of the Financial Assistance Rate and Frances Sullivan spoke about the Emissions Trading Scheme. Rural roading was discussed and this included participation by David Rose representing Federated Farmers.
- 3.4** The second day of the meeting was taken up with matters pertaining to the Christchurch earthquake, natural hazards and the RMA. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA).
- 3.5** The Town Hall meeting took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. Details of this were provided in the general part of my report.
- 3.6** I attended a Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) meeting in Upper Hutt on 25 November and I met the new Regional Civil Defence Manager, Bruce Pepperell. The CDEM meeting was followed by the Mayoral Forum.

- 3.7** On 25 November I met with staff from Horowhenua District Council to discuss their experience in moving to a new IT platform. This was a useful meeting as Council moves towards migrating to a new IT platform and I appreciated the input from Horowhenua.
- 3.8** I met with GRWC Staff on 28 November to discuss the Wairarapa Water Use Project.
- 3.9** PowerCo's Key Account Manager (Growth), Peter Conn met with me in my office on 28 November to discuss SWDC's concern about power outages affecting street lighting in Featherston. Dave Patton, and Mark Allingham also attended the meeting. This was an excellent meeting and I believe we have an understanding of the problems in regard to street lighting. Dave Patton and Peter Conn have suggested some ideas which will assist in mitigating the problem.
- 3.10** I attended the Business Sector LTP meeting held at the Council Offices on the evening of 29 November. This meeting was the beginning of a series of initiatives to communicate with the public as we prepare the LTP.

#### **4. Financial, Legal and Policy Implications**

None in particular.

Contact Officer: Dr Jack Dowds, Chief Executive Officer