

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

27 NOVEMBER 2013

AGENDA ITEM D3

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

To update Councillors on the Chief Executive activities.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receives the information.*

1.1 Staffing

We welcome Leanne Kernot to the roading engineer role. Leanne is on secondment for three months from NZTA and we are picking her brains as much as Leanne is picking ours.

We continue to seek a permanent replacement for this role.

1.2 Occupational Health and Safety

There were no incidents reported since the last Council meeting.

Murray Buchanan has commenced the process of ensuring SWDC complies with its obligations in this area.

1.3 Local Government Commission/Governance Review

The Local Government Commission (the Commission) continues its background work and will commence public meeting in the Wairarapa on 19 November.

The three Wairarapa CEs met with BERL economists to tease out the issues from the Martin Jenkins report, in particular the views on the funding "gap"

The Commission also visited SWDC (and the other authorities) to get a "feel" for SWDC and its issues.

There are also some underlying financial comparisons being undertaken, this will be taken from the published documents, Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, Annual Report.

The Commission still plans to announce its preferred option March 2014. Consultation on that preferred option will then commence.

1.4 Meetings

1.4.1. CE Forum/Mayoral Forum

Two CE Forum meetings have been attended

While there has been some discussion on Regional matters the majority of the discussion has been "over the hill" centric. This is an interesting observation as it highlights that while the Wairarapa is included where prudent; the Wairarapa has very different issues.

For example, there is a significant shared service push in the IT area which on the surface of it will generate significant dollar savings for the participating authorities.

If the Wairarapa authorities were to participate in this IT initiative in all likelihood IT spend would increase.

The other interesting observation is that shared services need not be undertaken by all LA's in an area, it can be successful if only a subset of LA's work collaboratively. This applies in the Wairarapa as well. I think the feeling that all LA's in an area (NZ wide) should be involved for shared services to be successful has held back progress in some areas.

The key initiatives being considered are:

- IT – back office services
- Spatial and Transport Planning
- Regional water
- Economic Development

1.4.2. Local Government Financial Prudence Regulations

As part of the "Better Local Government" initiatives, and the Bill enacted in November 2012, the Government have announced the draft financial prudence benchmarks.

The full paper is replicated in the policy and finance committee agenda as there are no specific actions required.

1.5 Annual Plan / LTP actions

An update will be provided as part of the quarterly report

1.6 Elections

The election process has been completed. Note that we will exceed budget as there is a by election required for the Greytown Community Board

1.7 Featherston Land Swap

All ministerial and legal hurdles have been overcome and this land swap has been completed.

1.8 Wastewater Update

Good progress continues to be made toward the lodgement of the Greytown and Martinborough consents, which are due to be lodged in January 2014. Featherston is due shortly thereafter.

The purchase of the land adjacent to the Greytown treatment plant has been finalised and this presents us with a fantastic opportunity.

This land purchase was affected possibly two decades earlier than we would have anticipated in our overall long term plan, however it does not diminish the cost or affordability issues that Council faces.

1.9 NRB Survey

The triennial NRB Survey will commence at the end of November. The questions are standard and are generally driven from the LTP service performance measures.

There is little scope for new / changed questions as we need to ask questions on a consistent basis for comparative purposes.

We did add a couple of questions around voter turnout and reasons for not voting.

1.10 Quarterly Report

The quarterly report, based on results to the end of October, will be circulated separately.

1.11 Financial Statements

Financial Statements for the four months ended 31 October will be tabled and discussed at the policy and finance committee.

2. Discussion

2.1 2012/13 Annual Report

Completed!

2.2 Rate Arrears

Efforts continue on rate arrears. The table below outlines the situation as at 17 June 2013, and excludes multi ownership Maori land.

Date	Amount \$'000	Number	Days since installment due	SWDC component \$'000 (81%)
30 June 2011	\$851	631	31	\$689
1 August 2011	\$780	463	64	\$632
28 November 2011	\$969	760	7	\$785
1 March 2012	\$925	690	7	\$740
16 March 2012	\$830	602	23	\$672
23 March 2012	\$790	555	30	\$640
1 June 2012	\$855	722	10	\$692
19 June 2012	\$730	632	31	\$591
10 September 2012	\$947		21	\$767
15 February 2013	\$820	565	57	\$664
17 June 2013	\$913	740	27	\$739

We have made 24 demands on banking institutions, the outstanding rates value amounts to \$227,000.

This process is a bit time consuming, we can only demand the outstanding amount from the prior year (as at 30 June 2013). The first step is to write to the bank and give notification we will be seeking payment. We cannot actually make the demand for three months from the date of notification, and I guess it will be a week or so after that we will receive the funds.

2.3 LGOIMA Requests

- Adam Hutchinson: Freedom Camper Information for a GPS system
- Catherine Mitchell re: All Correspondence between NZTA and Central Government regarding seal extension subsidies.
- Michelle Holland Freshminds Ltd.: Environmental Service and Solid Waste contracts.
- Errol Brassett TR Consultants Intl. Ltd, Tawa, Wellington 5028: List of businesses premises with grease traps/converters.
- Caleb Harris Information on Eateries that Council Inspectors have closed or have issued cleaning or repair notices.
- Caleb Harris DomPost: Resource and Building consents for the properties of James Cameron.
- Stan Mangin and Butch Carrington: Sandy Bay Lease.
- Stan Mangin and Butch Carrington: Sandy Bay detail on former agreement - Council notes.
- Karaitiana Taiuru: Government entities usage of web addresses/domain names.
- Jordan Williams: New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Inc.
- John Moynihan: Proposed replacement of cherry trees in Jellicoe Street.
- Volme Springford. WTA: Vehicles dumped in SWDC - costs of disposal.
- Linda.Gross Department of Internal Affairs Cost relating to amalgamation if it succeeds.
- Derek Anderton, Director, Capital Ventures (2007): Rates Information.
- Marty Sharpe Hawkes Bay Reporter, DomPost: Plastics recycling.
- Talia Shadwell, DomPost: Data relating to noise complaints

Contact Officer: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive