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Committee Council
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Chairman's Report

I am acutely aware that the Chairman's Report did not feature on the last standard Council meeting order paper, so this report covers two periods. However, there is very little over this time that has not been communicated to Councillors in some form and detail. I will therefore only provide a brief summary of issues involving my office over that time.

1. CEO replacement

Recruitment advisor appointed, job description and search brief agreed and position advertised internally and externally on 21 May. Comprehensive search now underway by the consultants and first report back will be mid-June to begin the selection process as per the already circulated time-line.

The matter of Acting CEO for the period 15 June to new CEO in place, is the subject of a separate report and recommendation.

2. Transport

Councillors have been fully briefed on progress with Western Corridor and Wellington Transport Plan (WTP) funding. This has occupied quite a bit of my time in discussions with key stakeholders to see if a regional consensus is possible. This will conference through RLTC and central Government processes in June, with a preferred corridor package settled in early July for public consultation. At this point it is hoped that the funding envelope for the next 10 years will be known.

3. Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS)

Steady progress is being made. The WRS forum is set to agree on a 'Growth Framework' document by the end of June for recommendation to all constituent councils during July. This will then go to public consultation in August and, when finalised, form the base for the development of the Strategy. The WRS is on time and within budget. Some excellent external commentaries/views on key economic focus areas have been provided by prominent economic consultancies and these are well worth reading to get a

feel for the types of interventions the WRS may consider. I should be able to arrange a copy for Councillors that are interested.

As you will be aware, Ara Tahi are playing a key role in providing input to the strategy from a Maori perspective. A very good “status” report and recommendations has been accepted by the WRS Forum. Discussion and input is ongoing.

4. Waitangirua Farm

Together with Cr Laidlaw good progress is being made toward achieving a good outcome for the future of Belmont Regional Park, including a sizeable chunk of the Landcorp farm. Ultimately, this will be dependent on funding contribution from central government and discussions are well under way to achieve this. This is the subject of a separate report from Landcare.

5. External visits

During the past few months, I have visited KCDC, Porirua City and Hutt City Councils to introduce myself and the regional council to councillors. These visits have gone very well, with all councils expressing a strong willingness to have greater contact and interaction at council level than has occurred in the past. One suggestion that I may follow up on, is a series of intra-regional “tours” by GW Councillors to each city/district to have a look at and discuss issues of mutual interest. Probably an afternoon, followed by a small social gathering would be appropriate. I would welcome councillors’ views on this.

6. Tours

A Western Corridor transport tour, plus the two day Wairarapa visit were both successful events. These tours always provide very useful opportunities for informal examination of issues facing the council, particularly with LTCCP decisions looking. Unfortunately, the Auckland visit had to be postponed due to low numbers from ARC, but this could equally have applied to GW. I hope that when a date is settled later in the year, that we will all make the time to host and interact with our ARC counterparts.

7. CentrePort

A good update on future directions and investments/capital requirements was provided by the board Chair and CEO at the recent six monthly council brief. Those councillors who attended gained some useful insight into the aspirations of the CentrePort board. The Company is positioning itself to make a major contribution to the economic well-being of this region. The Council has cause to be well satisfied by the performance of the Board in this regard. Some issues will arise as a consequence which will impact on SCI provisions in due course. As shareholders, we will need to monitor this carefully.

8. Awards and Presentations

A successful Balance Farm Environment awards function was held again this year at Masterton. The winners (who incidentally used to manage Battle Hill for GW) are an inspiration to sustainable pastoral farming nationwide. If their approach can be adopted on a catchment wide basis, then not only will hill country farming be considerably more profitable to owners, but have significant positive environmental benefits.

As part of the Be the Difference programme, a Wairarapa clean air promotion in partnership with EECA, MfE and Panasonic raised awareness of air quality issues in Wairarapa towns. I was privileged to present an \$8,000 “warm home” prize donated by Panasonic to the “winners” of this promotion. To be eligible for the draw, members of the public simply had to sign up to the Be the Difference programme. 500 new members (100% increase) from Wairarapa took this opportunity.

9. Board appointments

Over the next month appointments need to be made by GW to the Stadium Trust (with WCC) and WRC Holdings. At a later date Council (through PIL) also need to appoint a replacement director for Barry Harris on the CentrePort board. I have followed our established process for Board appointments in providing recommendations to Council for the Trust and WRC Holdings. Separate reports and recommendations will be provided for these.

10. Leave

I will be in Australia from 25 June to 2 July on holiday.

11. Recommendation

That the Council:

(1) receive the report.

Report prepared by:

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Chairman