



Report **05.560**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Ian Buchanan**

Chairman's Report

1. Chief Executive

The appointment of Dave Benham as Chief Executive beginning 5 September, was certainly the highlight of the reporting period. Congratulations to Dave on this appointment, and once again, thank you to the employment sub-group that assisted me in this process. Now that it has been successfully completed, I can relax a little, knowing we have a very competent Chief Executive in place. Even though Dave has been with the Council for some time, the elevation to CE is still proving to be a steep learning curve, particularly getting up to speed with the complexities of the Western Corridor! and sustainability! and

2. Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ)

On-going discussion with LTNZ at Board and officer level continues around the proposed long-term rail contract with Toll NZ. This has become linked to some wider issues around institutional arrangements involving central government and these will also have to be worked through.

Likewise, finalising contracts and funding related to the trolley bus replacement project has advanced and will be subject to separate reporting from officers.

3. CentrePort

Concerns regarding the promotion of the Port's property interests through "Harbour Quays" were raised in the media by a number of property development companies in the city. Wellington City Council (WCC) has picked up on this and is looking at possible implications for the CBD. As a consequence I thought it advisable to pull all of the various interests together for an informal discussion of the various points of view. The result was a good understanding being reached by all parties. It is intended that this dialogue continues once WCC have come up with their assessment of CBD impacts. I see some significant benefits for all parties in this informal contact, as opposed to an ongoing conversation through the media.

4. National matters

During the past month I attended meetings of the Regional Affairs Committee and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) National Council, as well as Zone 4.

Issues covered at National Council included post-election strategies, LGA and Electoral Act initial review, conference debrief issues, local government funding project, as well as the wide variety of on-going work programmes involving LGNZ. Any councillors wishing to wade through the order paper and reports is more than welcome to get them from my office.

Likewise, the RAC material. This has more relevance to our direct responsibilities, and covers matters including the transport hierarchy, representation review, regional parks highlights, biosecurity matters (post bovine Tb possum control, bee varoa mites and Argentinean ants) and flood mitigation.

Input at zone, sector and national meetings of LGNZ is an important element of our influence chain in the overall local government area and in relation to issues involving central government. Sometimes exercising these opportunities can be a little challenging for the individual's concentration, but overall the experience is generally rewarding.

5. Other matters in brief

- Opened 1855 earthquake 150 year anniversary seminar.
- Attending photo-op with the Prime Minister at our air quality monitoring station just prior to the election.
- Attending Stadium briefing and AGM.
- Met with KCDC Mayor regarding western link road funding and timing issues.
- Participated in a "Blue Sky" exercise with the Board of Wellington Airport and a range of key stakeholders.

Most other matters of interest to councillors have been covered through committee and workshop participation during the past meeting cycle. The western corridor consultation process is now settled and underway. While the official reporting target remains December, it is far more realistic to expect this in early March 2006 due to the amount of public interest, particularly from interest groups and communities along this corridor.

6. Recommendation

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*

Report prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Buchanan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Buchanan
Chairman