

Report to the Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters which have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Manager's Reports

The Department Manager's reports and the Divisional Accountant's report are attached.

3. Long Term Financial Strategy

Since the last Committee meeting, we have been working hard to prepare our budgets for the long-term financial strategy. The following have directed our work programmes:

- The State of the Environment Report
- The Environmental Education/Communication Strategy
- The Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans
- Council's desire to invest in the environment and move towards a more sustainable region.

The Committee will be scrutinising our budgets and operating plan at its meeting on 24 February 2000.

4. Environment Education Strategy

The staff have been looking at how they can bring the strategy to life through innovative work programmes. I am pleased at the progress that is being made and will be asking

Jo Campbell, Environment Education Co-ordinator, to give you a briefing at our Budget Committee meeting.

5. **Resource Management Act 1991**

In a speech on 22 November 1999, Helen Clark said: *We will split the Resource Management Bill presently before Parliament and drop all those provisions which skew the law against local government and community interest.*

We would support the intent of that statement but, to date, do not know any detail of the split or what provisions of the Bill will be dropped.

6. **State of the Environment Report**

We were exceptionally pleased with the launch of the State of the Environment Report. The report was one of the most important documents that we have produced. Community groups who had made comments on the report were delighted to see their words in print and to see them prominently displayed at the launch. It was a lesson to me about how valuable and necessary it is to “connect with the community” in such a way.

John Sherriff, Manager, Resource Investigations, is the spokesperson on the Report, which has enjoyed good media coverage, both in print and on radio.

As the Report contains such a wealth of information, it is important that issues do not get buried in the whole. I am, therefore, intending to prepare a brief response plan to ensure that we act upon our findings.

7. **Y2K**

The Division’s Emergency Management functions for the Region and the Council meant that we had readiness planning responsibilities at both the Regional Council Centre and the Beehive basement. We were delighted that when the time came, we had almost nothing to do!

8. **Sustainable Communities**

As a Division, we are working hard to incorporate the theme of sustainable communities into our work. Education work is an important component of this project. At the risk of repeating myself, I am convinced that striving to include the community in all aspects of our work will be beneficial to us all.

9. **Quiet Harbours**

During my time as Divisional Manager I have begun to dread the holiday period, as we always seem to have an “incident” on the harbour. This year was quiet! I must pay a tribute to the staff of the Harbours Department for giving themselves and me a restful holiday.

10. Recommendation

That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Departmental Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments