



**Report**                    **04.381**  
**Date**                     5 July 2004  
**File**                      E/06/01/05

**Committee**            **Council**  
**Author**                **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1. Local Government Law Reform Bill No. 3**

It is pleasing to be able to report that this Bill has been enacted and that key changes sought by our Council have been adopted. A key provision is the clear reinstatement of the casting vote, which may require a change to our current standing orders. This matter will be investigated when copies of the Act become available.

### **2. Congratulations to Councillor Evans**

I'm sure that all Councillors will want to join me in formally recording our congratulations to Councillor Evans for being made a Companion of The Queen's Service Order for Public Services in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Councillor Evans is clearly well deserving of this award for his many years of public service in the Greater Wellington region and particularly the Hutt Valley.

### **3. Visit to Horizons Regional Council**

I along with several other Councillors and staff joined other regional council representatives from around the country for a tour of some of the areas in the Manawatu severely affected by the February 2004 storms. The visit served as a useful reminder of the continuing risk we face from natural hazards and once again made us grateful for the positive way our own flood defences held up to the February events.

### **4. Adoption of Annual Plan**

On 30 June we adopted the Annual Plan for 2004/05 and set the rates for that year. I would like to pass on my thanks to the Chief Executive and his staff for all of the hard work to get us to that point and make our job relatively simple. We can now look forward to implementing the Plan over the coming year.

## **5. Wellington Leaders' Forum**

Along with the Deputy Chair and Chief Executive I attended the Leaders' Forum on Friday 18 June. The meeting was briefed on a range of issues, including:

- Wellington Regional Strategy
- Regional Settlement Strategy
- Social development programmes from the Regional Manager of WINZ
- Transport issues update
- Waste minimisation in the Wellington region – presentation by MfE

The members of the forum expressed satisfaction with the degree to which the different agencies are working together on a range of crucial initiatives, and in particular the collective approach from local government on the regional strategy and transport solutions.

## **6. Mayoral Forum**

The Chief Executive and I attended the forum on Friday 18 June 2004. Key issues debated included:

- Regional strategy update, with the launch of the combined strategy envisaged for 14 July
- Hutt Mana Charitable Trust – the trustees are to be invited to the next Mayoral Forum to discuss the distribution of remaining community funds
- Transport update from Greater Wellington
- Mayoral Forum appointments to the Government Transport Initiative and Western Corridor study, with a resolution to request additional mayoral representation, being:
  - Government Transport Initiative – Mayors Prendergast, Guppy and Terris
  - Western Corridor Study – Mayors Brash and Milne

I agreed to convey the request for amended representation to the Regional Council, Minister of Transport and Transit.

- Discussion on the importance of the Alstom Hutt Workshop to the economy of the region, and request for Greater Wellington / Transfund to ensure adequate accountability and contestability in the selection of a contractor for passenger rail refurbishment. We briefed the forum on the process to be adhered to by Greater Wellington to ensure best value for money from a public investment, noting such procedures do not allow weighting for “local content”.

**7. Central/Local Government Forum**

A very successful Central/Local Government Forum was held on 6 July. I will report back on the Forum at the meeting.

**8. Recommendation**

*That the Report be received.*

Report prepared by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Shields".

**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson