

**Report 00.142**  
8 March 2000  
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Report to the Policy and Finance Committee  
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

## **Chairman's Report**

### **1. Absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

As you may be aware, I will be out of circulation from 15 March to undergo surgery. This will keep me away from the office for at least two weeks.

Cr Margaret Shields also travels overseas on Saturday, 11 March and does not return to New Zealand until late April. She should now be formally granted leave of absence.

There will be a period for the latter part of this month when neither of us will be available. In the circumstances, Council should appoint one of its members to act as Chairperson of the Council.

### **Recommendation**

- (a) *That Cr Shields be granted leave of absence from 11 March to 30 April.*
- (b) *That during the forthcoming absence of both Cr Shields and myself, Cr McQueen act as Council Chairperson.*

### **2. Local Government New Zealand**

- (a) Cr Shields and Mr Maguire attended the meeting of Zone 4 at Lower Hutt on 21 February. Most of the discussion centred on the report of Local Government New Zealand's National Council. Cr Shields may wish to comment further.

- (b) There has been a further meeting of the National Council on 7-8 March. This included the first meeting of the Prime Minister's new forum for consultation between Central Government and Local Government. Cr Shields, as a member of the National Council representing the Regional Affairs Committee, may wish to comment further.

### **3. Meeting of Regional MP's**

Last Friday's meeting of the Regional MP's, was in my view, very positive and augers well for the future. Indeed, so far our relationship with the new Government is proving most encouraging.

We have indicated our willingness, where this would be relevant and practicable, to be of assistance to the new Government.

### **4. Visit of Unicity Committee of Durban, South Africa**

As previously explained by Mr Maguire, we will be hosting a group of elected officials from Durban, South Africa. They are also visiting Melbourne in relation to proposed Local Government Reforms. We are advised the objectives of the Study Tour were as follows:

*The Unicity Committee established by the existing seven Councils in the Durban Metropolitan Area has to prepare for the establishment of a single council and single administration for the metro area for the period after the next local government elections in November 2000. This preparation entails:*

- I. The rationalisation of six administrations to establish a single administration.*
- II. The transformation of local government to establish development at local government as outlined in the Local Government White Paper.*
- III. The review of delivery systems to identify the most appropriate systems for the future in keeping with broad public sector reform at a local level.*

*In making choices on the extent of public sector reform that is appropriate in Durban and more specifically to review and transform municipal service delivery systems in the Durban metro area, the decision makers should be informed by international best practice on the way in which other cities have addressed the issue of public sector reform and service delivery through public private partnerships.*

*For the above reasons, the Unicity Committee, which has been mandated by the existing Councils to address the above and make the appropriate choices, has agreed that it undertake a study tour to understand and learn from the*

*way in which public sector reform has been managed in Wellington, New Zealand and specifically how service level agreements have been established and managed. We believe that New Zealand has gone the furthest, as compared to other cities, in public sector reform and hence would like to understand and learn from their experience.*

Mr Stone has organised an appropriate programme. This includes an opportunity for Councillors to talk with the group, both formally and informally from late afternoon and evening on Tuesday, next, 14 March. (Further details will be provided later).

## **5. Recommendation**

*That the report be received.*

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman