

**Report 00.163**  
14 March 2000  
File: CP4/5/1

Report to the Policy and Finance Committee  
from John Allard, Corporate Policy Manager and  
Ted Maguire, Council Secretary

## **Investing in the Future – the Proposed 2000-2010 Long Term Financial Strategy incorporating the 2000/01 Annual Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek approval of “Investing in the Future” for public consultation.

### **2. Background – Early Approval Needed**

- 2.1 On 9 March 2000 the Council approved the projected rates and levies to be included in the proposed Long Term Financial Strategy. It also approved the various operating plans for inclusion in the strategy. It now only remains to approve the actual document which will constitute the proposed plan for consultation.
- 2.2 The time available to consult and conclude on the plan is shorter than it may appear. In order to be able to hold hearings, analyse and consider views expressed and make any changes before 30 June, the consultation period must end by around 22 May 2000. Allowing for Easter, it needs to start by Wednesday 19 April. Therefore, taking into account final editorial changes, checking, printing and distribution, Council needs to approve the document at this meeting. Unfortunately, the somewhat unrealistic timeframe both Councillors and Officers have to work in is a product of the prescribed cumbersome systems which is our lot within local government.

### 3. **Commentary – The Start of a New Series**

The look of the new document and splitting it into two volumes reflects the development of thinking which has characterised this triennium. (It will be forwarded separately with Friday's Bulletin). The Council's approach has been to produce its documents in series of three – reflecting the cycle of three years' "hard" numbers and seven "soft". Last year was the third of the Facing the Future series. This year starts the Investing in the Future sequence.

The content of Volume 1 has been designed to reflect the thinking which has emerged over the last eighteen months or so. There is a deliberate emphasis on "values" away from "dollars". Similarly, the split into two volumes allows a focus on where you, as Councillors, wish to take the region and away from the accountability measures of Volume 2 which, whilst important, are not so much the community's focus.

Given the extreme time pressures which exist to produce the draft document, there will undoubtedly be typographical and minor editorial corrections to be made. Any such items noted should be conveyed to John Allard, please, by Friday 24 March. In the past the Council has approved the equivalent documents, subject to such changes. A similar resolution is again proposed.

How the consultation takes place can be discussed at the Policy and Finance Sub-committee to follow Council.

It should be noted that another public consultation process on the Funding Policy will be taking place at that time. Also, for the Transport Rate Special Order, the legislative requirements means that if the Order is to be confirmed on 29 June the process must be initiated at a Special Council meeting not later than 28 April or earlier than 20 April. It is proposed this special meeting be held on Wednesday 26 April when an Iwi Workshop commencing at 9.30 am is planned.

### 4. **Recommendation**

- (i) *That the Policy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that it approves the document "Investing in the Future, Wellington Regional Council Proposed Ten Year Plan 2000-2010 incorporating the 2000-01 Annual Plan" for public consultation – subject to minor editorial changes.*
- (ii) *That any editorial changes be approved by the Chairman and Corporate Policy Manager.*

- (iii) *That the Policy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that a special meeting of Council take place on Tuesday 26 April at 1.00 pm to consider the initial Transport Rate Differential Special Order.*

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TED MAGUIRE  
Council Secretary