

Report 00.132
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Report to the Policy and Finance Committee
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Investing in the Future

1. Purpose

To recommend to Council that the consolidated operating plans, as now adopted by the standing committees and Policy & Finance sub-committee, form the basis of the proposed 2000-2010 Long Term Financial Strategy and 2000-2001 Annual Plan.

2. Background

We have now reached the stage in our planning process when we must adopt an indicative programme and associated costs so that the actual Proposed Plan can be put together ready for our approval for consultation on March 21.

3. Comment

Clearly Councillors are, at this stage, very happy with the programme we have developed as the Committees have scarcely made any changes to the draft operating plans.

Equally, I understand that whilst we have received some comment back from the public from our "Voice Your Choice" campaign which is strongly against a significant rate rise there has also been support of the proposed investments. I have not yet learned the views of the Iwi of the Region.

In these circumstances, subject to the comments of our Ara Tahī representatives, I am happy that we move to the next stage, the proposed plan,

without modifying our proposals, but still with open, receptive minds. I must say, that the level of rating increase which would occur in some areas does give me a degree of concern. I will therefore hold open my options for recommending some changes to the final plan, taking into account the formal consultation.

4. Recommendations

That the Report be received and the contents noted.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman