

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2007

**Steve Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5 September 2007

A G E N D A

1. Report of the Local Government Rates Inquiry
(Pages 1-39)

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 2007

1. REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES INQUIRY

(Memo from Chief Executive – 04.09.07)

At the August meeting of the Council, an Executive Summary of the report of the Local Government Rates Inquiry panel was distributed to each Councillor. At the time, I gave an “off the cuff” commentary of some of the more significant recommendations made by the Panel.

Over the last week, SOLGM and LGNZ staff have studied the report in further detail and have compiled an analysis of the report and how it compares to the suggestions put forward by the Local Government sector in a joint SOLGNM/LGNZ submission. A copy of this paper is attached.

I attended a forum in Wellington on 3 September, jointly facilitated by SOLGM and LGNZ. The one key point I ascertained from this forum is that there is a lot of water still to pass under the bridge before firm courses of action are agreed upon. For example, the Department of Internal Affairs is expected to report in three separate phases over the next nine months or so, on the 96 recommendations contained in the report. It is therefore likely that the report will not be “on the radar” of central Government politicians before the next general election.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information and attachment be received.