



*caring about you & your environment*

## **Report 01.367**

23 May 2001

File: CFO/11/4/2

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

### **Passenger Rail**

#### **1. Purpose**

To seek the Committee's endorsement to the seven key principles agreed by the Mayoral Forum held on 20 April 2001.

#### **2. Background**

As the Committee is aware over recent months there has been ongoing liaison and discussion with the Territorial Authorities in the Region over the future of Passenger Rail.

Several meetings have been held involving all the Mayors of the Region, including a meeting on 20 April 2001 where seven key principles were agreed. The meeting on 20 April 2001 decided to send advice of the agreed seven principles to the Minister of Transport (refer to **Attachment 1**).

#### **3. Comment**

Since the meeting on 20 April 2001 all the individual Councils represented have been formally considering the agreed principles. I understand that, to date the principles have been endorsed by the following Councils:

Wellington City Council  
Porirua City Council  
Carterton District Council  
Masterton District Council  
South Wairarapa District Council  
Upper Hutt City Council

At the time of writing, Hutt City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council had yet to formally consider the issue.

The seven principles reflected the significant matters that could be agreed between the various parties present on 20 April 2001.

The important points to stress from the seven key principles are as follows:

- The key principles include the importance of WRC being able to demonstrate value for money in any future arrangements.
- The key principles include the desirability of public sector control of the rail corridor and associated infrastructure.
- The key principles include a request that the Government regain control of the rail corridor and associated infrastructure in the Wellington Region.

While not going as far as endorsing the Council's preferred public/private partnership option agreement of these principles does mean the rail issue is still progressing.

Incidentally, I saw a news report last week which indicated that Auckland are now also considering a public/private partnership.

The Committee's endorsement of the seven principles is now sought.

#### 4. **Communications**

The issue has already been well reported.

#### 5. **Recommendations**

(1) *That the Committee recommend to Council that it:*

- (a) *receive the report and note its contents*
- (b) *endorse the seven principles contained in the letter dated 20 April 2001 from the Region's mayors and WRC Chairman to the Minister of Transport.*

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman

**Attachment 1:** Letter to the Minister of Transport dated 20 April 2001