

#### 4. TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS – REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Board **received** the report submitted by the Electoral Officer (Max Robertson).

Members also made the following comments in relation to the recent elections:

- The preliminary FPP results should have been released earlier on election day.
- A three week voting period was too long, and should be shortened to two weeks.
- The introduction of STV had created voter confusion, and led to a large number of informal and blank votes across all election issues
- Consideration should be given to using postal voting in conjunction with polling booths.
- There was a need to completely separate the District Health Board elections from the local government elections.
- If STV is to be retained, a better awareness and education programme should be undertaken.

The Board **decided** to bring this issue to the 14 December 2004 meeting of the Community Board with a view to preparing a submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee of Parliament which would be looking into the wider issues surrounding this year's Local Government/Health Board elections.