

**REPORT 7**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

---

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE, CHRISTCHURCH, 24-27 JULY 2005**

---

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide information on the *Local Government New Zealand* (LGNZ) annual conference to be held in Christchurch, 24-27 July 2005 and to seek approval

- i. to send the Mayor and three Councillors to the conference, and
- ii. support nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of *Local Government New Zealand*.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Recommend that Council approve the attendance of the Mayor and three Councillors at the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Christchurch from 24-27 July 2005 and that the costs associated in attending the conference be met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that Wellington City Council can appoint up to four delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting on 27 July 2005.*
4. *Recommend that Council appoint*
  - (a) *Mayor Prendergast as its presiding delegate;*
  - (b) *an alternate presiding delegate (in the event that the Mayor is absent from the floor of the meeting at any time); and*
  - (c) *two other delegates**to attend the Local Government New Zealand AGM to be held on Wednesday 27 July 2005.*
5. *Recommend that Council support the nomination of Basil Morrison for the position of President of Local Government New Zealand.*
6. *Recommend that Council agree to the nomination of Mayor Prendergast for the position of Vice President of Local Government New Zealand.*

7. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

### **3. Discussion**

The 2005 *Local Government New Zealand* conference is being held in Christchurch from 24-27 July. The overall theme for this year's conference is "national goals, local roles" and is designed to focus on the symbiotic relationships between central and local government. The theme for this conference is timely because many local authorities are beginning to involve central government agencies in the development of their first Long Term Community Council Plan. The keynote speakers include Michael Sandel (USA), Graham Sanson (Australia), Mayor Michael Coleman (Canada) and Chief Judge Joe Williams. Rt Hon Helen Clark will give the opening address and Dame Susan Devoy will speak at the LGNZ annual general meeting.

#### **Conference Daily Overview:**

##### *Monday 25 July*

Day one of the conference has three international speakers and a strong focus on the four dimensions of well-being that are critical to local communities: economic well-being, environmental well-being, social well-being and cultural well-being. These parallel sessions are a chance for debate and discussion on these topics.

##### *Tuesday 26 July*

The day begins with a keynote presentation, followed by six practical workshops for delegates, each assisting with a particular current issue facing councils. Full details of these workshops are provided on pages 9 and 10 of the attached programme material. These workshops are repeated to allow delegates the opportunity to attend two of their choice. After lunch there will be four concurrent sector theme workshops, each one dealing with issues facing the rural, regional and urban sectors, and the Community Boards' meeting. Following afternoon tea, the Community Boards meeting continues and the Metro, Rural, Provincial and Regional sector Annual General Meetings will be held. These sessions are for member authorities only and the convenors will send out programme details separately.

##### *Wednesday 27 July*

The eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand will be held from 8.30am – 10.30am at the Christchurch Convention Centre. The meeting is open to council representatives only. The AGM is followed by the last keynote speaker, and the official conference closing.

The attached information is copied from the Conference Registration Pack and provides background information and details of speakers and topics.

#### **3.1 Appointment of Delegates to the Conference**

There is no restriction on the number of delegates Council can send to the Conference. Over recent years four delegates have been appointed to attend.

The Council's elected member representatives at this conference over the last four years have been:

2001	Wellington	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Pepperell and Piper.
2002	Rotorua	The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper.
2003	Queenstown	The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper.
2004	Auckland	The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper

The Mayor and Councillors Pepperell and Wade-Brown are the Council's current representatives on *Local Government New Zealand Zone 4*.

### **3.2 Appointment of Delegates to the AGM**

The Rules of *Local Government New Zealand* allow the Council to appoint up to four delegates to attend the AGM.

To enable a Council to exercise its voting rights at the AGM the *Local Government New Zealand* Rules require a member authority to:

*“appoint one of its delegates as its presiding delegate and may appoint one or more alternate delegates; provided that the number of alternate delegates does not exceed the number of delegates appointed.”*

The Rules also require a member authority to forward to the Chief Executive of *Local Government New Zealand* the names and positions of the presiding, alternate and other delegates attending the AGM.

Each member authority must advise *Local Government New Zealand* of their AGM delegates and only those persons will be permitted entry to the AGM. This is so *Local Government New Zealand* can more closely monitor the numbers attending and meet their obligations under Rule G13 of their Constitution. Other persons wishing to attend as an observer may do so, but will have no speaking or voting rights.

Wellington City Council is entitled to six (6) votes at the AGM and these votes are cast by the presiding delegate.

### **3.3 Considerations**

When deciding whether elected members should attend this conference, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost if four elected members are appointed is expected to be \$7980.00 and will be met from the elected members' conference budget.

The impact on the budget of four elected members attending this conference is outlined in Table One.

Table One

	2004/2005 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	<b>\$34,000</b>	<sup>1</sup> 11,389	22,611
Impact of sending <b>four</b> elected member to the conference	\$7,980	19,369	14,631

The cost of attendance is broken down as follows (per person):

Item	Cost
Registration	\$ 1195.00
Accommodation	\$ 440.00
Return Airfares	\$ 360.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1995.00</b>

### 3.4 Nominations for Office of President and Vice President

The President and Vice President of *Local Government New Zealand* must be elected by ballot of member authorities in accordance with the rules (rule F1 – F7 and F21 – F26) at the AGM in the year following the year in which triennial local authority elections are held. Nominations for both positions are now being called and must be received by the Returning Officer, LGNZ, no later than Friday 24 June 2005.

Any person who is an elected member as at 31 May 2005 is qualified to be nominated for the position of President. The current President, Basil Morrison, has indicated a desire to continue in the position and it is recommended that his nomination be supported by the Council.

Any person (other than the President) holding office as a National Council member at the time at which the election for Vice President is held can be nominated for the position of Vice President. The Mayor, who is a member of National Council, has been approached to stand for this position and she has indicated that she would like her name to go forward for consideration. It is therefore recommended that Council agree to the Mayor being nominated for the position of Vice President of LGNZ.

---

<sup>1</sup>The attendance of 1 Councillor at the New Zealand Planning Institute conference at a cost of \$1505.00  
The attendance of 1 Councillor and 4 Community Board members at the Community Board conference at a cost of \$7180.00  
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the Regional Development conference at a cost of \$1060.00  
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference at a cost of \$1644.00

All nominations must be in writing and attested by affixing the Common Seal of the nominating authority to it. Nominations must be seconded in writing on the same or another document under the Common Seal of another member authority.

#### **4. Conclusion**

A decision is required as to which elected members should attend the 2005 *Local Government New Zealand* Conference.

Contact Officer: *Michael Webster, City Secretary, Democratic Services*