
REPORT 9
(1215/52/IM)

**NEW ZEALAND PLANNING INSTITUTE: THE POLITICS
OF PLANNING CONFERENCE, TUESDAY 27 – FRIDAY
30 MARCH 2007, PALMERSTON NORTH**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for up to two elected members to attend the 'New Zealand Planning Institute: The Politics of Planning Conference' to be held in Palmerston North, Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 March 2007.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of up to two elected members at the 'New Zealand Planning Institute: The Politics of Planning Conference' to be held in Palmerston North Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 March 2007 and agree that the costs associated with attending the meeting are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that there is an Agenda meeting for the Thursday 12 April Strategy and Policy Committee meeting and the St James Theatre Charitable Trust meeting on 27 March 2007, a Wellington Waterfront Limited meeting on 28 March 2007 and a Regional Land Transport Committee meeting on 30 March 2007.*
4. *Note the Commonwealth Local Government Conference is on from Monday 26 – Thursday 29 March 2007 in Auckland.*
5. *Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The aim of the conference is to consider how politics influences planning and how this delicate relationship has been maintained through the years.

What drives international and national trends will be discussed, as will how political agendas affect planning. The conference will discuss if local communities are better off for the relationship between politicians and planners.

Conference attendees will hear from speakers such as:

John Bollard – Principal Environment Judge

Mr Bollard has specialised in town planning since 1980 and has acted for cities such as Maukau City Council and the University of Auckland. He was involved in the first significant Resource Management Act offence trial and other significant issues such as night game lighting at Eden Park.

Cliff Hague – Secretary General of Commonwealth Association of Planners

Mr Hague was the president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the president of RTPI. He has done applied research in the UK and Europe on planning and development.

Dennis Meliti – Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado

Mr Meliti specialises in hazards and has written over 100 publications on this topic. He has been Chairman for a number of committees including the Committee on Natural Disasters in the National Academy of Science's National Research Council.

Workshops specific to Councillors will be held on the first day. They will be practically focused, will be 30 to 45 minutes long and cover topics such as:

- What to do about all those voices, new ideas on consultation.
- Making good policy: getting your plan right – a practical workshop.
- Keeping your skills up to date.
- Building relationships between different levels of local government.

Concurrent sessions will be run during the two days of the conference. Sessions will include:

Wednesday 28 March

Hazards and climate change

- Community involvement in coastal hazard mitigation: some insights into relationships and pitfalls.
- Acting accordingly: using the RMA and CDEM Act to improve community resilience
- Facing the reality of climate change – risks and opportunities for the NZ private sector.

Implementation issues

- Institutionalisation of spatial planning and decision support system for planning and governance in Malaysia.

- Barriers to sustainable building practices within local council planning provisions – Auckland City case study

Transport & Energy

- Travel plans – a new rule of the game.
- Windfarm energy may be renewable but is it sustainable? A Palmerston North case study of noise and visual intrusion from wind turbines.

Governance

- Long term council community plans: an interface between planning & politics?
- Grassroots: the politics of planning in Tasmanian local government.

Thursday 29 March

Community Partnerships

- Consuming partnerships: informal partnerships through community markets.
- Council & mana whenua – arranged marriage; an innovative way on how to make it work

RMA Partnerships

- Partnership approaches to improve implementation and awareness of the RMA.

Environmental Mitigation

- The loss of an ordinary landscape.
- The contribution of environmental compensation to sustainable management.

Implementation Issues

- Reverse sensitivity and cross-boundary effects at the rural residential interface: the rules of engagement.
- Out with the old and in with the new: the Kapiti Coast District Council experience in changing the rules of the game for subdivision and development.

There will be a day of optional study tours at additional cost for delegates. These cover a variety of day trips from a trip to Ocean Beach in the Hawke's Bay to a visit to Trustpower's Tararua wind farm.

It is the intention of management to have officer representation at the conference.

The programme for the forum is attached at appendix one.

3.1 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 two elected members are appointed is expected to be \$2,710.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

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

Item	Cost
Registration	\$695.00
Accommodation	\$450.00
Mileage	\$210.00
Total	\$1,355.00

The impact on the budget of two elected members attending this conference is outlined below:

	2006/2007 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	\$34,000.00	\$16,099.75 ¹	\$17,900.25
Impact of sending two elected members to the conference	\$2,710.00	\$18,809.75	\$15,190.25

¹ The attendance of 5 Elected Members at the LGNZ Conference at a cost of \$5000.00.
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the TRAFINZ Conference at a cost of \$2310.00
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Safer Communities Conference at a cost of \$400
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Digital Earth 06 Conference at a cost of \$1800
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Youth and Local Government Conference in New Plymouth at a cost of \$776
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the LIANZA Conference in Wellington at a cost of \$500
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the NZ Walking Conference 2006 in Christchurch at a cost of \$865
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at Climate Change: The Policy Challenges Symposium in Wellington at a cost of \$350
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the New Zealand Recreation Association Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$748.75
 The attendance of the Mayor and 1 Elected Member at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$2,450.00
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 20 Forum – The New Context Forum in Wellington at a cost of \$900.

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Committee should approve the attendance of up to two elected members at the 'New Zealand Planning Institute: The Politics of Planning Conference' to be held in Palmerston North, Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 March 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the Democratic system

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Not required

b) Consultation with Maori

Not required

6) Legal Implications

Nil

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy

Appendix One