

REPORT 5

(1215/52/IM, 1260/04/N4/IM)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND 'SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES' CONFERENCE, ROTORUA, 27-30 JULY
2008**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on the *Local Government New Zealand* 'Sustainable Communities' Conference to be held in Rotorua, 27-30 July 2008 and to seek approval

- i. for the Mayor and up to two additional elected members to attend the conference, and
- ii. to make/support nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of Local Government New Zealand.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Recommend to Council that it approve the attendance of the Mayor and up to two additional elected members at the Local Government New Zealand 'Sustainable Communities' Conference to be held in Rotorua from 27-30 July 2008 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 Wednesday 30 July 2008.*
4. *Recommend to Council that it appoint the following delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand AGM to be held on Wednesday 30 July 2008:*
 - (a) *Mayor Prendergast as its presiding delegate, with authority to exercise Wellington City Council's six votes;*

- (b) *an alternate presiding delegate (in the event that the Mayor is absent from the floor of the meeting at any time), who shall be a Councillor; and*
- (c) *one other delegate, who shall be a Councillor.*
5. *Recommend to Council that it agree to nominate/second Mayor Prendergast for the position of President of Local Government New Zealand and that, in the event an election is required, authority be given for the Council's votes to be cast in favour of her candidacy.*
6. *Recommend to Council that it agree to delegate to Mayor Prendergast the authority to nominate or second a candidate for the position of Vice President of Local Government New Zealand and, in the event an election is required, for her to cast the Council's votes in favour of the candidate she believes will best fill that role.*
7. *Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda meeting on 29 July 2008.*
8. *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 theme for the 2008 conference is 'sustainable communities' and an excellent range of speakers have been engaged to stimulate thinking about sustainability, how it affects all facets of people's day to day lives and how elected members can lead and respond to their community's changing needs.

The keynote speakers include:

Brian Dollery – Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Local Government, at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. Professor Dollery has published extensively in the economics of local government in general and Australian local government in particular. He has also been involved in the debate over local government restructuring in Australia and has written a number of papers that explore promising alternatives to amalgamation, including various kinds of shared service models.

Dr Judy McGregor – Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) Commissioner with the Human Rights Commission. Dr McGregor is a trained lawyer, a former newspaper editor and a former university professor. Her doctorate is in political communication and she has written a number of books, the most recent on older workers in New Zealand. She is currently working on extending EEO in the public sector, including local government, and in the private sector. In 2007 she ran a series of seminars throughout New Zealand for women standing in the local body elections and she is currently working with local bodies and regional agencies to profile a range of migrant worker issues.

Simon Upton – Currently a consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He is also Chairman of the OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development responsible for a programme of climate change-related work over the next three years. Between 2001-2007 he chaired the Round Table from Paris dealing with a wide range of sustainable development-related issues. Prior to that he was a Cabinet Minister. Between 1990 and 1999 he held a wide variety of portfolios including Environment, Biosecurity, Science and Technology, Health and State Services.

The Rt Hon Helen Clark will officially open the conference on Monday 28 July 2008.

Workshops will include:

Monday 28 July

- Working lunch – Local government's funding revolution
- Break-out sessions based on Brian Dollery's presentation

Tuesday 29 July

Stream 1

- Next steps – Sustainable land transport networks
- Managing land-use impacts on water
- Housing affordability – is there a role for councils
- Strengthening our people

Stream 2

- Growing communities through digital technologies
- Smart initiatives for sustainable infrastructure
- Using your Community Boards for added value
- Writing our history: A workshop for local government

A copy of the full programme is attached as Appendix 1.

The Chief Executive and other senior officers will also be attending the conference.

3.1 *Appointment of delegates to the conference*

There is no restriction on the number of delegates Council can send to the Conference. Approval has been given for up to five members (including the Mayor) to attend these conferences over recent years.

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

2004	Auckland	The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper
2005	Christchurch	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Armstrong and Wade-Brown
2006	Wellington	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, McKinnon and Shaw and Ngaire Best (Tawa Community Board)
2007	Dunedin	The Mayor and Ngaire Best (Tawa Community Board)

The Mayor and Councillors Best and McKinnon 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.”

Member authorities are required to advise the Chief Executive of *Local Government New Zealand*, in writing, of the names and positions of the presiding, alternate and other delegates attending the AGM. This allows *Local Government New Zealand* to closely monitor the numbers attending and so meet their obligations under the rules of their constitution.

Other elected members may attend the meeting as observers but have no speaking or voting rights and will be seated away from the Council's official delegation.

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 cost of attendance per delegate is detailed as follows:

Item	Cost (GST incl)
Registration	\$1,145.00
Return Airfares	\$514.00
Accommodation	\$507.00
Total	\$2166.00

The impact on the budget if approval is given for three elected members, including the Mayor, to attend this conference is outlined below:

	2008/2009 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	\$34,000	\$0	\$34,000
Impact of sending three elected members to the conference	\$6,498	\$6,498	\$27,502

The costs incurred will be met from the elected members' conference budget (GVEMO1).

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 held in the year following the year in which triennial local authority elections are held.

Nominations for both positions are now being called for and nomination and seconding paper(s) must be received by the Returning Officer, *Local Government New Zealand*, no later than Friday 27 June 2008.

Any person who is an elected member as at 31 May 2007 is qualified to be nominated for the position of President. The term of the current President, Basil Morrison expires this year and he is not eligible to stand for re-election. Mayor Prendergast, who is currently Vice-President of the Association, has indicated a wish to stand for the position of President and it is recommended that her nomination for this position be agreed to by the Council.

Should only one nomination be received by Friday 27 June 2008 that person will be declared elected by the Returning Officer and they will assume office immediately.

In the event that an election is required for this position it is also recommended the Mayor, as the Council's presiding delegate at the AGM, be given authority to cast the Council's six votes in favour of her candidacy for President.

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.

In the event that the Mayor is elected to the position of President it is important that a strong working relationship exists between the President and Vice President of the Association. For that reason it is recommended that the Mayor be given delegated authority, if the need arises, to either nominate or second the nomination of a candidate whom she believes will be the best person for this role and that, in the event an election for Vice President is required, she be authorised to cast the Council's votes in favour of the candidate whom she believes will best fill the role.

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

The Council is required to both appoint its delegates to the 2008 *LGNZ* conference to be held in Rotorua from 27-30 July 2008 and its presiding and alternate presiding delegate for the *LGNZ* Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 30 July 2008.

The Council's approval is also required to nominate Mayor Prendergast for the position of President, Local Government New Zealand, the nominations for which close on Friday 27 June 2008.

Contact Officer: *Ross Bly, Special Projects Officer, Democratic Services*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Long-term outcome 7.2.2 –: “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