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**REPORT 4**  
(1215/52/IM)

## **SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE, ROTORUA, 10 – 12 APRIL 2008**

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

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Rotorua, 10 – 12 April 2008.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of one elected member at the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Rotorua, 10 – 12 April 2008 and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting and a Tawa Community Board meeting scheduled for Thursday 10 April and an Accessible Forum 2008 scheduled for Friday 11 April 2008.*
- 4. Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting in accordance with Council policy.*

### **3. Discussion**

The Sister Cities movement was founded after World War II to encourage understanding between different countries. The aim was to help foster a spirit of peace and understanding between all people. Today there are approximately 46 Councils across New Zealand with Sister City links with around 140 countries. Sister Cities relationships also aim to stimulate economic development and help create a network of citizen organisations which strengthen international relationships.

The theme for the Sister Cities Conference 2008 is Tatou – “We Together”. The focus on Friday 11 April will be on “Sharing the Future” and on Saturday it will be “Focus on Youth”.

Guest speakers include the Rt Hon Winston Peters, Takamichi Okabe the Japanese General-Consul, and the Governor General.

Over the course of the conference the Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. Annual General Meeting is scheduled.

The full conference programme is attached at appendix one to this report.

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

### **3.1 Considerations**

When deciding whether one elected member 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 for one elected member to attend this Conference is expected to be \$1,518.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost per person</b>
Registration	\$650.00
Return Flights	\$498.00
Accommodation	\$370.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,518.00</b>

The impact on the budget of one elected member attending this Conference is outlined below:

	2007/2008 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	\$6,504.91 <sup>1</sup>	\$27,495.09
Impact of sending <b>one</b> elected member to the conference	\$1,518.00	\$8,022.91	\$25,977.09

<sup>1</sup> The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the LGNZ Conference at a cost of \$3,926.00.  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Transport – the Next 50 Years Conference at a cost of \$732.16  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Trafanz Conference at a cost of \$1,846.75

#### **4. Conclusion**

A decision is required as to whether the Committee should approve the attendance of one elected member at the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Rotorua, 10 – 12 April 2008.

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