
REPORT 1
(1215/11/IM)

**NEW ZEALAND PLANNING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE,
AUCKLAND, 27-30 APRIL 2005**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on the New Zealand Planning Institute conference to be held in Auckland, 27-30 April 2005, and to seek approval for councillor attendance at the conference.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of one councillor at the New Zealand Planning Institute conference to be held in Auckland, 27-30 April 2005, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEMO1).*
- 3. Note that a Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27 April 2005, a Wellington Regional Strategy Forum meeting on Thursday 28 April 2005 and that hearings on the V8 Supercars are scheduled for Tuesday 26 April but the reserve days are on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 April. There are also various CCO meetings occur during the time of the conference.*
- 4. Note that a report back on the Conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

4. Discussion

The New Zealand Planning Institute is the professional body for planners, resource managers and environmental practitioners in New Zealand. It has 1400 members across the country in the private, public and academic sectors. The institute focuses on for example, conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural and human environment and promotes the wise use and management of resources.

The theme for this conference is "Pushing the Boundaries" and is designed to look at how the role and scope of planning in New Zealand is expanding. By using mechanisms like the Local Government Act 2002 or strategic and social planning, economic development planning and other statutory and non statutory processes, these can give effect in assisting communities in planning for a better society as well as a better environment.

This conference is about improving and moving past established resource management practices and looking at how planners can further push the boundaries, both within and outside the Resource Management Act 1991.

There is a workshop on the first day designed in particular for local government elected representatives and those who sit on hearing panels for Plans and Consents. The session will include a presentation by Environment Court Judge Newhook and Bill Loutit, Partner of Simpson Grierson, providing an update on recent case law and the implications of any recent or upcoming amendments to legislation which elected members should be aware of. The workshop will also include a brief update from John McSweeney of the Ministry for the Environment on the training, assessment and certifications scheme for RMA decision makers.

An outline of the conference programme is attached as Appendix One to this report.

4.1 Considerations

When deciding whether 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 if one elected member is appointed is expected to be \$1505.00 and will be met from the Elected Members budget. The impact on the budget of one elected member 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	\$34,000	\$ ¹ 9884	\$24,116
Impact of sending one elected member to the conference	\$1505.00	\$11,389	\$22,611

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

Item	Cost
Registration	\$695.00
Accommodation (x3 nights)	\$450.00
Return Airfares	\$360.00
Total	\$1505.00

¹ 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

5. Conclusion

A decision is required as to which elected member should attend the New Zealand Planning Institute conference to be held in Auckland, 27-30 April 2005.

Contact Officer: *Democratic Services*

Appendix One