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**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/11/IM)*

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**2007 SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE, THURSDAY 26 -  
SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2007, TE ANAU**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend the '2007 Sister Cities' conference to be held in Te Anau, Thursday 26 - Sunday 29 April 2007.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of one elected member at the '2007 Sister Cities' conference to be held in Te Anau Thursday 26 – Sunday 29 April 2007 and agree that the costs associated with attending the meeting are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that there is a Regional Land Transport Committee meeting, an Agenda Meeting and a Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 26 April and a LGNZ Zone 4 Meeting and a Wellington Zoo Trust meeting on Friday 27 April 2007.*
4. *Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

**3. Discussion**

To encourage understanding between different countries after World War II, the Sister Cities movement was founded. 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 2007 Sister Cities conference is based on a Ngai Tahu proverb: "*Mo tatou a mo nga uri a muri ake nei - For all of us and for the generations that follow*".

Guest speakers at the conference include:

**Wook Jin Lee**

President of International Christchurch Youth (ICY), which was formed at the 2004 Sister Cities Conference held in Christchurch. ICY aim to make a difference through youth involvement in Sister Cities and international relations. Wook Jin Lee has recently returned from the Sister Cities 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Washington D.C.

**Daniel Carruthers**

Lived in China for three years and wrote his thesis on sister city relationships between New Zealand and China and their implications on tourism development.

**Judge Wilson Isaac**

Appointed to the Maori Land Court in 1994 and appointed the Deputy Chief Judge of the Court in 1999. Judge Isaac presides over the Mohaka Ki Ahuriri, Northern South Island and National Park District inquiries for the Waitangi Tribunal.

**Joris De Bres**

Mr De Bres was appointed Race Relations Commissioner in 2002 and is the Vice-Chairperson for Oxfam New Zealand. He has worked extensively on Treaty of Waitangi issues, with Maori and Pacific Island peoples, migrants and racial equality.

Over the course of the conference, the following is scheduled:

- The Sister Cities Annual General Meeting at which a new Vice President and Director will be elected.
- Sessions on the educational, environmental heritage, youth and business features of sister city relationships.

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

**3.1 Considerations**

When deciding whether an 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 \$2,026.25 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance is broken down as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Registration	\$720.00
Return Flights	\$800.00
Accommodation	\$506.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,026.25</b>

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

	2006/2007 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	\$17,924.75 <sup>1</sup>	\$16,075.25
Impact of sending <b>one</b> elected member to the conference	\$2,026.25	\$19,551.00	\$14,449.00

#### 4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Council should approve the attendance of one elected member at the '2007 Sister Cities' conference to be held in Te Anau, Thursday 26 - Sunday 29 April 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 RMLA Conference 2006 at a cost of \$1,825.  
 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.

## 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*