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**REPORT 4**  
(1215/11/IM)

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND 'INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE' CONFERENCE, DUNEDIN, 15 JULY – 18 JULY 2007**

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

To provide information on and to seek approval for the Mayor and up to four elected members to attend the *Local Government New Zealand 'Investing in Our Future'* Conference to be held in Dunedin from 15 - 18 July 2007.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of the Mayor and up to four elected members, including the Chair of the Tawa Community Board, at the Local Government New Zealand 'Investing in our Future' Conference to be held in Dunedin from 15 – 18 July 2007 and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are 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 18 July 2007.*
4. *Appoint the following delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand AGM to be held on Wednesday 18 July 2007:*
  - (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) *two other delegates, who shall be Councillors*

5. *Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda meeting and a Capacity Board meeting on 17 July and a Capacity Board meeting and a Pacific Advisory Group meeting on 18 July.*
6. *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 theme for the 2007 Local Government New Zealand conference, 'Investing in our Future', carries many interpretations: the work elected members do to ensure communities are vibrant places to live, and about elected members in an election year, investing in themselves as elected members.

Key note speakers include:

**Sir Michael Lyons** – strategic advisor to the British Government and a range of public and private sector organisations. Sir Michael Lyons was knighted in 2000 for services to Local Government. He is the Chair of the English Cities Fund which provides institutional investment in urban regeneration.

**Sherri Torjman** – Vice president of the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. The Caledon Institute is a social policy think tank to inform and influence public opinion on poverty and social policy.

**David Shand** – Chairperson of the Independent Inquiry into Local Government Rates. Mr Shand also worked on the on public sector reform with the OECD and was a Wellington City Councillor from 1971 – 1977.

**Rob White** – Chief Executive of the New Zealand Wine Company, which is the first carboNZero certified winery in the world. CarboNZero certification involves measuring, managing and reducing emissions and mitigating unavoidable emissions.

Workshops will include:

#### **Monday:**

- Sustainability – it's a journey not a destination
- Building heritage into our future
- Creating efficiencies: a governance perspective
- Councils in the digital age
- Partnerships of the future: stadia challenges

#### **Tuesday:**

- Climate change: challenges for councils
- Looking after the baby boomers
- Are we there yet – has well-being really improved?
- Effective Community Boards
- The plan juggling challenge

The full programme is attached at appendix one.

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

### **3.1 Appointment of Delegates to the Conference**

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

It is recommended that the Mayor and up to four elected members be appointed to attend this year's conference. It is proposed that the Chair of the Tawa Community Board, who is also currently Chair of Zone 4 Wellington Region Community Boards', be one of the four elected members to attend.

This year's theme reflects the funding issues facing local government and promises to be a worthwhile conference. Two of the keynote speakers will provide useful background information in this regard as Councils try to balance local community's needs, national needs and their community's willingness to accept rates increases.

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

|      |              |  |
|------|--------------|--|
| 2003 | Queenstown   | The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper  |
| 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, Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, McKinnon and Shaw and Ngaire Best (Chair, Tawa Community Board) |

The Mayor and Councillors Shaw and Pepperell 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 forward to the Chief Executive of *Local Government New Zealand* 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 will 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:

| <b>Item</b>    | <b>Cost</b>       |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Registration   | \$1,095.00        |
| Return Flights | \$328.00          |
| Accommodation  | \$540.00          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$1,963.00</b> |

If approval is given for the Mayor and up to four elected members to attend the conference the total cost will be \$9,815 and these costs will be met from the elected members' conference budget.

The impact on the budget of the Mayor and up to four elected members attending this conference is outlined below:

|  | 2007/2008<br>Budget | Year to Date<br>Expenditure | Unexpended<br>Funds |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total budget for<br>conference fees  | <b>\$34,000.00</b>  | \$0                         | \$0                 |
| Impact of sending up<br>to <b>four</b> elected<br>members to the<br>conference | \$9,815.00          | \$9,815.00                  | \$24,185.00         |

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Council is required to appoint both its delegates to the 2007 *LGNZ* conference to be held in Dunedin from 15-18 July 2007 and its presiding and alternate presiding delegate for the *LGNZ* Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 July 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor and Ross Bly, Special Projects & Electoral Officer*

## 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*