
REPORT 10
(1215/52/IM)

2006 REPRESENTATION REVIEW: VISIT TO CHRISTCHURCH AND AUCKLAND

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for up to three Councillors to visit Christchurch and Auckland City Councils as soon as possible to investigate the operation of community boards in those two cities to help inform the decision Council is required to make as part of the representation review it has agreed to undertake.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the Governance Portfolio Leader and up to two other Councillors visiting Christchurch and Auckland City Councils as soon as possible to investigate the operation of community boards in those two cities and that the associated travel costs be met from the Democratic Process budget.*

3. Background

Although not legally required to carry out its next representation review until 2009 (in time for the 2010 local authority elections) the Council, at its meeting on 30 October 2003, resolved as follows:

“That Council agree that no further community boards be established, and that none be abolished at this time; but that a full review of community boards be undertaken to be completed in sufficient time for any proposals to be implemented in a further representation review which would be completed in time for the 2007 elections”.

The Council reviewed that decision at its meeting on 6 April 2006 and resolved to continue with the review. That review is currently underway.

4. Discussion

4.1 Review of community boards

When carrying out a representation review the legislation requires the Council to consider whether the establishment of community boards may be appropriate in order to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities in its district. The review provides a process whereby the Council can propose the constitution of new boards or the disestablishment/amalgamation of existing boards.

In carrying out such a review two levels of decisions are required-

- whether there should be communities and community boards within the Council's district; and
- if so, the nature of any community and the structure of the community board.

The legislation also sets out a number of specific issues the Council is required to consider in relation to community boards (i.e. number of elected and appointed members, boundaries, possible subdivision for electoral purposes etc).

4.2 Pre-review consultation

When confirming its decision to carry out another representation review in April 2006, the Council also agreed to undertake a "pre-review" public consultation before commencing the formal statutory review process.

As part of that consultation process the Council is currently seeking feedback from its two existing community boards on their operation, including the specific issues the Council is required to consider. Members of the public have also been invited to make submissions on the operation of the existing boards and whether or not more community boards should be established across the city.

Those submissions will be considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee at its meeting on 15 June 2006 before Council makes its initial decision on 28 June 2006.

In addition to this "public" feedback it may also be useful and appropriate to seek some first hand advice from Councils, similar to Wellington, where community boards are operating on a city-wide basis. Both Christchurch and Auckland City Council's, and Christchurch in particular, have long been regarded as cities where community boards operate well and where their continued existence appears to be supported by their respective communities.

It is therefore recommended that a group of up to three Councillors, accompanied by relevant officers, travel to Christchurch and Auckland to meet with appropriate elected members (including ward councillors and community board members) and Council

officers (particularly those working in the governance area) to discuss with them the operation of community boards within their respective cities.

The information gained from these visits will be useful to help inform the decision the Council is required to make.

4.3 Costs involved

The total costs involved in sending three Councillors to Christchurch and Auckland will be approximately \$2,000 and those costs will be met from the Democratic Process budget.

No accommodation costs will be incurred as it will not be necessary for the group to stay overnight at either location.

5. Conclusion

The Strategy and Policy Committee will be considering the feedback received from the pre-review consultation Council is currently undertaking and will, as a result of those considerations, be recommending an initial proposal to Council for its adoption on 28 June 2006.

If the proposal to visit Christchurch and Auckland City Councils is supported, any “first-hand” information Councillors can obtain as a result of these visits should be available before the Strategy and Policy Committee meets on 15 June 2006.

Contact Officer: *Ross Bly, Special Projects and Electoral Officer*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

*This supports the objective 9.2 City decision-making:
People are encouraged to participate in the decision making of the city.*

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Relates to C534.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty implications.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation is required.

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The report is consistent with existing policy.