

REPORT 8
(1215/52/IM)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND 'LEADING COMMUNITIES' CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON, 16-19 JULY 2006

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on the *Local Government New Zealand* (LGNZ) Annual Conference to be held in Wellington from 16-19 July 2006 and to seek approval to send the Mayor and four elected members, including the Chair of the Tawa Community Board, to the conference.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of the Mayor and four elected members, including the Chair of the Tawa Community Board, at the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Wellington, 16-19 July 2006 and that the costs associated in attending the conference be 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 19 July 2006.*
4. *Recommend that Council appoint:*
 - (a) *Mayor Prendergast as its presiding delegate, with authority to exercise Wellington City Council's 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*

to attend the Local Government New Zealand AGM to be held on Wednesday 19 July 2006.

5. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The 2006 *Local Government New Zealand* conference is being held in Wellington from 16-19 July 2006. The theme for this year's conference is "Leading Communities", and focuses on Councils as outstanding community leaders. The conference will draw on examples of best practice from within the local government sector and also from international examples, and will explore techniques and practical solutions that can be applied to New Zealand.

The keynote speakers include Mildred Warner, (Associate Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, New York), Jim Soorley (former Lord Mayor of Brisbane), Hon Jeff Kennett (former Premier of Victoria), Chris Moller (Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Rugby Union) and John Allen (Chief Executive, NZ Post).

Conference Daily Overview:

Monday 17 July

Day one of the conference features speakers Jim Soorley, Dr. Mildred Warner and John Allen with break-out sessions following the first two speakers. Alan Milne, (Mayor, Kapiti Coast District Council) will also speak on 'The Challenge of Climate Change for New Zealand Local Authorities'.

Tuesday 18 July

The day begins with a keynote presentation from the Hon Jeff Kennett, followed by the Creative Places Awards. Two concurrent sessions follow in which participants will choose from the following topics:

Session 1 (10.30am – 12noon)

1. Strategic futures
2. The billion dollar question
3. Working together to build strong communities
4. More than just a game.

Session 2 (1pm – 2.30pm)

1. Cronulla: Could it happen here?
2. Is there life after community outcomes?
3. Driving your economy
4. Weighing local costs and national benefits.

Full details of each of these sessions and further background information on the Conference in general are provided in the attached programme material.

Chris Moller (Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Rugby Football Union) will speak, from 3pm - 3.30pm following which there will be addresses from both the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Local Government.

Wednesday 19 July

The 19th Annual General Meeting of *Local Government New Zealand* will be held from 10.00am – 12 noon. The meeting is open to council representatives only.

The AGM is followed by the closing address from the President of Local Government New Zealand, and the official conference closing.

3.1 Appointment of Delegates to the Conference

There is no restriction on the number of delegates Council can send to the Conference. Over recent years four delegates have been appointed to attend.

It is recommended that the Mayor and up to four elected members be appointed to attend what promises to be a worthwhile conference, the first in a post-LTCCP world where Councils are firmly focussed on leading their communities through the next ten years.

A request has been received from the Chair of the New Zealand Community Boards' Executive Committee for Council to approve the attendance of the Chair of the Tawa Community Board (who is also Chair of Zone 4 Wellington Region Community Boards') at the Conference.

A community board session will be held on Tuesday 18 July, from 10.30am to 12 noon, as part of the concurrent sessions. The topic is "Working together to build strong communities" which looks at how councils and community boards can work together effectively to promote community wellbeing.

It is recommended that this request be agreed to.

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

2002	Rotorua	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Pepperell and Piper
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

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 but will have no speaking or voting rights and will be seated separately from the Council’s main 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 total cost if five elected members are appointed is expected to be \$5,000 and will be met from the elected members’ conference budget.

The impact on the budget of five elected members attending this conference is outlined in Table One.

Table One

	2006/2007 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	\$34,000	\$0	\$34,000
Impact of sending five elected member to the conference	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$29,000

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

Item	Cost
Registration	\$1,000
Accommodation	N/A
Return Airfares	N/A
Total	\$1,000

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to which elected members should attend the 2006 Local Government Conference, Wellington 16-19 July 2006.

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