

---

**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

## **COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 2007, AUCKLAND, 26 – 29 MARCH 2007**

---

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

To provide information on and to seek approval for the Mayor and one elected member to attend the Commonwealth Local Government Conference to be held in Auckland, 26 – 29 March 2007.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of the Mayor and one elected member at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 to be held in Auckland, 26-29 March 2007 and that the costs associated with attending the meeting are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda meeting and a St James Charitable Trust meeting scheduled on Tuesday 27 March 2007 and the New Zealand Planning Institute Conference scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday 28 – 29 March 2006 in Palmerston North.*
- 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**

The theme of the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 is to deliver development through local leadership and to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental growth. Outcomes of past conferences have been endorsed by Commonwealth heads of Government.

The conference will look at the following issues:

- What is local leadership? How strategic local leadership can create strong thriving communities and tackle poverty, crime, HIV/AIDs and other issues.
- Local Government's leadership role in the development of and meeting Millennium Development Goals.

- Local Government conflict resolution and disaster management.

The community leadership role of Local Government is increasingly being recognised for promoting an individual's well being. Local Government is also playing an increasingly important role in tackling world wide issues, such as global warming, poverty and disaster management.

The Conference will allow delegates to see first hand recent innovations in community leadership in New Zealand. The Conference will also look at case studies from across the Commonwealth.

Over the course of the conference, delegates will have an opportunity to hear from:

- Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand
- HE President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda
- Most Hon Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica
- HE Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General
- Prof Jeffery Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University and Director of the UN Millennium Project

To be confirmed as speakers at the conference are:

- Hon Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta and Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth
- Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Plenary sessions cover a range of topics, including:

- Local leadership and effective governance
- Local leadership delivering a strategic vision
- Community leadership in New Zealand
- Local leadership: working with stakeholders to provide better services
- Local government leading a response to global issues
- Strengthening the leadership role of local government

The Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 offers local government leaders an opportunity to meet with ministers, senior officials and practitioners to exchange ideas and learn about good practice. The conference also provides a chance to learn about innovations in other countries and councils. The conference allows non-governmental organisations who work with local government to meet and exchange ideas and information in an international forum.

Mayor Prendergast will be attending the conference in her capacity as Vice President of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). LGNZ are paying for the Mayor's flights to Auckland and one night's accommodation.

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

Further information on the programme is attached at appendix one.

### **3.1 Considerations**

When deciding which 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 the Mayor and one elected member are appointed is expected to be \$2,450.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance per person, other than the Mayor, is broken down as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Registration	\$550.00
Accommodation (3 nights)	\$630.00
Return Airfares	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,480.00</b>

The impact on the budget of the Mayor and one elected member 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	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	\$12,601.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$21,399.00
Impact of sending <b>one</b> elected members to the conference	\$1,480.00	\$14,081.00	\$19,919.00
Impact of paying two nights accommodation and registration fees for the Mayor	\$970.00	\$15,051.00	\$18,949.00

#### **4. Conclusion**

A decision is required as to whether Council should approve the attendance of the Mayor and one elected member at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 to be held in Auckland, 26 – 29 March 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

---

<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 NZ Walking Conference 2006 in Christchurch at a cost of \$865  
The attendance of up to 2 Elected Members at Climate Change: The Policy Challenges Symposium in Wellington at a cost of \$350  
The attendance of up to 1 Elected Members at the New Zealand Recreation Association Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$748.75

## 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*

## **APPENDIX ONE**