
REPORT 4
(1215/52/IM)

SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE, CAMBRIDGE, WAIPA DISTRICT, 22-24 APRIL 2009

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Cambridge, Waipa District, 22-24 April 2009.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of one Elected Member at the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Cambridge, Waipa District, 22-24 April 2009 and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on Thursday 23 April 2009 and a Partnership Wellington Trust Board meeting on Friday 24 April 2009.*
- 4. Note that a report on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The Sister Cities movement was founded after World War II to encourage understanding between different countries. 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.

Over the course of the conference the Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. Annual General Meeting is scheduled.

The theme for the day on Thursday 23 April is “Waipa Home of Champions”. Over the course of the day, there will be key note presentations from:

- His Excellency Mr Michel Legras, French Ambassador to New Zealand
- Bentham Ohia, Chief Executive, Te Wananga o Aotearoa
- Henry van der Heyden, Chief Executive, Fonterra
- Jim Mylchreest, Chief Executive, Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
- Matthew Cooper, Chief Executive Sport Waikato
- Rob Waddell, Olympic gold medallist and Team NZ America’s Cup crew member
- Robyn Hughes, Businesswoman, Fashion designer

The focus for the day on Friday 24 April is “Youth Champions”. There will be youth addresses on Education / Exchanges and Young Business People.

The conference also includes a tour of Karapiro and an address by Tom Mayo, Chief Executive for the Rowing World Champs 2010 at the Lake Karapiro High Performance Centre. Rick Williams will host the group at the world renowned The Oaks Stud and give a presentation on Equine Champions.

The Air New Zealand Sister Cities Awards will be presented at an awards dinner on Thursday night. Categories for the awards are:

- Best youth, education or school project
- Best cultural, sport or recreation project
- Best business or commercial project

3.1 Future Conferences

There are no conferences that we regularly send Elected Members to scheduled for the remainder of the current financial year.

Conferences scheduled for the next financial year include:

- Cycling Conference – 12-13 November 2009
- New Zealand Recreation Association Conference – 2-4 November 2009
- LGNZ Conference – 26-29 July 2009
- RMLA Conference – 1 October 2009

3.2 Considerations

When deciding whether one 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 for one elected member to attend this Conference is expected to be \$1,228.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

| Item | Cost per person |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Return Flights | \$400.00 |
| Accommodation | \$218.00 |
| Registration | \$480.00 |
| Awards Dinner | \$130.00 |
| Total | \$1,228.00 |

The impact on the budget of one Elected Member attending this Conference is outlined below:

| | 2007/2008 Budget | Year to Date Expenditure | Unexpended Funds |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total budget for conference fees | \$34,000.00 | \$18,610.73 | \$15,389.27 |
| Impact of sending one elected member to the conference | \$1,228.00 | \$19,838.73 | \$14,161.27 |

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Committee should approve the attendance of one Elected Member at the 'Sister Cities Conference' to be held in Cambridge on 22-24 April 2009.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

¹ The attendance of 4 Elected Members at the LGNZ Conference at a cost of \$8,103.34
 Mayor to attend World Summit at a cost of \$312.94
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the NZ Walking Conference at a cost of \$1,241.00
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the TRAFINZ Conference at a cost \$3,770.45
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the NZRA Conference at a cost of \$678.00
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Youth in Local Government Conference at a cost of \$200.00
 The attendance of 3 Community Board Members at the Community Board Conference at a cost of \$4305

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