
REPORT 7
(1215/52/IM)

2011 NZPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE – WINDS OF CHANGE

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides information on the 2011 New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) Annual Conference; Winds of Change to be held at the Wellington Town Hall and the Wharewaka from 29 March to 1 April 2011, and seeks approval for one elected member to attend the conference.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of one elected member at the 2011 NZPI Annual Conference: Winds of Change to be held in Wellington from 29 March to 1 April 2011 and note that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Agree that should the nominated elected member be unable to attend, they may nominate another elected member to attend in their place.*
4. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*
5. *Note that there are no meetings scheduled between 29 March and 1 April 2011.*

3. Discussion

The 2011 NZPI conference is titled “Winds of Change” and focuses on the following themes:

- Governance
- Urban Planning
- Infrastructure Planning
- Major Event Planning
- Māori Participation in Planning
- Natural Hazards Planning and Planning for Climate Change Adaptation

3.1 Conference Programme

The programme includes the following: pre-conference workshops; local, national and international keynote speakers; and field trips:

- Pre-conference workshops: Urban Design Forum Meeting; the Rodney Davies research Symposium; Maori Planning hui; workshop for elected local government representatives
- International speakers:
 - Leonie Sanderscock, professor at the University of British Columbia whose research includes: immigration; cultural diversity and integration; participatory planning; democracy; and information and communication technologies.
 - Robert Liberty, an expert on reforming the pattern of growth and development in the United States to replace sprawl with compact cities and conserve farmland and natural resources.
 - George Monbiot, an English writer, known for his environmental and political activism. He writes a weekly column for The Guardian.
 - Hon Desley Boyle, the QLD State Minister for Local government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.
- New Zealand Keynote Speakers:
 - Mark Solomon, is Kaiwhakahaere (Chair) Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.
 - Hon. Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Climate Change Issues.
 - Hon. Chris Finlayson, Attorney-General, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi.
 - Roger Blakeley is the Chief Planning Officer of the new Auckland Council.

3.2 Future Conferences

Conferences scheduled for the remainder of 2011 include the following:

- Sister City Conference 27 – 29 April, Masterton
- LGNZ 10-12 July 2011, Wellington
- RMLA, September 2011
- Trafinz, September 2011
- Wasteminz conference, 4 October 2011, Rotorua

3.3 Considerations

When deciding whether an 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 cost of attendance per delegate is detailed as follows:

Item	Cost (including GST)
Registration	\$738
Return Airfares	Nil
Accommodation	Nil
Incidentals	Nil
Total	\$738

The total cost of attendance for one elected member to attend the conference will be \$738 and the impact on the budget would be as follows:

	2009/2010 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, travel and accommodation	\$39, 500.00	\$10, 203.50 ¹	\$29, 296.50
Impact of sending one elected member to the conference	\$738	\$10, 941.50	\$28,558.50

The costs incurred will be met from the elected members' conference budget (GVEM01).

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Strategy and Policy Committee should approve the attendance of one elected member at the NZPI Annual Conference: Winds of Change to be held in Wellington on the 29 March to the 1 April 2011.

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¹ The attendance of one councillor to the 2010 LIANZA conference at a cost of approximately \$2229
The attendance of one councillor to the 2010 Trafanz Conference at a cost of \$1195
The attendance of one councillor to the 2010 Walking Conference at a cost of \$819.40
Incidental costs incurred for four councillors attending the 2010 LGNZ conference, at a cost of \$2981.64
The estimated cost of attendance of two elected members to the Emergency Management Conference \$2978.50

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports long-term outcome 7.2.2 – “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.