
REPORT 4
(1215/52/IM)

**SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE: MASTERTON, 27 – 29
APRIL 2011**

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides information on the Sister Cities Conference 2011 to be held in Masterton from 27 to 29 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 Sister Cities Conference 2011 to be held in Masterton from 27 to 29 April 2011 and note that the costs associated with attending the conference will be met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Agree that should the nominated elected member(s) be unable to attend, they may ask 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 two meetings scheduled on Wednesday 27 April 2011 (Wellington Venues Ltd Board Meeting and Youth Council).*

3. Discussion

The 2011 Sister Cities Conference will take a constructive look at sister cities in relation to being 'Connected, Relevant, and Rewarding' under the following themes:

- Relationships are Everything
- Sister Cities in Action
- Measuring Value and Success
- Where to Now?

3.1 Conference Programme

Using a combination of key note speakers, panel discussions, workshops and brief snapshots of success stories, the conference will explore trade, tourism, education and cultural opportunities provided through the Sister Cities connection.

Programme highlights include:

- US Ambassador David Huebner – the case for international friendship
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs CEO John Allen with views from NZ embassies around the world
- A series of Sister Cities in Action vignettes showing varied activities in practice:
 - “An international network in action” - Sue White, Rotorua DC
 - “Building an amazing sister city event” - Masterton DC and Changchun (China)
 - “Time Out in New Zealand programme for Japanese families” - Jon Doherty (Terrace Downs)
 - Featherston and Messines – “Just good friends” - Adrienne Staples, Mayor, South Wairarapa DC
 - The Ngati Porou (Spanish) Panior - Judy Livingston, Gisborne DC
- David Hancock (Hutt City) and Yvonne Tatton (Tauranga) share their approaches to measuring the value and success of sister city relationships
- Bruce Gadd (NZTE/Rugby World Cup) will look at how Sister City networks can leverage international events
- A panel representing Australia (Auckland), Japan (Wellington) and China (CPAFFC) will tackle some of the big questions facing their sister cities, including sustainability and leveraging opportunities now and in future
- Sister Cities New Zealand strategic planning session, followed by the AGM
- Air New Zealand Awards Dinner and Royal Wedding Feast

Due to the recent events in Christchurch and Japan, the key note speaker is yet to be confirmed.

The full conference programme is attached as Appendix One.

3.2 Future Conferences

Conferences scheduled until the end of 2011 include:

- LGNZ 10-12 July 2011, Wellington
- RMLA, September
- Trafanz, September
- 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 (GST incl.)
Registration	\$747.5
Return Travel (bus)	\$45
Accommodation	\$465 (3 nights @ \$155 per night)
Incidentals	\$200
Total	\$1,457.50

The total cost of attendance for one elected member to attend the conference will be \$1457.50 and the impact on the budget would be as follows:

	2010/2011 Budget (GST excl.)	Year to Date Expenditure (GST excl.)	Unexpended Funds (GST excl.)
Total budget for conference fees	\$39,500.00	\$13,074.95	\$26,425.05
Impact of sending one elected member to the conference	\$1,267.39	\$14,342.34	\$25,157.66

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 Sister Cities Conference to be held in Masterton from 27 to 29 April 2011.

Contact Officer: *Kirstin Harvey, Team Leader – Committee Services.*

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.