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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, QUEENSTOWN,  
15 – 17 JULY 2012**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

This report provides information on the Local Government New Zealand Conference, to be held in Queenstown from 15 – 17 July 2012, and to seek approval for the Deputy Mayor and up to three additional elected members to attend the conference. The report also recommends that the Council elects a presiding delegate to exercise the votes on behalf of Wellington City Council at the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting on 15 July 2012.

**2. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of the Deputy Mayor and up to three additional elected members at the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Queenstown from 15 – 17 July 2012 and that the costs associated with 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 Sunday 15 July 2012.*
4. *Appoint the following delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 15 July 2012:*
  - (a) *Deputy Mayor McKinnon as its presiding delegate, with authority to exercise Wellington City Council's six votes;*
  - (b) *an alternate presiding delegate (in the event that the Deputy 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*

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**

Attendees will hear from remarkable New Zealanders, high achievers in their specialist fields, who will offer inspiration and motivation.

The keynote speakers include:

**Sir Graham Henry** – having reached the remarkable heights of his code by coaching the All Blacks to glory in the 2011 Rugby World Cup, Sir Graham Henry has reached the peak of his profession.

**Fran O’Sullivan** – writes for the New Zealand Herald on political, business, and international affairs. Fran O’Sullivan is also the executive editor of the Herald’s Mood of the Boardroom report.

**Hon. John Brumby** – Former Premier of Victoria, the Hon John Brumby has spent over 20 years as a leader in the public service sector.

**Phil O’Reilly** – Chief Executive of BusinessNZ, Phil O’Reilly also represents New Zealand employers at the International Labour Organisation, and is a Board member of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD.

**Andrew Hamilton** – Chief Executive of The ICEHOUSE – a business growth centre that works with start-ups, owner-manager firms, and large family enterprises to enable their growth.

**Sir Eion Edgar** – As Hon President of the New Zealand Olympic Committee, Sir Eion Edgar will talk about his role in setting up the 2009 100 Per Cent Pure Winter Games in Queenstown.

The conference will also offer attendees workshops which will look at some of the issues facing the local government sector across social, environment, governance, and transport and infrastructure areas.

A copy of the full programme is attached as Appendix One to this report.

### **3.1 Appointment of delegates to the conference**

There is no restriction on the number of delegates Council can send to the conference.

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

2007	Dunedin	The Mayor and Ngaire Best (Tawa Community Board)
2008	Rotorua	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best and McKinnon
2009	Christchurch	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Coughlan and McKinnon
2010	Auckland	The Mayor and Councillors Coughlan, McKinnon and Wade-Brown
2011	Wellington	The Mayor and Councillors Coughlan, Eagle and Foster

The Mayor and Councillors Best, Eagle and Foster 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 (LGNZ)* 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 *LGNZ* 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 advise the Chief Executive of *LGNZ*, in writing, of the names and positions of the presiding, alternate and other delegates attending the AGM. This allows *LGNZ* to closely monitor the numbers attending and so meet their obligations under the rules of their constitution.

Other elected members may attend the meeting as observers but have no speaking or voting rights and will be seated away from the Council's official 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
- other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The approximate cost of attendance per delegate is detailed as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (including GST)</b>
Registration (early bird)	<b>\$1,205.00</b>
Return Airfares	<b>\$630.00</b>
Accommodation – 3 nights	<b>\$575.00</b>
Incidentals	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,410.00</b>

The estimated total cost of attendance for four elected members would be \$9,640.00. The impact on the budget would be as follows:

	<b>2011/2012 Budget</b>	Year to Date Expenditure	Uncommitted Funds
Total budget for conference fees, travel and accommodation	<b>\$37,500.00</b>	\$11,601.00	\$25,899.00
Impact of sending <b>four</b> elected members to the conference	\$9,640.00	\$21,241.00	\$16,259.00

The costs incurred will be met from the elected members' conference fees, travel and accommodation budget (GVEM01).

## 4. Conclusion

The Council is required to appoint its delegates to the 2012 Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Queenstown from 15 – 17 July 2012 and its presiding and alternate presiding delegate for the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 15 July 2012.

Contact Officer: *Luka Dujmovic – Committee Advisor, Democratic 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) LTP/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.*