

13. REVIEW OF BOARD MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to assist the Board in responding to the Council's request for Community Boards to review their current meeting arrangements with a view to achieving further savings.

BACKGROUND

Members will recall that the Board Chairman late last year promoted a view that the Board should review the level of membership of its three standing Committees. The Board confirmed this position at its 26 November 2002 meeting.

Earlier this year some informal discussions were hosted by the Chairman on this particular matter although no clear direction eventuated.

At the Council's draft Annual Plan meeting held on 25 March 2003 it was resolved "that the Community Boards review their current meeting arrangements with a view to achieving further savings". This resolution followed discussion by the Annual Plan Subcommittee on the matter of costs for "Public Accountability", and on the wish to build on savings identified earlier by the review of the Council's Committee structures.

In response to the call from the Council, an informal meeting was held of those Board Members who were available on 8 April, to discuss options that could be considered in achieving savings. In general terms the outcomes from this discussion were as follows:

- Members were satisfied that the existing Board/Committee structure was appropriate to deal with the differing strands of business before the Board.
- A preferred outcome on funding would be that Boards be equally bulk funded. The level of funding could be based on a 10% reduction of the current average (of the 6 Boards) annual "meeting fees" component of costs.
- If this position does not receive wider support then the Board will likely decide to agree that all "representation" and "ad hoc" meetings will be unpaid i.e. only payment for the formal Board and Committee meetings. Savings of between \$7,000 to 10,000 could be achieved.

The Chairman comments:

"The matter was further discussed at a (combined) Community Board Workshop held on 10 April when a general overview was provided by officers on a number of current related issues, including the recent Higher Salaries Commission determination, the review of Electoral Structures, and the recent Council resolution as above. A number of Members from this Board were in attendance and will be able to relate to this discussion and some of the issues raised.

A number of matters were clarified at the Workshop and some interesting options for identifying savings were raised. These included the matter of bulk saving (and a relevant reduction of total funding for Boards), an across the Board saving on elected member meeting (Councillor and Community Board member) payment rates, and the impact that "dual" meeting payments (for Councillors) have on the individual Board's expenses.

While my initial view was that savings should be made by way of reducing membership of the Committees I am heartened by the approach of Members of this Board to offer the option for no payment at "representation" and "ad hoc" meetings, including the aspect of representation on outside organisations. While I do intend to wish to discuss the matter of the level of membership further, the offer of the savings from unpaid meetings, as above, should be forwarded to the Council from this Board.

It would also seem relevant that the Council be requested to consider the other options referred to above which were raised at the 10 April Workshop."

**Chairman's
Recommendation:**

1. That the Board confirm its existing Committee structure.
2. That, in the event of any other wider savings not being imposed by the Council, all 'representation" and "ad hoc" meeting attendances be unpaid.
3. That the Council be requested to consider the following options for further savings against the "Public Accountability" vote:
 - equal bulk funding of Boards, based on a reduction of the current total funding.
 - an 'across the board' reduction of the current meeting payment rates for Councillors and Community Board Members.
 - a reversion to single daily payments for Councillors involved in both Council and Community Board meetings on the same day (as resolved during a previous term of Council). REFER NEXT PAGE

CLAUSE 13 – UPDATE

Following legal advice that some of the agenda recommendations may be “ultra vires”, but that individual Members may offer to attend meetings unpaid, the Chairman’s Recommendations have been redrafted but in a manner still echoing the sentiment of the original clause, as follows:

Chairman’s

Recommendation:

1. That the Board confirm its existing Committee structure.
2. That Board Members be offered the opportunity to request that all “representation” and “ad hoc” meeting attendances be unpaid. (Possibly on the basis that all Boards do the same?)
3. That the Council be requested to consider the following options for further savings against the “Public Accountability” vote:
 - Equal bulk funding of Boards, based on a reduction of the current total funding.
 - An “across the board” reduction of the current meeting payment rates for Councillors and Community Board Members.
4. That Councillors be offered the opportunity, by Council, to request that where Community Board meetings are held on the same day of a Council/Committee, etc meeting, that the Community Board meeting attendance be unpaid.