

## 9. COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Relations Manager	<b>Author</b> Stephen Phillips, DDI 941-6436
---	---

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the outcome of the Council's request that Community Boards review their current meeting arrangements with a view to achieving further savings.

### BACKGROUND

During the preparation of the draft 2004 Financial Plan and Programme, the Annual Plan Subcommittee considered a revised budget for public accountability in the main to reflect changes in the Council's Committee structure. This resulted in savings of \$249,283 in Councillor remuneration. At that time savings of \$31,811 were also achieved across the Community Board cost centres.

In adopting the draft Financial Plan the Council resolved to ask Community Boards to undertake reviews of their meeting arrangements, which was consistent with the action the Council had taken with the review of its Committees late in 2002. A Community Board workshop to introduce the need for the reviews was held on 10 April.

### OUTCOME OF REVIEWS UNDERTAKEN BY COMMUNITY BOARDS

Each Community Board has undertaken a review as requested. The results of those respective reviews are summarised as follows:

#### ***Burwood/Pegasus Community Board***

The Board confirmed its current practice of holding two ordinary meetings, plus (as needed) one seminar per month.

The Board has also adopted criteria for the appointment of members to positions qualifying for the payment of meeting allowances.

The Board had undertaken a comprehensive review of its meeting structure in November 2002.

#### ***Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board***

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has confirmed its existing Committee structure. The Board suggests that all Board members be offered the opportunity to request that "representation" and "ad hoc" meeting attendances be unpaid (ie not claimed).

The Board also suggests that Councillors be offered the opportunity to request that where community board meetings are held on the same day as a Council/Committee meeting they not be paid for the community board meetings.

Further, the Board requests the Council to consider the following options for further savings:-

- Equal bulk funding of Boards based on a reduction of the current total funding
- An "across the board" reduction in current meeting payment rates for Councillors and Community Board Members.

#### ***Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board***

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board has changed the status of its Committees to working parties. It will however re-establish a working party as a Committee if it is proposed to grant delegated decision-making powers to the working party/Committee. Working parties are non paid meetings.

The Board is also to consult with the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board over the need for Hagley/Ferrymead to retain a representative on the Summit Road Society. If this is changed a further saving of \$1,550 would be made.

The Board has reduced the number of its Community Gardens representatives to one.

The Hagley/Ferrymead Board also recommends that the Council revisit the number of Councillors it appoints to Community Boards.

***Riccarton/Wigram Community Board***

Riccarton/Wigram has confirmed its existing Committee structure. It felt that its current costs were fair for the work involved and the responsibilities the Board undertakes in its area.

***Shirley/Papanui Community Board***

Shirley/Papanui confirmed its current meeting structure. Its Board members believe that its present structure works efficiently and economically.

***Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board***

As Spreydon/Heathcote had recently reviewed and reduced the number of its Committees it also confirmed its current structure.

The Board is to further review its representation on outside organisations.

**COST SAVINGS**

Having factored in changes to meeting arrangements either through this review and/or recent reviews undertaken by the Burwood/Pegasus and Spreydon/Heathcote Community Boards, the cost savings that can be made through the changes totals \$20,615. As noted above these are in addition to the savings of over \$30,000 already reflected in the draft budget for community board cost centres.

**SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY COMMUNITY BOARDS**

It will be noted that Fendalton/Waimairi and Hagley/Ferrymead have made specific suggestions which, if adopted, would bring about further cost savings. However, the question of acceptance of meeting payments is one for individual choice (ie it cannot be resolved by the Council). The level of remuneration and the number of Councillors on community boards are decisions which the Council has taken having regard to the current determination issued by the Minister of Local Government and long held elected member concerns about representation on community boards.

**Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the saving of \$20,615 resulting from the review be reflected in the 2004 Financial Plan.

**Chair's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.