

## 8. COUNCIL REPRESENTATION – CHRISTCHURCH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TRUST BOARD

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Corporate Plan Output: Elected Member Representation	

The purpose of this report is to present, for the Council's consideration, an invitation from the Christchurch Science Technology Trust Board (Science Alive) for a City Councillor to become a member of the Trust Board.

### BACKGROUND

When *Science Alive!* opened to the public in 1993 a two-tier management system was in place comprising a trust board and a management board. The City Council was represented on the latter body at elected member level. As the purpose of the management board was to oversee the establishment of *Science Alive!* this board was wound up in 1993 when the facility was fully operational. City Council representation on the organisation also ceased at that time.

### THE PROPOSAL

In a letter to the Chairman of this Committee, the Director of *Science Alive!* lists the reasons for seeking elected member representation on the board as being:

1. As the Christchurch City Council has invested a great deal of money in *Science Alive!* it is very appropriate that a City Councillor be invited to be a member of the Board.
2. It is very important that effective flow of accurate information between *Science Alive!* and the Christchurch City Council occurs, and this may be greatly increased by participation at Board level.
3. Similarly, the Board can receive information about any concerns the Council may have about *Science Alive!*'s operation.
4. The progress that *Science Alive!* is making and has made, can be conveyed informally particularly if unexpected issues arise.

### PRESENT COUNCIL POLICY

The present Council policy governing the appointment of Council representatives to outside bodies is as follows:

*“That the Council appoint formal representatives on outside bodies only where the proposed appointment will be of clear public benefit or benefit to the Council or where the appointment is required for statutory reasons or under the provisions of the relevant deed, constitution etc of the organisation concerned.”*

If the Council decides to accept the trust board's invitation then it would need to satisfy itself that the appointment meets either the "clear public benefit" or "benefit to the Council" test as the appointment not required for either statutory or constitutional reasons.

#### **COUNCIL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SCIENCE ALIVE!**

Since it opened in the early 1990s *Science Alive!* has enjoyed substantial funding support from the Council. For the first five years the Council met the cost of servicing a \$600,000 loan at a cost of \$66,000 per annum. Additional grants were made to the Trust in 1994, 1995 and 1996. The following table summarises the Council's assistance to *Science Alive!* from 1992-1997:

1992/93	\$66,000
1993/94	\$66,000
1994/94	\$156,000
1995/96	\$126,000
1996/97	\$171,000
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	\$585,000

In 1996, following a review by Deloitte Touche and Tohmatsu the Council made a commitment to provide an annual inflation-adjusted grant of \$225,000 to *Science Alive!* for a five year period. By 1999/2000 this grant had risen to \$234,000.

This year *Science Alive!* approached the Council for a further grant of \$1.235M over four years to fund a four stage development programme. At its meeting on 24 March 2000, the Council resolved that further funding support for *Science Alive!* be subject to an assessment of the extent to which *Science Alive!* is meeting its objectives and the requirements set down by the Council.

**Recommendation:** That Councillor Harrow be appointed to the Christchurch Science Technology Trust Board.