

4. SISTER CITIES CONVENTION 2001: COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Max Robertson, DDI 371-1533
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability: Councillor Conference Attendance	

The purpose of this report is to seek retrospective approval for Councillors Carole Anderton and Lesley Keast to represent the Council at the Sister Cities Convention 2001, being held in New Plymouth from Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 May 2001.

BACKGROUND

This conference is now held annually under the umbrella of Sister Cities New Zealand, which is becoming increasingly proactive in promoting sister city relationships.

The 2000 conference was held in Timaru. As the theme of this year's conference in New Plymouth is *"Building Bridges - A Focus on Japan New Zealand Relations"*, it is considered particularly important that this Council is well represented at elected member level, because of the benefits which will be derived from the comprehensive programme which has been developed for the conference.

Following discussions with the Mayor and Councillor Close, it was decided that both Councillors Carole Anderton and Lesley Keast should be enrolled as conference delegates. Councillor Anderton has a close involvement in sister city activities, by virtue of her position as Chairman of the Community Services Committee, which has overall responsibility for the development and monitoring of the Council's sister city relationships. As Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lesley Keast regularly hosts visitors from Kurashiki and other parts of Japan, and the theme of this year's conference is particularly relevant to her work in this area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs involved will be debited to the provision made for Councillor conference attendance in the public accountability section of this year's budget. The unspent balance in this provision is sufficient to cover the registration, travel and accommodation costs involved in this instance.

Recommendation: That the Council confirm the appointment of Councillors Carole Anderton and Lesley Keast as its delegates to attend the Sister Cities New Zealand Convention 2001.