

11. 2002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Julie Sadler, DDI 371-1438
---	---

The purpose of this report is to seek authority for Councillors to attend the 2002 Local Government New Zealand Conference and to seek the appointment of the Council's voting delegates to the conference.

This year's conference will be held in Rotorua from 28-31 July 2002. The focus of the conference will be "*What kind of local government will we have under the new Act? The choice is yours ...*". More information on the conference is expected this month.

In 1997, 1998 and 1999 the Council appointed 4-5 delegates to attend the conference. As the Christchurch City Council was the host authority, all Councillors were authorised to attend the 2000 held in Christchurch, when the Council also agreed to authorise the attendance of two Community Board members, nominated by the Community Board Chairpersons. Because the 2001 conference dealt with the critical issue of local government reform the Council authorised the Mayor, six Councillors and a Community Board chairperson to attend that conference.

Based on last year's prices, the cost of attending the conference will be approximately \$2,400 per delegate.

The Christchurch City Council is entitled to appoint three conference voting delegates, with any additional Councillors attending as observers.

The second and third days of the conference clash with the July meetings of the Community Plans Special Committee and the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee respectively.

The Chair circulated an email to all Councillors and the following expressed an interest in attending:

Carole Anderton
Anna Crighton
Carole Evans
Megan Evans
Denis O'Rourke
Alister James

Pat Harrow
Gail Sheriff
Barbara Stewart
Ingrid Stonhill
Sue Wells
Ishwar Ganda

In addition, Yvonne Palmer has expressed an interest in attending. Mrs Palmer chairs the LGNZ Community Board sector group which is also meeting in Rotorua immediately preceding or following the LGNZ Conference and is a Council representative on LGNZ Zone 5. Last year Mrs Palmer's expenses were met by LGNZ. This year, however, these costs will be the Council's responsibility and will have to be found from either the Councillors' cost centre or from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board cost centre. Mrs Palmer's daily allowance will be met from the latter cost centre. In recent years, it has been usual for a Community Board Chair to attend the LGNZ Conference.

The Mayor's and Councillors' conference expenses and daily allowances will be met from the appropriate cost centres.

Having regard to the overall costs of travel, accommodation, daily Councillors' allowances and conference fees, it is not feasible to send 12 elected members to the LGNZ Conference. However, those not favoured this year will be favourably considered in subsequent years.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Mayor, Councillors James, Harrow and Wells, and Mrs Y Palmer, be authorised to attend the 2002 Local Government New Zealand Conference.
 2. That the Mayor and Councillors Harrow and Wells be appointed as the Council's voting delegates.
 3. That those attending be required to conduct a presentation to elected members on conference issues.