

4. REPORT ON ZONE 5 MEETING - 1 MARCH 2002

Delegates The Mayor, Cr Sue Wells and Community Board Chair, Yvonne Palmer	Author Allan Watson, DDI 371-1303
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The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to the Committee on questions raised at the Zone 5 Meeting held on Friday 1 March and to seek clarification for the delegates on process matters relating to Zone 5 meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND REPORT

Peter Winder, Chief Executive of Local Government New Zealand presented an updating report on the following matters:

Central/Local Government Forum

Local Government Act

Rating Powers/Appportionments

- a. Rates Bill
- b. Donnelly/Mallard Bill
- c. Apportionments

Sustainable Development

Economic Development

- a. Tourism

Health/Community Development/Social Cohesion

- a. International Year of the Volunteers
- b. Government Task Force on the Voluntary Sector
- c. Health Act Reform: Public Health proposals

Environment

- a. Building Act Review
- b. Resource Management Amendment Bill 1999
- c. Compliance Costs
- d. Hazardous Substances and New Organisms
- e. Public Works Act Review
- f. Biodiversity
- g. Environment Change
- h. Energy Efficiency
- i. Waste Minimisation Strategy

Water/Wastewater

- a. Mandated Drinking Water Standards
- b. Sanitary Works Subsidy

Remuneration

Emergency Management

- a. Civil Defence and Engineering Management
- b. Fire Service

Member Development

Other/Rapid Response

Communication and Information Services

- a. STV

Utilities

e-Government

International

More information on these topics can be made available if requested.

Local Government New Zealand also presented its draft work programme and budget for 2002/03. The budget summary is set out below where it will be observed that while fees have been held at 2001/2002 levels, the total expenditure is up 41.6% made possible by two special levies, one for the apportionments Privy Council case, the other to cover extra Local Government Bill work. Significant new income is being found by charging individual Councils for particular services and also by "assessing external funding streams". Your delegates are concerned that this Council may not yet be fully accounting for the 2002/03 charges likely to result from this direct charging.

Budget 2002/03

Forecast February 2002

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	01 Budget (\$)	02 Budget (\$)	Difference	% Difference
Subscriptions	2,650,853	2,650,853	0	0.0%
Special Levy – Apportionments		95,000	95,000	0.0%
Special Levy – LGA Implementation		90,000	90,000	0.0%
Sales	473,296	895,000	421,704	89.1%
Contract Services	48,126	778,150	730,024	1516.9%
Interest	50,000	70,000	20,000	40.0%
Total Income	3,222,275	4,579,003	1,356,728	42.1%
Administration Expenses	686,221	651,160	(35,061)	-5.1%
Travel and Accommodation	312,500	367,635	55,135	17.6%
Legal Fees	71,500	350,500	279,000	390.2%
Consultants Fees	128,000	807,000	679,000	530.5%
Printing, Stationary & Photocopying	187,000	240,000	53,000	28.3%
Other Operating Expenditure	570,396	811,000	240,604	42.2%
National Council Remuneration	55,300	56,000	700	1.3%
Staff Remuneration	1,196,258	1,258,531	62,273	5.2%
Total Expenditure	3,207,175	4,541,826	1,334,651	41.6%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Tax	15,100	37,177	22,077	146.2%

MPS' FORUM

Members of Parliament from the Zone 5 area were in attendance to answer questions allowing members from both Government and opposition parties to speak to a variety of issues. City Council questions were dealt with as follows:

Out of School Care (OSCAR)

With one exception, there was an apparent lack of knowledge of this programme and of the difficulties Community Boards are facing. Your delegates recommend that representations be made to the Ministers of Education and Social Services and Employment, preferably by way of a delegation, to bring the concerns to the notice of Central Government.

Local Government Bill

Reflecting Local Government New Zealand views, opposition parties are opposed to the Maori representation clauses in the new Bill.

Community Use of School Pools: Water Quality Monitoring

The Chief Executive, Local Government New Zealand, has undertaken to seek clarification on the effect of the new mandatory guidelines for schools that wish to continue allowing community use of their swimming pool facilities.

Drinking Age

The Members of Parliament provided a range of views on the current effects of the lowered drinking age and on whether or not the age should be reviewed. The vote on this issue is a conscience vote and the present Government is not offering any early re-examination of the current law.

Building Act Review

There was lack understanding by the major parties of the limitations experienced by Territorial Local Authorities who wished to implement energy and water conservation measures through building consent processes. The discussion shed little light, nor was there unanimity around the Zone 5 table, and Territorial Local Authorities like Christchurch City Council who wish to progress this matter will have to continue to make their own representations.

Zone 5 Processes

The delegates are keen to ensure that the concerns of Christchurch City Council that would benefit from representation at the wider Zone forum are properly canvassed and presented. It is not always possible to identify these concerns through committee processes and sometimes the delegates must canvass Councillors and Community Board members, assess the matters raised and present the issues to the Zone 5 meeting without the backing of a committee process. Your delegates require the confirmation that they have the delegated power.

The Children's Advocate comments on the Out of School Care issue as follows:

At its Annual Plan meeting on 4 February 2002 the Community and Leisure Committee decided that a request for funding for Project Early and Out of School Programmes be referred to a joint meeting of Councillors, local Members of Parliament and representatives of the Ministry of Education. The meeting, which is currently scheduled for 24 May, will be hosted by the Mayor. The Associate Minister of Education, Ms Lianne Dalziel, and other local MPs will be present and both Ministers have been invited to the meeting.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That this Council make representations to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Social Services and Employment preferably by way of delegation drawing attention to the difficulties experienced by Community Boards in the implementation of the Out of School Care Programme (OSCAR).
 3. That the three Zone 5 delegates acting together be given delegated power to canvass Councillors, assess presented concerns and make presentations and recommendations to Zone 5 meetings on issues requiring action from the wider forum.
 4. That the above report be referred to all Community Boards for their information.