

13. PUBLIC CONSULTATION: POSSIBLE USE OF STV VOTING FOR 2004 ELECTIONS

Officer responsible Electoral Officer	Author Max Robertson, DDI 941-8533
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The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a public consultation programme to be undertaken for the purpose of gauging the level of public support for the use of the STV (Single Transferable Voting) system for the 2004 Christchurch City Elections.

BACKGROUND

The Electoral Officer will be submitting a comprehensive report on the possible use of STV voting to a special Council meeting to be held in early September. The Council is required to reach a decision on any change to the present FPP (First Past the Post) voting method by 12 September of this year.

Elected member seminars on STV and a possible review of the present representation arrangements at both Council and Community Board level are scheduled for Friday 5 July and Friday 19 July 2002.

Following discussions with the Acting City Manager and the Director of Policy, it is proposed to undertake a public consultation programme prior to the special Council meeting to be held in early September, so that Councillors will be able to vote on this issue knowing the level of public support or otherwise for any change to the present FPP voting system.

It is anticipated that the public consultation programme envisaged will comprise articles in the City Scene and/or newspaper advertisements (with accompanying clip-out reply coupons) plus a telephone survey.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the proposed consultation programme is estimated at approximately \$30,000. As no provision has been made for any election or poll-related expenditure in the public accountability section of the Council's draft Financial Plan for 2002/03, it is recommended that the Annual Plan Subcommittee be requested to include provision for this item when the Annual Plan is reported back to the Council on 16 July for final approval.

- Recommendation:**
1. That approval be granted for an immediate public consultation programme to be undertaken regarding the possible use of STV, as outlined in this report.
 2. That it be recommended to the Annual Plan Subcommittee that provision be made for this item in the Financial Plan for 2002/03.

(Note: Councillor Corbett requested that his vote against the foregoing recommendation be recorded.)