

## 11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT “KNOW HOW” TRAINING WORKSHOP – FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE 101 AND DECISION MAKING

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Regulation & Democracy Services, DDI 941-8462
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Democracy Services Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Edwina Cordwell, Community Board Adviser

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board's approval for interested members to attend Local Government New Zealand “Know How” Training Workshops – Financial Governance 101, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 2 July 2010 and Decision Making, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 9 July 2010. ( 8.30 am to 5.30 pm)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Financial Governance 101 course is designed to enhance fiscal knowledge in a way that will enable better financial decisions to be made. The Course consists of a series of workshops and group exercises, during which participants will gain a deeper understanding of:

- council finances
- how depreciation, capital expenditure and debt servicing work together
- the relevance of financial information to the planning and LTCCP process
- important financial, accounting and asset management concepts
- balance sheet and financing choices

Further information is **attached (Attachment 1)**.

3. The Decision making course will provide an overview of the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, including the purposes of local government and the role of local authorities. The workshop will incorporate decision-making information that has been developed by the Office of the Auditor General, case law on decision-making requirements, and a range of practical application ideas. The course consists of a series of workshops and group exercises, during which participants will gain a deeper understanding of:

- decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, and the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act
- the Auditor General's principles for good decision-making
- balancing the political and technical aspects of decision-making
- decisions which balance short-term and long-term objectives
- techniques and processes for making good decisions.

Further information is **attached (Attachment 2)**.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The cost of these Local Government workshop is \$350 plus GST per person per course for elected members from member Councils. The Board's 2009/10 training and travel budgets currently have an unallocated budget of \$3,001.

### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

5. Yes, provision for elected member training is made in the LTCCP, specifically under the Elected Member Representation activity.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

6. Yes, there are no legal implications.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

7. Not applicable.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

8. Not applicable.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

9. Not applicable.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board give consideration to approving the attendance by interested members at the Local Government New Zealand "Know How" Training Workshop – Financial Governance 101, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 2 July 2010 and Decision Making, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 9 July 2010.