

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

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| <b>General Manager responsible:</b> | General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941 8462 |
| <b>Officer responsible:</b>         | Democracy Services Unit Manager                                 |
| <b>Author:</b>                      | Jo Daly, Community Board Adviser                                |

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Hagley/Ferrymead 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.

### 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**.

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**.

### 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, conference and travel budgets currently have an unallocated budget of \$3,576.

### 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 Hagley/Ferrymead 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.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.