

14. 2006 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8549
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is:
 - to seek authority for Councillors to attend the 2006 Local Government New Zealand Conference;
 - to seek the appointment of the Council's voting delegates to the conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This year's conference will be held in Wellington from Sunday 16 July to Wednesday 19 July 2006.
3. The Council usually authorises 5-6 Councillors to attend the conference. Last year, the Council gave its approval for all Councillors to attend the conference, bearing in mind that it was being held in Christchurch, with the Christchurch City Council acting as the host authority. Registration fees of \$1,000 (including GST) will be payable for each delegate/observer attending this year's conference, plus the associated travel and accommodation costs.
4. The Christchurch City Council is entitled to appoint three conference voting delegates, with any additional Councillors attending being classed as observers.
5. Recently, all Councillors were supplied with details of the conference programme, and were asked to indicate if they were interested in attending. The Mayor and Councillors Helen Broughton, Graham Condon, Pat Harrow, Bob Shearing and Sue Wells have all since indicated that they wish to attend the conference.
6. The theme of this year's conference is "Leading Communities". The conference will focus on councils as outstanding community leaders, and the conference programme draws on examples of best practice from within the sector and also from the international stage, exploring techniques and practical solutions that can be applied in the New Zealand context. Keynote speakers include:
 - Dr Mildred Warner, Associate Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, New York.
 - Jim Soorley, former Catholic Priest and Lord Mayor of Brisbane.
 - The Hon Jeff Kennett, former State Premier of the State of Victoria, Australia.
 - Chris Moller, Chief Executive, New Zealand Rugby Union.
 - John Allen, Chief Executive, New Zealand Post.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Registration fees of \$1,000 (including GST) will be incurred for each voting delegate/observer appointed by the Council. This expenditure will be able to be accommodated within the provision for Mayoral/Councillor conference attendance included in the draft 2006/07 Annual Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- (a) That the Mayor and Councillors Helen Broughton, Graham Condon, Pat Harrow, Bob Shearing and Sue Wells be authorised to attend the 2006 Local Government New Zealand Conference.
- (b) That the Council appoint the Mayor and two of the Councillors attending as the Council's voting delegates at the conference, and that one further Councillor attending be appointed as an alternative voting delegate (the three Councillors concerned to be nominated at the Council meeting).

BACKGROUND ON 2006 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

8. In recent years, the Council has usually given approval for between five and six Councillors to attend the conference. As previously noted, all Councillors were authorised to attend the 2005 conference, in view of the fact that it was being held in Christchurch, with the Christchurch City Council acting as a host authority. In 2004, the Council's delegates/observers were the Mayor and Councillors Graham Condon, Carole Evans, Pat Harrow, Chrissie Williams and Mrs Yvonne Palmer.