

13. ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES



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

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval of a proposed schedule of elected member expenses and allowances for forwarding to the Remuneration Authority for its approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council is required to submit to the Remuneration Authority by 30 April 2007 a schedule of allowances and expenses proposed to be paid to elected members for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 for its approval. The schedule attached as Attachment 1 is in the new format required by the Remuneration Authority and includes some amendments as discussed at the Council seminar on 17 April 2006. Apart from these items (shown in italics in the schedule), it repeats the status quo. Also included for information is a copy of the current schedule for allowances and expenses, Attachment 2.
3. A proposed schedule of elected member allowances and expenses was submitted to the 23 March 2007 Council meeting for approval. This item was deferred, however, to allow the opportunity for further consultation with Councillors on some of the existing procedures for the payment of such expenses and allowances.
4. A seminar to discuss the proposed schedule of expenses and allowances was held on Tuesday 17 April 2007 and the issues raised at this seminar have been incorporated into this report and the proposed schedule for submission to the Remuneration Authority. The recommendations previously made by Community Boards on allowances and expenses were again tabled at this seminar for discussion.
5. Additional items raised at the seminar on 17 April 2007 related to:
 - The provision of JetStream (to be provided on personal telephone lines) and a refund of \$40 per month for JetStream connection for Community Board members.

(Note at present this is currently provided only for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Chairs. The consensus of the seminar meeting was that this provision should also be extended to all Community Board members.)

The estimated additional cost of this proposal is \$15,360 per annum.

- Payment of subscriptions/fees for membership of professional institutes/associations which are relevant to the role of an elected member.

It was suggested at the seminar that consideration be given to reimbursing the costs of membership in such professional associations as the Resource Management Law Association (RMLA), New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) and Institute of Directors of New Zealand.

Staff will report back on the possible criteria that could apply to this with a view to the matter being considered by the incoming Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. If the Council adopted the additional allowances in respect to payment of a JetStream refund to Community Board members and reimbursement of membership and professional association fees, then an additional cost of \$15,360 per annum could result. This cost would be met from existing budgets.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

7. As indicated above the additional costs over existing budgets of \$15,360 would be met from existing budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. The principal statutory provision which applies in this instance is the Remuneration Authority Act 1977. Once the Council's proposal has been approved by the Authority it will be gazetted via the Local Government Elected Members Determination 2007.

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

9. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. Page 113 of the LTCCP, level of service under Democracy and Governance refers.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

11. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. Not applicable.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. This matter has been considered by all Community Boards and their recommendations placed before the Council's meeting of 23 March 2007.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Confirm if it wishes to include in the schedule of elected member expenses and allowances the additional provisions relating to payment of a \$40 refund for JetStream connections to all Community Board members, as detailed in the report and draft schedule.
- (b) Adopt a schedule of elected member expenses, reimbursements and allowances for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 for submission to the Remuneration Authority for its approval.