

21. CANTERBURY REGIONAL GOVERNANCE GROUP: APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTCHURCH CITY REPRESENTATIVE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy and Planning Group, DDI 941-8177
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the appointment of a Council representative to the Proposed Canterbury Regional Governance Group (RGG). The RGG is the proposed Canterbury organisation that will consider proposed regional economic projects for the region and recommend these to Government, to access the Crown's Regional Strategy Fund, and Enterprising Partnerships Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In August 2006, Cabinet agreed to refresh the framework for regional economic development policy. The Government's goal is to improve the quality of the regional business environment to support the development, attraction and retention of globally competitive firms. This is intended to ensure that regional policy is aligned with the Government's economic transformation agenda. The re-focussing of the regional policy is being implemented through the creation of 2 new programmes – the Regional Strategy Fund (RSF) and the Enterprising Partnerships Fund (EPF) funding. The funds focus on encouraging regions to:
 1. Develop robust regional economic development strategies and to undertake activities arising out of their strategies,
 2. Take a longer term perspective, and
 3. Take a productivity based approach to improving the quality of the regional business environment to support the development, attraction and retention of globally competitive firms.
3. In response to this the Canterbury Councils, and the respective Economic Development Agencies (EDAs) proposed to establish a Regional Governance Group (RGG) as a joint Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) owned by and on behalf of all the Councils in the region. The role of the RGG is to meet approximately twice a year, and to consider applications from throughout the region for economic transformation projects. The RGG would then make recommendations to Government for funding.
4. The establishment of the RGG was proposed through a Special Consultative Procedure, undertaken by the joint Councils, as part of the 2008/09 Proposed Annual Plan round.
5. In total two submissions in support were received, and accordingly the proposal will be formally confirmed by each of the Council's as part of concluding their annual plan deliberations later in June 2008.
6. The first opportunity for the RGG to seek funding from Government is September 2008. This means that the RGG Board will be required to be established, constitute itself, call for project nominations, and make recommendations for funding by August 2008. In order to meet this timetable it has been agreed that nominations to the RGG will be sought during June in order to enable the Board to be quickly brought together in July, following the final confirmation of the CCO.
7. The RGG will comprise of a representation Board of ten directors. (See table 1 Below). Christchurch city is entitled to appoint one director.
8. Table 1: **Regional Governance Group**

Sub Regions	Council	Number of Directors
North Canterbury	Hurunui District Council	1
	Waimakariri District Council	
	Kaikoura District Council	
City	Christchurch	1

Sub Regions	Council	Number of Directors
Mid Canterbury	Ashburton District Council	1
	Selwyn District Council	
South Canterbury	Waimate District Council	1
	McKenzie District Council	
	Timaru District Council	
Regional	Environment Canterbury	1
Industry	-	4
Maori	Ngai Tahu	1
Total		10

9. Council is entitled to appoint either a Councillor or Council staff member to the Board. Given the governance nature of the Board it is appropriate that the appointment by Christchurch City Council be limited to a Councillor.
10. Council has broadly two options: to invite Councillors with a preference to work in this role to be nominated, or to consider nominating one of the Councillors who are already involved in Economic Development through their role in Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC).
11. While it is entirely open for Council to determine its own appointment to the RGG it should be noted that CDC is likely in the future to be one of a number of organisations bidding for funding from the RGG and in those circumstances Council may wish to separate its CDC appointees and an appointment to this role. However, an interest in business and economic development would be of value to whichever Councillor is nominated to the Regional Governance Group.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The appointment of a director to the proposed Board of the RGG has no direct financial implications for Council. The position is unremunerated and the Board's only likely to meet two or three times per annum. The appointment of a Councillor to the Board is in line with the constitution of the RGG. As the formal establishment of the RGG will only occur once the Statement of Proposal is confirmed at the end of June, any appointment is made pending that action. However, it is considered important to make the appointment now so that the proposed Board members can be briefed on their role and the work programme of the board, prior to the first application round in August 2008.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The Council appoint a Councillor (to be determined) as its director on the Proposed Canterbury Regional Governance Group, pending confirmation of the Special Consultative Procedure establishing the RGG at the end of June 2008.