

22. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Officer responsible Chairperson, Shirley/Papanui Community Board	Author Yvonne Palmer
Corporate Plan Output: Elected Member Representation 3.1.text.10	

The purpose of this report is to seek support for changes to the criteria for meeting attendance by elected members.

When people are elected to local government a salary and a meeting allowance for attendance are paid automatically. There is no employment contract with the local council or community board, to ensure members are accountable while elected. There are many examples both locally and nationally where an elected person has failed to give full commitment, with consequent limited attendance at meetings.

There are no rules to address this until the next election, unless a person fails to attend four meetings without an apology. And at times even though those apologies may be tabled, the member may have only given limited contribution to good decision making.

Rules and regulations must be changed so that those elected members are accountable and transparent. Changes need to take place in the area of meeting allowances being paid.

In private employment payment for attendance is only paid where a person has attended for a specified number of hours. Should a person not attend up to 100%, then they are not paid unless sick or unless there are provisions in the contract for a certain number of sick days per annum.

Those elected members when attending meetings should only be paid a meeting allowance where they are present for at least 55% of the meeting duration.

The Legal Services Manager advises that under Section 101ZZN of the Local Government Act 1974 “Any local authority may impose conditions subject to which the salaries or allowances determined under section 101ZZF of this Act may be paid so long as the conditions are not inconsistent with this Act or any conditions determined by the Minister under section 101ZZK of this Act”.

I request support from this Community Board to ask that the Strategy and Resources Committee, Council and staff prepare amendments to the requirements for meeting attendance.

Recommendation: That this report be recommended for discussion to the Strategy and Resources Committee and that this Community Board ask that alterations be made to the rules for elected members payments along the lines set out above.

For discussion