

3. ROYAL NZ INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2003

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Anne Greenup DD1 941-8701
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on funds available to support the application from the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture who are proposing to stage their national conference on "Bringing Diversity Back into the City" in Christchurch in October/November 2003 .

BACKGROUND

On Wednesday 7 August 2002, a deputation was made to the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee by Mr David Moyle and Dr David Given. The Committee decided "that a staff report be provided addressing possible assistance available from the Council to assist a conference that will be beneficial to the city."

ISSUES

Benefit to the City

A New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared at national level and the Council is proposing to write a strategy for Christchurch. A report was received by the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee to this effect on 11 September 2002 and was accepted at the Council meeting on 26 September 2002. A staff team, assisted by elected representatives, will progress the strategy.

The conference organisers are aiming to attract international speakers to the conference and the Council stand to benefit from their expertise and experience at a time when the strategy is evolving. The Council also has a partnership with Lincoln University, which is a possible venue for the conference.

Funding

Preliminary estimates of costs to run the conference, presented by Mr Moyle to the Committee on 7 August 2002 came to a total of \$41,150. Income of \$28,000 is expected to be raised from registrations, based on a number of 200 delegates. This leaves a shortfall of \$13,150.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$41,150 \\ - \$28,000 \\ \hline = \$13,150 \text{ shortfall} \end{array}$$

The Director of Finance has given approval for the sum of **\$5,000** coming from the Project Contingency Budget to be transferred to the Parks and Waterways Unit budget, provisional on the approval of the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee and the Council.

Conclusion

The conference proposed by the NZ Royal Institute of Horticulture is on a topic of immediate interest to the Council and of benefit to the city of Christchurch and the Institute would be a suitable recipient of Council funds, to the total of \$5000.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee approves financial support being given to the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture for their 2003 national conference on the topic of Bringing Diversity Back into the City.
 2. That the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee accept the recommendation of the Director of Finance that a contribution of \$5,000 be made to the Parks and Waterways Unit budget from the Council's Project Contingency Budget for the sole purpose of assisting with the costs of the conference.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.