

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT “KNOW HOW” TRAINING – FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE 101 AND DECISION MAKING WORKSHOPS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation & Democracy Services, DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Democracy Services Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board’s approval for interested members to attend Local Government New Zealand “Know How” Training Workshops – Financial Governance 101, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 2 July 2010 and Decision Making Workshop, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 9 July 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Financial Governance 101 course is designed to enhance fiscal knowledge in a way that will enable better financial decisions to be made. The Course consists of a series of workshops and group exercises, during which participants will gain a deeper understanding of:

- council finances;
- how depreciation, capital expenditure and debt servicing work together;
- the relevance of financial information to the planning and Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process;
- important financial, accounting and asset management concepts and
- balance sheet and financing choices.

Further information is available in **Attachment 1**.

3. The Decision Making Workshop will provide an overview of the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, including the purposes of local government and the role of local authorities. The workshop will incorporate decision-making information that has been developed by the Office of the Auditor General, case law on decision-making requirements, and a range of practical application ideas. The course consists of a series of workshops and group exercises, during which participants will gain a deeper understanding of:

- decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, and the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act;
- the Auditor General's principles for good decision-making;
- balancing the political and technical aspects of decision-making;
- decisions which balance short-term and long-term objectives; and
- techniques and processes for making good decisions.

Further information is available in **Attachment 2**,

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The cost of these Local Government workshop is \$350 plus GST per person per course for elected members from member Councils. The Board’s 2009/10 training and travel budgets currently have an unallocated budget of \$2,479.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

5. Yes, provision for elected member training is made in the LTCCP, specifically under the Elected Member Representation activity.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

6. Yes, there are no legal implications.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

7. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

8. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

9. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board give consideration to approving the attendance by interested members at the Local Government New Zealand "Know How" Training Workshops – Financial Governance 101, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 2 July 2010 and Decision Making Workshop, to be held in Christchurch on Friday 9 July 2010.