

COUNCIL 10. 5. 2012

24. 2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Democracy Services Manager
Author:	Clare Sullivan, Council Secretary

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is:
 - To seek approval for elected members to attend the 2012 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference to be held in Queenstown from 15-17 July 2012.
 - To seek the appointment of the Council's voting delegates to the Annual General Meeting.
 - To seek whether the Council will authorise Mike Mora to attend the LGNZ Conference if a request is made.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This year's conference will be held in Queenstown from Sunday 15 July to Tuesday 17 July 2012 with the Annual General Meeting being held on Wednesday 18 July.
3. The Council usually authorises 5-6 Councillors to attend the conference. Last year, 2011, the Council gave approval for the Mayor and Councillor Williams to attend as the presiding voting delegate and the alternative voting delegate respectively. It was subsequently resolved by the Council that Councillor Button be appointed as the presiding delegate and Councillor Livingstone as the alternative as the Mayor and Councillor Williams were unable to attend the conference. Councillors Broughton, Chen, Livingstone, and the Chief Executive were chosen to attend the conference as the Council's viewing delegates. In 2010, Councillors Broughton, Buck, Button, Shearing and Wall were chosen to attend.
4. In 2011 the Council also authorised that Mr Mike Mora attend and be paid for by the Council. A request has not yet been received from Mr Mora for the Council to authorise that he attend the conference. Mr Mora is the Zone 5 Community Board representative on the New Zealand Community Boards' Executive Committee. This position is voted on every three years by the zone 5 community boards. It has been the Council's practice for many years where the zone 5 community board representative is from a Christchurch community board to pay from Council funds for the registration of that person. The Council previously did this with Mrs Yvonne Palmer and has done this for Mike Mora who is the current representative.
5. The Council is entitled to appoint one presiding delegate with voting rights for the Annual General meeting (held on Wednesday 18 July) and an alternate voting delegate. The Council is also entitled to have up to four additional Councillors attending, being classed as viewing delegates. It is proposed that the Mayor be the presiding voting delegate, with a Councillor named as the alternate voting delegate. The rules of the New Zealand Local Government Association provide that the term "delegate" includes both an elected member and an officer of a member authority.
6. All Councillors have been supplied with a copy of the programme for this year's conference, the theme of which is "inspiring, wonderful, incredible, fantastic, brilliant, amazing, remarkable – celebrating excellence". The emphasis will be on celebrating all that's remarkable in the local government sector. Keynote speakers include:
 - Sir Graham Henry, World Cup winning rugby coach
 - Fran O'Sullivan, political commentator for the New Zealand Herald
 - Hon. John Brumby, former Premier of Victoria
 - Andrew Hamilton, Chief Executive of business growth centre The ICEHOUSE

The Prime Minister the Honourable John Key will open the conference.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Earlybird fees of \$1,385 including GST will be incurred for each voting delegate/observer appointed by the Council if registered by 14 May 2012. Accommodation and travel expenses will also be incurred. This expenditure can be accommodated within the provision for Mayoral/Councillor conference attendance and travel included in the 2011/12 Annual Plan.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. There are no legal implications associated with the appointment of the Council's delegates/observers to attend this conference.

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?

9. Pages 157 and 158 of the LTCCP refer to the provision of support for elected members (which includes attendance at such conferences).

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

10. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

11. No consultation is required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Mayor and such other elected members as may be nominated at the Council meeting, be authorised to attend the 2012 Local Government New Zealand Conference in Queenstown in July 2012.
- (b) The Council appoint the Mayor as the presiding voting delegate and a Councillor as the alternate voting delegate, and up to three Councillors and the Chief Executive attending the conference, as the Council's viewing delegates at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Council authorise Mike Mora to attend the LGNZ Conference and pay for his costs.