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**Report 01/70**  
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Ted/P&F

Report to the Policy & Finance Subcommittee  
From: Ted Maguire, Council Secretary

## **Investment in Democracy: Operating Plan 2001-2010**

### 1. **Purpose**

To provide a summary of the Operating Plan relating to our Investment in Democracy.

### 2. **Overview**

The “Investment in Democracy” Operating Plan, which accompanies this Order Paper as a separate document, covers two main areas of activity:

- **Elected Members Costs**

These include:

- salaries, allowances, other remuneration and support for members
- statutory advertising such as notices of meetings, rates and special orders
- WRC election costs – this includes a share of costs incurred by territorial authority returning officers for work done on behalf of the Wellington Regional Council.
- Subscriptions of \$55,000, principally for *Local Government New Zealand*, are also funded from this budget.

The Plan assumes no change in the size or basis of membership of the Council and its committee structure with no increase in the number of meetings.

Provision is made for an adjustment to members' remuneration as a consequence of the recent Higher Salaries Commission review of salaries payable to Members of Parliament and for a new basis of remuneration to be implemented through the Higher Salaries Commission.

A proportion of the costs for Executive Management (50%) reflecting their contribution to the political process is also charged to this budget.

- **The Council Secretariat**

It is assumed that the role and resources of the Secretariat which provides support services for Council, Committees and Members will not change materially.

### 3. **Financial Implications**

Overall, the Investment in Democracy requirement increases by \$54,138 (net) for the 2001/02 year over the budget projected for the 2001/02 year in last year's LTFS, primarily due to increases in staff costs and in overheads.

### 4. **Communications**

Any communications opportunities will be dealt with as part of the overall Long Term Financial Strategy/Annual Plan communications initiative.

### 5. **Recommendations**

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That the proposed "Investment in Democracy" Operating Plan be approved in principle.*
- (3) *That the proposed operating plan for "Investment in Democracy" be recommended to the Policy & Finance Committee for inclusion in the Council's proposed Long Term Financial Strategy 2000-2010: 2001 Update (incorporating Council's 2001/02 Annual Plan).*

TED MAGUIRE  
Council Secretary