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## **Report 02.33**

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Ted/CtteeReports

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

### **Investment in Democracy: Operating Plan 2002-2010**

#### **1. Purpose**

To provide a summary of the Operating Plan relating to Council's 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 triennial election costs
- Subscriptions, principally for *Local Government New Zealand*, are also funded from this budget
- Other costs incurred by Councillors in representing and communicating with the regional community

The Plan assumes no change in the Council and its committee structure with no increase in the number of paid meetings days from that assumed in the 2001/02 budget (i.e. 1300 daily meeting allowances will be paid).

Provision is made for an adjustment to members' remuneration following introduction of a new basis of remuneration being implemented through the Higher Salaries Commission.

- **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.

The Budget also includes *funding* for regional economic initiatives including publication of economic data, which contributes to *a prosperous and viable region*. (These activities are discussed in the Corporate Policy and General Manager Operating Plans).

### 3. **Financial Implications**

Overall, the Investment in Democracy requirement reduces by \$44,000 (net) for the 2002/03 year over the amount projected for the 2002/03 year in last year's Long Term Financial Strategy, primarily due to a reduction in corporate 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: 2002 Update (incorporating Council's 2002/03 Annual Plan).*