

Chairperson and Community Board Members
ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD

26 NOVEMBER 2013

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Information

REMUNERATION FOR COMMUNITY BOARDS 2013-2016 TRIENNIUM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report presents to the Community Board the 2013-14 Kapiti Coast District Council Determination by the Remuneration Authority as well as Council's Expenses Rules Policy as approved by the Remuneration Authority.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Elected Member remuneration is determined by an independent statutory body the Remuneration Authority ('the Authority'). Over the past two years the Authority has been reviewing the process and methodology of elected member remuneration in consultation with councils in order to develop a more equitable system.
- 4 The following sections present aspects of the new system and the Expense Rules and Reimbursing Allowances Policy.
- 5 The new system for Elected Member remuneration adopted by the Authority relies on job sizing and reflects the hours spent by Elected Members on their tasks. Base salaries for Elected Members have now been set by the Authority and promulgated in the 2013/14 Determination (see Appendix 1 for an extract relating to the rates for the Kapiti Coast District Council). The new Determination came into effect on 13 October 2013.
- 6 The base remuneration for Community Board Members was set according to the size of the population served by the Community Board. (Further information on how the new system was developed is available at www.remauthority.govt.nz). A copy of the Authority's FAQ on Elected Member remuneration is at Appendix 2.)
- 7 Also included in the full determination is the hourly rate for resource consent hearings and the increase in vehicle mileage allowance for travel over and above the 30km threshold distance per round trip between the members' residence and the nearest office of the Local Authority.
- 8 The vehicle mileage allowance has increased for travel over and above the 30km threshold per round trip between the Members' residence and the nearest office of the Local Authority as follows
 - \$0.77 per km for the first 3,548 km for which the allowance is payable;

- \$0.37 per km for any distance over 3,548 km for which the allowance is payable.
- 9 See Appendix 2 for a copy of the Approved Expense Rules (including Reimbursing Allowances) for Elected Members to 30 June 2014.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 10 In addition to base salaries the Authority considered payment for additional roles and responsibilities over and above base salaries, and councils were consulted on this. For Community Boards this meant that the Authority could approve extra pay for a Board in addition to their base salary, of up to 30% of the base community boards' salary, but this provision would only apply to additional responsibilities that were substantiated and approved by the Authority.
- 11 The Authority advised that to achieve a 30% additional community board responsibility payment would require a community board to have substantial delegations from the Council for roles over and above what would normally be expected from a community board: the board would almost need to have separate autonomy.
- 12 At its 18 July 2013 meeting the previous Council approved the additional responsibility proposal for Community Boards for submission to the Authority. The Council argued that with the Expressway project unfolding, Community Boards were facing higher workloads and greater advocacy responsibilities on behalf of their communities.
- 13 The Authority has recognised payments for some Councillor additional roles (Deputy Mayor, Committee Chair, Appeals Committee Chair, and Hearing Commissioner re District Plan hearings) but for Community Boards the application for additional responsibilities was not approved and the reason given as follows:

The delegations and activities described do not appear to be significantly more than what would be reasonably expected under Section 52 of the Local Government Act. The proposal describes the advocacy work that the boards are carrying out on current, topical issues facing their local communities. This is in line with the Authority's expectations as to what a community board might reasonably do in terms of subsections 52(a) and (e) of the Local Government Act: to act as an advocate for the interest of its community; and to communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community. It is not clear to the Authority as to what additional responsibility has been given to the boards as a whole on these matters. For these reasons the proposal has been declined

Financial Considerations

- 14 There are no additional financial considerations.

Legal Considerations

- 15 Elected Member remuneration is mandated through the Authority's Determination.

Consultation

16 Councils were consulted by the Remuneration Authority at key points in the past two years of the review. There are no other consultation considerations.

Policy Implications

17 There are no policy implications.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

18 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

Publicity Considerations

19 There are no publicity considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20 That the Ōtaki Community Board notes the information on Board remuneration in report Corp-13-1047.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 – Extract of the Local Government Elected Members (2013/14)(Certain Local Authorities) Determination 2013.

Appendix 2 – FAQ on Elected Member remuneration developed by the Remuneration Authority

Appendix 3 – Expense Rules (including Reimbursing Allowances) applicable to elected members of Local Authorities during the period 13 October 2013 to 30 June 2014.