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Committee **Policy, Finance and Strategy**
Author **Wayne Hastie Council Secretary**

Investment in Democracy: Proposed Business Plan 2004 - 2013

1. Purpose

To seek approval of the proposed Business Plan for Investment in Democracy, including any amendments approved by the Committee.

2. Overview

The “Investment in Democracy” Business Plan covers two main areas of activity:

- Elected Members’ Costs

These include:

- remuneration and support for members
- statutory advertising such as notices of meetings, rates and special consultative procedures
- Greater Wellington triennial election costs
- subscriptions, principally for *Local Government New Zealand*
- 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. Provision is made for an adjustment to members’ remuneration in line with the indicative pool published by the Remuneration Authority.

- Council Secretariat

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

Copies of the business plans have already been provided to Councillors and will be tabled at the meeting on 4 March 2004.

3. Changes from the LTCCP – 2004/05 year

Overall, the Investment in Democracy requirement increases by \$40,000 (net) for the 2004/05 year over the amount projected for the 2004/05 year in the Long Term Council Community Plan. The change occurs through a combination of an increase of the provision for Councillor remuneration, and an increase in corporate overheads, partially offset by an increase in internal revenue.

4. Financial implications across the remaining eight years

Funding required is relatively flat over the period.

5. Changes to the proposed business plan recommended by officers

Officers are not recommending any changes to the proposed business plan.

6. Communications

Any communications opportunities will be dealt with as part of the overall communication of the Annual Plan.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee recommend to Council that it:

- (1) receive the report and note its contents.*
- (2) note that the proposed Investment in Democracy Business Plan includes proposed Operating Plan for:*
 - Elected Members*
 - Council Secretariat.*
- (3) approve the proposed Investment in Democracy Business Plan (including any amendments approved by the Committee) for inclusion in the Council's proposed 2004-2005 Annual Plan.*

Report prepared by:

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Council Secretary