



**Report**                    **06.373**  
**Date**                      31 July 2006  
**File**                        X/16/07/01

**Committee**            **Ara Tahi**  
**Author**                **Jason Kerehi Maori Policy Advisor**

## **Changes to Iwi Funding**

### **1. Purpose**

To advise Ara Tahi of the review of iwi funding

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

Greater Wellington has decided to review the way it funds iwi to provide a more simple process and one that is consistent across the region.

### **4. Comment**

#### **4.1 Review of iwi funding**

Several reviews were occurring in our organisation that contributed to a need to re-evaluate the way we funded iwi. Our consents team were undertaking a review of their processes; Greater Wellington underwent a complete restructuring of the organisation with a clear goal to align our processes across the region and last year iwi were informed that we had decided to change the iwi project fund and admin funding from 1 July this year.

##### **4.1.1 Consents review**

The consents review found that there were huge discrepancies in the way our organisation funded iwi across the region. This was a historical issue that had occurred over time. Wellington iwi were paid a set amount per consent commented on whereas the two Wairarapa iwi were paid a flat annual fee regardless of the number of consents sent.

There were obvious differences between consent numbers for iwi such as the huge amount of bore consents in Kapiti, or rural type consents in the Wairarapa. The granting of a Global Consent for the Ruamahanga River catchment area reduced consent numbers considerably as did the agreement to not send iwi bore-consents from 2004 onwards.

#### 4.1.2 Greater Wellington restructure

The restructuring of the organisation over the past eight months has led to a concerted effort to align our processes. This has removed the possibility of regional differences as all consents now come under the same Division – Environment Management.

#### 4.1.3 Changes to the iwi project fund

In November last year iwi were informed that there would be a change to the admin funding and iwi project fund. It was announced that the admin funding would be raised to \$20,000 per annum per iwi that represented a half-salary figure within each iwi authority.

It was also announced that Council would alter the iwi project funding process so that iwi would now have to submit their proposals through the annual planning process. Take up of the iwi project fund had been disappointing with large amounts not being spent from year to year.

#### 4.1.4 Other frustrations

The invoicing and reporting process had become confusing for iwi and council staff alike. Payments for consents were three-month's in arrears and the admin funding was six months in advance.

Under the previous arrangement contracts and invoicing involved three different managers (two for consents and a third for admin funding) and on some occasions invoices were being sent to the wrong Divisions.

### 4.2 Our funding proposal

Greater Wellington proposes to combine funding to iwi into a single contract. This funding is to be set at \$26,000 per annum per iwi. This will be paid retrospectively at the end of each quarter on receipt of an invoice and report. This amount has been derived by combining all contracts (except the iwi project fund) and dividing by the number of iwi authorities. For most iwi this results in a marked increase in funding and for the two Wairarapa iwi it is a minimal decrease.

Greater Wellington still considers that this funding will sufficiently resource a part-position within each iwi authority that enables them to respond to our consents process and be available for consultation. It also means that we are openly resourcing all iwi at the same rate.

Administration of this contract will be the sole responsibility of Corporate and Strategy Division (Council Secretariat and Iwi Liaison). Environment Division staff will still receive reports on consents and liaise with iwi.

#### **4.3 Iwi project fund**

The iwi project fund will still be available as before but under a separate process. The budget for the 06/07 financial year has been set and iwi will be able to make proposals to the Corporate and Strategy Division.

Council intends to change this process for the 07/08 financial year which will then require iwi to make proposals under the annual planning process. There will no longer be a contestable budget but all proposals will be considered by Council. Proposals for the 07/08 annual plan will be accepted from November 06 to January 07.

#### **4.4 How will we do this?**

We will write to all iwi authorities advising them of the changes to the funding. We will draft contracts, new reporting templates and purchase orders and send these through to your organisations. The first quarterly invoices for these contracts are expected from 30 September.

Our Consent teams will continue to refine their systems with iwi so that we are consistent across the region.

The transition from the old iwi project fund process will be developed and advised to you through reports at subsequent Ara Tahī meetings.

### **5. Communication**

There are no matters in this report that require further communication.

### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1:**