

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager

DATE: 17 November 2008

SUBJECT: **REMUNERATION FOR MEMBERS OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

1 PURPOSE

This report seeks the Engineering Services Committee's approval to reimburse "public" members of the Tasman Regional Transport Committee (RTC) for their attendance at committee meetings and associated preparatory work.

2 BACKGROUND

The Tasman RTC is a standing committee of Council operating under the Land Transport Management Amendment Act. At the Engineering Services Committee meeting on 4 September 2008 and subsequent meetings the Council confirmed the membership of the RTC as follows:

- Five persons to represent the unitary authority – Crs Norriss (Chair), Bryant, King, Dowler and Edgar;
- One representative from the New Zealand Transport Agency – Ms Deborah Hume, Regional Manager;
- Five persons appointed by the unitary authority to represent the five objectives of the National Transport Strategy being:
 - Environment and Sustainability – Ms Christine Musgrave
 - Economic Development – Mr Bill Findlater
 - Safety and Personal Security – Inspector Brian McGurk
 - Public Health – Mr Peter Burton
 - Access and Mobility – Mr Paul Heywood
- The unitary authority must also appoint a person representing cultural interests – This representative is yet to be confirmed.

The Ministry of Transport has given guidance that "*The issue of whether to pay members of regional transport committees is a decision for each regional council. This subject comes within regional council practice and councils have internal protocols covering appointments to committees*".

The Expenses, Allowances and Reimbursements Rules set by Council provide for reimbursement to Councillors and Community Board members. There are no set protocols for "public" members of a standing committee.

Whilst the majority of members of the RTC are likely to be reimbursed for their meeting attendance via their parent organisation some members will carry out their committee duties in a private capacity. It is therefore only fair and reasonable that members be entitled to apply for and receive reimbursement for their time in attending meetings and the associated preparatory work.

Currently members of resource consent hearings receive \$68 per hour to attend meetings. RTC meetings will normally take between 2-3 hours every two months. Therefore a meeting fee of \$150 is considered reasonable reimbursement to the members who elect to take up their entitlement. This cost will be funded from the transportation budget subsidised by the NZ Transport Agency.

3 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee approve a meeting fee of \$150 (excluding GST) per person per meeting, available to members of the Tasman Regional Transport Committee.

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager