
Christchurch City Council

ATTACHMENTS - ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Date:

Time:

Venue:

Wednesday 19 June 2024

9.30 am

Council Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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Memo

Date: 17 June 2024
From: Matthew Pratt Matthew Pratt, Community Facilities & Activation Manager
(matthew.pratt@ccc.govt.nz)
To: John Filsell, Head of Community Support & Partnerships
Cc: Helen White, General Counsel
Reference: 24/1016187

Community Board Members Interaction with LGNZ - Update

1. Purpose of this Memo Te take o tēnei Pānui

- 1.1 Prior to Council considering whether to renew the annual subscription of the Council's membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), feedback from Community Board members on their interaction with LGNZ has been sought.
- 1.2 This Memo provides an update to a Memo circulated on 11 June regarding Community Board Members Interaction with LGNZ.
- 1.3 The information in this Memo is not confidential and can be made public.

2. Update He Pānui

- 2.1 A Memo regarding Community Board Members Interaction with LGNZ was circulated 11 June, the Memo is included as Attachment A.
- 2.2 Following circulation of the Memo, additional survey questions were asked of all community board members and a discussion, regarding the 11 June Memo and the summary findings of the Memo, took place at the Community Board Chairs meeting on 13 June.
- 2.3 A summary of the 11 June Memo is as follows:
 - Nearly a quarter of elected community board members have engaged with LGNZ in the current term (since October 2022).
 - Responses to the survey indicate that the most valuable engagement (16% of all community board members) with LGNZ is through LGNZ's online resources, specifically the e-modules provided through the Akona online learning platform.
 - Networking events and conferences were not universally valued.
 - No responders reported receiving individual support or services from LGNZ.

3. Comments from Community Board Chairs Meeting

- 3.1 The 11 June Memo was discussed at the Community Board Chairs meeting on 13 June 2024.
- 3.2 Board Chairs agreed that the summary findings were a good reflection of the feedback from elected members regarding their interaction with LGNZ.

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- 3.3 Board Chairs reiterated the point that access to LGNZ’s Akona resources have been limited to date and that these resources, and the online learning tool, could be useful to include as part of the induction process for community board members following election.
- 3.4 Board Chairs reflected that LGNZ membership is made up of a number of smaller and more provincial Councils and, as such, LGNZ often has a rural focus. Metropolitan Councils, by their nature, have a different focus, the Board Chairs reflected that LGNZ doesn’t always represent the interests of cities or advocate for metropolitan issues strongly enough.

4. Additional Survey

- 4.1 An additional survey was sent to all 37 elected community board members. The survey was sent on 13 June and closed at 8am on Monday 17 June. The survey was not sent to councillors.
- 4.2 A total of 10 responses were received, this is a total of 27% of all community board members.
- 4.3 Responses were received from members of five of the six community board areas.

Is it your preference that Council renew its membership with LGNZ?

- 4.4 Of the 10 responses, four reported it was their preference that Council renew its membership with LGNZ. Three reported it was not their preference and three stated that they had no preference on the matter.



What benefit, if any, do you believe Council receives as a member of LGNZ?

- 4.5 Responses were as follows:
- “Access to its online resources, one voice for all, networking, conferences.”
 - “This is a question for councillors and staff.”
 - “Staying connected ‘understanding if issues are general or specific to Christchurch’ a strong voice on issues like water, individual members can phone on issues.”
 - “I am unsure, really, because a lot of the benefit is theoretical rather than actual. I think if LGNZ was better at representing urban centres then the Council would benefit.”
 - “Networking.”
 - “Very little.”
 - “Not sure, probably having a stronger voice to the government especially in protecting local democracy.”
 - “Advocacy with central government, links with Councils nationwide, professional development for elected members, support with legal/process issues, economic benefit from hosting Super Local.”

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- “Professional development for elected members. Community board members do not get offered other opportunities for professional development, so we need this.”
- “Without investigating I couldn’t tell. I would assume providing resources / advocating for LG communities.”

What benefit, if any, do you (as an individual community board member) receive from Council’s membership of LGNZ?

4.6 Responses were as follows:

- “Online resources, conferences, webinars.”
- “Nil.”
- “Can contact LGNZ [for advice i.e.] process.”
- “None this term. Other members may have had some training and one is going to a conference soon.”
- “None if I can’t attend conferences or other events, or don’t have a point of contact for questions/advice.”
- “Very little, maybe the odd course or conference which I believe we can hold locally.”
- “I’m in my 3rd term and am an experienced manager so in first term attending conference and getting a better perspective was great but no training was required apart from learning to work CCC processes.”
- “Professional development, support with legal/process issues.”
- “Opportunities for professional development through the Akona tools. Networking with other elected members to learn from them.”
- “None.”

5. Summary

- 5.1 There was no clear preference, among the 27% of community board members who responded to the survey, as to whether or not Council renew its membership with LGNZ.
- 5.2 Responses indicated that networking, advocacy and professional development were considered to be among the benefits that Council receives as a member of LGNZ.
- 5.3 Half of the responders reported receiving “very little” or no benefit (as individual community board members) from Council’s membership of LGNZ this term. Other responses indicated that professional development, support when required and conferences were considered to be among the benefits that individual Community Board members receive as a result of Council’s membership to LGNZ.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference
A	Memo: Community Board Members Interaction with LGNZ (11 June 2024)	24/967945

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Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Matthew Pratt - Community Facilities & Activation Manager
Approved By	John Filsell - Head of Community Support and Partnerships

Item 8

Attachment A

Memo

Date: 11 June 2024
From: Matthew Pratt Matthew Pratt, Community Facilities & Activation Manager
(matthew.pratt@ccc.govt.nz)
To: John Filsell, Head of Community Support & Partnerships
Cc: Helen White, General Counsel
Reference: 24/967945

Community Board Members Interaction with LGNZ

Purpose of this Memo Te take o tēnei Pānui

- 1.1 Prior to Council considering whether to renew the annual subscription of the Council's membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), feedback from Community Board members on their interaction with LGNZ has been sought.
- 1.2 This Memo provides an overview of responses from a survey undertaken to gather information on board members interaction with LGNZ.
- 1.3 The information in this memo is not confidential and can be made public.

Update He Pānui

- 1.4 On 15 May a report (Item 12 – New Zealand Local Government Association Inc: payment of annual membership subscription) was due before Council to consider Council's continued membership of New Zealand Local Government Association Inc (LGNZ).
- 1.5 Pursuant to Standing Orders section 6.8 (withdrawal of agenda items), the Chairperson withdrew the report to allow additional time for feedback to be sought from the Community Boards before a Council decision.
- 1.6 In seeking feedback, staff have undertaken a survey to gather information on board members interaction with LGNZ.
- 1.7 A discussion with Community Board Chairs regarding Community Board Engagement with LGNZ will take place on 13 June.

Survey Results

- 1.8 A survey was sent to all 37 elected community board members, to gather information on board members interaction with LGNZ. The survey was sent on 30 May and closed at 5pm on Friday 7 June. The survey was not sent to councillors.
- 1.9 A total of 11 responses were received, this is a total of 30% of all community board members.
- 1.10 Responses were received from members of all six community board areas.

LGNZ Engagement

- 1.11 Of the 11 responses, nine community board members (24% of the total number of community board members) had engaged with LGNZ since October 2022.

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- 1.12 Two of the responders had not engaged with LGNZ since October 2022.
- 1.13 Four responders had engaged with LGNZ in previous terms (i.e. prior to October 2022).
- 1.14 Of the nine members who had engaged with LGNZ since October 2022:
- 6 had used the suite of LGNZ online resources.
 - 4 had attended online hui and webinars.
 - 3 reported attending a conference.
 - 3 had received advice.
 - 1 had received Chair's training.
 - 1 had attended a Zone meeting and participated in the Future for Local Government process.

What policy advice or advocacy support have you received or accessed from LGNZ?

- 1.15 Three responders had received policy advice or advocacy support from LGNZ, this included:
- *"...a useful meeting in the 2013-16 term".*
 - *"...the provision of confidential advice and provision of advice related to expected timely response from council staff regarding elected member questions".*
 - *"...what obligation a council has to adopt and promote central government / government organisations policy positions and strategies".*

What learning and support have you received or accessed from LGNZ?

- 1.16 Three responders reported having received or accessed learning support from LGNZ:
- One member had attended Chairs training (twice), as well as some advanced local government finance training.
 - One member reported having started some learning modules on the Akona platform and *"...have found them to be very good".*
 - One member reported that they had received *"Very little, proactively".*

Which LGNZ events and networking have you attended?

- 1.17 Three responders reported attending LGNZ network events:
- One member attended a conference in Methven.
 - One member will attend the infrastructure symposium in Wellington on 14 June.
 - One member attended a conference in 2011 and stated: *"It was not worthwhile".*
 - One member reported attending Community Board online hui and three LGNZ Community Board conferences in the past. The responder *"found them all very valuable"*, the responder had also attended two LGNZ Young Elected Member hui and found them very valuable as well.

What resources or information pages do you use LGNZ website for?

- 1.18 There was one response:
- The LGNZ Good Governance Guides are used and found to be: *"...very helpful".*
 - The LGNZ website is utilised to read information about the submissions LGNZ is making on various topics.

- The responder stated that the "...Akona resources are fantastic and all elected members should be encouraged to use these resources to upskill".

Is there any other individual support or services that you have received from LGNZ?

1.19 No responders reported receiving individual support or services from LGNZ.

Do you have any other comments to make?

1.20 The following comments were made by seven of the nine responders:

- "Important EMs don't confuse things they personally enjoy doing with things that are of benefit to their communities".
- "I feel that LGNZ primarily benefits small Councils. I would rather a group focused on urban issues and which lobbied for metro councils' concerns to govt.

LGNZ really dropped the ball on Three Waters Heads of Agreement.

However, Sam Broughton is the best president in years".

- "As a first term elected member, the online resources and various services of LGNZ has been very useful and helpful in understanding and performing my duties and role as a Community Board Member. One very important aspect of LGNZ's work is the establishment of a national Community Boards Executive Committee. It is important for the Community Boards to have one voice. LGNZ's online learning platform (Akona) is also a very useful tool in providing e-modules".
- "I don't find LGNZ to be a viable entity for us".
- "LGNZ needs to be more future focused, be bold and look at whether councils and other TAs can be better supported in areas such as, making codes of conduct fit for purpose, exploring more efficient and productive ways to run a council from an elected members perspective - committees, information flow, information/admin support".
- "LGNZ provides a heap of support for elected members and I would be disappointed to see us lose access to the resources provided, as well as the in-person learning and networking opportunities they provide. Our elected members should be given more of a push to make the most of the learning opportunities they provide, as the more we upskill, the better job we can do for our communities".
- "I feel like update of the Ākōna learning hub has been slow, and probably not as well promoted to elected members as it could be, but over time there'll be huge benefits from this."

Summary

- 1.21 Nearly a quarter of elected community board members have engaged with LGNZ in the current term (since October 2022).
- 1.22 Responses to the survey indicate that the most valuable engagement (16% of all community board members) with LGNZ is through LGNZ's online resources, specifically the e-modules provided through the Akona online learning platform.
- 1.23 Networking events and conferences were not universally valued.
- 1.24 No responders reported receiving individual support or services from LGNZ.

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Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this memo.

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Matthew Pratt - Community Facilities & Activation Manager
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