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Report to the Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Multi-Functional Incident Control Centre

1. Purpose

To gain the approval of the Committee to enter into negotiations for accommodation for a Multi Functional Emergency Incident Command Centre (ICC).

2. Background

During discussions for the long-term financial strategy, we mooted the idea of developing an ICC. Provision was made in the numbers that we originally presented to Councillors late last year.

At that time we were considering accommodation in the Maritime Museum Building, where the Harbours Department currently resides.

As the Museum Trust approached us for a decision about whether we wanted to take up their vacant space, we contracted Peter O'Brien, the Council's property consultant, to look at property options for an ICC and to recommend the best course of action.

Peter O'Brien's report is attached.

3. Progress

Captain Mike Pryce, Harbour Master, Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager, Emergency Management, Mr O'Brien and myself, met several times before Christmas to examine the feasibility of an ICC and accommodation requirements.

Mr O'Brien's report shows that we decided against the space in the Maritime Museum Building in favour of Level 8 of the Regional Council Centre.

If we were to go ahead with this option, we would vacate the Beehive basement where we currently have an emergency management response centre. The Emergency Management Dept would move to Level 8 and the Harbours Dept would have dedicated space and a presence in that area.

Mr van Schalkwyk considers that Level 8 would allow him to fulfil the Council's statutory obligations for emergency management, especially if – or when – the Emergency Management Group is established.

Similarly, Captain Pryce considers that Level 8 would allow him to fulfil the Council's new statutory obligations for oil spill response.

The success of this proposal does depend on the availability of other Council meeting rooms, eg the Council Chamber, in the event of a major incident.

4. Comment

Planning for emergency response is fraught with difficulty. Because major events are rare, there is a chance that the Council could be paying for space that is unused for 99% of the time. On the other hand, our statutory obligations require us to be able to respond.

Our feeling is that the Level 8 option provides a good compromise in that it will be used for Emergency Management office accommodation and meeting rooms, but will at all times retain its capacity to respond to events, including major oil spills.

The likelihood of the Regional Council Centre not surviving an earthquake is always there. However, if this were to happen, the emergency response team would be able to utilise the response headquarters of territorial authorities or our mobile headquarters. In any case, it is highly probable that should this happen, the event would warrant a national response.

5. Budget

Allowance has been made in the Environment Division's budget for the next financial year, for the necessary fit-out costs and transfer of communication equipment costs to Level 8, plus rent, as laid out in Mr O'Brien's report.

Councillors will note that this is less than the sum originally presented to them when the Maritime Museum Building space was under consideration.

6. Communications

No specific media communications are appropriate at this time.

7. Recommendations

(a) That Council resolve to establish a Multi-Functional Emergency Incident Command Centre.

(b) That Council resolve to establish the Multi-Functional Emergency Incident Command Centre in the rear portion of Level 8 of the Regional Council centre.

(c) That Council resolve to enter negotiations with American Home Insurance and Pringle House Limited to take over responsibility as lessee of the rear portion of Level 8 at a rental rate to reflect a fair proportion of the present lease.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment