



Report **04.24**
Date 23 January 2004
File E/4/1/5

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

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

To ask the Committee to recommend that Council adopt the Code of Conduct attached to the report (**Attachment 1**).

2. Background

Clause 15 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 requires a local authority to adopt a code of conduct for members of the local authority as soon as practicable after the commencement of the Act.

The code of conduct must set out:

- (a) understandings and expectations adopted by the local authority about the manner in which members may conduct themselves while acting in their capacity as members, including—
 - (i) behaviour toward one another, staff, and the public; and
 - (ii) disclosure of information, including (but not limited to) the provision of any document, to elected members that—
 - (A) is received by, or is in the possession of, an elected member in his or her capacity as an elected member; and
 - (B) relates to the ability of the local authority to give effect to any provision of this Act; and
- (b) a general explanation of—
 - (i) the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and
 - (ii) any other enactment or rule of law applicable to members.

A local authority may amend or replace its code of conduct, but may not revoke it without replacement. Members must comply with the code of conduct of their local authority.

The Local Government KNOWHOW guide to governance contains a section on codes of conduct including a template code of conduct. The guide was developed by *Local Government New Zealand*, the Department of Internal Affairs and the Society of Local Government Managers. The code proposed by this report for Greater Wellington is based substantially on the KNOWHOW template.

3. Proposed Code of Conduct

The attachment to this report contains a proposed Code of Conduct for Greater Wellington Regional Council. The Code will sit alongside the Council's Standing Orders (which will be reviewed when the new model standing orders are published in the near future).

It is recommended that the Committee recommend to Council that it adopt the Code of Conduct.

4. Communication

No communication is required as a result of this report.

5. Recommendation

*That the Committee **recommend** that Council adopt the Code of Conduct included as Attachment 1 to this report.*

Report prepared by:

Wayne Hastie
Council Secretary

Attachment 1: Code of Conduct