



Report 07.633  
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy  
Author Francis Ryan, Manager Secretariat

## End of Triennium matters

### 1. Purpose

To report on a number of matters relating to the end of the Triennium which require consideration by Council.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting before Election

Standing Order No. 34.2 provides:

*“The Chairperson and the Chief Executive shall authenticate the minutes of the last meeting of the Council prior to the next election of members”.*

Minutes of the final meeting on 27 September will be circulated to Councillors as soon as possible following the meeting. Any comments from Councillors will need to be given to the Chairperson by close of business on 9 October. The Chairperson and Chief Executive will make the final decisions regarding any changes sought by Councillors.

The process must be completed prior to election day.

### 3. Vacation of Office

In accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001:

- (a) Any Councillor who is elected unopposed (Cr Kirton) goes out of office on 13 October and comes into office the same day. However, a Councillor elected unopposed cannot act as a member until they make their declaration at the first meeting of the new Council, tentatively scheduled for 30 October.
- (b) Councillors who face an election vacate office when the members of the new Council come into office. Members of the new council come into office on the day after the date of the Electoral Officer's declaration, which is expected to be made between 17 and 24 October.

- (c) Councillors not standing for election (Councillors Evans, Long, McDavitt, Shields and Turver) vacate office on the day after the date of the Electoral Officer's declaration.

#### **4. Remuneration**

Following the election, Councillors will be remunerated in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members (Interim) Determination 2007 (details outlined in Councillors' Information Bulletin 2007/35, 14 September 2007). The Determination comes into force on the day that the members of the new council come into office and continues until a new remuneration regime is recommended by the Council and approved by the Remuneration Authority.

#### **5. Discharge of Committees**

Unless the Council resolves otherwise, all committees, subcommittees or other subordinate decision-making bodies are deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the new Council.

The Council at its meeting on 22 February 2007 resolved that the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee not be discharged at the end of each triennium. However the terms of both local government and non-local government members on the committee will end on 13 October.

#### **6. Continuance of the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group**

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act requires that there shall be at all times a CDEM group in existence. This is to ensure that political oversight can be provided should an emergency occur between the time councils go out of office and the subsequent appointment of local authority members to their respective CDEM groups.

To implement this requirement, the Council at its meeting on 7 October 2004, resolved that the CDEM Group not be deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members of the Council elected at any triennial local election.

#### **7. Emergency Arrangements**

As there will be a period between the election and the first meeting of the new Council when Councillors are unable to act, there is a need for delegation of authority to deal with emergency and some other matters in the "interregnum". It is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to act in any emergency matters in consultation with the appropriate Divisional Manager. Any such matters will be reported to the incoming Council as soon as practicable.

Also, normal delegations to committees, or any delegation involving particular political office holders, e.g. committee chairs, cannot resume until the committee structure is confirmed and members appointed. However, once the members of the new Council have made their declarations, a meeting of the full Council can be convened to deal with any significant matters.

The Resource Management Act 1991 provides tight statutory timeframes for the consideration of resource consent applications and it may be necessary to commence arrangements for hearings in the period between the two Councils. If such circumstances arise, it is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to appoint a hearings panel in consultation with the Divisional Manager, Environment Management.

In addition, it is proposed that those Councillors standing for election be appointed as hearings commissioners until 31 December 2007 so that those who are re-elected are available to hear and decide on resource consents in the interregnum, should the need arise. Remuneration would be at the same rate as paid to a Councillor.

## 8. Communication

There is no communication needed as a result of this report.

## 9. Recommendations

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- (1) **Receives** the report.
- (2) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to act on any emergency matters arising from the time the present Council and its committees are discharged until the members of the new Council make their declarations.
- (3) **Authorises** the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Divisional Manager- Environment Management, to appoint hearings panels if required to consider any notified resource consent application during this period.
- (4) **Instruct** the Chief Executive to report any such matters to the incoming Council at the first appropriate opportunity.
- (5) **In accordance with section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991, appoint:**

*Judith Aitken  
Sally Baber  
Ian Buchanan  
Peter Glensor  
Sandra Greig  
Rex Kirton  
Chris Laidlaw  
Fran Wilde*

*as hearings commissioners for the period from 13 October 2007 until 31 December 2007, and delegate to them the power to hear and decide resource consents when they are appointed to a hearings panel.*

- (6) *Note that any commissioner appointed in accordance with (5) above will be remunerated at the same rate as paid to a Councillor.*
- (7) *Note that the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and any subcommittee established by that group shall not be deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members appointed at the 2007 triennial general election of the Council.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Francis Ryan**  
Manager Secretariat

**Jane Bradbury**  
Divisional Manager –  
Corporate and Strategy

**David Benham**  
Chief Executive