

Report 11.479  
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Committee Council  
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## Code of Conduct for elected members

### 1. Purpose

To enable the Council to adopt a new Code of Conduct for elected members (Code of Conduct).

### 2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring a decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

#### 2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### 3. Background

All councils are required to adopt a code of conduct for members under clause 15 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

Once adopted, amendments to the Code of Conduct, or the adoption of a new code, require a resolution supported by 75% or more of the members of the council present.

Clause 15 of Schedule 7 to the Act specifies that 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.

The Controller and Auditor-General recommends that councils review their Code of Conduct as soon as practicable after the beginning of each triennium.

#### **4. Existing Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct was subject to a comprehensive review in 2008 and the current Code of Conduct was adopted by Council on 25 February 2008. The Code of Conduct provides guidance on the standards of behaviour that are expected from the elected members of the Council. The Code of Conduct also applies to appointed members of committees.

#### **5. Review of the Code of Conduct**

The current Code of Conduct provides that officers shall review the Code of Conduct as soon as practicable after the beginning of the triennium and shall report the results of the review to Council.

Officers have assessed the existing Code of Conduct and propose a small number of minor amendments. These amendments make editorial changes, update the names of publications and legislation referred to in the Code of Conduct, and simplify the commentary on conflicts of interest.

#### **6. Communication**

No communication is required as a result of this report. The Code of Conduct will be available on Greater Wellington's website and copies will be provided to all elected and appointed members.

#### **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. *Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes that any amendment to an existing Code of Conduct or the adoption of a new Code of Conduct requires a vote in support of not less than 75% of the members present.*
4. *Adopts the Code of Conduct for Elected Members included as Attachment 1 to this report.*

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**Attachment 1 – Draft Code of Conduct for Elected Members**