
REPORT 6
(1215/52/IM)

LOCAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

To submit to the Strategy and Policy Committee the draft Local Governance Statement (LGS) for referral to Council for approval.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Recommend to Council that it approve the Local Governance Statement attached as Appendix 1.*
- 3. Recommend to Council that it delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader – Governance, the authority to make any minor editorial changes to the Local Governance Statement, as well as any changes to the document that may be required to ensure its content is accurate and up to date throughout the triennium.*

3. Background

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Wellington City Council is required to prepare and make publicly available a Local Governance Statement (LGS). The LGS replaced the 'Official Information Handbook' that was required under section 19 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), until that requirement was repealed.

4. Discussion

The Local Government Act 2002 sets down in section 40 (1) that the LGS must include the following information:

- the functions, responsibilities, and activities of the local authority; and
- any local legislation that confers powers on the local authority; and
- the electoral system and the opportunity to change it; and
- representation arrangements, including the option of establishing Maori wards or constituencies, and the opportunity to change them; and
- members' roles and conduct (with specific reference to the applicable statutory requirements and code of conduct); and
- governance structures and processes, membership, and delegations; and

- meeting processes (with specific reference to the applicable provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and standing orders); and
- consultation policies; and
- policies for liaising with, and memoranda or agreements with, Maori; and
- the management structure and the relationship between management and elected members; and
- equal employment opportunities policy; and
- key approved planning and policy documents and the process for their development and review; and
- systems for public access to it and its elected members; and
- processes for requests for official information.

The LGS does not contain any new policy or information, but rather collates existing Wellington City Council documentation, and that produced by the Local Government New Zealand KnowHow team specifically for the LGS, into a single document for use by the Wellington public. The sources of the text used in the LGS are set out after each section. The LGS attached at Appendix One for approval is an update of the 2004-07 LGS.

The LGS is currently made publicly available via Wellington City Council's website, libraries and service centres. Copies are also available from Democratic Services. The updated LGS will be made available in a similar manner.

It is recommended that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader, Governance be delegated the authority to update the LGS to ensure its content is accurate and up to date throughout the triennium. This is consistent with S40(3) of the Local Government Act.

5. Conclusion

Wellington City Council, under the Local Government Act 2002, is required to have a Local Governance Statement and to update it after the start of a new triennium.

The proposed LGS is a document compiled from existing documentation. The LGS seeks to provide the Wellington public with relevant information about Wellington City Council and to facilitate an informed relationship between the public and Wellington City Council officers and elected members.

Contact Officer: *Michael Webster, City Secretary*

Supporting Information
<p>1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome <i>This project supports Long-term outcome 7.2.B “Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system”.</i></p>
<p>2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact <i>Relates to 7.2.2: Provider: City Governance and Decision-making. There is no long term financial impact.</i></p>
<p>3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations <i>N/A</i></p>
<p>4) Decision-Making <i>This is not a significant decision</i></p>
<p>5) Consultation a) General Consultation <i>As the Local Governance Statement is compiled from existing Council policy, no separate consultation is required.</i> b) Consultation with Maori <i>Not required</i></p>
<p>6) Legal Implications <i>This report meets the requirements of section 40 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002</i></p>
<p>7) Consistency with existing policy <i>This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy</i></p>

Appendix One