**REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS:
PROGRESSIVE COUNTING   RR 7225

Officer responsible	Author
Returning Officer	Max Robertson

Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability: Elections

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek reconsideration of the decision made by the Council at its March meeting not to support draft legislation providing for the progressive counting of voting papers at local authority elections.

2. **BACKGROUND**

As the previous report noted, draft legislation providing for the use of progressive counting has been prepared at the request of a Society of Local Government Managers Working Party, in reflection of the fact that all the Returning Officers of the larger authorities have faced difficulties in getting their results out in a reasonable time.

The draft legislation provides for progressive counting to be adopted at the **discretion of individual councils**, who will (as in the case of postal voting) be asked every three years by their Returning Officer if they want to use progressive counting at the next elections.

A report on this issue has recently been submitted to all other territorial authorities. Most of the major metropolitan authorities have decided to support the **principle** of progressive counting.   The Christchurch City Council's decision not to support the draft legislation will inevitably weaken SOLGM's case, and the support for the legislation which it has now obtained from all the political parties represented in Parliament.

It is accepted that the Christchurch City Council does not wish to use progressive counting for its 1998 elections. However, it would be desirable for the Council to reconsider its support or otherwise for the **principle** of progressive counting. In the absence of Christchurch's support, then the Government is less likely to pass the required legislation in time for progressive counting to be employed by the other metropolitan authorities who wish to use it for their 1998 elections.

1 Cont'd

    Recommendation: 1.   That the Christchurch City Council support the SOLGM sponsored effort to obtain legislative change to permit the progressive counting of returned voting papers. as an option to be adopted at the discretion of individual councils at each election.

    2.   That the Christchurch City Council confirm that in the event of the legislation being altered to provide for the use of progressive counting, such method of counting **not** be employed for the 1998 Christchurch City Elections.

CONSIDERED THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL 1998

MAYOR