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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

At its inaugural meeting on 4 November the Council asked for a report on possible ways in which the Council could allow each Councillor an opportunity to serve as an appointed Community Board member during part at least of their three year term.

1. STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 101ZQ of the Local Government Act provides that every Community Board shall consist of not less than four elected members.

A Community Board may include appointed members who must be Councillors.

The number of Councillors shall not at any time be more than half the number of elected members.

2. PRACTICAL EFFECT OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS

At the recent elections six members (three from each of two wards) were elected to each of the six Community Boards within the City of Christchurch.

The maximum number of Councillors able to be appointed to each board is therefore **three**.

The Act also provides that where a person has been elected both as a Community Board member and a Councillor, that person shall not be appointed to the Community Board. That has current application in the cases of Councillors Carole Anderton, Sally Buck and Robin Booth.

3. POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

The previous Council made representations to the then Minister of Local Government asking for a change in the foregoing provisions of the Local Government Act, to allow all Councillors to serve as appointed Community Board members. In his reply, the Minister declined to support such an amendment, and went on to say that in his opinion it was simply not necessary for all Councillors to serve on Community Boards.

Any further submissions on this topic to the new Minister of Local Government (Mr Tony Ryall) would probably elicit a similar response. In any event, it is likely that the composition and boundaries of the present communities will be altered significantly prior to the 2001 elections, either as a result of the mooted amalgamation with Banks Peninsula, or as a result of the review of the basis of election required to be carried out by the Council in the year 2000.

Therefore, the proposals canvassed in this report suggest ways in which the Council's request can be met during the current Council term.

4. **DISCUSSION**

Because Councillors Carole Anderton, Sally Buck and Robin Booth were all elected both as a Community Board member and a Councillor, the problem does not arise in respect of the following Community Boards, in that all three remaining Ward Councillors can be appointed for the whole of the current three year term:

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board
Shirley/Papanui Community Board
Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

Therefore, any proposals to achieve a balance in the appointed membership during the current three year term only apply to the remaining three Community Boards, ie:

Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board
Riccarton/Wigram Community Board

In the case of the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, the situation is already covered by the resolution adopted by the Council at its inaugural meeting, providing for the following members to be appointed for the periods shown:

Burwood/Pegasus Community Board

Councillor David Close (from 4 November 1998 to 31 December 2000 inclusive)

Councillor Carole Evans (from 1 January 2000 to 31 October 2001 inclusive)

Councillor Alister James (from 4 November 1998 to 31 December 1999 and again from 1 January 2001 to 31 October 2001)

Councillor Gail Sheriff (from 4 November 1998 to 31 October 2001)

In the past, it has been common practice for some appointed Board members to resign part way through the three year term, to give their fellow Ward Councillor a chance to serve for the remainder of the term.

At the inaugural meeting it was also suggested that for the Hagley/Ferrymead and Riccarton/Wigram Community Boards only two Councillors be appointed, and each serve for 18 months.

5. **POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD AND RICCARTON/WIGRAM COMMUNITY BOARDS**

1. Follow the model of Burwood/Pegasus, with one Councillor appointed for three years, two Councillors for two years each.
2. Appoint two Councillors at any one time, for a period of 18 months (this would reduce by one the size of the Board).
3. Retain the appointment of three Councillors now, with the possibility of that decision being reviewed during the term.
4. Review the size of Boards following review of communities of interest and electoral structure, likely to be by May 1999.

Recommendation: That option 4 be adopted.