

6. PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

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The purpose of this report is procedural. It is to ensure that the Council has a mechanism in place to give adequate consideration to preparing a submission on the Local Government Bill.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

I understand that the Government is optimistic that it will be in a position to introduce a Local Government Bill (designed to completely replace the current Local Government Act) into the House of Representatives in mid December. Following the first reading of the Bill it would be referred to a Select Committee.

While the introduction of the Bill itself before Christmas is not certain and we have no means of knowing what programme a Select Committee might put in place for calling for submissions, nonetheless it seems prudent to make provision for a possible tight timeframe. Such a timeframe might be a requirement for Council submissions by late February or early March. This would require a submission to be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee in February and recommended on to that month's Council meeting. This in turn implies a draft submission prepared by the middle of that month. (Please note: I have no inside information as to what the timetable will be, hopefully we may have a longer period for considering the Bill.)

Recommendation: That the Legislation Subcommittee (Councillors Alpers, Evans, James, O'Rourke and Wells) and Councillor Stewart work with staff in considering and preparing a response to the anticipated Local Government Bill and recommend a submission to the appropriate meeting of Strategy and Finance Committee in the New Year.