

### 3. CONSULTATION POLICY

<b>Officer responsible</b> Director of Human Resources	<b>Author</b> Philippa Joughin, Consultation Project Co-ordinator (DDI 941-6386) and Mary Richardson, Social Policy Analyst (DDI 941-8882)
---	--

The purpose of this report is to request the Council to approve the final draft of the new Consultation Policy.

#### INTRODUCTION

Following the enactment of the Local Government Act 2002 and the requirements on local authorities concerning consultation processes and practices, the Consultation and Communication Special Committee has been involved in the preparation of a new Consultation Policy. The draft policy was approved by the Committee and was subsequently present to all Standing Committees and Community Boards for discussion and feedback.

#### BACKGROUND

A fundamental principle of the new Local Government Act is the importance of community consultation over local services and decision making (Section 14(1)(c)). Community consultation is seen as a key ingredient in quality decision-making and policy development. Consultation must take place with the right people for the right purpose and in the right way (Section 78). Legal action may result if consultation is not undertaken when required or is undertaken incorrectly.

While the Consultation and Communication Special Committee identified that the Council's current policies were consistent with the intent of new legislation, there were however, some inadequacies and discrepancies existing between various policies. Therefore the Committee agreed that it was appropriate for the Council to review its consultation policies.

#### DRAFT POLICY

The proposed new consultation policy has been developed to incorporate and reflect the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, as well as the Christchurch City Council's commitments to ongoing and effective consultation with the people of the city.

A final draft of the policy is attached. As well as including an amendment made by this Committee, this draft also incorporates some other amendments made following input from Community Boards and other Standing Committees. The Strategy and Finance Committee considered that the consultation framework should be retained as an addendum to the policy. Additions proposed are underlined, with deletions being lined through.

**Recommendation:** That the Council adopt the Consultation Policy attached to this report.