

6. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMMUNITY BOARD

Officer responsible General Manager, Regulation and Democracy Services	Author Dennis Morgan - Community Advocate, DDI 941-5309
--	---

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Board to consider whether to adopt a code of conduct.

The Board meeting on 29 March 2004 requested that a report be prepared on the possible introduction of a code of conduct for the Board. Board members considered that the current Board is working well but there may be a time in the future when an adopted code of conduct may assist.

The Local Government Act 2002 requires that all Councils adopt a code of conduct. The code of conduct is to apply only to Councillors, and not to Community Board members. Although there is no requirement for a community board to adopt a code there is nothing to prevent a board from doing so.

Effective governance requires elected members to develop relationships with each other built on mutual respect and trust. To help this process, every local authority has to adopt a code of conduct setting out standards of behaviour that elected members expect from each other when in the course of their duties.

A code of conduct must cover:

- The behaviour that elected members are expected to show when dealing with each other, staff and the general public.
- The disclosure of information received by elected members in the course of their duties.
- A description of any Act that requires elected members to behave in certain ways.

The only other requirement regarding content is that each local authority must consider whether to require elected members who are (or who become) undischarged bankrupts to declare that fact.

Local authorities are not required to consult their community when preparing a code of conduct; they need only adopt their code by resolution. Once adopted, it takes a 75% vote in a Council meeting to amend a code.

The Christchurch City Council considered the adoption of a code of conduct at its meeting on 22 April 2004. It will be a matter for each Community Board of the Council to decide whether it wishes to do so.

The report considered by the Council on 22 April 2004 is attached.

Staff

Recommendation: For discussion.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: Not seen by the Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson.