



9. LOCAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008: INCLUSION OF PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval to include proposed "Principles for Governance and Decision-making by Elected Members of the Christchurch City Council" in the Council's revised Local Governance Statement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to prepare and make publicly available, following the triennial general election of members, a Local Governance Statement that brings together information about how the Council works; its structure and processes, key policies, and how information can be accessed.
3. This Governance Statement is to be provided within six months of each triennial general election, and should be updated as appropriate. Staff are currently updating the 2005 version of the Governance Statement, and to ensure the requirements of the Act are met, the 2008 version will continue to include information on:
 - (a) the functions, responsibilities and activities of the council
 - (b) governance structures and processes
 - (c) electoral arrangements
 - (d) management structure of the organisation
 - (e) key Council policies
 - (f) contacting the Council and how information can be accessed.
5. All of the above information is already available in various forms, the Governance Statement simply draws it together in one source. One key difference proposed for the 2008 version, however, is the inclusion of a set of "Principles for Governance and Decision-making by Elected Members of the Christchurch City Council". These principles, a draft of which has been previously discussed with Councillors at a workshop, are outlined in the **attached** appendix to this report.
6. The focus of these principles is the *processes* that support achievement of good governance and decision-making. They reflect key themes of legislation (eg the Local Government Act) and of standards/practices advocated by agencies that effectively "set the standards" for local government and central government sectors in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.
7. These principles are not binding in a legal sense, and there will be no formal measurement of adherence to them. They are intended to indicate to the public a broadly based approach to the way that the Council's elected members carry out their role. The principles are intended to be a mix of both reality and aspiration; to reflect what is currently the practice within the Christchurch City Council, and what is also being striven for. Scenarios for when these principles would be applied include: during consideration of new structures or processes for governance or decision-making; making decisions on delegations to community boards or staff; staff preparation of advice to elected members; incorporating in Council information and documentation as appropriate (such as the Governance Statement).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the staff recommendations. Production of the revised Local Governance Statement and its distribution will be met from existing budgets.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

9. See para 8 above.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. There are no legal implications with the inclusion of these principles in the Governance Statement. The principles are not binding on elected members; as indicated in paragraph 7 above, the principles are more of an expression or indication to the public as to how elected members carry out their governance and decision-making roles.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Not applicable.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

12. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. No consultation is required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council adopt the **attached** Principles for Governance and Decision-making by Elected Members for inclusion in the Council's 2008 Governance Statement.