

9. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

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Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1 3.2 Text 6	

The purpose of this report is to seek some direction from the Board about responding to the consultation document "Reviewing the Local Government Act 1974", which is currently seeking public comment.

With the 31 July 2001 response deadline from Local Government New Zealand, the City Council has structured a review timetable:

- 28 June: briefing to all elected members.
- 4 July: our Board to consider the consultation document, and report to the Strategy and Resources Committee seminar on (11, or) 13 July 2001.
- 11 or 13 July: Strategy and Resources Committee seminar for Councillors and Community Board Chairpersons to consider the draft Christchurch City Council response.

The Local Government Act is considered to be the foremost single important statute which dictates the operation of local government in New Zealand. This is the first major holistic review of the Act, since its inception in 1974.

Briefly,

".....the current Act.....does not clearly express the purpose of local government, and why we should have it."

".....the current Local Government Act reflects a view that everything local government does should be authorised in law, in detail."

".....new legislation gives Councils scope to choose the activities they undertake and how they should undertake them...."

Mindful of the requirement of the Board(s) to respond by the date of the Strategy and Resources Committee seminar, it is suggested that a small working party be established, for those members interested in reviewing the discussion document, to prepare a submission **direct** to meet the Strategy and Resources Committee seminar deadline.

Recommendation: That a working party, of interested Board members, be established to review the discussion document "Reviewing the Local Government Act 1974, and that they be given "power to act" in the preparation of a submission (on behalf of the Board) to the Strategy and Resources Committee seminar.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Officer's recommendation be adopted.