

Mayor and Councillors
COUNCIL

23 AUGUST 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

PROGRESSIVE PROCESSING OF VOTES FOR ŌTAKI BY-ELECTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks approval to adopt progressive processing of votes for the Ōtaki Community Board by-election to be conducted in October 2012.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Council has previously adopted progressive processing of votes for triennial elections in 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, and 2010, and for a number of Community board by-elections (Paekākāriki in 2008 and 2012 and Ōtaki in 2011.) This decision avoided the pressure of counting all the votes on Election Day. Progressive processing of votes during the three week voting period is now used by most territorial authorities for local government elections.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 4 An extraordinary vacancy has been created through the 2 August 2012 resignation of an Ōtaki Community Board member. Because this vacancy occurs more than 12 months before the next local body elections the vacancy must be filled by a by-election.
- 5 The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires at least one Justice of the Peace to supervise the processing votes before the close of voting. The JP must provide a report to the Electoral Officer on compliance with the regulations prescribing the procedure for the early processing of voting papers over the voting period.
- 6 It is intended to process the votes 'in house' using the same proven software package that was used successfully for Single Transferable Vote (STV) voting processing for the 2010 elections.

Financial Considerations

- 7 If progressive processing of voting papers is not approved there may be additional costs to employ extra persons to process all the voting papers on Election Day (Wednesday 31 October 2012) rather than over the three week voting period.

Legal Considerations

- 8 Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 allows local authorities to adopt by resolution the early processing of votes during the voting period.

Delegation

- 9 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

Consultation and Policy Considerations

- 10 There are no consultation or policy considerations.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 11 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

Publicity Considerations

- 12 A media release will be prepared on the report and decision from this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13 That Council adopt, in accordance with Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the progressive processing of votes for the Ōtaki Community Board by-election to be held 31 October 2012 to enable the early processing of voting papers during the three week voting period.

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