

Chairperson and Committee Members
CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

10 MAY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**PROGRESSIVE PROCESSING OF VOTES FOR PAEKAKARIKI
BY-ELECTION**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Committee's approval to adopt progressive processing of votes for the Paekākāriki Community Board by-election to be conducted in June 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 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 if not all territorial authorities for local government elections.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 4 The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires at least one Justice of the Peace to supervise the processing of votes before the close of voting. The Justice of the Peace 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.
- 5 It is intended to process the votes 'in house' using the same proven software package that was used successfully for STV vote processing for the 2010 elections. The software package is managed by Dale Ofsoske of the company Independent Election Services Limited.

Financial Considerations

- 6 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 13 June 2012) rather than over the three week voting period.

Legal Considerations

- 7 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

The Corporate Business Committee has the power to consider this matter under para 7.17 of the Governance Structure and Delegations (5 April 2012 version): “*Authority in regard to any procedural matters relating to elections, polls and referenda, not otherwise delegated to the Chief Executive or to the Council’s appointed Electoral Officer...*”

Consultation and Policy Implications

- 8 There are no consultation or policy implications.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 9 There are no Tāngata Whenua considerations.

Publicity Considerations

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11 That the Corporate Business Committee adopt, in accordance with Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the progressive processing of votes for the Paekākāriki Community Board By-Election to be held 13 June 2012 to enable the early processing of voting papers during the three week voting period.

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