

**Chairperson and Committee Members**  
CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

10 MAY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**PAEKĀKĀRIKI COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION -  
ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON THE VOTING  
DOCUMENTS**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks a decision from the Committee on the order in which candidates' names are to be shown on the voting documents used for the Paekākāriki Community Board by-election in June 2012.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

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

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 A by-election for the Paekākāriki Community Board is now required as one of the members passed away in March 2012. This created an extraordinary vacancy on the Board, and because it is more than 12 months before the next triennial election a by-election must be held to fill the vacancy. Accordingly a public notice announcing the by-election and calling for nominations appeared on 26 March and two nominations were received by 12 noon on Tuesday 24 April 2012. Since there is more than one nomination the by-election must proceed.
- 4 Whilst not mandatory, clause 31(1) of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 allows Council to decide whether the candidates' names are to be arranged on the voting documents in alphabetical order of surname, pseudo-random order or random order. The Council decided on alphabetical order of surname on voting documents for the 2004, 2006 and 2010 elections as well as a number of by-elections.
- 5 In the absence of any Council resolution approving another arrangement the candidates' names must be arranged in alphabetical order of surname.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**Issues**

- 6 The features of each arrangement are described as follows:

**Option 1 – Alphabetical order of surname**

- 7 This is the order which has been required to be used at previous local authority elections and is self explanatory.

**Option 2 – Pseudo-random order**

- 8 Under this option, the candidates' names for each election are drawn randomly to determine the order of candidates' names on all voting documents for the current election, with the candidates' names being placed on all voting documents for that election in the order in which they are drawn.
- 9 The Local Electoral Regulations provide that if a local authority has determined that pseudo-random order is to be used, the Electoral Officer must state, in the public notice required to be given, the date, time and place at which the order of the candidates' names will be drawn. Any person is then entitled to attend while the draw is in progress.

**Option 3 – Random Order**

- 10 Under this option, the names of the candidates for each election are shown in a different order on each and every voting document, utilising software which permits the names of the candidates to be laser printed in a different order on each paper.

**Comparative Cost of Each Option**

- 11 The cost of printing the voting documents employing either Option 1 or Option 2 will be identical. Should the Council adopt Option 3 (random order) there will be some increase in cost, because of the need to individually laser print each voting document rather than having them pre-printed. The additional cost of Option 3 Random Order would be approximately \$500.

**Financial Considerations**

- 12 If Option 3 is chosen the cost will be approximately \$500.

**Legal Considerations**

- 13 The order that the candidates' names will appear on voting documents is required to be stated in the public notice of the election that will be published.

**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

14 There are no consultation or policy considerations.

### Tāngata Whenua Considerations

15 There are no Tāngata Whenua considerations.

### Publicity Considerations

16 A media release will be released on the decision.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

17 That the Corporate Business Committee resolves that the names of the candidates for the Paekākāriki Community Board by-election on 13 June 2012 are be arranged on the voting papers in:

- (a) alphabetical order of surname OR
- (b) pseudo-random order OR
- (c) random order

#### **Report prepared by:**

#### **Approved for submission by:**

Vyvien Starbuck-Maffey  
**Democratic Services Team Leader**

Bernie Goedhart  
**Group Manager Corporate Services**