

Mayor and Councillors  
**COUNCIL**

**11 NOVEMBER 2010**

Meeting Status: Public

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **PROGRESSIVE PROCESSING OF VOTES FOR ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Council to adopt progressive processing of votes for the Ōtaki Community Board By-Election, to enable the processing of voting papers for the full three week voting period if required.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Council adopted progressive processing of votes for the 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010 Elections and this avoided the pressure of counting all votes on Election Day

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### Issues

3. Progressive processing of votes during the voting period is now used by most if not all of the territorial authorities for the local government elections.
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.
5. 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.
6. It is planned to carry out the processing of votes “in house” using a proven software package that was used successfully for STV vote processing during the 2010 Elections. The software package is managed by Dale Ofoske from Independent Election Services.

#### Financial Considerations

7. If progressive processing of voting papers is not approved then it would result in additional costs to employ extra persons to process all of the voting papers on Election Day 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. The Council has not delegated this authority to any of its committees or subcommittees.

### Consultation

10. There are no consultation or policy implications.

### Publicity Considerations

11. A media release will be prepared to convey to the Community the decisions on this report from this meeting

### Other Considerations

12. There are no other considerations.

## **CONCLUSION**

13. It is recommended that the Council adopt the progressive processing of votes for the Ōtaki Community Board By-Election to enable the processing of voting paper for the full three week voting period if required.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. That the Council adopts progressive processing of votes for the Ōtaki Community Board By-Election (to be held 11 February 2011 ) to enable the early processing of voting papers during the 3 week voting period in accordance with Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

**Report prepared by:**

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