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**Committee** Environment  
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## Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

### 1. Purpose

To confirm the Council's appointment to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for the Wellington Region.

### 2. Background

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act), commenced on 1 December 2002. It replaces the Civil Defence Act 1983.

The Act required that before 1 June 2003, every regional council and every territorial authority within that region must unite to establish a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) as a joint standing committee. The Act designates the Regional Council as the administering authority.

The CDEM Group for the Wellington Region will be the key governance body responsible for implementing the Act within the Region. A working party has been established by all of the Region's local authority chief executives to help facilitate the establishment of the CDEM Group.

Other key aspects of the new civil defence emergency management arrangements include:

- A Co-ordinating Executive Group comprising chief executive officers of the constituent local authorities (or a personal acting on their behalf) plus senior members of the emergency services (NZ Police, NZ Fire Service, District Health Boards) and others as required.
- Group and Local Controllers to direct and co-ordinate CDEM Group resources during declared emergencies.

- An appropriate body of trained and competent personnel, an organisational structure and process arrangements to ensure CDEM delivery to communities.

The CDEM Group structure can be seen in the diagram included as Attachment 1 to this report. The items underlined are suggested delivery mechanisms recommended by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, rather than statutory requirements.

### **3. CDEM group Representation**

Each local authority that is a member of the CDEM Group must be represented on that Group by one person, being the chairperson/mayor of that local authority or an elected person from that authority with the delegated authority to act for the chairperson/mayor.

The Council must appoint its representative.

### **4. Future Steps**

The inaugural meeting for the CDEM Group has been scheduled for Thursday 15 May 2003.

It is proposed that the CDEM Group establish the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) at its first meeting. The CEG will then implement the decisions of the CDEM Group, provide advice, and oversee the planning process as directed by the CDEM Group.

The CDEM Group Plan must be developed within two years of the CDEM Group being formed.

### **5. Transition**

During the transition period when the CDEM Group is forming and a CDEM Group Plan is being written, local authorities retain their existing responsibilities and powers under the Civil Defence Act 1983.

## 6. Recommendation

*That the Council:*

- (1) *appoint the Chairperson, (with Councillors Ian Buchanan and Irvine Yardley as alternates with the delegated authority to act for the Chairperson), as the Council's representative on the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for the Wellington Region.*

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**Attachment 1:** CDEM Group Structure