

Report 04.710

Date 9 December 2004

File E/4/1/5

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
Author Wayne Hastie Council Secretary

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

To enable the Council to reconfirm the Code of Conduct for Elected Members adopted by the Council on 9 March 2004.

2. Background

2.1 Statutory context

Clause 15 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 requires a local authority to adopt a code of conduct for members of the local authority as soon as practicable after the commencement of the Act.

The code of conduct must set out:

- (a) understandings and expectations adopted by the local authority about the manner in which members may conduct themselves while acting in their capacity as members, including—
 - (i) behaviour toward one another, staff, and the public; and
 - (ii) disclosure of information, including (but not limited to) the provision of any document, to elected members that—
 - (A) is received by, or is in the possession of, an elected member in his or her capacity as an elected member; and
 - (B) relates to the ability of the local authority to give effect to any provision of this Act; and
- (b) a general explanation of—
 - (i) the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and
 - (ii) any other enactment or rule of law applicable to members.

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A local authority may amend or replace its code of conduct, but may not revoke it without replacement. Any change or amendment requires a vote in support of not less than 75% of the members present.

Members must comply with the code of conduct of their local authority.

2.2 Reconfirmation of Code of Conduct

Greater Wellington adopted its Code of Conduct on 9 March 2004. While there is no statutory requirement to review or reconfirm the Code following an election, given changes in membership it makes sense in practical terms for the Code to be reviewed or reconfirmed at an early meeting of the new Council.

No changes are recommended by officers to the current Code.

3. Communication

No communication is required as a result of this report.

4. Recommendation

That the Committee **recommend** that Council adopt the Code of Conduct included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Report prepared by:

Wayne Hastie

Council Secretary

Attachment 1: Code of Conduct

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