



Report 06.705
Date 4 December 2006
File E/09/07/07

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
Author Ian Buchanan Council Chairman

Appointment of new electoral officer

1. Purpose

To appoint a new electoral officer for Greater Wellington.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background and Comment

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (the “Act”) requires that “there must at all times be an electoral officer appointed by the local authority to exercise the powers and carry out the duties conferred on the electoral officer . . .”. The Act also states that the electoral officer cannot be the chief executive of the Council, unless the local authority is satisfied that no other course of action is reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

Greater Wellington’s current electoral officer is Amy Norrish. As she has resigned and will be leaving the Council on 2 February 2007, the Council needs to appoint a new electoral officer.

It is proposed that Margaret Meek be appointed as Greater Wellington’s electoral officer for the following reasons:

- The role of electoral officer fits best with the responsibilities and duties of the Secretariat. Margaret Meek has been a Policy Analyst in the Secretariat for about two years.
- She has the background to take on such a role. Margaret is a qualified lawyer and has recently attended electoral officer training.

Margaret will be supported by Sharleen Grounds as the deputy electoral officer. Sharleen is the new Corporate Strategic Planner in the Corporate and

Strategy Division. She is also a lawyer and has provided advice to the Waitakere City Council for their elections in 2004 in her capacity as their in-house solicitor.

4. Communication

There are no matters in this report requiring further communication.

5. Recommendations

*That the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee recommends that Council **appoints** Margaret Meek as Greater Wellington's electoral officer.*

Report approved by:

Ian Buchanan
Council Chairman