

Report 08.59
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Committee Council
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Local Governance Statement

1. Purpose

To provide a draft of Greater Wellington's local governance statement *How you can have your say* for consideration and approval.

2. Significance of the decision

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

3. Background

Section 40 of the LGA requires councils to prepare a local governance statement and make it available to the public within six months after each triennial general election. This section also stipulates what information must be contained in the local governance statement. A local governance statement is a collection of information about:

- the processes through which the Council engages with its community
- how the Council makes decisions
- the ways in which citizens can influence local democratic processes.

The statement is written for the information of the general public. The local governance statement must be updated over the course of the triennium, when appropriate, to reflect changes to Council policies, practices or structures.

4. Comment

The draft of Greater Wellington's local governance statement is provided in **Attachment 1**.

The changes made to the existing local governance statement (approved by Council in May 2007) following the recent election are minor and reflect the

Council’s new committee structure, and updates to Greater Wellington’s key approved planning and policy documents.

Further changes to the document will need to be made from time to time to reflect changes both to legislation and to key Council planning and policy documents.

A significant proportion of the content of the local governance statement is prescribed by the LGA.

5. Communication

The LGA requires councils to make their local governance statement “publicly available”, but does not stipulate when and where the document should be made available. It states, however, that the document must be accessible and that the public is made aware of the document and how to obtain a copy. To meet this requirement, Council officers plan to place the document:

- in Greater Wellington’s offices
- in the region’s public libraries, and the Parliamentary Library
- on our website.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

- (1) ***Receives the draft document: How you can have your say – Greater Wellington Regional Council’s local governance statement.***
- (2) ***Approves the contents of the document.***
- (3) ***Notes that the Local Governance Statement will be made publicly available following Council’s approval of the document.***
- (4) ***Authorises the Chief Executive to make modifications to the document during the course of this triennium, which reflect any changes to Council policies, practices or structures.***

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Attachment 1: Local Government Statement