

Central Hawke's Bay District Council – Report

TO: Council
FROM: Electoral Officer
DATE: 17 February 2010
FILE REF: ELE1-100
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL PROCESSES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRIENNIAL ELECTION 2010

1.0 SUMMARY

In accordance with statute, Council must resolve if it wishes to allow processing of voting documents during the three week voting period. There are also several choices of voting document layout with regards to candidates' names which Council could consider using.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Progressive processing of the voting documents for the October 2010 Local Government triennial election be undertaken over the three week voting period leading up to Election Day on 9 October.
2. Candidate names on the voting paper be arranged in alphabetical order by surname.

REASON

The Objective of the decision will contribute to the following Community Outcomes:

Strong Regional Leadership and a sense of belonging.

Supportive, caring and inclusive communities.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Progressive Processing

Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 provides that a local authority may determine, by resolution, that the voting documents in an election or poll are to be processed during the voting period.

Progressive processing was adopted by this Council for the 2001, 2004 and 2007 Local Government triennial elections. This allowed the EO to process the voting papers over the three week voting period. The benefit of this on Voting Day was that the second count could also be completed on that day with a result which only excluded special votes. This therefore allowed by 5pm a clear picture of what the final

result would be. If progressive processing was not adopted by Council then the first count could not begin until noon on voting day and would take some time to conclude.

Order of candidates' names on voting documents

Under s31 of the LEA, a local authority MAY determine by a resolution which order the candidates' names are to be arranged on the voting document. They may be arranged:

- In alphabetical order of surname,
- Pseudo-random order, or
- Random order

If there is no applicable resolution, the names must be arranged in alphabetical order of surname.

Up to now, this Council's voting documents have listed candidates' in alphabetical order of surname and I do not believe there is any benefit in changing the arrangement for the next election.

4.0 OPTIONS

Option 1

That Progressive processing of the voting documents for the October 2010 Local Government triennial election be undertaken over the three week voting period leading up to Election Day on 9 October.

Candidate names on the voting paper be arranged in alphabetical order by surname.

Option 2

Council decides not to use progressive processing of voting documents over the three week voting period leading up to Election Day on 9 October.

Council choose an alternative order as prescribed in the Act.

5.0 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Electoral Act 2001
Local Electoral Act Regulations 2001

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 External

Electionz.com
SOLGM Electoral Working Party

7.0 FINANCIAL

NA

8.0 STRATEGIC LINKS

- Annual Plan
- Annual Report
- LTFS

Donna Moorcock
Deputy Electoral Officer