



Report 07.254  
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
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## Local Governance Statement

### 1. Purpose

To provide a draft update of Greater Wellington's local governance statement *How you can have your say* for referral to Council for approval.

### 2. Significance of 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, and
- the ways in which citizens can influence local democratic processes.

The statement is written for the information of the general public. The statement may be updated by Council at any time.

### 4. Comment

The draft update of Greater Wellington's local governance statement is provided in **Attachment 1**. It is very similar to the Council's existing local governance statement, which was published in March 2005. However, some amendments are required to the document to take account of changes to council policy, legislation and timeframes.

Changes have been made to the overall layout of the document in order to make it more readily accessible to the public. Sections have been broken down to provide relevant information for specific council/public interactions.

A significant proportion of the content of the local governance statement is prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002.

## 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. Council officers plan to place the document:

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

Further steps will be taken to advertise the publication and its contents once it has been further updated after this year’s elections.

## 6. Recommendation

*That the Committee recommend that 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 council officers will update the document again for Council approval after the 2007 local body elections.*
- (4) *Notes that council officers will undertake steps to make the document more widely advertised and available following the 2007 elections.*

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**Attachment 1:** How you can have your say