

REPORT 2
(1215/11/IM)

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL OFFICER

1. Purpose of report

To submit for the Council's consideration and approval, the appointment of Mr Charlie Inggs as Electoral Officer for the Wellington City Council.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to appoint Charlie Inggs as Electoral Officer of the Wellington City Council, with effect from 18 May 2013.*

3. Background

Section 12 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) requires all local authorities to have an appointed electoral officer in place at all times.

The appointment of the Electoral Officer is one of only two staff positions where the Council itself makes the appointment based on a recommendation of the CEO. It also has the ability to dismiss the incumbent for poor performance or any other reason.

The Electoral Officer is appointed by the Council to exercise the powers and carry out the duties conferred on him/her by the LEA and any other enactment, in relation to that local authority.

The role of Electoral Officer is independent of the local authority to the degree that neither the Chief Executive nor the Council can direct the Electoral Officer in undertaking his/her role, other than under sections 8(1) and 9(1) of the LEA. These sections specifically enable the Council to direct the Electoral Officer to conduct an election or referendum that is not required to be held under the LEA or any other Act.

An electoral officer, unless he or she dies, resigns, is dismissed from office, or becomes incapable of acting, remains in office until his or her successor comes into office.

4. Discussion

The current Electoral Officer, Ross Bly, has given notice of his intention to retire from Council on Friday 17 May 2013. It is therefore necessary for the Council to appoint a new Electoral Officer whose appointment will take effect from 18 May 2013.

The position was advertised nationally and it is recommended that Charlie Inggs be appointed to the position.

Mr Inggs has had extensive electoral and local governance project management experience over a number of years and has most recently been employed as Senior Project Manager with the Auckland Council, responsible for managing their 2013 local elections. Prior to that, in 2004 and 2007, he was Deputy Electoral Officer with the former Waitakere City Council and subsequently assisted with the 2010 Auckland Council elections. His experience also includes serving as a UN Electoral Volunteer in East Timor for six months in 2012.

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

No consultation is required.

4.2 Financial considerations

Budget for this appointment is provided for in the Long Term Plan.

4.3 Climate change impacts and considerations

There are no climate change impacts or considerations.

4.4 Long-term plan considerations

There are no long term plan considerations.

6. Conclusion

The current Electoral Officer has indicated his intention to retire from Council on 17 May 2013.

The legislation requires the Council to have an Electoral Officer in place at all times and it is therefore necessary to appoint a new person to the position.

Contact Officer: Sally Dossor, *Director CEO's Office*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

This appointment supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system. The appointment of a new Electoral Officer will also ensure that the legal requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 are complied with.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Ongoing budget for this appointment is provided for in the LTP.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation is required.

6) Legal implications

The legislation requires the Council to have an Electoral Officer in place at all times. There are no other legal considerations.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing policy.