



Report 09.765  
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Committee Council  
Authors Fran Wilde, Chair  
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## Terms of reference for review of Wellington governance issues

### 1. Purpose

For the Council to approve the terms of reference for the review of Wellington governance issues.

### 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

In light of the recent decisions on the function and structure of local government in the Auckland region, the Government has made it clear that it does not intend to impose governance changes on other regions. Rather, the Government is open to initiatives from regions that wish to consider a review of their governance arrangements. This provides the opportunity for the Wellington region to consider whether there are any issues with its current governance arrangements, which may warrant changes to be made in time for the 2013 triennial local elections.

With this in mind, the Wellington region's Mayoral Forum, at its meeting on 27 November 2009, considered and endorsed a report from the Wellington Regional Chief Executives' Forum, which recommended that the Mayoral Forum endorse the terms of reference for a review of Wellington governance issues for referral to each of the region's local authorities for approval. The report and proposed terms of reference are attached as **Attachment 1**.

#### 4. **Comment**

The terms of reference for the review focus on the following questions:

- Are there any “problems” with the current governance arrangements in the Wellington region?
- What is the size and nature of any “problems”?
- Will shared services be sufficient to resolve such “problems”?
- If current governance arrangements are suboptimal, will the benefits of changes be greater than the costs of change?

It is intended that the outcomes of the review will be reported to the incoming Mayoral Forum following the triennial local elections in 2010.

#### 5. **Communication**

The Council’s decision on the terms of reference for the review will be communicated to the February 2010 meeting of the Mayoral Forum.

#### 6. **Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Approves the terms of reference for the review of Wellington governance issues, as included in Attachment 1 to this report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

David Benham  
Chief Executive

Fran Wilde  
Chair

**Attachment 1:** Report to the Wellington Mayoral Forum and draft terms of reference