



Report 06.337
Date 17 July 2006
File G/06/02/01-v5

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Review of Rate Collection Agreements 2006

1. Purpose

To review the renewal of the Rates Collection Agreement as required by the existing contract of collection with each Territorial Authority.

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

The current contracts for the collection of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) rates by the Territorial Authorities (TAs), covers the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2008. The contracts are required to be reviewed and confirmed by mid 2006.

The contracts allow for a two year cancellation timeframe to ensure all parties have time to put in place alternate collection mechanisms if the decision was made not to continue.

The existing contracts have worked well with all parties benefiting from the combined collection agreement. The ratepayers benefit by only having to contribute towards a combined collection fee and not two separate ones.

Concern was raised by Upper Hutt City Council as to whether the combined collection provided appropriate accountability for GWRC to the Upper Hutt ratepayers. GWRC's research in July 2005, "Towards a Sustainable Region" indicated a high level of awareness of Greater Wellington among all residents of the region, particularly those polled from the Hutt Valley.

A review of the assessments and invoices is being undertaken to ensure that the documentation is clear for ratepayers.

As all TAs have agreed in principal to continue the contracts, we request confirmation from Council that they support the continuation of the collection of GWRC's rates by the TAs subject to satisfactory agreement of the contract terms for a new five year contract.

4. Communication

No communications are necessary.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends that Council :

1. ***Receives** the report.*
2. ***Approves** in the renewal of the collection rates agreements with the Territorial Authorities.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Barry Turfrey
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