

Local Government Act 2002 – sections 14 and 39

14 Principles relating to local authorities

- (1) In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) a local authority should—
 - (i) conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and
 - (ii) give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner:
 - (b) a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities; and
 - (c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of—
 - (i) the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region; and
 - (ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and
 - (iii) the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being referred to in section 10:
 - (d) a local authority should provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to its decision-making processes:
 - (e) a local authority should collaborate and co-operate with other local authorities and bodies as it considers appropriate to promote or achieve its priorities and desired outcomes, and make efficient use of resources; and
 - (f) a local authority should undertake any commercial transactions in accordance with sound business practices; and
 - (g) a local authority should ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of its resources in the interests of its district or region; and
 - (h) in taking a sustainable development approach, a local authority should take into account—
 - (i) the social, economic, and cultural well-being of people and communities; and
 - (ii) the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and
 - (iii) the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

- (2) If any of these principles, or any aspects of well-being referred to in section 10, are in conflict in any particular case, the local authority should resolve the conflict in accordance with the principle in subsection (1)(a)(i).

39 Governance principles

A local authority must act in accordance with the following principles in relation to its governance:

- (a) a local authority should ensure that the role of democratic governance of the community, and the expected conduct of elected members, is clear and understood by elected members and the community; and
- (b) a local authority should ensure that the governance structures and processes are effective, open, and transparent; and
- (c) a local authority should ensure that, so far as is practicable, responsibility and processes for decision-making in relation to regulatory responsibilities is separated from responsibility and processes for decision-making for non-regulatory responsibilities; and
- (d) a local authority should be a good employer; and
- (e) a local authority should ensure that the relationship between elected members and management of the local authority is effective and understood.