
Notice of Motion - Member Watson - Naming Parameters for Local Board Members

In accordance with Standing Order 3.11.1, I hereby give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Albert-Eden Local Board meeting being held on 22 November 2017.

Recommendation

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) express its concern over the recent decision of the Governing Body at its 28 September 2017 meeting to retain the term 'Councillor' solely for members of the Governing Body, and that members of Local Boards continue to be referred to as 'local board members' (resolution number GB/2017/122), which is counter to the preferences expressed by 18 of 21 local boards as part of the Governance Framework Review.
- b) restate its position resolved at its 23 August 2017 meeting that the term 'Local Councillor' is the preferred naming convention for Local Board Members as articulated in resolution number AE/2017/116.
- c) request the Governing Body rescind resolution number GB/2017/122 to take account and in recognition of the views of the majority of Local Boards that indicated a preference for the title of 'Councillor' be applied to Local Board members.
- d) require that, following the motion being rescinded, all elected members be called 'Councillor', with a prefix of Local or Ward/Regional, as appropriate.
- e) forward this Notice of Motion and subsequent resolutions to the Governing Body for its consideration at the 11 December 2017 meeting.
- f) forward this Notice of Motion and subsequent resolutions to all local boards for their consideration.

Background

- 1) The current Auckland Council naming conventions ('councillor' and 'local board member') contribute to public confusion with respect to the roles and responsibilities in our shared governance model.
- 2) In order to resolve this confusion, the Governance Framework Review considered the naming conventions applied to members of both arms of governance.
- 3) The Governing Body holds decision-making on naming conventions for elected members, as no decision-making responsibility on these matters have been allocated to local boards. This decision making falls under the catch-all 'All other non-regulatory activities of Auckland Council' that is allocated to the governing body. In making such a decision the governing body is **required** to consider the views of local boards under section 15(2)(c) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 (LGACA).
- 4) The Political Working Party working on the Governance Framework Review considered feedback from local boards on this issue. There was division in the views of the Political Working Party with members of the governing body preferring to retain status quo against the preferences of members of the local boards on the Political Working Party which resulted in a split recommendation.
- 5) The Review then resulted in 18 of 21 local boards providing formal feedback expressing a preference for a change to the naming parameters for local board elected members to 'councillor' with fifteen of those proposing the use of 'local councillor'. The other three boards stated no preference.
- 6) The Governing Body then, at its meeting on 28 September 2017, resolved to retain

the existing naming conventions, despite the overwhelming feedback provided by local boards in a report and attachments to that item on the agenda. Therefore, it is deeply concerning that the Governing Body chose not to support the views and preferences of the vast majority of local boards by resolving to retain the existing naming conventions.

- 7) We feel that in not taking into consideration the preferences of a vast majority of local board members, an opportunity was missed by the Governing Body to show commitment to the spirit of the shared governance model on this issue. It would have provided the opportunity to acknowledge that local boards should have the right to determine what name best suited the role performed as indeed the Governing Body members have for their own role in resolving to be called Councillors.
- 8) A decision reflecting and supporting the majority view of Local Boards, would have been acknowledgement that Local Boards know what title our communities would relate to best and would cost nothing to implement.
- 9) Consistency in naming convention would serve to reinforce and clarify the complementary and specific nature of the two roles, thus making it easier for staff and the public to understand the difference between the two spheres of decision-making at Auckland Council.
- 10) At its 23 August 2017 meeting, the Albert-Eden Local:

- supported the Auckland Council naming conventions being amended to reflect that Governing Body Members and Local Board Members are members of the shared governance model at Auckland Council; and the naming conventions should therefore be consistent as follows:

1) Governing Body Title	2) Local Board Title
3) Regional Councillor	4) Local Councillor

- requested that all references to 'Local Board' be capitalised in all council communications in all instances to reflect that the Local Boards are an equal part of the Auckland Council shared governance model.
 - supported an ongoing political working party, comprising Governing Body and Local Board Members, which would provide a valuable vehicle for considering matters that impact on both governance arms and making recommendations to the governing body on these matters.
- 11) All 169 members were elected to Auckland Council to represent our Wards and Local Board Areas. In recognition of this fact and the shared governance model, we reiterate that our preference is to be called Local Councillors, in order to clarify our role to the people of Auckland who elected us to serve them in their best interests.

Signed:

Margi Watson - Local Board Member, Albert-Eden Local Board

Peter Haynes - Chairperson, Albert-Eden Local Board