

Urgent Decision Memo

29 January 2020

To: Manoj Ragupathy, Relationship Manager Papakura & Manurewa Local Board
cc: Papakura Local Board Chair and Members
From: Paula Brooke - Democracy Advisor

Subject: **Urgent decision - Papakura Local Board input into Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) discussion paper on 'Reinvigorating local democracy'**

Purpose

To endorse the Papakura Local Board's feedback on the Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ) discussion paper 'Reinvigorating local democracy: The case for localising power and decision-making to councils and communities'.

Reason for the urgency:

- The submission period closes on Friday 31 January 2020 which is before 26 February 2020 being the next scheduled meeting of the Papakura Local Board.

Decision sought from the chair and deputy chair (or any person acting in these roles)

That the Papakura Local Board:

- a) **endorse the Papakura Local Board input into the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) discussion paper on 'Reinvigorating local democracy'.**

Background

1. In 2019, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) released its discussion paper 'Reinvigorating local democracy: The case for localising power and decision-making to councils and communities'. LGNZ is seeking feedback from individuals and organisations.
2. The discussion paper seeks to refine LGNZ's advocacy position on 'localism' and calls for an active programme of devolution and decentralisation of services. The paper argues that decentralisation will be more efficient and effective in meeting community needs, be more relevant and able to respond to growing diversity, increase voter interest and participation and spur innovation.
3. Some of the key elements of the proposal include:
 - establishing a framework to enable councils to take over certain devolved functions where local capacity exists; or, alternatively, enabling negotiated devolution
 - removing regulatory and legislative constraints on local government, such as those related to pre-fabricated building, public transport and the Resource Management Act
 - a suggestion that the State Services Commission regularly review the range of services that could be transferred to local government or appropriate local agencies

- a principle that any transfer would need to include
 - (a) funding
 - (b) guidance and support to build competence and
 - (c) enabled only where local capacity already exists.
4. There is no official Auckland Council position on this proposal. This proposal has also not received any endorsement by central government. The council may wish to discuss and agree the types of services that would be appropriate for Aucklanders to have more say and influence on, and this could be the subject of future discussions at Auckland Council/LGNZ meetings.
5. The submission period closes on **Friday, 31 January 2020**.

Authorisation of the urgent decision-making process



Signed by **Manoj Ragupathy**
Relationship Manager Papakura & Manurewa Ward

31/1/20

Date



Brent Catchpole
Chairperson, Papakura Local Board

31/1/2020

Date



Jan Robinson
Deputy Chairperson, Papakura Local Board

31 January 2020

Date