

## Item 7: Office of the General Manager

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### 7.1 Code of Meeting Practice

REPORT BY THE GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR  
TO 20 APRIL 2022 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400098, GOV400009

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### That Council:

- 1. receive the report by the Governance Coordinator on the Code of Meeting Practice ;**
- 2. place on public exhibiton a draft of the Code of Meeting Practice for at least 28 days and provide members of the community at least 42 days in which to comment on the draft code ; and**
- 3. adopt the Code of Meeting Practice if no submissions are received during the period of 42 days.**

#### Executive summary

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 commenced 1 September 2021 including the provisions for the Model Code of Meeting Practice. Councils must adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice within 12 months of the local government elections.

#### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

#### Detailed report

The new Model Code of Meeting Practice contains new provisions that allow councils to permit individual councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link and to hold meetings by audio-visual link in the event of natural disasters or public health emergencies. The provisions governing attendance at meetings by audiovisual link are non-mandatory. Councils can choose not to adopt them or to adapt them to meet their own needs.

Amendments have also been made to the provisions governing the webcasting of meetings and disorder at meetings to reflect amendments to the Regulation since the previous iteration of the Model Meeting Code was prescribed.

An amendment has also been made to the Model Code of Meeting Practice implementing recommendation 6 in ICAC's report in relation to its investigation of the former Canterbury City Council (Operation Dasha). ICAC recommended that the Model Code of Meeting Practice be

amended to require that council business papers include a reminder to councillors of their oath or affirmation of office, and their conflict of interest disclosure obligations.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Good Governance</b>
Goal	Strong civic leadership
Strategy	Provide accountable and transparent decision making for the community

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Community Plan

### Council Policies

Code of Conduct  
Councillor & Staff Interactions Policy  
Councillor Expenses & Facilities Policy

### Legislation

Local Government Act 1993  
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

## Financial implications

Not applicable

## Associated Risks

The application of the Code of Meeting Practice will reduce risks arising from poor governance practice.

TIM JOHNSTON  
GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

5 April 2022

*Attachments:* 1. Model Code of Meeting Practice. (separately attached)  
2. Draft MWRC Code of Meeting Practice. (separately attached)

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER