Local Governance for Community Wellbeing

Portfolio Local Government

On 29 October 2018, Cabinet:

1. noted that the government is committed to taking a partnership approach to working with local government;

2. noted the range and scale of government programmes that depend upon local government and that this provides an opportunity to work in partnership with local government to achieve the government’s goal of intergenerational wellbeing and regional growth;

3. noted the government’s commitment at the Central and Local Government Forum 2018 that the relationship between the two levels of governance would be guided by the key principles of respect, reciprocity and trust;

4. agreed to consider the future role of local governance in New Zealand in delivering intergenerational wellbeing for all New Zealanders, strengthening local democracy, instilling greater trust and confidence in local governance and supporting the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and sustainable regional growth;

5. invited the Minister of Local Government to share some initial thinking with key relevant Ministers in December 2018;

6. invited the Minister of Local Government to report back to the relevant Cabinet Committee in April 2019 with a set of guiding principles anchored in the goal of intergenerational wellbeing, which will inform a future conversation with the sector and its communities;

7. agreed to increase funding in Vote Internal Affairs in 2018/19 to meet costs associated with the Central/Local Government work programme;

8. noted that the funding for the Central/Local Government work programme is urgent, cannot be met from Vote Internal Affairs’ baselines, and cannot be deferred until Budget 2019;
approved the following changes to appropriations to meet the first-year costs associated with the Central/Local Government work programme, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote Internal Affairs</th>
<th>$million – increase/(decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Internal Affairs</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</td>
<td>2.700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Output Expense:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Advice – Local Government (funded by revenue Crown)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

agreed that the proposed change to appropriations for 2018/19 above be included in the 2018/19 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

agreed that the expenses incurred under paragraph 9 above be charged against the between-Budget contingency established as part of Budget 2018;

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Local Government