Councils' Progress on Plans to Trial Online Voting in the 2016 Local Elections

Portfolio Local Government

On 13 April 2016, the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI):

1 **noted** that on 16 November 2015, Cabinet:

1.1 agreed that the eight territorial authorities that confirmed their interest in participating in a trial of online voting in the 2016 local elections provide sufficient scale and representativeness to ensure a trial will produce evidence of the practicality and value of online voting in local elections;

1.2 noted that the Associate Minister of Local Government intends to:

1.2.1 invite the eight territorial authorities to demonstrate they can meet the government’s trial requirements;

1.2.2 report to EGI once they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Associate Minister of Local Government that online voting can be trialled in a manner that meets the trial requirements and the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001;

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2 **noted** that the Associate Minister of Local Government is not satisfied that the government’s trial requirements and the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 can be met in time for a trial in the 2016 local elections and that a trial should not proceed;

3 **noted** that the Associate Minister of Local Government considers that the local government sector should consider how to proceed, including whether it wishes to work towards a trial in future local elections;

4 **noted** that any future plans for an online voting trial by the local government sector should be on the basis of a strategic plan for incremental and demonstrable progress towards online voting in local elections, and should provide for constructive community engagement;

5 **noted** that the Associate Minister of Local Government will publish the submission under EGI-16-SUB-0073 and its associated minute together on the Department of Internal Affairs’ website;
invited the Associate Minister of Local Government to make immediate public announcements about the decision not to proceed with the trial of online voting in the 2016 local elections.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:
Hon Bill English (Chair)
Hon Gerry Brownlee
Hon Steven Joyce
Hon Amy Adams
Hon Simon Bridges
Hon Dr Nick Smith
Hon Michael Woodhouse
Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga
Hon Maggie Barry
Hon Nicky Wagner
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Paul Goldsmith

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