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Committee CDEM group
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Executive Group

Combined Hutt Valley Civil Defence and Rural Fire

1. Purpose

To inform the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) about the combination of the civil defence emergency management and rural fire functions of the Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils and to seek approval for the recommended CDEM Group appointments.

2. Background

The upper and lower reaches of the Hutt Valley share common risks in terms of natural disasters with earthquake and flooding being the two main events likely to impact on the two respective communities.

Until now each city has operated a separate CDEM and Rural Fire function from emergency operations centres located at each council.

For years there was a close working relationship between Upper Hutt and Hutt City Council Emergency Management Offices and Urban Bush Fire Forces.

Following the resignation of Upper Hutt's Emergency Management Officer in May 2006, a temporary contract between Upper Hutt and Hutt City required Hutt City to also undertake the emergency management and rural fire functions for Upper Hutt. This proved to work very well.

An independent study carried out on behalf of both Councils indicated opportunities for significant enhancements for both Upper Hutt and Hutt City and benefits to the Hutt Valley as a whole through a joint arrangement.

In August and October 2006 respectively, both Upper Hutt City Council and Hutt City Council formally resolved to proceed with a joint arrangement that included the appointment of Marty Grenfell as Local Controller for Upper Hutt City Council with Paul Nickalls as Local Controller (Alternate) for Upper Hutt City Council while Paul Nickalls continues as Local Controller for Hutt City Council and that Marty Grenfell be appointed Local Controller (Alternate) for Hutt City Council.

3. Agreement

On 31 January 2007 a formal agreement between Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council regarding the delivery of service for Emergency Management and Rural Fire was signed.

A single business unit administered by Hutt City Council and operated from the Pavilion in Lower Hutt commenced operation on 1 February 2007. The unit has been called the 'Hutt Valley Emergency Management Office'.

4. Appointments

The above agreement requires that the Wellington CDEM Group make the following appointments and change the CDEM Group Plan accordingly.

Local Authority	Position	Name
Hutt City Council	Local Controller (Alternate)	Marty Grenfell
Upper Hutt City Council	Local Controller	Marty Grenfell
Upper Hutt City Council	Local Controller (Alternate)	Paul Nickalls

5. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

- 1. receive the report;*
- 2. note the contents;*
- 3. approve the appointments of: Marty Grenfell as the Local Controller and Paul Nickalls as the Local Controller (Alternate) for Upper Hutt City Council; Marty Grenfell as the Local Controller (Alternate) for Hutt City Council; and*
- 4. approve that the Wellington CDEM Group Plan be updated to include the above appointments.*

Report prepared by:

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Group