

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Dugald Ley, Development Engineer

REFERENCE: E362

DATE: 10 March 2008

SUBJECT: **ENGINEERING STANDARDS & POLICIES 2008**

1 PURPOSE

This report summarises and presents the Engineering Standards & Policies 2008 as an approved document for public release. The 2008 document supersedes the 2004 Standards.

2 BACKGROUND

For the benefit of new Councillors an update below provides a brief summary of the need and process for updating the Engineering Standards. As with many things in business today, systems, processes and products change over time. Councils must move with the times and develop new systems to cope with new demands. To this end, like the New Zealand and Australian Standards associations, Councils must continuously update their standards or guides such that assets meet their full life-cycle and products and construction techniques are at the cutting edge of new technology.

The Engineering Department has been proactive in revising its Engineering Standards & Policies every three years. The document presented today is the end of a process started some 15 months ago. The document has gone through a rigorous public process and has been presented to a number of interest groups, eg NZ Institute of Surveyors, NZ Contractors Federation, IPENZ.

Acting under delegated authority, Councillors Norriss and Higgins, Peter Thomson and Dugald Ley comprised the Hearings Panel and have worked through the submission/hearings process. The standards have been amended in some areas as a result of submissions and have been unanimously adopted by the Panel.

The standards include a number of new subject areas which place this Council at the forefront of engineering standards compared to other Councils.

These include:

- The requirement for training qualifications of all parties who work on Council's assets.
- A robust explanation of the term "professional" in regard to the approval of design and construction on both subdivision development and assets vested in Council;
- Standards for stripping of top soil and earthworks and mitigation measures to ensure that downstream systems are not adversely affected.

- Road and street works objectives and options on alternative roading designs and treatments;
- Stormwater drainage and advances in environmental protection of downstream systems, on-site stormwater retention, low impact urban designs, climate change and new rainfall intensities;
- Wastewater disposal design; inspection criteria and new pipe materials;
- New pipe advancements for water supply, clarification of limits of responsibility and who can work on Council's infrastructure;
- Advancements in electrical and telecommunications relating to infrastructure.

The Hearings Panel have adopted the draft document and it is presented to the Committee for formal approval and introduction.

As this is a relatively new document, (ie new sections and new format) it is also recommended that to be fair to the users and potential developers who may have projects ready for Council approval that must comply with this document, then it should become effective from 1 June 2008.

4 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee formally approves the introduction of the new TDC Engineering Standards & Policies 2008 and that the document becomes effective on 1 June 2008.

Dugald Ley
Development Engineer