



27 March 2012

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Dear Nick

## **Invitation - Independent Review Panel for local government reform in the Wellington region**

As you are aware, Greater Wellington Regional Council has been considering a proposal to set up an Independent Review Panel to re-engage on local government reform in the Wellington region.

This followed the release of *Better Local Government* and the announcement by Central Government of its intention to change the Local Government Act 2002 to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

A Council paper (attached) summarising the proposed approach was unanimously endorsed by Council today, paving the way for an Independent Review Panel to be established. Importantly, the paper recommends other Councils in the Wellington region be invited to partner in the process. As part of this, we would expect to reach agreement with participating Councils on the terms of reference for the Independent Review Panel and on Panel membership.

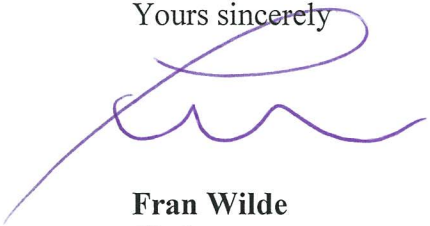
The approach set out in the paper is intended to fit within the model and timeframes outlined by Central Government last week. Early establishment of the Independent Review Panel would be required to enable the Local Government Commission to consider any new proposals under the streamlined process and revised criteria in time for the local elections in October 2013.

With this in mind, I am writing to you to invite your Council to participate in the process and partner with Greater Wellington in this initiative. I understand you have a Council meeting on 4 April and if you were interested in progressing this it would be helpful to have some indication shortly after that.



If you require any further information, please could you call me or have Gary contact David Benham.

Yours sincerely



**Fran Wilde**  
Chair

Encl:

cc Gary Simpson