



Agenda

Wallace Takitimu Community Board

Thursday, 6 November 2025, 5pm

Southland District Council Otautau Office, 176 Main Street, Otautau



Members

Tony Philpott
Colin Lawry
Shelley Hitchcock
Edwin Mabonga
Gretchen Wilson
Lester Wilson
Councillor Jaspreet Boparai

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Declarations

Record no: R/25/10/52713
Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor
Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships
Report type: Information

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the community board members to make their declarations.

Executive Summary

- 2 All members of the community board (including appointed members) are required to make an oral and written declaration in the form set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (clause 14 of schedule 7).
- 3 The Mayor will invite the members to make their declarations and then witness the declarations.
- 4 Below are samples of the declarations that will be made.

Declaration by members

I, [*name*], declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Ardlussa Community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon me as member of the Wallace Takitimu Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

Dated at Otautau, 6 November 2025

Signature:

Signed in the presence of:

Robin Hugh Scott
Mayor

He whakapuakitanga nā te Kaikaunihera

Kei te whakapuaki au, ko [], i taku whai kia pono, kia tōkeke, kia hāngai hoki ki ōku pūkenga me ōku whakaaro pai katoa, taku whakahaere me taku whakatinana, i runga i ngā whāinga tika katoa mō Wallace Takitimu Community, i ngā mana, i ngā haepapa hoki kua tukuna mai, kua uruhia mai rānei ki a au hei mema mō te Wallace Takitimu Community Board i raro i te mana o te Local Government Act 2002, te Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, me ērā atu Ture e hāngai ana.

He mea whakaū tēnei i Otautau I te 6 o Noema i te tau 2025

Waitohu:

I waitohua i mua i a

Robin Hugh Scott
Kahika
Te Rohe Pōtae o Murihiku

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Explanation of legislation that affects elected members

Record no: R/25/10/52734
Author: Cameron McIntosh, Chief executive
Approved by: Cameron McIntosh, Chief executive
Report type: Information

Staff recommendations

That the Wallace Takitimu Community Board:

- a) notes the information provided by the chief executive.

Purpose

- 1 To provide elected members with a general explanation of key legislation relevant to their roles, as required by law.

Executive Summary

- 2 At the inaugural community board meeting, the chief executive is required to explain the following legislation that affects elected members.
 - Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
 - Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968
 - Sections 99, 105 and 105A of the Crimes Act 1961
 - Secret Commissions Act 1910
 - Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013.
- 3 This report also outlines obligations under the Local Government Act 2002.

Local Government Act 2002

- 4 The Local Government Act 2002 is the main law that empowers local authorities. The purpose of the Act is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities. The Act:
 - states the purpose of local government
 - provides a framework and powers for local authorities to decide the activities they undertake and the manner in which they will undertake them
 - promotes the accountability of local authorities to their communities
 - provides for local authorities to support the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their communities, using a sustainable approach.
- 5 Section 10 of the Act defines the purpose of local government as being:

- to enable democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

- 6 Section 12 grants a power to local authorities to carry on or undertake any activity or business, do any act or enter into any transaction for the purpose of performing their role. This power is subject to compliance with the other relevant provisions of the Act, especially those relating to decision-making processes.
- 7 Part 6 of the Act contains detailed provisions relating to planning, decision making and accountability. These include a requirement to follow a particular process in making decisions, principles governing consultation, consideration of the views of those likely to be affected by or have an interest in the decisions being made and the contribution of Māori to decision-making processes.

Pecuniary Interest Register

- 8 Sections 54A-54I of the Act requires elected members to declare their pecuniary or financial interests annually. It also requires that local authorities keep a register of the interests and make a summary available to the public. These requirements are intended to ensure transparency and strengthen public trust and confidence in local government processes and decision making.

Proposed changes to the Local Government Act 2002

- 9 The government has introduced the Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Bill, which is intended to make changes to council operations through a set of targeted amendments to the Act. Key changes proposed by the Bill include:
- amendment to the purpose of local government, removing all references to the “four well-beings” and replacing with a purpose statement that aims to ensure councils are meeting the current and future needs for good quality infrastructure, public services and regulatory functions in a cost effective manner.
 - implementation of a standardised code of conduct and standing orders that will be binding on all councils and community boards.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

- 10 This Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) gives people the right to access official information held by Council and sets rules for how Council and community board meetings are conducted. Its purpose is to promote transparency, accountability and public participation in local government by ensuring openness and public access to information and decision-making processes.

Official information

- 11 Any information created, received or held by an elected member in their capacity as an elected member is considered official information held by Council. Official information may include:

- documents, reports, letters, notes, emails and text messages (this includes information held on personal devices, private email accounts, or messaging platforms if it relates to council business)
 - electronic or recorded material, including databases, videos, or audio files
 - information known to Council, but not yet recorded (for example, knowledge held by a elected member or staff in their official role)
 - documents and manuals outlining Council policies, principles, rules, procedures or decision-making guidelines.
- 12 Information held in a personal capacity may become official information if it is used, referred to, or relied upon for an official purpose.
- 13 It is important to understand that anything written, recorded, or received as an elected member could be requested and released to a third party under the Act, including internal communications and emails between elected members.
- 14 To ensure Council meets its obligations and maintains accurate records, elected members should:
- forward any information or correspondence created or received in their elected member role to a committee advisor (or other relevant staff) for filing in Council's record management system
 - avoid storing Council information solely on personal devices or accounts
 - retain information that may be relevant to an information request.
- 15 The chief executive has statutory authority to make decisions on all requests for official information. Authority has been delegated to other staff, but the chief executive is ultimately responsible for the proper handling of requests.
- 16 Elected members may receive information requests directly from members of the public or the media, including requests for access to their emails, text messages, or other communications. If this happens, elected members should:
- refer the request to the chief executive (or governance team) as soon as possible, and
 - not respond directly, to ensure consistent and compliant handling of the request under the Act.

Meetings

- 17 LGOIMA requires that meetings of Council, its committees, subcommittees and community boards be publicly notified and for agendas and reports to be available to the public at least two working days before every meeting.
- 18 Anyone may attend meetings, but Council (or any other committee or community board) has the right to exclude the public for all or any part of a meeting if there are grounds under the Act to do so. Reports can also be kept from the public if a specific reason outlined in the Act applies.

- 19 The Act also contains provisions that apply when a meeting is open to the public, including the maintenance of order. If the behaviour of any member of the public is likely to prejudice the orderly conduct of the meeting, the chairperson has the right to require that person to leave.

Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968

- 20 The Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 has two main aspects, contracts and pecuniary interests.

Contracts

- 21 The Act provides that no person shall be elected or appointed to be a member of a community board, if the total payments made by that local authority in respect of a contract with which that person is concerned or interested exceeds \$25,000 in any financial year. The local authority can seek the approval of the auditor general on a case-by-case basis.
- 22 If a member breaches the \$25,000 limit, they are disqualified from holding office and there is an extraordinary vacancy created. The disqualification remains until the next triennial election.
- 23 The Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Bill proposed by the government will raise the threshold from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Pecuniary Interest

- 24 The Act further provides that a member of a community board must not vote on or take part in the discussion of any matter in which he/she has directly or indirectly any pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public. The same applies if a member's spouse or partner has directly or indirectly a pecuniary interest other than an interest in common with the public.
- 25 Members who are prohibited from voting on or discussing a matter are under a duty to declare their interest to the meeting, to withdraw themselves physically from the table (or leave the room if the matter is being discussed with the public being excluded) and their abstention from discussion and voting is to be recorded in the minutes.
- 26 If a member acts in breach of this prohibition, he/she commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$100. After the member has been convicted, and if the conviction isn't quashed or set aside, the member is required to vacate office creating an extraordinary vacancy.

Crimes Act 1961

- 27 Under the Crimes Act 1961 a member of a community board who obtains or accepts or offers to accept any bribe to do, or not do, something, or who corruptly uses information obtained in an official capacity to get a direct or indirect pecuniary advantage, is liable to a term of imprisonment of up to seven years.

Secret Commissions Act 1910

- 28 Under the Secret Commissions Act 1910, an elected member who accepts a gift or obtains any advantage from any other party as a reward for doing any act in relation to community board business, commits an offence. And, it is an offence not to disclose a pecuniary interest in any

contract, and also to aid or abet or be involved in any way in an offence under this act. Conviction can lead to imprisonment for up to two years and a fine of up to \$1,000.

Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013

- 29 The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 essentially places elected members in the same position as company directors when Council (or a council organisation or council-controlled organisation to which they are appointed) offer financial products (such as an issue of debt or equity securities). Elected members may be personally liable if their conduct, or the entity's documents or advertisements contain false or misleading statements. Elected members may also be liable if the requirements of this Act are not met in relation to offers of financial products. This Act also prohibits elected members providing financial advice on financial products.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Electing chairperson and deputy chairperson

Record no: R/25/10/52737
Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor
Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships
Report type: Decision

Staff recommendations

That the Wallace Takitimu Community Board:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) resolves that it will use System A or System B to elect a chairperson or deputy chairperson.
- c) agrees that in the event of a tie, the selection will be by way of toss of a coin or drawing of name from a hat.
- d) elects _____ to be the chairperson and _____ to be the deputy chairperson of the Wallace Takitimu Community Board.

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the community board to decide on the process it will use to elect its chairperson and deputy chairperson. The board will then use that process to make the elections.

Context

- 2 At its first meeting the community board must elect one of its members to be chairperson, and it may wish to appoint a deputy chairperson.
- 3 The role of a community board chairperson includes being an advocate for the community, supporting other board members to navigate their roles, being a key liaison between Council and the board, being a spokesperson for the board and facilitating board meetings.
- 4 The chairperson will receive more remuneration than the other elected members.
- 5 The deputy chairperson will be called on to fulfil the duties of the chairperson if they are unable to perform their duties.
- 6 There are two voting systems that can be used for making the elections and the community boards must decide the system it will use.
- 7 Once the voting system has been determined, the board can then proceed to elect the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

System A

- 8 This system requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the community board present and voting; and
- 9 System A has the following characteristics:
 - there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and

- if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
- if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
- in any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

System B

- 10 This system requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
- 11 System B has the following characteristics:
 - there is only one round of voting; and
 - if two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.
- 12 In summary, system A requires the successful candidate to have a majority of the votes of those present and voting. To attain that, it may require more than one round of voting. In contrast system B will only require one round of votes and the successful candidate is the one with the most votes. In the event of an equality of votes between 2 candidates the successful candidate is resolved by lot. The successful candidate must receive a majority of the votes of members present and voting.
- 13 Under both systems a tie is resolved by lot which can be either a toss of a coin or the drawing a name out of a hat.
- 14 The process for the board to follow at this meeting is:
 1. The community board must first determine, by resolution, the system of voting it will use, system A or system B.
 2. Nominations for the position of chairperson and deputy chairperson are called for.
 3. If there is only one nominee for a position, then the community board will resolve that that person be elected.
 4. If there is more than one nominee for a position, the community board must vote on the nominees using the system it has adopted.

Options

- 15 There are two options to consider:
 - **Option 1** – the board electing a chairperson by using voting system A
 - **Option 2** – the board electing a chairperson by using voting system B.

There are also two options for the method of resolving a tie by lot, either toss of a coin or the drawing a name out of a hat.

Analysis of Options

Option 1 – the board electing a chairperson by using voting system A

<i>Advantage</i>	<i>Disadvantage</i>
- the person elected has to have the support of the majority of the board - a coin toss (or similar) is less likely to play a key role in the decision-making	may take longer to determine who is elected

Option 2 – the board electing a chairperson by using voting system B

<i>Advantage</i>	<i>Disadvantage</i>
- a faster decision-making process - the voting system is easier to understand	a coin toss (or similar) is more likely to play a key role in the decision making

Recommended Option

- 16 It is recommended that the board proceed with option 1 and elect the chairperson and deputy chairperson by using voting system A.

Legal considerations

- 17 Clause 21 of schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that the community board, at its first meeting, elect one of its members to be its chairperson and the board may also elect a deputy Chairperson. Clause 25 prescribes that the board must determine which of two systems of voting it will use for the election.

Strategic alignment

- 18 The election of a chairperson is a statutory requirement.

Financial considerations

- 19 The chairperson's remuneration is set in the Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) 2025 Determination and this is more than the remuneration set for the other elected community board members.

Significance assessment

- 20 This decision has been assessed as being of some importance/administrative under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Community views

- 21 Consultation is not required as it is the members who elect and appoint the chairperson.

Climate change considerations

- 22 There are no known significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.

Risk and mitigations

- 23 There are no known significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.

Next steps

- 24 The chairperson will assume their new responsibilities from the time of the election. This means they will chair the remainder of this meeting.
- 25 Staff will update all records including Council's website.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

Record no: R/25/10/52616

Author: Michal Gray, Democracy advisor

Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships

Report type: Decision

Staff recommendations

That the Wallace Takitimu Community Board:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- c) adopts the Standing Orders included with this report as Attachment A which includes amendments to allow members attending a meeting virtually to count towards the quorum.

Purpose

- 1 This purpose of this report is to present the community board with revised Standing Orders for it to consider and adopt. It also provides the board with information on a Code of Conduct that continues to apply to board members.

Executive summary

- 2 Standing orders are a set of formal rules that councils and community boards have, to guide how meetings are run. All members must abide by them.
- 3 The community board has a set of standing orders in place now, but staff are recommending the board adopt the amended set of Standing Orders that are included with this report as Attachment A. The only change proposed is to allow members attending meetings virtually to be counted towards quorum.
- 4 Seventy five percent of the elected members present at a meeting must approve the decision to adopt a new set of standing orders.
- 5 No change is proposed to the code of conduct adopted last triennium and this code continues to apply to members of the board this triennium. A copy is included with this report as Attachment B.
- 6 Staff are recommending the board adopts the attached Standing Orders.

Context

- 7 Standing orders contain information such as how agendas should be prepared, how decisions will be made, and they provide guidance about delegations, meeting minutes and record keeping. Community boards and Council have their own sets of standing orders.
- 8 The community board's current standing orders were adopted in November 2022.
- 9 A code of conduct is a document that outlines how elected members would like to work together, how they will interact with others and how they will act as good governors.

- 10 The attached Code of Conduct was adopted at the Board at the beginning of the 2022-2025 triennium and continues to apply to the elected members this triennium, as no changes are proposed by staff.

Discussion

Standing orders

- 11 The current community board standing orders are largely the same as Council's standing orders, except board members who attend community board meetings virtually do not count towards the quorum for the meeting. The quorum is the minimum number of members who need to attend for the meeting to proceed. The required quorum for a community board meeting is four members.
- 12 Staff are presenting each community board with updated standing orders at their inaugural meetings to amend the rules around virtual attendance, so that board members who join meetings virtually count towards quorum.

Code of conduct

- 13 Codes of conduct compliment legislation and are designed to help ensure openness and transparency. Codes are an important part of building community confidence in Council systems and processes, they contribute to good governance and effective decision-making, and they promote the credibility and accountability of a community board to its communities. Codes also facilitate a culture of mutual trust and respect between elected members and management.
- 14 As noted earlier, no change is suggested to the code of conduct adopted for the 2022-2025 triennium and will continue to apply for 2025-2028.

New legislation that will affect standing orders and codes of conduct

- 15 The Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Bill (bill) proposes to remove the ability of community boards (and councils) from choosing or amending their own code of conduct and standing orders
- 16 The bill proposes that the Secretary of Local Government will issue standardised documents that will be binding on boards (and councils). The bill also makes it compulsory for community boards to have both a code of conduct and standing orders. At the moment, community boards are only legally required to have standing orders.
- 17 In its current form the bill provides that until the standardised documents are issued, the existing standing orders and code of conduct (those in place at the time that the bill is enacted) must stay in operation.
- 18 The bill will be ready for its second reading in Parliament after 17 November 2025. And staff understand that the standardised sets are expected to be issued in early 2026.

Options

- 19 The board could proceed by:
- Option 1 – adopting the revised Standing Orders
- Option 2 – retaining its current Standing Orders.

Recommended option:

- 20 Staff recommend option 1 that the board adopt the revised Standing Orders.

Option 1 – adopting the revised Standing Orders

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Incorporates modern meeting practices (by allowing virtual attendees to count towards the meeting quorum) - Is an efficient approach as time and resources are not being spent making large changes to a document that is likely to change soon.	Increased remote attendance could lead to negative community feedback due to more limited face to face interaction at meetings.

Option 2 – retaining its current Standing Orders

Advantages	Disadvantages
There is no particular advantage to retaining the current standing orders since the change suggested is minor.	- There is an increased risk of meetings being cancelled because of lack of quorum. - The standing orders will not align with Council's current practice of allowing remote attendance.

Legal considerations

- 21 Community boards are required under clause 27(1) schedule 7 of the LGA to adopt a set of standing orders. Seventy five percent of the elected members present at a meeting must approve the decision to adopt a new set of standing orders. All members must abide by them. The existing standing orders adopted by the board in 2022 will remain in place if it elects not to adopt the revised standing orders.

Strategic alignment

- 22 No inconsistencies with Council's policies or plans have been identified.

Financial considerations

- 23 Staff have not identified any specific cost implications associated with this decision.

Significance assessment

- 24 Staff have assessed this decision as administrative/of some importance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Community views

- 25 Having standing orders in place is a statutory requirement - engagement is not required.

Climate change considerations

- 26 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter.

Risk and mitigations

- 27 There are no significant risks in relation to this matter.

Next steps

- 28 Staff will update the board on any changes to standing orders and the code of conduct, if the law changes.

Attachments

- A Community Board Standing Orders [↓](#)
B Code of Conduct [↓](#)



Southland District Council

Community Board

Standing Orders

Preface

Standing orders contain rules for the conduct of the proceedings of local authorities, committees, subcommittees, subordinate decision-making bodies, and local and community boards. Their purpose is to enable local authorities to exercise their decision-making responsibilities in a transparent, inclusive and lawful manner.

In doing so the application of standing orders contributes to greater public confidence in the quality of local governance and democracy in general.

These standing orders have been designed specifically for community boards. They fulfil, with regard to the conduct of meetings, the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002(LGA 2002) and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

Although it is mandatory that local authorities adopt standing order for the conduct of their meetings, it is not necessary that they are adopted every triennium. However, LGNZ recommends that community board's review their standing orders within the first six months following an election to ensure that they fully meet their needs for effective and inclusive meetings (see LGA 2002, cl. 27, Schedule 7).

For clarity's sake whenever a question about the interpretation or application of these standing orders is raised, particularly where a matter might not be directly provided for, it is the responsibility of the chairperson of each meeting to make a ruling.

All members of a community board must abide by standing orders.

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1. Introduction

These standing orders have been prepared to enable the orderly conduct of community board meetings. They incorporate the legislative provisions relating to meetings, decision making and transparency. They also include practical guidance on how meetings should operate so that statutory provisions are complied with and the spirit of the legislation fulfilled.

To assist elected members and officials the document is structured in three parts:

- Part 1 deals with general matters.
- Part 2 deals with pre-meeting procedures.
- Part 3 deals with meeting procedures.

The Appendices, which follows Part 3, provides templates and additional guidance for implementing provisions within the standing orders. Please note, the Appendix is an attachment to the standing orders and not part of the standing orders themselves, consequently amendments to the Appendix do not require the agreement of 75% of those present. In addition the 'Guide to Standing Orders' provides additional advice on the application of the standing orders and are also not part of the standing orders.

1.1 Principles

Standing orders are part of the framework of processes and procedures designed to ensure that our system of local democracy and in particular decision-making within local government is transparent and accountable. They are designed to give effect to the principles of good governance, which include that a community board should:

- Conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner;
- Give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner;
- Make itself aware of, and have regard to, the views of all of its communities;
- Take account, when making decisions, of the diversity of the community, its interests and the interests of future communities as well;
- Ensure that any decisions made under these standing orders comply with the decision-making provisions of Part 6 of the LGA; and
- Ensure that decision-making procedures and practices meet the standards of natural justice.

These principles are reinforced by the requirement that all local authorities act so that "governance structures and processes are effective, open and transparent" (s. 39 LGA 2002).

1.2 Statutory references

The Standing Orders consist of statutory provisions about meetings along with guidance on how those provisions should be applied in practice. Where a statutory provision has been augmented with advice on how it might be implemented the advice (so as not to confuse it with the statutory obligation) is placed below the relevant legislative reference. In some cases the language in the statutory provision has been modernised for ease of interpretation or amended to ensure consistency with more recently enacted statutes.

It is important to note that statutory references in the standing orders apply throughout the period of a meeting, regardless of whether or not parts or all of the Standing Orders have been suspended. These provisions must also be carried through into any amendment of the standing orders that might be made. Please note, where it is employed the word ‘must’, unless otherwise stated, identifies a mandatory legislative requirement.

1.3 Acronyms

LGA 2002 Local Government Act 2002

LGOIMA Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

LAMIA Local Authorities (Members’ Interests) Act 1968

1.4 Application

For the removal of any doubt these standing orders do not apply to workshops or meetings of working parties and advisory groups unless specifically included in their terms of reference.

2. Definitions

Adjournment means a break in the proceedings of a meeting. A meeting, or discussion on a particular business item, may be adjourned for a brief period, or to another date and time.

Advisory group means a group of people convened by a community board for the purpose of providing advice or information that is not a committee or subcommittee. These standing orders do not apply to such groups. This definition also applies to workshops, working parties, working group, panels, forums, portfolio groups, briefings and other similar bodies.

Agenda means the list of items for consideration at a meeting together with reports and other attachments relating to those items in the order in which they will be considered. It is also referred to as an ‘order paper’.

Amendment means any change of proposed change to the original or substantive motion.

Appointed member means a member of a committee, or subsidiary organisation of a community board, who is not elected.

Audio link means facilities that enable audio communication between participants at a meeting where one or more of the participants is not physically present at the place of the meeting.

Audiovisual link means facilities that enable audiovisual communication between participants at a meeting when one or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting.

Chairperson means the person in a position of authority in a meeting or other gathering, also known as the presiding member.

Chief executive means the chief executive of a territorial authority or regional council appointed under section 42 of the LGA 2002, and includes, for the purposes of these standing orders, any other officer authorized by the chief executive.

Clear working days means the number of working days (business hours) prescribed in these standing orders for giving notice and excludes the date of the meeting and date on which the notice is served.

Committee includes, in relation to a community board:

- (a) A committee comprising all the members of that community board;
- (b) A standing committee or special committee appointed by that authority;
- (c) A joint committee appointed under clause 30A of Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002; and
- (d) Any subcommittee of a committee described in (a), (b) and (c) of this definition.

Community board means a community board established under s.49 of the LGA 2002.

Conflict of Interest means any pecuniary interest and any interest arising because of that person's position as a trustee, director, officer, employee or member of another body or because of any personal non-pecuniary interest, such as pre-determination or bias.

Contempt means being disobedient to, or disrespectful of, the chair of a meeting, or disrespectful to any members, officers or the public.

Council means, in the context of these standing orders, the governing body of a local authority.

Debate means discussion by members that occurs once a motion has been moved/seconded

Deputation means a request from any person or group to make a presentation to the community board which is approved by the Chairperson and which may be made in English, te reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language.

Division means a formal vote at a Community board, committee or subcommittee meeting whereby the names of those members present, including the mayor/chair, are formally recorded as voting either for or against. This includes a vote where the names and votes are recorded electronically.

Electronic link means both an audio and audiovisual link.

Emergency meeting has the same meaning as defined in cl. 22A of Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002.

Extraordinary meeting has the same meaning as defined in cl. 22 of Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002.

Foreshadowed motion means a motion that a member indicates their intention to move once the debate on a current motion or amendment is concluded.

Internet site means, in relation to a local authority or other person or entity, an Internet site that is maintained by, or on behalf of, the local authority, person, or entity and to which the public has free access.

Item means a substantive matter for discussion at a meeting.

Leave of the meeting means agreement without a single member present dissenting.

Joint committee means a committee in which the members are appointed by more than one community board in accordance with clause 30A of Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002.

Karakia timatanga means an opening prayer.

Karakia whakamutunga means a closing prayer.

Lawfully excluded means a member of a community board who has been removed from a meeting due to behaviour that a Chairperson has ruled to be contempt.

Leave of absence means a pre-approved absence for a specified period of time consistent with the council policy should one be in place.

Local authority means in the context of these standing orders a regional council or territorial authority, as defined in s. 5 of the LGA 2002, which is named in these standing orders, and any subordinate decision-making bodies established by the local authority.

Mayor means the Mayor of a territorial authority elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Meeting means any first, inaugural, ordinary, extraordinary, or emergency meeting of a community board convened under the provisions of LGOIMA.

Member means any person elected or appointed to the community board.

Member of the Police means a Constable of the New Zealand Police within the definition of s.4 of the Policing Act 2008.

Mihi whakatau means a brief welcome typically delivered by one person without any further formalities.

Minutes means the record of the proceedings of any meeting of the community board.

Motion means a formal proposal to a meeting.

Mover means the member who initiates a motion.

Newspaper means a periodical publication published (whether in New Zealand or elsewhere) at intervals not exceeding 40 days, or any copy of, or part of any copy of, any such publications; and this includes every publication that at any time accompanies and is distributed along with any newspaper.

Notice of motion means a motion given in writing by a member in advance of a meeting in accordance with, and as provided for, in these standing orders.

Officer means any person employed by the council either full or part time, on a permanent or casual or contract basis.

Pecuniary Interest includes any interest described in sections 3 and 6 of the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968.

Open voting means voting that is conducted openly and in a transparent manner (i.e. enables an observer to identify how a member has voted on an issue) and may be conducted by electronic means. The result of the vote must be announced immediately it has concluded. Secret ballots are specifically excluded.

Order paper means the list of items for consideration at a meeting together with reports and other attachments relating to those items set out in the order in which they will be considered. An order paper is also referred to as an agenda.

Ordinary meeting means any meeting, other than the first meeting, of a community board publicly notified in accordance with sections 46(1) and (2) of LGOIMA.

Petition means a request to a community board which contains at least 20 signatures.

Pōwhiri means a formal welcome involving a Karanga from the Tangata Whenua (the home people) followed by formal speech making. A Pōwhiri is generally used for formal occasions of the highest significance.

Present at the meeting to constitute quorum means the member is either to be physically present in the room or attending the meeting by audio/visual link.

Presiding member means the chairperson.

Procedural motion means a motion that is used to control the way in which a motion or the meeting is managed as specified in standing orders 24.1 – 24.7.

Public excluded information refers to information which is currently before a public excluded session, is proposed to be considered at a public excluded session, or had previously been considered at a public excluded session and not yet been released as publicly available information. It includes:

- Any minutes (or portions of minutes) of public excluded sessions which have not been subsequently released by the community board; and
- Any other information which has not been released by the community board as publicly available information.

Public excluded session, also referred to as confidential or in-committee session, refers to those meetings or parts of meetings from which the public is excluded by the community board as provided for in LGOIMA.

Public participation refers to a period set aside usually at the start of a meeting for the purpose of public input.

Public notice means one that is made publicly available, until any opportunity for review or appeal in relation to the matter notified has lapsed, on the local authority's website. And in addition, is published in at least one daily newspaper circulating in the region or district of the local authority, or one or more other newspapers that have a combined circulation in that region or district which is at least equivalent to that of a daily newspaper circulating in that region or district.

Publicly notified means notified to members of the public by a notice contained in a newspaper circulating in the district of the local authority, or where there is no such newspaper, by notice displayed in a public place. The notice may also be replicated on a council's website.

Qualified privilege means the privilege conferred on member by s. 52 and s. 53 of LGOIMA.

Quasi-judicial means a meeting involving the consideration of issues requiring the evaluation of evidence, the assessment of legal argument and/or the application of legal principles.

Quorum means the minimum number of members required to be present in order to constitute a valid meeting.

Regional Council Chairperson means the member of the governing body of a regional council elected as chairperson of that regional council under cl.25 Schedule 7 LGA 2002.

Resolution means a motion that has been adopted by the meeting.

Right of reply means the right of the mover of a motion to reply to those who have spoken to the motion. (The right does not apply to an amendment).

Seconder means the member who seconds a motion or amendment.

Sub judice means under judicial consideration and therefore prohibited from public discussion elsewhere.

Subordinate decision-making body means committees, subcommittees, and any other bodies established by a community board that have decision-making authority, but not local or community boards or joint committees.

Substantive motion means the original motion. In the case of a motion that is subject to an amendment, the substantive motion is the original motion incorporating any amendments adopted by the meeting.

Substantive resolution means the substantive motion that has been adopted by the meeting or a restatement of a resolution that has been voted on in parts.

Subcommittee means a subordinate decision-making body established by a community board. See definition of "Committee".

Working day means a day of the week other than:

- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Labour Day, the Sovereign's birthday, Matariki, and Waitangi Day. If Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, then the following Monday;
- (b) The day observed in the appropriate area as the anniversary of the province of which the area forms a part; and
- (c) A day in the period commencing with 20 December in any year and ending with 10 January in the following year.

Should a community board wish to meet between the 20th of December and the 10th of January of the following year any meeting must be notified as an extraordinary meeting, unless there is sufficient time to notify an ordinary meeting before the commencement of the period.

Working party means a group set up by a community board to achieve a specific objective that is not a committee or subcommittee and to which these standing orders do not apply.

Workshop means in the context of these standing orders, a gathering of elected members for the purpose of considering matters of importance to the community board at which no decisions are made and to which these standing orders will not apply, unless required by the community board. Workshops may include non-elected members. Workshops may also be described as briefings.

General matters

3. Standing orders

3.1 Obligation to adopt standing orders

A community board is required to operate in accordance with standing orders for the conduct of its meetings. Standing orders must not contravene any Act.

cl. 27(1) & (2), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

3.2 Process for adoption and alteration of standing orders

The adoption of standing orders and any amendment to standing orders must be made by the Community board and by a vote of not less than 75% of the members present. Similarly, in the case of a local and community board the adoption of standing orders and any amendments also requires a vote of not less than 75% of the members of the specific board.

cl. 27(3) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

3.3 Members must obey standing orders

All members of a community board which has adopted these standing orders must also comply with them.

cl. 16(1) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

3.4 Application of standing orders

These standing orders apply to all meetings of a community board and its committees and subcommittees. This includes meetings and parts of meetings that the public are excluded from.

3.5 Temporary suspension of standing orders

Any member of a community board may move a motion to suspend specified standing orders at a meeting of which they are a member. Any such motion must also include the reason for the suspension. If seconded, the chairperson must put the motion without debate and at least 75 per cent of the members present and voting must support the motion for it to be carried.

cl. 27(4), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

A motion to suspend standing orders may be taken before or during a debate. The motion to suspend standing orders must also identify the specific standing orders to be suspended.

Please Note: in the event of suspension, those standing orders prescribed in statute will continue to apply, such as the quorum requirements.

3.6 Quasi-judicial proceedings

For quasi-judicial proceedings the community board may amend its meeting procedures. For example, committees hearing applications under the RMA 1991 have additional powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

3.7 Physical address of members

Every member of a community board must give their chief executive a physical residential or business address within the district or region of the local authority and, if desired, an electronic or other address, to which notices and material relating to meetings and local authority business may be sent or delivered. Members are to provide their address within 5 working days of the publication of the declaration of the election results. Public access to those addresses is subject to the Privacy Act.

4. Meetings

4.1 Legal requirement to hold meetings

The local authority must hold meetings for the good government of its community. Meetings must be called and conducted in accordance with:

- (a) Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002;
- (b) Part 7 of LGOIMA; and
- (c) These standing orders.

A meeting can be adjourned to a specified time and day if required by resolution of the meeting.

4.2 Meeting duration

A meeting cannot continue more than six hours from when it starts (including any adjournments) or after 10.30pm, unless the meeting resolves to continue. If there is no such resolution, then any business on the agenda that has not been dealt with must be adjourned, transferred to the next meeting, or transferred to an extraordinary meeting.

No meeting can sit for more than two hours continuously without a break of at least ten minutes unless the meeting resolves to extend the time before a break.

4.3 Language

A member may address a meeting in English, te reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language. A chairperson may require that a speech is translated and printed in English or te reo Māori.

If a member intends to address the meeting in New Zealand Sign Language, or in te reo Māori, when the normal business of the meeting is conducted in English, they must give prior notice to the chairperson not less than 2 working days before the meeting.

Where the normal business of the meeting is conducted in te reo Māori then prior notice of the intention to address the meeting in English must also be given to the chairperson not less than 2 working days before the meeting.

4.4 Webcasting meetings

Webcast meetings should be provided in accordance with the protocols contained in Appendix 7.

4.5 First meeting (inaugural)

The first meeting of a community board, following a community board triennial general election, must be called by the chief executive as soon as practicable after the results of the election are known. The chief executive must give elected members not less than 7 days' notice of the meeting. However in the event of an emergency the chief executive may give notice of the meeting as soon as practicable.

cl. 21(1) - (4), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

4.6 Requirements for the first meeting

The chief executive (or, in the absence of the chief executive, their nominee) must chair the first meeting until the chairperson has made an oral declaration and attested the declaration (see cl. 21(4), Schedule 7 (LGA 2002)).

The business to be conducted at the first meeting following a general election must include the following:

- (a) The making and attesting of the declarations required of members under cl.14, Schedule7, (LGA 2002);
- (b) The election of the chairperson and the making and attesting of the declaration required of the chairperson under cl. 14 Schedule7, (LGA 2002);
- (c) A general explanation, given or arranged by the chief executive, of:
 - i. LGOIMA; and
 - ii. Other laws affecting members, including the appropriate provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968; and sections 99, 105, and 105A of the Crimes Act 1961; and the Secret Commissions Act 1910; and the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013.
- (d) The fixing of the date and time of the first meeting of the community board, or the adoption of a schedule of meetings.

cl. 21(5), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

It is common for community boards to adopt standing orders at the first meeting; however this is not always necessary as, if not amended, standing orders will remain in force after each triennial election.

5. Appointments and elections

5.1 Elections of chairpersons and deputy chairpersons

The community board must decide by resolution to use one of two voting systems (see standing order 5.6) when electing the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

cl. 25 Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

5.2 Voting system for chairs and deputy chairs

When electing a community board chair, the meeting must resolve to use one of the following two voting systems.

System A

The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the community board or committee who are present and voting. This system has the following characteristics:

- (a) There is a first round of voting for all candidates;
- (b) If no candidate is successful in the first round, there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
- (c) If no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third round, and if necessary subsequent rounds, of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person to be excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

System B

The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate. This system has the following characteristics:

- (a) There is only one round of voting; and
- (b) If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

cl. 25 Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

6. Delegations

6.1 Duty to consider delegations to community boards

The governing body of a territorial authority must consider whether or not to delegate to a community board if the delegation will enable the community board to best achieve its role.

cl. 32(6) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

6.2 Community board may delegate

A community board may delegate any of its responsibilities, duties, or powers to a subcommittee or person, subject to any conditions, limitations, or prohibitions imposed by the body that made the original delegation.

cl. (2) & (3), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

6.3 Use of delegated powers

The community board to which any responsibilities, powers, duties are delegated may, without confirmation by the council, committee or body or person that made the delegation, exercise or perform them in the like manner and with the same effect as the local authority could itself have exercised or performed them.

cl. 32(2) & (3)(4) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

6.4 Decisions made under delegated authority cannot be rescinded or amended

Nothing in these standing orders allows a community board to rescind or amend a lawfully made decision of a subordinate decision-making body carried out under a delegation authorising the making of that decision.

cl. 30 (6), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

6.5 Committees and sub committees subject to the direction of the community board

A committee or subcommittee of a community board is subject in all things to the control of the community board, and must carry out all general and special directions given to them by the board.

cl. 30 (3) & (4), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7. Committees

7.1 Appointment of committees and subcommittees

A community board may appoint the committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies, that it considers appropriate. A committee may appoint the subcommittees that it considers appropriate, unless it is prohibited from doing so by the community board.

cl. 30(1) & (2), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.2 Discharge or reconstitution of committees and subcommittees

Unless expressly provided otherwise in legislation or regulation:

- (a) A community board may discharge or reconstitute a committee or subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body; and
- (b) A community board may discharge or reconstitute a subcommittee.

A committee, subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body is, unless a community board resolves otherwise, discharged when members elected at a subsequent triennial general election come into office.

cl. 30 (5) & (7), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.3 Appointment or discharge of committee members and subcommittee members

A community board may appoint or discharge any member of a committee and, if established by the community board, a subcommittee. A committee may appoint or discharge any member of a subcommittee appointed by the committee unless directed otherwise by the community board.

cl. 31 (1) & (2), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.4 Elected members on committees and subcommittees

The members of a committee or subcommittee may be, but are not required to be, elected members of a local authority. A community board may appoint a person who is not a member of the local authority to a committee or subcommittee if, in the opinion of the community board, the person has the skills, attributes or knowledge to assist the committee or subcommittee.

At least one member of a committee must be an elected member of the community board. In the case of a committee established by a community board at least one member must be a member of that board. A staff member of the local authority, in the course of their employment, can be a member of a subcommittee but not a committee.

cl. 31(4) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.5 Community board may replace members if committee not discharged

If a community board resolves that a committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body is not to be discharged under cl. 30 (7) Schedule 7, LGA 2002, the community board may replace the members of that committee, subcommittee or subordinate decision-making body after the next triennial general election of members.

cl. 31(5) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.6 Decision not invalid despite irregularity in membership

For the purpose of these standing orders a decision of a community board is not invalidated if:

1. There is a vacancy in the membership of the community board at the time of the decision; or
2. Following the decision some defect in the election or appointment process is discovered and/or that the membership of a person on the committee at the time is found to have been ineligible.

cl. 29, Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.7 Appointment of joint committees

A community board may appoint a joint committee with another community board or other public body if it has reached agreement with each community board or public body. The agreement must specify:

- (a) The number of members each party may appoint;
- (b) How the chairperson and deputy chairperson are to be appointed;
- (c) The terms of reference of the committee;
- (d) What responsibilities, if any, are to be delegated to the committee by each party; and
- (e) How the agreement may be varied.

The agreement may also specify any other matter relating to the appointment, operation, or responsibilities of the committee agreed by the parties.

cl. 30A (1) & (2), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.8 Status of joint committees

A joint committee is deemed to be both a committee of a community board and a committee of each other participating community board or public body.

cl. 30A (5), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

7.9 Power to appoint or discharge individual members of a joint committee

The power to discharge any individual member of a joint committee and appoint another member in their stead must be exercised by the community board or public body that made the appointment.

cl. 30A (6)(a), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

Pre-meeting

8. Giving notice

Please note; the processes described in this section (standing orders 8.1 – 8.12) apply as appropriate to local boards and community boards.

8.1 Public notice – ordinary meetings

All meetings scheduled for the following month must be publicly notified not more than 14 days and not less than 5 days before the end of the current month, together with the dates, the times and places on and at which those meetings are to be held. In the case of meetings held on or after the 21st day of the month public notification may be given not more than 10 nor less than 5 working days before the day on which the meeting is to be held. (See the LGNZ Guide to Standing Orders for more information).

s. 46, LGOIMA.

8.2 Notice to members - ordinary meetings

The chief executive must give notice in writing to each member of the community board of the date, time and place of any meeting. Notice must be given at least 14 days before the meeting unless the council has adopted a schedule of meetings, in which case notice must be given at least 14 days before the first meeting on the schedule.

cl. 19 (5), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

8.3 Extraordinary meeting may be called

An extraordinary community board meeting may be called by:

- (a) Resolution of the community board, or
- (b) A requisition in writing delivered to the chief executive which is signed by:
 - i. The chairperson; or
 - ii. Not less than one third of the total membership of the community board (including vacancies).

cl. 22 (1) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

8.4 Notice to members - extraordinary meetings

The chief executive must give notice, in writing, of the time and place of an extraordinary meeting called under the standing order 8.3, as well as the general nature of business to be considered, to each member of the community board at least 3 working days before the day appointed for the meeting. If the meeting is called by a resolution then notice must be provided within such lesser period as is specified in the resolution, as long as it is not less than 24 hours.

cl. 22 (3), Schedule7, LGA 2002.

8.5 Emergency meetings may be called

If the business a community board needs to deal with requires a meeting to be held at a time earlier than is allowed by the notice requirements for holding an extraordinary meeting and it is not practicable to call the meeting by resolution, an emergency meeting may be called by:

- (a) The Chairperson; or
- (b) If the Chairperson is unavailable, the chief executive.

cl. 22A(1), Schedule7 LGA 2002.

8.6 Process for calling an emergency meeting

The notice of the time and place of an emergency meeting, and of the matters in respect of which the emergency meeting is being called, must be given by the person calling the meeting or by another person on that person's behalf.

The notice must be given, by whatever means is reasonable in the circumstances, to each member of the community board, and to the chief executive, at least 24 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

cl. 22A (2), Schedule7 LGA 2002.

8.7 Public notice – emergency and extraordinary meetings

Where an emergency or extraordinary meeting of a community board is called but the notice of the meeting is inconsistent with these standing orders, due to the manner in which it was called, the community board must cause that meeting and the general nature of business to be transacted at that meeting:

- (a) To be publicly notified as soon as practicable before the meeting is to be held; or
- (b) If it is not practicable to publish a notice in newspapers before the meeting, to be notified as soon as practicable on the local authority's website and in any other manner that is reasonable in the circumstances.

s. 46 (3) LGOIMA.

8.8 Meetings not invalid

The failure to notify a public meeting under these standing orders does not of itself make that meeting invalid. However, where a community board becomes aware that a meeting has been incorrectly notified it must, as soon as practicable, give public notice stating:

- That the meeting occurred without proper notification;
- The general nature of the business transacted; and
- The reasons why the meeting was not properly notified.

s. 46 (6), LGOIMA.

8.9 Resolutions passed at an extraordinary meeting

A community board must, as soon as practicable, publicly notify any resolution passed at an extraordinary meeting of the community board unless:

- (a) The resolution was passed at a meeting or part of a meeting from which the public was excluded; or
- (b) The extraordinary meeting was publicly notified at least 5 working days before the day on which the meeting was held.

s. 51A, LGOIMA.

8.10 Meeting schedules

Where the community board adopts a meeting schedule it may cover any period that the community board considers appropriate and may be amended. Notification of the schedule, or an amendment, will constitute notification to members of every meeting on the schedule or the amendment. This does not replace the requirements under LGOIMA to also publicly notify each meeting.

cl. 19 (6) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

8.11 Non-receipt of notice to members

A meeting of a community board is not invalid if notice of that meeting was not received, or not received in due time, by a member of the community board unless:

- (a) It is proved that the person responsible for giving notice of the meeting acted in bad faith or without reasonable care; and
- (b) The member concerned did not attend the meeting.

A member of a community board may waive the need to be given notice of a meeting.

cl. 20 (1) & (2) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

8.12 Meeting cancellations

The chairperson of a scheduled meeting may cancel the meeting if, in consultation with the chief executive, they consider this is necessary for reasons that include lack of business, lack of quorum or clash with another event.

The chief executive must make a reasonable effort to notify members and the public as soon as practicable of the cancellation and the reasons behind it.

9. Meeting agenda

9.1 Preparation of the agenda

It is the chief executive's responsibility, on behalf of the chairperson, to prepare an agenda for each meeting listing and attaching information on the items of business to be brought before the meeting so far as is known, including the names of the relevant members.

When preparing business items for an agenda the chief executive must consult, unless impracticable, such as in the case of the inaugural meeting, the chairperson, or the person acting as chairperson for the coming meeting.

9.2 Process for raising matters for a decision

Requests for reports may be made by a resolution of the community board and, in the case of all decision-making bodies other than the council, must also fall within the scope of their specific delegations.

9.3 Chief executive may delay or refuse request

The chief executive may delay commissioning any reports that involve significant cost or are beyond the scope of the committee that made the request. In such cases the chief executive will discuss options for meeting the request with the respective chairperson and report back to a subsequent meeting with an estimate of the cost involved and seek direction on whether the report should still be prepared.

Where a Chief executive refuses a member's request to prepare a report, an explanation for that refusal should be provided to the member.

9.4 Order of business

At the meeting the business is to be dealt with in the order in which it stands on the agenda unless the chairperson, or the meeting, decides otherwise. An example of a default order of business is set out in Appendix 10.

The order of business for an extraordinary meeting must be limited to items that are relevant to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.

9.5 Chairperson's recommendation

A chairperson, either prior to the start of the meeting and/or at the meeting itself, may include a recommendation regarding any item on the agenda brought before the meeting. Where a chairperson's recommendation varies significantly from an officer's recommendation the reason for the variation must be explained. A recommendation that differs significantly from the officer's recommendation must comply with the decision-making requirements of Part 6, LGA 2002.

9.6 Chairperson may prepare report

The chairperson of a meeting has the right to prepare a report to be included in the agenda on any matter which falls within the responsibilities of that meeting, as described in its terms of reference.

For clarity, any recommendation must comply with the decision-making requirements of Part 6, LGA 2002.

9.7 Public availability of the agenda

All information provided to members at a community board, meeting must be publicly available, except where an item included in the agenda refers to a matter reasonably expected to be discussed with the public excluded.

s. 5 & 46A, LGOIMA.

9.8 Public inspection of agenda

Any member of the public may, without payment of a fee, inspect, during normal office hours and within a period of at least 2 working days before a meeting, all agendas and associated reports circulated to members of the community board relating to that meeting. The agenda:

- (a) Must be available for inspection at the public offices of the local authority (including service centres), at public libraries under the authority's control and on the council's website, and:
- (b) Must be accompanied by either:
 - i. The associated reports; or
 - ii. A notice specifying the places at which the associated reports may be inspected.

s. 46A (1), LGOIMA.

9.9 Withdrawal of agenda items

If justified by circumstances, an agenda item may be withdrawn by the chief executive. In the event of an item being withdrawn the chief executive should inform the chairperson.

9.10 Distribution of the agenda

The chief executive must send the agenda to every member of a meeting at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting, except in the case of an extraordinary meeting or an emergency meeting (see Standing Orders 8.4 and 8.10).

The chief executive may send the agenda, and other materials relating to the meeting or other community board business, to members by electronic means.

9.11 Status of agenda

No matter on a meeting agenda, including recommendations, may be considered final until determined by a formal resolution of that meeting.

9.12 Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

- (a) The reason the item is not on the agenda; and
- (b) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

s. 46A (7), LGOIMA.

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the chief executive or the chairperson.

Please note, that nothing in this standing order removes the requirement to meet the provisions of Part 6, LGA 2002 with regard to consultation and decision-making.

9.13 Discussion of minor matters not on the agenda

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision, or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

s. 46A (7A), LGOIMA.

9.14 Public excluded business on the agenda

Items that are likely to be discussed under public-excluded must be indicated on each agenda, including the general subject of the item. The chief executive, however, may exclude public access to any reports, or parts of reports, which are reasonably expected to be discussed with the public excluded.

s. 46A (9), LGOIMA.

9.15 Qualified privilege relating to agenda and minutes

Where any meeting is open to the public and a member of the public is supplied with a copy of the agenda, or the minutes of that meeting, the publication of any defamatory matter included in the agenda or in the minutes is privileged. This does not apply if the publication is proved to have been made with ill will, or improper advantage has been taken of the publication.

s. 52, LGOIMA.

Meeting Procedures

10. Opening and closing

Local authorities, local boards and community boards may, at the start of a meeting, choose to recognise the civic importance of the occasion through some form of reflection. This could be an expression of community values, a reminder of the contribution of members who have gone before or a formal welcome, such as a mihi whakatau.

Options for opening a meeting could include a karakia tīmitanga, mihi whakatau, or pōwhiri as well as a karakia whakamutunga to close a meeting where appropriate.

11. Quorum

11.1 Community board meetings

The quorum for a meeting of the community board is:

- (a) Half of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is even; and
- (b) A majority of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

cl. 23 (3)(a) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

11.2 Committees and subcommittee meetings

A community board sets the quorum for its committees and subcommittees, either by resolution or by stating the quorum in the terms of reference. Committees may set the quorums for their subcommittees by resolution, provided that it is not less than two members. (See also 7.4).

In the case of subcommittees the quorum will be two members unless otherwise stated. In the case of committees at least one member of the quorum must be a member of the community board, or if established by a local board or community board, the relevant board.

cl. 23 (3)(b) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

11.3 Joint Committees

The quorum at a meeting of a joint committee must be consistent with Standing Order 11.1. Local authorities participating in the joint committee may decide, by agreement, whether or not the quorum includes one or more members appointed by each community board or any party.

cl. 30A (6)(c) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

11.4 Requirement for a quorum

A meeting is constituted where a quorum of members is present, whether or not they are all voting or entitled to vote. In order to conduct any business at a meeting, a quorum of members must be present for the whole time that the business is being considered.

cl. 23(1) & (2) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

11.5 Meeting lapses where no quorum

A meeting must lapse and the chairperson vacate the chair, if a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised start of the meeting. Where members are known to be travelling to the meeting, but are delayed due to extraordinary circumstance, the chairperson has discretion to wait for a longer period.

No business may be conducted while waiting for the quorum to be reached. Minutes will record when a meeting lapses due to a lack of a quorum, along with the names of the members who attended.

Should a quorum be lost the meeting will lapse if the quorum is not present within 15 minutes.

11.6 Business from lapsed meetings

Where meetings lapse the remaining business will be adjourned and be placed at the beginning of the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless the chairperson sets an earlier meeting and this is notified by the chief executive.

12. Public access and recording

12.1 Meetings open to the public

Except as otherwise provided by Part 7 of LGOIMA, every meeting of the community board, must be open to the public.

s.47 & 49(a), LGOIMA.

12.2 Grounds for removing the public

The chairperson may require any member of the public to be removed from the meeting if they believe that person's behaviour is likely to prejudice the orderly conduct of the meeting.

s.50(1), LGOIMA

12.3 Community board may record meetings

Meeting venues should contain clear signage indicating and informing members, officers and the public that proceedings may be recorded by the community board and may be subject to direction by the chairperson.

12.4 Public may record meetings

Members of the public may make electronic or digital recordings of meetings which are open to the public. Any recording of meetings should be notified to the chairperson at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that the recording does not distract the meeting from fulfilling its business.

Where circumstances require, the chairperson may direct the recording to stop for a period of time.

13. Attendance

13.1 Members right to attend meetings

A member of a community board, or of a committee of a community board, has, unless lawfully excluded, the right to attend any meeting of the community board or committee.

cl. 19(2), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

If a member of the community board is not an appointed member of the meeting which they are attending, they may not vote on any matter at that meeting. However, they may, with the leave of the chair, take part in the meeting's discussions.

A member attending a meeting of which they are not an appointed member is not a member of the public for the purpose of s.48 LGOIMA. Consequently, if the meeting resolves to exclude the public then any members of the community board who are present may remain, unless they are lawfully excluded.

Please note: this section does not confer any rights to non-elected members appointed to committees of a community board.

13.2 Attendance when a committee is performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions

When a committee is performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions, members of the community board who are not members of that committee are not entitled to take part in the proceedings.

13.3 Leave of absence

A community board may grant a member leave of absence following an application from that member. The community board may delegate the power to grant a leave of absence to the Chairperson in order to protect a members' privacy and the Community board may approve an application from the Chairperson. The Chairperson will advise all members of the community board whenever a member has been granted leave of absence under delegated authority. Meeting minutes will record that a member has leave of absence as an apology for that meeting.

13.4 Apologies

A member who does not have leave of absence may tender an apology should they be absent from all or part of a meeting. The Chairperson (or acting chair) must invite apologies at the beginning of each meeting, including apologies for lateness and early departure. The meeting may accept or decline any apologies. Members may be recorded as absent on community board business where their absence is a result of a commitment made on behalf of the community board.

For clarification, the acceptance of a member's apology constitutes a grant of 'leave of absence' for that meeting.

13.5 Recording apologies

The minutes will record any apologies tendered before or during the meeting, including whether they were accepted or declined and the time of arrival and departure of all members.

13.6 Absent without leave

Where a member is absent from four consecutive meetings of the community board without leave of absence or an apology being accepted (not including extraordinary or emergency meetings) then the office held by the member will become vacant. A vacancy created in this way is treated as an extraordinary vacancy.

cl. 5 (d) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

13.7 Right to attend by audio or audiovisual link

Provided the conditions in standing orders 13.11 and 13.12 are met, members of the local authority and its committees (and members of the public for the purpose of a deputation approved by the chairperson), have the right to attend meetings by means of an electronic link, unless they have been lawfully excluded.

13.8 Member's status: quorum

Members who attend meetings by electronic link will be counted as present for the purposes of a quorum.

cl. 25A (4), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

13.9 Member's status: voting

Where a meeting has a quorum, determined by the number present, the members attending by electronic link can vote on any matters raised at the meeting.

13.10 Chairperson's duties

Where the technology is available and a member is attending a meeting by audio or audiovisual link, the chairperson must ensure that:

- (a) The technology for the link is available and of suitable quality; and
- (b) Procedures for using the technology in the meeting will ensure that:
 - i. Everyone participating in the meeting can hear each other;
 - ii. The member's attendance by audio or audio visual link does not reduce their accountability or accessibility of that person in relation to the meeting;
 - iii. The requirements of Part 7 of LGOIMA are met; and
 - iv. The requirements in these standing orders are met.

cl. 25A (3) schedule 7, LGA 2002.

If the chairperson is attending by audio or audio visual link, then chairing duties will be undertaken by the deputy chair, or a member who is physically present.

13.11 Conditions for attending by audio or audiovisual link

Noting standing order 13.7, the chairperson may give approval for a member to attend meetings by electronic link, either generally or for a specific meeting. Examples of situations where approval can be given include:

- (a) Where the member is at a place that makes their physical presence at the meeting impracticable or impossible;
- (b) Where a member is unwell; and
- (c) Where a member is unable to attend due to an emergency.

13.12 Request to attend by audio or audiovisual link

Where possible, a member will give the chairperson and the chief executive at least 2 working days' notice when they want to attend a meeting by audio or audiovisual link. Should, due to illness or emergency, this is not possible the member may give less notice.

Where such a request is made and the technology is available, the chief executive must take reasonable steps to enable the member to attend by audio or audiovisual link. However, the council or community board has no obligation to make the technology for an audio or audio-visual link available.

If the member's request cannot be accommodated, or there is a technological issue with the link, this will not invalidate any acts or proceedings of the local authority, its committees or community boards.

13.13 Chairperson may terminate link

The chairperson may direct that an electronic link should be terminated where:

- (a) Use of the link is increasing, or may unreasonably increase, the length of the meeting;
- (b) The behaviour of the members using the link warrants termination, including the style, degree and extent of interaction between members;
- (c) It is distracting to the members who are physically present at the meeting;
- (d) The quality of the link is no longer suitable;
- (e) Information classified as confidential may be compromised (see also SO 13.16).

13.14 Giving or showing a document

A person attending a meeting by audio or audio visual link may give or show a document by:

- (a) Transmitting it electronically;
- (b) Using the audio visual link; or
- (c) Any other manner that the chairperson thinks fit.

cl. 25(A) (6) schedule 7, LGA 2002.

13.15 Link failure

Where an audio or audiovisual link fails, or there are other technological issues that prevent a member who is attending by link from participating in a meeting, that member must be deemed to be no longer attending the meeting.

13.16 Confidentiality

A member who is attending a meeting by audio or audio visual link must ensure that the meeting's proceedings remain confidential during any time that the public is excluded. At such a time, the chairperson may require the member to confirm that no unauthorised people are able to view or hear the proceedings. If the chairperson is not satisfied by the explanation they may terminate the link.

14. Chairperson's role in meetings

14.1 Community board meetings

The appointed chairperson must preside at each meeting unless they vacate the chair for all or part of a meeting. If the chairperson is absent from a meeting or vacates the chair, the deputy chairperson (if any) will act as chairperson. If the deputy chairperson is also absent, or has not been appointed, the committee members who are present must elect a member to act as chairperson. This person may exercise the meeting responsibilities, duties and powers of the chairperson.

cl. 26(2), (5) & (6), schedule 7 LGA 2002.

14.2 Addressing the chairperson

Members will address the Chairperson in a manner that the Chairperson has determined.

14.3 Chairperson's rulings

The chairperson will decide all procedural questions, including points of order, where insufficient provision is made by these standing orders (except in cases where appointment of order questions the chairperson's ruling). Any refusal to obey a Chairperson's ruling or direction constitutes contempt (see SO 20.5).

14.4 Chairperson standing

Whenever the chairperson stands during a debate members are required to sit down (if required to stand to address the meeting) and be silent so that they can hear the chairperson without interruption.

14.5 Member's right to speak

Members are entitled to speak in accordance with these standing orders. Members should address the chairperson when speaking. They may not leave their place while speaking, unless they have the leave of the chairperson.

14.6 Chairperson may prioritise speakers

When two or more members want to speak the chairperson will name the member who may speak first. Other members who wish to speak have precedence where they intend to:

- (a) Raise a point of order, including a request to obtain a time extension for the previous speaker; and/or
- (b) Move a motion to terminate or adjourn the debate; and/or
- (c) Make a point of explanation; and/or
- (d) Request the chair to permit the member a special request.

15. Public Participation

Public participation is a defined period of time, usually at the start of an ordinary meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. Public participation is to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

In the case of a committee, subcommittee, local or community board, any issue, idea, or matter raised in at public participation, must fall within the terms of reference of that body.

15.1 Time limits

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the public participation at each scheduled local authority meeting. Requests must be made to the chief executive (or their delegate) at least one clear day before the meeting; however, this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes (this includes questions with the elected members). No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation during public participation. Where the number of speakers presenting in public participation exceeds 6 in total, the Chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

15.2 Restrictions

The Chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public participation;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

15.3 Questions at public participation

At the conclusion of the presentation, and if the speakers time limit hasn't expired, with the permission of the Chairperson, elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

15.4 No resolutions

Following the public participation no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during public participation unless related to items already on the agenda. (See the LGNZ Guide to Standing Orders for suggestions of good practice in dealing with issues raised during public participation).

16. Deputations

The purpose of a deputation is to enable a person, group, or organisation to make a presentation to a meeting on a matter or matters covered by that meeting's terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the chairperson. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered.

16.1 Time limits

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, or longer at the discretion of the chairperson. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation.

16.2 Restrictions

The chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear or terminate a deputation at any time where:

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the meeting;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the community board or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

16.3 Questions of a deputation

At the conclusion of the deputation members may, with the permission of the chairperson, ask questions of any speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

16.4 Resolutions

Any debate on a matter raised in a deputation must occur at the time at which the matter is scheduled to be discussed on the meeting agenda and once a motion has been moved and seconded.

17. Petitions

17.1 Form of petitions

Petitions may be presented to the community board as long as the subject matter falls within the terms of reference of the intended meeting.

Petitions must contain at least 20 signatures and consist of fewer than 150 words (not including signatories). They must be received by the chief executive at least five working days before the meeting at which they will be presented; however this requirement may be waived by the chairperson.

Petitions must not be disrespectful, use offensive language or include malicious, inaccurate, or misleading statements (see standing order 20.9 on qualified privilege). They may be written in English or te reo Māori. Petitioners planning to present their petition in te reo or sign language should advise the chief executive in time to allow translation services to be arranged.

17.2 Petition presented by petitioner

A petitioner who presents a petition to the community board, may speak for 5 minutes (excluding questions) about the petition, unless the meeting resolves otherwise. The chairperson must terminate the presentation of the petition if he or she believes the petitioner is being disrespectful, offensive or making malicious statements.

Where a petition is presented as part of a deputation or public participation the speaking time limits relating to deputations or public participation shall apply. The petition must be received by the chief executive at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting concerned.

17.3 Petition presented by member

Members may present petitions on behalf of petitioners. In doing so, members must confine themselves to presenting:

- (a) The petition;
- (b) The petitioners' statement; and
- (c) The number of signatures.

18. Exclusion of public

18.1 Motions and resolutions to exclude the public

Members of a meeting may resolve to exclude the public from a meeting. The grounds for exclusion are those specified in section 48 of LGOIMA (see Appendix 1).

Every motion to exclude the public must be put while the meeting is open to the public, and copies of the motion must be available to any member of the public who is present. If the motion is passed the resolution to exclude the public must be in the form set out in schedule 2A of LGOIMA (see Appendix 2). The resolution must state:

- (a) The general subject of each matter to be excluded;
- (b) The reason for passing the resolution in relation to that matter; and
- (c) The grounds on which the resolution is based.

The resolution will form part of the meeting's minutes.

s. 48 LGOIMA.

18.2 Specified people may remain

Where a meeting resolves to exclude the public, the resolution may provide for specified persons to remain if, in the opinion of the meeting, they will assist the meeting to achieve its purpose. Any such resolution must state, in relation to the matter to be discussed, how the knowledge held by the specified people is relevant and be of assistance.

No such resolution is needed for people who are entitled to be at the meeting, such as relevant staff and officials contracted to the council for advice on the matter under consideration.

s.48 (6) LGOIMA.

18.3 Public excluded items

The chief executive must place in the public-excluded section of the agenda any items that he or she reasonably expects the meeting to consider with the public excluded. The public excluded section of the agenda must indicate the subject matter of the item and the reason the public are excluded.

s.46A (8) LGOIMA.

18.4 Non-disclosure of information

No member or officer may disclose to any person, other than another member, officer or person authorised by the chief executive, any information that has been, or will be, presented to any meeting from which the public is excluded, or proposed to be excluded.

This restriction does not apply where a meeting has resolved to make the information publicly available or where the chief executive has advised, in writing, that one or both of the following apply:

- (a) There are no grounds under LGOIMA for withholding the information; and
- (b) The information is no longer confidential.

18.5 Release of information from public excluded session

A community board may provide for the release to the public of information which has been considered during the public excluded part of a meeting.

Each public excluded meeting must consider and agree by resolution, what, if any, information will be released to the public. In addition the chief executive may release information which has been considered at a meeting from which the public has been excluded where it is determined the grounds to withhold the information no longer exist.

19. Voting

19.1 Decisions by majority vote

Unless otherwise provided for in the LGA 2002, other legislation, or standing orders, the acts of, and questions before, a local authority must be decided at a meeting through a vote exercised by the majority of the members that are present and voting.

cl. 24 (1), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

19.2 Open voting

An act or question coming before the community board must be done or decided by open voting.

cl. 24 (3) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

19.3 Chairperson has a casting vote

The chairperson, or any other person presiding at a meeting, has a deliberative vote and, in the case of an equality of votes, has a casting vote.

cl. 24 (2) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

Standing order 19.3 does not apply to the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board.

19.4 Method of voting

The method of voting must be as follows:

- (a) The chairperson in putting the motion must call for an expression of opinion on the voices or take a show of hands, the result of either of which, as announced by the chairperson, must be conclusive unless such announcement is questioned immediately by any member, in which event the chairperson will call a division;

- (b) The chairperson or any member may call for a division instead of or after voting on the voices and/or taking a show of hands; and
- (c) Where a suitable electronic voting system is available that system may be used instead of a show of hands, vote by voices, or division, and the result publicly displayed and notified to the chairperson who must declare the result.

19.5 Calling for a division

When a division is called, the chief executive must record the names of the members voting for and against the motion, and abstentions, and provide the names to the chairperson to declare the result. The result of the division must be entered into the minutes and include members' names and the way in which they voted.

The Chairperson may call a second division where there is confusion or error in the original division.

19.6 Request to have votes recorded

If requested by a member, immediately after a vote the minutes must record the member's vote or abstention. Recording any other matters, such as a members' reason for their vote or abstention, is not permitted.

19.7 Members may abstain

Any member may abstain from voting.

20. Conduct

20.1 Calling to order

When the chairperson calls members to order they must be seated and stop speaking. If the members fail to do so, the chairperson may direct that they should immediately leave the meeting for a specified time.

20.2 Behaviour consistent with Code of Conduct

At a meeting no member may act inconsistently with their Code of Conduct, or speak or act in a manner which is disrespectful of other members, staff or the public.

20.3 Retractions and apologies

In the event of a member, or speaker, who has been disrespectful of another member or contravened the community board's Code of Conduct, the chairperson may call upon that member, or speaker, to withdraw the offending comments, and may require them to apologise. If the member refuses to do so the chairperson may direct that they should leave the meeting immediately for a specified time and/or make a complaint under the Code of Conduct.

20.4 Disorderly conduct

Where the conduct of a member is disorderly or is creating a disturbance the chairperson may require that member to leave the meeting immediately for a specified time.

If the disorder continues the chairperson may adjourn the meeting for a specified time. At the end of this time the meeting must resume and decide, without debate, whether the meeting should proceed or be adjourned.

The chairperson may also adjourn the meeting if other people cause disorder or in the event of an emergency.

20.5 Contempt

Where a member is subject to repeated cautions by the chairperson for disorderly conduct the meeting may, should it so decide, resolve that the member is in contempt. Any such resolution must be recorded in the meeting's minutes.

A member who has been found to be in contempt, and continues to be cautioned by the Chairperson for disorderly conduct, may be subject to standing order 20.6.

20.6 Removal from meeting

A member of the police or authorised security personnel may, at the chairperson's request, remove or exclude a member from a meeting.

This standing order will apply where the chairperson has ruled that the member should leave the meeting and the member has refused or failed to do so; or has left the meeting and attempted to re-enter it without the chairperson's permission.

20.7 Financial conflicts of interests

Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.

No member may vote on, or take part in, a discussion about any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest unless an exception set out in s.6 LAMIA applies to them, or the Auditor-General has granted them an exemption or declaration under s.6.

Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table unless the meeting is in public excluded in which case they should leave the room.

Neither the chairperson, nor the meeting, may rule on whether a member has a financial interest in the matter being discussed. The minutes must record any declarations of financial interests and the member's abstention from any discussion and voting on the matter.

s. 6 & 7 LAMIA.

20.8 Non-financial conflicts of interests

Non-financial interests involve questions about whether the judgement of a member of a community board could be affected by a separate interest, or duty, which that member may have in relation to a particular matter. If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter, or any subsequent vote.

The member must leave the table when the matter is considered, but does not need to leave the room. The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

Neither the chairperson, nor the meeting, may rule on whether a member has a non-financial interest in the matter being discussed.

20.9 Qualified privilege for meeting proceedings

Any oral statement made at any meeting of the community board in accordance with the rules adopted by the local authority for guiding its proceedings is privileged, unless the statement is proved to have been made with ill will, or took improper advantage of the occasion of publication.

s. 53, LGOIMA.

20.10 Qualified privilege additional to any other provisions

The privilege referred to above is in addition to any other privilege, whether absolute or qualified, that applies as a result of any other enactment or rule of law applying to any meeting of the local authority.

s. 53, LGOIMA.

20.11 Electronic devices at meetings

Electronic devices and phones can only be used to advance the business of a meeting. Personal use may only occur at the discretion of the chair. A chairperson may require that an electronic device is switched off if:

- i. its use is likely to distract a meeting from achieving its business, or,
- ii. a member is found to be receiving information or advice from sources not present at the meeting that may affect the integrity of the proceedings.

21. General rules of debate

21.1 Chairperson may exercise discretion

The application of any procedural matters in this section of the standing orders, such as the number of times a member may speak or when a chair can accept a procedural motion to close or adjourn a debate, is subject to the discretion of the chairperson.

21.2 Time limits on speakers

The following time limits apply to members speaking at meetings:

- (a) Movers of motions when speaking to the motion – not more than 5 minutes;
- (b) Movers of motions when exercising their right of reply – not more than 5 minutes; and
- (c) Other members – not more than 5 minutes.

Time limits can be extended if a motion to that effect is moved, seconded and supported by a majority of members present.

21.3 Questions to staff

During a debate members can ask staff questions about the matters being discussed. Questions must be asked through the chairperson, and how the question is to be dealt with is at the chairperson's discretion.

21.4 Questions of clarification

At any point in a debate a member may ask the chairperson for clarification about the nature and content of the motion which is the subject of the debate and/or the particular stage the debate has reached.

21.5 Members may speak only once

A member, depending on the choice of options for speaking and moving set out in Cl. 22.2 - 22.4, may not speak more than once to a motion at a meeting of the community board, except with permission of the chairperson. Members can speak more than once to a motion at a committee or subcommittee meeting with the chairperson's permission.

21.6 Limits on number of speakers

If three speakers have spoken consecutively in support of, or in opposition to, a motion, the Chairperson may call for a speaker to the contrary. If there is no speaker to the contrary, the Chairperson must put the motion after the mover's right of reply.

Members speaking must, if requested by the chairperson, announce whether they are speaking in support of, or opposition to, a motion.

21.7 Secunder may reserve speech

A member may second a motion or amendment without speaking to it, reserving the right to speak until later in the debate.

21.8 Speaking only to relevant matters

Members may only speak to;

- i. any matter before the meeting
- ii. a motion or amendment which they propose, and
- iii. to raise a point of order arising out of debate,

Members must confine their remarks strictly to the motion or amendment they are speaking to.

The chairperson's rulings on any matters arising under this standing order are final and not open to challenge.

21.9 Restating motions

At any time during a debate a member may ask, for their information, that the chairperson restate a motion and any amendments; but not in a manner that interrupts a speaker.

21.10 Criticism of resolutions

A member speaking in a debate may not unduly criticise the validity of any resolution, except by a notice of motion to amend or revoke the resolution.

21.11 Objecting to words

When a member objects to any words used by another member in a speech and wants the minutes to record their objection, they must object at the time when the words are used and before any other member has spoken. The chairperson must order the minutes to record the objection.

Note: This provision does not preclude a member from making a complaint at any time during, or after, a meeting about the use of inappropriate or offensive language.

21.12 Right of reply

The mover of an original motion has a right of reply. A mover of an amendment to the original motion does not. In their reply, the mover must confine themselves to answering previous speakers and not introduce any new matters.

A mover's right of reply can only be used once. It can be exercised either at the end of the debate on the original, substantive or substituted motion or at the end of the debate on a proposed amendment.

The original mover may speak once to the principal motion and once to each amendment without losing that right of reply. If a closure motion is carried, the mover of the motion may use their right of reply before the motion or amendment is put to the vote. The mover of the original motion may choose to indicate that they wish to reserve their right of reply until the closure motion.

21.13 No other member may speak

In exercising a right of reply, no other member may speak:

- i. After the mover has started their reply;
- ii. After the mover has indicated that they want to forego this right; and
- iii. Where the mover has spoken to an amendment to the original motion and the chairperson has indicated that he or she intends to put the motion.

21.14 Adjournment motions

The carrying of any motion to adjourn a meeting must supersede other business still remaining to be disposed of. Any such business must be considered at the next meeting. Business referred to, or referred back to, a specified committee or local or community board, is to be considered at the next ordinary meeting of that committee or board, unless otherwise specified.

21.15 Chairperson's acceptance of closure motions

The Chairperson may only accept a closure motion where there have been at least two speakers for and two speakers against the motion that is proposed to be closed, or the chairperson considers it reasonable to do so.

However, the chairperson must put a closure motion if there are no further speakers in the debate. When the meeting is debating an amendment, the closure motion relates to the amendment. If a closure motion is carried, the mover of the motion under debate has the right of reply after which the chairperson puts the motion or amendment to the vote.

22. General procedures for speaking and moving motions

22.1 Options for speaking and moving

This subsection provides three options for speaking and moving motions and amendments at a meeting of a community board and its committees or subcommittees.

Option C applies unless, on the recommendation of the chairperson at the beginning of a meeting, the meeting resolves [*by simple majority*] to adopt either of the other two options for the meeting generally, or for any specified items on the agenda.

22.2 Option A

- The mover and seconder of a motion cannot move or second an amendment. (This does not apply when the mover or seconder of a motion to adopt a report of a committee wants to amend an item in the report. In this case the original mover or seconder may also propose or second the suggested amendment).
- Only members who have not spoken to the original, or substituted, motion may move or second an amendment to it.
- The mover or seconder of an amendment, whether it is carried (in which case it becomes the substantive motion) or lost, cannot move or second a subsequent amendment.
- Members can speak to any amendment and, provided they have not spoken to the motion or moved or seconded an amendment, they can move or second further amendments.
- The meeting, by agreement of the majority of members present, may amend a motion with the agreement of the mover and seconder.

22.3 Option B

- The mover and seconder of a motion cannot move or second an amendment. (This does not apply when the mover or seconder of a motion to adopt a report of a committee wants to amend an item in the report. In this case the original mover or seconder may also propose or second the suggested amendment).
- Any members, regardless of whether they have spoken to the original or substituted motion, may move or second an amendment to it.
- The mover or seconder of an amendment that is carried can move or second a subsequent amendment. A mover or seconder of an amendment which is lost cannot move or second a subsequent amendment.
- Members can speak to any amendment.
- The meeting by agreement of the majority of members present may amend a motion with the agreement of the mover and seconder.

22.4 Option C

- The mover and seconder of a motion can move or second an amendment.
- Any members, regardless of whether they have spoken to the original or substituted motion, may move or second an amendment to it.
- The mover or seconder of an amendment whether it is carried or lost can move or second further amendments.
- Members can speak to any amendment.
- The meeting by agreement of the majority of members present may amend a motion with the agreement of the mover and seconder.

23. Motions and amendments

23.1 Proposing and seconding motions

All motions, and amendments moved during a debate, must be seconded (including notices of motion). The chairperson may then state the motion and propose it for discussion. A motion should be moved and seconded before debate but after questions.

Amendments and motions that are not seconded are not valid and should not be entered in the minutes.

Note: Members who move or second a motion are not required to be present for the entirety of the debate.

23.2 Motions in writing

The chairperson may require movers of motions and amendments to provide them in writing, signed by the mover.

23.3 Motions expressed in parts

The chairperson, or any member, can require a motion that has been expressed in parts to be decided part by part.

23.4 Substituted motion

Where a motion is subject to an amendment the meeting may substitute the motion with the amendment, provided the mover and seconder of the original motion agree to its withdrawal. All members may speak to the substituted motion.

23.5 Amendments to be relevant and not direct negatives

Every proposed amendment must be relevant to the motion under discussion. Proposed amendments cannot be similar to an amendment that has already been lost. An amendment cannot be a direct negative to the motion or the amended motion. Reasons for not accepting an amendment can include:

- (a) Not directly relevant
- (b) In conflict with a carried amendment
- (c) Similar to a lost amendment
- (d) Would negate a committee decision if made under delegated authority
- (e) In conflict with a motion referred to the governing body by that meeting
- (f) Direct negative.

Please note that amendments that are significantly different must comply with the decision-making provisions of the Part 6, LGA 2002.

23.6 Foreshadowed amendments

The meeting must dispose of an existing amendment before a new amendment can be moved. However, members may foreshadow to the chairperson that they intend to move further amendments as well as the nature of the content of those amendments.

23.7 Lost amendments

Where an amendment is lost, the meeting will resume the debate on the original or substituted motion. Any member who has not spoken to that motion may, depending on the choice of options for speaking and moving set out in clauses 22.2 – 22.4, speak to it, and may move or second a further amendment.

23.8 Carried amendments

Where an amendment is carried, the meeting will resume the debate on the original motion as amended. This will now be referred to as the substantive motion. Members who have not spoken to the original motion may, depending on the choice of options for speaking and moving set out in clauses 22.2 – 22.4, speak to the substantive motion, and may move or second a further amendment to it.

23.9 Where a motion is lost

In a situation where a substantive motion that recommends a course of action is lost a new motion, with the consent of the Chairperson, may be proposed to provide direction.

23.10 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once a motion or amendment has been seconded the mover cannot withdraw it without the agreement of the majority of the members who are present and voting.

The mover of an original motion, which has been subject to an amendment that has been moved and seconded, cannot withdraw the original motion until the amendment has either been lost or withdrawn by agreement, as above.

23.11 No speakers after reply or motion has been put

A member may not speak to any motion once:

- (a) The mover has started their right of reply in relation to the motion; and
- (b) The chair has started putting the motion.

24. Revocation or alteration of resolutions

24.1 Member may move revocation of a decision

A member may give the chief executive a notice of motion for the revocation or alteration of all or part of a previous resolution of the community board. The notice must set out:

- (a) The resolution or part of the resolution which the member proposes to revoke or alter;
- (b) The meeting date when the resolution was passed;
- (c) The motion, if any, which the member proposes to replace it with; and
- (d) Sufficient information to satisfy the decision-making provisions of sections 77-82 of Part 6, LGA 2002.

If the mover of the notice of motion is unable to provide this information, or the decision is likely to be deemed a significant decision, the notice of motion should provide that the proposal is referred to the chief executive for consideration and report.

24.2 Revocation must be made by the body responsible for the decision

If a resolution is made under delegated authority by a committee, subcommittee or subordinate decision-making body, or a local or community board, only that body may revoke or amend the resolution, assuming the resolution is legally made.

This provision does not prevent the body that made the delegation from removing or amending a delegation given to a subordinate body or local board or community board.

cl. 30 (6) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

24.3 Requirement to give notice

A member must give notice to the chief executive at least 5 working days before the meeting at which it is proposed to consider the motion. The notice is to be signed by not less than one third of the members of the community board, including vacancies. Notice can be sent via email and include the scanned electronic signatures of members. If the notice of motion is lost, no similar notice of motion which is substantially the same in purpose and effect may be accepted within the next twelve months.

24.4 Restrictions on actions under the affected resolution

Once a notice of motion to revoke or alter a previous resolution has been received no irreversible action may be taken under the resolution in question until the proposed notice of motion has been dealt with.

Exceptions apply where, in the opinion of the chairperson:

- (a) The practical effect of delaying actions under the resolution would be the same as if the resolution had been revoked;
- (b) By reason of repetitive notices, the effect of the notice is an attempt by a minority to frustrate the will of the community board or the committee that made the previous resolution.

In either of these situations, action may be taken under the resolution as though no notice of motion had been given to the chief executive.

24.5 Revocation or alteration by resolution at same meeting

A meeting may revoke or alter a previous resolution made at the same meeting where, during the course of the meeting, it receives fresh facts or information concerning the resolution. In this situation 75 per cent of the members present and voting must agree to the revocation or alteration.

24.6 Revocation or alteration by recommendation in report

The community board, on a recommendation in a report by the chairperson, chief executive, or any committee or subcommittee, local or community board, may revoke or alter all or part of a resolution passed by a previous meeting. The chief executive must give at least two clear working days' notice of any meeting that will consider a revocation or alteration recommendation.

cl. 30 (6) Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

25. Procedural motions

25.1 Procedural motions must be taken immediately

A procedural motion to close or adjourn a debate will take precedence over other business, except points of order and rights of reply. If the procedural motion is seconded the chairperson must put it to the vote immediately, without discussion or debate. A procedural motion to close or adjourn debate can be taken after two speakers have spoken for the motion and two against or, in the chairperson's opinion, it is reasonable to accept the closure motion.

25.2 Procedural motions to close or adjourn a debate

Any member who has not spoken on the matter under debate may move any one of the following procedural motions to close or adjourn a debate:

- (a) That the meeting be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting (unless the member states an alternative time and place);
- (b) that the motion under debate should now be put (a closure motion);
- (c) That the item being discussed should be adjourned to a specified time and place and not be further discussed at the meeting;
- (d) That the item of business being discussed should lie on the table and not be further discussed at this meeting; (items lying on the table at the end of the triennium will be deemed to have expired); and
- (e) That the item being discussed should be referred (or referred back) to the relevant committee or local or community board.

A member seeking to move a procedural motion must not interrupt another member who is already speaking.

25.3 Voting on procedural motions

Procedural motions to close or adjourn a debate must be decided by a majority of all members who are present and voting. If the motion is lost no member may move a further procedural motion to close or adjourn the debate within the next 15 minutes.

25.4 Debate on adjourned items

When debate resumes on items of business that have been previously adjourned all members are entitled to speak on the items.

25.5 Remaining business at adjourned meetings

Where a resolution is made to adjourn a meeting, the remaining business will be considered at the next meeting.

25.6 Business referred to the community board

Where an item of business is referred (or referred back) to a committee or a local or community board, the committee or board will consider the item at its next meeting unless the meeting resolves otherwise.

25.7 Other types of procedural motions

The chairperson has discretion about whether to allow any other procedural motion that is not contained in these standing orders.

26. Points of order

26.1 Members may raise points of order

Any member may raise a point of order when they believe these standing orders have been breached. When a point of order is raised, the member who was previously speaking must stop speaking and sit down (if standing).

26.2 Subjects for points of order

A member who is raising a point of order must state precisely what its subject is. Points of order may be raised for the following subjects:

- (a) Disorder – to bring disorder to the attention of the chairperson;
- (b) Language – to highlight use of disrespectful, offensive or malicious language;
- (c) Irrelevance – to inform the chair that the topic being discussed is not the matter currently before the meeting;
- (d) Misrepresentation – to alert the chair of a misrepresentation in a statement made by a member, an officer or a council employee;
- (e) Breach of standing order – to highlight a possible breach of a standing order while also specifying which standing order is subject to the breach; and
- (f) Recording of words – to request that the minutes record any words that have been the subject of an objection.

26.3 Contradictions

Expressing a difference of opinion or contradicting a statement by a previous speaker does not constitute a point of order.

26.4 Point of order during division

A member may not raise a point of order during a division, except with the permission of the chairperson.

26.5 Chairperson's decision on points of order

The chairperson may decide a point of order immediately after it has been raised, or may choose to hear further argument about the point before deciding. The chairperson's ruling on any point of order, and any explanation of that ruling, is not open to any discussion and is final.

Should a point of order concern the performance of the chair, then the chair will refer the point of order to the deputy chair or, if there is no deputy, another member to hear arguments and make a ruling.

27. Notices of motion

27.1 Notice of intended motion to be in writing

Notice of intended motions must be in writing signed by the mover, stating the meeting at which it is proposed that the intended motion be considered, and must be delivered to the chief executive at least 5 clear working days before such meeting. [Notice of an intended motion can be sent via email and include the scanned electronic signature of the mover].

Once the motion is received the chief executive must give members notice in writing of the intended motion at least 2 clear working days' notice of the date of the meeting at which it will be considered.

27.2 Refusal of notice of motion

The chairperson may direct the chief executive to refuse to accept any notice of motion which:

- (a) Is disrespectful or which contains offensive language or statements made with malice; or
- (b) Is not related to the role or functions of the community board or meeting concerned; or
- (c) Contains an ambiguity or a statement of fact or opinion which cannot properly form part of an effective resolution, and where the mover has declined to comply with such requirements as the chief executive officer may make; or
- (d) Is concerned with matters which are already the subject of reports or recommendations from a committee to the meeting concerned; or
- (e) Fails to include sufficient information as to satisfy the decision-making provisions of s.77-82 LGA 2002. If the mover of the notice of motion is unable to provide this information, or the decision is likely to be deemed a significant decision, the notice of motion should provide that the proposal is referred to the chief executive for consideration and report; or
- (f) Concerns a matter where decision-making authority has been delegated to a subordinate body or a local or community board.

Reasons for refusing a notice of motion should be provided to the mover. Where the refusal is due to (f) the notice of motion may be referred to the appropriate committee or board.

27.3 Mover of notice of motion

Notices of motion may not proceed in the absence of the mover unless moved by another member authorised to do so, in writing, by the mover.

27.4 Alteration of notice of motion

Only the mover, at the time the notice of motion is moved and with the agreement of a majority of those present at the meeting, may alter a proposed notice of motion. Once moved and seconded no amendments may be made to a notice of motion.

27.5 When notices of motion lapse

Notices of motion that are not moved when called for by the chairperson must lapse.

27.6 Referral of notices of motion

Any notice of motion received that refers to a matter ordinarily dealt with by a committee of the local authority or a local or community board must be referred to that committee or board by the chief executive.

Where notices are referred the proposer of the intended motion, if not a member of that committee, must have the right to move that motion and have the right of reply, as if a committee member.

27.7 Repeat notices of motion

When a motion has been considered and rejected by the community board or a committee, no similar notice of motion may be accepted within the next 12 months, unless signed by not less than one third of all members, including vacancies.

Where a notice of motion has been adopted by the community board no other notice of motion which, in the opinion of the chairperson has the same effect, may be put while the original motion stands.

28. Minutes

28.1 Minutes to be evidence of proceedings

The community board, its committees and subcommittees must keep minutes of their proceedings. These minutes must be kept in hard or electronic copy, authorised by a chairperson's manual or electronic signature once confirmed by resolution at a subsequent meeting. Once authorised the minutes are the *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings they relate to.

cl. 28 Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

28.2 Matters recorded in minutes

The chief executive must keep the minutes of meetings. The minutes must record:

- (a) The date, time and venue of the meeting;
- (b) The names of the members present;
- (c) The chairperson;
- (d) Any apologies or leaves of absences;
- (e) Member absent without apology or leave of absence;
- (f) Member absent on council business;
- (g) The arrival and departure times of members;

- (h) Any failure of a quorum;
- (i) A list of any external speakers and the topics they addressed;
- (j) A list of the items considered;
- (k) Items tabled at the meeting;
- (l) The resolutions and amendments related to those items including those that were lost, provided they had been moved and seconded in accordance with these standing orders;
- (m) The names of all movers, and seconders;
- (n) Any objections made to words used;
- (o) All divisions taken and, if taken, a record of each members' vote;
- (p) the names of any members requesting that their vote or abstention be recorded;
- (q) Any declarations of financial or non-financial conflicts of interest;
- (r) The contempt, censure and removal of any members;
- (s) Any resolutions to exclude members of the public;
- (t) The time at which the meeting concludes or adjourns; and
- (u) The names of people permitted to stay in public excluded.

Please Note: hearings under the RMA, Dog Control Act 1996 and Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 may have special requirements for minute taking.

28.3 No discussion on minutes

The only topic that may be discussed at a subsequent meeting, with respect to the minutes, is their correctness.

28.4 Minutes of last meeting before election

The chief executive and the relevant chairpersons must sign, or agree to have their digital signature inserted, the minutes of the last meeting of the community board before the next election of members.

29. Keeping a record

29.1 Maintaining accurate records

A community board must create and maintain full and accurate records of its affairs, in accordance with normal, prudent business practice, including the records of any matter that is contracted out to an independent contractor.

All public records that are in its control must be maintained in an accessible form, so as to be able to be used for subsequent reference.

s. 17 Public Records Act 2005.

29.2 Method for maintaining records

Records of minutes may be kept in hard copy (Minute Books) and/or in electronic form. If minutes are stored electronically the repository in which they are kept must meet the following requirements:

- (a) The provision of a reliable means of assuring the integrity of the information is maintained; and
- (b) The information is readily accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference.

s. 229(1) of the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017.

29.3 Inspection

Whether held in hard copy or in electronic form minutes must be available for inspection by the public.

s. 51 LGOIMA.

29.4 Inspection of public excluded matters

The chief executive must consider any request for the minutes of a meeting, or part of a meeting, from which the public was excluded as if it is a request for official information in terms of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Referenced documents

- Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908
- Crimes Act 1961
- Contract and Law Act 2017
- Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA)
- Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA)
- Local Government Act 1974 and 2002 (LGA)
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)
- Marine Farming Act 1971
- Public Records Act 2005
- Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
- Secret Commissions Act 1910
- Securities Act 1978

Appendix 1: Grounds to exclude the public

A community board may, by resolution, exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the following grounds:

- A1** That good reason exists for excluding the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting as the public disclosure of information would be likely:
- (a) To prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; or
 - (b) To endanger the safety of any person.
- A2** That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to:
- (a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; or
 - (b) Protect information where the making available of the information would:
 - i. Disclose a trade secret; or
 - ii. Be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
 - (ba) In the case only of an application for a resource consent, or water conservation order, or a requirement for a designation or heritage order, under the Resource Management Act 1991, to avoid serious offence to tikanga Māori, or to avoid the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu; or
 - (c) Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would:
 - i. Be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or
 - ii. Be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.
 - (d) Avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public; or
 - (e) Avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public; or
 - (f) Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment; or
 - (g) Maintain legal professional privilege; or
 - (h) Enable any council/community board holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or
 - (i) Enable any council/community board holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations); or

- (j) Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

s.7 LGOIMA 1987.

Under A2 (above) the public may be excluded unless, in the circumstances of a particular case, the exclusion of the public is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable and in the public interest that the public not be excluded.

A3 That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information, the public disclosure of which would:

- (a) Be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or
- (b) Constitute contempt of Court or of the House of Representatives.

A4 That the purpose of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is to consider a recommendation made to that Council/community board by an Ombudsman under section 30(1) or section 38(3) of this Act (in the case of a Community board named or specified in Schedule 1 to this Act).

A5 That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Community board to deliberate in private on its decision, or recommendation, in:

- (a) Any proceedings before a Council where:
 - i. A right of appeal lies to any Court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in those proceedings;
 - ii. The Council is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings; and
 - iii. Proceedings of a local authority exist in relation to any application or objection under the Marine Farming Act 1971.

s. 48 LGOIMA.

Appendix 2: Sample resolution to exclude the public

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it is **moved**:

1 that the public is excluded from:

- The whole of the proceedings of this meeting; *(deleted if not applicable)*
- The following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely; *(delete if not applicable)*

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by s 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public
		To prevent the disclosure of information which would— i. be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or ii. constitute contempt of court or of the House of Representatives (s.48(1)(b)).
		To consider a recommendation made by an Ombudsman (s. 48(1)(c)).
		To deliberate on matters relating to proceedings where: i. a right of appeal lies to a court or tribunal against the final decision of the councils in those proceedings; or ii. the council is required, by an enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings (s.48(1)(d)).
		To deliberate on proceedings in relation to an application or objection under the Marine Farming Act 1971 (s.48(1)(d)).

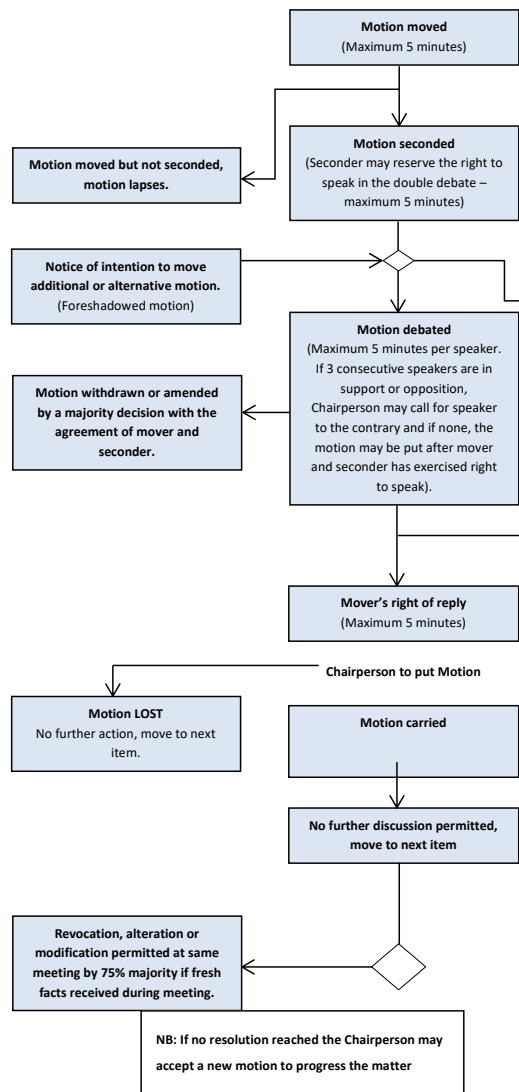
Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public
		To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s 7(2)(i)).
		To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (s 7(2)(a)).
		To maintain legal professional privilege (s 7(2)(g)).
		To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage (s. 7(2)(j)).
		To protect information which if public would; i. disclose a trade secret; or ii. unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s 7(2)(b)).
		To avoid serious offence to Tikanga Māori, or the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu in relation to an application under the RMA 1991 for; • a resource consent, or • a water conservation order, or • a requirement for a designation or • an heritage order, (s 7(2)(ba)).
		To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: i. prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c)).

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public
		To avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public (s 7(2)(d)).
		To avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public (s 7(2)(e)).
		To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs by protecting members or employees of the Council in the course of their duty, from improper pressure or harassment (s 7(2)(f)(ii)).
		To enable the council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s 7(2)(h)).

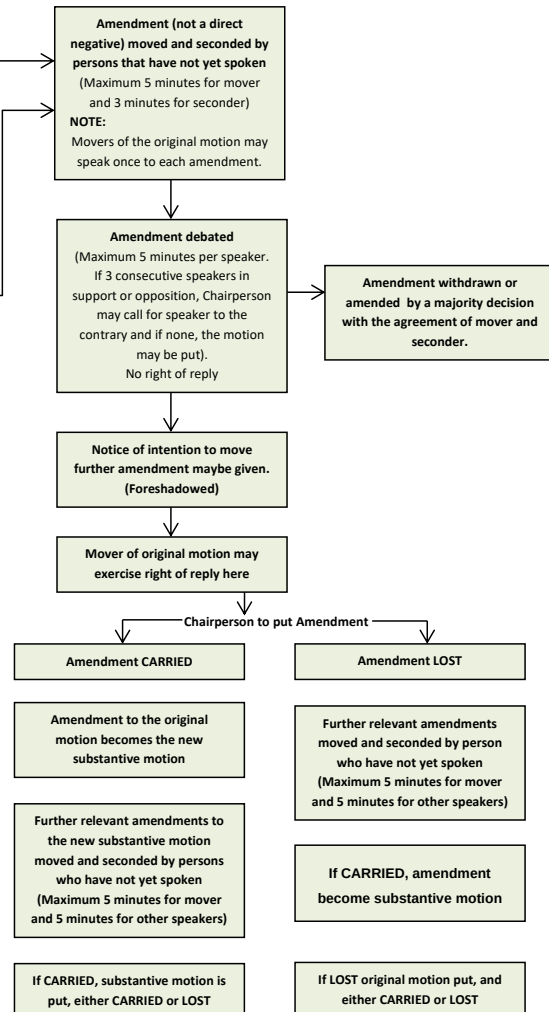
2. That *(name of person(s))* is permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of *(specify topic under discussion)*. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because *(specify)*. *(Delete if inapplicable.)*

Appendix 3: Motions and amendments (Option A)

Motions without amendments

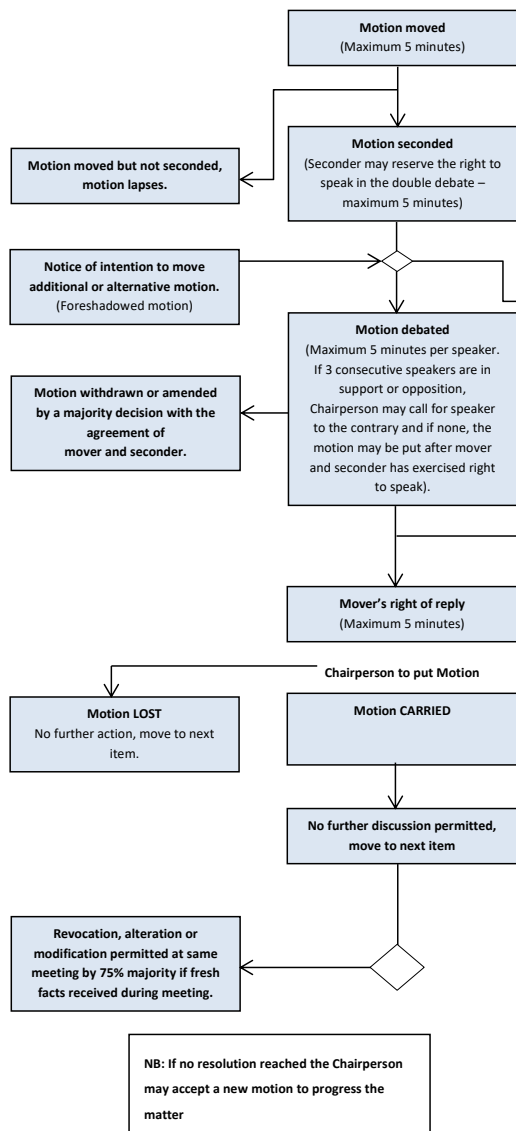


Motions with amendments

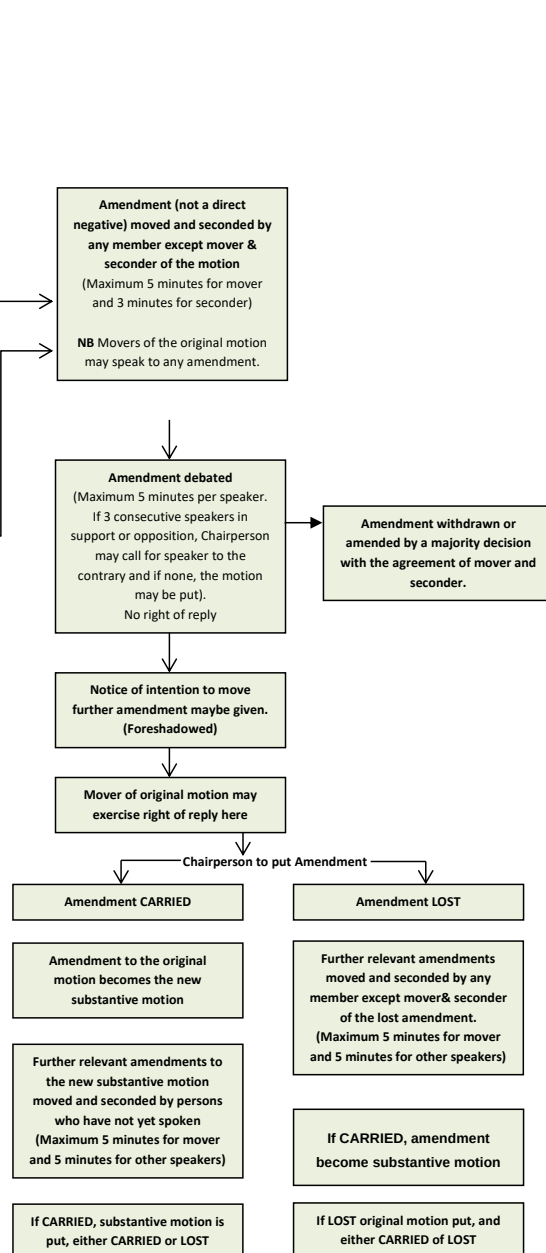


Appendix 4: Motions and amendments (Option B)

Motions without amendments

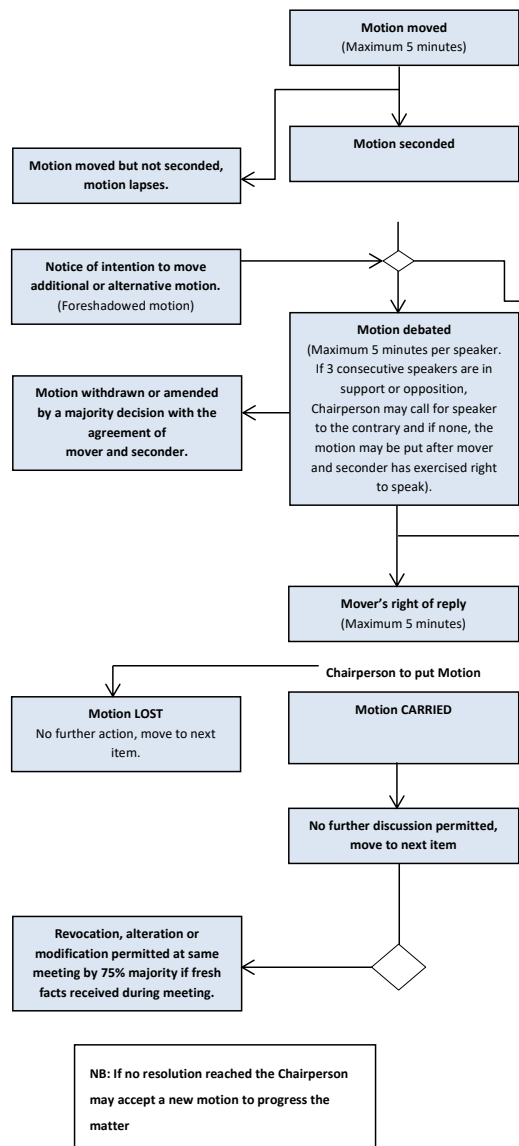


Motions with amendments

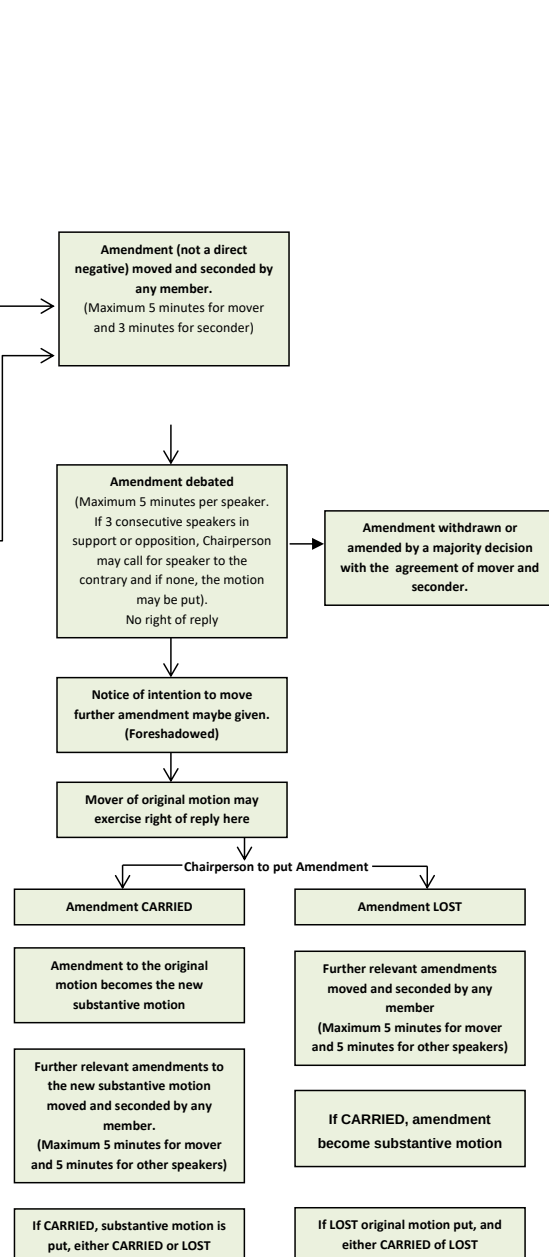


Appendix 5: Motions and amendments (Option C)

Motions without amendments



Motions with amendments



Appendix 6: Table of procedural motions

Motion	Has the Chair discretion to refuse this Motion?	Is seconder required?	Is discussion in order?	Are amendments in order?	Is mover of procedural motion entitled to reply?	Are previous participants in debate entitled to move this motion?	Can a speaker be interrupted by the mover of this motion?	If lost, can motion be moved after an interval?	Position if an amendment is already before the Chair	Position if a procedural motion is already before the Chair	Remarks
(a) "That the meeting be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting, or to a stated time and place"	No	Yes	No	As to time and date only	No	No	No	Yes – 15 minutes	If carried, debate on the original motion and amendment are adjourned	If carried, debate on the original motion and procedural motion are adjourned	On resumption of debate, the mover of the adjournment speaks first. Members who have spoken in the debate may not speak again
(b) "That the motion under debate be now put (closure motion)"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes – 15 Minutes	If carried, only the amendment is put	If carried, only the procedural motion is put	The mover of the motion under debate is entitled to exercise a right of reply before the motion or amendment under debate is put
(c) "That the item of business being discussed be adjourned to a stated time and place"	No	Yes	No	As to time and date only	No	No	NO	Yes – 15 minutes	If carried, debate on the original motion and amendment are adjourned	If carried, debate on the original motion and procedural motion are adjourned	

Motion	Has the Chair discretion to refuse this Motion?	Is second required?	Is discussion in order?	Are amendments in order?	Is mover of procedural motion entitled to reply?	Are previous participants in debate entitled to move this motion?	Can a speaker be interrupted by the mover of this motion?	If lost, can motion be moved after an interval?	Position if an amendment is already before the Chair	Position if a procedural motion is already before the Chair	Remarks
(d) "That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table and not be discussed at this meeting"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes – 15 minutes	If carried, the original motion and amendment are both laid on the table	Motion not in order	
(e) "That the item of business being discussed be referred (or referred back) to the community board or to the relevant committee"	No	Yes	No	As to committee, time for reporting back etc only	No	No	No	Yes – 15 minutes	If carried, the original motion and all amendments are referred to the committee	If carried, the procedural motion is deemed disposed of	
(f) "Points of order"	No – but may rule against	No	Yes – at discretion of chairperson	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Point of order takes precedence	Point of order takes precedence	See standing order 3.14

Appendix 7: Webcasting protocols

The provisions are intended as a good practice guide to local authorities that are webcasting meetings or planning to do so.

1. The default shot will be on the chairperson or a wide-angle shot of the meeting room.
2. Cameras will cover a member who is addressing the meeting. Cameras will also cover other key participants in a meeting, including staff when giving advice and members of the public when addressing the meeting during the public input time.
3. Generally interjections from other members or the public are not covered. However if the chairperson engages with the interjector, the interjector's reaction can be filmed.
4. PowerPoint presentations, recording of votes by division and other matters displayed by overhead projector may be shown.
5. Shots unrelated to the proceedings, or not in the public interest, are not permitted.
6. If there is general disorder or a disturbance from the public gallery, coverage will revert to the chairperson.
7. Appropriate signage will be displayed both in and outside the meeting room alerting people that the proceedings are being web cast.

Appendix 8: Powers of a Chairperson

This Appendix sets out the specific powers given to the chairperson contained in various parts of these Standing Orders.

Chairperson to decide all questions

The Chairperson is to decide all questions where these standing orders make no provision or insufficient provision. The chairperson's ruling is final and not open to debate.

Chairperson to decide points of order (SO. 26.5)

The chairperson is to decide any point of order and may do so immediately after it has been raised or may first hear further argument before deciding. The ruling of the chairperson upon any point of order is not open to any discussion and is final. No point of order may be raised during a division except by permission of the chairperson.

Items not on the agenda (SO.9.12)

Major items not on the agenda may be dealt with at that meeting if so resolved by the community board and the chairperson explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public the reason why the item was not listed on the agenda and the reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Minor matters not on the agenda relating to the general business of the community board may be discussed if the chairperson explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at that meeting, but no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting.

Chairperson's report (SO.9.6)

The chairperson, by report, has the right to direct the attention of the community board to any matter or subject within the role or function of the community board.

Chairperson's recommendation (SO.9.5)

The chairperson of any meeting may include on the agenda for that meeting a chairperson's recommendation regarding any item brought before the meeting. The purpose of such a recommendation is to focus debate on a suggested motion.

Chairperson's voting (SO.19.3)

The chairperson at any meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the case of equality of votes, has a casting vote where standing orders make such provision.

Motion in writing (SO.23.2)

The chairperson may require the mover of any motion or amendment to submit it in writing signed by the mover.

Motion in parts (SO.23.3)

The chairperson may require any motion expressed in parts to be decided part by part.

Notice of motion (SO.27.2)

The chairperson may direct the chief executive to refuse to accept any notice of motion which:

- (a) Is disrespectful or which contains offensive language or statements made with malice; or
- (b) Is not within the scope of the role or functions of the community board; or
- (c) Contains an ambiguity or statement of fact or opinion which cannot properly form part of an effective resolution, and the mover has declined to comply with such requirements as the chief executive may have made; or
- (d) Is concerned with matters which are already the subject of reports or recommendations from a committee to the meeting concerned.

Reasons for refusing a notice of motion should be provided to the proposer.

Where a notice of motion has been considered and agreed by the community board, no notice of any other motion which is, in the opinion of the chairperson, to the same effect may be put again whilst such original motion stands.

Action on previous resolutions (SO.

If, in the opinion of the chairperson the practical effect of a delay in taking action on a resolution which is subject to a notice of motion, would be equivalent to revocation of the resolution; or if repetitive notices of motion are considered by the chairperson to be an attempt by a minority to frustrate the will of the meeting, action may be taken as though no such notice of motion had been given.

Repeat notice of motion (SO.27.7)

If in the opinion of the chairperson, a notice of motion is substantially the same in purport and effect to any previous notice of motion which has been considered and rejected by the community board, no such notice of motion may be accepted within six months of consideration of the first notice of motion unless signed by not less than one third of the members of the community board, including vacancies.

Revocation or alteration of previous resolution

A chairperson may recommend in a report to the community board the revocation or alteration of all or part of any resolution previously passed, and the community board meeting may act on such a recommendation in accordance with the provisions in these standing orders.

Chairperson may call a meeting

The chairperson:

- (a) May call a meeting to dispose of the business to be transacted following the lapsing of a meeting due to failure of a quorum, if such business cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting; and
- (b) May requisition an extra meeting to be held at a specified time and place, in order to conduct specified business.

Irrelevant matter and needless repetition (SO.21.8)

The chairperson's ruling preventing members when speaking to any motion or amendment from introducing irrelevant matters or indulging in needless repetition is final and not open to challenge.

Taking down words (SO.21.11)

The chairperson may order words used and objected to by any member, to be recorded in the minutes, provided such objection is made at the time the words are used and not after any other members have spoken.

Explanations

The chairperson may permit members to make a personal explanation in addition to speaking to a motion, and members who have already spoken, to explain some material part of a previous speech in the same debate.

Chairperson rising (SO.14.5)

Whenever the chairperson rises during a debate any member then speaking or offering to speak is to be seated and members are to be silent so that the chairperson may be heard without interruption.

Members may leave places (SO.14.6)

The chairperson may permit members to leave their place while speaking.

Priority of speakers (SO.14.7)

The chairperson must determine the order in which members may speak when two or more members indicate their wish to speak.

Minutes (SO.28.1)

The chairperson is to sign the minutes and proceedings of every meeting once confirmed. The chairperson and chief executive are responsible for confirming the correctness of the minutes of the last meeting of a community board prior to the next election of members.

Questions of speakers (SO.16.3)

The chairperson may permit members to ask questions of speakers under public participation or deputations/presentations by appointment, for the purpose of obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

Withdrawal of offensive or malicious expressions (SO.20.3)

The chairperson may call upon any member to withdraw any offensive or malicious expression and may require the member to apologise for the expression.

Any member who refuses to withdraw the expression or apologise, if required by the chairperson, can be directed to withdraw from the meeting for a time specified by the chairperson.

Chairperson's rulings (SO.14.4)

Any member who refuses to accept a ruling of the chairperson, may be required by the chairperson to withdraw from the meeting for a specified time.

Disorderly behaviour (SO.20.4)

The chairperson may:

- (a) Require any member or member of the public whose conduct is disorderly or who is creating a disturbance, to withdraw immediately from the meeting for a time specified by the chairperson.
- (b) Ask the meeting to hold in contempt, any member whose conduct is grossly disorderly and where the meeting resolves to find the member in contempt, that resolution must be recorded in the minutes.

Failure to leave meeting (SO.20.6)

If a member or member of the public who is required, in accordance with a chairperson's ruling, to leave the meeting, refuses or fails to do so, or having left the meeting, attempts to re-enter without the permission of the chairperson, any member of the police or officer or employee of the community board may, at the chairperson's request, remove or exclude that person from the meeting.

Audio or audio visual attendance (SO.13.10)

Where the technology is available and a member is attending a meeting by audio or audio-visual link, the chairperson must ensure that:

- (a) The technology for the link is available and of suitable quality; and
- (b) Procedures for using the technology in the meeting will ensure that:
 - i. Everyone participating in the meeting can hear each other;
 - ii. The member's attendance by audio or audio-visual link does not reduce their accountability or accessibility in relation to the meeting;

- iii. The requirements of Part 7 of LGOIMA are met; and
- iv. The requirements in these standing orders are met.

If the chairperson is attending by audio or audio visual link then chairing duties will be undertaken by the deputy chair or a member who is physically present.

Appendix 9: Process for removing a chairperson from office

1. At a meeting that is in accordance with this clause, a community board remove its chairperson from office.
2. If a chairperson is removed from office at that meeting, the community board may elect a new chairperson.
3. A meeting to remove a chairperson may be called by:
 - (a) A resolution of the community board; or
 - (b) A requisition in writing signed by the majority of the total membership of the community board (excluding vacancies).
4. A resolution or requisition must:
 - (a) Specify the day, time, and place at which the meeting is to be held and the business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (b) Indicate whether or not, if the chairperson is removed from office, a new chairperson to be elected at the meeting if a majority of the total membership of the community board (excluding vacancies) so resolves.
5. A resolution may not be made and a requisition may not be delivered less than 21 days before the day specified in the resolution or requisition for the meeting.
6. The chief executive must give each member notice in writing of the day, time, place, and business of any meeting called under this clause not less than 14 days before the day specified in the resolution or requisition for the meeting.
7. A resolution removing a chairperson carries if a majority of the total membership of the community board (excluding vacancies) votes in favour of the resolution.

cl. 18 Schedule 7, LGA 2002.

Appendix 10: Sample order of business

Open section

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of interest
- (c) Confirmation of minutes
- (d) Leave of absence
- (e) Acknowledgements and tributes
- (f) Petitions
- (g) Public input
- (h) Local and/or community board input
- (i) Extraordinary business
- (j) Notices of motion
- (k) Reports of committees
- (l) Reports of the chief executive and staff
- (m) Chairperson's report (information)

Public excluded section

- (n) Reports of committees
- (o) Reports of the chief executive and staff
- (p) Chairperson's report (information)

Appendix 11: Process for raising matters for a decision

Matters requiring a decision at a meeting, may be placed on the meeting's agenda by a:

- Report of the chief executive;
- Report of the chairperson;
- Report of a committee;
- Report of a community or local board; or
- Notice of motion from a member.

Where a matter is urgent and has not been placed on an agenda, it may be brought before a meeting as extraordinary business by a:

- Report of the chief executive; or
- Report of the chairperson.

Although out of time for a notice of motion, a member may bring an urgent matter to the attention of the meeting through the chairperson.



SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

Approved by Council 2 November 2022

R/22/12/72063

Southland District Council
Te Rohe Pōtae o Murihiku

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Document Revision

Date	Amendment	Amended by	Approved by	Approval date

Adopted by Community Boards

Community Board	Date of adoption
Ardlussa	15 November 2022
Fiordland	9 November 2022
Northern	14 November 2022
Oraka Aparima	10 November 2022
Oreti	Have not adopted the code of conduct
Stewart Island/Rakiura	10 November 2022
Tuatapere Te Waewae	23 November 2022
Waihopai Toetoe	22 November 2022
Wallace Takitimu	24 November 2022

PART ONE

Introduction

Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires Council to adopt a code of conduct. Once adopted, all elected members are required to comply with the code.

In the context of this report, the term “elected members” refers to the mayor, councillors and to community board members who have adopted the code.

This code of conduct provides guidance on the standards of behaviour that are expected from the elected members of the Council. It applies also when elected members sit on committees and subcommittees.

The code applies to elected members in their dealings with:

- each other
- the chief executive
- all staff employed by the chief executive on behalf of the Council
- the media
- the general public.

The objective of the code is to enhance:

- the effectiveness of the Council as the autonomous local authority with statutory responsibilities for the good local government of the Southland District
- the credibility and accountability of the Council within its community
- mutual trust, respect and tolerance between the elected members as a group and between the elected members and management.

This code of conduct seeks to achieve its objectives by recording:

- an agreed statement of roles and responsibilities (recorded in part two of this code)
- agreed general principles of conduct (recorded in part three of this code)
- specific codes of conduct applying to particular circumstances or matters (also recorded in part three of this code).

Elected members are primarily accountable to the electors of the district through the democratic process. However, elected members must note that the Auditor-General may hold them to account for unlawful actions or expenditure or for breaches of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

The code of conduct that follows is based on the following general principles of good governance:

- **Public interest.** Elected members should serve only the interests of the district as a whole and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any one person.
- **Honesty and integrity.** Elected members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.
- **Objectivity.** Elected members should make decisions on merit including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. Elected members should also note that, once elected, their primary duty is to the interests of the entire district, not the ward or community that elected them.
- **Accountability.** Elected members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should cooperate fully and honestly with the scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

- **Openness.** Elected members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of the Council, and should be prepared to justify their actions.
- **Personal judgment.** Elected members can and will take account of the views of others, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them, and act in accordance with those conclusions.
- **Respect for others.** Elected members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the Council staff.
- **Duty to uphold the law.** Elected members should uphold the law, and on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust the public places in them.
- **Stewardship.** Elected members must ensure that the Council uses resources prudently and for lawful purposes, and that the Council maintains sufficient resources to meet its statutory obligations.
- **Leadership.** Elected members should promote and support these proposals by example, and should always endeavour to act in the best interests of the community.

PART TWO

Roles and responsibilities

This part of the code describes the roles and responsibilities of elected members, the additional roles of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and the role of the Chief Executive.

Mayor

The mayor is elected by the district as a whole and as one of the elected members shares the same responsibilities as other members of Council. The mayor also has the following roles as a:

- presiding member at Council meetings. The mayor is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of business during meetings (as determined in standing orders);
- advocate on behalf of the community. This role may involve promoting the community and representing its interests. Such advocacy will be most effective where it is carried out with the knowledge and support of the Council;
- ceremonial head of Council;
- providing leadership and feedback to other elected members on teamwork and chairmanship of committees; and
- Justice of the Peace (while the mayor holds office).

The mayor must follow the same rules as other elected members about making public statements and committing the Council to a particular course of action, unless acting in accordance with the rules for media contact on behalf of the Council under a delegation of authority from the Council.

Recent changes to the Local Government Act 2002 have provided additional powers to the mayor. These powers relate to:

- The appointment of the deputy mayor and committee chairpersons
- The determination of the committee structure
- Leadership of budget, plans and key policy discussions.

Deputy Mayor

The deputy mayor may be appointed by the mayor. If the mayor declines to do this, then the deputy mayor must be elected by the members of Council, at the first meeting of the Council. The deputy mayor

exercises the same roles as other elected members, and if the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, the deputy mayor must perform all of the responsibilities and duties, and may exercise the powers, of the mayor (as summarised above). The deputy mayor may be removed from office by resolution of Council.

Committee Chairpersons

As noted above, the mayor has the power to appoint chairpersons and to form Committees. If the mayor declines to do this then the Council may create one or more committees of Council. A committee chairperson presides over all meetings of the committee, ensuring that the committee acts within the powers delegated by Council, and as set out in the Council's Delegations Manual. Committee chairpersons may be called on to act as an official spokesperson on a particular issue. They may be removed from office by resolution of Council.

Councillors

Councillors acting as the Council, are responsible for:

- the development and adoption of Council policy
- monitoring the performance of the Council against its stated objectives and policies
- prudent stewardship of Council resources
- employment of the chief executive
- representing the interests of the residents and ratepayers of Council. (On election, the members' first responsibility is to the district as a whole.)

Unless otherwise provided in the Local Government Act 2002 or in standing orders, the Council can only act by majority decisions at meetings. Each elected member has one vote. No individual elected member (including the mayor) has authority to act on behalf of the Council unless the Council has expressly delegated such authority.

Community Boards

Within the Southland District there are nine community boards:

- Ardlussa Community Board
- Fiordland Community Board
- Northern Community Board
- Oreti Community Board
- Oraka Aparima Community Board
- Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board
- Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board
- Waihopai Toetoe Community Board
- Wallace Takitimu Community Board

The community board elected members, acting as the community board, have the role to:

- represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community
- consider and report on all matters referred to it by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community
- prepare an annual submission to Council for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by Council.

Chief Executive

The chief executive is appointed by the Council in accordance with section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002. The chief executive is responsible for implementing and managing the Council's policies and objectives within the budgetary constraints established by the Council. In terms of section 42 of the Act, the responsibilities of the chief executive are:

- implementing the decisions of the Council
- providing advice to the Council and community boards
- ensuring that all responsibilities, duties and powers delegated to the chief executive or to any person employed by the chief executive, or imposed or conferred by any act, regulation or bylaw are properly performed or exercised
- managing the activities of the local authority effectively and efficiently
- maintaining systems to enable effective planning and accurate reporting of the financial and service performance of the local authority
- providing leadership for the staff of the local authority
- employing staff on behalf of the local authority (including negotiation of the terms of employment for the staff of the local authority).

The chief executive is accountable to Council directly and not to community boards.

Under section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002 the chief executive employs all other staff on behalf of the local authority.

Meeting attendance

Elected members are expected to attend and participate in all Council meetings, standing committee meetings and subcommittee meetings to which they have been appointed, unless they have submitted an apology or obtained a leave of absence in advance for non-attendance.

All councillors are expected to attend all workshops and those hearings that are held as part of the consultation process on Council documents, such as the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan.

From time to time, working parties will be established by the Council or a standing committee to achieve specific outcomes. Elected members are expected to make themselves available to be appointed to an equitable share of these working parties, and to attend all meetings of those to which they are appointed.

Appointments to other bodies

After the triennial elections and on other occasions (as appropriate) Council will appoint elected members to a variety of other bodies.

These appointments will be made on the basis of the best person for the specific role bearing in mind the skills required, the views of the Council and location of the elected member.

PART THREE**Relationships and behaviours**

This part of the code sets out the agreed standards of behaviour. Some of the matters described in this part of the code reflect other legislation such as the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968. The majority of the code is material that the Council has decided to include of its own initiative.

Relationships with other elected members

Successful teamwork is a critical element in the success of any democratically elected organisation. No team will be effective unless mutual respect exists between members. With this in mind elected members will conduct their dealings with each other in ways that:

- maintain public confidence in the office to which they have been elected
- are open and honest
- focus on issues rather than personalities
- avoid aggressive, offensive or abusive conduct
- treat people with courtesy and respect.

Elected members shall maintain the respect and dignity of their office in their dealings with each other, Council officers and the public.

Elected members will create a supportive and inclusive environment by:

- Taking all reasonable steps to participate in activities scheduled to promote a culture of mutual trust, respect and tolerance including attending post-election induction process
- Taking part in any assessment of council's overall performance and operating style during the triennium
- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure they possess the skills and knowledge to effectively fulfil their declaration of office and contribution to the good governance of the Council's district.

Elected members should also note that discussions are not subject to privilege.

Elected members will act in good faith (i.e. honestly, for the proper purpose, and without exceeding their powers) in the interests of the Council and the community.

Elected members should remember that they have no personal power to commit the Council to any particular policy, course of action or expenditure and must not represent they have such authority if that is not the case.

Elected members will make no allegations regarding other elected members or Council officers which are improper or derogatory.

In the performance of their official duties, elected members should refrain from any form of conduct which may cause any reasonable person unwarranted offence or embarrassment.

Relationships with staff

The effective performance of Council also requires a high level of cooperation and mutual respect between elected members and staff. To ensure that level of cooperation and trust is maintained, elected members will:

- recognise that the chief executive is the employer (on behalf of Council) of all Council employees, and as such only the chief executive may hire, dismiss or instruct or censure an employee
- make themselves aware of the obligations that the Council and the chief executive have as employers and observe those requirements at all times
- treat all employees with courtesy and respect (including the avoidance of aggressive, offensive or abusive conduct towards employees)
- observe any guidelines that the chief executive puts in place regarding contact with employees
- not do anything which compromises, or could be seen as compromising, the impartiality of an employee
- avoid publicly criticising any employee in any way, but especially in ways that reflect on the competence and integrity of the employee
- raise concerns about employees only with the chief executive, and concerns about the chief executive only with the mayor or the executive committee.

Elected members should be aware that failure to observe this portion of the code of conduct may compromise the Council's obligations to act as a good employer and may expose the Council to civil litigation and audit sanctions.

Elected members should raise operational issues with the chief executive in the first instance. If it is a routine matter such as repairing a pothole, cutting of vegetation or footpath repairs, the issue should be logged with customer support who will enter the issue into our Request for Service system (RFS). This enables progress on these issues to be monitored.

Relationships with the community

Effective Council decision-making depends on productive relationships between elected members and the community at large.

Members should ensure that individual citizens are accorded respect in their dealings with the Council, have their concerns listened to, and deliberated on in accordance with the requirements of the act.

Members should act in a manner that encourages and values community involvement in local democracy.

Contact with the media

The media plays an important part in local democracy. In order to fulfil this role the media needs access to accurate, timely information about the affairs of Council. From time to time, individual elected members will be approached to comment on a particular issue either on behalf of Council, or as an elected member in their own right. This part of the code deals with the rights and duties of elected members when speaking to the media on behalf of Council, or in their own right.

The following rules apply for media contact on behalf of Council:

- the mayor is the first point of contact for the official view on any issue. Where the mayor is absent, any matters will be referred to the deputy mayor or relevant committee chairperson
- the mayor may refer any matter to the relevant committee chairperson or to the chief executive for their comment

- no other elected member may comment on behalf of Council without having first obtained the approval of the mayor.

Elected members are free to express a personal view in the media provided the following rules are observed:

- media comments must not state or imply that they represent the views of Council
- where an elected member is making a statement that is contrary to a Council decision or Council policy, the member must not state or imply that his or her statements represent a majority view
- media comments must observe the other requirements of the code of conduct, or legislation e.g. not disclose confidential information, or compromise the impartiality or integrity of staff.
- the elected member should ensure that any comments made do not compromise Council's statutory responsibilities. In other words, it would not be appropriate to comment on matters before the regulatory and consents committee, where this might compromise the statutory decision-making processes.

Meeting decisions

Every elected member who has the right to speak can lawfully express his or her opinion at any Council or committee meeting within the limits imposed by Standing orders. These meetings are open to the media and their comments may be reported.

Once a matter has been determined at a Council meeting, it becomes the Council's position until it is lawfully changed by a subsequent Council decision. All elected members and staff will respect this position.

The mayor can make statements that accurately report Council decisions.

Committee chairs can make statements that accurately report their Committee's decisions, or factual statements about Council or committee decisions.

Confidential information

In the course of their duties elected members will occasionally receive information that may need to be treated as confidential. This will generally be information that is either commercially sensitive or is personal to a particular individual or organisation.

Elected members must not use or disclose confidential information for any purpose other than the purpose for which the information was supplied to the elected member. Decisions on whether confidential information is able to be released are to be made by the chief executive in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Elected members should be aware that failure to observe these provisions will impede the performance of Council by inhibiting information flows and undermining public confidence in the Council. Failure to observe these provisions may also expose Council to prosecution under the Privacy Act 1993 and/or civil litigation.

Information received in capacity as an elected member

Any information received by an elected member in his/her capacity as an elected member is official information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). As such the Council has a requirement to hold that information in accordance with the provisions of LGOIMA and the Public Records Act 2005. As such a copy of any such information should be provided to the chief executive so that it can be held in accordance with Council record management policies.

This duty of disclosure will require elected members to whom information may be offered on the basis that confidence be preserved to inform the intended provider of the information of the duty of disclosure and to decline to receive the information if that duty is likely to be compromised.

Responding to queries involving liability issues

Elected members need to ensure they respond to queries in an appropriate manner and with due regard to the legal position of Council. At times, elected members are asked to become involved in legal disputes or insurance claims. Such matters should be referred to the chief executive. It is important that Council act in an appropriate manner with regard to legal and insurance issues. Often our insurance cover depends on the way we address or manage an issue.

Training, conferences and induction

Following the triennial election, the chief executive will organise induction training for all elected members who require it. This will address the role of elected members and provide valuable information about what an elected member needs to know.

Council has a budget for training and development of elected members. From time to time consideration will be given to attendance at the Local Government New Zealand Conference, Local Government New Zealand Zone meetings and New Zealand Planning Institute Conference. Other conferences or meetings may also be considered.

If an elected member wishes to attend a conference or meeting, then he or she should discuss this with the Mayor.

In the case of a community board elected member, an approach should be made to the Chairperson.

Costs incurred with attending training and conferences will be managed in accordance with the Elected Member Remuneration and Reimbursements Policy and the Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Conflicts of interest

Elected members must be careful that they maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as an elected member. This is to ensure that people who fill positions of authority carry on their duties free from bias (whether real or perceived). Elected members therefore need to familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 which concerns financial interests, and with other legal requirements concerning non-financial conflicts of interest.

The act provides that an elected member is disqualified from office, or from election to office, if that member is concerned or interested in contracts under which payments made by or on behalf of the local authority exceed \$25,000 in any financial year.

Additionally, elected members are prohibited from participating in any Council discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the general public. The same rules also apply where the elected member's spouse contracts with the authority or has a pecuniary interest. Elected members must declare their interests at Council meetings where matters in which they have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest arise.

Elected members shall annually make a general declaration of interest as soon as practicable after becoming aware of any such interests. These declarations are recorded in a register of interests maintained by Council. The declaration must notify the Council of the nature and extent of any interest, including:

- any employment, trade or profession carried on by the elected member or the elected member's spouse for profit or gain
- any company, trust, partnership etc for which the elected member or their spouse is a director, partner, trustee or beneficiary
- the address of any land in which the elected member has a beneficial interest and which is in the Council area
- the address of any land where the landlord is Council and:
 - the elected member or their spouse is a tenant, or
 - the land is tenanted by a firm in which the elected member or spouse is a partner, or a company of which the elected member or spouse is a director, or a trust of which the elected member or spouse is a trustee or beneficiary
- any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the elected member's actions during the course of their duties as an elected member.

If the elected member is in any doubt as to whether or not a particular course of action (including a decision to take no action) raises a conflict of interest, then the elected member should seek guidance from the chief executive immediately.

Elected members may also contact the Office of the Auditor General for guidance as to whether that member has a pecuniary interest. If there is a pecuniary interest, the elected member may seek an exemption to allow that elected member to participate or vote on a particular issue in which they may have a pecuniary interest. The latter must be done before the discussion or vote. the chief executive must also seek approval from the Office of the Auditor General for contractual payments to elected members, their spouses or their companies that exceed the \$25,000 annual limit.

Failure to observe the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 could potentially invalidate the particular decision made, or the action taken, by Council. Failure to observe these requirements could also leave the elected member open to prosecution under the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968. In the event of a conviction elected members can be ousted from office.

Standing orders

Elected members must adhere to any standing orders adopted by Council under the Local Government Act 2002. These standing orders are subject to the same legal requirements as a code of conduct with regard to their adoption and amendment.

Ethics

Council seeks to promote the highest standards of ethical conduct amongst its elected members. Accordingly, elected members will:

- claim only for legitimate expenses as laid down by any determination of the Remuneration Authority then in force, and any lawful policy of Council developed in accordance with that determination
- not influence, or attempt to influence, any Council employee to take actions that may benefit the elected member, or the elected member's family or business interests
- Only use Council resources (including facilities, staff, equipment and supplies) effectively and economically in the course of their duties, and within other guidelines, and not in connection with any election campaign or other personal business.
- not solicit, demand, or request any gift, reward or benefit by virtue of their position
- notify the chief executive if any gifts are accepted
- where a gift to the value of \$300 excluding gst or more is offered to an elected member, immediately disclose this to the chief executive for inclusion in the register of interests.

Acceptance of substantial gifts, favours or hospitality may be construed as a bribe or perceived as undue influence. Working meals and social occasions should be undertaken in an appropriate manner.

Disqualification of members from office

Elected members are automatically disqualified from office if they are convicted of a criminal offence punishable by two or more years' imprisonment, or if they cease to be or lose their status as an elector or are convicted of certain breaches of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, local authorities, when adopting a code of conduct, must consider whether or not they will require elected members to declare whether they are an undischarged bankrupt. This Council believes that bankruptcy does raise questions about the soundness of a person's financial management skills and their judgment in general. The Council therefore requires elected members who are declared bankrupt to notify the chief executive as soon as practicable after being declared bankrupt.

PART FOUR

Compliance and review

This part deals with ensuring that elected members adhere to the code of conduct and mechanisms for the review of the code of conduct.

Compliance

Elected members must note that they are bound to comply with the provisions of this code of conduct (Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, section 15(4)).

Elected members are also bound by the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Secret Commissions Act 1910, the Crimes Act 1961 and the Securities Act 1978. The chief executive will ensure that an explanation of these acts is made at the first meeting after each triennial election and that copies of these acts are freely available to elected members.

Short explanations of the obligations that each of these has with respect to conduct of elected members is attached in the appendix to this code.

All alleged breaches of the code should be reported to the mayor or chief executive. Any allegation of a breach of a code of conduct must be in writing, make a specific allegation of a breach of the code of conduct, and provide corroborating evidence.

In response to a breach, the executive committee will investigate the alleged breach and prepare a report for the consideration of Council. Before beginning any investigation, the committee will notify the elected member(s) in writing of the complaint and explaining when and how they will get the opportunity to put their version of events.

The Council will consider the report in open meeting of Council, except where the alleged breach relates to the misuse of confidential information, could impinge on the privacy of a member of staff or of the general public or other good reason, as defined in LGOIMA, exists for considering it in public excluded.

Responses to breaches of the Code

The exact nature of the action the Council may take depends on the nature of the breach and whether there are statutory provisions dealing with the breach.

Where there are statutory provisions:

- breaches relating to members' interests render elected members liable for prosecution by the auditor-general under the Local Authority (Member's Interests) Act 1968
- breaches which result in the Council suffering financial loss or damage may be reported on by the auditor-general under the Local Government Act 2002, which may result in the elected member having to make good the loss or damage
- breaches relating to the commission of a criminal offence may leave the elected member liable for criminal prosecution.

In these cases the Council may refer an issue to the relevant body, any member of the public may make a complaint, or the body itself may take action of its own initiative.

Where there are no statutory provisions, the Council may take the following action:

- censure
- removal of the elected member from Council committees and/or other representative type bodies
- dismissal of the elected member from a position as deputy mayor or chair of a committee.
- request an apology
- removal of certain council-funding privileges (such as attendance at conferences)
- restricted entry to Council offices such as no access to staff areas
- limitations on any dealings with council staff so that they are confined to the chief executive only

A decision to apply one or more of these actions requires a Council resolution to that effect.

Council may decide that a penalty will not be imposed where a respondent agrees to one or more of the following:

- Attend relevant training course and/or;
- Work with a mentor for a period of time and/or;
- Participate in voluntary mediation (if the complaint involves a conflict between two members) and/or;
- Tender an apology.

Review

Once adopted, a code of conduct continues in force until amended by the Council. The code can be amended at any time but cannot be revoked unless the Council replaces it with another code. Once adopted, amendments to the code of conduct require a resolution supported by 75 per cent or more of the elected members of the Council present.

Council will formally review the code as soon as practicable after the beginning of each triennium. The results of that review will be presented to Council for their consideration and vote.

APPENDIX TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Legislation bearing on the role and conduct of elected members

This is a summary of the legislation requirements that has some bearing on the duties and conduct of elected members. Copies of these statutes can be found in the Council library or in the office of the chief executive.

Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968

This act regulates situations where an elected member's personal interests impinge, or could be seen as impinging on their duties as an elected member.

The act provides that an elected member is disqualified from office if that elected member is concerned or interested in contracts under which payments made by or on behalf of the local authority exceed \$25,000 in any financial year.

Additionally, elected members are prohibited from participating in any Council discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the general public. The same rules also apply where the elected member's spouse contracts with the authority or has a pecuniary interest.

Members may also contact the Office of the Auditor General for guidance as to whether that elected member has a pecuniary interest, and if so, may seek an exemption to allow that elected member to participate or vote on a particularly issue in which they may have a pecuniary interest. The latter must be done before the discussion or vote. The chief executive must also seek approval from the Office of the Auditor General for contractual payments to elected members, their spouses or their companies that exceed the \$25,000 annual limit.

Failure to observe these requirements could also leave the elected member open to prosecution under the Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968. In the event of a conviction elected members can be ousted from office.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 sets out a list of meetings procedures and requirements. Of particular importance for the roles and conduct of elected members is the fact that the Chair has the responsibility to maintain order at meetings, but all elected members should accept a personal responsibility to maintain acceptable standards of address and debate. No elected member should:

- create a disturbance or a distraction while another elected member is speaking
- be disrespectful when they refer to each other or other people
- use offensive language about the Council, other elected members, any employee of the Council or any member of the public.

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 sets out the rules around provision of information. This is summarised as follows:

Official information

The term “Official Information” refers to all information (with a few exceptions) held by a local authority. The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requires all official information to be available to the public unless there are good reasons for withholding it.

Requesting information

In brief, the act states:

- requests should be made with “due particularity” (rather than asking for all files about a general topic, which creates a large amount of work) (section 10)
- it is the duty of Council to assist people making requests (section 11)
- the Council must convey its decision on whether to grant the request within 20 working days and must also indicate any charges (section 13)
- information in documents may be made available by providing an opportunity for reading it or by providing a copy of it or by providing a summary or excerpt; however, it should be made available in the way preferred by the requestor unless there are reasons for not doing so (section 15).

Refusing requests for information

A request may be refused (section 17) if:

- there is good reason to withhold it under section 6 or 7 of the Act
- the information will soon be publicly available
- the local authority does not actually hold the information
- the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research
- the request is frivolous or vexatious.

Where a request is refused the Council must give its reasons and advise the requestor that there is a right to have the decision review by the ombudsmen.

Sections 6 and 7 give the following reasons for withholding information:

- making it available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, or endanger safety
- withholding the information is necessary to:
 - protect privacy
 - protect information where its release would disclose a trade secret or would prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied, or who is the subject of the information

- avoid offence to tikanga Maori or avoid disclosure of wahi tapu locations
- protect any obligations of confidentiality where making it available would affect the future supply of information or would otherwise damage the public interest
- maintain free and frank discussion or protect officers and elected members from harassment
- maintain legal professional privilege
- enable the Council to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities or negotiations
- prevent the use of information for improper gain.

Crimes Act 1961

Under this Act it is unlawful for an elected member (or officer) to:

- accept or solicit for themselves (or anyone else) any gift or reward for acting or not acting in relation to the business of Council
- use information gained in the course of their duties for their, or another person's, monetary gain or advantage.

These offences are punishable by a term of imprisonment of seven years or more. Elected members convicted of these offences will also be automatically ousted from office.

Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013

The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 essentially places elected members in the same position as company directors when Council (or a council organisation or council controlled organisation to which they are appointed) offer financial products (such as an issue of debt or equity securities). Elected members may be personally liable if their conduct, or the entity's documents or advertisements contain false or misleading statements. Elected members may also be liable if the requirements of this act are not met in relation to offers of financial products. This act also prohibits elected members providing financial advice on financial products.

Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002

The various provisions of the Local Government Act 1974 and 2002 form the basis of local government. Local government is a creature created by statute and in place to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Elected members should be aware of the purpose of local government (section 10 Local Government Act 2002)

The purpose of local government is:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

In performing its role, as outlined in section 14 of the Local Government Act 2002, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a local authority should -
 - (i) conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner; and
 - (ii) give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner.

- (b) a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities; and
- (c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of:
 - (i) the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region; and
 - (ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and
 - (iii) the likely impact of any decision on the interests referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii)
- (d) a local authority should provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to its decision-making processes;
- (e) a local authority should collaborate and co-operate with other local authorities and bodies as it considers appropriate to promote or achieve its priorities and desired outcomes, and make efficient use of resources; and
- (f) a local authority should undertake any commercial transactions in accordance with sound business practices; and
- (fa) a local authority should periodically -
 - (i) assess the expected returns to the authority from investing in, or undertaking a commercial activity; and
 - (ii) satisfy itself that the expected returns are likely to outweigh the risks inherent in the investment or activity; and
- (g) a local authority should ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of its resources in the interests of its district or region; and
- (h) in taking a sustainable development approach, a local authority should take into account:
 - (i) the social, economic, and cultural interests of people and communities; and
 - (ii) the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and
 - (iii) the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.”

Sections 44-46 of the Local Government Act 2002 outline action that can be taken by the auditor general to recover a loss incurred by a local authority:

- “(1) For the purposes of this section and sections 45 and 46, a local authority is to be regarded as having incurred a loss to the extent that any of the following actions and omissions has occurred and the local authority has not been fully compensated for the action or omission concerned:
- (a) money belonging to, or administrable by, a local authority has been unlawfully expended; or
 - (b) an asset has been unlawfully sold or otherwise disposed of by the local authority; or
 - (c) a liability has been unlawfully incurred by the local authority; or
 - (d) a local authority has intentionally or negligently failed to enforce the collection of money it is lawfully entitled to receive.”

The auditor general has the right to recover any such loss from each member of the local authority jointly and severally.

The Local Government Act deals with issues of governance, structure of local government, planning, decision-making and accountability, regulatory and enforcement, offences, penalties and other proceedings.

Resource Management Act 1991

This Act governs how Council should deal with land use and other planning processes. The Resource Management Act sets out to provide a range of rules that support a sustainable environment but also permits local autonomy based around the development of a district plan that applies to each individual local authority.

Privacy Act 2020

The Privacy Act 2020 explains Council's obligations around collecting, storing, using and disclosing personal information. The act also outlines a regime for privacy breaches. Council has two privacy officers who are responsible for ensuring Council complies with the act. The privacy officers also deal with information requests and will play a key role in any privacy investigations that may be conducted by the privacy commissioner. Any queries in relation to the Privacy Act 2020 should be directed to the chief executive in the first instance.

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Council has obligations to provide a safe working place for staff and members of the public. Attendance to health and safety concerns is part of the responsibility of each staff member and elected member.

Significant penalties exist where the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 are not adhered to.

Public Audit Act 2001

Council is publicly accountable under the provisions of the Public Audit Act 2001. As a result of this, an annual audit is undertaken under the direction of the auditor general. This audit reviews the financial and non-financial performance of Council through the development and reporting of the annual report.

Setting first ordinary meeting

Record no: R/25/10/52482
Author: Rachael Poole, Committee advisor
Approved by: Vibhuti Chopra, Group manager strategy and partnerships
Report type: Decision

Staff recommendations

That the Wallace Takitimu Community Board:

- a) resolves that the first ordinary meeting of the Wallace Takitimu Community Board for the 2025-2028 triennium be held at 4pm on 11 December 2025.

Purpose

- 1 This report sets the time and date for the first ordinary community board meeting of the 2025-2028 triennium.

Executive summary

- 2 The community board must, at its first meeting of the triennium, either fix the date and time of its first meeting or adopt a schedule of meetings. This is required by clause 21 (5)(d) of schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 3 A separate report recommending a schedule of meeting dates for all of 2026 will be presented for adoption at the December meeting of the community board.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.