

Standing Orders

For meetings of the Council, Committees, Subcommittees and Hearing Panels

Adopted by Council on 4 September 2025



Preface

Standing Orders contain rules for the conduct of the proceedings of local authorities, Committees, Subcommittees, and subordinate decision-making bodies. The Standing Orders meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002), and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA 1987) in relation to the conduct of meetings.

In doing so, the application of Standing Orders contributes to greater public confidence in the quality of local governance and democracy in general. Although it is mandatory for councils to adopt Standing Orders for the conduct of their meetings, it is not necessary for them to be adopted every triennium. However, it is recommended that Standing Orders be reviewed within the first six months after an election. This is to ensure that they meet the needs of relevant bodies for running effective and inclusive meetings (see LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 27).

Please note that Standing Orders do not apply to Advisory, Steering, or Working Groups, Briefings, and Workshops unless incorporated explicitly into their terms of reference.

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 local authority must abide by Standing Orders.

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1. Introduction

These Standing Orders have been prepared to enable the orderly conduct of Council and Committee 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:

- General Matters.
- Pre-meeting Procedures.
- Meeting Procedures.

The Appendix, which follows Part Three, provides templates and additional guidance for implementing provisions within the Standing Orders. Please note that 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.

1.1. Principles

The Standing Orders provide rules for the Council and Committees to use when making decisions. Underpinning the Standing Orders are several principles, the most important being that councils and their members:

- Transparently conduct their business through public notice of meetings, provision of access to information, publicly open discussions, and meetings that are open to the public.
- Respect confidentiality, in accordance with relevant legislation, when making decisions that contain sensitive information.
- Represent their community when making decisions by taking into account the diversity of their communities, their views and interests, and the interests of communities in the future.
- Acknowledge, and, as appropriate, make provision for Te Ao Māori and local tikanga in meeting processes.
- Ensure that decision-making procedures and practices meet the standards of natural justice, in particular, that decision-makers are seen to have open minds.
- Have a high standard of behaviour which fosters the participation of all members, including the expression of their views and opinions, without intimidation, bullying, or personal criticism.
- Act with professionalism by ensuring their conduct is consistent with the principles of good governance and the behaviours outlined in the Council's Code of Conduct.

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

In addition, the application of these Standing Orders must comply, as appropriate, with the decision-making provisions of part 6 of LGA 2002 and be consistent with section 39 of the LGA 2002, which states that “governance structures and processes are effective, open, and transparent” (LGA 2002, section 39).

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.

It is essential to note that statutory references in the Standing Orders remain applicable throughout the duration of a meeting, regardless of whether the Standing Orders have been suspended.

1.3. Acronyms

LGA 2002	Local Government Act 2002
LGOIMA 1987	Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
LAMIA 1968	Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

1.4. Application

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

2. Definitions

Adjournment indicates 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 refers to a group of people convened by the Council 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 working parties, working groups, panels, forums, portfolio groups, and other similar bodies.

Agenda refers to 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 refers to any change or proposed change to the original or substantive motion.

Appointed member is a member of a Committee, or subsidiary organisation of a Council, who is not elected.

Audio link refers to technology that enables audio communication between participants at a meeting when one or more of them are not physically present at the meeting location.

Audiovisual link refers to technology that enables audio and audiovisual communication between participants at a meeting when one or more of them are not physically present at the meeting location.

Briefing (which has a specific meaning and is not the same as a Workshop) refers to any non-decision-making, information-sharing session, update for elected members provided by staff or other individuals, and which is specifically Public Excluded (PX) as per the provisions of section 7 of the LGOIMA1987.

Casting Vote is a second vote exercised by a Chairperson to break a tie vote.

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

Chief Executive indicates 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 authorised by the Chief Executive.

Clear working days refer to the number of working days (business hours) prescribed in these Standing Orders for giving notice and exclude the date of the meeting and the date on which the notice is served.

Committee includes, in relation to a local authority:

- (a) A Committee comprising all the members of that authority.
- (b) A standing Committee or special Committee appointed by that authority.

- (c) A Joint Committee appointed under schedule 7 clause 30A of the LGA 2002; and
- (d) Any Subcommittee of a Committee described in (a), (b) and (c) of this definition.

Community Board refers to a Community Board established under section 49 of the LGA 2002.

Conflict of Interest refers to 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 refers to being disobedient to, disrespectful of, the Chairperson of a meeting or disrespectful to any members, officers or the public.

Council refers to, in the context of these Standing Orders, the governing body of a local authority.

Deliberative Vote is an ordinary vote of a member (as compared to the casting vote of a chairperson).

Debate refers to a discussion among members that occurs after a motion has been moved/seconded.

Deputation is a request from any person or group to make a presentation to the Council or Committee which is approved by the Chairperson, and which may be made in English, te reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language, subject to Standing Orders 4.3.

Division refers to a formal vote at a Council, Committee or Subcommittee meeting whereby the names of those members present, including the Mayor/Chairperson, are formally recorded as abstaining or voting either for or against. This includes a vote where the names and votes are recorded electronically.

Electronic link refers to both an audio and an audiovisual link.

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

Extraordinary meeting has the same meaning as defined in schedule 7 clause 22 of the LGA 2002.

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

Internet site relates to the Council or other person or entity's Internet site that is maintained by, or on behalf of, the local authority, person, or entity and to which the public has free access.

Joint Committee is a Committee in which the members are appointed by more than one local authority in accordance with schedule 7 clause 30A of the LGA 2002.

Karakia timatanga is an opening prayer.

Karakia whakamutunga is a closing prayer.

Lawfully excluded means an elected member who has been removed from a meeting due to behaviour that a chairperson has ruled to be contempt.

Leave of absence refers to a pre-approved absence for a specified period of time consistent with the Council policy, should one be in place.

Local authority, in the context of these Standing Orders, refers to any Community Boards, Local Boards, Committees or subordinate decision-making bodies established by the territorial authority.

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

Meeting refers to any first, inaugural, ordinary, extraordinary, or emergency meeting of the Council, subordinate and decision-making bodies of the Council convened under the provisions of LGOIMA 1987.

Member is any person elected or appointed to the local authority.

Member of the Police is a Constable of the New Zealand Police within the definition of section 4 of the Policing Act 2008.

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

Minutes refers to the record of the proceedings of any meeting of the local authority.

Motion refers to a formal proposal to a meeting.

Mover refers to the member who initiates a motion.

Newspaper is 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 publication; and this includes every publication that at any time accompanies and is distributed along with any newspaper.

Non-elected member See Appointed Member.

Notice of motion refers to 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 refers to any person employed by the Council, either full or part-time, on a permanent, casual or contract basis.

Open voting refers to 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 after it has concluded. Secret ballots are specifically excluded.

Order paper is a list of items for consideration at a meeting, along with reports and other attachments related to those items, presented in the order in which they will be discussed. An order paper is also referred to as an agenda.

Ordinary meeting is any meeting, other than the first meeting, of a local authority publicly notified in accordance with sections 46(1) and (2) of LGOIMA 1987.

Original motion refers to the first motion moved in a debate, before amendment (if any).

Pecuniary Interest includes any matter or activity of financial benefit to the member as set out in the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 and the Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022.

Petition refers to a request to a local authority which contains at least five signatures.

Powhiri is a formal welcome that involves a Karanga from the Tangata Whenua (the indigenous people), followed by formal speech-making. A Powhiri is generally used for formal occasions of the highest significance.

Present at the meeting to constitute a quorum means the member must either be physically present in the room or attend the meeting via audio/visual link, if permitted by these Standing Orders.

Presiding member refers to the Chairperson.

Procedural motion is a motion that is used to control the way in which a motion or the meeting is managed as specified in Standing Order 25.

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 has 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 the Council has not subsequently released; and
- Any other information which the Council has not released as publicly available information.

Public excluded (PX) session refers to those meetings or parts of meetings from which the public is excluded by the council as provided for in LGOIMA 1987. Also referred to as a confidential or in-committee session.

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

Public notice refers to 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. 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 refers to notifying 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 is the privilege conferred on a member by sections 52 and 53 of LGOIMA 1987.

Quasi-judicial refers to 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 refers to the minimum number of members required to be present in order to constitute a valid meeting.

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

Right of reply refers to the right of the mover of the substantive/original motion to reply to those who have spoken to the motion.

Second is the member who seconds a motion or amendment.

Sub judice refers to under judicial consideration and, therefore, is prohibited from public discussion elsewhere.

Subordinate decision-making body refers to Committees, Subcommittees, and any other bodies established by the Council that have decision-making authority, but not Community Boards or Joint Committees.

Substantive motion is 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 refers to an original motion which has been amended by the meeting.

Subcommittee is a subordinate decision-making body established by a Council, or a Committee of a Council. See definition of "Committee".

Working day is 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 local authority wish to meet between 20 December and 10 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 is a group set up by a local authority to achieve a specific objective that is not a Committee or Subcommittee and to which these Standing Orders do not apply.

Workshop, in the context of these Standing Orders, is a gathering of elected members for the purpose of considering matters of importance to the local authority at which no decisions are made and to which these Standing Orders will not apply, unless required by the local authority. Workshops may include non-elected members and are open to the public.

General Matters

3. Standing Orders

3.1. Obligation to adopt Standing Orders

Councils are required to adopt a set of Standing Orders.

- Standing Orders set out how meetings are conducted.
- Standing Orders must not contravene any Act. If Standing Orders are inconsistent with a legal requirement, that requirement prevails over the Standing Orders.

This obligation applies to City and District Councils, Regional councils, local boards and Community Boards.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 27(1) & (2).

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 Council and by a vote of not less than 75% of the members present.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 27(3).

3.3. Members must obey Standing Orders

All members of the Council, including members of Committees and Subcommittees, Joint Committees and Hearing Panels, must obey these Standing Orders.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 16(1).

3.4. Application of Standing Orders

These Standing Orders apply to all meetings of the Council, its Committees, Subcommittees and subordinate decision-making bodies. This includes meetings and parts of meetings that the public is excluded from.

3.5. Temporary suspension of Standing Orders

A meeting can temporarily suspend a Standing Order(s), provided the suspension does not contravene any legislative requirement.

The meeting must suspend Standing Order(s) by resolution.

The meeting's motion to suspend a Standing Order(s), must include:

- The reason for suspending the Standing Order(s).
- The Standing Order(s) being suspended.

A motion to suspend Standing Order(s) can be taken before or during a debate.

Once seconded, the meeting Chairperson must put the motion without debate.

To be carried, at least 75 per cent of members present and voting must support the motion.

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. In the event of suspension, those Standing Orders prescribed in statute will continue to apply, such as the quorum requirements.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 27(4).

3.6. Exclusions for meetings at which no Resolutions or Decisions are made

For the avoidance of doubt, any provision of these Standing Orders relating to the making of decisions and the passing of resolutions does not apply to any meeting of the Council or of any Committee or Subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body of the Council which has been properly constituted as a meeting at which no resolutions or decisions are to be made under the Local Government Act 2002 or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

3.7. Quasi-judicial Proceedings

A meeting which is undertaking quasi-judicial proceedings may set its own meeting procedures.

Quasi-judicial proceedings are held to conduct hearings and/or consider disputes.

Some Committees may have additional powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

3.8. Physical address of members

Every member of the Council must give to the 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 five working days of the publication of the declaration of the election results. Public access to those addresses is subject to the Privacy Act 2020, and permission of the individual elected member.

4. Meetings

4.1. Legal requirement to hold meetings

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

- (a) Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002;
- (b) Part 7 of LGOIMA 1987; 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 ten 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 three 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 be translated and printed in English or te reo Māori.

If a member intends to address the meeting in New Zealand Sign Language or te reo Māori, when the normal business of the meeting is conducted in English, they must give prior notice to the Chairperson at least two working days before the meeting.

Where the regular 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 two working days before the meeting.

Any written materials should be forwarded to the Chief Executive at least two days before the meeting for translation.

4.4. Webcasting meetings

Webcast meetings can be provided in accordance with the protocols contained in [Appendix 5](#).

4.5. First meeting (Inaugural)

The first meeting of the Council, following a local authority 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 seven 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 21(1)-(4).

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 Mayor has made an oral declaration and attested the declaration (see LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 21(4)).

The Mayor will chair the meeting once they have made their oral and written declarations.

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

- (a) The making and attesting of the oral and written declarations required of the Mayor (if any) and members under LGA 2002, schedule 7 clause 14;
- (b) A general explanation, given or arranged by the Chief Executive, of:
 - i. LGOIMA 1987; 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.
- (c) The fixing of the date and time of the first meeting of the Council, or the adoption of a schedule of meetings; and
- (d) Where the Mayor has not appointed a Deputy Mayor (under section 41A(3)(a) of the LGA 2002) prior to the meeting, the election of the Deputy Mayor

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 21(5).

Note the general explanation of Acts can also include the LGA 2002 provisions relating to the Register of members' pecuniary interests (sections 54A – 54I). The business that must be conducted at the first meeting will not include any business dealt with at that Urgent Meeting.

5. Appointments and Elections

5.1. Mayoral appointment of the Deputy Mayor, Committee Chairpersons and Members

A Mayor may appoint the Deputy Mayor, the Chairperson, and the members of each Committee of the territorial authority. The names of any appointments made by the Mayor must be tabled at the first meeting of the Council after the appointments are made. The Mayor may also appoint themselves.

LGA 2002, s 41A(3).

5.2. Council discharge of a Mayoral appointment

Nothing, however, limits or prevents the Council from discharging a Deputy Mayor, a Chairperson or a member of a Committee appointed by the Mayor. Any decision by the Council to discharge a Deputy Mayor shall follow the procedure in Standing Order 5.5.

If the Mayor declines to appoint a Deputy Mayor or Committee Chairpersons in accordance with LGA 2002, section 41A, the Council (or a Committee, if directed by the Council) must elect those positions in accordance with Standing Order 5.4.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 31.

5.3. Establishment of Committees by the Mayor

The Mayor may establish Committees of the Council. Where a Mayor exercises this right, a list of the Committees and their terms of reference must be tabled at the next following meeting of the Council. Should the Mayor decline to establish Committees under LGA 2002, section 41A, then any decision to establish Committees must follow the processes set out in these Standing Orders.

Nothing, however, limits or prevents the Council from discharging or reconstituting, in accordance with LGA 2002, schedule 7 clause 30, a Committee established by the Mayor, or appointing more Committees in addition to any established by the Mayor.

Note that a Mayor is a member of every Committee unless specific legislation provides otherwise, such as a Committee established under section 189 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

LGA 2002, ss 41A (3) and (4).

5.4. Elections Deputy Mayors and Deputy Chairpersons

The Council (or a Committee responsible for making the appointment) must decide by resolution to use one of two voting systems (see Standing Order 5.6) when electing people to the following positions:

- (a) the Deputy Mayor.
- (b) the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of a Committee; and
- (c) a representative of Council.

Note: This provision does not apply in situations where a Mayor has used their powers under LGA 2002, section 41A to appoint a Deputy Mayor, or Committee chairs. See [Appendix 7](#).

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 25.

5.5. Removal of a Deputy Mayor

A Deputy Mayor, whether appointed by the Mayor under the Standing Order 5.1, or elected by the Council, can only be removed in accordance with LGA 2002, schedule 7 clause 18. See [Appendix 7](#).

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 18.

5.6. Voting system for Deputy Mayors and Committee Chairpersons

When electing a Deputy Mayor or a Committee Chairperson, the Council 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 Council 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 25.

6. Delegations

6.1. Only the holder of a delegated authority can rescind or amend a previous decision

Where a Council or a Committee has delegated authority to another body, member or officer, they cannot rescind or amend a decision made under that delegated authority.

However, the current holder of the delegated authority may rescind or amend a previous decision made under the same authority.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 30(6).

6.2. Duty to consider delegations to Community Boards

A Council that has Community Board(s) must consider whether to delegate to a Community Board if the delegation will enable the Community Board to achieve its role best.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 32(6).

6.3. Limits on Delegations

Unless clearly stated in the LGA 2002 or any other Act, the Council may, for the purposes of efficiency and effectiveness, delegate to a Committee, Subcommittee, subordinate decision-making body, Community Board, member, or officer of the local authority, any of its responsibilities, duties, or powers except:

- (a) The power to make a rate.
- (b) The power to make a bylaw.
- (c) The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan.

- (d) The power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan, or annual report.
- (e) The power to appoint a Chief Executive.
- (f) The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the LGA 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the Local Governance Statement.
- (g) The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 32(1).

6.4. Committees may delegate

A Committee, Subcommittee, subordinate decision-making body, member, or officer of the local authority 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 32(2) & (3).

6.5. Use of Delegated Powers

The Committee, Subcommittee, other subordinate decision-making body, or member or officer of the local authority to which or to whom 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 32(2), (3) & (4).

6.6. Bodies are subject to the direction of the Council

A Committee, Subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body is subject to the control of the local authority or Committee that appointed it in all matters.

A Committee, Subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body must carry out all general and special directions given to them by the Council or Committee.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 30(3) & (4).

7. Committees

7.1. Appointment of Committees and Subcommittees

The Council may appoint the Committees, Subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies that it considers appropriate. A Committee may appoint the Subcommittees that it deems appropriate unless it is prohibited from doing so by the Council.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 30(1) & (2).

7.2. Discharge or reconstitution of Committees and Subcommittees

Unless expressly provided otherwise in legislation or regulation:

- (a) The Council may discharge or reconstitute a Committee or Subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body; and
- (b) A Committee may discharge or reconstitute a Subcommittee.
- (c) A Committee, Subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body is, unless the Council resolves otherwise, discharged when members elected at a subsequent triennial general election come into office.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 30(5) & (7).

Note: *The Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002 section 12(2) states that a Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group is not deemed to be discharged following a triennial election. This also applies to the District Licensing Committee, subject to Council resolution, section 193 of LGA 2002 and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.*

7.3. Appointment or discharge of Committee members and Subcommittee members

The Council may appoint or discharge any member of a Committee and, if established by the Council, a Subcommittee. A Committee may appoint or discharge any member of a Subcommittee appointed by the Committee unless directed otherwise by the Council.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 31(1) & (2).

7.4. Elected members' membership of Committees and Subcommittees

A Council or Committee may appoint non-elected members (appointed members) to a Committee or Subcommittee. At least one member of a Committee must be an elected member. The Council or a Committee may appoint a person who is not a member of the Council to a Committee or Subcommittee if, in the opinion of the Council or Committee, the person has the skills, attributes or knowledge to assist the Committee or Subcommittee. A staff member of the local authority, in the course of their employment, can be a member of a Subcommittee but not a Committee.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 31(1), (3) & (4).

7.5. The Council may replace members if Committee is not discharged

If the Council resolves that a Committee, Subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body is not to be discharged under LGA 2002, schedule 7 clause 30(7) the Council may replace the members of that Committee, Subcommittee or subordinate decision-making body after the next triennial general election of members.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 31(5).

7.6. Minimum numbers on Committees and Subcommittees

Committees may set the quorum for their Subcommittees by resolution, if it is not less than two members.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 31(6)

7.7. Membership of the Mayor

The Mayor is a member of every Committee of Council unless specific legislation provides otherwise, such as a Committee established under section 189 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

LGA 2002, s 41A(5).

7.8. Ex Officio Member

The portfolio holder or any member of the Council may be appointed an ex-officio member of any Committee other than a Community Board or a Quasi-judicial Committee.

Note: *The Council Portfolio holder can attend any workshop and/or briefing relating to their portfolio.*

7.9. Decision not invalid despite irregularity in membership

For the purpose of these Standing Orders, a decision of the Council or Committees is not invalidated if:

- (a) There is a vacancy in the membership of the Council or Committee, at the time of the decision; or
- (b) 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 29.

7.10. Appointment of Joint Committees

The Council may appoint a Joint Committee with another local authority or other public body if it has reached an agreement with each local authority 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;

- (e) How the agreement may be varied; and
- (f) The agreement may also specify any other matter relating to the appointment, operation, or responsibilities of the Committee agreed by the parties.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 30A(1)-(3).

Note: *A Mayor who is a member of a joint committee by virtue of LGA 2002, section 41A(5), is not counted as part of the quorum of that joint committee.*

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 30A(6A).

7.11. Status of Joint Committees

A Joint Committee is deemed both a Committee of the Council and a Committee of each other participating local authority or public body.

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

7.12. Power to appoint or discharge individual members of a Joint Committee

Individual members of a Joint Committee may only be discharged or appointed by the council or public body that made the original appointment.

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

Pre-Meeting

8. Giving notice

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 five days before the end of the current month, together with the dates, the times, and places 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 ten nor less than five working days before the day on which the meeting is to be held.

LGOIMA 1987, s 46.

8.2. Public notice/publicly notified means:

- (a) publicly available on the council's internet site; and
- (b) published in at least:
 - i. 1 daily newspaper which circulates in the region or district of the Council; or
 - ii. 1 or more other newspapers that have a combined circulation equivalent to the newspaper in i) above.

LGA 2002 s 5 and LGOIMA 1987, ss 2 & 46.

8.3. Notice to members - Ordinary Meetings

The Chief Executive must give notice in writing to each member of the Council 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 19(5).

8.4. Extraordinary meeting may be called

An extraordinary Council meeting may be called by:

- (a) Resolution of the Council, or
- (b) A requisition in writing delivered to the Chief Executive, which is signed by:
 - i. The Mayor; or
 - ii. Not less than one third of the total membership of the Council (including vacancies).

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 22(1).

8.5. Notice to members - Extraordinary meetings

Notice in writing of the time and place of an extraordinary meeting called under Standing Order 8.3 and of the general nature of business to be considered must be given by the Chief Executive to each member of the Council at least three 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 22.

8.6. Emergency meetings may be called

If the business that the Council 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 Mayor; or
- (b) If the Mayor is unavailable, the Chief Executive.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 22A(1).

8.7. 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 Council, and to the Chief Executive, at least 24 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 22A(2).

8.8. Public notice – Emergency and Extraordinary meeting

Where an emergency or extraordinary meeting of the Council is called but the notice of the meeting is inconsistent with these Standing Orders, due to the manner in which it was called, the Council 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 Council's website and in any other manner that is reasonable in the circumstances.

LGOIMA 1987, s 46(3).

8.9. An urgent meeting may be called

The Chief Executive may call an urgent meeting of the Council before candidates to be declared elected after a recount are known if:

- (a) An application for a recount has been made following a triennial general election; and
- (b) An event occurs that, in the chief executive's opinion, requires the council to deal with a matter urgently; and
- (c) The first meeting of the Council has not yet been called.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 21A(1)-(2).

8.10. Process for calling an urgent meeting

If the Chief Executive calls an urgent meeting, the Chief Executive must give notice of that meeting as soon as practicable to every person who:

- (a) is not an affected candidate; and
- (b) has been declared to be elected to the Council.

Notice must be given to each of those persons:

- (a) by whatever means is reasonable in the circumstances; and
- (b) at least 24 hours before the meeting commences.

The notice must specify:

- (a) the time and place of the urgent meeting; and
- (b) the matter for determination at the urgent meeting.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 21A(3) & (5).

8.11. Public notice – Urgent meetings

Where an urgent meeting is called and the public notice requirements of LGOIMA 1987 and/or these Standing Orders cannot be met, the council must still publicly notify the meeting.

The public notice must include the general nature of the matter being discussed at the meeting and must:

- (a) be publicly notified as soon as practicable before the meeting; or
- (b) if it is not practicable to publish in newspapers before the meeting, it must be notified:
 - i. as soon as practicable on the council's website; and
 - ii. in any other manner which is reasonable in accordance.

LGA 2002, sch7 cl 21A(4) and LGOIMA 1987, s 46(3).

8.12. Conduct of urgent meetings

The Council may only conduct the following business at an urgent meeting:

- (a) In respect of the persons described in LGA 2002, schedule 7 clause 21A(3)(a), the oral and written declarations of the Mayor (if any) and members (under clause 14).
- (b) A general explanation of LGOIMA 1987 and other laws affecting members, including the appropriate provisions of LAMIA 1968; The Crimes Act 1961 (sections 99, 105, and 105A); the Secret Commissions Act 1910; the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, and the LGA 2002 provisions relating to the register of members' pecuniary interests (sections 54A – 54I).
- (c) The matter in respect of which the Urgent meeting has been called.
- (d) The election of a member to preside at the Urgent meeting (if required).
- (e) The Council cannot consider any items other than those specified above.
- (f) If multiple urgent meetings are required, the items outlined in (a) and (b) (above) may be omitted from the business to be conducted if they have previously been dealt with.
- (g) The Chief Executive (or their nominee in the Chief Executive's absence) must chair the Urgent meeting until:
 - i. the Mayor (if any) has made their oral and written declarations; or
 - ii. the members that are present have:
 - made their oral and written declarations; and
 - elected one of their number to preside at the urgent meeting.
- (h) An affected candidate cannot participate in the meeting but may attend the meeting if it is open to the public.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 21B.

8.13. Meetings not invalid

The failure to notify a public meeting under these Standing Orders does not, in itself, make that meeting invalid. However, where the Council becomes aware that a meeting has been incorrectly notified, it must, as soon as practicable, give public notice stating:

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

LGOIMA 1987, s 46(6).

8.14. Resolutions passed at an Extraordinary or Emergency meeting

The Council must, as soon as practicable, publicly notify any resolution passed at an extraordinary or emergency meeting of the Council unless:

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

LGOIMA 1987, s 51A.

8.15. Meeting schedules

Where the Council adopts a meeting schedule, it may cover any period that the Council 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 1987 to notify each meeting publicly.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 19(6).

8.16. Non-receipt of notice to members

A meeting of the Council is not invalid if notice of that meeting was not received, or not received in due time, by a member of the Council 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 the Council may waive the need to be given notice of a meeting.

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

8.17. 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

At least two clear working days prior to a meeting the chief executive must prepare an agenda for the meeting, to be circulated to all members attending the meeting.

Even though the agenda is the chief executive's responsibility, where practicable, the chief executive should consult the chairperson for the meeting about the agenda.

The agenda must:

- (a) list the items to be brought before the meeting;
- (b) include the reports and other attachments associated with the list of items in the agenda; and
- (c) indicate which items are expected to be discussed with the public excluded (see also Standing Order 9.14).

9.2. Process for raising matters for a decision

Requests for reports may be made by a resolution of the Council, Committee, Subcommittee, and subordinate decision-making body, 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 9](#).

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 may, at the meeting, 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 of the LGA 2002.

9.6. Chairperson's 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 of the LGA 2002.

9.7. Public availability of the Agenda

All information provided to members at Council or Committee meetings 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.

LGOIMA 1987, ss 5 & 46A.

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 two clear working days before a meeting, all agendas and associated reports circulated to members of the Council and Committees relating to that meeting. The agenda:

- (a) Must be available for inspection at the public offices of the Council (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.

While the documents must be available for viewing at least two clear working days before a meeting, they should be made available with as much notice as possible before the meeting date.

- (a) It is sufficient for the documents to be available for electronic inspection.
- (b) No charge can be imposed for the inspection of the agendas (including reports).

LGOIMA 1987, s 46A(1)-(3).

9.9. Agenda to be made available to public who are at meetings

Additional copies of the summary agenda and further particulars indicating the nature of the items to be discussed must be available at meetings in sufficient numbers to enable any spare copies to be provided for members of the public to take away with them free of charge.

LGOIMA 1987, s 49.

9.10. Withdrawal of Agenda items

If justified by circumstances, an agenda item may be withdrawn by the Chief Executive or his/her delegate. In the event of an item being withdrawn, the Chief Executive should inform the Chairperson.

9.11. 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 Council business, to members by electronic means.

9.12. Status of Agenda

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

9.13. 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.

LGOIMA 1987, s 46A(7).

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the Chief Executive or the Chairperson.

Note: *nothing in this standing order removes the requirement to meet the provisions of Part 6 of the LGA 2002 with regard to consultation and decision-making.*

9.14. 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. All formal decisions must be supported by a staff report.

LGOIMA 1987, s 46A(7A).

9.15. Public excluded business on the Agenda

The Chief Executive may exclude a report, or part of a report, from an agenda where they expect it to be discussed once the public has been excluded (by resolution) from the meeting.

Where reports, or parts of reports, are withheld, the agenda and proposed recommendation must clearly indicate:

- (a) the matter is expected to be discussed with the public excluded.

- (b) the general subject of any items to be considered while the public is excluded;
- (c) the reasons for passing a resolution (with reference to the particular provision relied on for each matter); and
- (d) the actual grounds in LGOIMA 1987, s 48(1) relied on to exclude the public.

LGOIMA 1987, ss 46A(8)-(9) and 48(3).

Note: *The Ombudsman advises that the reason for passing a resolution should contain specific details about the harm the Council is trying to avoid, rather than simply reciting the clause from section 6 or section 7(2) as it is written in the LGOIMA 1987.*

9.16. 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.

LGOIMA 1987, s 52.

Meeting Procedures

10. Opening and closing

The Council and Committees 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 timitanga, mihi whakatau, or powhiri as well as a karakia whakamutunga to close a meeting where appropriate.

11. Quorum

11.1. Council meetings

The quorum for a meeting of the Council 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.

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

11.2. Committees and Subcommittee meetings

A Council 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 if it is not less than two members.

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 Council.

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

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 the quorum includes one or more members appointed by each local authority or any party.

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

11.4. Mayor as a member of a Joint Committee

A Mayor is a member of all Joint Committees.

If the Mayor is a member solely due to LGA 2002, section 41A(5), the Mayor is not counted as a member of the Committee for determining:

- (a) The number of members required to constitute a quorum; or
- (b) Whether a quorum exists at a meeting.

LGA 2002, s 41A(5) and LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 30A(6A).

11.5. 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 23(1)-(2).

11.6. 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.

No business may be conducted while waiting for the quorum to be reached.

Minutes must record when a meeting lapses due to a lack of a quorum, along with the names of the members who attended and left, causing the quorum to lapse.

11.7. Business from lapsed meetings

Where meetings lapse, the remaining business will be adjourned and placed at the beginning of the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless the Chairperson sets an earlier meeting, and the Chief Executive notifies this.

11.8. Exclusions for meetings at which no resolutions or decisions are made

For the avoidance of doubt, these Standing Orders only apply to decision-making meetings and do not apply to any non-decision-making meeting of the Council and Committees, which has been properly constituted as a meeting under the Local Government Act 2002 or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

12. Public access and recording

12.1. Meetings open to the public

Except as otherwise provided by part 7 of LGOIMA 1987, every meeting of the Council authority, its Committees, and Subcommittees, must be open to the public.

Members of the news media are considered to be members of the public.

LGOIMA 1987, ss 47 & 49(a).

12.2. Grounds for removing the public

The Chairperson may require any member of the public whose conduct is disorderly or who is creating a disturbance to be removed from the meeting.

LGOIMA 1987, s 50(1).

12.3. The Council may record meetings

Meeting venues should contain clear signage indicating and informing members, officers and the public that the Council may record proceedings 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 the Council, or of a Committee of a local authority, has, unless lawfully excluded, the right to attend any meeting of the Council or Committee.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 19(2).

If a member of the Council 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 Chairperson, 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 section 48 of LGOIMA 1987. Consequently, if the meeting resolves to exclude the public, then any members of the Council who are present may remain, unless they are lawfully excluded.

Note *this section does not confer any rights to non-elected members appointed to Committees of a local authority.*

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 Council who are not members of that Committee are not entitled to take part in the proceedings.

13.3. Leave of Absence

A Council/Committee may grant a member leave of absence following an application from that member. The Council/Committee may delegate the power to grant a leave of absence to the Mayor/Chairperson to protect a members' privacy, and the Council/Committee may approve an application from the Mayor/Chairperson. The Mayor/Chairperson will advise all members of the Council/Committee 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 Mayor (or Chairperson) 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 Council business where their absence is a result of a commitment made on behalf of the Council.

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 Council, or Committees 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 5(d).

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 Council 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 attending meetings by electronic link's status: Quorum

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

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

13.9. Member attending meetings by electronic link'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 regarding attendance by electronic link

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 audiovisual link does not reduce their accountability or accessibility of that person in relation to the meeting.
 - iii. The requirements of part 7 of LGOIMA 1987 are met; and
 - iv. The requirements in these Standing Orders are met.

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

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 two 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 has no obligation to make the technology for an audio or audiovisual 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 Council or its Committees.

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 Standing Order 13.16).

13.14. Giving or showing a document

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

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

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

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 audiovisual 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. Council meetings

The Mayor must preside at meetings of the Council unless they vacate the chair for a part or all of a meeting. If the Mayor is, absent from a meeting or vacates the chair, the Deputy Mayor must act as Chairperson. If the Deputy Mayor is also absent the Council members, who are present must elect a member to be the Chairperson at that meeting. This person may exercise the meeting responsibilities, duties, and powers of the Mayor for that meeting. This provision also applies to Committees and Subcommittees.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 26(1), (5) & (6).

14.2. Other meetings

In the case of Committees, Subcommittees and subordinate decision-making bodies, 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cls 26(2), (5) & (6).

14.3. Addressing the Chairperson

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

14.4. 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 a point of order questions the Chairperson's ruling). Any refusal to obey a Chairperson's ruling or direction constitutes contempt (see Standing Order 20.5).

14.5. 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.

14.6. 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.

14.7. 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:

- (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 Chairperson to permit the member a special request.

15. Public forums

Public forums are 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 forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the Council.

In the case of a Committee, or Subcommittee, any issue, idea, or matter raised in a public forum, must fall within the terms of reference of that body. Any matter raised in a public forum that requires a decision must be considered at a meeting, accompanied by a report.

15.1. Time limits

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, may be available for the public forum at each scheduled Council meeting.

Speakers can speak for up to ten minutes.

No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation during a public forum. Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds six in total, the Chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

Requests to speak at a public forum must be:

- (a) made to the Chief Executive (or their delegate); and
- (b) made at least one clear day before the meeting; and
- (c) must outline the items that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

The Chairperson has discretion to:

- (a) extend a speaker's allocated speaking time; or
- (b) where more than six speakers are presenting in the public forum, restrict one or more speakers allocated speaking time, or
- (c) waive the time requirement for requesting permission to speak in the public forum.

15.2. Restrictions

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

- (a) A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum.
- (b) The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff.
- (c) The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful, or offensive.
- (d) The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue.

- (e) The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- (f) The speaker has caused disruption at multiple previous Committee and/or Council meetings;
- (g) The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the Council or Committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.
- (h) Decision-making authority on the matter rests with another body or individual.

15.3. Questions at public forums

At the conclusion of the presentation, 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.

The speaker may not ask questions of either members or staff.

15.4. No resolutions

Following the public forum, no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the public forum unless related to items already on the agenda.

16. Deputations

16.1. Receiving deputations

Deputations may be received by the Council or any of its Committees provided an application for admission setting forth the subject has been lodged with the Chief Executive or Governance Staff at least two clear working days before the date of the meeting concerned and has been subsequently approved by the Chairperson. The Chairperson may refuse requests for deputations which are repetitive or offensive.

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, two clear working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered.

16.2. Urgency or major public interest

Notwithstanding Standing Order 16.1 where in the opinion of the Chairperson the matter, which is the subject of a deputation, is one of urgency or significant public interest, the Chairperson may determine that the deputation be received.

16.3. Time limits

Unless the chairperson has restricted the speaking time under Standing Order 15.1:

- (a) speakers can speak for up to five minutes (excluding questions); and

- (b) no more than two speakers can speak on behalf of a deputation.

16.4. Restrictions

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

- (a) A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the meeting.
- (b) The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff.
- (c) The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful, or offensive.
- (d) The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue.
- (e) The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- (f) The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the Council or Committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.
- (g) Where a member of the public has previously caused a disruption at multiple meetings, the chairperson may decline a deputation request and require the individual to provide their views in writing.

16.5. Questions of a deputation

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

16.6. 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. Any matter raised in a deputation requiring a decision must be considered at a meeting with an accompanying report.

17. Petitions

17.1. Form of petitions

Petitions may be presented to the Council or any of its Committees provided the subject matter falls within the terms of reference of the intended meeting.

Petitions must:

- (a) Petitions must contain at least five signatures and consist of fewer than 150 words (not including signatories) and be of serious intent.
- (b) Be received by the Chief Executive at least five clear working days before the meeting at which they will be presented. The Chairperson may waive the requirement that petitions be filed five working days before the meeting.
- (c) Must not be disrespectful, use offensive language or include malicious, inaccurate, or misleading statements (see Standing Order 20.9 on qualified privilege).

- (d) May be written in English or te reo Māori. Petitioners planning to present a petition in te reo Māori or sign language should notify the relevant Chief Executive at least five clear working days prior to the meeting to allow for translation and reprinting, if necessary.

17.2. Petition presented by petitioner

A petitioner who presents a petition to the Council or any of its Committees and or Subcommittees, may speak for ten 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.

17.3. Petition presented by a 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 1987 (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 1987 (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.
- (c) The grounds on which the resolution is based.
- (d) The resolution will form part of the meeting's Minutes.

Note: LGOIMA 1987 ss 7(2)(f) and (i) (free and frank expression) cannot be used as a ground to exclude the public from meetings.

LGOIMA 1987, s 48.

18.2. Code of Conduct Committee

Should a Code of Conduct Committee be called, the Chairperson has the right to exclude elected members who are not directly involved in the Committee, based on LGOIMA 1987 reasons related to the privacy of natural persons.

ie, The only persons recommended to be present at a Code of Conduct Committee are the Committee Panel (consisting of four elected members), the elected member whom any complaint has been laid against and the Chief Executive and minute taker. It is the discretion of the Committee Chairperson as to the presence of the Mayor or any other elected member for specific portions of the meeting that may directly relate to specific aspects of the hearing.

18.3. 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.

LGOIMA 1987, s 48(6).

18.4. 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.

LGOIMA 1987, s 46A(8).

18.5. 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 1987 for withholding the information; and
- (b) The information is no longer confidential.

18.6. Release of information from public excluded session

The Council 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 that the grounds to withhold the information no longer exist. The Chief Executive will inform the subsequent meeting of the nature of the information released.

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, the Council must be decided at a meeting through a vote exercised by the majority of the members that are present and voting.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 24(1).

19.2. Open voting

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

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 24(3).

19.3. Chairperson does NOT have a casting vote

The Mayor, Chairperson or any other person presiding at a meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the case of an equality of votes, has no casting vote.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 24(2).

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 or delegate 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. Restating the motion

The Chairperson may, immediately before any vote being taken, request the Chief Executive or the minute taker to restate the motion upon which the vote is to be taken.

19.7. 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 member's reason for their vote or abstention, is not permitted.

19.8. 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 them to leave the meeting immediately for a specified period.

20.2. Behaviour consistent with Code of Conduct (disrespect)

At a meeting, no member may act inconsistently with the Elected Members 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 to another member or contravened the Council'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 in a safe space 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 or security risk.

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 may 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 section 6 LAMIA 1968 applies to them, or the Auditor-General has granted them an exemption or declaration under LAIMA 1968, section 6 (noting such exemption or declaration is valid for a period no longer than 12-months at a time).

Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw from the table. It is recommended that members should leave the room until the item has been concluded.

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.

LAMIA 1968, ss 6 & 7.

20.8. Non-financial conflicts of interest

Non-financial interests involve questions about whether the judgment of a member of a Council 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 should physically withdraw from the table when the matter is considered. It is recommended that members should leave the room until the item has been concluded. The Minutes must record the declaration, reason why 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.

Note: *A Register of Interests (covering both financial and non-financial aspects) will be kept by the Chief Executive (or delegate) and reviewed at least six monthly for the Council, the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee, and all Community Boards.*

20.9. Qualified privilege for meeting proceedings

Any oral statement made at any meeting of the Council and/or Committee in accordance with the rules adopted by the Council 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.

LGOIMA 1987, s 53.

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 Council and/or Committee.

LGOIMA 1987, s 53.

20.11. Electronic devices at meetings

Electronic devices and phones should only be used to support the business of the meeting. Where personal use is unforeseen prior to the meeting, members should seek permission from the Chairperson to leave the meeting to deal with such matters. It is not deemed good practice or indeed appropriate to convey any aspect of meeting content or decision via personal electronic devices prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

A Chairperson may require that an electronic device be switched off if:

- (a) its use is likely to distract a meeting from achieving its business; or,
- (b) 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 Chairperson 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 ten minutes.
- (b) Movers of motions when exercising their right of reply – not more than five minutes; and
- (c) Other members – not more than five minutes.

Time limits can be extended by:

- (a) resolution, or
- (b) at the Chairperson's discretion.

21.3. Questions to staff

During a debate, members can ask staff questions about the matters being discussed on the agenda. 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 during debate

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. Questions to be concise

Questions and answers shall be submitted as briefly and concisely as possible. No discussion shall be allowed upon any question or upon the answer.

21.6. Questions to be in writing

Questions that are not directly related to a specific matter (report) on the agenda shall be in writing and handed to the Chairperson prior to the commencement of the meeting at which they are to be asked and in time for an appropriate answer to be prepared.

21.7. Questions may be deferred

If an answer to the question cannot be given at that meeting, it shall, at the discretion of the Chairperson, be placed on the agenda for the following Council/Committee meeting.

21.8. Members may speak only once

A member may not speak more than once to a motion at a meeting of Council, except with permission of the Chairperson. Movers of the original motion may speak once to each amendment. Members can speak more than once to a motion at a Committee or Subcommittee meeting with the Chairperson's permission.

21.9. Limits on the 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.

21.10. Seconder 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.

21.11. Speaking only to relevant matters

Members may speak to any matter before the meeting; a motion or amendment which they propose; and to raise a point of order arising out of debate, but not otherwise. 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.

21.12. Reading of speeches

Members shall not read their speeches, except with the permission of the Chairperson, but may refresh their memory by reference to notes.

21.13. Personal explanation

Notwithstanding Standing Order 20.5, members may make a personal explanation with the permission of the Chairperson, provided that the matter is personal to the member, deals with a fact and is not derogatory in nature. Such matters may not be debated.

21.14. Explanation of previous speech

With the permission of the Chairperson, explanation of some material part of a previous speech in the same debate may be given by a member who has already spoken, but new matter may not be introduced.

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

21.15. 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.

21.16. 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.

21.17. 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.*

21.18. 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, should the mover so desire.

However, 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.

21.19. No other member may speak

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

- (a) After the mover has started their reply.
- (b) After the mover has indicated that they want to forego this right; and

- (c) 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.

21.20. Adjournment motions

The carrying of any motion to adjourn a meeting must supersede other business 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 Community Board, is to be considered at the next ordinary meeting of that Committee or Board, unless otherwise specified.

21.21. 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

- (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 a matter in the report. In this case, the original mover or seconder may also move or second the amendment.)*
- (b) Only members who have not spoken to the original, substituted or substantive motion may move or second an amendment to it.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Members can speak to any amendment. The meeting may reword a motion provided that:
 - i. the mover and seconder agree to the rewording; and
 - ii. the majority of members agree to the rewording.

22.2. Procedure if no resolution reached

If no resolution is reached, the Chairperson may accept a new motion to progress the matter under discussion.

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 recorded in the Minutes as lapsed.

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.

Note *that amendments that are significantly different must comply with the decision-making provisions of part 6 of the 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 speak to it, and may move or second a further amendment, provided that they have not moved or seconded the original motion or a previous 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 speak to the substantive motion and may move or second a further amendment to it, provided that they have not moved or seconded the original motion or a previous amendment.

23.9. Where a motion is lost

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 speak to it, and may move or second a further amendment, provided that they have not moved or seconded the original motion or a previous amendment. If a motion is lost the status quo will remain.

23.10. Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once a motion or amendment, which has been seconded, has been put to, the meeting by the Chairperson the mover cannot withdraw it without the consent 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 the reply or motion have 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 Chairperson started putting the motion.

23.12. Amendment once moved

When a motion has been moved and seconded, then proposed by the Chairperson for discussion, an amendment may be moved or seconded by any member who has not spoken to the motion, whether an original motion or a substituted motion, provided that they have not moved or seconded the original motion or a previous amendment. The mover or seconder of a motion for the adoption of the report of a Committee, who desires to amend any item in the report, may also propose or second an amendment.

23.13. Procedure until resolution

The procedures in Standing Orders 23.12 and 23.6 must be repeated until a resolution is adopted.

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 Council, or subordinate body. 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 the 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 be 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, 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 Community Board.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 30(6).

24.3. 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 Council 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.

24.4. 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% of the members present and voting must agree to the revocation or alteration.

24.5. Revocation or alteration by recommendation in report

The Council, on a recommendation in a report by the Chairperson, Chief Executive, or any Committee or Subcommittee, 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.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 30(6).

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 Community Board.

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

25.3. Closure motion on amendment

When an amendment to a motion is under debate, a closure motion relates to the amendment and not to the motion.

25.4. 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.

25.5. 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.

25.6. Remaining business at adjourned meetings

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

25.7. Other business not superseded

The carrying of any motion to adjourn a meeting shall not supersede other business before the meeting remaining to be disposed of, and such other business is to be considered at the next meeting.

25.8. Business referred to the Council, Committee or Community Board

Where an item of business is referred (*or referred back*) to a Committee or Community Board, the Committee or Board will consider the item at its next meeting unless the meeting resolves otherwise.

25.9. 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 the 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 Chairperson that the topic being discussed is not the matter currently before the meeting;
- (d) Misrepresentation – to alert the Chairperson 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;
- (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 making a decision. 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 Chairperson, then the Chairperson will refer the point of order to the Deputy Chairperson 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 five 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 two 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 contains offensive language or statements made with malice; or
- (b) Is not related to the role or functions of the local authority 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 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 to satisfy the decision-making provisions of the LGA 2002, sections 77-82. 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 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 Council 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 Council or a Committee:

- (a) No similar notice of motion, which, in the opinion of the Chairperson, may be accepted within the next 12 months, unless signed by not less than one-third of all members, including vacancies.
- (b) Where the Council has adopted a notice of motion, 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 Council, 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. Note that the Waimakariri District Council has decided that Minutes will be kept electronically, rather than in hard copy, from October 2019 onwards.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 28.

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) Members absent without apology or leave of absence.
- (f) Members 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 member's 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.

Note: *Hearings under the Resource Management Act 1991, 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, prior to the Minutes confirmation, is their correctness. However, members may provide updates or request updates on matters arising from the minutes, after approval, however, no discussion may occur.

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 Council and Committees before the next election of members.

29. Keeping a record

29.1. Maintaining accurate records

The Council 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, to be able to be used for subsequent reference.

Public Records Act 2005, s 17.

29.2. Method for maintaining records

If Minutes are stored electronically, the repository in which they are kept must meet the following requirements:

The provision of a reliable means of assuring the integrity of the information is maintained; and

- (a) The information is readily accessible to be usable for subsequent reference.
- (b) Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017, section 229(1).

29.3. Inspection

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

LGOIMA 1987, s 51.

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

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908
- Crimes Act 1961
- Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017
- Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA 1968)
- Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA 2001)
- Local Government Act 1974 and 2002 (LGA 2002)
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA 1987)
- Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022
- Public Records Act 2005
- Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991)
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
- Secret Commissions Act 1910
- Financial Markets (Repeals and Amendments) Act 2013.
- Privacy Act 2020
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Policing Act 2008
- Marine Farming Act 1971.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Grounds to exclude the public

A local authority 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:

LGOIMA 1987, section 5

The question whether any official information is to be made available, where that question arises under this Act, shall be determined, except where this Act otherwise expressly requires, in accordance with the purposes of this Act and the principle that the information shall be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it.

LGOIMA 1987, section 6

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.

LGOIMA 1987, section 7

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; or,
- (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; or

- (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)(ii) 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 holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or
- (i) Enable any Council 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.

LGOIMA 1989, section 48

- (1) Provided that where the above section (section 7) applies the public may be excluded unless, in the circumstances of the particular case, the exclusion of the public is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, that the public not be excluded.
 - (b) 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:
 - (i) Be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or
 - (ii) Constitute contempt of Court or of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) 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 by an Ombudsman under section 30(1) or section 38(3) of LGOIMA 1987 (in the case of a Council named or specified in schedule 1 to this Act).
 - (d) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies.
- (2) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council 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; or
 - (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
 - (b) Proceedings of a local authority exist in relation to any application or objection under the Marine Farming Act 1971.

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:

That the public is excluded from:

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

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

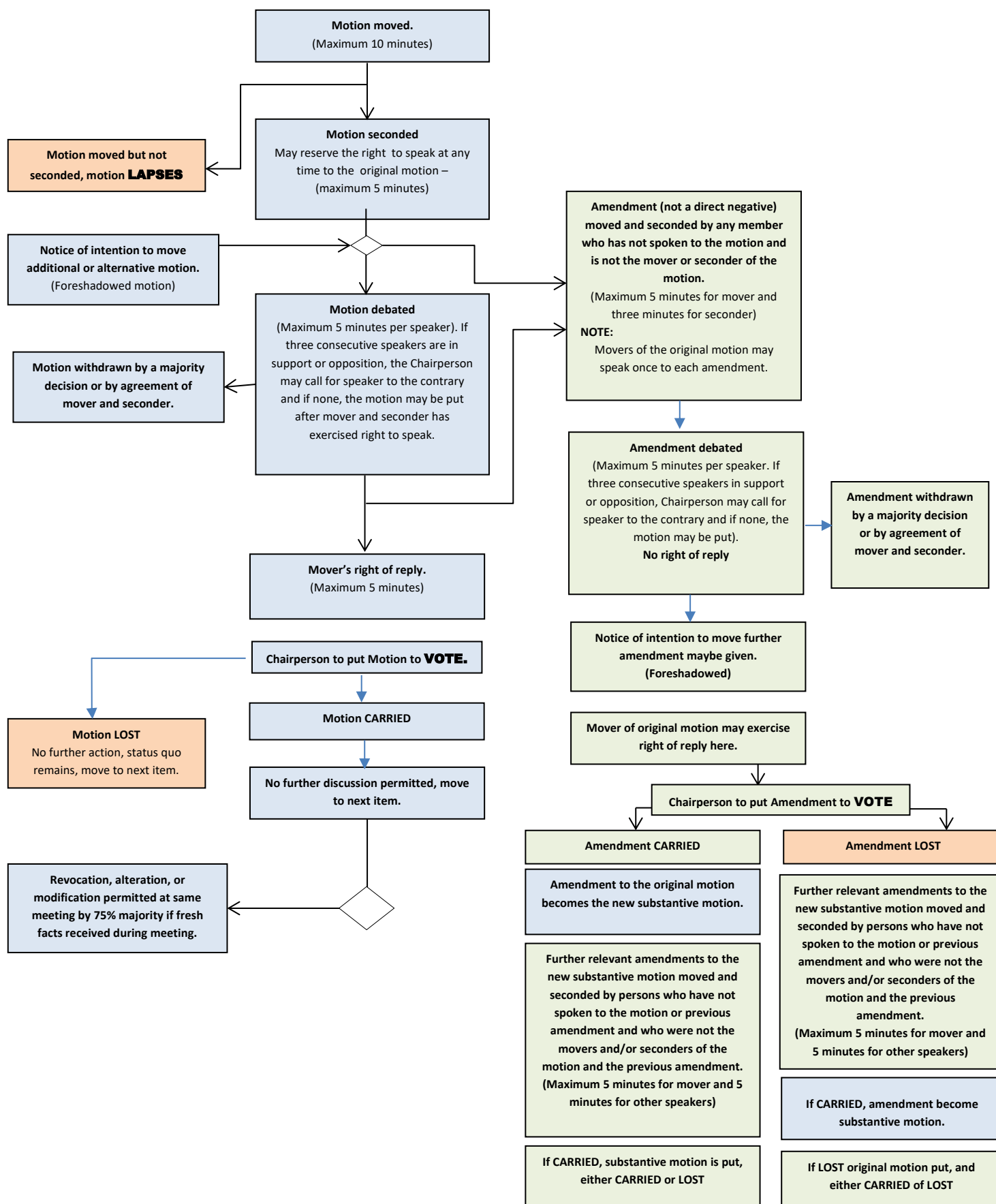
Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public
		To prevent the disclosure of information which would— i. be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or ii. Constitute contempt of court or of the House of Representatives (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 48(1)(b)</i>).
		To consider a recommendation made by an Ombudsman (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 48(1)(c)</i>).
		To deliberate in private on any proceedings where: i. a right of appeal lies to any Court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council/Committee in those proceedings; or ii. the local authority is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings. (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 48(1)(d)</i>).
		To deliberate on proceedings in relation to an application or objection under the Marine Farming Act 1971. (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 48(2)(d)</i>).
		To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(a)</i>).
		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. (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(b)</i>).
		To avoid serious offence to Tikanga Māori, or the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu in relation to an application under the Resource Management Act 1991 for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a resource consent, or • a water conservation order, or • a requirement for a designation or • an heritage order. (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(ba)</i>).

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public
		To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(c)</i>).
		To avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(d)</i>).
		To avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(e)</i>).
		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 (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(f)(ii)</i>).
		To maintain legal professional privilege (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(g)</i>).
		To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(h)</i>).
		To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s 7(2)(i)</i>).
		To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage (<i>LGOIMA 1987, s. 7(2)(j)</i>).

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 not applicable.)*

Appendix 3: Motions and amendments (WDC)

Motions without amendments Motions with amendments



Appendix 4: Table of Procedural Motions

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
(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 local authority 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 the discretion of the Chair-person	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Point of order takes precedence	Point of order takes precedence	See standing order 3.14

Appendix 5: Webcasting protocols

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

- The default shot will be on the Chairperson or a wide-angle shot of the meeting room.
- Cameras will cover a member who is addressing the meeting. Cameras will also cover other key participants in the meeting, including staff members when providing advice and members of the public during the public input time.
- 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.
- PowerPoint presentations, recording of votes by division and other matters displayed by overhead projector may be shown.
- Shots unrelated to the proceedings, or not in the public interest, are not permitted.
- If there is general disorder or a disturbance from the public gallery, coverage will revert to the Chairperson.
- Appropriate signage will be displayed both in and outside the meeting room alerting people that the proceedings are being webcast.

Appendix 6: Powers of a Chairperson

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

(1) 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.

(2) Chairperson to decide Points of Order

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.

(3) Items not on the Agenda

Major items not on the agenda may be dealt with at that meeting if so resolved by the local authority 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 local authority 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.

(4) Chairperson's Report (Verbal or Written)

The Chairperson, by report, has the right to direct the attention of the local authority to any matter or subject within the role or function of the local authority.

(5) Chairperson's Recommendation

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.

(6) Chairperson's Voting

The Chairperson at any meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the case of equality of votes, has NO casting vote.

(7) Motion in writing

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

(8) Motion in parts

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

(9) Notice of motion

The Chairperson may direct the Chief Executive to refuse to accept any notice of motion which:

- (a) Is disrespectful or contains offensive language or statements made with malice; or
- (b) Is not within the scope of the role or functions of the local authority; 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 local authority, 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.

(10) Action on previous resolutions

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.

(11) Repeat notice of motion

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 local authority, 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 local authority, including vacancies.

(12) Revocation or alteration of previous resolution

A Chairperson may recommend in a report to the local authority the revocation or alteration of all or part of any resolution previously passed, and the local authority meeting may act on such a recommendation in accordance with the provisions in these Standing Orders.

(13) 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 meeting;
- (b) May requisition an extra meeting to be held at a specified time and place, in order to conduct specified business.

(14) Irrelevant matter and needless repetition

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.

(15) Taking down words

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.

(16) 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.

(17) Chairperson rising

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.

(18) Members may leave places

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

(19) Priority of speakers

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

(20) Minutes

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 local authority prior to the next election of members.

(21) Questions of speakers

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

(22) Withdrawal of offensive or malicious expressions

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.

(23) Chairperson's rulings

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.

(24) Disorderly behaviour

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 if the meeting resolves to find the member in contempt, that resolution must be recorded in the minutes.

(25) Failure to leave the meeting

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 local authority may, at the Chairperson's request, remove or exclude that person from the meeting.

(26) Audio or audiovisual attendance

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 audiovisual link does not reduce their accountability or accessibility in relation to the meeting.
 - iii. The requirements of part 7 of LGOIMA 1987 are met; and
 - iv. The requirements in these Standing Orders are met.

If the Chairperson is attending by audio or audiovisual link, then chairing duties will be undertaken by the Deputy Chairperson or a member who is physically present.

Appendix 7: Mayor's powers to appoint under section 41A of the LGA 2002

(1) The role of a Mayor is:

- (a) To provide leadership to councillors and the people of the city or district.
- (b) To lead development of the council's plans (including the long-term and annual plans), policies and budgets for consideration by councillors.

(2) The Mayor has the authority to:

- (a) Appoint the Deputy Mayor.
- (b) Establish Council Committees, their terms of reference, appoint the Chairperson of each of those Committees and the members.
- (c) Appoint themselves as the Chairperson of a Committee.
- (d) Decline to exercise the powers under clauses (a) and (b) above but may not delegate those powers to another person.

(3) The Council retains the ability to:

- (a) Remove a Deputy Mayor appointed by the Mayor.
- (b) Discharge or reconstitute a Committee established by the Mayor.
- (c) Discharge a Committee Chairperson who the Mayor has appointed.

(4) The Mayor is a member of each Committee of the Council.

Appendix 8: Process for removing a Deputy Mayor from office

- (1) At a meeting that is in accordance with this clause, a local authority may remove its Deputy Mayor from office.
- (2) If a Deputy Mayor is removed from office at that meeting, the territorial authority may elect a new Deputy Mayor at that meeting.
- (3) A meeting to remove a Deputy Mayor may be called by:
 - (a) a resolution of the territorial authority; or
 - (b) a requisition in writing signed by the majority of the total membership of the territorial authority (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 Deputy Mayor is removed from office, a new Deputy Mayor is to be elected at the meeting if a majority of the total membership of the territorial authority (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 Deputy Mayor carries if a majority of the total membership of the territorial authority (excluding vacancies) votes in favour of the resolution.

LGA 2002, sch 7 cl 18.

Appendix 9: Workshops/briefings

(1) Definition of briefing session

Briefing sessions provide a valuable opportunity to enhance the understanding of matters and to sound out potential options that will assist with informing future staff reports that the Council will consider in their future decision-making process. The briefing sessions are a forum for the Chief Executive and Council staff to address any elected member questions and provide additional background on matters of interest to the Council. **No decision-making or voting takes place at briefing meetings.**

Briefing sessions are public excluded meetings, whereby the discussion is restricted to the parties in the Chamber/room. Briefing sessions occur with consideration given to LGOIMA 1987 and reasons for excluding the public.

(2) Definition of workshop session

Workshop sessions are a process for elected members, staff and where required, external parties to collaborate and develop or advance proposals such as masterplans with the organisation on topics of strategic importance and collectively develop proposals prior to the formal decision-making process commencing. **Workshop sessions are open to the public.**

(3) Application of Standing Orders to workshops and briefings

Standing Orders do not apply to workshops and briefings (PX). The Chairperson or organisers will decide how the workshop, briefing (PX) or working party should be conducted.

(4) Calling a workshop/briefing

Workshops, briefings (PX) and working parties may be called by:

- (a) a resolution of the local authority or its Committees
- (b) the Mayor
- (c) a committee Chairperson
- (d) the Chief Executive
- (e) by member or staff request.

(5) Process for calling workshops/briefings

Regular Council briefings and workshops shall be held in accordance with the Waimakariri District Council Meeting Schedule monthly with the Council. Community Board briefings and workshops shall be held on an 'as-needed' basis and included on formal agendas. Notification and diary commitments will be provided to Councillors with the agenda.

The Mayor or Chief Executive may call additional briefing and workshop sessions for the Council as deemed necessary for the discussion of emerging matters, in consultation with the General Manager of the department with expertise. The Chairperson or Senior Manager may call for additional briefing or workshop sessions if required. Scheduling of such additional meetings will be undertaken by the Governance team.

The Chief Executive or Governance staff will give at least 24 hours' notice of the time and place of the workshop/briefing and the matters to be discussed at it. Notice may be given by whatever means are reasonable in the circumstances. Any notice given must expressly:

- (a) State that the meeting is a workshop or briefing (Public Excluded)
- (b) Advise the date, time and place
- (c) Confirm that the meeting is primarily for the provision of information and discussion, and will not make any decisions or pass any resolutions.

(6) Advertising workshops/briefings

Briefing sessions are not advertised in newspapers.

Workshops will be advised via an agenda of a formal meeting (when time permits) and listed on the Council website under the meeting schedules, however, will not be advertised in newspapers. Notification of a workshop may occur in an agenda if the workshop immediately follows the conclusion of a formal meeting.

(7) Record of workshop

A written record of the workshop should be kept and include:

- (a) The name of each elected member who attended the meeting.
- (b) Other persons (e.g. members of the public, Council staff) who attended the meeting,
- (c) Other than elected members.
- (d) The matters discussed at the meeting.
- (e) Any conflicts of interest declared.
- (f) A copy of presentation material provided during the briefing (including slide decks, handouts etc. but not confidential documents); and
- (g) Any matters arising as a result of the discussion.

Appendix 10: Sample Order of Business

Council: Open section

- (1) Apologies
- (2) Declarations/conflicts of interest
- (3) Acknowledgements and tributes
- (4) Confirmation of Minutes
- (5) Matters Arising
- (6) Public Forum
- (7) Deputations and Presentations
- (8) Petitions
- (9) Adjourned Business
- (10) Reports (**PART A**)
- (11) Reports from the Waimakariri Water Services Unit (**PART B**)
- (12) Matters to be considered with the public excluded

Public excluded section

- (13) Apologies
- (14) Declarations/conflicts of interest
- (15) Confirmation of Minutes
- (16) Matters Arising
- (17) Reports from the Waimakariri Water Services Unit (**PART B**)
- (18) Reports (**PART A**)
- (19) Reports referred from Committees and/or Community Boards
- (20) Resolutions of matters considered in public excluded

Council: Open section

- (21) Matters referred from Committees
- (22) Matters referred from Community Boards
- (23) Health & Safety (CE Report every month)
- (24) Committee Minutes for Information
- (25) Community Board Minutes for Information
- (26) Correspondence
- (27) Mayor's Diary
- (28) Council Portfolio Updates.
- (29) Questions Under Standing Orders
- (30) Urgent General Business Under Standing Orders
- (31) Date and Venue for next meeting

Standing Committees

Same order as above

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:

- (a) Report of the Chief Executive;
- (b) Report of the Chairperson;
- (c) Report of a Committee;
- (d) Report of a Community Board; or
- (e) 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:

- (a) Report of the Chief Executive; or
- (b) 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.