

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 10 December 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford

Councillors:

John Blackwell

Joe Carr

Jack Craw

Peter-Lucas Jones *(Via audio-visual link)*

Amy Macdonald

Marty Robinson *(Via audio-visual link)*

Tui Shortland *(Via audio-visual link)*

Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor *(Via audio-visual link)*

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services *(Via audio-visual link)*

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services

Group Manager - Community Resilience

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

Deputy GM – Corporate Services

Financial Planning Manager

Translator

Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor

Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services

Human Resources Manager

Policy and Planning Manager

Land Programme Manager

Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Corporate Strategy Manager

Financial Accountant

Senior Māori Technical Advisor

Economist

Policy Specialist – Freshwater

Corporate Planning Specialist *(Via audio-visual link)*

Economic Policy Advisor

Executive Assistant to the Chair of Council *(Via audio-visual link)*

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by the Translator.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Receipt of Supplementary Report: Financial Report to 30 November 2024 (Item 3.0A)

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following supplementary report be received:

- Financial Report to 30 November 2024.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 26 November 2024 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 26 November 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

(Councillor Shortland abstained from voting)

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Notice of Motion: Consideration to remove and replace the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee (Item 5.3)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Notice of Motion: Consideration to remove and replace the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 2 December 2024, be received.

2. That council removes Councillor Jones from the position of Chairperson of Audit and Risk Committee of the Northland Regional Council.
3. That in the event that more than one nomination for Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee is received, voting System A as specified in clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 be used for the election of a Committee Chairperson.

Carried

(The Chairperson in putting the motion called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Craw, Crawford, Robinson and Stolwerk in favour of the motion and Councillors Carr, Jones and Shortland against. Councillor Macdonald abstained from voting)

Secretarial Note:

- *It was suggested that if the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee was to be replaced then it would be appropriate to appoint an Independent Chair. There would also be merit in appointing a Deputy Chair to the Committee.*
- *Clarification was provided that council's Standing Orders stipulated that a Chairperson must be physically present to preside over a meeting, otherwise the chairing duties would be undertaken by the Deputy Chair or a member physically present (Standing Order 13.10).*
- *The Chair of council called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Northland Regional Council.*

It was further moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

4. That Councillor Blackwell be elected Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Northland Regional Council.

Secretarial Note: There were no further nominations forthcoming.

The procedural motion was moved (Carr/Jones)

- 4a. That the item of business being discussed *(the election of the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee)* should lie on the table and that council initiate a process to appoint an independent Chairperson.

Carried

(The Chairperson in putting the motion called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Craw, Crawford, Jones, Macdonald and Shortland in favour of the motion and Councillors Robinson¹ and Stolwerk against)

Secretarial Note:

- *Council to workshop the process for the appointment of the new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee in the New Year. This to include, if possible, the status of other regional councils and any best practise advice regarding the appointment of Independent Chairs to such a committee.*

¹ Councillor Robinson's expression of opinion was reaffirmed after the meeting due to poor connectivity and audio at the time.

- *Clarification was provided that the next scheduled meeting dates for the Audit and Risk Committee and council were 18 February 2025 and 25 February 2025 respectively. This did not align with the appointment of the new Chairperson by council prior to the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.*
- *Further clarification was provided that council's Standing Orders stipulated that in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair must preside, or the local authority members who were present must elect a member to be Chair at that meeting (Standing Order 14.1).*

It was further moved (Carr/Craw)

5. That a submission be lodged with the Remuneration Authority outlining the revised allocation of the remuneration pool (based on the methodology that the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee is a position of additional responsibility and receives a higher duties allowance of \$1,200).

Carried

(The Chairperson in putting the motion called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Craw, Crawford, Jones, Macdonald and Stolwerk in favour of the motion. Councillors Robinson² and Shortland abstained from voting)

Financial Report (Supplementary Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

That the report 'Financial Report' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 27 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Regional Rates Collection - update to 30 September 2024 (Item 6.2)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 30 September 2024' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 22 November 2024, be received.

Carried

² Councillor Robinson's expression of opinion were reaffirmed after the meeting due to poor connectivity and audio at the time.

Externally Managed Investment Funds: October 2024 Performance and Retention of Non-complying Fund Managers (Item 6.3)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

1. That the report 'Externally Managed Investment Funds: October 2024 Performance and Retention of Non-complying Fund Managers' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 22 November 2024, be received.
2. That council retains its current investment in, and future commitment to, the six non-compliant Long Term Investment Fund private equity fund managers in an endeavour to provide diversification amidst an increasingly volatile economic climate.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- Assurance was provided that the Statement of Investment and Objectives Policy (SIPO), stipulated that council invested ethically. Referencing the SIPO; council did not wish to hold investments in [and would be transitioning away by 30 June 2027]:
 - Fossil Fuels (exploration, extraction and processing);
 - Alcohol;
 - Tobacco;
 - Gambling;
 - Military Weapons;
 - Civilian firearms;
 - Nuclear power; and
 - Adult entertainment.
- The Investment Committee was delegated authority to monitor the performance of council's investment portfolio and provide recommendations to full council on any changes to fund managers.

Update to Financial Delegation - December 2024 (Item 6.4)

Report from Anan Thiru, Accounting Assistant - Treasury and Projects

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Update to Financial Delegation - December 2024' by Anan Thiru, Accounting Assistant - Treasury and Projects and dated 25 November 2024, be received.
2. That Corporate Strategy Manager, Kyla Carlier, is approved as a payment authoriser for the council's bank accounts.
3. That council's Delegation Manual is updated to reflect **Attachment 1** pertaining to item 6.4 of the 10 December 2024 council agenda.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Audit and Risk Committee to be briefed regarding the processes in place to manage staff conflicts of interest, including 'mitigation and escalation pathways'.

Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill - Submission (Item 7.1)

Report from Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor

Moved (Jones/Craw)

1. That the report 'Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill - Submission' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and dated 21 November 2024, be received.
2. That the council approve the attached submission on the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill.

Carried

(The Chairperson in putting the motion called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Craw, Jones, Macdonald, Robinson, Shortland and Stolwerk in favour of the motion and Councillor Blackwell against. Councillors Carr and Crawford abstained from voting)

Secretarial Note: It was advised that if the Bill was enacted council would be legislatively required to revisit its relationships with Māori partners which created 'substantial uncertainty'.

It was further moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

3. That the Deputy Chair of council is nominated to sign the submission on behalf of council.
4. That the Deputy Chair of council is nominated to speak to the submission on behalf of council.

Carried

Guidelines for Selecting RMA Consent Hearings Commissioners (Item 7.2)

Report from Colin Dall, Pou Whakaritenga - Group Manager Regulatory Services

Moved (Carr/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Guidelines for Selecting RMA Consent Hearings Commissioners' by Colin Dall, Pou Whakaritenga - Group Manager Regulatory Services and dated 25 November 2024, be received.
2. That council approves the guidance framework for selecting and appointing RMA Consent Hearings Commissioners set out in the Background/Tuhinga section of the report.

Carried

Regional Deals: Steps to respond to the government's invitation (Item 7.3)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor

Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.3 'Motion expressed in parts' it was requested that recommendation 7 be addressed separately.

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

1. That the report 'Regional Deals: Steps to respond to the government's invitation' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 26 November 2024, be received.
2. That council approves the preparation of a Regional Deal proposal for submission to central government.
3. That council agrees to collaborate with the other three Northland local authorities, Far North District Council, Whangarei District Council, and Kaipara District Council, as a single "region" for the purpose of the Regional Deal.
4. That council approves Northland Inc Limited as the lead organisation responsible for coordinating the development of the Regional Deal proposal, with support from all four councils.
5. That council approves the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee as the governance entity responsible for the proposal.
6. That council approves the amendment to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference as provided in Attachment 4 of this agenda item.
8. That council approves the registration form being submitted by Northland Inc Limited on behalf of Northland local authorities (by 18 December 2024), following review by the Chief Executive.
9. That council notes that the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee may be required to meet outside of the normal council meeting cycle during the traditional Christmas recess period.
10. That council notes that similar recommendations are being presented to Far North District Council, Whangarei District Council, and Kaipara District Council at their December 2024 meetings to ensure regional alignment and collaboration.

Carried

It was further moved (Carr/Jones)

7. That council agrees that the Chair of the Northland Mayoral Forum be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal initiative on behalf of the region.

Secretarial Note:

- *It was stressed that the spokesperson for Regional Deals must represent the region as a whole..*
- *An identical report would be considered by the three district councils of Northland; including the appointment of a spokesperson for Regional Deals.*

An amendment was moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

- 7a. That council agrees that the Chair of the Northland Regional Council be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal initiative on behalf of the region.

Secretarial Note: As per Standing Order 23.6 'Foreshadowed amendments', Councillor Craw notified the Chairperson his intension to move a further amendment.

Lost

An amendment was moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

- 7b. That council agrees that the Chair of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal initiative on behalf of the region.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chair then proceeded to put the substantive motion which was carried. The Chair of council undertook to notify the Northland Mayors of the decision.

Biosecurity Act 1993 Amendments Submission (Item 7.4)

Report from April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori; Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Biosecurity Act 1993 Amendments Submission' by April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori; Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 13 November 2024, be received.
2. That the council approve the final submission on the Biosecurity Act 1993 reform options.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all staff involved in drafting the submission and for the 'wisdom in the approach'.*
- *The Chair of council to sign the submission on behalf of council.*

Environment Fund for the 2025/2026 Financial Year (Item 7.5)

Report from Ellen Williamson, Land Programme Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Environment Fund for the 2025/2026 Financial Year' by Ellen Williamson, Land Programme Manager and dated 20 November 2024, be received.
2. That council approves the reinstatement of the Environment Fund for the 2025/26 financial year.

Carried

Progressing the Multi-Agency Joint Emergency Coordination Centre (Item 7.6)

Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Progressing the Multi-Agency Joint Emergency Coordination Centre' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 12 November 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the Chief Executive entering into a Heads of Agreement with the three Northland district councils for a Multi-Agency Joint Emergency Coordination Centre (the Agreement), subject to him being satisfied that:
 - a. Council has complied with all statutory, regulatory (and policy) obligations that relate to the Agreement; and
 - b. The Agreement includes any conditions deemed to be reasonable and appropriate in his view having taken legal or other professional advice, if required.
3. That council approve the \$5,500,000 + GST being transferred to the Northland Regional Council project budget as per the Agreement.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Clarification was provided that the agreement, as presented, was between the regional council and the Northland district councils. A further agreement with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) would be presented to council in the new year.*
- *Governance oversight of the Multi-Agency Joint Emergency Coordination Centre would be via the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.*
- *In the event the contingency funding was not fully utilised, the matter would be brought back to the councils for consideration.*
- *Appreciation was extended to all staff involved in progressing the project to this stage.*

Approach to developing the Annual Plan 2025/26 (Item 7.7)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Crawford/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Approach to developing the Annual Plan 2025/26' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 3 December 2024, be received.
2. That council confirms the approach outlined in the report to developing the Annual Plan 2025/26.

Carried

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Blackwell/Crawford)

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 26 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chair provided a verbal update on the tangible outcomes arising from the Thailand Familiarisation Trip for New Zealand Business, Media and Influencers.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 18 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Elected members to be advised when the new signs for vehicles on beaches would be erected.³

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Crawford)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Audit Risk and Finance Committee – 18 November 2024 and
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board – 22 November 2024.

be received.

Carried

Working Party Updates (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Crawford/Macdonald)

That the report 'Working Party Updates' be received.

Carried

³ Three new signs were erected in Bream Bay in early December; two have since been stolen. Staff have notified police, and are weighing up whether to replace the signs or look at alternative approaches to increasing public awareness of vehicle exclusion zones in the area.

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 26 November 2024	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting .
10.2	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting .
10.3	Enterprise System options	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).
10.4	Strategic Projects Update	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).

3. That the Independent Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded and that the Cameron Partners Partner be permitted to join the meeting for confidential item 10.4 'Strategic Projects Update'

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.49pm with a karakia by the Translator.