

Standing Orders

Sets down standing orders for the conduct of proceedings
at meetings of the Council, it's Committees and Sub-Committees.

Adopted 7 November 2007

Amended 19 May 2016

Environment Canterbury is the trading name of the
Canterbury Regional Council

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Referenced Documents

New Zealand Legislation:

Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908

Crimes Act 1961

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Local Electoral Act 2001

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

Marine Farming Act 1971

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Secret Commissions Act 1910

Securities Act 1978

Forward

To meet the requirement to comply with Part 4 and Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and Part VII of the Local Government Official Information Meetings Act 1987

These Standing Orders were adopted by Environment Canterbury at a meeting held on 19 May 2016 to incorporate changes to the Act to permit attendance by audio or audio-visual link.

Standing Orders apply to all meetings of this Council, its committees and subcommittees.

NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

MODEL STANDING ORDERS FOR MEETINGS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Part 1 GENERAL

1.1 Scope and General

This document sets out standing orders for the conduct of proceedings at meetings of Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury). It incorporates new provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 as they affect the provisions of the standing orders.

These Standing Orders are presented in three parts. Part 1 is the general introduction. Part 2 covers constitutional and legislative matters, and Part 3 relates to meeting procedures.

Part 3 involves some repetition of Part 2, to ease use and to ensure each part can stand alone without the need for undue cross referencing.

1.2 Interpretation

The terms “normative” and “informative” have been used in these Standing Orders to define the application of the Appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of these Standing Orders, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance. Informative provisions do not form part of the mandatory requirements of these Standing Orders.

In these Standing Orders the word “shall” identifies a mandatory requirement for compliance with these Standing Orders. The word “should” refers to practices which are advised or recommended.

Where direct quotations from the legislation are cited in these standing orders they are shown in quotation marks.

1.3 Definitions

In these standing orders, unless inconsistent with the context:

Agenda means the list of items for consideration at a meeting together with reports and other attachments relating to those items.

Audio link means facilities that enable audio communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting.

Audiovisual link means facilities that enable audio and visual communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting.

Chairperson means the chairperson of Environment Canterbury including any person acting as the chairperson of Environment Canterbury, and any person presiding at any meeting of a committee or subcommittee of Environment Canterbury.

Chief executive means the chief executive of Environment Canterbury appointed under section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002, irrespective of their designation, and includes for the purposes of these standing orders, any other officer authorised by Environment Canterbury.

Clear working days means the number of working days prescribed in these standing orders for the giving of notice; and excluding the date of service of that notice and the date of the meeting, the subject of that notice.

Committee includes, in relation to the Council:

- a) A committee comprising all the members of the Council;
- b) A standing committee or special committee appointed by the Council;
- c) A joint committee appointed under clause 30 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; and
- d) Any subcommittee of a committee described in items (a), (b) or (c) of this definition.

Council in these standing orders means Environment Canterbury (the promotional name of Canterbury Regional Council), being a Council as defined in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Deputation means a request from any person or interest group in the community to make a presentation to the Council or any committee.

Emergency means a sudden unforeseen or abnormal situation that requires immediate action.

Extraordinary meeting has the same meaning as defined in clause 22 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Leave means permission to do something that is granted without a dissentient voice.

Local authority means the local authority and/or the community boards covered by these standing orders, being a local authority or a community board as defined in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Meeting means any first, ordinary, or extraordinary meeting of the Council; and any meeting of any committee, standing committee, joint committee, special committee or subcommittee of the Council. At any meeting of the Council, or of any committee or subcommittee of the Council, at which no resolutions or decisions are made, the

provisions of these standing orders regarding public access and notification need not apply.

Member means any person elected or appointed to the Council or to any committee or subcommittee of the Council, and includes the chairperson of the Council or of any committee or subcommittee of the Council.

Minutes means the record of the proceedings of any meeting of the Council and its committees and subcommittees.

Ordinary meeting means any meeting publicly notified by the Council in accordance with sections 46(1) and (2) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Public excluded information means any information, which can be excluded from the public for reasons meeting the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Public excluded session refers to those meetings or parts of meetings from which the public is excluded by the Council as provided for in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Publicly notified means notified to members of the public by notice contained in some newspaper circulating in the district of the Council, or where there is no such newspaper, via online electronic means, or by notice published on signboard affixed to public places in the district to which the notice relates.

Quorum means the minimum number of members needing to be present to constitute a valid meeting.

Status Quo means the state of things as they are or, the current state of affairs or, current position.

Working day means any day of the week other than:

- a) Saturday, Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's Birthday, and Labour Day, and
- b) A day in the period commencing with the 25th day of December in any year and ending with the 15th day of January in the following year.

Part 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Requirement for adoption of standing orders

“A local authority must adopt a set of standing orders for the conduct of its meetings and those of its committees. The standing orders of a local authority must not contravene [any provisions of the Local Government Act 2002], the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.”

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

2.1.2 Alteration of standing orders

“After the adoption of the first standing orders of a local authority, an amendment of the standing orders or the adoption of a new set of standing orders requires, in every case, a vote of not less than 75% of the members present.”

[cl.27(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.1.3 Temporary suspension of standing orders

“A local authority or committee may temporarily suspend standing orders during a meeting by a vote of not less than 75% of the members present and voting, and the reason for the suspension must be stated in the resolution of suspension.”

[cl. 27(4), Schedule 7, LGA]
(See Standing Order 3.2.1)

2.1.4 All members to abide by standing orders

“A member of a local authority must abide by the standing orders adopted under clause 27 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act].”

[cl. 16(1), Schedule 7, LGA]
(See Standing Order 3.1.1)

2.2 First Meeting of the Local Authority Following Election

2.2.1 Meeting called by chief executive

“The first meeting of a local authority following a triennial general election of members must be called by the chief executive as soon as practicable after the results of the election are known. The chief executive must give the persons elected to the local authority not less than 7 days’ notice of the

meeting. [However] if an emergency exists, the chief executive may give notice of the meeting as soon as practicable. The chief executive (or, in the absence of the chief executive, a nominee of that officer) must chair the meeting until the chairperson has made and attested the declaration required under clause 14 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act].”

[cl. 21(1) – (4), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.2.2 Business to be conducted

“The business that must be conducted at the meeting must include –

- a) the making and attesting of the declarations required of the mayor (if any) and members under clause 14 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act]; and
- b) the election of the chairperson (if any) and the making and attesting of the declaration required of the chairperson under clause 14 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act]; and
- c) a general explanation given or arranged by the chief executive, of –
 - i. the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and
 - ii. other laws affecting members including - the appropriate provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968; sections 99, 105 and 105A of the Crimes Act 1961; and the Secret Commissions Act 1910 and the Securities Act 1978; and
- d) the fixing of the date and time of the first ordinary meeting of a local authority, or the adoption of a schedule of ordinary meetings; and
- e) the election of the deputy chairperson in accordance with clause 17 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act].”

[cl. 21(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.2.3 Members to give notice of addresses

Every member of the Council must give to the chief executive a residential or business address together with, if desired, a facsimile, email, or other address within the region of the Council to which notices and material relating to meetings and Council business may be sent or delivered.

2.3 Chairperson of Meetings

2.3.1 Chairperson of a local authority to preside

“The chairperson of the local authority must preside at each meeting of the local authority at which he or she is present unless the chairperson vacates the chair for a particular meeting... If the chairperson of a local authority ... is absent from a meeting, the deputy chairperson (if any) of the local authority

must preside... If a deputy chairperson has not been appointed, or if the deputy chairperson is also absent, the members of the local authority... that are present must elect 1 of their number to preside at that meeting, and that person may exercise at that meeting the responsibilities, duties and powers of the chairperson.”

[cl. 26(1), (5) & (6), schedule 7, LGA]

2.3.2 Chairperson of committee to preside

“The chairperson of a committee must preside at each meeting of the committee at which he or she is present unless the chairperson vacates the chair for a particular meeting... If the...chairperson of a committee is absent from a meeting, ... the deputy chairperson (if any) ... of the committee must preside... If ... a deputy chairperson has not been appointed, or if ... the deputy chairperson is also absent, the members of the committee that are present must elect 1 of their number to preside at that meeting, and that person may exercise at that meeting the responsibilities, duties, and powers of the chairperson.”

[cl. 26(2), (5) & (6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.4 Quorum at Meetings

2.4.1 Requirement for a quorum

“A meeting is duly constituted if a quorum is present whether or not all of the members are voting or entitled to vote.”

[cl. 23(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.4.2 Quorum to be present throughout meeting

“Business may not be transacted at any meeting unless at least a quorum of members is present during the whole of the time at which the business is transacted.”

[cl. 23(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.4.3 Definition of quorum for local authority meeting

“The quorum at any meeting of –

a) a local authority or joint committee consists of –

- i. half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies is even); or
- ii. a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.”

[cl. 23(3), cl. 30(9), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.4.4 Definition of quorum for committee meetings

“The quorum at a meeting of –

[...b) a committee –

- i. is not fewer than 2 members of the committee (as determined by the local authority or committee that appoints the committee); and
- ii. in the case of a committee other than a subcommittee, must include at least 1 member of a local authority.”

[cl.23(3), Schedule 7, LGA]
(see Standing Order 3.4)

2.5 Voting at Meetings

2.5.1 Acts and decisions of the local authority by majority vote at meetings

- 1) ““The acts of a local authority must be done, and the questions before a local authority must be decided, at a meeting by:
 - a) vote; and
 - b) the majority of members that are present and voting.”

Casting vote

- 2) “For the purposes of [2.5.1(1)], the chairperson or other person presiding at the meeting:
 - a) Has a deliberative vote; and
 - b) In the case of an equality of votes, does not have a casting vote (and therefore the act or question is defeated and the status quo is preserved).”

NOTE – This is based on the legislative default position of there being no casting vote. Where a local authority wishes to have a casting vote it should refer to Appendix H for alternative wording for this section. When adopting, amending or suspending Standing Orders to provide for a casting vote clause 27, schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 applies.

Open voting

- 3) “An act or question coming before the local authority must be done or decided by open voting.”

Mandatory requirements

(1) and (2) apply unless the Local Government Act 2002 provides otherwise.

2.6 Voting Systems for Certain Appointments

2.6.1 Provisions for election or appointment of chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of local authority authorities and committees, and representatives of the local authority

“[This Standing Order applies to] –

- a) the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a regional council; and
- b) ...
- c) the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a committee; and
- d) the election or appointment of a representative of a local authority.

If this clause applies, a local authority or a committee (if the local authority has so directed) must determine by resolution that a person be elected or appointed by using one of the following systems of voting:

- a) [system A];
- b) [system B]

System A

- a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and
- b) has the following characteristics:
 - i. there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and
 - ii. if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
 - iii. if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
 - iv. in any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

System B

- a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
- b) has the following characteristics:
 - i. there is only 1 round of voting; and
 - ii. if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.”

[cl.25, Schedule 7, LGA]

2.7 Appointment of Committees and Other Subordinate Decision-Making Bodies

2.7.1 Appointment of committees, subcommittees and other subordinate decision-making bodies

“A local authority may appoint – the committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies that it considers appropriate and ... a committee may appoint the subcommittees that it considers appropriate, unless it is prohibited from doing so by the local authority.”

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

2.7.2 Discharge or reconstitution of committees, subcommittees and other subordinate decision-making bodies

“Unless expressly provided otherwise in an Act, -

- a) a local authority may discharge or reconstitute a committee or subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body; and
- b) a committee may discharge or reconstitute a subcommittee.

A committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body is, unless the local authority resolves otherwise, deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members of the local authority elected or appointed at, or following, the triennial general election of members next after the appointment of the committee, subcommittee, or other subordinate decision-making body.”

[cl.30(5) & (7), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.7.3 Committees and subordinate decision-making bodies subject to direction of Council

“A committee or other subordinate decision-making body is subject in all things to the control of the local authority, and must carry out all general and special directions of the local authority given in relation to the committee or other body or the affairs of the committee or other

body. A subcommittee is subject in all things to the control of the committee that appointed it, and must carry out all general and special directions of the committee given in relation to the subcommittee or its affairs... Nothing in this [standing order] entitles a local authority or committee to rescind or amend a decision made under a delegation authorising the making of a decision by a committee, a subcommittee, or another subordinate decision-making body.”

[cl.30(3), (4) & (6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.8 Joint Committees

2.8.1 Appointment of joint committees

“A local authority may appoint ... a joint committee with another local authority or other public body in accordance with clause 30A”

[cl.30A(1-4), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.8.2 Status of joint committees

“A joint committee... is deemed to be both a committee of the local authority and a committee of the appointing local and a committee of each other local authority or public body that has appointed members to the committee.”

[cl.30A(5) Schedule 7, LGA]

2.8.3 Powers and responsibilities of joint committees

“This Part applies to a joint committee except that –

- a) the powers to discharge any individual member and appoint another in his or her stead must be exercised by the local authority or public body that made the appointment; and
- b) the quorum at a meeting consists of –
 - i. half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an even number; or
 - ii. a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is an odd number; and

the following matters may be varied by an agreement under subclause (1):

- i. the procedure by which the chairperson and deputy chairperson are to be appointed:
- ii. the procedure by which the chairperson or deputy chairperson may be removed from that office:
- iii. whether a quorum must include 1 or more members appointed by each party, or any party:
- iv. the extent to which the standing orders of any local authority or public body apply to meetings of the joint committee”

[cl.30A(6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.9 Membership of Committees and Subcommittees

2.9.1 Appointment or discharge of committee members and subcommittee members

“A local authority may appoint or discharge any member of a committee or subcommittee. Unless directed otherwise by the local authority, a committee may appoint or discharge any member of a subcommittee appointed by the committee.”

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

2.9.2 Elected members on committees and subcommittees

“The members of a committee or subcommittee may, but need not be, elected members of the local authority, and a local authority or committee may appoint to a committee or subcommittee a person who is not a member of the local authority or committee if, in the opinion of the local authority, that person has the skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the committee or subcommittee... at least one member of a committee must be an elected member of the local authority; and an employee of a local authority acting in the course of his or her employment may not act as a member of any committee unless that committee is a subcommittee.”

[cl.31(3) & (4) Schedule 7, LGA]

2.9.3 Local authority may replace members if committee not discharged

“If a local authority resolves that a committee, subcommittee, or other decision-making body is not to be discharged under clause 30(7) [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act], the local authority may replace the members of that committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body after the next triennial general election of members.”

[cl.31(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.9.4 Minimum numbers on committees and subcommittees

“The minimum number of members is three for a committee, and is two for a subcommittee.”

[cl.31(6) Schedule 7, LGA]

2.9.5 Chairperson of local authority as an ex-officio member

The chairperson of the Council may be appointed an ex-officio member of any committee other than a quasi-judicial committee.

2.10 Powers of Delegation

2.10.1 Delegations to committees, subcommittees, subordinate decision-making bodies, members and officers

- 1) “Unless expressly provided otherwise in [the Local Government Act], or in any other Act, for the purposes of efficiency and effectiveness in the conduct of a local authority’s business, a local authority may delegate to a committee or other subordinate decision-making body, or member or officer of the local authority any of its responsibilities, duties, or powers except –
 - a) the power to make a rate; or
 - b) the power to make a bylaw; or
 - c) the power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan; or
 - d) the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report; or
 - e) the power to appoint a chief executive; or
 - f) the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under [the Local Government Act] in association with the long-term council community plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement; or
 - g) *[Repealed]*
 - h) the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.
- 2) Nothing in this clause restricts the power of a local authority to delegate to a committee or other subordinate decision-making body, or member or officer of the local authority the power to do anything precedent to the exercise by the local authority (after consultation with the committee or body or person) of any power or duty specified in... [(a) – (h) above].
- 3) A committee or other subordinate decision-making body, or 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 local authority or by the committee or body or person that makes the original delegation.”

[cl.32(1), (2) &(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.10.2 Use of delegated powers

“A committee, subcommittee, other subordinate decision-making body, or member or officer of the local authority to which or to whom any responsibilities, powers or duties are delegated may, without

confirmation by the local authority, or committee or body or person that made the delegation, exercise or perform them in the like manner and with the same effect as the local authority could itself have exercised or performed them.”

[cl.32(4), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.10.3 Delegations related to bylaws and other regulatory matters

“A local authority may delegate to any other local authority, organisation, or person the enforcement, inspection, licensing, and administration related to bylaws and other regulatory matters.”

[cl.32(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.11 Proceedings Not Invalidated by Vacancies or Irregularities

2.11.1 Proceedings not invalidated by vacancies or irregularities

“An act or proceeding of a local authority or committee, or of a person acting as a member of a local authority or committee, is not invalidated by a vacancy in the membership of the local authority or committee at the time of that act or proceeding, or the subsequent discovery of some defect in the election or appointment of the person acting as a member of the local authority or committee, or that that person was or is incapable of being a member.”

[cl.29, Schedule 7, LGA]

2.12 General Provisions as to Meetings

2.12.1 Meetings to be held

“A local authority must hold the meetings that are necessary for the good government of its region or district.”

[cl.19(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.12.2 Right to attend meetings

“A member of a local authority, or of a committee of a local authority, has, unless lawfully excluded, the right to attend any meeting of the local authority or committee.”

[cl.19(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.12.3 Calling, public notification and conduct of meetings

“A meeting of a local authority must be called and conducted in accordance with [Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act]; and Part VII of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and the standing orders of the local authority.”

[cl.19(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.12.4 Agenda to be sent to members

In the case of each meeting to which Standing Order 2.12.1 applies, an agenda detailing the business to be brought before that meeting together with relevant attachments must be sent to every member not less than two clear working days before the day appointed for the meeting (in case of extraordinary meetings cl.2.14.2 applies).

2.12.5 Meetings not invalid because notice not received

“A meeting of a local authority is not invalid if notice of that meeting was not received, or not received in due time, by a member of the local authority unless –

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

A member of a local authority may waive any requirement regarding the giving of notice of a meeting to that member.”

[cl.20(1), (2), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.12.6 Minutes of proceedings

“A local authority must keep minutes of its proceedings. Minutes of proceedings duly entered and authenticated as prescribed by the local authority are prima facie evidence of those proceedings.”

[cl.28(1), (2), Schedule 7, LGA]

- a) The minutes and proceedings of every meeting shall be circulated to members and considered at the next meeting succeeding, and if approved by that meeting, or when amended as directed by that meeting, shall be signed by the Chairperson of such succeeding meeting.
- b) The minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Committee shall be circulated to members of that meeting, and subject to amendment agreed by those members, shall be signed by the Chairperson of that meeting.

2.13 Notification of Ordinary Meetings to Members

2.13.1 Period for notice in writing

“The chief executive must give notice in writing to each member of the time and place of the ordinary meeting –

- a) not less than 14 days before the meeting; or
- b) if the local authority has adopted a schedule of meetings, not less than 14 days before the first meeting on the schedule.”

[cl.19(5)(a), (b), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.13.2 Schedule of ordinary meetings

“If a local authority adopts a schedule of meetings, –

- a) the schedule may cover any future period that the local authority considers appropriate and may be amended; and
- b) notification of the schedule or any amendment to that schedule constitutes a notification of every meeting on the schedule or amendment.”

[cl.19(6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.13.3 Cancellation of scheduled meetings

If it is necessary to cancel a scheduled meeting, all reasonable effort shall be taken to notify members and the public as soon as is practicable of the cancellation and of the reasons for the cancellation.

2.14 Extraordinary Meetings

2.14.1 Extraordinary meetings may be called

“If a resolution or requisition specifies the time and place at which the meeting is to be held and the general nature of the business to be brought before the meeting, a meeting may be called by -

- a) a resolution of the local authority; or
- b) a requisition in writing delivered to the chief executive and signed by -
 - i. the chairperson; or
 - ii. not less than one-third of the total membership of the local authority (including vacancies).”

[cl. 22(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.14.2 Notification of extraordinary meetings to members

“Notice in writing of the time and place of the meeting called under [Standing Order 2.14.1] and of the general nature of business must be given by the chief executive to each member of the local authority at least 3 working days before the day appointed for the meeting; or if

the meeting is called by a resolution, within such lesser period of notice that is specified in the resolution, being not less than 24 hours.”

[cl. 22(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.14.3 Calling of extraordinary meetings at earlier time

“If the business to be dealt with requires a meeting to be held at a time earlier than is allowed by the notice requirements specified [in Standing Order 2.14.2], a meeting may be called by the chairperson; or if the chairperson is not available, the chief executive.”

[cl. 22(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.14.4 Notification of extraordinary meetings held at earlier time

“Notice of the time and place of a meeting called under [Standing Order 2.14.3] and of the matters in respect of which the meeting is being called must be given by the person calling the meeting or by another person on that person’s behalf, by whatever means is reasonable in the circumstances, to each member of the local authority and to the chief executive at least 24 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.”

[cl. 22(4), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.14.5 Public notice of resolutions of extraordinary meetings

- 1) A local authority must as soon as practicable, publicly notify any resolution passed at an extraordinary meeting of the local authority unless –
 - a. The resolution was passed at a meeting or part of a meeting from which the public was excluded; or
 - b. The extraordinary meeting was publicly notified at least 5 working days before the day on which the meeting was held.
- 2) For the purpose of this section, **resolution** means the resolution on the matter or matters for which the extraordinary meeting was held.

[s. 51A, LGOIMA]

2.15 Public at Meetings, Access to Agendas etc.

2.15.1 Meetings normally to be open to the public

“Except as otherwise provided by [Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act] every meeting of a local authority shall be open to the public... For the purposes of [Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act] bona fide members of the news media shall be deemed to be members of the public, and shall be entitled to attend any meeting or any part of a

meeting for the purpose of reporting the proceedings for any news media.”

[s. 47 & 49(a), LGOIMA]

2.15.2 Information to be available to public

All information provided to members at Council and committee meetings must be available to the public and news media unless any item included in the agenda refers to any matter reasonably expected to be discussed with the public excluded.

[s. 46A & 49, LGOIMA]

2.15.3 Public notification about ordinary meetings

All meetings scheduled for the following month shall be publicly notified not more than 14 days and not less than 5 days before the end of every month, together with the dates on which and the times and places at which those meetings are to be held. Where any meeting is to be held on or after the 21st day of the month, such meetings may instead be publicly notified not more than 10 nor less than 5 working days before the day on which the meeting is to be held.

[s. 46, LGOIMA]

2.15.4 Public notification about extraordinary meetings

“Where any extraordinary meeting of a local authority is called and notice of that meeting cannot be given in the manner required or permitted by [Standing Order 2.15.3 as appropriate], the local authority shall cause that meeting and the general nature of business to be transacted at that meeting to be publicly notified or otherwise advertised as soon as practicable before the meeting is to be held as is reasonable in the circumstances”.

[s. 46(3) & (4), LGOIMA]

2.15.5 Public notification additional requirements

The chief executive is to make any other arrangement for the notification of meetings including extraordinary meetings as the Council may from time to time determine.

2.15.6 Meetings not invalid because not publicly notified

“No meeting of any local authority [is] invalid merely because that meeting was not publicly notified in accordance with [Standing Orders 2.15.3 - 2.15.5].”

[s. 46(5), LGOIMA]

2.15.7 Public notice of meetings not notified

“Where a local authority becomes aware that any meeting of that local authority has not been publicly notified in accordance with [Standing Orders 2.15.3 – 2.15.5], the local authority shall, as soon as practicable, give public notice that that meeting was not so notified, and shall, in that notice-

- a) state the general nature of the business transacted at that meeting; and
- b) give the reasons why that meeting was not so notified.”

[s. 46(6), LGOIMA]

2.15.8 Availability of agendas and reports

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

- a) shall be available for inspection ... at the public offices of the local authority, (including service delivery centres) and the public libraries under the authority’s control; and
- b) shall be accompanied by either -
 - i. the associated reports; or
 - ii. a notice specifying the places at which the associated reports may be inspected.

...The associated reports shall be available for inspection at the public offices of a local authority.

Any member of the public may take notes from any agenda or report inspected by that member of the public...

Every member of the public who inspects an agenda or report made available and who requests a copy of any part of any such agenda or report and tenders the prescribed amount (if any) shall be given such a copy as soon as practicable.

Where a meeting is an extraordinary meeting called pursuant to a resolution of the local authority, the agenda and any associated reports shall be made available as soon as is reasonable in the circumstances.”

[s. 46A(1)-(6), LGOIMA]

2.15.9 Exclusion from reports to be discussed with public excluded

The chief executive may exclude from the reports made available, reports or items from reports that are reasonably expected to be discussed with the public excluded. These items are to be indicated on each agenda.

2.15.10

2.15.11 Agenda to be made available to public who are at meetings

Additional copies of the 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 on payment of the prescribed amount (if any).

[s. 49, LGOIMA]

2.15.12 List of committee members publicly available

The members of each committee are to be named on the relevant agenda.

2.15.13 Public entitled to inspect minutes

The public is entitled without charge to inspect, take notes from, or receive copies of, minutes of any meeting or part of any meeting from which the public was not excluded.

[s. 51, LGOIMA]

2.15.14 Requests for minutes of meetings in closed session

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

[s. 51, LGOIMA]

2.16 Reasons to Exclude Public

2.16.1 Lawful reasons to exclude public

The Council 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 grounds specified in section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (see Appendix A).

(s. 48, LGOIMA)

2.16.2 Form of resolutions to exclude public

Any resolution to exclude the public must be in the form set out in Schedule 2A to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and state the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing that

resolution in relation to that matter, and the grounds on which the resolution is based. (For an example resolution refer to Appendix B).

2.16.3 Motion to exclude public to be put with the public present

Every motion to exclude the public must be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and copies of the text of that motion must be available to any member of the public who is present. The resolution then forms part of the minutes of the Council.

[s. 48(4), LGOIMA]

2.16.4 Provision for persons to remain after public excluded

A resolution in accordance with Standing Order 2.16.3 may provide for one or more specified persons to remain after the public has been excluded if those persons have, in the opinion of the Council, knowledge that will assist the Council. Any such resolution is required to state the knowledge possessed by those persons which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed and how it is relevant to the matter. No such resolution is necessary in respect of the attendance of the chief executive and relevant staff during a public excluded session.

[s. 48(5) & (6), LGOIMA]

2.16.5 Release of public excluded information

The Council may provide for the release to the public of information, which has been considered during the public excluded part of a meeting.

2.17 Application of Standing Orders to Public Excluded Session

2.17.1 Standing orders to apply

Standing orders apply to meetings or parts of meetings from which the public has been excluded.

2.18 Use of Public Excluded Information

2.18.1 Public excluded business not to be disclosed

Subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, no member or officer is permitted to disclose to any person, other than a member or officer, any information which has been or is to be presented to any meeting from which the public is properly excluded, or where it is proposed that the public be properly excluded.

2.19 Attendance at Meetings by Members of the Council or of Any Committee of the Council by Audio Link or Audiovisual Link

2.19.1 Statutory provision for attendance at meetings by audio link or audiovisual link

“A member of a local authority, or of a committee of a local authority, has, unless lawfully excluded, the right to attend any meeting of the local authority or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link if ... the presiding member at that meeting is satisfied that all conditions and requirements in the standing orders in relation to attendance at that meeting by means of audio link or audiovisual link are met.”

[Clauses 25A(1) and 27(5)(a), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.2 Definitions for the purposes of this Standing Order

“ ‘audio link’ means facilities that enable audio communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting

“ ‘audiovisual’ link means facilities that enable audio and visual communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting.”

[Clause 25A(7), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.3 Meetings to which Standing Order 2.19 applies

Subject to the provisos below the presiding member may permit attendance by a member at meetings of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link either generally or for specified meetings:

- a) If the member is representing the Council at some place which makes the member’s physical presence at the meeting impossible or impracticable,
- b) If the member lives more than 75 kilometres by road from the place of the meeting, or
- c) If the member is temporarily absent from the member’s usual place of residence and more than 75 kilometres by road from the place of the meeting, or
- d) To accommodate the member’s illness or infirmity, or
- e) To accommodate unforeseen circumstances such that physical attendance is not possible.

Provided however that Standing Order 2.19 does not apply to meetings in the nature of hearings (for instance, hearings under the Local Government Act 2002 or the Resource Management Act 1991), and

Provided that the necessary audio or audiovisual technology is available to facilitate the member's request.

[Clause 25A(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.4 Prior arrangements to enable a member of the Council, or of a committee of the Council to attend any meeting of the Council or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link under Standing Order 2.19

- a) Where it is possible to do so, a member of the Council or of any committee shall give the chairperson and the chief executive not less than two clear working days' written notice of the member's desire to attend a meeting of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link for specified meetings.
- b) Where, because of the member's illness or infirmity or some emergency, it is not possible for a member to give the chairperson and chief executive not less than two working days' written notice of the member's desire to attending a meeting of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link the member may give less than two working days' written notice.
- c) The chief executive shall take reasonable steps to seek to facilitate a member's desire to attend a meeting of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link.
- d) An act or proceeding of the Council or committee is not invalidated if a member's request under this Standing Order 2.19 is not accommodated or if there is any technological failure or defect in any audio link or audiovisual link for a meeting.

[Clauses 25A(1) and 27(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.5 Duties of the person presiding where a member of the Council, or of a committee, participates in a meeting under Standing Order 2.19

- a) Where a member of the Council, or of a committee of the Council attends any meeting of the Council or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link the "person presiding must ... ensure that –
 - i. Technology for the audio link or audiovisual link is available and is of suitable quality; and
 - ii. The procedure for the use of that technology in all the circumstances of the particular meeting will ensure that –
 - a. All those participating in the meeting can hear and be heard by each other; and
 - b. In relation to [Standing Order 2.19.1], the attendance of a member by means of audio link or audiovisual link does not reduce the

accountability or accessibility of that person in relation to the meeting; and

- c. The requirements of Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are met.”

- b) Where a member of the Council, or of a committee of the Council, participates in a meeting under this Standing Order the chairperson may direct that the audio link or audiovisual link be terminated after taking into account relevant factors including:
 - i. That having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link has unreasonably increased or may unreasonably increase the length of the meeting,
 - ii. The behaviour of the people participating by audio link or audiovisual link,
 - iii. The style, degree and extent of inter-action between the different people participating by audio link or audiovisual link,
 - iv. Any distraction to those physically present at the meeting caused as a result of having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link.

[Clause 25A(1) and (3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.6 Member not physically present at meeting not be counted as present for the purposes of the quorum

- a) “Despite [Standing Order 2.20.1], a member of the local authority who is not physically present at the meeting is not to be counted as present for the purposes of clause 23[of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002].”

[Clause 25A(4), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.7 Council not required to make technology for an audio link or audiovisual link available

“Nothing in this [Standing Order] requires [the] Council to make technology for an audio link or audiovisual link available”

[Clause 25A(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.8 Giving or showing documents to a person appearing at a meeting by way of audio link or audiovisual link

“A document may be given or shown to, or by, a person appearing at a meeting by way of audio link or audiovisual link –

- a) By transmitting it electronically; or

- b) By use of audiovisual link (if the person is appearing by audiovisual link); or
- c) By any other manner that the person presiding thinks fit.”

[Clause 25A(6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.19.9 Council not responsible for the failure of any audio link or audiovisual link

“The Council is not responsible for the consequences of any inadequacies or any failure of an audio link or audiovisual link, but if any member ceases to be able to participate in a meeting by reason of any technological failure or defect in any audio link or audiovisual link for the meeting that member shall be deemed to have ceased to be in attendance at the meeting.”

[Clause 25A(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20 Attendance at Meetings by Members of the Public at Meetings of the Council or of Any Committee of the Local Authority by Audio Link or Audiovisual Link

2.20.1 Statutory provision for attendance at meetings by audio link or audiovisual link

“A person other than a member of a local authority, or committee, may participate in a meeting of the local authority or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link if ... the presiding member at that meeting is satisfied that all conditions and requirements in the standing orders are met in relation to –

- i. Participation at that meeting by persons other than members; and
- ii. The use of audio link or audiovisual link for that participation.”

[Clause 25A(2) and 27(5)(a), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.2 Definitions for the purposes of this Standing Order

“ ‘audio link’ means facilities that enable audio communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting

“ ‘audiovisual’ link means facilities that enable audio and visual communication between participants at a meeting when 1 or more of them is not physically present at the place of the meeting.”

[Clause 25A(7), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.3 Meetings to which Standing Order 2.20 applies

Subject to the provisos below the presiding member may permit a person other than a member of the Council or committee, to participate in a meeting by means of audio link or audiovisual link for specified meetings. When considering whether or not to grant such permission the presiding member may take into account factors such as:

- a) The likely length of the meeting and the possibility that having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link may unreasonably increase the length of the meeting,
- b) The potential behaviour of people participating by audio link or audiovisual link,
- c) The likely style, degree and extent of inter-action between the different people participating by audio link or audiovisual link, and
- d) The potential that having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link may have to distract those physically present at the meeting

[Clause 25A(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.4 Prior arrangements to enable a person other than a member of the Council or committee to participate in a meeting under Standing Order 2.20

- a) A person other than a member of the Council or committee shall give the chairperson and the chief executive not less than two clear working days' written notice of that person's desire to participate in a specified meeting of that person's desire to participate in a specified meeting of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link.
- b) The Council shall take reasonable steps to seek to facilitate that person's desire to participate in a specified meeting of the Council or of the committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link.
- c) An act or proceeding of the Council or committee is not invalidated if that person's request under this Standing Order 2.20 is not accommodated or if there is any technological failure or defect in any audio link or audiovisual link for a meeting.

[Clause 25A, Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.5 Duties of the person presiding where a person other than a member of the Council or committee participates in a meeting under Standing Order 2.20

- a) Where a person other than a member of the Council or committee participates in a meeting of the Council or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link the "person presiding must ... ensure that –

- i. Technology for the audio link or audiovisual link is available and is of suitable quality; and
- ii. The procedure for the use of that technology in all the circumstances of the particular meeting will ensure that –
 - a. All those participating in the meeting can hear and be heard by each other; and
 - b. In relation to [Standing Order 2.10.1], the attendance of a member by means of audio link or audiovisual link does not reduce the accountability or accessibility of that person in relation to the meeting; and
 - c. The requirements of Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are met.”
- b) Where a person other than a member of the Council or committee participates in a meeting under this Standing Order the meeting may direct that the audio link or audiovisual link be terminated after taking into account relevant factors including:
 - i. That having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link has unreasonably increased or may unreasonably increase the length of the meeting,
 - ii. The behaviour of people participating by audio link or audiovisual link,
 - iii. The style, degree and extent of inter-action between the different people participating by audio link or audiovisual link, and
 - iv. Any distraction to those physically present at the meeting caused as a result of having people participating by audio link or audiovisual link.

[Clause 25A(2) and (3), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.6 Council not required to make technology for an audio link or audiovisual link available

“Nothing in this [Standing Order 2.20] requires [the] local authority to make technology for an audio link or audiovisual link available.”

[Clause 25A(5), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.7 Giving or showing documents to a person appearing at a meeting by way of audio link or audiovisual link

“A document may be given or shown to, or by, a person appearing at a meeting by way of audio link or audiovisual link –

- a) By transmitting it electronically; or
- b) By use of audiovisual link (if the person is appearing by audiovisual link); or
- c) By any other manner that the person presiding thinks fit.”

[Clause 25A(6), Schedule 7, LGA]

2.20.8 Council not responsible for the failure of any audio link or audiovisual link

“The Council is not responsible for the consequences of any technological failure or defect in any audio link or audiovisual link for a meeting.”

[Clause 25A(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.1 Application of Standing Orders

3.1.1 All members to abide by standing orders

“A member of a local authority, committee or subcommittee must abide by the standing orders adopted under clause 27 [of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act].”

[cl. 16(1), Schedule 7, LGA]
(see Standing Order 2.1.4)

3.1.2 Additional to or substitution of standing orders

Notwithstanding the generality of Standing Order 3.1.1, for any quasi-judicial proceedings, the Council may adopt meeting procedures and practices additional to, or in substitution of, these standing orders for the conduct of the business to be transacted.

For example, committees appointed to hear applications under the Resource Management Act have powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

[s. 41, RMA]

3.1.3 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.

3.2 Suspension of Standing Orders

3.2.1 Temporary suspension

The Council or committee may temporarily suspend one or more standing orders during a meeting by a vote of not less than 75% of the members present and voting. The reason for the suspension and the specific order(s) suspended must be stated in the resolution of suspension (see Standing Order 2.1.3).

[cl. 27(4), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.3 Conduct of Meetings

3.3.1 Mode of address for chairperson

The person in the chair is to be addressed in such terms as denotes the statutory office of that person, the choice of mode of address being as determined by that person.

3.3.2 Chairperson to decide

The chairperson is to decide all questions where these standing orders make no provision or insufficient provision, and all points of order, and any member who refuses to obey any order or ruling of the chairperson shall be held guilty of contempt (see Standing Orders 3.1.1, 3.13.6 and Appendix C).

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 Members to speak in places and address the chair

Members granted the right to speak at meetings are to address the chairperson, and may not leave their place while speaking without the leave of the chairperson. Members may remain seated when speaking at meetings of the Council and at committee meetings.

3.3.5 Priority of speakers

When two or more members seek the right to speak, the chairperson is to name the member who has the right to speak first, provided that the following members shall have precedence, where in order, when they state their intention to:

- a) Raise a point of order (see Standing Order 3.13.1), including any request to obtain a time extension for the previous speaker;
- b) Move a motion to terminate or adjourn the debate (see Standing Order 3.12.1); or
- c) Make a point of explanation or request an indulgence of the chairperson (see Standing Order 3.8.13).

3.3.6 Speeches in English or Māori

A member may address the chairperson in English or Māori. The chairperson may order that a speech be translated and printed in another language. A member must give prior notice, not less than 2 working days before the meeting, to the chairperson if he or she intends to address the chairperson in Māori, when the normal business of the committee is conducted in English, or in English when the normal business of the committee is conducted in Māori.

3.3.7 Duration of meetings and time limits

Unless pursuant to a resolution to continue, no meeting may continue for more than six hours or beyond 10.30pm, and any business on the agenda not dealt with must be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting or extraordinary meeting.

3.3.8 Reporting of meetings

When a meeting of the Council is open to the public the following provisions shall apply:

- a) Members of the public including bona fide members of the news media are entitled to attend any meeting or any part of a meeting and to report on the proceedings.

[s. 49(a) LGOIMA]

- b) Any recording of meetings must be carried out in an unobtrusive manner, and must not be distracting to members.
- c) Any recording of meetings must be notified to the chairperson at the commencement of the meeting.

3.3.9 Disorderly members to withdraw

Members called to order by the chairperson are to resume their seats and/or stop speaking, as the case may be. Should any member refuse to obey, such member may be directed by the chairperson to withdraw from the meeting. Upon such direction, any such member is to withdraw and must not be permitted to return during the meeting, or any period of that meeting that the chairperson may determine (see Appendix C).

3.3.10 Members not to be disrespectful

No member of the Council at any meeting may be disrespectful in speech or use offensive or malicious language, including in reference to the Council, any other member, or any officer or employee of the Council. In addition, no member may impute improper motives or make offensive remarks about the private affairs of any other member of the Council or its staff.

3.3.11 Retraction of, or apology for, offensive or malicious language

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

3.3.12 Withdrawal from meeting

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.

3.3.13 Disorder in meeting

The chairperson may require any member whose conduct is disorderly or who is creating a disturbance to withdraw immediately from the meeting for a time specified by the chairperson.

3.3.14 Adjournment of meeting following disorder

Should the disorder continue, the chairperson has the right to adjourn the meeting for a time specified by the chairperson. At the end of that period the meeting shall resume and decide without debate the question as to whether the meeting shall proceed or be adjourned. The chairperson may also take such action in relation to disorder from other sources or in the event of an emergency.

3.3.15 Contempt to be recorded in minutes

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

3.3.16 Removal from meeting

“A member of the police, or an officer or employee of the local authority, may, at the request of the chairperson, remove or exclude a member from a meeting if that member is required to leave the meeting by a ruling made under the standing orders and that member-

- a) refuses or fails to leave the meeting; or
- b) having left the meeting, attempts to re-enter the meeting without the permission of the chairperson.”

[cl. 16(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.4 Quorum at Meetings

3.4.1 Requirement for a quorum

“A meeting is duly constituted if a quorum is present, whether or not all of the members are voting or entitled to vote.”

[cl. 23(1), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.4.2 Quorum to be present throughout meeting

“Business may not be transacted at any meeting unless at least a quorum of members is present during the whole of the time at which the business is transacted.”

[cl. 23(2), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.4.3 Definition of quorum for local authority meetings

“The quorum at any meeting of –

a) a local authority consists of –

i. half the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or

ii. a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.”

[cl. 23(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.4.4 Definition of quorum for committee meetings

“The quorum at a meeting of –

b) a committee -

i. is not fewer than 2 members of the committee (as determined by the local authority or committee that appoints the committee); and

ii. in the case of a committee other than a subcommittee, must include at least 1 member of the local authority.”

[cl. 23(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

(See Standing Order 2.4)

3.5 Failure of a Quorum

3.5.1 Meeting lapses if no quorum

If a meeting is short of a quorum at its commencement, or falls short of a quorum, the business is to stand suspended and, if no quorum is present within 10 minutes, the chairperson is to vacate the chair and the meeting shall lapse.

3.5.2 Lapsed business

The business remaining to be disposed of following the lapsing of a meeting is to stand adjourned until the next ordinary meeting unless an earlier meeting is fixed by the chairperson and notified by the chief executive.

3.5.3 Minutes to record failure of quorum

If a meeting lapses by reason of failure of a quorum, the names of the members then in attendance, and the fact of the lapse, are to be recorded in the minutes.

3.6 Leave of Absence and Apologies

3.6.1 Granting leave of absence

The Council may grant leave of absence to a member from an ordinary meeting or other meetings of the Council or its committees upon application by the member.

3.6.2 Apologies at meetings

If a member has not obtained leave of absence an apology may be tendered on behalf of the member and the apology may be accepted or declined by the Council. Acceptance of the apology shall be deemed to be a granting of leave of absence for that meeting.

3.6.3 Recording of apologies

The chairperson of each meeting must invite apologies at the beginning of each meeting, including apologies for lateness and early departure, and these and subsequent apologies during the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes, including whether they were accepted or declined, and the time of arrival and departure of all members.

3.6.4 Absence without leave

An extraordinary vacancy is created where any member is absent without leave of the Council from 4 consecutive meetings (other than extraordinary meetings) of the Council.

[cl. 5, Schedule 7, LGA]

3.7 Order of Business

3.7.1 Adoption of order of business

The order of business is to be determined by the Council.

3.7.2 Agenda

The chief executive is to prepare for each meeting an agenda listing and attaching information on the items of business to be brought before the meeting so far as is known. At the meeting the business is to be dealt with in the order in which it stands on the agenda unless the meeting or the chairperson accord precedence to any business set down on the agenda.

3.7.3 Public excluded items

The chief executive must place on a public excluded agenda any matters for which he/she considers the Council, or committee of the Council, is likely in his/her opinion to wish to exclude the public in terms of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act

1987, provided that an indication of the subject matter likely to be considered with the public excluded is placed on the agenda available to the public.

3.7.4 Chairperson's report

The chairperson, by report, has the right to direct the attention of the Council, or the relevant committee as the case may be, to any matter or subject within the role or function of the Council or committee respectively.

3.7.5 Items not on the agenda may be discussed

"An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting, may be dealt with at that meeting if -

- a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- b) The presiding member explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public, -
 - i. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - ii. The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting."

[s. 46A(7), LGOIMA]

3.7.5.1 Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting, —

- a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if –
 - i. That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - ii. The presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- b) No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion."

[s. 46A(7A), LGOIMA]

3.7.6 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.

3.8 Rules of Debate

3.8.1 Reserving speech

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

3.8.2 Irrelevant matter and needless repetition

In speaking to any motion or amendment, members are to confine their remarks strictly to such motion or amendment, and shall not introduce irrelevant matters or indulge in needless repetition. In this matter, the chairperson's ruling is final and not open to challenge.

3.8.3 Limitation on speakers

If 3 speakers have spoken consecutively in support of, or in opposition to a motion, the chairperson may call for a speaker to the contrary. If no such speaker is forthcoming and after the mover has had the right of reply, the motion must be put. Members speaking must, if so called upon by the chairperson, announce whether they are speaking in support of, or against the motion or amendment being debated.

3.8.4 Taking down words

When any member objects to words used and desires his/her objection to be recorded in the minutes, the chairperson may order the objection to be recorded, provided such objection be made at the time the words were used and not after any other members have spoken (see Standing Order 3.13.4).

3.8.5 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.

3.8.6 Time limits on speakers

The following time limits apply to members speaking at Council and committee meetings, unless extended by a majority vote of members present:

- a) Movers of motions when speaking to the motion, ten minutes;
- b) Movers of motions, when exercising their right of reply, five minutes;
- c) Other members, not more than five minutes.

(See also Standing Order 3.19.6.)

3.8.7 Member speaking more than once

A member may not speak more than once to a motion, save that this order does not apply to meetings of committees or subcommittees.

3.8.8 Restating of motion

Members may request the chairperson to restate the motion for their information at any time during the debate, but not so as to interrupt.

3.8.9 Right of reply

The mover of an original motion (not an amendment) has a right of reply. After the mover has commenced such reply, or has intimated the wish to forego this right, or having spoken to an amendment to the motion and the chairperson has intimated his/her intention to put the motion, no other member of the Council may speak on the motion. Movers in reply are not to introduce any new matter and must confine themselves strictly to answering previous speakers.

3.8.10 When right of reply may be exercised

The right of reply is governed as follows:

- a) Where no amendment has been moved, the mover may reply at the conclusion of the discussion on the motion;
- b) If there is an amendment, the mover of the original motion may make such reply at the conclusion of the debate on such amendment, and this reply exhausts their rights as mover of the original motion (see Standing Order 3.8.9), provided that the mover may reserve such right of reply. The mover may, however, take part in the discussion upon subsequent amendments.

NOTE - A right of reply can be exercised at the end of the debate on an original motion or at the end of the debate on an amendment. Only the mover of an original motion has a right of reply and that right can only be used once. In addition to a right of reply, the mover of an original motion may reserve a right of reply and speak once to an original motion and once to each amendment without losing that right of reply.

3.8.11 Speaking only to relevant matters

Members may speak to any matter before the meeting or upon a motion or amendment to be proposed by themselves, or upon a point of order arising out of debate, but not otherwise.

3.8.12 Personal explanation

Notwithstanding Standing Order 3.8.7, members may make a personal explanation with the permission of the chairperson, but such matters may not be debated.

3.8.13 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.

3.9 Motions and Amendments

3.9.1 Requirement for a seconder

All motions and amendments moved in debate (including notices of motion) must be seconded, and thereupon the chairperson shall state the matter raised and propose it for discussion.

3.9.1.1 A motion may be seconded pro forma

This allows the mover to speak to the motion without the seconder expressing, at the outset, personal support for it. After the mover has spoken, the seconder may either second the motion or withdraw it. If other seconds are sought for the motion and a seconder is not found, then the motion lapses.

3.9.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once motions or amendments have been seconded and put to the meeting by the chairperson they cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the majority of the members present and voting. A motion to which an amendment has been moved and seconded, cannot be withdrawn until the amendment is withdrawn or lost.

3.9.3 Substituted motion by amendment

The meeting may allow a motion, which is subject to an amendment to be withdrawn and replaced by the amendment as the substituted motion, provided the mover and seconder of the original motion agree to the withdrawal of the original motion. In such circumstances, members who have spoken to the original motion may speak again to the substituted motion.

3.9.4 Motions in writing

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

3.9.5 Motions expressed in parts

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

3.9.6 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. 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.

3.9.7 Amendments and motions not seconded

Amendments and motions which are proposed but not seconded are not in order and are not entered in the minutes.

3.9.8 Further amendments

No further amendment may be allowed until the first amendment is disposed of, although members may notify the chairperson of their intention to move further amendments and the tenor of their content.

3.9.9 Where amendment lost

Where an amendment is lost, another may be moved and seconded by any members who have not spoken to the motion, whether an original motion or substituted motion. Movers of previous amendments which were lost are regarded as having spoken to the motion only and are entitled to speak to the new amendment, but are not entitled to move or second the new amendment.

3.9.10 Where amendment carried

Where an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion, and any member, other than previous movers or seconders in the debate, may then propose a further amendment.

3.9.11 Amendments relevant

Every proposed amendment must be relevant to the motion under discussion and not be in similar terms to an amendment which has been lost.

3.9.12 Direct negatives not allowed

No amendment which amounts to a direct negative is to be allowed which, if carried, would have the same effect as negating the motion.

3.9.13 Procedure until resolution

The procedures in Standing Orders 3.9.6 and 3.9.8 must be repeated until a resolution is adopted.

3.9.14 Flow chart of motions and amendments

A flow chart illustrating the process regarding motions and amendments is included in these standing orders as Appendix D.

3.9.15 Revocation or alteration of resolutions

A notice of motion for the revocation or alteration of all or part of a previous resolution of the Council is to be given to the chief executive by the member intending to move such a motion.

- a) Such notice is to set out:
 - i. The resolution or part thereof which it is proposed to revoke or alter;
 - ii. The meeting date when it was passed; and
 - iii. The motion, if any, that is intended to be moved in substitution thereof.
- b) Such notice is to be given to the chief executive at least 5 clear working days before the meeting at which it is proposed to consider such a motion and is to be signed by not less than one third of the members of the Council, including vacancies.
- c) The chief executive must then give members at least 2 clear working days' notice in writing of the intended motion and of the meeting at which it is proposed to move such.

3.9.16 Restriction on action to be taken on previous resolution

Where a notice of motion has been given in terms of Standing Order 3.9.15, no action which is irreversible may be taken under the resolution which is proposed for revocation or alteration until the proposed notice of motion has been dealt with by the Council, provided that if, in the opinion of the chairperson:

- a) The practical effect of the delay would be equivalent to a revocation of the resolution, or if;
- b) By reason of repetitive notices the effect of the notice is an attempt by a minority to frustrate the will of the Council;

then, in either case, action may be taken as though no such notice to the chief executive had been given or signed.

3.9.17 Revocation or alteration of resolution at same meeting

If, during the course of a meeting of the Council or committee, fresh facts or information are received concerning a matter already resolved at the meeting, the previous resolution may be revoked or altered by the consent of 75% of the members then present and voting.

3.9.18 Council may revoke or alter any previous resolution

A Council or committee meeting may, on a recommendation contained in a report by the chairperson or chief executive, or the report of any committee, revoke or alter all or part of resolutions previously passed at meetings. At least two clear working days' notice of any meeting to consider such a proposal must be given to members, accompanied by details of the proposal to be considered.

3.9.19 Restating the motion

The chairperson may, immediately prior to any division being taken, request the chief executive to restate the motion upon which the division is to be taken.

3.9.20 No speakers after reply or question has been put

Members may not speak on any motion once the mover has commenced replying or where the chairperson has commenced putting the question.

3.9.21 Reflections on resolutions

In speaking in any debate no member may unduly criticise the validity of any resolution of the Council except by a notice of motion to amend or revoke the same.

3.10 Notices of Motion

3.10.1 Notices of motion to be in writing

Notices of motion must be in writing signed by the mover, stating the meeting at which it is proposed that the notice of motion be considered, and must be delivered to the chief executive at least five clear working days before such meeting.

3.10.2 Refusal of notice of motion

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

- a) Is disrespectful or which contains offensive language or statements made with malice; or
- b) Is not related to the role or functions of the Council; 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 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.

3.10.3 Mover of notice of motion

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

3.10.4 Alteration of notice of motion

A notice of motion may be altered only by the mover with the consent of the meeting.

3.10.5 When notices of motion lapse

Notices of motion not moved on being called for by the chairperson, shall lapse.

3.10.6 Referral of notices of motion to committees

Any notice of motion referring to any matter ordinarily dealt with by a committee of the Council may be referred to that committee by the chief executive. Where such notices are so referred, the mover of the motion shall, if not a member of that committee, have the right to move that motion, and of reply, as if a committee member.

3.11 Repeat Notices of Motion

3.11.1 First repeat where notice of motion rejected

When a motion which is the subject of a notice of motion has been considered and rejected by the Council, no similar notice of motion which, in the opinion of the chairperson, is substantially the same in purport and effect may be accepted within the next 6 months unless signed by not less than one third of all members, including vacancies.

3.11.2 Second repeat where notice of motion rejected

If such a repeat notice of motion as provided for in Standing Order 3.11.1 is also rejected by the Council, any further notice prior to the expiration of the original period of 6 months must be signed by a majority of all members, including vacancies.

3.11.3 No repeats where notice of motion adopted

Where a notice of motion has been considered and adopted by the Council, 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.

3.12 Procedural Motions to Terminate or Adjourn Debate

3.12.1 Members may move procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate

Any member who has not spoken on the matter under debate, may move any one of the following procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate, but not so as to interrupt a member speaking:

- a) That the meeting be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting, unless an alternative time and place is stated; or
- b) That the item of business being discussed be adjourned to a time and place to be stated; or
- c) That the motion under debate be now put (a “closure motion”); or
- d) That the meeting move directly to the next business, superseding the item under discussion; or
- e) That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table, and not be further discussed at that meeting; or
- f) That the item of business being discussed be referred (or referred back) to the relevant committee of the Council.

3.12.2 Chairperson may accept closure motions

The chairperson may accept a closure motion if there have been no less than 2 speakers for and 2 speakers against the motion, or, if there are no such speakers, in the chairperson’s opinion, it is reasonable to do so.

3.12.3 Procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate to take precedence

Procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate take precedence over other business, other than points of order, and shall, if seconded, be put to the vote immediately without discussion or debate.

3.12.4 Voting on procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate

All procedural motions to terminate or adjourn debate must be determined by a majority of those members present and voting. If lost, a further procedural motion to terminate or adjourn debate, may not be moved by any member within the next 15 minutes.

3.12.5 Closure motion to be put if no further speaker

Notwithstanding Standing Order 3.12.4, a closure motion shall be put if there is no further speaker in the debate.

3.12.6 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.

3.12.7 Right of reply following closure

If a closure motion is carried, the mover of the motion then under debate is entitled to the right of reply, and the motion or amendment under debate is then to be put.

3.12.8 Debate on items previously adjourned

The debate on adjourned items of business is to be resumed with the mover of such adjournment being entitled to speak first in the debate. Members who have already spoken in the debate may not speak again.

3.12.9 Adjourned items taken first

Adjourned items of business are to be taken first at the subsequent meeting in the class of business to which they belong.

3.12.10 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.

3.12.11 Referral or referred back to committee

Business referred, or referred back, to a specified committee is to be considered at the next ordinary meeting of that committee, unless otherwise specified.

3.12.12 Table of procedural motions

A table of procedural motions is included in these standing orders as Appendix E.

3.13 Points of Order

3.13.1 Members rising to points of order

Any member may rise to speak to a point of order upon any breach of these Standing Orders and the member previously speaking is to be seated and stop speaking.

3.13.2 Stating subject matter of point of order

The member rising is to state without explanation precisely the subject matter of the point of order.

3.13.3 Points of order during division

No point of order may be raised during a division except by the permission of the chairperson.

3.13.4 Types of points of order

The following are recognized as substance for points of order:

- a) Where disorder is drawn to the attention of the chairperson; or

- b) Use of disrespectful, offensive or malicious language; or
- c) Discussion of a question not before the Council; or
- d) Misrepresentation of any statement made by a member or by an officer or employee of the Council; or
- e) The breach of any standing order; or
- f) A request that words objected to be recorded in the minutes.

3.13.5 Contradiction not point of order

Rising to express a difference of opinion or to contradict a statement of a previous speaker does not constitute a point of order.

3.13.6 Decision of chairperson final

The chairperson may decide on any point of order immediately after it has been raised by any member, 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.

3.14 Voting

3.14.1 Decisions to be decided by majority votes

“Unless otherwise provided for in the Local Government Act or in these Standing Orders, the acts of a local authority must be done and the questions before the local authority must be decided at a meeting by vote and the majority of members that are present and voting”.

[cl. 24, Schedule 7, LGA]
(See Standing Order 2.5.1)

3.14.2 Chairperson’s voting

The chairperson at any meeting has a deliberative vote and, in case of equality of votes, does not have a casting vote. To avoid doubt, in the case of the equality votes, the question is defeated and the status quo is preserved.

[cl. 24, Schedule 7, LGA]
(See Standing order 2.5.2)

3.14.3 Open voting

“An act or question coming before the local authority must be done or decided by open voting”.

[cl. 24(3), Schedule 7, LGA]

3.14.4 Members may abstain

Any member may abstain from voting.

3.14.5 Members may have their votes recorded

Any member's vote or abstention must be recorded in the minutes if so requested by that member.

3.14.6 Method of voting

The method of voting shall be as follows:

- a) The chairperson in putting the motion shall 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, shall be conclusive unless such announcement is questioned immediately by any member, in which event the chairperson shall call a division.
- b) The chairperson or any member may call for a division instead of or after receiving opinion on the voices and taking a show of hands.
- 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 displayed shall be notified to the chairperson who shall declare the result.

3.14.7 Division

When a division is called, the chief executive or his/her nominee shall take down the names of the members voting for and against the motion and abstentions and is to hand the list to the chairperson to declare the result. The result of the division shall be entered into the minutes.

Any division sought on a vote at Council/Committee, with the exception of the Regional Land Transport Committee, be taken in random order of Members. The random order shall be determined by the use of a computer generated programme. [Council resolution, 3 March 2004]

3.14.8 Second division

The chairperson may call a second division where there is confusion or error in the original division, unless the same can be otherwise corrected.

3.14.9 Pecuniary interest

No members may vote or take part in the discussion of any matter at any meeting where they, directly or indirectly, have any pecuniary interest as defined in law, other than an interest in common with the public.

[s. 6(1), Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act]

3.14.10 Declaration of pecuniary interest

Every member present when any matter is raised in which they directly or indirectly have a pecuniary interest, apart from any interest in common with the public, is under a duty to fully declare any such interest to the meeting. This disclosure and the subsequent abstention of such members from both discussion and voting on the item, is to be recorded in the minutes.

[s. 6(1), Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act]

3.14.11 Pecuniary interest a reason for leaving room

Members who have declared a pecuniary interest in matters to be discussed under Standing Order 3.14.10 should consider leaving the meeting room for the full duration of discussion on such matters.

3.15 Qualified Privilege

3.15.1 Qualified privilege relating to agenda and minutes

Where a meeting of the Council is open to the public during the proceedings or any part thereof, and a member of the public is supplied with a copy of the agenda for the meeting or any part of the minutes of that meeting are provided, the publication of any defamatory matter included in the agenda or in the minutes is privileged unless the publication is proved to have been made with ill will or taking improper advantage of the publication.

[s. 52, LGOIMA]

3.15.2 Qualified privilege relating to oral statements

Any oral statement made at any meeting of the Council in accordance with the rules that have been adopted by the Council for the guidance and order of its proceedings, is privileged, unless the statement is proved to have been made with ill will or taking improper advantage of the publication.

[s. 53, LGOIMA]

3.15.3 Qualified privilege additional to any other provisions

The privilege conferred by Standing Order 3.15.2 is in addition to, and not in substitution for, or derogation of any other privilege, whether absolute or qualified, that applies, by virtue of any other enactment or rule of law, to the proceedings of the Council.

3.16 Maintenance of Public Order at Meetings

3.16.1 Chairperson may require members of the public to leave meeting

The chairperson presiding at any meeting of the Council may require any member of the public to leave the meeting if it is believed on reasonable grounds that the behaviour of that member of the public is likely to prejudice the orderly conduct of the meeting if that person is permitted to remain.

[s. 50, LGOIMA]

3.16.2 Removal of members of public

If any member of the public who is required in accordance with Standing Order 3.16.1 to leave a meeting, refuses or fails to leave the meeting or, having left the meeting, attempts to re-enter the meeting without the permission of the chairperson, any police officer or employee of the Council may, at the request of the chairperson, remove or exclude that member of the public from the meeting.

[s. 50, LGOIMA]

3.17 Minutes of Proceedings

3.17.1 Minutes to be evidence of proceedings

- “(1) A local authority must keep minutes of its proceedings.
- (2) Minutes of proceedings duly entered and authenticated as prescribed by a local authority are prima facie evidence of those proceedings.”

[cl. 28, Schedule 7, LGA]

3.17.2 Keeping of minutes

The chief executive or his/her designated representative must keep the minutes of meetings. The minutes must record the date, time and venue of the meeting; the names of those members present; the names of those members attending the meeting by means of audio link or audiovisual link; identification of the chairperson; apologies tendered and accepted; arrival and departure times of members; any failure of a quorum; a list of speakers in the public forum and the topics they cover; a list of items considered; resolutions and amendments pertaining to those items; any objections to words used; all divisions taken; names of any members requesting the recording of their abstentions or votes; declarations of pecuniary interest; contempt, censure and removal of any members; resolutions to exclude members of the public; and the time that the meeting concludes or adjourns (see Standing Orders 2.16.3, 3.3.15, 3.5.3, 3.6.3, 3.8.4, 3.14.4, 3.14.5, and 3.14.11).

3.17.3 No discussion on minutes

No discussion shall arise on the substance of minutes at any succeeding meeting, except as to their correctness.

3.18 Minute Books

3.18.1 Inspection of minute books

The minute books of the Council must be kept by the chief executive and be open to inspection in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Local Government Act (see Standing Orders 2.15.14 and 2.15.15).

[s. 51, LGOIMA]

3.18.2 Minutes of last meeting before election

The chairperson and the chief executive shall authenticate the minutes of the last meeting of the Council prior to the next election of members.

3.19 Deputations and Presentations

3.19.1 Deputations where heard

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 at least 2 working days before the date of the meeting concerned and has been subsequently approved by the chairperson. The Chief Executive will take reasonable practical steps to advise members of deputations to be heard. The chairperson may refuse requests for deputations which are repetitious or offensive.

3.19.2 Urgency or major public interest

Notwithstanding Standing Order 3.19.1, where in the opinion of the chairperson the matter which is the subject of a deputation is one of urgency or major public interest, the chairperson may determine that the deputation be received.

3.19.3 Deputations and presentations in English or Māori

A deputation or presentation to the Council or any of its committees, may be made in English or Māori. Prior arrangement with the chairperson should be sought at least 2 working days before the meeting if the address is not in English. The chairperson may order that any speech or document presented be translated and/or printed in another language.

3.19.4 Procedures for deputations

Except with the approval of the Council or committee, not more than 2 members of a deputation may address the meeting. After a presentation is received members may put to the deputation any question pertinent to the subject heard, but no member may express an opinion upon, or discuss the subject, until the deputation has completed making its submissions and answering questions (see Standing Order 3.15.2 regarding qualified privilege).

3.19.5 Termination of presentation if disrespectful

The chairperson may terminate a presentation in progress which is disrespectful or offensive, or where the chairperson has reason to believe that statements have been made with malice (see Standing Order 3.15.2 regarding qualified privilege).

3.19.6 Time limit on presentation

Unless the meeting determines otherwise in any particular case, a limit of 10 minutes is placed on a speaker making a presentation, or if there are 2 members of the deputation addressing the meeting 10 minutes in total for the 2 speakers. The Chair shall determine additional time for members to put questions to the deputation.

3.20 Petitions

3.20.1 Form of petitions

Every petition presented to the Council or to any of its committees, must comprise fewer than 50 words (not including signatories) and not be disrespectful, nor use offensive language or include statements made with malice (see Standing Orders 3.15.1 and 3.15.2 regarding qualified privilege).

3.20.2 Petition where presented by members

Any member of the Council who presents a petition on behalf of the petitioners is to confine himself/herself to reading the petition and the statement of the parties from which it comes, and the number of signatures attached to it.

3.20.3 Petition in English or Māori

A petition presented to the Council or any of its committees may be in English or Māori. Prior arrangement with the chairperson should be sought at least 2 working days before the meeting if the petition is not in English. The chairperson may order that any petition be translated and/or printed in another language.

3.20.4 Petition where presented by petitioner

Where a petition is presented by a petitioner, unless the Council determines otherwise, a limit of 5 minutes is placed on that person (see Standing Orders 3.15.1 and 3.15.2 regarding qualified privilege). If the chairperson has reason to believe that the petitioner is disrespectful or offensive, or has made statements with malice, the chairperson shall terminate presentation of the petition.

3.21 Questions

3.21.1 Question time at meeting

Any member of the Council may at any ordinary meeting of the Council at the appointed time, put a question to the Chairperson, or through the Chairperson of the Council to the Chairperson of any standing or special committee, or to any officer of the Council concerning any matter relevant to the role or functions of the Council concerning any matter that does not appear on the agenda, nor arises from any committee report or recommendation submitted to that meeting.

3.21.2 Members to try and obtain information beforehand

Before putting a question, a member, in the first instance endeavour to obtain the relevant information from the appropriate Council officer or the Chairperson of the committee concerned. In the event of the information sought not being forthcoming, or the member not being satisfied with the answer, the member then has the right to raise the matter by way of a question at an ordinary meeting of the Council, provided that the Chairperson may refer a question to an appropriate committee.

3.21.3 Questions to be in writing

Where applicable, such questions shall be writing and handed to the Chairperson prior to the commencement of the meeting at which they are to be asked.

3.21.4 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 next Council meeting.

3.21.5 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.

3.21.6 Questions to officers during debate

In the course of any debate at any Council meeting, any members may, at the Chairperson's discretion, ask any question of the relevant officer on any matter under debate. Such questions shall be directed through the chair.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

GROUNDINGS TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM MEETINGS IN TERMS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

(Normative)

The Council may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the following grounds:

- A1** That 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 such disclosure would be likely:
- a) To prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; or
 - b) To endanger the safety of any person.
- A2** That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to:
- a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; or
 - b) Protect information where the making available of the information:
 - i. Would disclose a trade secret; or
 - ii. Would 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 -
 - i. Would 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. Would 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) Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through -
 - ~~i. The free and frank expression of opinions by, or between, or to members or officers or employees of the Council, or any persons to whom section 2(5) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 applies, in the course of their duty; or [Refer to Section 48 (1)(a)(i) LGOIMA]~~
 - ii. The protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment; or
- g) Maintain legal professional privilege; or
- h) Enable the Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or
- i) Enable the 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.

Provided that where A2 of this Appendix 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.

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

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

A4 That the purpose of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is to consider a recommendation made to the Council by an Ombudsman under section 30(1) or section 38(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (in the case of a local authority named or specified in the First Schedule to this Act):

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

- a) Any proceedings before the 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
- c) Any proceedings of the Council in relation to any application or objection under the Marine Farming Act 1971.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC
(Informative)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

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:

Item No.	Minutes/Report of	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1	Report of the Chair of the Executive Leadership Committee	Appointment of Directors – Regional Council	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)
2	Report of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting of 24/12/2015	Northern connection to motorway. Negotiations for purchase of Land	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)
3	Report of the Chairman of Performance, Audit & Risk Committee	Progress of internal audit recommendations	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)
4	Report of the Council Hearings Panel	Recommendation on Submissions to Variation 100 to Proposed Regional Plan	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) 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 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No.		
1	Protection of privacy of natural persons	(Section 7(2)(a))
2, 3	Conduct of negotiations	(Section 7(2)(l))
4	Prevention of improper advantage	(Section 7(2)(j))

NOTE:

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- “(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):
- a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
 - b) Shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”

APPENDIX C
POWERS OF THE CHAIRPERSON
(Normative)

This Appendix is intended to separately set out the chairperson's powers which are contained in various parts of the Standing Orders.

The provisions in the Standing Orders shall be authoritative. The relevant Standing Orders are referred to in brackets.

C1 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.

(See Standing Order 3.3.2)

C2 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.

(See Standing Orders 3.13.3 and 3.13.6.)

C3 Items not on the agenda may be discussed

Items not on the agenda may be dealt with at that meeting if so resolved by the Council 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 Council 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 of the Council for further discussion.

(See Standing Orders 3.7.5 and 3.7.5.1.)

C4 Chairperson's report

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

(See Standing Order 3.7.4.)

C5 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.

(See Standing Order 3.7.6.)

C6 Chairperson's voting

The chairperson at any meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the case of equality of votes, does not have a casting vote.

(See Standing Order 2.5.2.)

C7 Motion in writing

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

(See Standing Order 3.9.4)

C8 Motion in parts

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

(See Standing Order 3.9.5)

C9 Notice of motion

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

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

(See Standing Orders 3.10.2 and 3.11.3)

C10 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, until the proposed notice of motion has been dealt with by the Council, 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 Council, action may be taken as though no such notice had been given.

(See Standing Order 3.9.16)

C11 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 Council, 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 Council, including vacancies.

(See Standing Order 3.11.1)

C12 Revocation or alteration of previous resolution

A chairperson may recommend in a report to the Council the revocation or alteration of all or part of any resolution previously passed, and the Council meeting may act on such recommendation.

(See Standing Order 3.9.18)

C13 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 ordinary meeting;
- b) May requisition an extraordinary meeting to be held at a specified time and place in order to conduct specified business;

(See Standing Orders 3.5.2, 2.14.1 and 2.14.2)

C14 Irrelevant matter and tedious repetition

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

(See Standing Order 3.8.2)

C15 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.

(See Standing Order 3.8.4)

C16 Reading of speeches

The chairperson may permit members who request permission to do so, to read their speeches.

(See Standing Order 3.8.5)

C17 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.

(See Standing Orders 3.8.12 and 3.8.13)

C18 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. (See Standing Order 3.3.3)

C19 Members may leave places

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

(See Standing Order 3.3.4)

C20 Priority of speakers

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

(See Standing Order 3.3.5)

C21 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 Council prior to the next election of members.

(Set Standing Orders 3.17.1 and 3.18.2.)

C22 Questions of speakers

The chairperson may permit members to ask questions of speakers under public forum or tangata whenua participation, for the purpose of obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

(See Appendices F4 and G5)

C23 Withdrawal of offensive or malicious expressions

- a) The chairperson may call upon any member to withdraw any offensive or malicious expression and may require the member to apologize for the expression.

(See Standing Order 3.3.11)

- b) 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.

(See Standing Order 3.3.12)

C24 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.

(See Standing Orders 3.1.1 and 3.3.2)

C25 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.

(See Standing Orders 3.3.13 and 3.16.1)

- b) Ask the meeting to hold in contempt any member whose conduct is grossly disorderly and where the meeting resolves to find the member in contempt, that resolution must be recorded in the minutes.

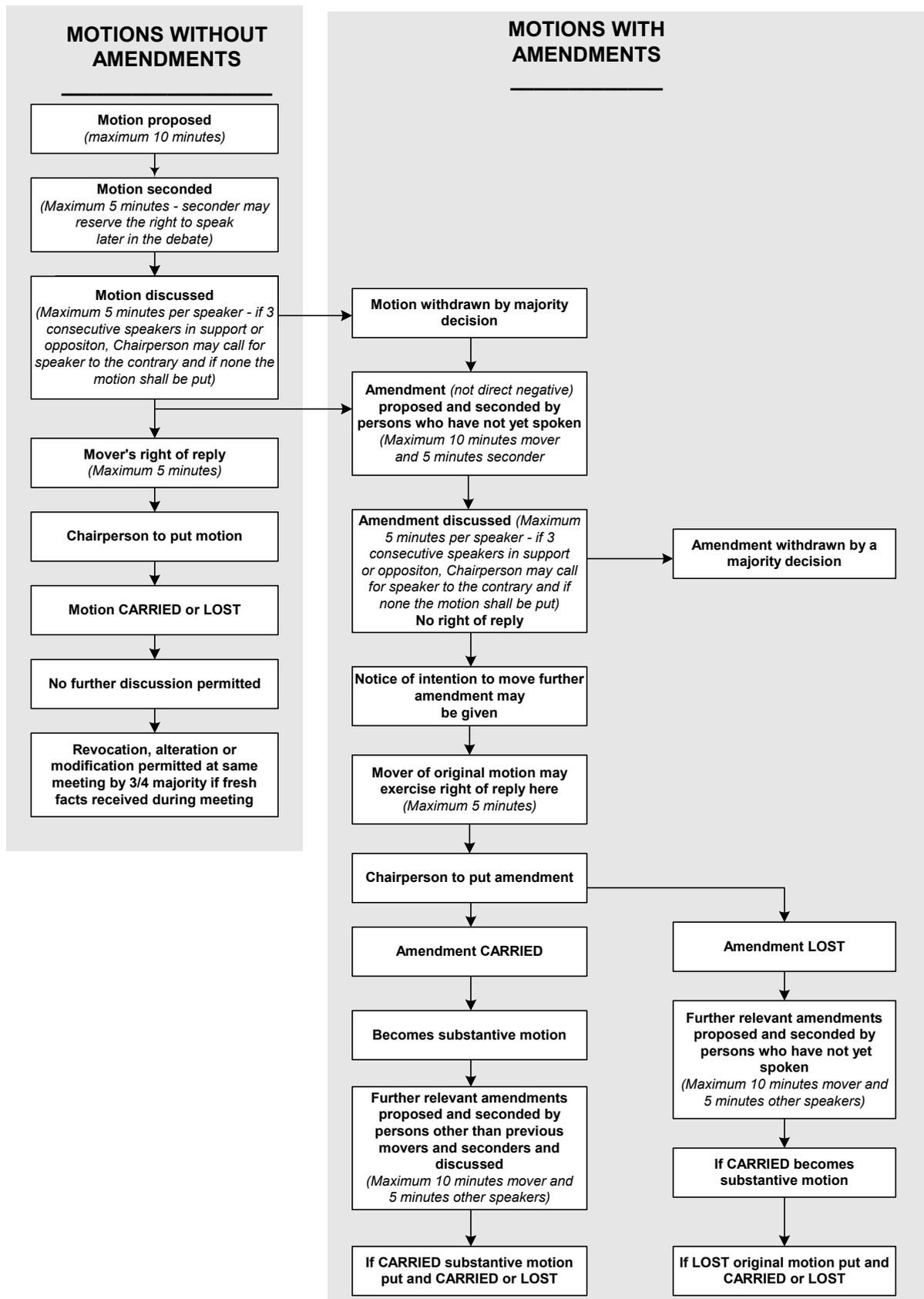
(See Standing Orders 3.3.14 and 3.3.15)

C26 Failure to leave 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 Council may, at the chairperson's request, remove or exclude that person from the meeting.

(See Standing Orders 3.3.16 and 3.16.2)

APPENDIX D
MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS
(Normative)



**APPENDIX E
TABLE OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

(Normative)

(See Standing Orders 3.12.1 to 3.12.12 and 3.13.1 to 3.13.6)

Motion	(a) "That the meeting be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting, or to a stated time and place."	(b) "That the item of business being discussed be adjourned to a stated time and place."	(c) "That the motion under debate be now put (closure motion)."	(d) "That the meeting move directly to the next business, superseding the item under discussion."	(e) "That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table and not be further discussed at this meeting."	(f) "That the item of business being discussed be referred to the relevant committee."	(g) "Points of order."
Has the Chair discretion to refuse this motion?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No – but may rule against
Is seconder required?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Is discussion in order?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes – at discretion of chairperson
Are amendments in order?	As to time and date only	As to time and date only	No	No	No	As to committee time for reporting back etc only	No
Is mover of procedural motion entitled to reply?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Are previous participants in debate entitled to move this motion?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Can a speaker be interrupted by the mover of this motion?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
If lost, can motion be moved after an interval?	Yes – 15 minutes	Yes – 15 minutes	Yes – 15 minutes	Yes – 15 minutes	Yes – 15 minutes	Yes – 15 minutes	No

Motion	(a) "That the meeting be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting, or to a stated time and place."	(b) "That the item of business being discussed be adjourned to a stated time and place."	(c) "That the motion under debate be now put (closure motion)."	(d) "That the meeting move directly to the next business, superseding the item under discussion."	(e) "That the item of business being discussed does lie on the table and not be further discussed at this meeting."	(f) "That the item of business being discussed be referred to the relevant committee."	(g) "Points of order."
Position if an amendment is already before the Chair	If carried, debate on the original motion and amendment are adjourned	If carried, debate on the original motion and amendment are adjourned	If carried, only the amendment is put	If carried, debate on the original motion and amendment are adjourned.	If carried, the original motion and amendment are both laid on the table.	If carried, the original motion and all amendments are referred to the committee.	Point of order takes precedence.
Position if a procedural motion is already before the Chair	If carried debate on the original motion and procedural motion are adjourned.	If carried, debate on the original motion and procedural motion are adjourned.	If carried, only the procedural motion is put.	If carried, debate on the original motion and procedural motion are adjourned.	Motion not in order.	If carried, the procedural motion is deemed disposed of.	Point of order takes precedence.
Remarks	On resumption of debate, the mover of the adjournment speaks first. Members who have already spoken in the debate may not speak again.		The mover of the motion under debate is entitled to exercise a right of reply before the motion or amendment under debate is put.				See Standing Orders 3.13.1 to 3.13.6

APPENDIX F
PUBLIC FORUM
(Informative)

F1 Public forum

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such other time as the Council may determine, will be set aside for a public forum at the commencement of ordinary meetings of the Council, committee and subcommittee meetings which are open to the public. Each speaker during the public forum section of a meeting may speak for three minutes.

F2 Time extension

Standing orders may be suspended on a vote of not less than 75% of those present, to extend the period of public participation or the period any speaker is allowed to speak.

F3 Subjects of public forum

In respect of Council, committee and subcommittee meetings, the public forum is to be confined to those items falling within the terms of reference of that meeting, provided the matter is not sub-judice.

NOTE: The public forum procedure does not apply in respect of any hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the Council, committee or subcommittee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

F4 Questions of speakers during public forum

With the permission of the chairperson, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. If permitted by the chairperson, questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

APPENDIX G

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR TANGATA WHENUA

(Informative)

G1 Tangata whenua representation at meetings

Where representatives of the tangata whenua identify any item on the agenda for a meeting of the Council, committee or subcommittee which the tangata whenua wish to discuss, they may attend the meeting for that purpose. These provisions do not apply to any meeting of the Council, committee or subcommittee which is sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity in respect of any matter to be heard.

G2 Speaking rights in addition to public forum

The right to speak at meetings of the Council conferred by these provisions are in addition to and separate from those rights of a public forum available in terms of Appendix F.

G3 Tangata whenua representation at committees and subcommittees

Where representatives of the tangata whenua have, in accordance with clause G1, identified items they wish to discuss at a meeting, they may be represented by such number of representatives as is equal to the number of permanent members of that committee or subcommittee who are present at that meeting.

G4 Tangata whenua speaking time

Representatives of the tangata whenua shall have the right to address any meeting of the Council, committee or subcommittee for a period of 15 minutes in total on any item or issue which has been identified or initiated by the tangata whenua and listed for consideration at a meeting.

G5 Questions of speakers during tangata whenua participation

With the permission of the chairperson, members may ask questions of representatives of the tangata whenua. If permitted by the chairperson, questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

NOTE: The term “tangata whenua” is not mentioned in the Local Government Act 2002. The Act refers to “Māori”.

APPENDIX H
PROVISION FOR CASTING VOTE

(Normative)

Where a local authority wishes to have a casting vote **replace** Standing Order 3.14.2(b) with “in the case of equality of votes the chairperson has a casting vote.”

NOTE: When adopting, amending or suspending Standing Orders to provide for a casting vote clause 27, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 applies.

