

I hereby give notice that an extraordinary meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 9 February 2021
Time: 2.00pm
Meeting Room: Boardroom Ground floor
Venue: Auckland Town Hall
301 Queen Street
Auckland

Komiti Tātari me te Mātai Raru Tūpono / Audit and Risk Committee

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Sue Sheldon, CNZM
Deputy Chairperson Cr Daniel Newman, JP
Members Deputy Mayor Cr Bill Cashmore
Paul Conder
Cr Shane Henderson
Bruce Robertson

Ex-officio Mayor Hon Phil Goff, CNZM, JP
IMSB Chair David Taipari

(Quorum 3 members)

Quorum must include two Governing
Body members

Mike Giddey
**Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance
Advisor**

2 February 2021

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Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist and advise the Governing Body in discharging its responsibility and ownership of governance, risk management, and internal control.

- The committee will review the effectiveness of the following aspects of governance, risk management and internal control:
- enterprise risk management (ERM) across the Auckland Council group
- internal and external audit and assurance
- health, safety and wellbeing
- business continuity and resilience
- integrity and investigations
- monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations
- significant projects, programmes of work and procurement focussing on the appropriate management of risk
- oversight of preparation of the LTP, Annual Report, and other external financial reports required by statute.

The scope of the committee includes the oversight of risk management and assurance across the council's CCOs and the council with respect to risk that is significant to the Auckland Council group.

To perform his or her role effectively, each committee member must develop and maintain his or her skills and knowledge, including an understanding of the committee's responsibilities, and of the council's business, operations and risks.

Decision-Making Powers

The committee has no decision-making powers other than those in these terms of reference.

The committee may request expert advice through the chief executive where necessary.

The committee may make recommendations to the Governing Body and / or chief executive.

Tenure

External members will be appointed for an initial period not exceeding three years, after which they will be eligible for extension or re-appointment, after a formal review of their performance, and have not already served two terms on the committee. Councillors appointed to the committee will automatically cease to hold office at the time of the local authority triennial elections. They may be eligible for re-appointment post those elections if they are returned to office and have not already served two terms on the committee.

The chief executive, and the senior management team members will not be members of the committee.

The members, taken collectively, will have a broad range of skills and experience relevant to the operations of the council. At least one member of the committee should have accounting or related financial management experience, with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a public sector environment.

Committee's responsibilities

The committee's responsibilities are detailed below.

Forward Work Programme

The committee will agree and approve annually a forward work programme – which will consist of in-depth briefings and reviews of specific significant risks and assurance strategies, as contained in the ERM “Top Risks” or Auckland Council’s work plan.

Risk management

- Review, approve and monitor the implementation of the ERM policy, framework and strategy (including risks pertaining to CCOs that are significant to the Auckland Council group).
- Review and approve the council’s “risk appetite” statement.
- Review the effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems including all material financial, operational, compliance and other material controls. This includes legislative compliance (including Health and Safety), significant projects and programmes of work, and significant procurement.
- Review risk management reports identifying new and / or emerging risks, and any subsequent changes to the ERM “Top Risk” register.

Assurance

- Review annually the Assurance Charter – which confirms the authority, independence and scope of the function.
- Review and approve annually and monitor the implementation of the three-year Assurance Strategy and 12 month detailed Internal Audit Plan.
- Review the co-ordination between the risk and assurance functions – including the integration of the council’s ERM risk profile with the Internal Audit programme. This includes assurance over all material financial, operational, compliance and other material controls. This includes legislative compliance (including Health and Safety), significant projects and programmes of work, and significant procurement.
- Review the reports of the assurance functions dealing with findings, conclusions and recommendations (including assurance over risks pertaining to CCOs that are significant to the Auckland Council group)
- Review and monitor management’s responsiveness to the findings and recommendations – enquiring into the reasons that any recommendation is not acted upon.

Fraud and Integrity

- Review and approve annually, and monitor the implementation of, the Assurance Strategy, including the fraud and integrity aspects, including a detailed work programme.
- Review annually the ‘Speak Up’ and whistleblowing procedures and ensure that arrangements are in place by which staff, may, in confidence, raise concerns about possible improprieties in matters of financial reporting, financial control or any other matters, and that there is proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow-up action.
- Review the procedures in relation to the prevention, detection, reporting and investigation of bribery and fraud.
- Review and monitor policy and process to manage conflicts of interest amongst elected members, local board members, management, staff, consultants and contractors.
- Review reports from the Risk, Assurance, Integrity and Investigations, external audit and management related to whistle blower, ethics, bribery and fraud related incidents.

Statutory Reporting

Review and monitor the integrity of the Long-term Plan, interim and annual report including statutory financial statements and any other formal announcements relating to the council's financial performance, focussing particularly on:

- compliance with, and the appropriate application of, relevant accounting policies, practices and accounting standards
- compliance with applicable legal requirements relevant to statutory reporting
- the consistency of application of accounting policies, across reporting periods, and the Auckland Council group
- changes to accounting policies and practices that may affect the way that accounts are presented
- any decisions involving significant judgement, estimation or uncertainty
- the extent to which financial statements are affected by any unusual transactions and the way they are disclosed
- the disclosure of contingent liabilities and contingent assets
- the clarity of disclosures generally
- the basis for the adoption of the going concern assumption
- significant adjustments resulting from the audit.

External Audit

- Discuss with the external auditor before the audit commences:
 - the nature, scope and fees of the external audit
 - areas of audit focus
 - error and materiality levels.
- Review with the external auditors representations required by elected members and senior management, including representations as to the fraud and integrity control environment.
- Review the external auditors management letter and management responses, and inquire into reasons for any recommendations not acted upon.
- Where required, the chair may ask a senior representative of the Office of the Auditor General to attend the committee meetings to discuss the office's plans, findings and other matters of mutual interest.

Interaction with Council Controlled Organisations

Other committees dealing with CCO matters may refer matters to the Audit and Risk Committee for review and advice.

This committee will enquire to ensure adequate processes at a governance level exist to identify and manage risks within a CCO. Where an identified risk may impact on Auckland Council or the wider group, the committee will also ensure that all affected entities are aware of and appropriately managing the risk.

The Head of Assurance and the Chief Risk Officer are responsible for monitoring CCO risk and internal audit strategies with respect to risks and CCO risks that are significant to the Auckland Council group.

Annual Report on the work of the committee

The chair of the committee will submit a written review of the performance of the committee to the chief executive on an annual basis. The review will summarise the activities of the committee and how it has contributed to the council's governance and strategic objectives. The chief executive will place the report on the next available agenda of the governing body.

Exclusion of the public – who needs to leave the meeting

Members of the public

All members of the public must leave the meeting when the public are excluded unless a resolution is passed permitting a person to remain because their knowledge will assist the meeting.

Those who are not members of the public

General principles

- Access to confidential information is managed on a “need to know” basis where access to the information is required in order for a person to perform their role.
- Those who are not members of the meeting (see list below) must leave unless it is necessary for them to remain and hear the debate in order to perform their role.
- Those who need to be present for one confidential item can remain only for that item and must leave the room for any other confidential items.
- In any case of doubt, the ruling of the chairperson is final.

Members of the meeting

- The members of the meeting remain (all Governing Body members if the meeting is a Governing Body meeting; all members of the committee if the meeting is a committee meeting).
- However, standing orders require that a councillor who has a pecuniary conflict of interest leave the room.
- All councillors have the right to attend any meeting of a committee and councillors who are not members of a committee may remain, subject to any limitations in standing orders.

Independent Māori Statutory Board

- Members of the Independent Māori Statutory Board who are appointed members of the committee remain.
- Independent Māori Statutory Board members and staff remain if this is necessary in order for them to perform their role.

Staff

- All staff supporting the meeting (administrative, senior management) remain.
- Other staff who need to because of their role may remain.

Local Board members

- Local Board members who need to hear the matter being discussed in order to perform their role may remain. This will usually be if the matter affects, or is relevant to, a particular Local Board area.

Council Controlled Organisations

- Representatives of a Council Controlled Organisation can remain only if required to for discussion of a matter relevant to the Council Controlled Organisation.

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1 Apologies

Apologies from IMSB Chair D Taipari and Mayor P Goff have been received.

2 Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3 Petitions

There is no petitions section.

4 Public Input

There is no public input section.

5 Local Board Input

There is no local board input section.

6 Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“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.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“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.”

Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- a) exclude the public from the following part(s) 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 follows.

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, as follows:

C1 CONFIDENTIAL: Update on Key Controls and Risks Related to the 10-year Budget 2021-2031 Consultation Document and Supporting Information

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege. In particular, the report contains legal advice being provided to the Committee.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

C2 CONFIDENTIAL: Office of the Auditor-General and Audit New Zealand briefing

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(c)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to damage the public interest. In particular, the report from Audit New Zealand contains information regarding progress of the Audit of 10-year Budget 2021-2031 Consultation Document and Supporting Information which is not yet complete.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.