

Upper Harbour Local Board OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Upper Harbour Local Board held in the Upper Harbour Local Board Office, 30 Kell Drive, Albany, Auckland 0632 and via Microsoft teams on Thursday, 9 February 2023 at 9:31am.

TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

Chairperson	Anna Atkinson
Deputy Chairperson	Uzra Casuri Balouch, JP
Members	Callum Blair
	John Mclean
	Kyle Parker
	Sylvia Yang

1 Nau mai | Welcome

The Chairperson A Atkinson led the meeting in a Karakia.

2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number UH/2023/1

MOVED by Member C Blair, seconded by Member S Yang:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) **confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on Thursday, 8 December 2022, as a true and correct record.**

CARRIED

5 He Tamōtanga Motuhake | Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

6 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements |

6.1 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements

Resolution number UH/2023/2

MOVED by Chairperson A Atkinson, seconded by Deputy Chairperson U Casuri Balouch:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) **acknowledge the recent devastating floods and thank all responders including community groups , council, individuals, families and everyone who has stepped up in this time of need.**

CARRIED

7 Ngā Petihana | Petitions

There were no petitions.

8 Ngā Tono Whakaaturanga | Deputations

There were no deputations.

9 Te Matapaki Tūmatanui | Public Forum

There was no public forum.

10 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

11 Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content

The Local Area Manager, Lesley Jenkins, The Local Board Advisor, Robert Marshall, and the Lead Financial Advisor, Hao Chen, were in attendance to support the item.

Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content Attachment A – local consultation document, and Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content Attachment B – supporting information, were provided for this item. Copies have been placed on the official minutes and are available on the Auckland Council website as minute attachments.

Resolution number UH/2023/3

MOVED by Chairperson A Atkinson, seconded by Member J Mclean:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) **approve local consultation document content and local supporting information content for inclusion in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation material as amended Attachment A and B of the minutes.**
- b) **express concern that the proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding can be sought from both the local boards Locally Driven Initiatives and the Asset Based Services budgets, both of which directly support our local services such as environmental restoration and pest control, environmental education and sediment control, library services and opening hours, community outcomes and community spaces, sports and recreation groups and youth development.**
- c) **note that only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24. This means that the proposed reduction will more likely represent a cut of up to 45% to the local board's discretionary budgets.**
- d) **note our concern that the proposed wording in each of the consultation documents in reference to the reductions to local board operational funding and the dollar amount specific to each local board is very unclear to the general public and does not adequately reflect the significant local impact that the proposed reductions will have on the community.**
- e) **express concern that in light of the recent unprecedented flooding emergency deferring or reducing funding on climate action would be seen as irresponsible**

- and not in our present and future communities interest and inconsistent with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri and other council adopted plans and strategies.
- f) investigate the essential role in the response played by community organisations and question who will fulfil that role in future emergencies if funding is cut and report back to the local board.
 - g) note that anticipated cuts to Full Facilities Maintenance Contracts and Arboriculture Maintenance are proposed to be credited regionally and not locally, meaning that cuts to local board budgets will potentially be disproportionately large.
 - h) expresses its concern that the leading nature of the wording in the consultation documents tacitly implies that the adoption of the budget is a foregone conclusion which could lead the public to question whether consultation is genuine.
 - i) request that the local consultation document content (Attachment A) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) with the following wording: “This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, which is made up of our Locally Driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 45% to the local board’s discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as environmental restoration and pest control, environmental education and sediment control, library services and opening hours, community outcomes and community spaces, sports and recreation groups and youth development. The Upper Harbour Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$534,000.”
 - j) request that the local consultation document content (Attachment B) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) with the following wording: “This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, which is made up of our Locally Driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 45% to the local board’s discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as environmental restoration and pest control, environmental education and sediment control, library services and opening hours, community outcomes and community spaces, sports and recreation groups and youth development. The Upper Harbour Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$534,000.”
 - k) delegate authority to the local board Chairperson to approve any changes required to finalise the local consultation document and supporting information content for the Upper Harbour Local Board for the Annual Budget 2023/2024.
 - l) approve the following Have Your Say event in the local board area during the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation period:
 - i) Information stall at Albany community market
Date: Saturday 4 March 2023
Time: 12 – 4pm

Location: Albany Community Hub, 575 Albany Highway, Albany

- m) **delegate authority to the local board Chairperson to approve any changes required to the Have Your Say event.**
- n) **delegate to the following elected members and staff the power and responsibility to receive feedback and hear from the public through “spoken (or New Zealand sign language) interaction” at the council’s public engagement events during the consultation period for the Annual Budget 2023/2024:**
 - i) **local board members and Chairperson**
 - ii) **General Manager Local Board Services, Local Area Manager, Local Board Senior Advisor, Local Board Advisor, Local Board Engagement Advisor**
 - iii) **any additional staff approved by the General Manager Local Board Services or the Group Chief Financial Officer.**

CARRIED

Attachments

- A Upper Harbour Local Board business meeting 9 February 2023, Item 11 - Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content - Attachment A - local consultation document.
- B Upper Harbour Local Board business meeting 9 February 2023, Item 11 - Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content - Attachment B - supporting information.

12 Auckland Council’s submission on the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections

The Local Area Manager, Lesley Jenkins, was in attendance to support the item.

Resolution number UH/2023/4

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson U Casuri Balouch, seconded by Chairperson A Atkinson:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) **support booth and postal voting methods be combined and investigated. If this was implemented, it would allow those who wished to post their vote (or drop it into a ballot box) to do so within the three weeks prior to election day and would allow those who wished to vote on election day itself to visit a booth up to 7pm on election day.**
- b) **support the investigation of compulsory voting as a solution to increase voter turnout.**
- c) **agree the introduction of civics education in schools would help to raise awareness among students who then go on to become voters.**
- d) **request special voting facilities need to be provided in each local board area to facilitate voting and that all special voting facilities have the ability to print out voting documents for any voter. Note that anecdotally the opening hours of the special voting facilities were not long enough and request that facilities are open outside of standard work hours.**
- e) **agree provision of ballot papers to voters is critical to increasing voter turnout and support investigating how the electoral roll can be kept up to date and that anecdotally there were many residents who had recently moved houses who did not receive postal ballots.**

- f) request that there be a mechanism in place to ensure the ballot paper delivery partner is accountable to the Electoral Office for the delivery of voting documents.
- g) support Auckland Council's recommendations for legislative change to allow for:
 - i) Overseas voters in local elections are able to upload voting documents as is currently the case for Parliamentary electors
 - ii) Votes date-stamped by New Zealand Post (or other postal service provider) on the day of elections (or earlier) are accepted and counted, or if votes are not date-stamped, an alternative method for determining that a vote that has been cast by a voter by the close of voting but not received by the Electoral Officer by the close of voting, is counted. Currently votes need to be with the Electoral Officer by close of voting at noon on election day to be counted and there is uncertainty about when votes should be posted to meet this deadline, due to the infrequency of New Zealand Post services
 - iii) Nomination deposit for mayoral candidates is raised from \$200 to \$500.

CARRIED

13 Te Whakaaro ki ngā Take Pūtea e Autaia ana | Consideration of Extraordinary Items

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

10.39 pm

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and closed the meeting with a Karakia.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL
BOARD HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....