



Assurance and Risk Committee Minutes from 25 October 2023

Present:	Bruce Robertson (Independent Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly, Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter, Councillors Alistair Plimmer and Kaye McAulay; and Karen Mikaera (from 12:42pm, via Zoom) (Māori Standing Committee).
Apologies:	Councillor Aidan Ellims; and Karen Mikaera (until 12:42pm).
In Attendance:	Councillors Rebecca Gray.
Also in attendance:	Russell O’Leary (Acting Interim Chief Executive), Amanda Bradley (General Manager Policy and Governance), Karon Ashforth (General Manager Finance) and Amy Andersen (Committee Advisor).
Conduct of Business:	This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 12:30pm to 2:38pm except where expressly noted.

A Open Section

A1. Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Mayor Connelly opened the meeting.

A2. Apologies

ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE RESOLVED (A&R2023/12) to accept apologies from Ms Mikaera and Cr Ellims.

(Moved Mr Robertson/Seconded Mayor Connelly)

Carried

A3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

A4. Public Participation

Derek Anderton

Mr Anderton spoke to the Committee about his frustration relating to communications and reporting from Council Officers (including the Annual Report and full financial reports), as well as expertise of the Committee

members. Mr Anderton also queried why the Finance Committee was scheduled to meet prior to the Assurance and Risk Committee.

A5. Actions from public participation

There were no actions from public participation.

A6. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

A7. Confirmation of minutes

ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE RESOLVED (A&R2023/13) to accept the minutes of the Assurance and Risk Committee meeting held on 9 August 2023 as a true and correct record.

(Moved Mr Robertson/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter) Carried

A8. Matters from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from previous minutes.

B Information Reports from Chief Executive and Staff

B1. Finance Report

Ms Mikaera arrived at 12:42pm.

Ms Ashforth spoke to matters included in the report and responded to queries from members including: the responsibilities of the final draft/proofreading of Annual Report; the timeframes for adopting the Annual Report; whether timeframes for the adoption of the Annual Report would be met by the Finance Team; and key changes to the Financial Delegations Policy.

Members committed to meeting prior the adoption of the Annual Report at Council's next ordinary meeting which scheduled for 22 November 2023.

Members discussed concerns with regard to insurance, and queried the options for self-insurance and use of reserves; and the possible options instead of the Water Services Reform Programme, if this is repealed and replaced.

Mr Robertson suggested that through the Long Term Plan process, Council could explore what it should do with water and what would the community want to maintain/develop, if returned to Council.

ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE RESOLVED (AR2023/14) to:

1. Receive the draft financial results for yearend 30 June 2023.
2. Receive an update on insurance premiums summary and final charges for 2023-24.
3. Receive an update on the final audit and the 2022/23 Annual Report.
4. Inform and receive update on Water Services Reform Programme for the Finance and Commercial workstream.
5. Receive and review the draft of the revised Financial Delegations Policy.
6. Recommend Council approve the draft of the revised Financial Delegation Policy.

[Items 1-6 read together]

(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried

B2. Democracy and Engagement Update

Ms Bradley spoke to matters in the report and responded to queries from members including: the processes for consultation relating to the Representation Review and Council's ability to engage with the community, local iwi and marae; whether the social licence significant risk could be raised in public excluded session (related to previous minutes 9 August 2023); additions to the risk register for the Long Term Plan (LTP); plans to support the LTP moving forward e.g. community engagement.

Mr Robertson noted the recent release of the Ombudsman's recommendations relating to Council workshops and considerations moving forward.

ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE RESOLVED (AR2023/15) to receive the Democracy and Engagement Update Report.

(Moved Mr Robertson/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler Futter) Carried

B3. Action Items

Further update sought for Action 313 – email assurance required.

ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE RESOLVED (AR2023/16) to receive the Action Items Report.

(Moved Mr Robertson/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried

C Public Excluded Business

Mayor Connelly reminded the Committee about reasons required to enter into public excluded.

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:

Report/General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
Public Excluded Minutes from the Assurance and Risk Committee meeting held on 9 August 2023 (Discussion relating to Councillor Gray's statement).	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7(2)(f)(i) and 7(2)(f)(ii)	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution (AR2023/17) is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority in the course of their duty.	7(2)(f)(i)
The withholding of the information is necessary maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.	s7(2)(f)(ii)

(Moved Mr Robertson/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)

Carried

Against – Mayor Connelly

D Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing

Ms Mikaera closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2:38pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Chair)

.....(Date)

.....(Chief Executive)

.....(Date)