

Council Workshop AGENDA

Notice of Workshop Te Pānui o te Hui:

A Council Workshop will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 11 November 2025
Time: 11.30 am - 1.00 pm
Venue: Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
<https://councillive.ccc.govt.nz/meeting-calendar/>

Membership Ngā Mema

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor David Cartwright
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Pauline Cotter
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Nathaniel Herz Jardine
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett

7 November 2025

Principal Advisor

Mary Richardson

Chief Executive

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Note: This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.

To find upcoming meetings, watch a recording after the meeting date, or view copies of meeting Agendas and Notes, go to:

<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>



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11.30 am – 12.30 pm

[Presenter: Tom Lee, Principal Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy]

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12.30 pm – 1.00 pm

[Presenter: Katie Matheis, Senior Democratic Services Advisor]

1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

Apologies will be recorded at the meeting.

2. Government Reforms

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/2203505

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Tom Lee, Principal Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy

1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

Purpose and Origin of the Workshop	To brief the incoming Council about four key reforms that the Government has underway or planned that will impact local government (Local Water Done Well; Local Government Act; Building consents; Resource management). The Council will be required to consider these reforms soon. This session is to signal the reforms and provide background information as context for those future discussions.
Timing	This workshop is expected to last for 45-60 minutes.
Outcome Sought	To build awareness of the key government reforms underway that the Council will be required to implement or consider in late 2025/early 2026. The session will provide high-level information about the reforms for the Council to provide context to more targeted or technical briefings in the future.
ELT Consideration	N/A
Next Steps	Staff will prepare further updates to the Council on the reforms as required. Staff are awaiting clarity from the Government about the timing of the reforms not yet underway or complete.
Key points / Background	- Local Water Done Well – The Council has decided to deliver water through an in-house model. Planning and implementation to achieve this is now underway. - Local Government Act – The reform aims to ease rates increases by focusing councils on core services, increasing transparency and reducing regulatory burden. The Council submitted on the reforms in August 2025. Select Committee will report back to Parliament in November 2025, with the Bill likely to be passed early next year. - Building Act – The reforms aim to make the building consents process simpler and faster. Some reforms are already underway (e.g. regarding earthquake-prone buildings and easing requirements for granny flats) and others are planned in the coming months. - Resource management – The reforms aim to simplify planning and remove red tape. Two new Bills (Planning Bill; Natural Environments Bill) will replace the current Resource Management Act. In the meantime, the Government has told councils to stop new plan changes. The two Bills are expected before the end of the year.
Useful Links	- Local Water Done Well: Council's webpage – Local Water Done Well: Christchurch City Council - Local Government reform:

	• <i>Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Bill</i> – Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill 180-1 (2025), Government Bill – New Zealand Legislation. • Minister’s statement – Refocusing local government to deliver for Kiwis Beehive.govt.nz • Building reform: • Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s website – Future of the Building System Building Performance • Minister’s statement – Biggest building consent system reform in decades Beehive.govt.nz • Resource management reform: Ministry for the Environment webpage – Reforming the resource management system – replacing the RMA Ministry for the Environment
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Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

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A  	BIC: Water Reform (Local Water Done Well)	25/2000337	7
B  	BIC: Local Government Act Reform	25/2099818	11
C  	BIC: Building Act Reform	25/2110789	15
D  	BIC: Resource Management Reform	25/2105169	18

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Authors	Thomas Lee - Principal Policy Advisor Luke Adams - Principal Advisor Policy
Approved By	David Griffiths - Head of Strategic Policy & Resilience Mary Richardson - Chief Executive

Briefing to Incoming Council

Water Reform (Local Water Done Well)

Purpose

To provide an overview of the Government's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) reforms, Christchurch City Council's confirmed position on water service delivery, and the key tasks and decisions ahead for the new Council over the 2025-28 term.

The information in this memo is not confidential and can be made public.

No decision is being sought in this memo.

Information

The Government has replaced the former Three Waters Reform programme with *Local Water Done Well*. Unlike the previous model, which proposed the creation of large multi-regional water entities, LWDW keeps responsibility for the delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services locally.

The new framework places stronger emphasis on:

- **National regulation and oversight** – tighter compliance with Taumata Arowai standards and new performance benchmarks.
- **Financial sustainability** – ringfenced funding arrangements and enhanced accountability settings to ensure investment in water assets is transparent and sustainable.
- **Community expectations** – ensuring that local decisions on water services align with broader community priorities for the environment, resilience, and growth.

This shift reflects strong advocacy by local government, including Christchurch City Council, for a model that balances local accountability with credible regulation and sustainability safeguards.

Current Position

Keeping Water Services In-House

Following detailed analysis and community engagement, Christchurch City Council has confirmed its intention to deliver water services through an **In-House Delivery Model**.

Key features of this model:

- **Governance and operational control** remain with Council, allowing decisions to be made locally.
- **Integration with wider Council functions** – water services planning and investment will be aligned with transport, housing, climate resilience, and environmental strategies.
- **Community accountability** – elected members remain directly accountable for service delivery, customer experience, and investment decisions.

The decision to remain in-house reflects Christchurch's scale and capability to manage its water services directly, while retaining flexibility to collaborate with neighbouring councils where this provides efficiency or resilience benefits. For example, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Dunedin City Council to investigate shared services opportunities.

Water Services Delivery Plan

Under the *Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act*, every council was required to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by September 2025. Christchurch City Council has met this requirement.

Our WSDP sets out:

- How water services will be delivered sustainably over the next 10+ years.
- Ringfenced financial arrangements for revenue, expenditure, and borrowing, separated from wider Council finances.
- Clear pathways for compliance with national performance and regulatory expectations.
- Asset management and investment strategies.

The plan builds on the extensive financial modelling and service delivery analysis completed in 2024–25 and provides a strong foundation for implementation.

Impact on Council

- **Financial:** Significant investment in renewals is required over coming decades, and the new model demands greater transparency on rates and charges for water services.

- **Governance:** Elected members will retain direct accountability for service performance, requiring a strong focus on asset management and community engagement.
- **Community:** Retaining local control offers an opportunity to align water decisions closely with community outcomes, but also raises expectations around service standards, affordability, and environmental performance.

Strategic Considerations for Council

The next phase of work for Council is to embed the new approach into day-to-day delivery, develop the supporting Water Services Strategy, and ensure the new funding, accountability, and reporting requirements are fully integrated into Council's governance and community engagement processes.

Water Services Strategy (2025–26)

The Council will need to develop and adopt a new Water Services Strategy to sit alongside the WSDP. This will set the long-term direction for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services, and will:

- Define levels of service, customer expectations, and regulatory compliance pathways.
- Align investment decisions with climate resilience, environmental outcomes, and growth priorities.
- Address affordability challenges, particularly given the scale of renewal expenditure over the next 30 years.

Implementation of Ringfenced Funding

From 2026, water services will operate with dedicated, ringfenced accounts. This will require changes to financial reporting, governance oversight, and long-term planning processes. The Council will need to ensure:

- Clear public transparency about where water revenues are raised and spent.
- Strong internal capability to manage separate accounts and asset renewals.
- Robust communication with the community to build understanding and trust.

Strengthened Accountability and Oversight

The new regime introduces:

- Regular reporting to Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission.
- Benchmarking of performance against other councils.
- New customer complaint and redress mechanisms.

The Council will need to adapt governance processes to ensure elected members can exercise oversight effectively in this environment.

Collaboration and Shared Services

While the In-House Model provides local accountability, the Council has the option to collaborate with neighbouring councils on specific functions where scale offers benefit (e.g., procurement, laboratory services, technical expertise). Early conversations with Dunedin signal potential to pilot shared approaches. The incoming Council will need to consider opportunities to pursue these partnerships.

Recommendations

Receive the information in this report.

Briefing to Incoming Council

Local Government Act Reform

Purpose

To provide an overview of the upcoming planned amendments to the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Currently, the *Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill* is before Parliament and other future changes have also been signalled.

Information

Background

In July 2025, the government introduced the *Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill* (the Bill), which aims to address cost of living concerns by amending the Act to reduce pressure on rising council rates. The Government is concerned that rates rises are a driver of household inflation and are being exacerbated by a lack of fiscal discipline among councils, such as spending on activities that stray from core services and spending more than necessary on the basics.

The Minister for Local Government has stated that “local government has drifted from their core responsibilities” and the Prime Minister has stated that councils need to “rein in the fantasies” and “do the basics brilliantly”.

The Bill is currently at the Governance and Administration Select Committee and will be reported back to Parliament on 18 November 2025. It amends the Act to:

- **refocus the purpose of local government.** This includes: removing all references in the Act to the four aspects of community wellbeing; amending the purpose of local government to emphasise cost-effectiveness and local economic growth; adding a list of five “core services” that local authorities “must have particular regard to”.
- **better measure and publicise council performance.** Regulations will be made that prescribe the activities and benchmarks that Councils must plan and report on. This includes contractor and consultant expenditure.
- **prioritise core services in council spending.** Councils must have regard to the purpose of local government and the core services of a local authority when determining its financial management approach.
- **strengthen council transparency and accountability.** This includes having a standardised code of conduct (including for Community Boards) and standing orders, and new information requirements on chief executives. Two new

governance principles are also added: that local authorities should foster the free exchange of information and expression of opinions by Elected Members; and a responsibility of Elected Members to work collaboratively.

- **provide regulatory relief to councils.** This includes: modernising public notice requirements; removing the requirement for 6-yearly service delivery reviews; clarifying responsibilities for lending arrangements; clarifying third party development contributions can be targeted; extending a Chief Executives' second term; and removing the requirement to consider tikanga Māori knowledge when appointing council-controlled organisation directors.

This Bill does not include provisions to implement a rates cap. However, the Bill does refer to this concept and aims to encourage the financial management principles that a rates cap system would foster. The Minister of Local Government has signalled that a report on a rates cap model will go to Cabinet before the end of 2025. A Bill for a rates cap system is expected in 2026. Further discussion about a rates cap is discussed in an upcoming Rates and Revenue memo.

The Minister of Local Government has also indicated future work is planned on reviewing the Long-Term Plan framework and auditing requirements, and potentially other council planning and reporting requirements. This is not part of the current Bill and will likely be part of a future amendment Bill.

Impact on Council

The Council made a submission on the Bill in August 2025. The submission noted that the Bill is well-intentioned but that it does not target the key drivers of rates increases, which are market pressures, such as inflation (particularly regarding construction and infrastructure), interest rates, insurance rates, and other market forces. Because of this, the effectiveness of the Bill to ease rates rises is questionable.

The new purpose statement and listing of core services is unlikely to substantially change what the Council is delivering. Using the Bill's definition of core services as a guide, the Council expects to spend approximately 93% of rates revenue on core services in 2025/26.

If the Bill passes (early-mid 2026), the amendments will require the council to implement new benchmarking and reporting measures and a new code of conduct and standing orders. In these areas the Bill provides regulation-making powers but not the detail of the policy. It is therefore unclear what the impact of the Bill will be, and we will only know once the regulations and further policy decisions are made.

Other proposals in the Bill will clarify council's obligations and ease some regulatory burden (such as provisions regarding publishing requirements, lending arrangements, development contributions, and the chief executive's tenure), but the impacts of this will

be relatively minor. The Council's submission urged the government do more to ease the regulatory burden on local authorities.

The impact of removing the four well-beings from the purpose of local government and the new focus on core services and cost-effectiveness will likely require some public-facing documents, reporting documents and other communications to be updated to reflect these changes.

Risks and mitigation strategies

Risk	Mitigation
Council feedback is not reflected in Bill/policy changes	The mayor, elected members, or council staff can find ways to continue to try to influence the government's decisions throughout the process. The Council will be required to follow legislative requirements once in force, so the Council and staff should plan with the changes in mind.
The Bill goes further than what the council expects or wants	
Council is not prepared	The Council should consider the impacts of the Bill in its planning processes, such as the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, capital programme and setting of council priorities.
Staff resources are stretched managing the many other government reforms impacting local government (e.g. resource management, water, housing growth, etc).	The council will need to plan and prioritise resources to ensure all new council obligations will be met and any linkages between government reforms are identified.

Stakeholder concerns or media attention

The impacts of the Bill are likely to be minor (especially regarding the impact on reducing rates increases), however the new legislation is likely to gain some media attention.

The removal of the "four well-beings" and increased focus on core services and transparency are likely to be supported by some parts of the community and criticised by others. For some, the tighter focus for council is welcome during a time of economic pressure, while others argue that the Bill is reducing the influence of local decision-making by dictating what councils should spend their money on for their communities. These positions have (and will continue to) play out in the public discourse.

New reporting and benchmarking obligations are likely to catch the media's attention as a means of being able report and compare the council's performance.

Once the Bill is enacted, future decisions that prioritise or deprioritise certain projects or spending based on the renewed focus of the Act are likely to come under scrutiny.

Strategic Considerations for Council

The Bill is being reported back to Parliament by the Select Committee in November 2025 and there are few opportunities to further influence the policy decisions. Once the Bill comes into force, the Council will be required to implement the new obligations of the Act, such as the provisions regarding reporting, benchmarking and the code of conduct.

There is likely to be greater scrutiny of spending decisions, particularly regarding projects that some may not consider a core service. The council is also likely to come under greater scrutiny regarding rates increases and will be compared to other councils in this regard.

Further changes to the Act have been signalled for the future. The rates cap policy will go to Cabinet before the end of the year and legislation to deliver this is expected to be in 2026. The Council may wish to keep this in mind when considering the upcoming Annual Plan, Long-Term Plan and council priorities.

Recommendations

Receive the information in this report.

Next Steps

Staff will keep elected members updated on the Bill as it progresses through Parliament and before it comes into force. The Bill is expected to be reported back to Parliament from the Governance and Administration Select Committee in November 2025, where feedback on the Bill and any recommendations to amend the Bill will be raised. The Bill will then continue through the parliamentary process, which is expected to be completed by early-mid 2026.

When there is more information about the rates cap policy (e.g. how it may be applied and when changes may come into force), staff can provide and update to elected members.

Other signalled changes regarding the Long-Term Plan framework and other planning, reporting and auditing requirements are unlikely to be released until late-2026 or 2027.

Briefing to Incoming Council

Building Act Reform

Purpose

To provide an overview of the current reform of the building consent system.

Information

Background

There are 67 building consent authorities (BCAs) responsible for delivering building control functions within their respective regions. This includes processing building consent applications, conducting inspections and producing code compliance certificates.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), on behalf of the Government, is undertaking a significant reform of the building consent system. This work includes looking at the way BCAs are structured, and the scope of building work exempt from a building consent.

MBIE is also looking at potential changes to liability settings across the whole building system. This may include private insurance taking a greater role.

MBIE is also progressing initiatives to improve the current consent process, such as:

- making it easier to build granny flats
- increasing the use of remote inspections, and
- mandating the acceptance and use of overseas building products.

Recent initiatives from central government

The Government has recently introduced the following changes:

- Quarterly performance reporting: BCAs must report on their performance against statutory timeframes.
- Inspection wait time reporting: BCAs must measure and report inspection wait times.

Impact: Risk of not meeting the target of completing at least 80% of inspections within 3 working days of request.

- New compliance pathways for overseas building products and standards.

Impact: Positive long-term benefits for the construction industry.

Proposed Government initiatives

In addition to the above, the Government has also announced the following proposals:

- Exemptions for small stand-alone dwellings (granny flats). **Impact:** May require a new approach to collecting development contributions and could increase enforcement workload.
- Changes to earthquake-prone building system. **Impact:** a significant reduction of buildings on the Earthquake Prone Building register.
- Shift from joint and several liability to proportionate liability. **Impact:** Positive for Council as it limits liability exposure but may increase risk for homeowners.
- Changing legislation to encourage voluntary BCA consolidation. **Impact:** We may see several BCAs looking to consolidate their BCA functions
- Opt-in self-certification scheme for house builders carrying out work on an entire simple residential dwelling (including design and construction). **Impact:** Uptake may be low due to insurance requirements.
- An opt-in self-certification scheme for plumbers and drainlayers carrying out work on a simple residential dwelling. **Impact:** The likely uptake is uncertain as insurance requirements may be a barrier.

Stakeholder concerns or media attention

Recent media coverage has led to confusion among stakeholders, with some believing the proposed changes are already in effect.

The most significant proposal for ratepayers is the proposed change to liability settings, which could leave homeowners more financially exposed in the event of building defects.

Strategic Considerations for Council

Legislative changes are being introduced to enable voluntary consolidation of BCAs. While this may present opportunities for some regions, Christchurch City Council's current position remains that there is limited value to Christchurch ratepayers in pursuing consolidation.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is undertaking early exploratory work on the potential merits of establishing a regional BCA Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

Recommendations

That the incoming Council receive this memo for information.

Next Steps

- Continue to monitor Government proposals and engage with MBIE officials to ensure Christchurch's interests are understood and considered as reforms progress.
- Remain actively involved in regional forums, to stay informed and contribute to discussions from a Christchurch perspective.
- Update the Council as the reforms progress.

Briefing to Incoming Council

Resource Management Reforms

Purpose

To provide context on the upcoming Resource Management reforms.

Information

Background

The Government has been progressing significant reform to the Resource Management (RM) system, working towards the replacement of the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. The intent of the reform is to simplify the planning system, reduce duplication and remove 'red tape'.

The RMA is set to be replaced with two new acts: the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act. Both Bills are expected to be introduced in November.

While full details of the Bills are yet to be released, the Government has outlined the focus areas for the two Bills:

- **Planning Bill:** will regulate land-use planning and infrastructure development, supporting urban growth and aligning with national infrastructure priorities.
- **Natural Environment Bill:** will focus on protecting and enhancing natural resources, including land, air, freshwater, and marine environments.

For further information on the proposed changes to the RM system, including the RMA reform objectives and principles guiding the replacement legislation, see [here](#).

Previous council submissions on Resource Management reform

Ahead of the replacement RM legislation, the Government has progressed a series of targeted changes to the RMA and engaged on proposals to help shape the broader reform programme over the past year.

Council's submissions on these have generally supported changes that improve system efficiency, provide clear and directive national guidance, and enable well-functioning urban environments. However, they have consistently highlighted concerns around the need to balance growth with environmental outcomes, minimise the fiscal impacts of growth on councils, and ensure that any future system upholds local voice.

In response to the recent Freshwater Management proposals, the Council opposed the suggested rebalancing of *Te Mana o te Wai*, advocating for the full retention of the

existing framework. There will be further opportunities to engage on the Freshwater Management proposals when released next year.

Staff encourage Councillors to review Council's previous submissions as context ahead of the broader reforms to the RM system (links provided below).

Plan stop and exemptions

As part of these targeted changes, the Government recently made amendments to the RMA to prevent notification of plan changes until December 2027 and require councils to withdraw plan changes that have not yet had a hearing, unless exemptions (automatic, or granted by the minister) apply. These changes are intended to reduce unnecessary costs and resource use ahead of the transition to the new RM system. The Council's Plan Change Work Programme is directly affected by this change.

In September, the Council [resolved](#) to seek exemptions for several proposed plan changes (see [here](#) for details), and staff are currently preparing these applications to the Minister.

Impact on Council

While the full impact of the Resource Management reforms on Council will not be known until further details are released, the scale and scope of the proposed changes suggest potentially significant implications for Council operations, including:

- Changes to Council's existing roles and responsibilities – likely in the areas of City Planning, Resource Consenting and RMA Compliance and Enforcement.
- Funding and financing implications associated with transitioning to and implementing the new system and associated objectives including enabling future growth.
- Resourcing implications, including staffing, capability development, and system changes required to support the transition and implementation of the new framework.
- Operational uncertainty during the transition period, requiring flexibility in how Council continues to function under the current system.

Staff will be better positioned to advise on the potential impacts for Council once the replacement Bills have been introduced and their content fully assessed.

Risks and mitigation strategies

Risk	Mitigation
There is a risk that the reforms will place pressure on resourcing, particularly in the short term, as staff are required to	Staff are actively engaged in the RM reforms and will proactively assess implications for resourcing once the replacement legislation is released.

Risk	Mitigation
transition to the new system while continuing to deliver BAU activities.	
There is a risk that additional funding and financing will be required to support the transition to, and implementation of, the new system.	Staff are actively engaged in the RM reforms and will proactively assess implications for funding and financing once the replacement legislation is released.
Legal risks arising from potential interpretation challenges and ambiguity with implementation of the new system.	Staff to seek legal advice where appropriate to reduce legal risks.
There is a risk that the Minister may decline all or some of the Council's plan change exemption requests, which would prevent the affected plan changes from proceeding at this time.	Staff are currently preparing applications, and where necessary have been engaging with Ministry for the Environment officials to ensure applications meet the requirements.
There is a risk that the RM reforms may not progress if the current Government is not re-elected in the 2026 general election.	Staff will continue to monitor and maintain flexibility to accommodate potential shifts in direction.

Strategic Considerations for Council

Operational considerations

Understanding the operational implications of the RM reforms will be a critical first step. This is of particular importance in relation to any future changes in roles, responsibilities, and funding. These impacts will become clearer once the replacement legislation is released and assessing them will be a priority for staff — alongside briefing elected members.

Given the timeframes for RM reform, a period of uncertainty is expected for both staff and councillors as we transition to the new RM system over several years. This will create operational challenges, notably regarding resourcing constraints and determining work programme priorities during this transition period.

Strategic considerations

The RM reforms are likely to influence how the city grows and develops — particularly given direction signalled through the [Going for Housing Growth](#) programme. Understanding how the proposed Bills, and subsequent national direction, align with the Council's own strategic objectives for housing and urban development will be

important. This includes assessing the potential impacts on land use planning, infrastructure delivery, and the ability to respond to growth pressures.

Regional considerations

Ongoing engagement with Canterbury councils and our Greater Christchurch Partners will be important as the reforms progress – especially given the proposed shift toward towards a more regionalised system. Staff are already engaging in preliminary conversations and will continue these as the reforms progress.

Recommendations

1. Receive the information in this report.
2. Review the Council's previous submissions on Resource Management reform, including:
 - [CCC submission on updating RMA national direction](#)
 - [CCC submission on Going for Housing Growth](#)
 - [CCC submission on Resource Management \(Consenting and Other System Changes\) Amendment Bill](#)
 - [CCC submission on Resource Management \(Freshwater and Other Matters\) Amendment Bill](#)

Next Steps

Both the Planning and Natural Environment Bills are expected to be introduced shortly. Once introduced, the Government will call for submissions as part of the legislative process. Immediate next steps will include:

- Introductory briefing to the Mayor and Councillors on the content and high-level implications of the Planning and Natural Environment Bills. We anticipate that this will be in November/ December.
- Preparing a Council submission on both Bills to ensure Council views are reflected, and to influence the development of the legislation.

3. Standards New Zealand - Local Government Standing Orders

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/2302801

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Katie Matheis, Senior Democratic Services Advisor

1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

Purpose and Origin of the Workshop	- The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and Standards New Zealand released the draft <i>Local Government Standing Orders</i> on 17 October for consultation, closing on 12 December. - The purpose of this Workshop is to provide an overview of Standard New Zealand's draft <i>Local Government Standing Orders</i> and to present the key changes between the draft and the Council's current Standing Orders.
Timing	This workshop is expected to last for 30 minutes.
Outcome Sought	This Workshop will serve as an introduction to the draft <i>Local Government Standing Orders</i> currently out for consultation with the aim of familiarising the elected members with the key changes to help inform their feedback on the Council's draft submission.
ELT Consideration	The Executive Leadership Team has long been aware of the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill and its proposed changes to local government frameworks, including a mandated set of Standing Orders.
Next Steps	- A secondary Workshop will be held on 18 November where the draft submission to the <i>Local Government Standing Orders</i> will be presented for feedback. - The draft submission will be updated in accordance with the feedback received and presented to the Council at its 3 December meeting for endorsement before being lodged with Standards New Zealand.
Key points / Background	- The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, if passed, will empower the Secretary for Local Government to issue model Standing Orders to all territorial authorities, regional councils, community boards, and local authorities defined under the LGA. - To align with the intent of the Bill, the DIA commissioned Standards New Zealand to establish a Development Committee to review the existing Model Standing Orders (NZ 9202) and develop a standardised version for all local authorities and community boards. - The work of the Development Committee culminated in the draft <i>Local Government Standing Orders</i> currently out for consultation. - The key changes between the consultation draft and the Council's current Standing Orders are outlined in Attachment A which has been previously circulated to elected members and other stakeholders.

Useful Links	• Consultation Draft: DZ 9202:2025 Local Government Standing Orders. • The Council's submission on the <i>Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill</i>: https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Request-information/2025/Local-Government-System-Improvements-Amendment-Bill-2025.PDF

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A 	Draft Standards SO Table of Key Changes	25/2233548	25

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Katie Matheis - Senior Democratic Services Advisor
Approved By	Megan Pearce - Manager Democratic Services

Consultation Draft: [DZ 9202:2025 Local Government Standing Orders](#)

No.	Draft Standard SO Topic / Section	Key Changes	Comments / Feedback
	Forward	The draft Standard SO is structured in 10 Parts (versus three (3) Parts in the Council's current SO), breaking down the content into more specific Parts.	
	Principles (removed)	Section 1.1 of the Council's current SO outlined core principles of good governance. These have been removed in the draft Standard SO.	
2. General Matters			
2.1	Standing orders	2.1.1 – while SO would be mandated, this section grants local authorities the discretion to adopt: • Its general procedures for speaking and moving motions and amendments as outlined in Appendix D; • The provision of a casting vote, as outlined in Appendix E; and • Time limits for debate, public forum, deputations, petitions, and submissions. •	
2.2	Holding meetings	2.2.7 – Unless the meeting resolves to continue, meeting cannot: • sit for more than two hours without a 10 min break; • continue more than 6 hours (including adjournments); or	

		continue after 10.30pm.	
3. Council Structure			
3.1 – 3.3	Appointments and elections; Delegations; Committees	These are mostly newly added sections, but are legislatively prescribed	
4. Calling Meetings			
4.4	Emergency meetings	Includes provisions to address emergency meetings consistent with updated legislation	
5. Meeting Agenda			
5.4	Chief executive may delay or refuse request	New section providing CE discretion to delay or refuse to commission reports that: - involve significant cost or resource unless resolved by Council; or - are beyond the scope of the body making the request CE may also refuse direct report request from an individual member.	
5.6	Withdrawal of agenda items	Makes a new distinction regarding who may withdraw a report based on its origin: the CE may withdraw a report from the CE or staff at any time before item is dealt with and a member may withdraw their own report (e.g., Chair's report, NoM) at any time before the item is dealt with.	
6. Public access and recording			
6.2	Public forums and deputations	Requests and time limits applicable to PF and Deputations have been combined for consistency/ease of use. Key updates include:	

		• All public participation speakers are allocated 5 minutes' speaking time* (with Chair discretion to extend) • Requests to speak must be made one clear working day before the meeting • Chairperson now has additional discretion to decline a request where: - o The speaker is in contravention of Council policies or applicable legislative requirements** - o The matter is before the final decision-making body after having been considered by a committee, community/local board, or hearings panel where public participation was available; - o The decision-making authority on the matter rests with another body or individual, or falls within another body's Terms of Reference - o Where a member of the public has previously caused a disruption at multiple meetings, the Chair may decline a deputation and require the individual to submit their views in writing. *Note: time limits are one of the discretionary items that Councils may choose to adjust before adoption of SO. **Note: this provision would enable an appropriate Council policy to be developed to cover those aspects of public participation unique to our Council such as Community	
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		Board correspondence, funding applicants wishing to speak, or members of the public wishing to speak to contractual disputes with the Council or one of its CCOs.	
6.3	Hearing of submissions	New section covering a meeting to hear submissions on matters under its consideration an applying applicable time limits*. *Note: time limits are one of the discretionary items that Councils may choose to adjust before adoption of SO.	
6.4	Petitions	Newly specifies that petitions: • may be presented to a meeting provided the subject matter falls within the body's jurisdiction and any applicable Terms of Reference; • may be electronic; • are not considered a report on an agenda Additional updates include: • the removal of a maximum word count (e.g., 150 words); • provides discretion to the Chair to waive the 5 working day timeframe and 20 signature threshold; • with the exclusion of the 5 day timeframe, applies all relevant standing orders, meaning the restrictions around public forums/deputations would also apply; • clarification that no debate or decisions can be made unless the petition is presented as part of a deputation.	

7. Quorum requirements			
7.6	Attendance	7.6.4 – <i>Apologies</i> Newly specifies that members may be recorded as absent on council business even where their absence is a result of a commitment made on behalf of the council.	
7.7	Attendance by electronic link	7.7.2 – <i>Requests and conditions to attend by electronic link</i> • Overall stronger wording. Now specifies that members must give the Chair & CE at least two working days' notice when they want to attend by electronic link (unless not possible due to illness/emergency). • Removal of provision that if the Chair is attending via AV then chairing duties would be undertaken by deputy or member who is physically present. 7.7.4 – <i>Quorum and voting by electronic link</i> Updated to align with legislative changes allowing attendance via electronic link to be counted towards quorum	
8. Meeting Procedures			
8.2	Chairperson's role in meetings	8.2.4 – <i>Chairperson's rulings</i> New provision (also included in Point of Order section) specifying that where a Point of Order questions the Chair's ruling, the deputy chair will make a decision on the Point of Order. 8.2.8 – <i>Chairperson does not have a casting vote</i>	

		The draft SO default position is that the Chairperson will not have a casting vote. However, this is one of the discretionary items outlined in 2.1.1 that a Council may choose to alter.	
8.3	Member conduct	8.3.7 – <i>Financial conflicts of interest</i> Strengthened provisions, e.g., changing ‘members <i>should</i> physically withdraw themselves’ to ‘members <i>must</i> physically withdraw themselves’. Clarifies that non-participation in a vote is not considered an abstention. 8.3.8 – <i>Non-financial conflicts of interest</i> Strengthened provisions, e.g., provides that member shall physically withdraw themselves from the table...unless the meeting is public excluded, in which case they shall leave the room. Clarifies that the nature of the conflict does not need to be disclosed and that non-participation in a vote is not considered an abstention.	
9. Debate			
9.1	General rules of debate	9.1.1 – <i>Members’ right to speak</i> Newly specifies that members may not display videos, images, or other recordings during their debate except with the leave of the Chairperson. 9.1.3 – <i>Questions to staff before debate</i>	

		Provisions clarify the appropriate flow of debate and specify that when dealing with questions to staff, the Chair has the discretion to: • Determine how the question is dealt with; • Determine whether the question is in order and needs to be answered or not; and/or • Decide whether further questions can be put to staff once debate has begun. 9.1.4 – <i>Moving into debate</i> Newly provides/clarifies that once an item has been tabled for consideration, members may signal at any time that they are moving/seconding a motion related to that item. Clarifies that at the end of questions and once an item is moved/seconded, the meeting can move into debate.	
9.5	Time limits on speakers	Newly establishes default time limits for debate – all members have three (3) minutes' speaking time (this includes movers of motions and amendments and rights of reply).* These time limits may be extended by resolution or at the Chair's discretion. *Note: debate time limits are one of the discretionary items that councils may choose to adjust under 2.1.1.	
9.11	General procedures for speaking and moving motions	9.11.1 – <i>Options for speaking and moving</i> and 9.11.2 – <i>Speaking and moving motions</i>	

		The default debate procedure is 'Option B' – a less formal procedure than is currently used that employs more leniency when speaking to, or moving, seconding motions/amendments. *The procedure for speaking and moving/seconding motion/amendments is a discretionary matter that councils may choose to adjust under 2.1.1. This section also newly notes that outside of the debate option councils choose to employ, they may still resolve to employ an alternative procedure/option as outlined in Appendix D at the beginning of a meeting. <i>9.11.3 – Motions and amendments</i> <i>9.11.3.1 – Moving and seconding motions and amendments</i> Again clarifies that a motion may be moved/seconded at any time once the item is tabled for consideration. Newly specifies that members who move/second a motion/amendment are not required to be present for the entirety of debate. <i>9.11.3.6 – Requirements of proposing an amendment</i> Adds (for clarity) where the Chair may rule amendments out of order. This includes where an amendment: • Is a direct negative, whereby it would have the same effect as defeating the motion; • Is not relevant to the motion under discussion;	
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		• Is in conflict with, or would have the same effect as defeating, an already carried amendment; • Would have the same effect as an already lost amendment; • Does not comply with the LGA decision-making provisions; and/or • Would negate a decision made under delegated authority. 9.11.3.7 – <i>Foreshadowed motions and amendments</i> New wording to clarify the intent/use of a foreshadowed motion or amendment. Further clarifies that a seconder is not required at the time a foreshadowed motion/amendment is raised, but is required to proceed. Newly provides that the Chair has the discretion to direct a single debate between a motion or amendment under discussion and any foreshadowed motions or amendments.	
9.12	Procedural motions	9.12.1 – <i>Types of procedural motions</i> Newly specifies that procedural motions shall be limited to advancing the directives outlined by the PM (e.g., adjourning at item, deferring an item, letting an item lie on the table, etc.) and may not include requests for further action (e.g., additional consultation, a further report/workshop). Clarifies in the body of SO that amendments to procedural motions are not permitted except to specify a time and date where applicable.	

		9.12.2 – <i>Procedural motions shall be taken immediately</i> Newly clarifies that once an item on the agenda has been tabled for consideration, members may signal at any time that they are moving a procedural motion related to that item. The moving/seconding of a PM would follow the rules around moving/seconding a motion as adopted by the Council (e.g., Option A, B or C as outlined in Appendix D). Clarifies that once a PM is moved/seconded, it must be put to the vote immediately without debate, with the exception of a closure motion. 9.12.3 – <i>Chairperson's acceptance of closure motions</i> Clarifies that the Chair may only accept a closure motion when the meeting is in debate and there have been at least 2 speakers for and 2 against the motion/amendment, or the Chair considers it reasonable to do so.	
9.13	Points of order	9.13.1 – <i>Members may raise points of order</i> Clarifies the Point of Order related to the recording of words, specifying that this pertains to a member objecting to words used by another member at the time the words are used and requesting that the minutes record the objection. Adds further Point of Order for the criticism of resolutions, giving members a mechanism to address a breach of that specific Standing Order.	

		9.13.4 – <i>Chairperson's ruling on points of order</i> New provision specifying that where a Point of Order concerns the performance of the Chair, the Chair will refer the point of order to the deputy chair or, if there is no deputy chair, another member elected by the meeting.	
9.15	Notice of motion	9.15.2 – <i>Requirement to give notice of a notice of motion to revoke or alter a previous resolution</i> Updates the timeframes around a NoM to revoke/alter a previous resolution, requiring the NoM to be delivered to the CE 10 clear working days before the meeting. Where the NoM is lost, the CE cannot accept a similar NoM that has substantially the same purpose/effect within the next 12 months. 9.15.4 – <i>Conditions to be met for a notice of motion</i> Clarifies that a NoM can be via email. Requires that it have both a mover and seconder and updates the timeframe for delivery to the CE to at least 10 clear working days (or a shorter time at the CE's discretion). 9.15.5 – <i>Refusal of notice of motion</i> Updates wording to reflect that the CE, in consultation with the Chair, may decline a NoM where it: • Is disrespectful or contains offensive language or statements made with malice; • Contains an ambiguity or a statement of fact or opinion that cannot properly form part of an effective resolution, and where the mover and seconder have	

		declined to comply with such requirements as the CE may make; • Is concerned with matter that are already on the agenda, or are the subject of forthcoming reports or recommendations; • Fails to include sufficient information to satisfy the decision-making provisions of sections 77-82 of the LGA, or contravenes other legislative requirements; • Concerns a matter where council has delegated decision-making authority to a subordinate body or a community board; or • Constitutes a repeat notice of motion. 9.15.8 – <i>Referral notices of motion</i> Clarifies that where a NoM is referred to the appropriate decision-making body (e.g., Committee or Board), the member who raised the NoM has the right to move that motion and exercise a right of reply as if a member of that decision-making body, but cannot take part in the vote. 9.15.9 – <i>Repeat notices of motion</i> Updated to reflect that when a NoM has been declined by the CE, fails for a lack of seconder, or is declared lost by majority vote, no similar NoM, including one to revoke or alter a previous resolution, may be accepted within the next 12 months unless signed by not less than 1/3 of all members.	
9.16	Voting	9.16.4 – <i>Members may abstain</i>	

		Clarifies that a member does not need to provide a reason for their abstention. 9.16.5 – <i>Tied Vote</i> Clarifies that where there is a tied vote and a casting vote is not permitted, the motion or amendment is lost and the status quo is upheld.	
10. Minutes			
10.2	Items recorded in minutes	Newly specifies that the minutes shall record: - the names of members attending via electronic link, in full or in part; - a member's absence from discussion and voting following a declaration of financial or non-financial conflict of interest; and - the reasons for withdrawal of an agenda item by the CE.	
GENERAL MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION			
	Formatting	The formatting has been changed significantly, with the content broken into smaller subsections and the removal of white space, bullets, etc.	
	Accessibility	Standards NZ has strict copyright restrictions, prohibiting reproduction of any part of SO without prior written permission. There has been little guidance about the cost of having to purchase copies of the SO or who they would be made accessible to the public.	