Role of Council

Council sets its vision and values to underpin its strategic direction. This guides the organisation as it works to make the Far North District an attractive place to live, work, and play. Council is forward looking, acting strategically to prepare for the district’s future.

Councillors are elected to represent the views of residents and ratepayers and continue to build positive relationships with constituents.

Council will meet every six weeks from late January to December to make decisions on all matters that it has not, or cannot be, delegated.

Extraordinary Council meetings may be called when required for specific purposes. As part of setting the District’s strategic direction, Council’s responsibilities are:

- Development and adoption of key strategic documents, including:
  - Annual Plan
  - Long Term Plan
  - District Plan
  - Spatial Plan
  - Infrastructure Plan
  - FN2100
- Establishing and monitoring consultation processes relating to strategic documents
- Development and adoption of policies and strategies, with contribution from committees as appropriate
- Exercise those decision making and regulatory functions reserved to Council by law
- Submissions to other agencies on issues of interest to Council.

Council monitors the performance of the organisation in regards to meeting the objectives of the Long Term Plan, as well as monitoring the performance of the CEO in regards to their agreed key performance indicators.

To support effective decision making, the Council has established the following committees:

- Strategy and Policy
- Regulatory Compliance
Council has delegated certain decision making and advisory powers to the committees, as outlined in each Committees Terms of Reference.

Council's Responsibilities

The Council's responsibilities are described below:

Matters under the Local Government Act 2002

Matters that cannot be delegated, under the Local Government Act 2002 Sch7, clause 32, are:

(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 this Act in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement; or
(h) the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.

Governance

- Approve governance documents (including triennial agreements)
- Approve delegations to committees
- Approve changes to Standing Orders and Code of Conduct
- Monitor effectiveness of meeting structures, including Standing Orders
- Consider issues relating to member behaviour, including Code of Conduct
- Manage Council’s relationships with the community boards of the Far North District, including reviewing effectiveness and adequacy of delegations, and approving changes
- Triennially review Council’s committee structure
- Annual review of Councillors’ key performance indicators
- Approve Councillor portfolio assignments and appointments to external organisations and advisory groups
Role of the Executive Review Committee

Council sets its vision and values to underpin its strategic direction. This guides the organisation as it works to make the Far North District an attractive place to live, work, and play. Council is forward looking, acting strategically to prepare for the district’s future.

Council employs the Chief Executive, who in turn employs and manages Council staff. Council therefore has a responsibility to set and monitor the performance of the Chief Executive.

Membership

The Executive Review Committee will comprise of at least six elected members (one of which will be the chairperson).

Mayor Carter
Ann Court – Chairperson
Kelly Stratford
Rachel Smith
John Vujcich
Felicity Foy

Quorum - Committee

The quorum at a meeting of the Executive Review Committee is 3 members.

Frequency of Meetings

The Executive Review Committee shall meet at least twice per year, but may convene more frequently as required.

Committees Responsibilities

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

Performance of the Chief Executive

- Review the chief executive’s performance as required in the employment agreement between the Council and chief executive.
- Annually consider the CE remuneration.
- Supervise any recruitment and selection process for a chief executive.
- Consider any issues regarding the employment of the chief executive.
- The Committee may procure independent specialist advice to the value of $25,000 per annum in accordance with Councils procurement policy and processes. Any single procurement above $15,000 will require a recommendation to Council.
Purpose

The purpose of the Strategy and Policy Committee (the Committee) is to set direction for the district, determine specific outcomes that need to be met to deliver on that vision, and set in place the strategies, policies and work programmes to achieve those goals.

In determining and shaping the strategies, policies and work programme of the Council, the Committee takes a holistic approach to ensure there is strong alignment between the objectives and work programmes of the strategic outcomes of Council, being:

- Better data and information
- Affordable core infrastructure
- Improved Council capabilities and performance
- Address affordability
- Civic leadership and advocacy
- Empowering communities

The Committee will review the effectiveness of the following aspects:
- Trust and confidence in decision-making by keeping our communities informed and involved in decision-making;
- Operational performance including strategy and policy development, monitoring and reporting on significant projects, including, but not limited to:
  - FN2100
  - District wide strategies (Infrastructure/ Reserves/Climate Change/Transport)
  - District Plan
  - Significant projects (not infrastructure)
  - Financial Strategy
  - Data Governance
  - Affordability
- Consultation and engagement including submissions to external bodies / organisations

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.
Power to Delegate

The Strategy and Policy Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers.

Membership

The Council will determine the membership of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

The Strategy and Policy Committee will comprise of at least seven elected members (one of which will be the chairperson).

Mayor Carter
Rachel Smith – Chairperson
David Clendon – Deputy Chairperson
Moko Tepania
Ann Court Felicity
Foy Dave Collard
John Vujcich

Non-appointed councillors may attend meetings with speaking rights, but not voting rights.

Quorum

The quorum at a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee is 5 members.

Frequency of Meetings

The Strategy and Policy Committee shall meet every 6 weeks, but may be cancelled if there is no business.

Committees Responsibilities

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

Strategy and Policy Development
  • Oversee the Strategic Planning and Policy work programme
  • Develop and agree strategy and policy for consultation / engagement;
  • Recommend to Council strategy and policy for adoption;
  • Monitor and review strategy and policy.

Service levels (non regulatory)
  • Recommend service level changes and new initiatives to the Long Term and Annual Plan processes.

Policies and Bylaws
  • Leading the development and review of Council's policies and district bylaws when and as directed by Council
  • Recommend to Council new or amended bylaws for adoption
Consultation and Engagement
- Conduct any consultation processes required on issues before the Committee;
- Act as a community interface (with, as required, the relevant Community Board(s)) for consultation on policies and as a forum for engaging effectively;
- Receive reports from Council’s Portfolio and Working Parties and monitor engagement;
- Review as necessary and agree the model for Portfolios and Working Parties.

Strategic Relationships
- Oversee Council’s strategic relationships, including with Māori, the Crown and foreign investors, particularly China
- Oversee, develop and approve engagement opportunities triggered by the provisions of Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe under the Resource Management Act 1991
- Recommend to Council the adoption of new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
- Meet annually with local MOU partners
- Quarterly reviewing operation of all Memoranda of Understanding
- Quarterly reviewing Council’s relationships with iwi, hapū, and post-settlement governance entities in the Far North District
- Monitor Sister City relationships
- Special projects (such as Te Pū o Te Wheke or water storage projects)

Submissions and Remits
- Approve submissions to, and endorse remits for, external bodies / organisations and on legislation and regulatory proposals, provided that:
  - If there is insufficient time for the matter to be determined by the Committee before the submission “close date” the submission can be agreed by the relevant Portfolio Leaders, Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee, Mayor and Chief Executive (all Councillors must be advised of the submission and provided copies if requested).
  - If the submission is of a technical and operational nature, the submission can be approved by the Chief Executive (in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Leader prior to lodging the submission).
- Oversee, develop and approve any relevant remits triggered by governance or management commencing in January of each calendar year.
- Recommend to Council those remits that meet Council’s legislative, strategic and operational objectives to enable voting at the LGNZ AGM. All endorsements will take into account the views of our communities (where possible) and consider the unique attributes of the district.

Fees
Set fees in accordance with legislative requirements unless the fees are set under a bylaw (in which case the decision is retained by Council and the committee has the power of recommendation) or set as part of the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan (in which case the decision will be considered by the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan and approved by Council).
District Plan

- Review and approve for notification a proposed District Plan, a proposed change to the District Plan, or a variation to a proposed plan or proposed plan change (excluding any plan change notified under clause 25(2)(a), First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991);
- Withdraw a proposed plan or plan change under clause 8D, First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991;
- Make the following decisions to facilitate the administration of proposed plan, plan changes, variations, designation and heritage order processes:
  - To authorise the resolution of appeals on a proposed plan, plan change or variation unless the issue is minor and approved by the Portfolio Leader District Plan and the Chair of the Regulatory committee.
  - To decide whether a decision of a Requiring Authority or Heritage Protection Authority will be appealed to the Environment Court by council and authorise the resolution of any such appeal.
  - To consider and approve council submissions on a proposed plan, plan changes, and variations.
  - To manage the private plan change process.
  - To accept, adopt or reject private plan change applications under clause 25 First Schedule Resource Management Act (RMA).

Rules and Procedures

Council’s Standing Orders and Code of Conduct apply to all the committee’s meetings.

Annual reporting

The Chair of the Committee will submit a written report 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.
Purpose

The purpose of the Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee (the Committee) is to assist and advise the Governing Body in discharging its responsibility and ownership of finance, risk and internal control.

The Committee will review the effectiveness of the following aspects:

- The robustness of financial management practices;
- The integrity and appropriateness of internal and external reports and accountability arrangements;
- The robustness of the risk management framework;
- The robustness of internal controls and the internal audit framework;
- Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and best practice guidelines;
- The establishment and maintenance of controls to safeguard the Council's financial and non-financial assets;
- Data governance framework

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.

Membership

The Council will determine the membership of the Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee including at least one independent appointment with suitable financial and risk management knowledge and experience.

The Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee will comprise of at least five elected members (one of which will be the chairperson), and one independent appointed member.

Mayor Carter
John Vujcich – Chairperson
Bruce Robertson – Deputy Chairperson and Independent Member of the Committee
Moko Tepania
Mate Radich
Kelly Stratford
Ann Court
Non-appointed councillors may attend meetings with speaking rights, but not voting rights.

**Quorum**

The quorum at a meeting of the Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee is 4 members.

**Frequency of Meetings**

The Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee shall meet every 6 weeks, but may be cancelled if there is no business.

**Power to Delegated**

The Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers.

**Committees Responsibilities**

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

**Financial systems and performance of the Council**

- Review the Council’s financial and non-financial performance against the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan
- Review Council quarterly financial statements and draft Annual Report

**Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL)**

- Recommend to Council the approval of statement of intent and Annual Report (s67 LGA)
- Receive 6 monthly report on operations (s66 LGA)
- Receive quarterly financial statements
- Recommend appointment of directors of FNHL

**Risk Management**

- Review appropriateness of Council’s risk management framework and associated procedures for effective risk identification, evaluation and treatment
- Receive and review risk management dashboard reports
- Provide input, annually, into the setting of the risk management programme of work
- Receive updates on current litigation and legal liabilities

**Internal Audit and Controls**

- Review whether management has in place a current and comprehensive internal audit framework
- Receive and review the internal audit dashboard reports
- Provide input, annually, into the setting of the internal audit programme of work
- Review whether there are appropriate processes and systems in place to identify and investigate fraudulent behaviour

The Committee will manage Council’s relationship with external auditor.

The Committee will approve applications to declare land abandoned and any other such matters under the Rating Act.

**Rules and Procedures**

Council’s Standing Orders and Code of Conduct apply to all the committee’s meetings.
Annual reporting
The Chair of the Committee will submit a written report 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.
Purpose

The purpose of the Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) is to ensure cost effective, quality and sustainable infrastructure decisions are made to meet the current and future needs of Far North communities and that Councils infrastructure assets are effectively maintained and operated.

The Committee will review the effectiveness of the following aspects:

- Affordable core infrastructure to support healthy and sustainable living;
- Operational performance including monitoring and reporting on significant infrastructure projects
- Delivery of quality infrastructure and district facilities
- Financial spend and reprogramming of capital works
- Property and other assets

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, Councils' infrastructure assets such as roading, three waters and district facilities.

Membership

The Council will determine the membership of the Infrastructure Committee.

The Infrastructure Committee will comprise of at least six elected members (one of which will be the chairperson).

Mayor Carter
Felicity Foy – Chairperson
Ann Court – Deputy Chairperson
Dave Collard
Kelly Stratford
John Vujcich
Mate Radich

Non-appointed councillors may attend meetings with speaking rights, but not voting rights.
Quorum
The quorum at a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee is 5 members.

Frequency of Meetings
The Infrastructure Committee shall meet every 6 weeks, but may be cancelled if there is no business.

Power to Delegate
The Infrastructure Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers.

Committees Responsibilities
The Committees responsibilities are described below:

Quality infrastructure and Facilities
- Assess and provide advice to Council on strategic issues relating to the provision of Council’s infrastructural activities and district facilities
- Review, and recommend to Council, policy and strategies for the delivery of infrastructural asset services
- Monitor achievement of outcomes included in the Infrastructure Strategy and other infrastructure strategies eg District Transport Strategy
- Ensure that Council protects its investment in its infrastructural assets in accordance with accepted professional standards
- Monitor the risks, financial and operational performance of the Council's infrastructural activities and facilities
- Monitor major contract performance measures/key result areas (KRAs)

Significant Projects – spend, monitoring and reporting
- Monitor significant projects
- Approve budget overspend (above tolerance levels in the CE delegations) and any reprogramming of capex for a project or programme provided that:
  - The overall budget is met from savings
  - The overall budget for capex is not exceeded. Where this is not the case, the Committee must either:
    ▪ Recommend to Council that additional funding is approved (outside the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process), or
    ▪ Recommend as part of the next round of Long Term Plan or Annual Plan process that the funding is considered for inclusion.
- Approve tenders and contracts provided they are:
  - Up to $3 million,
  - in accordance with the current year’s plan, whether that be Annual Plan or Long Term Plan, and
  - deemed low by the Significance and Engagement Policy.
Compliance
- Ensure that operational functions comply with legislative requirements and Council policy
- Ensure that consents associated with Council's infrastructure are being met and renewals are planned for

Service levels (non regulatory)
- Recommend service level changes and new initiatives to the Long Term and Annual Plan processes.

Relationships
- Monitoring Council’s relationship with the Northland Transportation Alliance
  - Receive quarterly performance reports
- Monitoring Council's relationship with the Far North Waters Alliance Partner

Property
- Recommend to Council the acquisition or disposal of assets.
- Approve new leases and lease renewals (of non-reserve land), in accordance with the current years' plan, whether that be Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.

Receive updates on changes to national and regional policies that impact on Council provision of infrastructure and where appropriate make recommendation to Council.

Rules and Procedures
Council’s Standing Orders and Code of Conduct apply to all the committee's meetings.

Annual reporting
The Chair of the Committee will submit a written report 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.
Purpose

The purpose of the Regulatory Compliance Committee (the Committee) is to implement and monitor regulatory compliance and statutory matters on behalf of the Governing Body. The Committee will conduct hearings (except those under the Resource Management Act 1991) and undertake any functions as requested or delegated by Council from time to time provided the functions conform to the Local Government Act 2002.

The Committee will have functional responsibility for the following aspects:
- Hearings (excluding RMA and DLC)
- Regulatory activities
- Regulatory policies and bylaws
- Regulatory compliance
- Mana Whakahono

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 key legislation.

Delegations

The Regulatory Compliance Committee shall have the following delegated powers and be accountable to Council for the exercising of these powers. In exercising the delegated powers, the Regulatory Compliance Committee will operate within:
- policies, plans, standards or guidelines that have been established and approved by Council;
- the overall priorities of Council;
- the needs of the local communities; and
- the approved budgets for the activity.

Power to Delegate

The Regulatory Compliance Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers.
Membership

The Council will determine the membership of the Regulatory Compliance Committee.

The Regulatory Compliance Committee will comprise of at least six elected members (one of which will be the chairperson).

When the Regulatory Compliance Committee is meeting as a Hearing Committee, the Chairperson and a majority of the Committee members must be accredited commissioners under the relevant Act.

When the Regulatory Compliance Committee is meeting as a Hearing Committee, the Chairperson shall hold the ‘chair certification’ as per the Act.

The Committee membership for each hearing shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Regulatory Compliance Committee together with the Chief Executive and will normally comprise the core Regulatory Compliance Committee members.

The Regulatory Compliance Committee will comprise of at least six elected members (one of which will be the chairperson).

Mayor Carter
Kelly Stratford – Chairperson
Dave Collard – Deputy Chairperson
John Vujcich
Rachel Smith
David Clendon
Ann Court

Non-appointed councillors may attend Regulatory Compliance Committee (but not Hearings) with speaking rights, but not voting rights.

Quorum - Committee

The quorum at a meeting of the Regulatory Compliance Committee is 4 members.

Frequency of Meetings

The Regulatory Compliance Committee shall meet every 6 weeks, but may be cancelled if there is no business.

Committees Responsibilities

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

Hearings, Objections and Appeals

- Conduct hearings, as delegated by Council, in accordance with the relevant legislative and policy requirements (excluding Resource Management Act and District Licensing)
- Approve and monitor Council’s list of hearing Commissioners for Resource Management Act and District Licensing hearings.
Regulatory Activities
- Assess and provide advice to Council on level of service and policy issues relating to:
  - regulatory matters; and
  - provision of services
- Reviewing and making recommendations to the Chief Executive in respect to functions and activities within the purpose of the Committee regarding codes of practice.

Policies and Bylaws
- Recommend the development and review of Council’s regulatory policies and district bylaws
- Make a recommendation where in a bylaw the Council has specified that a matter be regulated, controlled or prohibited by the Council by resolution (eg dog areas under the dog control bylaw, speed limits)

Compliance
- Ensure that Council’s planning and regulatory functions comply with legislative requirements and Council policy and processes
- Monitor operational functions comply with legislative requirements and Council policy
  - BCA (building consents)
  - RMA (resource consents)
- Ensure that consents associated with Council’s infrastructure are being met and renewals are planned for
- Receive traffic light reports on regulatory compliance (policy, plans, functions and bylaws) such as:
  - District Plan (when proposed)
  - Building Act
  - Resource Management Act
  - Licences (various acts)
  - Animal management

Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe (Mana Whakahono)

The committee seeks to foster and encourage participation and engagement with constituents.
HEARINGS, OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

Regulatory Compliance Committee, meeting as a Hearing Committee
The Regulatory Committee, when meeting as a Hearing Committee, shall be delegated authority to hear and determine matters as follows:

Public Works Act 1981
Public work requirements.

Local Government Act 2002
Objections against the construction of public works on private land.

Local Government Act 1974
Objections and appeals to road stopping proposals.

Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987
Applications for exemption, waiver or compliance.

Delegated decisions
- Requests for review or objections to delegated decisions by the Committee and/or delegated officers.
- Appeals against decisions made by officials acting under delegated authority in accordance with approved Council Policy.

Dog Control Act 1996
Objections.

Gambling Act 2003, Health Act 1956 and Building Act 2004
Hearings, objections and related matters.

And any other such matters as required under the legislation (but not Resource Management Act or the Supply and Sale of Alcohol Act for matters outside the district licensing committee).

Rules and Procedures
Council’s Standing Orders and Code of Conduct apply to all the committee’s meetings.

Annual reporting
The Chair of the Committee will submit a written report 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.