

Chairman's Report

Date: 17 January 2020

For meeting: 5 February 2020

Recommendations contained in report

That the board delegates the authority to make complaints to the Office of the Ombudsman on behalf of the board to the chair.

Requests for information

Apart from delegated matters, the ability of the board (and board members) to task the council is limited.

Requests for information is one way that the board can task the council. The role of the board under the Local Government Act requires that the board receive information in a timely manner.

The previous board made a number of requests for information that were not satisfied. This board has reiterated a request for information about a Kaikohe water strategy. This has also not been satisfied.

Under the Local Government Official Information the council must respond to certain types of requests for information. The legislation uses the word 'person' to describe who may make such a request, and defines a person to **[include] a corporation sole, and also a body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate.** Which includes the community board.

If a request is not satisfied, a complaint may be made to the Office of the Ombudsman.

In this case, a complaint from the board would require a resolution. Given the meeting calendar, and cutoff dates for reports, this could take some time.

I propose that the board delegates the authority to make complaints to the chair.

I consider that a complaint is a last resort and I would expect to discuss this action with the members outside of board meetings before taking this step.

My recommendation, therefore, is

That the board delegates the authority to make complaints to the Office of the Ombudsman on behalf of the board to the chair.