

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference

Background

Economic development is listed as one of the five policy priorities of Local Government New Zealand. Globalisation and the relaxation of border controls have been radically changing the way in which local and regional economies work. Cities, districts and regions in New Zealand are now competing against their peers in other parts of the world for the same capital and same skilled workers. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated policy responses are disrupting this long-term trend and bringing additional challenges to the economy. To succeed, local authorities need to ensure that they not only offer a good life and effective infrastructure and services they must also promote these attributes. Economic development agencies such as Northland Inc Limited play an important role in bridging the gaps in local economies, leveraging local advantage, and promoting the region both nationally and internationally.

Economic growth is vital for generating the resources needed to address some of the pressing problems affecting Northland, such as poor housing, health and education. Councils wish to improve Northland's economic performance to support strong communities and environmental sustainability.

The formation of a joint committee of the Northland Regional Council and the Far North and Kaipara district councils elected council members is fundamental to ensuring these outcomes are achieved in a coordinated and collaborative way across Te Taitokerau.

Membership

The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (the **committee**) is a joint committee made up of elected members from the Northland Regional Council, the Far North District Council and the Kaipara District Council.

The committee shall have six members as follows:

Two elected members from:	Kaipara District Council
	Far North District Council
	Northland Regional Council

Each council shall also appoint one alternative elected member who will have full speaking and voting rights when formally acting as the alternate.

Whangarei District Council may join the committee at some point in the future. WDC will have the right to appoint two elected members to the committee, increasing the number of committee members from six to eight.

Ex officio: Whereas the Mayors of Far North and Kaipara district councils are a member of all committees by virtue of section 41A(5) of the Local Government 2002, the Mayors have agreed not to exercise this right of membership.

Role and Responsibilities

- 1) All responsibilities, duties and powers of a local authority as a shareholder in Northland Inc. Limited are, as far as legally possible, delegated to the committee. For avoidance of doubt, a meeting of the committee is not a meeting of shareholders under the Companies Act 1993.

- 2) Make funding allocations from the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) administered by Northland Regional Council.
- 3) Receive advice and provide direction and support to economic development in Te Taitokerau.
- 4) Make recommendations to member councils to ensure a consistent regional approach is applied and adopted to economic development activities.
- 5) Act collectively as an advocate for regional economic development generally and within the individual bodies represented on the committee.
- 6) Ensure the bodies represented on the committee are informed of economic development activities in Te Taitokerau.

Status

The committee is a joint committee of council as provided for under Clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of Clause 30A of Schedule 7 that Act.

The committee has no powers under the Local Government Act 2002 (or any other Act) other than those delegated by decision of all member councils.

The committee shall operate under Northland Regional Council Standing Orders.

Joint Committee not discharged at triennial elections

Pursuant to Clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the councils have resolved that this joint committee is not discharged at the triennial elections. However, on coming into office following an election, a council may choose to review its appointments to the committee.

Committee Chair and Deputy Chair:

The Chair and Deputy Chair are to be elected by members at the first meeting of the committee according to System A of clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The inaugural Chair must be an elected member from the Northland Regional Council. This will be reviewed by the committee following the triennial elections in 2022.

Meetings

The committee shall meet a minimum of four times per annum.

Quorum

At least 50% of members shall be present to form a quorum with at least one member from each council present.

Decision making

The committee will endeavour to make all decisions by consensus, i.e. 100%. However, if consensus cannot be reached, matters will be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast by the members present. For the avoidance of doubt the Chair shall not have a casting vote at committee meetings.

Service of meetings

The Northland Regional Council will provide secretarial and administrative support to the committee.

Draft agendas are to be prepared by Northland Regional Council and approved by the Chair of the Committee prior to the committee meeting.

Northland Inc Limited can request the committee hold a confidential committee meeting for discussion about commercially sensitive matters, subject to this request meeting the requirements of section 7(2) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Any report submitted by Northland Inc needs to be accompanied by council management advice to the committee.

Remuneration

Remuneration and / or reimbursement for costs incurred by committee members is the responsibility of each council.

Amendments

Any amendment to the Terms of Reference or other arrangements of the committee shall be subject to approval by all member councils.