

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference¹

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 disrupted this long-term trend and brought 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.

A joint committee of the Northland Regional Council and the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei 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, the Kaipara District Council and the Whangarei District Council.

The committee shall have eight members as follows:

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

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

Ex officio: Whereas the Mayors of Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei 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.

¹ Approved by NRC at its meeting on 23 July 2024, WDC on 25 July 2024, KDC on 31 July 2024 and FNDC on 8 August 2024.

- 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.
- 3)4) Make decisions relating to the government's Regional Deals initiative for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government, including but not limited to submitting a proposal, finalising a Memorandum of Understanding and negotiating a deal, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and collaboration among councils.
- 4)5) Make recommendations to member councils to ensure a consistent regional approach is applied and adopted to economic development activities.
- 5)6) Act collectively as an advocate for regional economic development generally and within the individual bodies represented on the committee.
- 6)7) 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.

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.

Should Kaipara District Council, Far North District Council, Northland Regional Council or Whangarei District Council cease to be a shareholder of Northland Inc Limited (a **departing Council**):

1. The number of members that the committee is to have (as referred to in paragraph 2 of the section entitled "Membership" above) shall reduce by two for each departing Council.
2. Any elected member(s) appointed by the departing Council to the committee shall automatically cease to be a member(s) of the committee.
3. The right of the departing Council to appoint members to the committee (as referred to in paragraph 2 of the section entitled "Membership" above) shall automatically cease.
4. All references to the departing Council in these Terms of Reference shall be deemed deleted.

These Terms of Reference replace the prior Terms of Reference approved by Kaipara District Council, Far North District Council, and Northland Regional Council for the committee in June 2021.

[These Terms of Reference are amended to incorporate governance responsibilities for the Regional Deals initiative as outlined above.](#)