

Position outline: Independent Member

Title	Independent Member of the Risk and Assurance Committee
Date	27/08/2026

Position purpose

To provide independent scrutiny on the Risk and Assurance Committee for the term of appointment, which is for three years to coincide with the current Council triennium from 2022-2025.

This is a strategic and significant governance role with accountability for overseeing the organisations risk management, internal control and financial management practices.

This role will play an important role in the governance and effectiveness of the Council's:

- Financial and non-financial performance
- Treasury
- Annual reporting
- Internal and external financial controls
- Significant risks including legal risks.

The role has full voting rights for this committee.

Competencies

Competencies	Description
Governance Experience	General Requirements • Understands Local Government obligations, financial, legal and risk Specific Requirements • Board/Governance Experience. • Understanding and respecting the differing roles of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, committee chairs, subcommittee chairs and councillors • Recognising that the governance role does not extend to operational matters or to the management of any implementation • Developing and maintaining a working knowledge of Council services, management processes, powers, duties and constraints that fall under the Risk and Assurance Committee's delegated areas of responsibility • Being familiar with and complying with the statutory requirements of a subcommittee member including appropriate recordkeeping in accordance with the Public Records Act 2005 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 • Compliance with the principles of the Elected Members Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
Leadership and Strategic Experience	General Requirements • Strategic and leadership experience within a significant and complex organisation Strategic leadership roles in the field/sector.

Competencies	Description
	Specific Requirements • Risk and Assurance Committee, or similar, experience. • Understanding of local government reform, sector trends and emerging challenges. • Ability to provide strategic governance and oversights • Committed to promoting the long term effectiveness of the Risk and Assurance Committee • Experience contributing to long term organisational sustainability and governance maturity • An understanding of the environment within which Horowhenua District Council operates
Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi	General Requirements • Understanding of, or a commitment to develop capability, with respect to the Treaty of Waitangi – Te Tiriti o Waitanga.
Relevant Technical Experience	General Requirements • Experienced Risk and Assurance Committee members; or • Experienced local government professionals looking for a governance development opportunity. Specific Requirements • Strong understanding of local government funding and financing frameworks. • Proven experience in reviewing and analysing both financial and non-financial reports • The ability to ask relevant and pertinent questions, and evaluate the answers • Understanding of the development and oversight of Treasury Management policy and the interaction with the LGFA • Risk management experience • Business acumen.
Financial	General Requirements • Financial acumen and literacy. Specific Requirements • Chartered Accountant or equivalent.
Legal	General Requirements • Broad legal knowledge and experience relevant.

Personal Attributes

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Integrity	• High organisational ethics, Accepts collective responsibility, confidentiality • Identifying, being aware of and declaring any potential personal conflicts of interest, whether of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary nature.
Communication	• Listens actively and accurately, encourages input from others, debates in reasoned and calm way • Ability to communicate complex and technical information to lay people.
Decision Making	• Sophisticated, analytically based decision making, intellectual rigor • Broad perspective - both short and long term, fully considers options.
Teamwork/ Collaboration	• Actively participates in and facilitates team effectiveness of the Committee • Works productively and openly with colleagues • An appreciation of the public entity's culture and values, and a determination to uphold these • A proactive approach to advising the governing body and Chief Executive of matters that require further attention • Supports the decision of the Committee outside.
Leadership	• Proven skills and willingness to take leadership role • Demonstrated leadership or service within the Finance/ Audit profession.
Geographic Considerations	• Prefer someone based in Horowhenua/Manawatu/Kāpiti/Wellington area or existing knowledge of Horowhenua District Council context.