

Council

Meeting of 28 October 2025

Business Unit: People and Corporate

Date Created: 22 October 2025

Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To advise Council of the appointment of the Deputy Mayor and to provide the Council with background information on the powers under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 for the Mayor to appoint the Deputy Mayor.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

1. That the Council notes that, under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002, the Mayor has the power to appoint the Deputy Mayor and has chosen to exercise this power.
2. That the Council notes that the Mayor has appointed Councillor Grant Hadfield as Deputy Mayor.

Report prepared by:

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Approved for submission by:

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General Manager - People and Corporate

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Council makes decisions on behalf of the wider public interest, taking into account the needs of current and future generations and the goals of the district. Appointment of a Deputy Mayor ensures that the decision-making process and community engagement can continue during any absence of the elected Mayor.
- 1.2 The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act 2012 provided additional powers for mayors, which came into effect immediately after the 12 October 2013 elections. These powers were modelled on the powers given to the position of Mayor of Auckland Council, although not as extensive.
- 1.3 The additional powers mean the Mayor can:
 - Lead the development of Council plans, policies and budgets;
 - Appoint the Deputy Mayor;
 - Establish Council committees; and
 - Appoint Chairs to those committees.
- 1.4 The use of the powers is discretionary, and the powers can be used at any time during the triennium.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The Council makes decisions on behalf of the wider public interest, taking into account the needs of current and future generations, and the strategic priorities identified by Council. The matter addressed by this report relates to the Council's Kawanatanga (Governance) role and therefore to all of the above strategic priorities in a wider sense.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 Although the Mayor has discretionary power to appoint the Deputy Mayor, the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Deputy Mayor to be appointed at the Council's first triennial meeting. This means that either the Mayor makes the appointment under his discretionary powers at this meeting (once they have made their official oath of office), or if the Mayor declines to appoint the Deputy Mayor, then the Council must elect one of its members to the office of Deputy Mayor.
- 3.2 If the Mayor declines to exercise his discretionary power to appoint the Deputy Mayor, then the Council will be required to make that appointment following the process described in Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 3.3 The Council also has the power to remove a Deputy Mayor appointed by the Mayor, following the process outlined in Clause 18, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

5.3 No community engagement is required.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 There are no operational implications with this report.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 The remuneration for the position of Deputy Mayor is yet to be determined by Council and the Remuneration Authority. This will be discussed at the Council meeting earmarked for 12 November 2025.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 As discussed in previous sections, new powers for Mayors came into effect from 12 October 2013. These powers are set out in Section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002. Included in these powers is the power to appoint the Deputy Mayor.

8.2 However, nothing in the above limits or prevents a Council from removing a Deputy Mayor that the Mayor has appointed (following the process contained in Clause 18, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002).

8.3 The power of the Council to appoint a Deputy Mayor, outlined in Clause 17, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, does not apply unless the Mayor declines to exercise their Mayoral power to appoint the Deputy Mayor.

8.4 In the case of a Mayor choosing not to use their Mayoral powers for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, the Council would then have to appoint the Deputy Mayor at its first triennial meeting and would have to follow the process outlined in Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 "Voting systems for certain appointments".

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Council staff will update official records and documentation to reflect the appointment.

9.2 The remuneration for the Deputy Mayor will be considered as part of the remuneration discussion scheduled for the 12 November 2025 Council meeting.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- There are no attachments.