



Finance and Performance Committee

Meeting of 23 September 2026

Business Unit: Corporate

Date Created: 11 September 2026

Legislative Compliance

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To provide an update to the Committee on the Council's compliance with key legislation. Ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations is a critical aspect of good governance and risk management for the Council.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Committee receives the Legislative Compliance report.

Report prepared by:

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Governance and Assurance Manager

Approved for submission by:

Frances Smorti

General Manager - Corporate

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 In 2023 the Audit & Risk Committee requested that officers provide a report detailing what legislation either *directly applies* to the Council or *indirectly affects* the Council. This subject matter was inherently broad in scope, and the Executive Leadership Team canvassed an array of officers across the organisation to compile an accurate list of legislation and other policies and regulations.
- 1.2 This report was presented at the Committee meeting in December 2023, and it was requested that it become an annual fixture. A second iteration was reported to the Committee in December 2024.
- 1.3 The current report follows on from the 2024 version and includes further detail on both new and existing legislation. The purpose of officer's commentary (Attachment 1) is to explain what steps are taken to ensure compliance with key legislation.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 This item supports the strategic priority of **“Value for money and excellence in local government”** by providing assurance that Council is appropriately identifying, monitoring and managing its legislative obligations, supporting effective governance, accountability and compliance.

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

- 3.1 The Council has various obligations under local, regional, and national legislation. These legal requirements encompass a wide range of areas, including but not limited to planning and zoning, environmental protection, health and safety, financial reporting, and community welfare. Compliance with these laws is essential for the Council to ensure that it treats all residents fairly, maintains public trust and avoids legal repercussions.
- 3.2 The Council maintains strong relationships with Taituarā and other local government sector networks, which provide regular advice and early visibility of proposed and upcoming legislative changes. This is supplemented by officers monitoring Government and parliamentary activity, including through the Strategy Team, to identify legislative developments that may affect the Council.
- 3.3 There are typically opportunities for the Council to provide feedback on draft legislation and rules (e.g., parliamentary bills, regional council policies), allowing the Council to express its views on how the proposed legislation might impact its budgets, operations, and residents.
- 3.4 As per Attachment 1 to this report, officers have reviewed what legislation affects the Council and provided commentary around their compliance and impacts.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 Council's Risk Appetite Statement identifies an **Averse to Minimalist** appetite for Legal Compliance risk. Legislative non-compliance may expose Council to legal or regulatory action, financial costs, service disruption and reputational harm.

Risk Areas	Averse	Minimalist	Cautious	Open	Ambitious
People & Capability	Open				
Service Delivery	Cautious-Open				
Reputational	Cautious				
Legal Compliance	Averse-Minimalist				
Financial & Investment	Cautious				
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	Minimalist				
Environmental	Cautious-Open				
Cultural	Cautious				
Political	Open				

- 4.2 The processes outlined in this report support Council in operating within this risk appetite by identifying relevant legislative requirements and changes and providing assurance that appropriate measures are in place to manage compliance obligations.

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 warranted.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications with this report.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 While there are no financial implications to this report, the introduction of new legislation, policies and regulations can result in unforeseen costs. A new Regulatory and Compliance strategic risk is being presented to this meeting for consideration, and officers have separately identified rising compliance costs as an ongoing operational risk.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 As detailed in attachment 1.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Nil.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Legislation that applies to Local Government