

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The attached decision/information was previously included in a confidential agenda/minutes for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 08 June 2023.

The reasons for withholding the information no longer apply, the information is therefore being made publicly available.

Moved Mr McGlinn/Mr Naylor

FNAU23-06-1

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- 1. having reviewed the Audit Engagement Letter agrees that the term of the engagement should only be for one year; and
- 2. authorises the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee to approve the appropriate amendments to the Audit engagement letter prior to its execution and return to Audit New Zealand; and
- 3. agrees that the decision and the revised engagement letter be made publicly available at a future time of it being provided to Audit New Zealand.

CARRIED



17 May 2023

Level 3, 335 Lincoln Road Addington PO Box 2, Christchurch 8140

Mayor Tim King Tasman District Council Private Bag 4 Richmond 7050

Dear Tim

Audit Engagement Letter

This audit engagement letter is sent to you on behalf of the Auditor-General who is the auditor of all "public entities", including Tasman District Council (the Council), under section 14 of the Public Audit Act 2001 (the Act). The Auditor-General has appointed me, John Mackey, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, under sections 32 and 33 of the Act, to carry out the annual audit of the Council's financial statements and performance information. We will be carrying out this annual audit on the Auditor-General's behalf, for the years ending 30 June 2023 to 30 June 2025.

This letter outlines:

- the terms of the audit engagement and the nature, and limitations, of the annual audit; and
- the respective responsibilities of the governing body (the Council) and me, as the Appointed Auditor, for the financial statements and performance information.

The objectives of the annual audit are:

- to provide an independent opinion on the Council's financial statements and performance information; and
- to report on other matters that come to our attention as part of the annual audit (typically those matters will relate to issues of financial management and accountability).

We will carry out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (collectively the Auditing Standards). The Auditing Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform the annual audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements and performance information are free from material misstatement. The Auditing Standards also require that we remain alert to issues of concern to the Auditor-General. Such issues tend to relate to matters of financial management and accountability.

The Council's responsibilities

Our audit will be carried out on the basis that the Council, as the governing body, acknowledges that it has responsibility for:

- preparing the financial statements and performance information in accordance with any applicable legal requirements and financial reporting standards;
- having such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements and performance information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- providing us with:
 - access to all information relevant to preparing the financial statements and performance information such as records, documentation, and other information;
 - all other information, in addition to the financial statements and performance information, to be included in the annual report;
 - additional information that we may request from the Council for the purpose of the audit;
 - unrestricted access to Council members and employees that we consider necessary; and
 - written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

In addition, the Council is responsible for:

- the preparation of the summary financial statements and summary performance information;
- making the audited summary financial statements and summary performance information readily available to the intended users of that information; and
- including our audit report on the summary financial statements and summary performance information in any document that contains that information and that indicates that we have reported on that information.

The Council's responsibilities extend to all resources, activities, and entities under its control. We expect that the Council will ensure:

- the resources, activities, and entities under its control have been operating effectively and efficiently;
- it has complied with its statutory obligations including laws, regulations, and contractual requirements;
- it has carried out its decisions and actions with due regard to minimising waste;

- it has met Parliament's and the public's expectations of appropriate standards of behaviour in the public sector in that it has carried out its decisions and actions with due regard to probity; and
- its decisions and actions have been taken with due regard to financial prudence.

We expect the Council and/or the individuals within the Council with delegated authority, to immediately inform us of any suspected fraud, where there is a reasonable basis that suspected fraud has occurred – regardless of the amount involved. Suspected fraud also includes instances of bribery and/or corruption.

The Council has certain responsibilities relating to the preparation of the financial statements and performance information and in respect of financial management and accountability matters. These specific responsibilities are set out in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 contains some additional responsibilities relating to the health and safety of audit staff. We expect members of the Board to be familiar with those responsibilities and, where necessary, have obtained advice about them. Appendix 3 outlines respective responsibilities when using Audit New Zealand's client portal tool.

The Council should have documented policies and procedures to support its responsibilities. It should also regularly monitor performance against its objectives.

Our responsibilities

Carrying out the audit

We are responsible for forming an independent opinion on whether the financial statements of the Council:

- present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the financial year; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards¹.

We are also responsible for forming an independent opinion on whether the performance information of the Council:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the performance for the financial year, including:
 - its performance achievements as compared with the intended levels of service for the financial year; and

¹ Or "Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime" if applicable.

- its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the long-term plan and Annual Plan for the financial year; and
- complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

In addition to the above we are also responsible for forming an independent opinion whether:

- the funding impact statement of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the long-term plan;
- the statement about capital expenditure for each group of activities of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, actual capital expenditure as compared to the budgeted capital expenditure included in the long-term plan; and
- the funding impact statement for each group of activities of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the long-term plan.

We are also required to report on whether the Council has:

- complied with the requirements of schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report; and
- made the disclosures about performance against benchmarks as required by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and performance information. How we obtain this information depends on our judgement, including our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and performance information, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements and performance information.

We do not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and performance information. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the Auditing Standards.

During the audit, we obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls. However, we will communicate to you in writing about any significant deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements and performance information that we identify during the audit.

During the audit, the audit team will:

- be alert for issues of effectiveness and efficiency in particular, how the Council and the Council have carried out their activities;
- consider laws and regulations relevant to the audit;
- be alert for issues of waste in particular, whether the Council obtained and applied the resources of the Council in an economical manner, and whether any resources are being wasted;
- be alert for issues of a lack of probity in particular, whether the Council and the Council have met Parliament's and the public's expectations of appropriate standards of behaviour in the public sector; and
- be alert for issues of a lack of financial prudence.

Our independence

It is essential that the audit team and Audit New Zealand remain both economically and attitudinally independent of the Council, including being independent of management personnel and members of the Council). This involves being, and appearing to be, free of any interest that might be regarded, whatever its actual effect, as being incompatible with the objectivity of the audit team and the Audit New Zealand.

To protect our independence, specific limitations are placed on us in accepting engagements with the Council other than the annual audit. We may accept certain types of other engagements, subject to the requirements of the Auditing Standards. Any other engagements must be the subject of a separate written arrangement between the Council and me or Audit New Zealand.

Reporting

We will issue an independent audit report that will be attached to the financial statements and performance information. This report contains our opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements and performance information and whether they comply with the applicable reporting requirements. The audit report may also include comment on other financial management and accountability matters that we consider may be of interest to the addressee of the audit report.

In addition, we will issue an audit report that will be attached to the summary financial statements and summary performance information. This audit report will contain an opinion that provides the same level of assurance as the audit report on the full financial statements and full performance information.

We will also issue a report that will be sent to the Council. This report communicates any matters that come to our attention during the audit that, in our opinion, are relevant to the Council. Typically, those matters will relate to issues of financial management and accountability. We may also provide other reports to the Council from time to time. We will inform the Council of any other reports we have issued.

Please note that the Auditor-General may publicly report matters that are identified in the annual audit, in keeping with section 21 of the Act.

Next steps

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and the terms of the audit engagement by signing the letter in the space provided and returning a copy to me. The terms will remain effective until a new audit engagement letter is issued.

If you have any questions about the audit generally or have any concerns about the quality of the audit, you should contact me as soon as possible. If, after contacting me, you still have concerns, you should contact the Director of Auditor Appointments at the Office of the Auditor-General on 04 917 1500.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss the terms of the audit engagement further before replying, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

John Mackey Appointed Auditor On behalf of the Auditor-General

Mayor

I acknowledge the terms of this engagement and that I have the required authority on behalf of the Council.

Signature

Tim King

Tasman District Council

Date 13 September 2023

Appendix 1: Respective specific responsibilities of the Council (the governing body) and the Appointed Auditor

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor	
Responsibilities for the financial statements and performance information		
You are required by legislation to prepare financial statements and performance information in accordance with legal requirements and financial reporting standards.	We are responsible for carrying out an annual audit, on behalf of the Auditor-General. We are responsible for forming an independent opinion on whether the financial statements:	
You must also ensure that any accompanying information in the annual report is consistent with that reported in the audited financial statements and performance information.	 present fairly, in all material respects: the financial position; and the financial performance and cash flows for the financial year; and 	
You are required by legislation to prepare the financial statements and performance information and provide that information to us before the statutory reporting deadline. It is normal practice for you to set your own timetable to comply with statutory reporting	• comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards.	
	We are also responsible for forming an independent opinion on whether the performance information:	
deadlines. To meet the reporting deadlines, we are dependent on receiving the financial	• presents fairly, in all material respects, the performance for the financial year, including:	
statements and performance information ready for audit and in enough time to enable the audit to be completed. "Ready for audit" means that the financial statements and performance information have been prepared in accordance with legal requirements and financial reporting standards and are supported by proper accounting records and complete evidential documentation.	 the performance achievements as compared with the intended levels of service for the financial year; and 	
	 the actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the long-term plan and Annual Plan for the financial year; and 	
	• complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.	
	In addition to the above we are also responsible for forming an independent opinion whether:	
	• the funding impact statement of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the long-term plan;	
	• the statement about capital expenditure for each group of activities of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, actual capital expenditure as compared to the budgeted capital expenditure included in the long-term plan; and	

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor
	• the funding impact statement for each group of activities of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the long-term plan.
	We are also required to report on whether the Council has:
	 complied with the requirements of schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report; and
	 made the disclosures about performance against benchmarks as required by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.
	We will also read the other information accompanying the financial statements and performance information and consider whether there are material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and performance information.
	Materiality is one of the main factors affecting our judgement on the areas to be tested and on the timing, nature, and extent of the tests and procedures performed during the audit. In planning and performing the annual audit, we aim to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements and performance information do not have material misstatements caused by either fraud or error. Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that, in our judgement, are likely to influence the audit report addressee's overall understanding of the financial statements and performance information.
	If we find material misstatements that are not corrected, they will be referred to in the audit opinion. The Auditor-General's preference is for you to correct any material misstatements and avoid the need for them to be referred to in the audit opinion.
	An audit also involves evaluating:
	 the appropriateness of accounting policies used and whether they have been consistently applied;

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor
	 the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates and judgements made by those charged with governance;
	• the appropriateness of the content and measures in any performance information;
	• the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements and performance information; and
	• the overall presentation of the financial statements and performance information.
	We will ask you for written confirmation of representations made about the financial statements and performance information. In particular, we will seek confirmation that:
	• the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate;
	 all material transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the financial statements and performance information;
	 all instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations have been disclosed to us; and
	 uncorrected misstatements noted during the audit are immaterial to the financial statements and performance information.
	Any representation made does not in any way reduce our responsibility to perform appropriate audit procedures and enquiries.
	We will ensure that the annual audit is completed by the reporting deadline or, if that is not practicable because of the non-receipt or condition of the financial statements and performance information, or for some other reason beyond our control, as soon as possible after that.
	The work papers that we produce in carrying out the audit are the property of the Auditor-General. Work papers are confidential to the Auditor-General and subject to the disclosure provisions in section 30 of the Act.
Responsibilities for the accounting records	
 You are responsible for maintaining accounting and other records that: correctly record and explain the transactions of the Council; 	We will perform sufficient tests to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the underlying records are reliable and adequate as a basis for

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor
 enable you to monitor the resources, activities, and entities under your control; enable the Council's financial position to be determined with reasonable accuracy at any time; enable you to prepare financial statements and performance information that comply with legislation (and that allow the financial statements and performance information to be readily and properly audited); and are in keeping with the requirements of 	preparing the financial statements and performance information. If, in our opinion, the records are not reliable or accurate enough to enable the preparation of the financial statements and performance information and the necessary evidence cannot be obtained by other means, we will need to consider the effect on the audit opinion.
the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.	
Responsibilities for accounting and internal contro	ol systems
You are responsible for establishing and maintaining accounting and internal control systems (appropriate to the size of the Council), supported by written policies and procedures, designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial and performance information reporting.	The annual audit is not designed to identify all significant weaknesses in your accounting and internal control systems. We will review the accounting and internal control systems only to the extent required to express an opinion on the financial statements and performance information. We will report to you separately, on any significant weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems that come to our notice and that we consider may be relevant to you. Any such report will provide constructive recommendations to assist
	you to address those weaknesses.
Responsibilities for preventing and detecting frau	d and error
The responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud and error rests with you, through the implementation and continued operation of adequate internal control systems (appropriate to the size of the Council) supported by written policies and procedures. We expect you to formally address the matter of fraud and formulate an appropriate policy on	We design our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance of detecting fraud or error that would have a material effect on the financial statements and performance information. We will review the accounting and internal control systems only to the extent required for them to express an opinion on the financial statements and performance information, but we will:
how to minimise it and (if it occurs) how it will be dealt with. Fraud also includes bribery and corruption.	 obtain an understanding of internal control and assess its ability for preventing and detecting material fraud and error; and
We expect you to consider reporting all instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud to the appropriate law enforcement agency, which will decide whether proceedings for a criminal offence should be instituted. We expect you to immediately inform us of any suspected fraud where you, and/or any individuals within the	 report to you any significant weaknesses in internal control that come to our notice. We are required to immediately advise the Office of the Auditor-General of all instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud. As part of the audit, you will be asked for written confirmation that you have disclosed all known

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor	
Council with delegated authority have a reasonable basis that suspected fraud has occurred – regardless of the amount involved.	instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud to us. If we become aware of the possible existence of fraud, whether through applying audit procedures, advice from you, or management, or by any other means, we will communicate this to you with the expectation that you will consider whether it is appropriate to report the fraud to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In the event that you do not report the fraud to the appropriate law enforcement agency, the Auditor-General will consider doing so if it is appropriate for the purposes of protecting the interests of the public.	
Responsibilities for compliance with laws and regulations		
You are responsible for ensuring that the Council has systems, policies, and procedures (appropriate to the size of the Council) to ensure that all applicable legislative, regulatory, and contractual requirements that apply to the activities and functions of the Council are complied with. Such systems, policies, and procedures should be documented.	 We will obtain an understanding of the systems, policies, and procedures put in place for the purpose of ensuring compliance with those legislative and regulatory requirements that are relevant to the audit. Our consideration of specific laws and regulations will depend on a number of factors, including: the relevance of the law or regulation to the audit; our assessment of the risk of non-compliance; and the impact of non-compliance for the addressee of the audit report. The way in which we will report instances of non-compliance that come to our attention will depend on considerations of materiality or significance. We will report to you and to the Auditor-General all material and significant instances of non-compliance. We will also report to you any significant weaknesses that we observe in internal control systems, policies, and regulations. 	
Responsibilities to establish and maintain appropriate standards of conduct and personal integrity		
You should at all times take all practicable steps to ensure that your members and employees maintain high standards of conduct and personal integrity. You should document your expected standards of conduct and personal integrity in a "Code of Conduct" and, where applicable,	We will have regard to whether you maintain high standards of conduct and personal integrity – particularly in matters relating to financial management and accountability. Specifically, we will be alert for significant instances where members and employees of the Council may not	

Responsibilities of the Council	Responsibility of the Appointed Auditor	
support the "Code of Conduct" with policies and procedures.	have acted in accordance with the standards of conduct and personal integrity expected of them.	
The expected standards of conduct and personal integrity should be determined by reference to accepted "Codes of Conduct" that apply to the public sector.	The way in which we will report instances that come to our attention will depend on significance. We will report to you and to the Auditor-General all significant departures from expected standards of conduct and personal integrity that come to our attention during the audit.	
	The Auditor-General, on receiving a report from us, may, at his discretion and with consideration of its significance, decide to conduct a performance audit of, or an inquiry into, the matters raised. The performance audit or inquiry will be subject to specific terms of reference, in consultation with you. Alternatively, the Auditor-General may decide to publicly report the matter without carrying out a performance audit or inquiry.	
Responsibilities for conflicts of interest and relate	d parties	
You should have policies and procedures to ensure that your members and employees carry out their duties free from bias. You should maintain a full and complete record of related parties and their interests. It is your responsibility to record and disclose related-party transactions in the financial statements and performance information in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.	To help determine whether your members and employees have carried out their duties free from bias, we will review information provided by you that identifies related parties and will be alert for other material related-party transactions. Depending on the circumstances, we may enquire whether you have complied with any statutory requirements for conflicts of interest and whether these transactions have been properly recorded and disclosed in the financial statements and performance information.	
Responsibilities for publishing the audited financial statements on a website		
You are responsible for the electronic presentation of the financial statements and performance information on the Council's website. This includes ensuring that there are enough security and controls over information on the website to maintain the integrity of the data presented.	Examining the controls over the electronic presentation of audited financial statements and performance information, and the associated audit report, on your website is beyond the scope of the annual audit.	
If the audit report is reproduced in any medium, you should present the complete financial statements, including notes, accounting policies, and any other accountability statements.		

Appendix 2: Health and safety of audit staff

The Auditor-General and Audit New Zealand take seriously their responsibility to provide a safe working environment for audit staff. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 we need to make arrangements with you to keep our audit staff safe while they are working at your premises.

We expect you to provide a safe work environment for our audit staff. This includes providing adequate lighting and ventilation, suitable desks and chairs, and safety equipment, where required.

We also expect you to provide them with all information or training necessary to protect them from any risks they may be exposed to at your premises. This includes advising them of emergency evacuation procedures and how to report any health and safety issues.

Appendix 3: Respective responsibilities when using Audit New Zealand's client portal tool

Audit New Zealand has engaged Audit Dashboard Incorporated to provide a client portal, AuditDashboard.

AuditDashboard is a secure online tool that will make it easier for files to be shared between Audit New Zealand and the company and for your people to work with us. We will request and receive files from your organisation through AuditDashboard.

For more information, please refer to: <u>https://auditnz.parliament.nz/working-with-your-auditor/portal/</u>

Your organisation's obligations when using AuditDashboard

AuditDashboard implements industry standard encryption and security controls to keep your organisation's data safe. However, each user of AuditDashboard is responsible for ensuring these controls can operate. Your organisation is responsible for your users' use of AuditDashboard.

Upon registering, each user will be required to read and accept individual Terms of Use. These are aligned with your organisation's obligations in this letter. The Terms of Use can be viewed at <u>auditnz.auditdashboard.com/Account/Terms</u>.

We expect you to ensure that AuditDashboard users in your organisation know that they must only access AuditDashboard using devices that have been approved for work purposes by your organisation. By using approved devices in conjunction with complying with your organisation's own policy on computer use, users are more likely to comply with the Terms of Use that each user must agree to.

We expect your organisation to provide an environment that supports AuditDashboard users in your organisation to:

- use a secure network with firewall protection;
- use a modern, up-to-date browser, and an operating system that features integrated anti-virus and anti-malware software;
- use their own unique user account each time they access AuditDashboard, and comply with the password security measures in the Terms of Use;
- take the same precautions when using AuditDashboard as they would with other secure online transactions, such as ecommerce and banking;
- logout of AuditDashboard, lock their system and secure their computer when left unattended; and
- not misuse AuditDashboard.

Your organisation must inform Audit New Zealand if a user leaves, or if a change in circumstances (for example, a change in role) means that a user should no longer have access to AuditDashboard. Once we have been informed, we will remove access for that user.

Your organisation must inform Audit New Zealand of any information that should be restricted so it can only be viewed by specified users, such as payroll data.

Your organisation must notify Audit New Zealand immediately of any unauthorised use of an AuditDashboard account or in the event that a user's account details are compromised.

We expect your organisation to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the content and technology of AuditDashboard to at least the same level of care required by your organisation in respect of its own confidential information, but in no event using less than a reasonable standard of care.

Your obligations when your agent uses AuditDashboard

Your organisation might engage an agent ("your agent") to perform some financial functions, for example, an external accountant to prepare your organisation's financial statements. In such circumstances, your agent might hold files, on behalf of your organisation, that are relevant to your organisation's audit.

If your organisation requests Audit New Zealand to add your agent as an AuditDashboard user, your organisation is wholly responsible for your agent's use of AuditDashboard. Accordingly, your organisation must ensure that your agent:

- is aware of your organisation's obligations to Audit New Zealand;
- is aware that they must agree to and abide by the Terms of Use that apply to AuditDashboard users;
- is required to be subject to a computer use policy, and work in a secure environment, that enables them to comply with the Terms of Use; and
- agrees to notify your organisation immediately of any unauthorised use of an AuditDashboard account.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for the security of the data provided by you to us for the purpose of an audit engagement.

We are responsible for obtaining assurance that AuditDashboard is secure for the classification and sensitivity of data that is involved. When we engaged AuditDashboard, we considered risk, security, privacy, functionality, and business requirements. These are all fundamental requirements for information governance and assurance².

² NZ Information Security Manual v3 – section 4.1.11 & 4.1.12

Audit New Zealand does not guarantee the availability of AuditDashboard. We reserve the right to withdraw AuditDashboard at our discretion. Where possible, we will notify your organisation in advance.

If our contract with AuditDashboard is terminated, AuditDashboard will delete your organisation's data, except if you request its return, or such data is required by Audit New Zealand to perform the audit engagement.