



Tāneatua Community Board *Te Poari Hapori o Tāneatua*

Monday, 7 April 2025

Mane, 7 Paengawhāwhā 2025

Cheddar Valley Pottery
1034 Wainui Road, Ōhope 3198
Commencing at 6:00 pm



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 2 April 2025

whakatane.govt.nz

A Membership - *Mematanga*

A Membership - *Mematanga*

Board Member Moana Stensness (Chairperson)

Board Member Talei Bryant (Deputy Chairperson)

Board Member Honey Thrupp

Board Member Luke Ruiterman

Board Member Natasha George

Councillor Andrew Iles

Extraordinary Vacancy

B Role of the Community Board

B Role of the Community Board

Section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002 details the role of a community board:

- a. represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and
- b. consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and
- c. maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and
- d. prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and
- e. communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and
- f. undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority

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1 Opening Karakia - *He Karakia Timatanga*

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He hōnore, he korōria ki te Atua	<i>Honour and glory to God</i>
He maungārongo ki te whenua	<i>Let there be peace and tranquility on Earth</i>
He whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa.	<i>Goodwill to everyone.</i>
E tō mātau matua i te rangi,	<i>Our Father who art in Heaven,</i>
Manaakitia mai tēnei huihuinga ā mātau	<i>Watch over us during our meeting</i>
Kia tau mai tō wairua tapu ki a mātau	<i>May your spirit be upon us</i>
Ka noho ki te tuku whakaaro	<i>To safely exchange thoughts and ideas</i>
Tētahi ki tētahi	<i>In Jesus' name</i>
I runga i a Ihu Karaiti	<i>Amen</i>
Āmine	

2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

No apologies were recorded at the time of compiling the agenda.

3 Acknowledgements/Tributes - *Ngā Pānui*

4 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have

The Elected Member Register of Interest is available on the Whakatāne District Council website. If you wish to view the information, please click this [link](#).

5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

5.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum. Applicants seeking funding from the Board are encouraged to speak in support of their application at this time.

Board Members may ask questions of the speaker but these should be confined to obtaining further information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

Extraordinary vacancy candidate:

- Michael John Tuwairua

5.2 Deputations - *Ngā Whakapuaki Whaitake*


A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Community Board on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to five minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a long time frame may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

6 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

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6.1 Minutes - Tāneatua Community Board 24 February 2025

 WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i>	Details of Meeting:	TĀNEATUA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE TĀNEATUA HALL, MORRISON ROAD, TĀNEATUA, MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM
	Present:	Chairperson M Stensness, Members H Thrupp, T Bryant and L Ruiterman
	In Attendance:	L Woolsey (General Manager Strategy and Growth), N Elliott (Team Leader Environment and Regulations Monitoring), J Farrell (Strategic Projects Manager) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor)
	Visitors:	E Allerby and J Allerby
	Apologies:	Member George and Councillor Iles

1. KARAKIA

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a karakia at 6:07 pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Moved Chairperson Stensness / Seconded Member Thrupp

RESOLVED:

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board accept the apologies from Councillor Iles, who is on Council Business and Member George.

CARRIED

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Member Thrupp declared a conflict of interest with R Teepa's funding request.

6.1 Minutes - Tāneatua Community Board 24 February 2025(Cont.)

5. PUBLIC FORUM

5.1. Matariki Volleyball Competition Tahiti – Talei Bryant

She expressed her gratitude to the Board for funding her application and supporting her participation in the Volleyball Cup in Tahiti, where they placed third. She is eager to continue coaching emerging talent.

5.2. National Aquabots Competition - James Allerby

Members were provided a presentation with photos on his participation in the NZ Aquabots competition. James' team placed second out of 53 teams. He will be competing again this year and expressed his gratitude to everyone who has supported him.

5.3. Climate Change Risk Assessment - Jeff Farrell

Staff have made progress in community engagement and are keen to arrange additional meetings in Tāneatua, Waimana, and Wainui. Councillor Iles had volunteered as the liaison for Wainui and Waimana, while a liaison for Tāneatua was needed. Staff intended to engage with community members during market days and local events, such as the Ahurei festival. It was agreed that Members Thrupp and Bryant would be the lead for future engagement efforts in the designated areas.

Attendance: J and E Allerby left the meeting at 6:17 pm and J Farrell left the meeting at 6:29 pm.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to pages 8-11 of the agenda.

Moved Member Bryant / Seconded Member Thrupp

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Tāneatua Community Board meeting for Monday, 2 December 2024 be **confirmed** as true and correct record.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

7.1. Tāneatua Community Board – Activity Report

Refers to pages 12-18 of the agenda.

The Team Leader Environment and Regulations Monitoring and the General Manager of Strategy and Growth highlighted the following points from their report:

- The Team Leader Environment and Regulations introduced herself as the Boards new staff representative and provided an overview of her role at Council.
- Tāneatua would be included in the summer safety road show, with visits scheduled for schools and other local organisations that could help address motorcycle issues in the township.
- Action: Staff to follow up with police for continued reporting on crime stats in the area.

6.1 Minutes - Tāneatua Community Board 24 February 2025(Cont.)

Moved Member Ruiterman / Seconded Member Bryant

RESOLVED:

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board – Activity Report February 2025 be **received**.

CARRIED

7.2. Governance Administration – 2025

Refer to pages 19-28 of the agenda.

Member Thrupp did not take part in the discussion of the next recommendations due to a conflict of interest.

Moved Chairperson Stensness / Seconded Member Bryant

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Governance Administration report TCB - February 2025 be received; and
2. THAT Members note the pecuniary forms for year 3 are due to the Governance team no later than 28 February 2025; and
3. THAT the Tāneatua Community Board considers allocating \$500 from discretionary funds to Reese Teepa to cover travel costs associated with competing in the Hawaii International Rugby 10's Youth Touch Nationals in April 2025 pending completion of the accountability form and a presentation to a future meeting.

CARRIED

Member Thrupp resumed participation in the discussion of the meeting.

7.3. Extraordinary Vacancy and Election of the Chairperson – Tāneatua Community Board

Refer to pages 29-34 of the agenda.

Moved Chairpersons Stensness / Seconded Member Thrupp

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Extraordinary Vacancy and Election of the Chairperson – Tāneatua Community Board report be received; and
2. THAT the late Diane Yalden be acknowledged for her tenure on the Board as chairperson and for her support to the Tāneatua ward.

CARRIED

There was a discussion on the approach the Board would utilise to fill the vacancy. It was agreed that nominations would be put forward and candidates would be invited to the next meeting to present their case, and the position would be filled at the same meeting.

Moved Chairpersons Stensness / Seconded Member Bryant

RESOLVED:

6.1 Minutes - Tāneatua Community Board 24 February 2025(Cont.)

THAT the extraordinary vacancy be **filled by appointment** with the criteria being based on the person being a qualified elector, relevant experience, balance of the Board composition and representative of a sector of the community not currently represented.

CARRIED

Moved Member Thrupp / Seconded Member Ruiterman

RESOLVED:

THAT the Board used **System B** to determine the election process for the position of a new Chair.

CARRIED

Moved Member Bryant / Seconded Member Thrupp

RESOLVED:

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board **appoint** Member Stensness as the New Chair of the Tāneatua Community Board.

CARRIED

Since member Stensness was the Deputy Chair of the Board and she was elected as the new Chair, this resulted in the vacancy of the Deputy Chair position, which needed to be filled in accordance with clause 17 schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Moved Member Bryant / Seconded Member Ruiterman

RESOLVED:

THAT the Board used **System B** to determine the election process for the position of a new Deputy Chair.

CARRIED

Moved Member Thrupp / Seconded Member Ruiterman

RESOLVED:

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board **appoint** Member Bryant as the New Deputy Chair of the Tāneatua Community Board.

CARRIED

Member Bryant requested her vote for Member George be recorded.

8. MEMBERS REPORT

8.1. TCB Chairperson Report November 2024

Refers to page 35 of the agenda.

6.1 Minutes - Tāneatua Community Board 24 February 2025(Cont.)

There was a discussion around members contributing to the Chairperson's report by providing their own updates to be included. The Chair would implement this process for future meetings. There was a discussion around how the Board could support the repair of Pekatahi Bridge and better communicate its progress with constituents as it is an NZTA bridge.

Action: Staff to contact the Transportation department to follow up with NZTA in relation to the Pekatahi Bridge and explore possible options.

Moved Member Thrupp / Seconded Member Ruiterman

RESOLVED:

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board Deputy Chairpersons Report – February 2025 be received

CARRIED

The meeting closed with a karakia from the Chairperson at 7:33 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:

CHAIRPERSON

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7.1 Governance Administration – April 2025



To: **Tāneatua Community Board**
Meeting Date: **Monday, 7 April 2024**
Author: **A Dass / Governance Support Advisor**
Authoriser: **C Viljoen / Manager Governance Services**
Reference: **A2862064**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

This report provides the Tāneatua Community Board with updated information on the extraordinary vacancy created since the passing of Diane Yalden, previous chairperson, and recommends the appointment of a new member. It also includes information on the other activities relevant to the Board's area.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Governance Administration report April 2025 be **received**; and
2. THAT the Tāneatua Community Board **appoint** Michael John Tuwairua to the Board for the remainder of the 2022-2025 triennium; noting that he will complete a declaration once his appointment is resolved.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

3.1. TCB Membership

On 20 November 2024, the Chief Executive of the Whakatāne District Council received notification of the extraordinary vacancy on the Tāneatua Community Board due to the unfortunate passing of Chairperson Diane Yalden. As the extraordinary vacancy was advised within 12 months of the next triennial election (October 2025), there was no requirement to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy.

At the Tāneatua Community Board meeting on 24 February 2025, the Board decided to fill the vacancy by appointment. The criteria for the directly appointed member was to include the following attributes and qualities:

- Being a qualified elector.
- Possessing relevant experience.
- Contributing to a balanced Board composition.
- Representing a sector of the community that is not currently represented.

7.1.1 Appendix A – Michael John Tuwairua – Application

The Board identified potential candidates that they would approach to be included in the process of the appointment.

The Governance Services team received interest from one candidate and their portfolio has been appended to this report (Appendix A). Michael John Tuwairua (MJ) had been invited to attend the meeting dated Monday, 7 April 2025 in person and speak to the reasons he believed that he should be appointed to allow members to decide whether they wanted to appoint him as a member to the board.

4. Subjects – *Kaupapa*

This section contains information that Governance Services wish to update the Members.

4.1. Funding Applications

No discretionary fund applications were received for consideration at the April 2025 Community Board meeting.

The current balance of the Tāneatua Community Boards discretionary fund as at 31 March 2025 is approximately \$10,108.27.

4.2. Combined Community Board (CCB)

The meeting scheduled for July 2025 has been bought forward to Tuesday, 6 May 2025. You will have received a meeting invite, and please ensure you have this noted in your calendars.

The earlier meeting will enable information to be presented in a timely manner regarding Local Waters Done Well and Local Body Elections.

If you have any items that you would like considered for the agenda, please contact the Governance Team.

Attached to this report:

- Appendix A – Michael John Tuwairua – Application
- Appendix B – Declaration for Mr Michael John Tuwairua

7.1.1 Appendix A – Michael John Tuwairua – Application

7.1.1 Appendix A – Michael John Tuwairua – Application(Cont.)

Michael John Tuwairua

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge **Diane Yalden**, who served our community with dedication and commitment across many roles. Her contributions extended through Fire and Emergency New Zealand, the Ministry of Justice, and as a longstanding member of the Tāneatua Community Board. Her service and dedication to our community will always be valued and remembered. Moe mai ra, e te mareikura...

Personal Profile

Born and raised in both Waimana and Tauranga, I am a passionate, community-driven individual with a deep love for community, culture, and service. I believe in the power of connection and the importance of giving back to the spaces and people that have shaped me. I thrive in environments where I can bring people together, create opportunities, and contribute to meaningful change.

I am fiercely honest, hardworking, and committed to seeing things through—whether it's a kaupapa for my whānau and hapū, a community initiative, or personal goals I set for myself. Integrity and accountability are values I hold close, and I believe that leadership is about action, not just words.

I carry a strong sense of responsibility to uplift those around me and I am always looking for ways to empower others. Whether it's through governance, event planning, or hands-on mahi in my community, my approach is grounded in authenticity, dedication, and a willingness to learn.

At my core, I am someone who values people, whakapapa, and the importance of collective progress. I believe in showing up, putting in the mahi, and always striving to leave things better than I found them.

Governance Experience

I am a dedicated community leader with experience in governance, youth development, and strategic planning. My work spans local government, tribal governance, and non-profit organizations, where I've developed strong skills in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and administrative management. I thrive on collaboration and believe in creating meaningful change through effective governance and community-driven initiatives.

My governance experience includes serving as a Tribal Delegate for Ngāti Tātua Hapū and Secretary for Te Waimana Kaaku Tribal, where I manage records and contribute to tribal development. I have also held leadership roles in the Waimana Sports & Cultural Club, Te Hui Ahurei o Tūhoe, and several youth-focused initiatives. I have experience in event coordination, funding management, and program development, always aiming to uplift and empower my community.

7.1.1 Appendix A – Michael John Tuwairua – Application(Cont.)

Why do I want to join the Taneatua Community Board?

I want to join the Tāneatua Community Board because it's an opportunity to further serve my community in a meaningful way. I am deeply committed to ensuring that the voices of our people are heard and that decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of those we represent.

I am especially passionate about seeing rangatahi and Te Waimana have stronger representation at the table. Their perspectives, challenges, and aspirations deserve to be considered in decision-making, and I want to be a voice that advocates for their needs.

With strong networks across various community groups, iwi, and local organizations, I bring valuable connections that can be utilized to support initiatives, secure resources, and foster collaboration. My goal is to contribute to a board that is proactive, inclusive, and committed to making a real difference for our community.

I am deeply committed to serving my community and would be honored to contribute as a member of the Tāneatua Community Board. This role presents an opportunity to further support our people, ensure greater representation for rangatahi and Te Waimana, and utilize my strong community networks to drive positive change.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute and hope to hear back from you soon.

Ngā mihi,

Michael John (MJ) Tuwairua

7.1.2 Appendix B – Declaration for Mr Michael John Tuwairua

7.1.2 Appendix B – Declaration for Mr Michael John Tuwairua

7.1.2 Appendix B – Declaration for Mr Michael John Tuwairua(Cont.)



TĀNEATUA COMMUNITY BOARD
DECLARATION BY MEMBER
I, MICHAEL JOHN TUWAIKUA

declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Tāneatua-Waimana community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as a member of the Tāneatua Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

DATED AT TĀNEATUA THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

SIGNATURE: _____

SIGNED IN THE
PRESENCE OF: (Signature) _____

(Title/Position) _____



7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025



To: **Tāneatua Community Board**
Date: **Monday, 7 April 2025**
Author: **N Elliott / Acting Community Regulation Manager**
Authoriser: **L Woolsey / GM Strategy and Growth**
Reference: **A2857913**

1. Reason for the report - Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata

This report is to provide the Community Board with an update on Council activities to April 2025, and covers the following activities:

- People and Engagement Update
- Strategy and Growth Update
- Business and Corporate Services Update
- Strategic Māori Partnership Update
- Regulatory
- Finance and Commercial Services
- Solid Waste
- News

2. Recommendation/s - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025 be **received**.

3. People and Engagement Update

3.1. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Policy

Whakatāne District Council's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy was adopted at the Living Together Committee meeting on 6 March 2025. Its adoption marks the end of a robust process in its development and was met with a round of applause from elected members.

The DEI Policy aims to enhance social cohesion by supporting diversity, equity and inclusion in the Council's work and everyday interactions. It outlines the Council's commitment to fostering a sense of belonging, ensuring marginalised and minority communities are included in decision-making, and building relationships based on empathy, compassion and respect.

In early 2024, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Whakatāne - Accessible and Inclusive (WAI) Charitable Trust to enable a closer working relationship with, and improved understanding of, disabled people. As part of the MOU, the Council promised to undertake the development of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

The Council actively sought community input on the draft DEI Policy through focus groups, formal consultation and verbal submissions at the Living Together Committee meeting late last year. The majority of submitters supported the draft policy, and basis several minor changes were made following submissions. Staff incorporated the 'nothing about us without us' principle, updated the definitions section and committed to translating the policy into Easy Read alongside the existing te reo Māori version.

Council's General Manager People & Partnerships, Emlyn Hatch, says he's confident the policy meets the needs of community members, including those in minority and marginalised groups.

"This policy will enable more diverse input in Council decision-making, which is crucial in a community such as ours," Mr Hatch says. "We're really fortunate to have a wide range of individuals and groups that enrich our district and it's time we formally acknowledge that."

WAI Charitable Trust Co-Chair, Grant Chase, says the adoption of the policy is a milestone in the journey to ensure the Whakatāne District is a safer and more accessible place for everyone.

"We congratulate Council staff for their outstanding work on this policy," Mr Chase says. "Now that this policy is accepted and enacted, our council will truly become one for all people."

The DEI Policy aligns with the Council's strategic priorities and national frameworks, including the Local Government Act 2002 and the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The policy also supports the Council's Te Toi Waka Whakareia Strategy, which promotes Māori engagement and cultural identity within the region.

3.2. Standing Orders review

Last year, the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Reference Group conducted a review of Standing Orders. The reference group included Mike Reid from LGNZ and a legal perspective from Simpson Grierson. The final template was released in January 2025 following the sector review for local councils' consideration. The Governance Services team is currently working to align the sector-approved template with Whakatāne District Council's formatting and style guidelines and will also make minor reference changes to the document.

3.3. Better Off Funding projects reach milestone dates

Whakatāne District Council is making strides in delivering community-focused projects thanks to funds from the Department of Internal Affairs Better Off Funding.

The funding allocation of \$5.66 million was received in December 2022, with the total amount invested as of 31 January 2025 reaching \$3.3 million. These funds have helped the Council fast-track key projects that benefit the community.

At the 6 March Living Together Committee meeting, General Manager Strategy and Transformation, Dr Leny Woolsey, provided an update on the seven Better Off Funding projects.

"We're happy to report that work on the projects continues to progress, with three of the seven projects having reached their completion milestones," said Dr Woolsey.

"After some initial delays, which meant the extension to completion dates for a few of the projects, we are now tracking well," said Dr Woolsey. A detailed update on each project follows.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

The Natural Hazard Resilience project aims to build greater community resilience to natural disasters. The project included funding to upgrade Waimana-Nukuhou North Memorial Hall and Te Teko War Memorial Hall, which were completed in 2023 and 2024.

"Another element of this project is the development of a communications trailer, being undertaken by the Emergency Management team. The trailer will allow for quick deployment of technology, ensuring communication solutions are available in isolated locations during a disaster," explains Dr Woolsey.

Work continues to progress on the Edgecumbe to Thornton trail with sections one and four now complete. Section one saw the upgrade of the existing Rangitāiki River Walkway completed in December 2024.

"The recent upgrade has improved accessibility, and the community response has been really positive." Dr Woolsey noted.

"We've received great feedback about how usable this track is now. The old track was grass, making it difficult to navigate bikes and prams. Now we've laid down a crushed metal trail, making it much more usable for more people."

Work on sections two and three is delayed while discussions continue with private landowners. "We're hopeful we can come to a mutual resolution with landowners. However, we may need to consider rerouting this section along the roadside."

The Collective Iwi Policy Hub's primary use of funds is to support and strengthen relationships between the Council and four iwi in the Whakatāne District. The project has recently added additional technical expertise to support the programme manager. Engagement work continues with iwi and hāpu on future aspirations to incorporate into the draft Our Places - Eastern Bay Spatial Plan. Once complete, the focus will shift to the implementation phase of the spatial plan, climate change adaptation, and local water management practices.

Following iwi and community engagement on master plans for Minginui and Murupara, the Southern Districts Towns Regeneration project is now entering the development phase. An architect is designing visual concepts, which will be shared with the Minginui and Murupara communities during the next six months.

"Ensuring these plans reflect the community's aspirations is a priority. Once the draft plans are ready, we will hold a final round of engagement to gather feedback from Minginui and Murupara residents," Dr Woolsey said.

Dr Woolsey noted the completion of He Waka Hono Hapori Community Connections and Outreach project.

"We have two vans ready to service our more remote communities. These vans will act like mobile hubs of engagement, allowing our communities to access some council services, such as library borrowing."

Work is underway on the schedules for where and when the vans will visit communities.

Two other completed projects are the Acceleration of the Our Places - Eastern Bay Plenty Spatial Plan and the CCTV upgrade.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

“While the CCTV upgrade is complete, Council will use the remaining funds to install a radio system, enabling the monitoring team to communicate directly with the police.”

3.4. Digital Services

Our Digital Services team continues to prioritise cyber security, recognising that our "human firewall"—our staff and Elected Members—is our greatest asset. We use Knowbe4, a leading security awareness training platform, to help manage human risk and strengthen our defences.

Recently, we've shifted to offering shorter, more easily absorbed training modules covering phishing emails, identity theft, and other cyber threats. The team will soon present recommendations to ELT aimed at increasing participation in cyber security training, potentially making such training mandatory.

4. Strategy and Growth Update

4.1. Mayor and Councillors provide direction on Annual Plan budget

The Whakatāne District Mayor and Councillors have asked staff to prepare an Annual Plan budget that reduces the rates increase for the 2025/26 year by a percentage and applies savings to reduce Council's operating deficit faster.

The 2025/26 Annual Plan is the second year of the Council's approved 10-year Long Term Plan which forecasted an average 12.7% annual rates increase.

At the Wednesday, 19 February 2025 Council briefing, staff delivered a draft budget following direction prior to Christmas to find potential savings and split them between a lower rates levy and debt reduction.

A number of factors contributed to the savings including, pausing or rephasing some work programmes and setting a zero target for new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) roles for Year 2. Some aspects of the roading budget no longer would be spent because subsidy has been withdrawn by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

At the briefing, Councillors discussed the option to allocate more of the savings to reduce the operating deficit faster, before instructing staff to proceed with preparing the final budget based on an average rates increase of 11.7%, instead of 12.7%, for 2025/26. The remaining identified savings will be used to fund the operating deficit.

Councillors also opted not to undertake a full consultative process for this year's Annual Plan, based on it not being a legislative requirement for Year 2 of a Long Term Plan, and because the variations to the Long Term plan were not significant in terms of change to levels of service. There will however be information shared with communities to explain how the rates were set and what that means for households.

Council will debate the proposed budget at its Council meeting on 20 March 2025. The Annual Plan is due for adoption in June 2025.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

4.2. Local Wild Food Festival

The Local Wild Food Festival returned on 22 February at Mahy Reserve, Ōhope. There were heaps to enjoy, including live entertainment, cooking demonstrations and more than 20 food vendors offering exclusive Local Wild menu items. Another great cross-Council effort, led by the wider Tourism & Events team with support from Open Spaces, Transportation and our graphic designers.

5. Business and Corporate Services Update

5.1. Airport hangars

The Airports team has been working with Veros to develop an Expression of Interest (EOI) document for new hangars at Whakatāne Airport. This EOI will form part of the final feasibility study and business case for the project, which was identified in the strategic plan section of the Airport Master Plan 2024. The EOI will be distributed widely within the aviation community starting on 10 March 2025 and will remain open for up to six weeks. This will help our airports team better understand the actual demand for hangars at the Airport.

5.2. Solar farm feasibility study

Staff have successfully completed the procurement process for our solar farm feasibility study, and we're pleased to announce that Beca has been selected as the successful tenderer. We received an impressive 26 tenders from both local and international organisations. Our evaluation placed the greatest emphasis on track record and capability, where Beca stood out. Notably, they have delivered key projects such as the feasibility study for Marlborough Airport's solar farm and Auckland Airport's renewable energy strategy. As part of the feasibility study, Beca will assess soil and land conditions, airport operations, potential impacts of the solar farm, conductor connection capability, and ownership and management model options. We aim to begin the study this month and complete it by June.

5.3. Project Enterprise – ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Replacement Implementation

The Mayor has approved the appointment of Councillor Jukes to the ERP Replacement Project Steering Group. Whilst each of the GM representatives will ensure key perspectives are maintained during decision-making, the inclusion of Councillor Jukes as a PSG member will ensure that the interests and voices of the public are also upheld. Given the complex and multi-year nature of ERP replacement programmes, this diversity will be key to sound decision-making, effective guidance and direction, and ultimately, successful outcomes. Further to this, the consistent and regular (monthly) nature of PSG meetings will enable Councillor Jukes to respond to ad hoc queries from Councillor colleagues with more detailed information regarding progress, complimenting the information shared with Council during scheduled quarterly reporting via the Finance and Performance Committee. The first PSG will take place in March.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

6. Strategic Māori Partnerships Update

6.1. A warm welcome to Hone



It was a great pleasure to welcome our new Kaihautu – Director Strategic Māori Partnerships, Hone Patrick, with a mihi whakatau in Room Tōtara on Monday 10 March. It was great to see so many of our iwi partners, elected members and staff, as well as whānau and friends of Hone there to support him. It was a beautiful start to his time at Whakatāne District Council, and he has hit the ground running this week with plenty of meet and greets.

6.2. Kiingitanga Presentation

A reminder about the upcoming Kiingitanga presentation at 10am on Wednesday, 9 April in Totara Chambers. We're lucky enough to have Rāhui Papa coming to present about the Kiingitanga and its role in Government. Rāhui plays an integral role in the Iwi Leaders Forum, providing advice to Ministers and Crown officials on matters of national significance. We hope you can join us in making him welcome at WDC.

7. Regulatory

7.1. Automatic license plate recognition technology

We will soon be conducting a six-week trial of automatic license plate recognition technology. These vehicle-mounted cameras will scan license plates to monitor parking duration in time-restricted zones, helping us evaluate whether this solution could benefit Whakatāne long-term. Key anticipated benefits include enhanced officer safety, operational efficiencies and improved parking availability.

7.2. Important to note

During the trial, no actual infringements will be issued based solely on this technology. This is purely an evaluation period to assess the system's capabilities in our specific environment. Regular parking officer patrols will continue as normal throughout the trial period, and standard enforcement of parking regulations will remain in effect.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

8. Finance and Commercial Services

8.1. Ports, Harbour and Airport

8.1.1. *Boat wash*

In May 2024, the project to update the method of payment system for the Whakatāne Ramp Boat Wash was completed. Before this, two different methods of payment were trialled, one was a pre-paid 'frequency operated button' (like a prepaid key fob) and the other involved an APP which you needed to pre-register. Neither method proved successful with users.

The new payment system uses PayWave, making it as easy as buying a cup of coffee, no pre-registration required. The Council has kept the same pricing as the previous system, with \$2 and \$4 wash options. Now that the new system is in place, these prices will be reviewed annually alongside all Ports and Harbour charges.

Since launching in June 2024, the change has been a success, with 61 washes already completed. As awareness grows within the boating community, we expect this number to continue rising.

8.1.2. *Airport Café – Rere Espresso*

On Monday, 17 March the new Rere Espresso Café opened at the Whakatāne Airport Terminal. This café is operated by a local company and has a very experienced barista. The menu is amazing. This is a small but significant step on the airport's development journey. Please support this venture when you can.



Hone Patrick, Mark Read and Andrea Schuler along with Councillor Rangiaho attended Monday's opening.

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

8.2. New signage for Council building



We've taken the opportunity to update and improve the appearance of signage that was showing signs of vandalism.

8.3. Solid waste

8.3.1. *Supporting charities and creating employment*

Council has responsibilities under the Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996 and Climate Change Response Act 2002 to ensure ozone destroying gases in fridges and freezers received at our Resource Recovery Centres are removed and disposed of appropriately. We engage a contractor to provide this service, which is why a fee applies when these units are dropped off. The scrap metal is then transported to a merchant; however, due to transport costs and non-metal content, there is no financial return.

We have been working with Community Resources Whakatāne (CREW) on an alternative model. We will be purchasing a degassing unit using the Council's waste levy fund (about \$3,000) and CREW will be training staff for the task. From 1 April, CREW will pick up the units from our Resource Recovery Centres and take them away, degas, dismantle and recycle them. We will continue to charge the \$25 fee at our Resource Recovery Centre and CREW will charge the same amount for pick up, degassing and dismantling.

This initiative will be creating employment opportunities at CREW and upskilling staff.

8.3.2. *Reaching into our communities*

In addition to providing school waste educators, we support the 'Paper for Trees' programme, where schools recycle paper and cardboard in exchange for free native plants. This term, they are also part of the Halo (Ngāti Awa) programme, helping students care for and better understand our Taiāo.

Sharing with you some feedback from Roimata Gordon, Deputy Principal from Te Mahoe School:

7.2 Tāneatua Community Board Activity Report - April 2025(Cont.)

"They are very excited because of our Halo kaupapa going on and are hoping that more birds will inhabit the new trees, hehe.

Ngā mihi kia koutou, Paper4trees. He mīharo rawa atu ōu koutou kaupapa anō, āra? Na koutou e waea atu mai kia mātou he kura iti... He nui tō mātou waimarie kia koutou.

(Thank you Paper4trees. Your cause is amazing, and for you to reach out to our small school? We are so grateful.)

"He iti rearea, teitei... Hī! Kahikatea ka taea."

(Although we are small, we can reach great heights.)

Nāku noa,

Whaea Roimata."

9. News

To keep up to date with current news members are encouraged to review the "Latest News" and "Public Notices":

<https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/news> ; <https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/about-council/public-notice>

9.1. Social media

Social media is also a useful way for members to keep up to date with Council activities in your hapori.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneAquaticCentre/>

<https://www.facebook.com/taketakemuseum>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneGalleries>

<https://www.facebook.com/whakatanelibrary>

The Council Facebook page is a critical communications channel for our emergency management team and posts will always be put up during times the Incident Management Team is monitoring weather or other emergency events.

9.2. Events

For up to date listings on community events, information can be found here

<https://www.whakatane.com/events>

<https://www.whakatane.com/events/community-events-and-markets>

8 Chairperson Report

8 Chairperson Report

8.1 TCB Chairpersons Report - April 2025



To: **Tāneatua Community Board**

Date: **Monday, 7 April 2025**

Author: **TCB Chairperson**

File Reference: **A2860812**

1. Reason for the report - Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata

Tuatahi - E mihi ana ki to tatou kaihanga, tuarua e rere atu te mihi ki to matou tipuna awa ko Ohinemataroa, tuatoru - hoki mai kia matou - tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

This report provides an overview of events, activities and important community korero that keeps us in touch with our communities and highlights the amazing mahi and people within all our hāpori.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board Chairpersons Report – April 2025 be **received**.

3. Community on the ground

Since my last report we've seen a decrease in motorbike activity on the streets however it's still an area that needs monitoring.

The Pekatahi bridge is in a terrible state and we continue to field complaints from all local communities and calls for a new bridge still go unheard. I have been communicating with the transport team providing them with local concerns and suggestions on how to combat this ongoing issue and we hope to have one of the transport team update us on the state and progress of the bridge at our hui.

The road works on the State Highway-McKenzie and Tuhoe Street were very disruptive for our local businesses and community. We had a very high number of trucks and cars travelling down Station and Morrison Rds avoiding the works on McKenzie/Tuhoe Streets travelling faster than 50km. Locals had NO notice or communication of these works. Community members were getting frustrated, confused with road works/signage into the Gull Service station, 2 car crashes were narrowly avoided. Notice of any future works (particularly on the State Highway) needs to be communicated earlier to businesses and the board so we can inform our community!

We're seeing an increase in dogs on our streets again, I've been told dogs and cats are being shot at and killed. Clearly people are taking matters into their own hands - police have been advised.

I spoke with the local Tuhoe Hauora CEO who is keen to come and speak with us about their services and forge a relationship with the board going forward.

8.1 TCB Chairpersons Report - April 2025(Cont.)

4. Upcoming events

Tūhoe Ahurei – Easter weekend, Waimana.

9 Closing Karakia - *He Karakia Whakakapi*

9 Closing Karakia - *He Karakia Whakakapi*

Kia tau ki a tātau katoa	<i>May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ</i>
Te atawhai o tō tātau Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti	<i>And the love of God</i>
Me te aroha o te Atua	<i>And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit</i>
Me te whiwhinga tahitanga	<i>Be with you all</i>
Ki te wairua tapu	<i>Forever and ever</i>
Āke ake ake,	<i>Amen</i>
Āmine	