

Minutes Living Together Committee – 21 August 2025

	Details of Meeting:	LIVING TOGETHER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TŌTARA MEETING ROOM, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATANE ON THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025 COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors W James (Chairperson), G Dennis, A Iles, J Jukes, J Pullar, T O’Brien, N Tánzos and T Boynton
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), A Pickles (General Manager Community Experience), L Woolsey (General Manager Strategy and Growth), H Patrick (Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships), H Keraval (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), S Stewart (Manager Strategy and Performance), S Thompson-Klima (Project Coordinator), T Allerby (Project Manager – Tourism and Events), P Check (Manager Properties and Facilities Assets), I Molony (Manager Open Spaces Operations), G Moore-Jones (Senior Reserves Advisor), K Hogg (Project Manager Open Spaces), K Stasiewicz (Contractor) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams:</i> E Hatch (People and Partnerships)
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	

The meeting was opened with a Karakia by Councillor O’Brien at 9:00 am.

1 MEETING NOTICES

Meeting participants were advised that the meeting was being livestreamed, and Health and Safety points were relayed to all attendees.

2 APOLOGIES

None advised.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

None advised.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public forum advised.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 10 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Tánczos / Seconded Councillor Iles

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Living Together Committee held on 19 June 2025 be **confirmed** as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6.1 Minutes of Committees, Community Boards and Youth Council

Refer to pages 11-17 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor O'Brien / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT the following minutes be **received** by the Living Together Committee:

- Tāneatua Community Board 26 May 2025
- Rangitāiki Community Board 28 May 2025
- Rangitāiki Community Board 16 July 2025
- Murupara Community Board 23 June 2025
- Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 23 June 2025;

And Youth Council Minutes:

- 22 July 2025
- 5 August 2025

CARRIED

7 REPORTS

7.1 Submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

Refer to pages 18-28 of the agenda.

The Manager of Strategy and Performance, together with the Senior Strategic Policy Analyst, presented the report and the following points were highlighted:

- The bill's intention was to refocus local government on core services and cost-effectiveness.
- It was noted that the submission was broadly aligned with Local Government New Zealand's draft response, with an emphasis placed on key issues rather than a clause-by-clause analysis.
- During discussion, concerns were raised regarding the bill's definition of core services, which was said to exclude several legislatively required functions. Councillors stressed the importance of providing suitable funding mechanisms to alleviate pressure on rates.

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT the Living Together Committee **receives** the Submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill report.

CARRIED

Moved Deputy Mayor Immink / Seconded Councillor Jukes

THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill as attached in Appendix A, for submission to the Governance and Administration Committee.

Debate ensued on the removal of tikanga Māori requirements for CCO appointments. As a result, an amendment was proposed for the submission to include explicit opposition to Clause 16 of the bill.

An amendment was proposed:

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor Tánczos

RESOLVED:

THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, subject to the opposition of clause 16 as attached in Appendix A, for submission to the Governance and Administration Committee.

CARRIED

Although the substantive motion was voted on later in the meeting, it has been recorded here for clarity and ease of reference within the minutes.

This then became the substantive motion:

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, subject to the opposition of clause 16 as attached in Appendix A, for submission to the Governance and Administration Committee.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Jukes / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT Living Together Committee **delegate authority** to the Mayor and Chief Executive to approve the Council's submission, subject to further changes.

CARRIED

7.2 Better off Funding Update Report August 2025

Refer to pages 29-43 of the agenda.

The Project Coordinator presented the report, and staff provided updates on seven projects funded through the programme, noting some delays due to external factors, with completion targeted for

June 2027. Updates were also provided on Southern District regeneration, the completed CCTV upgrade, and the EV Policy Hub's planned transition to a subscription model.

Moved Mayor Luca / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Living Together Committee **receives** the Better Off Funding Programme Update report August 2025; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the re-scoping of the Active Whakatāne project to pause section 2 and complete section 3 of the Edgecumbe to Thornton Cycleway within the current financial year, with the remaining funds to support completion of the alternate Emergency Operations Centre at Waiewe Street Whakatāne (pending DIA approval).

CARRIED

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:16 am and reconvened at 10:31 am.

7.3 Whakatāne District Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035

Refer to pages 44-132 of the agenda.

The Senior Reserves Advisor provided a summary of the Open Spaces Strategy 2025–2035, noting its alignment with the long-term plan, feedback from community and iwi engagement, and its focus on future management and sustainability of open spaces. Members discussed project prioritisation, budget considerations, and the importance of clear communication, with staff confirming that the strategy would remain adaptable to evolving needs and priorities.

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Councillor Tanczos

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Living Together Committee **receive** the Whakatāne District Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **adopt** the Whakatane District Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2025-2035.

CARRIED

7.4 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub – Phase 1 update report

Refer to pages 133-136 of the agenda.

The Project Manager Open Spaces presented the report and noted the following:

- Establishment of the project steering group.
- Progress was noted on functional upgrades, including asbestos removal and lighting improvements.
- Development of concept design options was underway.
- Ongoing discussions were being held regarding budget allocation and funding considerations.
- The project scope, maintenance priorities, and historical delays were discussed.
- Recent seismic strengthening works have been completed.

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Councillor Tanczos

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub Phase 1 Update report be **received**; and

2. THAT the Living Together Committee **noted** that a verbal update on the second Rex Morpeth Project Steering Group Meeting held Friday, 15 August 2025 was provided in the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting closed with a Karakia given by Councillor O'Brien at 11:14 am.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON