


Minutes Extraordinary Council Meeting – 19 November 2025

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.
	Present:	Mayor N Tánczos, Deputy Mayor J Jukes, Councillors T Boynton, G Dennis, C Hamill, A Iles, J Morgan-Ranui, W James, T O'Brien and M Whitaker
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), L Woolsey (GM Strategy and Growth), P Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), D Cowdery (Manager Strategic Māori Partnerships), S Stewart (Manager Strategy and Policy), S Ellis (Team Leader Strategy), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office) and C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services) <i>Via teams:</i> E Hatch (GM People and Partnerships), A Pickles (GM Community Experience), H Patrick (Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial), K Ashton (Finance Contractor)
	Visitors:	Anton Labuschagne (Audit NZ) <i>Via teams:</i> Kayode Oloro (Audit NZ)
	Apologies:	Councillor L Immink

1 KARAKIA

Mayor Tánczos formally opened the Extraordinary Council meeting at 9:00 am and invited Councillor Boynton to lead with a Karakia.

2 MEETING NOTICES

The Mayor shared meeting notices on live streaming and health and safety.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillors James

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne District Council **accept** the apology from Councillor Lesley Immink.

CARRIED

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were acknowledged for their recent outreach to community events in the surrounding Tāneatua areas, during which tributes were received for the late Diane Yalden, for

her contributions as Chairperson of the Tāneatua Community Board, which illustrated the importance of strong community connections.

Murupara was recognised as the first to sign the Mana Whakahono a Rohe (MWAR) agreement with their local Iwi (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa), highlighting strong partnership. It was also noted that local school boards, with reference to the Whakatāne High School, opposed the removal of Te Tiriti o Waitangi from their curriculum, showing commitment to its principles.

Attendance: Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships joined the meeting online at 9:03 am.

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor O'Brien advised he would declare a conflict of interest during the public-excluded section of the meeting.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 11 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Councillor Iles

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Whakatāne District Council Inaugural meeting held on Thursday, 6 November 2025 be **confirmed** as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 REPORTS

8.1 Annual Report

Refer to pages 12-38 of the agenda, and pages 38a-d of the tabled items.

General Manager Strategy and Growth opened the discussion by acknowledging the significant cross-functional effort involved in preparing the Annual Report. She highlighted the transformational improvements in internal processes and thanked the team for their dedication, specifically mentioning the Team Leader Strategy for leading the work. General Manager Strategy and Growth also expressed appreciation for the support from Audit NZ and welcomed Anton Labuschagne (Audit NZ) to the meeting.

Team Leader Strategy formally introduced the Annual Report for the 2024/25 financial year, explaining that the tabled items included minor corrections and additional disclosures resulting from ongoing collaboration with Audit NZ against the published version of the Annual Report.

An overview of the Council's performance was provided, noting that 58% of the 69 performance measures were met, and 73% of mandatory measures achieved. Comparative information was provided where available, except for new measures.

During questions, councillors sought clarification on the following points:

- The recording of severance payments and staff leave payouts and where these were reflected in the annual report.
- The absence of employment disputes during the reporting period was highlighted, reflecting positively on the Council's workplace environment.
- The reported financial deficit was discussed in relation to budget expectations. It was clarified that the actual deficit was lower than projected, due to effective financial management and adjustments made throughout the year.
- The increase in interest income was noted resulting from good market conditions.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council **receive** the Whakatāne District Council Annual 2024/25 and Summary Annual Report 2024/25; and
2. THAT the Council **notes** that Audit New Zealand will present their audit opinion at this meeting.

CARRIED

Anton Labuschagne from Audit NZ was invited to present the audit opinion, where he described it as a non-standard opinion due to prior year qualifications and two emphases of matter disclosures (local waters and greenhouse gas emissions). Mr Labuschagne commended the Council and staff for the improved audit process and timely adoption of the annual report, especially given the challenges posed by the timing of the recent local government elections.

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Councillor Boynton

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council **adopts** the audited Whakatāne District Council Annual Report 2024/25 and Summary Annual Report 2024/25, subject to any corrections identified, and the changes outlined within the tabled item, prior to publishing in accordance with section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002; and
2. THAT the Council **notes** the adoption is occurring outside the statutory timeframe of 31 October 2025, due to the timing of the local government elections, and a disclosure is included in the Annual report; and
3. THAT the Council **notes** the Annual Report 2024/25 and Summary Annual Report 2024/25 will be made publicly available within one month of its adoption; and

CARRIED

Attendance: Mr Labuschagne (Audit NZ), GM Strategy and Growth and the Chief Financial Officer left the meeting at 9:30 am. GM Strategy and Growth and the Chief Financial Officer returned to the meeting at 9:33 am.

8.2 Council Governance Structure 2025-2028

Refer to pages 39-86 of the agenda and page 86a of the tabled items.

Mayor Tánczos presented the Council Governance Structure 2025-2028 report, highlighting the return to a similar committee structure to the 2019-2022 triennium. He reported the responsibilities from the previous Risk and Assurance Committee during the 2022-2025 triennium had been incorporated into the Finance, Performance and Risk Committee, which would benefit from the expertise of a chartered accountant and an independent member on its membership.

The Mayor later tabled an item to include the Public Transport Committee and its delegations within the governance structure, and noted the following adjustments for consideration:

- The process for appointing ad hoc members or community representatives to the Community Grants and Funding Committee was clarified, with a note that the standard procedures for these appointments would be included in the register following adoption.
- The Chief Executive Performance and Support Committee's membership was clarified to include only the chairs of standing and special committees, not all members.

It was further clarified that the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG) was listed in the other decision-making groups within the proposed delegations register, and for it to be moved into the joint forums section for consistency.

The following key points were noted from questions of clarification:

- Councillors discussed whether the proposed governance structure would improve efficiency and support decision-making in a timely manner.
- There were concerns about whether meeting frequencies would allow Council to respond quickly to legislative changes, noting the challenges often experienced, with submissions due dates to central government in a short turn-around timeframe.
- Suggestions were made for better communication channels, including informal updates outside formal meetings.
- The statutory role and delegations of community boards were suggested to be reviewed, as well as the frequency of these meetings, noting the importance of seeking feedback from community board members prior.
- Other queries included the membership of the Iwi Chairs Forum, the status of the Whakatāne Beautiful Committee, Global Sister Cities relationships, and filling the external appointee vacancy on the Finance, Performance and Risk Committee.

Attendance: Kayode Oloro (audit NZ) left the meeting (online) at 9:35 am.

Moved Councillor O'Brien / Seconded Councillor Boynton

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council Governance Structure 2025-2028 report be **received**; and,
2. THAT the Council **notes** the Whakatāne District Council governance structure for the 2025-2028 triennium determined by the Mayor in accordance with section 41A of the LGA, as set out in this report; and,
3. THAT the Council **notes** the following Mayoral appointments to its Standing Committees:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Strategy and Policy Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Toni Boynton (Chairperson) • Councillor Lesley Immink (Deputy Chairperson) • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • All Councillors
Projects and Services Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Andrew Iles (Chairperson) • Councillor Wilson James (Deputy Chairperson) • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • All Councillors
Finance, Performance and Risk Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Lesley Immink (Chairperson) • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (Deputy Chairperson) • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • All Councillors

4. THAT council **notes** the external appointment of independent member Petra Lucioli to its Finance, Performance and Risk Standing Committee;

5. THAT the Council **notes** the Mayoral appointments to, the following Special Committees:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Community Grants and Funding Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gavin Dennis (Chairperson) • Councillor Tu O'Brien (Deputy Chairperson) • Councillor Wilson James
Chief Executive Performance and Support Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos (Chairperson) • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (Deputy Chairperson) • Chairpersons of the Standing Committee's and the Grants Special Committee of Council

6. THAT the Council **notes** its Mayoral appointment to the Whakatāne District Youth Council;

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Whakatāne District Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Toni Boynton

7. THAT the Council **notes** the Mayoral appointment to the following Forum:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Iwi Chairs Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (alternate)

8. THAT the Council **accepts** the tabled item related to the public transport committee for inclusion to the register, and **notes** the Mayoral appointment to each of the following permanent Joint Committees required by statute:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (as alternate)
Regional Transport Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (as alternate)
Rangitāiki River Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Tu O'Brien • Councillor Wilson James (as alternate)
Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • Councillor Lesley Immink
Public Transport Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Andrew Iles

9. THAT the Council **notes** the continuation of, and Mayoral appointments to, the following 'joint' committees and forum:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Nándor Tánczos • Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (as alternate)
Eastern Bay Road Safety Operations Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gavin Dennis
Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum (OHIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Malcolm Whitaker • Councillor Andrew Iles (as alternate)

10. THAT the Council **notes** the following Mayoral appointments to its community boards:

Forum	Membership as appointed by the Mayor
Murupara Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Jesse Morgan-Ranui • Councillor Andrew Iles (as alternate)
Rangitāiki Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gavin Dennis • Councillor Wilson James (as alternate)
Tāneatua Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Andrew Iles • Councillor Jesse Morgan-Ranui (as alternate)
Whakatāne/Ōhope Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Carolyn Hamill • Councillor Malcolm Whitaker (as alternate)

11. THAT the Council **notes** the Eastern Bay District Licensing Committee memberships outlined in item 6.4 of Appendix 1; and,
12. THAT the Council **notes** the appointments to external Groups and Associations as outlined in Section 10 of Appendix 1; and,
13. THAT the Council **confirms** the Delegations to the Council, Standing Committees, Special Committees, Joint Committees, Joint Forums and Community Boards for the 2025-2028 triennium as set out in Appendix 1, subject to the changes agreed for inclusion at the meeting.

CARRIED

8.3 Elected Members Remuneration Pool Allocation

Refer to pages 39-86 of the agenda.

The report was introduced by the Manager Governance Services with the following key points noted:

- The total remuneration pool was to be allocated in full, as required by the Remuneration Authority.
- The Mayor and Community Board members were excluded from this pool, with their remuneration determined separately.
- The proposed allocation reflected the roles and responsibilities for the triennium, detailing amounts for Deputy Mayor, Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and Councillors without additional responsibilities.
- The submission deadline to the Remuneration Authority was noted, and an extension was granted for Council approval.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Whitaker

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the 'Councillor Remuneration Triennium 2025-2028' report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Council **propose** the allocation of remuneration as outlined in the following table: and

Office	No. per office	Effective date	Councillor with no additional responsibilities (\$)	Additional remuneration amount (\$)	Proposed annual total remuneration per councillor (\$)	Total (\$)
Deputy Mayor Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes (Deputy Chairperson Council, FP&R, CEPSC)	1	6 Nov 2025	44,521	35,772	80,293	80,293
Committee Chairs Councillor T Boynton – Strategy and Policy Councillor A Iles – Projects and Services Councillor L Immink – Finance, Performance and Risk Councillor G Dennis – Community Grants & Funding	4	19 Nov 2025	44,521	18,004	62,525	250,100
Deputy Chairs Councillor W James – Projects and Services Councillor T O'Brien – Community Grants & Funding Councillor L Immink – Strategy and Policy	2	19 Nov 2025	44,521	7,129	51,650	103,300
Councillors with no additional responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Hamill • Councillor Whitaker • Councillor Morgan-Ranui 	3	18 Oct 2025	44,521	3,841	48,362	145,086

					Grand Total (\$)	578,779
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3. THAT the Council **forward** their remuneration proposal to the Remuneration Authority for its approval.

CARRIED

9 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Refer to pages 97-98 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Councillor Dennis

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne District Council **agree** to exclude the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Exercise of delegations during the election interregnum period report
2. Update on Council-Owned Land Report

This resolution is made in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be).

Item number and General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for excluding the public	Plain English reason for passing this resolution
Item 1: Exercise of delegations during the Election Interregnum period Report	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. Section 7(2)(g) To maintain legal professional privilege Section 7(2)(i) To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	Given the commercial sensitivity around Whakatāne District Council's insurance program, current limits and associated premiums, it would prejudice both WDC's commercial position and the insurers' commercial position if the information is made public. Bound by legal privilege given it is an ongoing litigation, the public need to be excluded to maintain this privilege.

Item 2: Update on Council-Owned Land Report	7(2)(b)(ii) Be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information Section 7(2)(i) To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) Section 7(2)(j) Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	The report contains details about Sales and Purchase agreement variations which are commercially sensitive. The report includes details of contract variations including estimate costings. The paper includes information about modifying the Agreement that Council has with a third parties which are currently confidential.
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CARRIED

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am, following the resolution to exclude the public, and reconvened within that session at 10:29am.

The meeting returned to the Public session at 11:17 am.

10 RESTATING OF RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Tánczos restated the following resolutions from the Public Excluded session of the meeting:

Update on Council-Owned Land Report

1. THAT the Council **received** the Exercise of Delegations during the Election Interregnum Period Report; and
2. THAT Council **noted** one occasion where the Chief Executive exercised the delegations during the interregnum period to be restated in the public section of this meeting. The details are as follows:
The Chief Executive accepted a late submission to the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy and approved minor changes to the policy as a result; and
3. THAT Council **confirmed** that this report was to remain in Public Excluded and was not to be released to the public.

Update on Council-Owned Land Report

1. THAT Council **received** the 'Public Excluded – Update on Council-Owned Land report; and,
2. THAT Council **confirmed** the report can be released to the public on the Chief Executive's approval once all works are complete.

The meeting closed at 11:18 am with a Karakia by Councillor O'Brien.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON

[You Tube link to Council meeting 19 November 2025](#)