


## Minutes Ordinary Council Meeting – 4 December 2025

 <p><b>WHAKATĀNE</b> District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	<p>Details of Meeting:</p>	<p><b>WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.</b></p>
	<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mayor N Tánczos, Deputy Mayor J Jukes, Councillors T Boynton, G Dennis, C Hamill, A Iles, L Immink, J Morgan-Ranui, W James, T O’Brien, and M Whitaker</p>
	<p>In Attendance:</p>	<p>S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), L Woolsey (GM Strategy and Growth), P Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), A Pickles (GM Community Experience) and H Patrick (Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial), K Hogg (Project Manager Open Spaces), K Stasiewicz (Contractor Strategy and Transformation), E Fenton (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), S Stewart (Manager Strategy and Policy), A Naidoo (Strategic Policy Analyst), K Farr (Manager Financial Planning and Reporting   Management Accounting), B Patchett (Project Manager Local Growth Strategy), H Keravel (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), W Vullings (Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office), S Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor), and C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services)</p> <p><i>Via Teams:</i> E Hatch (GM People and Partnerships)</p>
	<p>Visitors:</p>	<p>Peter Askey (Putiki Residents Group), Oliver Austin, Quin Kingi and Angus Robson (West End Track Presenters), Barry Cutfield and Christine Bowering (Whakatane Yacht Club), and Lani Thompson and Warren Short (EPIC)</p> <p>A large contingent of public in support of West End Track speakers</p>
	<p>Apologies:</p>	

### 1 KARAKIA

Mayor Tánczos formally opened the Council meeting at 9:00 am, welcomed the members in the public gallery, media, staff and councillors, and invited Councillor Tu O’Brien to lead with a Karakia.

**Attendance:** GM People and Partnerships joined the meeting online at 9:02 am.

The Mayor thanked Elvin Eldho (ICT Support Engineer) for restoring livestream facility.

### 2 MEETING NOTICES

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

### 3 APOLOGIES

NIL

### 4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Council recognised the recent fatality on Pekatahi Bridge. They encouraged a thorough investigation to ensure safety, with due diligence applied to prevent future incidents.

### 5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

### 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Refer to pages 11-15 of the agenda.

#### 6.1 Public Forum

##### 6.1.1 *Mr Peter Askey (Putiki Residents Group)*

Mr Askey raised concerns about the proposed Genesis Energy transmission line along Putiki Road, highlighting potential impacts on mature trees, property amenity, and residents. He urged Council to support minimising these effects and to consider alternatives. The Mayor explained Council's limited authority but committed to preparing a statement and advocating for mitigation where possible.

Action:

The Mayor's Office was tasked with providing a statement for sharing with Genesis Energy and inclusion in the meeting minutes. The statement read as follows:

*"That Council acknowledges that the Utilities Act 2010 and the National Code of Practise for Utility Operators Access to Transport Corridor 2024 provide a right of access to the road corridor for the installation of power lines along Putiki Road.*

*In processing a Corridor Access Request, we know that the Council can impose reasonable conditions, but these are limited to matters listed in Section 4.5 of the Code.*

*The Council is committed to continuing to facilitate open communication between residents and the utility provider to ensure issues are fairly raised, discussed and assessed by the utility operator before detailed planning and design works are finalised.*

*We encourage the utility operator to configure the grid tie so as to minimise, where possible, the impacts upon existing residents, and in particular to give serious consideration to moving the transmission lines to the eastern side of Putiki Road."*

##### 6.1.2 *Mr Angus Robson*

Mr Robson, representing the West End Track group, described the strong community support for reopening the iconic Ōhope Beach walkway, noting it had been closed for four years due to slips. He explained that local volunteers were ready to restore the track, proposing a practical and cost-effective approach that would save ratepayer funds compared to contractor-led repairs. Mr Robson emphasised that health and safety concerns should not prevent community involvement, and urged

Council to work with residents to find a safe solution so the track could once again provide access to Otarawairere Bay and benefit the wider community.

**Attendance:** EPIC deputation presenters entered the meeting at 9:31 am.

**Attendance:** Deputy Mayor Jukes left the meeting at 9:53 am and returned to the meeting at 9:54 am.

### **6.1.3 Barry Cutfield and Christine Bowering**

Mr. Cutfield and Mrs. Bowering, representing the Whakatāne Yacht Club, addressed Council regarding the club's ongoing activities and challenges. They highlighted the importance of the Yacht Club to the local community, shared recent events and membership engagement, and raised concerns about facility maintenance—emphasising their need for Council's support, particularly the dredging required to maintain access to the Yacht Club.

**Attendance:** Mrs Bowering and Mr Cutfield left the meeting at 10:19 am.

## **6.2 Deputation**

### **6.2.1 E.P.I.C**

Refer to pages 12-15 of the agenda.

Ms Thompson and Mr Short delivered a deputation on behalf of EPIC, outlining the group's current initiatives and priorities. They highlighted recent projects, community engagement efforts, and the importance of ongoing partnership with Council. The deputation was well received, with Council members expressing appreciation for EPIC's contributions to the community.

**Attendance:**

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 10:19 am and re-entered the meeting at 10:28 am.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am and reconvened at 10:48 am.

## **7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Refer to page 16 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Dennis

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the minutes of the Whakatāne District Council Extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 19 November 2025 be **confirmed** as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**Attendance:** Contractor Strategy and Transformation Project, and the Manager Open Spaces entered the meeting at 10:36 am.

## **8 REPORTS**

### **8.1 2026 meeting schedule**

Refer to pages 17-21 of the agenda.

Manager Governance Services introduced the report and noted the following key points:

- Colour coding legend within the report and related appendix may not correspond.

- Community Board meeting dates would be adjusted following the setting of their first meeting dates at the recent combined community board inaugural meeting.
- Whakatāne District Council would be administering the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee meetings for 2026.

Moved Councillor O'Brien / Seconded Councillor Hamill

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Council **receives** the Draft Council Meeting Calendar 2026 report; and
2. THAT the Council **approves** in principle the Draft Council Meeting Calendar 2026 (provided as Appendix 1 to the report):
3. THAT the Council **notes**:
  - i) Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council to confirm joint committees meeting dates.
  - ii) Pending confirmation from community boards to the dates and days of meetings for each of the boards.
  - iii) The final 2026 Council Meeting Calendar does not need to be formally reported back to Council for adoption.

**CARRIED**

**8.2 Rex Morpeth Recreational Hub Project Update**

Refer to pages 22-31 of the agenda.

Project Manager Open Spaces provided a progress update on the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub. The update clarified that development contributions would be reviewed to ensure alignment with new growth and subdivisions. The Project Manager noted that options for sponsorship would require specialist advice and should be thoroughly explored before any decisions are made.

The masterplan was presented as a long-term vision, consistent with the upcoming Long Term Plan cycle. Affordability constraints were acknowledged, however it was emphasised that the replacement of the roof was a priority due to its condition. Full reroofing was not considered feasible at this stage, and detailed costings could not be shared publicly due to commercial sensitivity.

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Councillor Immink

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Council **receive** the Rex Morpeth Project Background and Progress Update report.

**CARRIED**

**Attendance:** Project Manager Local Growth Strategy entered the meeting at 11:18 am. Contractor Strategy and Transformation Project and Manager Open Spaces left the meeting at 11:20 am.

**8.3 Annual Plan Budget**

Refer to pages 32-40 of the agenda.

The Annual Plan Budget report was introduced by the Manager Strategy and Policy, Senior Strategic Policy Analyst, and supported by Finance staff. The presenters outlined the key financial challenges facing Council, including increased infrastructure costs and the need to balance service delivery with affordability for ratepayers.

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Councillor Iles

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the 'Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 – Options for budget development' report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Council **considers** the proposed options for budget development for the draft 2026/27 Annual Plan and requests staff to identify further cost reductions of approximately \$790K for the Annual Plan 2026/27; and
3. THAT the Council **notes** that any additional cost reductions identified will be reported back to Council in early 2026 with options for reducing rate increases and/or reducing the operating deficit; and
4. THAT the Council **notes** formal community consultation on the Annual Plan for 2026/27 is not legislatively required, unless variations are significant compared to the Long Term Plan; and
5. THAT the Council **notes** that the final Annual Plan 2026/27 will be provided to Council for adoption before 30 June 2026.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Boynton requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

Councillor Boynton emphasised the importance of ensuring that analysis and reporting reflect engagement at this level and that the perspectives of Māori stakeholders are meaningfully incorporated into Council's decision-making process.

**Attendance:** Senior Strategic Policy Analyst, Manager Strategy and Policy, Strategic Policy Analyst, Manager Financial Planning and Reporting left the meeting at 11:44 am.

**Attendance:**

Mayor Tanczos left the meeting at 11:45 am and returned to the meeting at 11:49 am.

During the Mayors absence, Deputy Mayor Jukes chaired the meeting.

**8.4 Local Growth Strategy**

Refer to pages 41-87 of the agenda.

General Manager Strategy and Growth introduced the Local Growth Strategy report, highlighting its role in setting a long-term vision for growth and development across the Whakatāne District. The introduction emphasised alignment with regional planning and the importance of ongoing engagement with iwi, hapū, and stakeholders. The Project Manager of the Local Growth Strategy was then invited to present further detail on the draft strategy and the proposed approach to public consultation.

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Councillor Iles

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Whakatāne District Council **receive** the Draft Whakatāne Local Growth Strategy report; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne District Council **note** that:
  - (a) The Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy sets out a direction for growth and change in the Whakatāne District over the next 30-years, so that growth can be harnessed to help deliver wider social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits the community cares about; and
  - (b) The Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy is aligned with the goals and outcomes of the recently adopted Eastern Bay Spatial Plan and Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy; and

- (c) Ongoing partnership with iwi and hapū, and collaborative planning and implementation with other partners, stakeholders and the community will be required to achieve the outcomes of the Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy; and
  - (d) The Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy aligns with iwi aspirations outlined in the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan and as communicated to the project to date; and
  - (e) Engagement with Ngāti Awa hapū is still being completed, and minor changes to the Draft Whakatāne Local Growth Strategy may be required to align with their feedback; and
  - (f) The Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy reflects feedback received during early engagement with a wide range of key stakeholders.
3. THAT the Whakatāne District Council **agree** to delegate to the General Manager Strategy and Growth the ability to make minor changes to the Draft Whakatāne Local Growth Strategy that are required to align with feedback received from Ngāti Awa hapū.

**CARRIED**

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Councillor Iles

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Whakatāne District Council **approve** the Draft Whakatāne District Local Growth Strategy for public consultation in early 2026.

**CARRIED**

Council debated the need for public consultation, with some members expressing concern about consultation fatigue and others emphasising the importance of community engagement.

Councillors L Immink, T Boynton, M Whitaker, and W James requested their votes against the motion be recorded.

**Attendance:**

Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth entered the meeting at 11:56 am.

Project Manager Local Growth Strategy left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

**8.5 Draft Triennial Agreement**

Refer to pages 88-99 of the agenda.

Senior Strategic Policy Analyst introduced the report, which outlined the proposed collaborative framework for Bay of Plenty region councils for the 2025–2028 period. The report summarised key provisions and the process for regional adoption.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Council **receive** the Triennial Agreement report; and
2. THAT the Council **approve** the draft Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 for the Bay of Plenty Region's Councils, and
3. THAT the Council **delegate** to the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor the authority to make any minor amendments required as a result of minor changes requested by other local authorities in the region as part of the adoption process.

**CARRIED**

**8.6 Submissions Delegation Report**

Refer to pages 100-102 of the agenda.

The Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth introduced the report, noted the high volume of submissions received from central government, and highlighted the need for efficient approval processes.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Whitaker

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Council **receive** the ‘Temporary Delegation for Submission Approval’ report; and
2. THAT the Council **agree** to provide temporary delegation to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive to approve submissions for the period commencing 5 December 2025 and ending 4 February 2026

**CARRIED**

Action:

Governance Services staff were asked to assess the practicality of recording submission due dates in Councillor calendars, considering submission timeframes and the feasibility of maintaining accurate records.

**9 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Refer to pages 103 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

**RESOLVED:**

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

1. Public Excluded Minutes of Extraordinary Council – 19 November 2025
2. Air Chathams Loan Repayment 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
<p><b>Item 1:</b> Public Excluded minutes of Extraordinary Council – 19 November 2025</p>	<p>As per reasons given in the public agenda for the 19 November Extraordinary Council meeting i.e.                      - Section 7 (2)(b)(ii)                      - Section 7 (2)(g)                      - Section 7 (2)(i)                      - Section 7 (2)(j)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>As per reasons given in the public agenda for the 19 November Extraordinary Council meeting</p>

		would exist under section 6 or section 7	
<b>Item 2:</b> Air Chathams Loan Repayment 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	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	Air Chathams have provided confidential information, including their application to central government, and the report includes the airline's loan liability. If made public, it could prejudice their application and commercial position.

**CARRIED**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm, following the resolution to exclude the public, and reconvened at 12:20 pm within the public-excluded session.

The meeting returned to the Public session at 12:47 pm.

**10 RESTATING OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

Air Chathams Loan Repayment Report

1. THAT Council received the Air Chathams Loan Repayment report; and
2. THAT the Air Chathams Loan Repayment report can be released to the public on the Chief Executives approval.

The meeting closed at 12:49 pm with a Karakia by Councillor O'Brien.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON

[You Tube – Ordinary Council Meeting 4 December 2025](#)