


## Minutes Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting – 5 February 2026

 <p><b>WHAKATĀNE</b> District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	<b>WHAKATĀNE STRATEGY AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.</b>
	Present:	Mayor N Tánczos, Deputy Mayor J Jukes, Chairperson T Boynton, and Councillors G Dennis, C Hamill, A Iles, L Immink, J Morgan-Ranui, W James, T O’Brien, and M Whitaker
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), L Woolsey (GM Strategy and Growth), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), P Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), H Patrick (Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial), M Trudgen (Acting GM People and Partnerships), S Stewart (Manager Strategy and Policy), H Madden (Strategic Policy Analyst), V Fergusson (Manager Strategic Property), L Hunt (Climate Change and Resilience Manager), N Woodley (Manager Policy, Planning and Consents Compliance), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office), and S Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams: A Pickles (GM Community Experience)</i>
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	Councillor Hamill (for lateness)

### 1 KARAKIA

Chairperson Boynton formally opened the Committee meeting at 9:00 am with a Karakia and welcomed staff and members of the public.

### 2 MEETING NOTICES

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

### 3 APOLOGIES

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Member Morgan-Ranui

#### RESOLVED

THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee accept the apology for lateness from Councillor C Hamill.

#### CARRIED

#### 4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

A tribute was given to those who had lost their lives resulting from the recent weather event, and to the whānau and communities of the Tairāwhiti region.

#### 5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

#### 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil.

#### 7 REPORTS

##### 7.1 Council Policies and Bylaws: Work Programme Update Report for 2025-26

Refer to pages 11-18 of the agenda.

**Attendance:**

Councillor Hamill and the Manager Strategic Property entered the meeting at 9:06 am and Hamill.

- Following the meeting, the Work Programme would be published on the Council website.
- A report would be brought to Council with a recommendation on progressing the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Local Alcohol Policy.
- A review of five bylaws would be presented at Briefing scheduled for 25 February 2025 and it was noted the Property Policy Bylaw would follow at a later briefing.
- Visibility of policy review timeframes was suggested.

**Attendance:** The Climate Change and Resilience Manager entered the meeting at 9:17 am.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **receives** the Policies and Bylaws: Work Programme Update Report; and
2. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **notes** the Chief Executive exercised delegated authority during the interregnum period to accept a late submission to the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy and approved minor changes to the policy as a result; and
3. THAT the Strategy and Policy Standing Committee **notes** that a schedule of the policy and bylaw review timetable will be published on the Council website.

**CARRIED**

**Attendance:** Manager Strategic Property and the Strategic Policy Analyst entered the meeting at 9:22am. The Chief Executive left the meeting at 9:22 am.

## 7.2 Review of Acceptance of Late Submission Policy

Refer to pages 19-32 of the agenda.

The Manager Strategy and Policy highlighted the new policy was wider in scope and provided clarity and transparency for the community regarding submissions and the consultation process.

A discussion ensued about the disclosure of unreacted copies of submissions to Elected Members. Staff would investigate the legalities of this disclosure and report back to members. Clarification was sought regarding the change in practice, why Elected Members currently received only redacted submissions.

**Attendance:** The Chief Executive entered the meeting at 9:29 am.

It was requested that provision be made for flexibility in the scheduling of submission hearings, along with consistency in the use of grammatical person.

**Attendance:** Manager Policy, Planning and Consents Compliance entered the meeting at 9:33 am.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

### **RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **receive** the Review of Acceptance of Late Submission Policy report; and
2. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **note** that the 'Acceptance of Late Submission Policy' is no longer fit for purpose; and
3. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **revoke** the 'Acceptance of Late Submission Policy'; and
4. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **approve** and **adopt** the 'Draft Submission Policy', subject to the following:
  - Clarification regarding Elected Member viewing of unredacted submissions details.
  - Council will endeavour to provide flexibility regarding submission times where possible.
  - Consistency regarding grammatical person.

### **CARRIED**

**Attendance:** The Chief Executive and the Manager Strategy and Policy left the meeting at 9:38 am.

## 7.3 Six-Monthly Climate Pathway and Resilience Update

Refer to pages 33-72 of the agenda.

The Climate Change and Resilience Manager summarised the report. She highlighted the following points:

- The solar installations were outperforming the modelling.
- The total vehicle fleet had been reduced by nine.
- Resilience: Better of Funding received from Central Government has enabled the purchase of three containers of emergency kit and the purchase of a mobile communications trailer.

**Attendance:** The Chief Executive entered the meeting at 9:41 am.

It was suggested a review to the "Summary Table of emissions against base year, previous year and targets" for readability.

In response to a query about the number of 'electric bike charging stations', the Climate Change and Resilience Manager would report back to members.

Moved Councillor Wilson / Seconded Mayor Tánczos

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **receive** the Six-Monthly Climate Pathway and Resilience update July 2025 to December 2025; and
2. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **note** the prioritised actions for January 2026 to June 2027 of Our Climate Pathway; and
3. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **receive** the Whakatāne District Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for July 2024 to June 2025 (Appendix 1).

**CARRIED**

**Attendance:** Climate Change and Resilience Manager left the meeting at 9:58 am.

**7.4 Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill**

Refer to pages 73-87 of the agenda.

For the benefit of the public attending, it was highlighted that this submission had been discussed at the 4 February 2026 Council Briefing, and that a recording was available on the Council website.

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Councillor Immink

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill Report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee **approve** the appended submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill, subject to the incorporation of feedback provided by the Council.
3. THAT the Mayor and Chief Executive be **authorised** to finalise the submission prior to the close of submissions on the 13 February 2026.

**CARRIED**

Prior to meeting close, the Chairperson acknowledged Waitangi Day.

The meeting closed at 10:04 am with a Karakia by Chairperson Boynton.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON

You Tube – [Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting 5 February 2026](#)