



# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Council meeting Tuesday, 2 June 2026**

**I hereby give notice that an Ordinary meeting of Council will be held on:**

**Date: Tuesday, 2 June 2026**

**Time: 9:30 am**

**Location: Tauranga City Council Chambers  
L1, 90 Devonport Road  
Tauranga**

**Marty Grenfell  
Chief Executive**

# Terms of reference – Council

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## Membership

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<b>Chair</b>	Mayor Mahé Drysdale
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular
<b>Members</b>	Cr Hautapu Baker Cr Glen Crowther Cr Rick Curach Cr Steve Morris Cr Marten Rozeboom Cr Kevin Schuler Cr Rod Taylor Cr Hēmi Rolleston
<b>Quorum</b>	<u>Half</u> of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is <u>even</u> ; and a <u>majority</u> of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is <u>odd</u> .
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Three weekly or as required

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## Role

- To ensure the effective and efficient governance of the City.
- To enable leadership of the City including advocacy and facilitation on behalf of the community.
- To review and monitor the performance of the Chief Executive.

## Scope

- Oversee the work of all committees and subcommittees.
- Exercise all non-delegable and non-delegated functions and powers of the Council.
- The powers Council is legally prohibited from delegating include:
  - Power to make a rate.
  - Power to make a bylaw.
  - Power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan.
  - Power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan, or annual report
  - Power to appoint a chief executive.
  - Power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement.
  - All final decisions required to be made by resolution of the territorial authority/Council pursuant to relevant legislation (for example: the approval of the City Plan or City Plan changes as per section 34A Resource Management Act 1991).
- Council has chosen not to delegate the following:
  - Power to compulsorily acquire land under the Public Works Act 1981.
- Make those decisions which are required by legislation to be made by resolution of the local authority.

- Authorise all expenditure not delegated to officers, Committees or other subordinate decision-making bodies of Council.
- Make appointments of members to the council-controlled organisation Boards of Directors/Trustees and representatives of Council to external organisations.
- Undertake statutory duties in regard to Council-controlled organisations, including reviewing statements of intent, with the exception of the Local Government Funding Agency where such roles are delegated to the City Delivery Committee. (Note that monitoring of all Council-controlled organisations' performance is undertaken by the City Delivery Committee. This also includes Priority One reporting.)
- Consider all matters related to Local Water Done Well.
- Consider any matters referred from any of the Standing or Special Committees, Joint Committees, Chief Executive or General Managers.
- Review and monitor the Chief Executive's performance.
- Develop Long Term Plans and Annual Plans including hearings, deliberations and adoption.

### **Procedural matters**

- Delegation of Council powers to Council's committees and other subordinate decision-making bodies.
- Adoption of Standing Orders.
- Receipt of Joint Committee minutes.
- Approval of Special Orders.
- Employment of Chief Executive.
- Other Delegations of Council's powers, duties and responsibilities.

### **Regulatory matters**

Administration, monitoring and enforcement of all regulatory matters that have not otherwise been delegated or that are referred to Council for determination (by a committee, subordinate decision-making body, Chief Executive or relevant General Manager).



## Order of Business

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening karakia</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public forum</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Acceptance of late items</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confidential business to be transferred into the open</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Change to the order of business</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	7.1 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026 .....	8
<b>8</b>	<b>Declaration of conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Deputations, presentations, petitions</b> .....	<b>29</b>
	Nil	
<b>10</b>	<b>Recommendations from other committees</b> .....	<b>29</b>
	Nil	
<b>11</b>	<b>Business</b> .....	<b>30</b>
	11.1 Independent survey of the community .....	30
	11.2 Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 at June 2026 .....	146
	11.3 Development Contributions Policy 2026/27 - consultation feedback and deliberations.....	189
	11.4 User Fees and Charges 2026/27 - Hearings and Deliberations.....	190
	11.5 Te Awanui Maori ward.....	191
	11.6 Draft Amendment to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026 .....	212
	11.7 Review of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee Terms of Reference .....	244
	11.8 Temporary Road Closure Report for Events 2026 - 2027 .....	248
	11.9 Remuneration for Tangata Whenua Appointed to Council Standing Committees and Water Organisation Joint Committee .....	253
	11.10 Status updates on actions from prior Council meetings.....	256
<b>12</b>	<b>Discussion of late items</b> .....	<b>257</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Public excluded session</b> .....	<b>258</b>
	13.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026 .....	258
<b>14</b>	<b>Closing karakia</b> .....	<b>259</b>



- 1 OPENING KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 PUBLIC FORUM**
- 4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**
- 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**
- 6 CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

## **7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026**

**File Number: A20278834**

**Author: Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

**Authoriser: Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services**

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

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### **ATTACHMENTS**

#### **1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026**



# **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council meeting  
Tuesday, 12 May 2026**

UNCONFIRMED

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening karakia</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public forum</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1	Mr Anthony Ririnui - Submission on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27, on behalf of Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and the Maungatapu Marae community. ....	4
3.2	Mr Leigh Pettigrew - Closure of access to Mauao, the Surf Club and the boat ramp.....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Acceptance of late items</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confidential business to be transferred into the open</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Change to the order of business</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>8</b>	<b>Declaration of conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Deputations, presentations, petitions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>10</b>	<b>Recommendations from other committees</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>11</b>	<b>Business</b> .....	<b>7</b>
11.1	Badminton Multisport Centre.....	7
11.2	Baypark Implementation & Sports Programme Sequencing .....	8
11.3	Private Plan Change 40 - Mount Maunganui Golf Club Incorporated - Recommendation on Private Plan Change Request.....	9
11.4	Papakāinga housing funding support .....	10
11.5	Funding Options for Tourism Bay of Plenty and Bay Venues 2026-27 Annual Plan Requests.....	11
11.6	January Weather Event - Recovery Progress Report .....	13
11.7	New Year's Eve Level of Service Decision .....	14
11.8	Appointment of Tangata Whenua Representatives to Water Organisation Joint Committee.....	14
11.9	Dog Registration Fee 2026/2027 Year .....	15
11.10	Appointment of Tangata Whenua Members to SmartGrowth Leadership Group ....	15
<b>12</b>	<b>Discussion of late items</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Public excluded session</b> .....	<b>17</b>
13.1	Asset Realisation Reserve (ARR) - Further Properties for Disposal Classification .....	17
13.2	Marine Precinct - Update.....	17
13.3	Property Enforcement Update .....	18
13.4	University of Waikato Strategic Partnership Agreement and Financial Contribution.....	18

13.5 Western Bay of Plenty Deal Agreement Approval ..... 18

13.11 Marine Precinct - Supplementary Report - Draft Memorandum of Understanding..... 18

Confidential Attachment 1 11.1 - Badminton Multisport Centre ..... 19

Confidential Attachment 2 11.4 - Papakāinga housing funding support..... 19

Confidential Attachment 3 11.4 - Papakāinga housing funding support..... 19

**14 Closing karakia ..... 19**

**Resolutions transferred into the open section of the meeting after discussion ..... 19**

UNCONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,  
TAURANGA  
ON TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor, Cr Hēmi Rolleston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Marty Grenfell (Chief Executive), Christine Jones (General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth), Sarah Omundsen (General Manager: Regulatory & Community Services), Reneke van Soest (General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure), Craig Rice (Chief Operating & Financial Officer), Gareth Green (Head of Office - Manager of the Mayoral Office), Kathryn Sharplin (Head of Finance), Jane Small (Director Major Projects), Ross Hudson (Head of Spaces & Places), Amanda Davies (Manager: Spaces and Places Project Outcomes), Janine Speedy (Team Leader: City Planning), Brent Musk (Intermediate Planner (Policy), Andy Mead (Head of City Planning & Growth), Alison Law (Head of City Operations), Gareth Wallis (Head of Community Hubs, Arts, Heritage & Events), Jenna Quay, (Event Facilitations Manager), Deidre Ewart (Head of Regulatory Support & Compliance Services), Oscar Glossop (Team Leader: Animal Services), Susan Davidson (Head of Communications & Engagement), Sarah Holmes (Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

Timestamps are included beside each of the items and relate to the recording of the meeting held on 12 May 2026 on [Council's You Tube channel](#).

## **1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Cr Hēmi Rolleston opened the meeting with a karakia.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

### 3 PUBLIC FORUM

#### 3.1 Mr Anthony Ririnui - Submission on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27, on behalf of Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and the Maungatapu Marae community.

Mr Anthony Ririnui, speaking on behalf of Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and the Maungatapu Marae community, provided an introduction in Te Reo and made the following points:

- This submission was about resilience, infrastructure and the protection of our people, marae and community assets.
- The impacts of recent weather events such as flooding and a tornado across the rohe had reinforced the vulnerability of the community, something that had been raised by the community for some time and was now a reality.
- Maungatapu Marae was a place of identity, connection, shelter and emergency support for its people. When marae infrastructure was under pressure, the entire community was impacted. Stormwater infrastructure was understood to be undersized in terms of current demand.
- The support from Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council provided last year in terms of identifying risk was acknowledged. Environmental specialists were commissioned to understand hazard identification and resilience assessment work, which identified a number of challenges for stormwater capacity, flooding, vulnerability, instability and wider climate impacts affecting the marae and surrounding whenua.
- A continuation of this partnership was now being sought. Council was asked, through the Annual Plan, to prioritise and implement the upgrading of the marae's stormwater network, progress immediate planning and investment for resilient infrastructure, recognise marae as part of critical emergency planning infrastructure and to continue to work alongside hapū in a genuine partnership approach.

#### Action Requested:

- That staff advise Elected Members if anything has been done in terms of progressing the requests from the Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and the Maungatapu Marae community's submission to the Annual Plan 2025/26.

#### 3.2 Mr Leigh Pettigrew - Closure of access to Mauao, the Surf Club and the boat ramp.

Mr Pettigrew and Mr Gillingham addressed Council regarding the impacts of the January extreme weather event at Mauao / Mount Maunganui:

- Mr Pettigrew requested Council consider reopening the boat ramp and surf club with appropriate warning signage and temporary closures during severe weather, and noted concerns about ongoing access restrictions.
- He also raised liability issues for the Mauao Trust and suggested Council consider protections such as an indemnity. He further proposed a memorial fund and permanent commemoration for the six people who lost their lives.
- Mr Gillingham outlined a proposal for improved landslip risk management through early warning systems, including the use of soil-moisture monitoring (piezometers) to provide site-specific alerts beyond reliance on weather forecasts. He advised the approach could improve public safety if explored further.

**Mayor Drysdale's comments**

- The Mayor advised that the surf club had been cleared for re-occupation from a Council perspective, with reopening now a matter for the club's governance, and that work was underway on mitigations to enable reopening of the boat ramp.
- He noted that contractors were currently clearing the summit track, while planning continued for other track repairs.
- The Mayor also confirmed that movement sensors and alarm systems were already in place near the main slip area and indicated that the presenters' suggestions could inform consideration of longer-term risk mitigation measures.

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**3.3 Mr Graeme Neilson and Ms Delwyn Cooper - BOP Badminton & Community Sports Facility**

Mr Nielsen presented a proposal for a dedicated indoor badminton and multi-court community sports facility for Tauranga:

- He advised that Tauranga was the only major city in New Zealand without a purpose-built badminton facility and that the sport was experiencing strong growth, particularly in secondary schools.
- He outlined a community-led, community-funded model, with Bay of Plenty Badminton committing \$8 million and seeking a matching contribution from Council.
- The proposed facility would be community-owned and managed, include multi-use courts for other sports, and operate with no ongoing operational cost to Council, while relieving pressure on school and Bay Venues facilities and enabling regional and national events.

Ms Delwyn Cooper outlined the longstanding need for a dedicated badminton facility in Tauranga:

- There had been a 15-year effort to secure a permanent home for the sport.
- There was continued reliance on school facilities, which were insecure and at risk of being withdrawn from community use, and the operational and cost challenges of hosting tournaments in multi-use venues.
- Ms Cooper emphasised that a purpose-built facility would provide a stable, self-sufficient base for clubs, reduce reliance on grants, support strong growth in participation (particularly among secondary school students), and serve the wider Bay of Plenty region.

**In response to questions**

- Current reliance on school and multi-use venues was insecure and constrained participation growth.
- The Trust was seeking Council support alongside community funding. Council's confirmed commitment is \$5 million.
- If Council's contribution did not increase, the project would likely be delayed or may not proceed due to the remaining funding gap and cost escalation.
- The facility would be community-owned/managed with no ongoing operating cost to Council.

Ms Delwyn Cooper was recognised for her years of hard work to achieve the Badminton facility.

### **3.4 Rick Podrell and Tracy Walters - Tauranga Netball Board - new netball facility at Baypark**

Mr Podrell and Ms Walters presented the proposal for a new netball facility at Baypark, outlining its development as part of the Blake Park master planning process and providing the following points:

- There was a need for a modern, fit-for-purpose multi-court facility to support strong growth in netball participation and to enable Tauranga to host regional and national events.
- The benefits of relocating netball to Baypark were improved traffic management, integration with other sports, and enhanced community and economic outcomes.
- Tauranga Netball was here today seeking clarity, certainty of funding, and timelines to allow the project to progress.

#### **In response to questions**

- The project had been in development since around 2021 and insufficient funding would likely delay or prevent delivery of the project.
- Tauranga was unusual in that it lacked a dedicated netball facility.
- Continued use of school courts was uncertain. The proposed Baypark facility would be community-owned and managed with no ongoing operational cost to Council.

The Mayor thanked all the public forum speakers for their attendance today.

## **4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

The Chair advised there were no late items, but there was one supplementary public excluded item.

## **5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**

Cr Rolleston proposed that the Strategic Partnership Agreement from item 13.4 'University of Waikato Strategic Partnership Agreement and Financial Contribution' be moved into the open section of the meeting.

The Chair asked staff to consider this and that it would be revisited later in the meeting.

## **6 CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair advised there was no immediate change to the order of business, however this could change during the course of the meeting.

## **7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Nil

## 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Rolleston declared a conflict of interest in relation to public excluded item 13.5 'Western Bay of Plenty Deal Agreement Approval', stating he was related to the Manager of the University of Waikato. He would however participate in the item.

## 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

Nil

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil

## 11 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 46 minutes and 10 seconds

### 11.1 Badminton Multisport Centre

**Staff** Ross Hudson, Head of Spaces & Places  
Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Mayor Mahé Drysdale  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Badminton Multisport Centre "
- (b) Confirms its commitment to a \$5m contribution to the Badminton Multisport Centre, with the financial treatment of that contribution to be considered at a future Council meeting in the context of the Arena Expansion business case, indoor courts level of service and development contributions allocations.
- (c) The confidential attachment is to remain in the public excluded section to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

#### AN AMENDMENT WAS PROPOSED

Move: Cr Schuler  
Second: Cr Morris

- (b) Confirms its commitment to a **\$6m** contribution to the Badminton Multisport Centre, with the financial treatment of that contribution to be considered at a future Council meeting in the context of the Arena Expansion business case, indoor courts level of service and development contributions allocations.

**In Favour:** Crs Hautapu Baker, Steve Morris, Marten Rozeboom, Kevin Schuler and Rod Taylor  
**Against:** Crs Mahé Drysdale, Jen Scoular, Glen Crowther, Rick Curach and Hēmi Rolleston

**EQUAL**

The amendment **failed**. The original motion was put:

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/1

Moved: Mayor Mahé Drysdale  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Badminton Multisport Centre "
- (b) Confirms its commitment to a \$5m contribution to the Badminton Multisport Centre, with the financial treatment of that contribution to be considered at a future Council meeting in the context of the Arena Expansion business case, indoor courts level of service and development contributions allocations.
- (c) The confidential attachment is to remain in the public excluded section to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

**CARRIED**

At 11.03am the meeting adjourned.

At 11.16am the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 1 hour and 45 minutes

## 11.2 Baypark Implementation & Sports Programme Sequencing

**Staff** Amanda Davies, Manager: Spaces and Places Project Outcomes  
Ross Hudson, Head of Spaces & Places  
Alison Law, Head of City Operations

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/2

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular  
Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Baypark Implementation & Sports Programme Sequencing".
- (c) Endorses the proposed sequencing of the Sports Facilities Programme, including integrated and prioritised implementation of the Baypark masterplan, subject to confirmation of Annual Plan and Long Term Plan budgets.
- (d) Agrees to proceed with the design, consenting and pre-construction phases of the Baypark programme and allocates \$2m of capital investment in FY27 for that purpose, noting the offer of \$4m over the same period from external funding partners to the start-up stages of the Netball Multisport and Arena Expansion projects.

- (e) Allocates \$4m of capital investment in FY27 for the decommissioning of the existing Memorial Pools and the design and consenting phase of the Memorial Park Aquatics Centre, noting a further decision on the scale and phasing of the project is proposed for September 2026.
- (f) Notes that the demolition of the existing Memorial Pool will be subject to acknowledgment that the detailed design of the new Memorial Park Aquatic Centre will include a clear and meaningful connection to the living memorial in the existing Memorial Park pool, extending that memorial to include veterans of all wars.
- (g) Agrees to defer \$1.94m of carried forward capex for the Badminton Multisport Centre to FY28, freeing up capacity in FY27 and agrees the carry forward of \$0.85m of capex for Baypark from FY26, offsetting the additional costs above, leaving \$3.21m to be added to the capex programme to enable recommendations (d) and (e) above.
- (h) Requests staff provide Council with refined cost estimates and a refined implementation programme to inform the Long Term Plan 2027-37.
- (i) Acknowledges the commitment from TECT towards the implementation of this programme.

**CARRIED**

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/3

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That the Council:

- (b) Agrees to proceed to the consenting and construction of the Netball Multisport Centre at Baypark with staff to report back on a refined budget including capital and operational costs before proceeding to award a contract for construction.

**In Favour:** Crs Mahé Drysdale, Jen Scoular, Rick Curach, Steve Morris, Marten Rozeboom, Kevin Schuler, Rod Taylor and Hēmi Rolleston

**Against:** Cr Hautapu Baker

**Abstained:** Cr Glen Crowther

**CARRIED 8/1**

Timestamp: 2 hours and 50 minutes

### 11.3 Private Plan Change 40 - Mount Maunganui Golf Club Incorporated - Recommendation on Private Plan Change Request

**Staff** Janine Speedy, Team Leader: City Planning  
Brent Musk, Intermediate Planner (Policy)  
Andy Mead, Head of City Planning & Growth

**RESOLUTION CO/26/7/4**

Moved: Cr Rod Taylor

Seconded: Cr Hēmi Rolleston

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Private Plan Change 40 - Mount Maunganui Golf Club Incorporated - Recommendation on Private Plan Change Request".
- (b) Accepts, in whole, the private plan change request by Mount Maunganui Golf Club Incorporated in accordance with clause 25(2)(b) of Schedule 1 of the RMA, and approves that the request be notified as soon as practicable.
- (c) Delegates authority to the General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth to approve the notification of the request in accordance with the provisions of the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (d) Adheres to Council's policy of full recovery of costs associated with processing the private plan change request: Private Plan Change 40 (PC40).
- (e) Separate to the RMA plan change process, continue discussions with Mount Maunganui Golf Club and Mount Intermediate regarding allowing public walking and cycling access from Fairway Avenue to Mount Intermediate School.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 3 hours and 4 minutes

**11.4 Papakāinga housing funding support**

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

**RESOLUTION CO/26/7/5**

Moved: Cr Hēmi Rolleston

Seconded: Cr Rod Taylor

That the Council:

- a) Receives the report "Papakāinga housing funding support
- b) Approves the distribution and administration of the Papakāinga Fund as follows (Option 1A):
  - i. Eligibility criteria requiring projects to:
    - o Meet the definition of papakāinga under the Development Contributions Grants Policy
    - o Be located within Tauranga City Council boundaries
    - o Have appropriate governance and commitments in place
    - o Be multi-dwelling developments at detailed planning or consent stage
    - o Demonstrate readiness to progress and build
    - o Use funding for planning and consenting costs, engineering and technical investigations, surveying, and geotechnical works.

- ii. An allocation process involving:
    - o An Expression of Interest process in May/June 2026
    - o Assessment by a senior staff panel against the eligibility criteria
    - o Refinement with eligible applicants by the Papakāinga Advisor and relevant technical staff
    - o Final funding approval by the General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships and Growth.
  - iii. Rollover of any unallocated Papakāinga Fund balance to the following financial year.
  - iv. Release of the second tranche of the Papakāinga Fund of \$200,000 in the 2026/27 financial year, to be allocated in accordance with the above process.
- c) Approves changes to the Grant Fund for Development Contributions on Papakāinga Housing as follows (Option 2A):
- (i) Transfer of budget to the Papakāinga Fund on an as-needed basis, while maintaining sufficient funding to meet the Grant Fund's purpose.
  - (ii) Reduction in proportion of development contributions funded from 100% to a range of 50–75%, subject to engagement outcomes.
  - (iii) Council receipt of an annual staff-led review of outcomes and processes to ensure the objectives of both funds are being met and to support continuous improvement.
  - (iv) Following appropriate engagement, provision of an updated Draft Grants for Development Contributions on Papakāinga Housing Policy to Council for approval on 21 July 2026.
- d) Delegates financial authority to the Chief Operating and Financial Officer to transfer budget from the Grant Fund for Development Contributions on Papakāinga Housing to the Papakāinga Fund, on advice from the General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships and Growth.
- e) Notes that options for the continuation or discontinuation of both the Papakāinga Fund and the Grant Fund for Development Contributions on Papakāinga Housing will be presented for Council consideration during development of the Long-term Plan 2027–2037.
- f) Notes that should the Papakāinga Fund continue post-2026/27, a guiding framework or policy will be developed by 1 July 2027 to ensure a structured and transparent approach to the fair distribution of this fund.
- g) That a papakāinga task force be put in place to both monitor the effectiveness of this proposal and determine any other initiatives that are required to support papakāinga housing. With the terms of reference and appointments to come back a future Council meeting
- h) Attachment 2 is to remain in the public excluded section as it contains confidential financial and other information relating to other parties.
- i) Attachment 3 is to remain in the public excluded section as it contains confidential financial and other information relating to other parties.

**CARRIED**

At 1.03pm the meeting adjourned.

At 1.44pm the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 4 hours and 14 minutes

## 11.5 Funding Options for Tourism Bay of Plenty and Bay Venues 2026-27 Annual Plan Requests.

**Staff** Kathryn Sharplin, Head of Finance  
Craig Rice, Chief Operating & Financial Officer

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/6

Moved: Cr Kevin Schuler

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Funding Options for Tourism Bay of Plenty and Bay Venues 2026-27 Annual Plan Requests."
- (b) For Bay Venues agrees:
  - (i) to fund through rates additional operational grant for the 2026-27 Annual Plan of \$317,390 for facility painting and QEYC operations.
  - (ii) to an additional one-off loan funded grant of \$365,000 to fund the proposed investment in Leisure Management SaaS.
  - (iii) interest on the \$365,000 loan along with debt retirement over an eight-year period should be covered by rates at an annual rates requirement of \$61,138 to be funded through Council's debt arrangements.
- (d) Agrees the additional rates requirement from decisions above should be funded from a carry forward of unspent rates from 2025/26, with this funding either from additional rates surplus, or if that is not available from the reserve buffer agreed as part of the agreed rates funding to be carried forward to 2026/27.
- (f) Requests staff to report back on using Airport surplus to fund the full costs of establishing the Te Manawataki o Te Papa isite.

**CARRIED**

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/7

Moved: Cr Kevin Schuler

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That Council:

- (c) For Tourism Bay of Plenty agrees
  - (ii) to a one-off loan funded grant of \$150,000 to take total budget to \$450,000 to fund Our Place Tauranga brand expenditure
  - (iii) interest on the \$150,000 loan and debt retirement over a 10-year period should be covered by rates at an annual rates requirement of \$21,000 to be funded through Council's debt arrangements.

**In Favour:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor and Cr Hēmi Rolleston

**Against:** Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Glen Crowther and Cr Rick Curach

**CARRIED 7/3**

**RESOLUTION CO/26/7/8**

Moved: Cr Kevin Schuler

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That Council:

(c) For Tourism Bay of Plenty agrees:

- (i) to a one-off grant of \$235,000 to fund capital expenditure for fitout of the isite at Te Manawataki o Te Papa and development of a mobile isite using Airport surplus through the Airport Tourism Contestable Reserve.
- (iv) to fund through the Airport Tourism Contestable Reserve additional operating grant of \$93,000 for development of the city's digital visitor kiosk network and associated visitor and emergency information systems.

**In Favour:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor and Cr Hēmi Rolleston

**Against:** Cr Rick Curach

**CARRIED 9/1**

Timestamp: 4 hours and 44 minutes

**11.6 January Weather Event - Recovery Progress Report**

**Staff** Charlie Rahiri, Recovery Manager

**Actions Requested:**

That staff:

- Provide Elected Members with the expenses broken down by vendor and set out money being spent on remediation in future reporting.
- Put all future updates in the report in red font.

**RESOLUTION CO/26/7/9**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

Seconded: Cr Rick Curach

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "January Weather Event - Recovery Progress Report".
- (b) Approves the Recovery reporting format that will be used for future progress updates, with suggestions as noted today.
- (c) Notes that Recovery updates will provided at least six-weekly to Council and weekly to the working group and Elected Members.
- (d) Following the working group meeting on Friday, 15 May, a communication and engagement plan for Mauao recovery will be shared which would outline the regular community updates and engagement.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 5 hours and 30 minutes

## 11.7 New Year's Eve Level of Service Decision

**Staff** Gareth Wallis, Head of Community Hubs, Arts, Heritage & Events

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/10

Moved: Cr Hautapu Baker

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "New Year's Eve Level of Service Decision".
- (b) Approves one of the following options for delivery of council-led New Year's Eve events:
  - (i) Option 1: Retain the status quo.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 5 hours and 53 minutes

## 11.8 Appointment of Tangata Whenua Representatives to Water Organisation Joint Committee

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/11

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Appointment of Tangata Whenua Representatives to Water Organisation Joint Committee".
- (b) Appoints the following Tangata Whenua representatives nominated, by Tangata Whenua, as members of the Water Organisation Joint Committee:
  - (i) Hakopa Tapiata
  - (ii) Hon Kiritapu Allan
  - (iii) Kylie Smallman
- (c) Appoints the following Tangata Whenua representatives, nominated by Tangata Whenua, as alternate members of the Water Organisation Joint Committee:
  - (i) Shadrach Rolleston
  - (ii) Rohario Murray
  - (iii) Roana Bennett
- (d) Notes that remuneration will be considered at a future Council meeting.

**In Favour:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr

Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor and Cr Hēmi Rolleston

**Abstain:** Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 5 hours and 47.24 minutes

### 11.9 Dog Registration Fee 2026/2027 Year

**Staff** Deidre Ewart, Head of Regulatory Support & Compliance Services  
Oscar Glossop, Team Leader: Animal Services

#### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/12

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Cr Rick Curach

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Dog Registration Fee 2026/2027 Year".
- (b) Sets the dog registration fee for 2026/27 at \$133.
- (c) Sets the additional penalty fee for dogs that are not registered by 31 July 2026 at 50% of the standard fee (i.e. a total of \$199.50).
- (d) Notes that Council's Dog Management Policy and Bylaw and Keeping of Animals Bylaw are currently under review.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 5 hours and 48 minutes

### 11.10 Appointment of Tangata Whenua Members to SmartGrowth Leadership Group

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

#### Action Requested:

- That staff provide elected members with a breakdown of the SmartGrowth budget

#### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/13

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Appointment of Tangata Whenua Members to SmartGrowth Leadership Group".
- (b) Appoints the following Tangata Whenua Representatives as members of the SmartGrowth Leadership Group:

- i) Matire Duncan, nominated by Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana
- ii) Whitiara McLeod, nominated by Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana
- iii) Hakopa Tapiata, nominated by Te Ihu o te waka o Te Arawa
- iv) Heta Gardiner, nominated by Te Kahui Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana.

**CARRIED**

At 3.22pm the meeting adjourned.

At 3.36pm the meeting resumed in open.

### EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME

#### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/14

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Kevin Schuler

That the Council meeting extends the meeting time beyond 6 hours.

**CARRIED**

Timestamp: 6 hours and 5 minutes

### ITEM TRANSFERRED INTO OPEN:

#### 11.11 Strategic Partnership Agreement from public excluded item 13.4: University of Waikato Strategic Partnership Agreement and Financial Contribution

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

#### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/15

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Mayor Mahé Drysdale

That the council:

- (a) Receives the report 'Strategic Partnership Agreement - 'University of Waikato Strategic Partnership Agreement and Financial Contribution'
- (b) Approves the Strategic Partnership Agreement (attachment 1) between Tauranga City Council and the University of Waikato and authorises the Chief Executive to sign the agreement on Council's behalf.

**CARRIED**

## 12 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

### 13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

#### Resolution to exclude the public at 4.05pm

#### RESOLUTION CO/26/7/16

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<p><b>13.1 - Asset Realisation Reserve (ARR) - Further Properties for Disposal Classification</b></p>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p><b>13.2 - Marine Precinct - Update</b></p>	<p>s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p><b>13.3 - Property Enforcement Update</b></p>	<p>s6(a) - The making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial</p> <p>s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely</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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

	<p>unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	
<b>13.4 - University of Waikato Strategic Partnership Agreement and Financial Contribution</b>	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council 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
<b>13.5 - Western Bay of Plenty Deal Agreement Approval</b>	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council 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
<b>13.11 - Marine Precinct - Supplementary Report - Draft Memorandum of Understanding</b>	<p>s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</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 would exist under section 6 or section 7
<b>Confidential Attachment 1 - 11.1 - Badminton Multisport Centre</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would 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
<b>Confidential Attachment 2 - 11.4 - Papakāinga housing</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely	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

<b>funding support</b>	unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
<b>Confidential Attachment 3 - 11.4 - Papakāinga housing funding support</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would 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

**CARRIED**

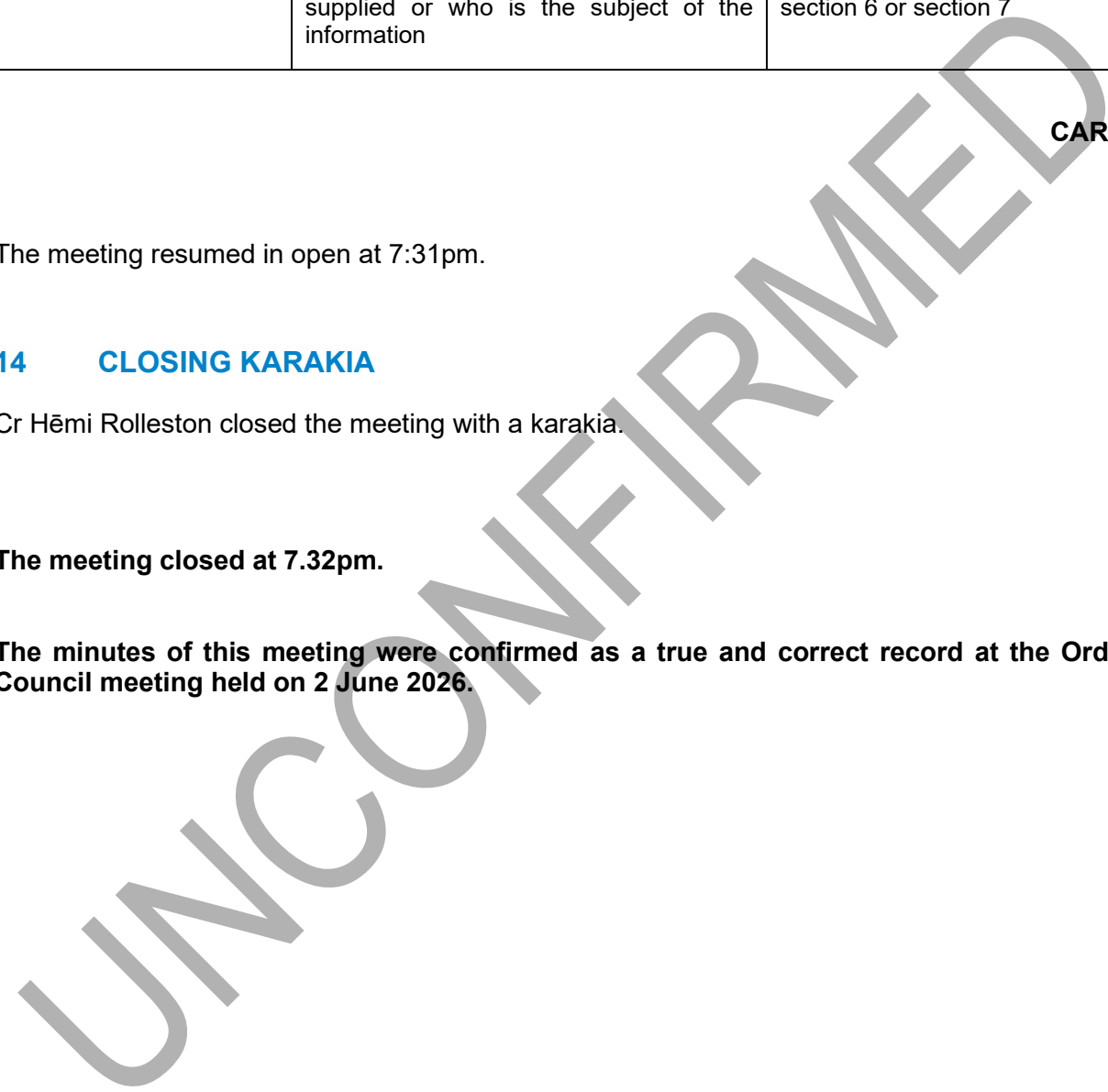
The meeting resumed in open at 7:31pm.

**14 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Cr Hēmi Rolleston closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 2 June 2026.



**8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

Nil

## 11 BUSINESS

### 11.1 Independent survey of the community

**File Number:** A20272756

**Author:** Josh Logan, Team Leader: Policy & Corporate Planning

**Authoriser:** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report seeks to report back to Council on the demographically sound and independent survey that was requested by Resolution CO/26/2/15 at Council's meeting 21 February 2026.

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Independent survey of the community".

---

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report presents the results of the 2026 *Tauranga, Tell us what you think*, community survey delivered independently by PublicVoice Limited. The survey report (**Attachment 1**) provides statistically robust evidence base on residents' views about rates, service priorities, long-term direction, and trust in Council.
3. The survey captured the views of 1,000 Tauranga residents aged 18 and over, with results weighted to align with the Tauranga 2023 Census. It tested residents' preferences on rates affordability, which services they consider core Council business, which services they would protect or reduce, where they see opportunities for efficiency, and the principles they want to guide Council decision-making for the annual and long-term plan.
4. The results present a clear and consistent picture. Residents are signalling strong concern about rates affordability. Nearly half of respondents believe the proposed rates increase should be lower, even if that requires further service reductions, while only a small minority support higher rates in exchange for improved services. When asked to choose between future rates paths, residents cluster around the middle options (an increase of 4%-10% per year), favouring moderate increases paired with either small service reductions or a status-quo approach.
5. At the same time, residents draw a clear distinction between core and discretionary services. Three waters services and roads consistently rank as the most important services and are the services residents most want protected from reductions. In contrast, residents are most comfortable seeing reductions or delays in discretionary areas such as events and festivals, new community facilities, streetscape improvements, libraries, and environmental programmes.
6. Beyond decisions about cutting or protecting services, residents also identify operational efficiency as a critical lever. Building and resource consents, city planning and growth management, roads delivery, and customer service are the area's most often identified as needing improvement. Qualitative responses reinforce perceptions of bureaucracy, slow delivery, and poor value for money, and link these issues directly to low trust in Council.

7. Trust and confidence in Council remains low, with the average trust score sitting below the midpoint of the scale. Residents repeatedly emphasise that rebuilding trust requires visible delivery, accountability, and financial discipline, rather than communication alone.
8. Overall, the survey provides Council with a clear mandate: focus on delivering core infrastructure well, demonstrate restraint and value for money in rates and spending decisions, reduce or pause discretionary activity where required, and pursue tangible efficiency improvements in areas where residents experience the greatest friction. These findings provide a strong evidence base to inform final annual plan and future long-term plan decisions and trade-offs.

**BACKGROUND**

9. Council commissioned the survey to understand residents’ views on rates, services, long-term priorities, and trust in Council. The survey was conducted between April and May 2026 using a mixed-method approach including a random postal sample, online responses, and supplementary channels to broaden reach.
10. The survey was undertaken in the second year of the current long-term plan cycle. It provides timely evidence to support final decisions on the Annual Plan 2026/27 and the upcoming long-term plan, particularly given ongoing cost pressures, infrastructure investment requirements, and rates affordability concerns.
11. Data collection for the survey took place between 13 April – 5 May 2026.
12. The sample selection was based across postal, community network, online panel, and Council subscriber channels. Of 1,072 valid responses, a subsample of n=1,000 was used for analysis, with weighted analysis applied on age and gender to align the sample to the Tauranga 2023 Census.
13. At an unweighted base of n = 1,000, the overall margin of error for the survey is approximately **±3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level** for a proportion near 50% (the most conservative case). For sub-groups, margins of error are larger and scale with the inverse square root of the sub-group n: ward-level margins (typical n ≈ 100-180) run around ±7-10 points, and smaller demographic cells should be treated as indicative only.

**STATUTORY CONTEXT**

14. This report supports decision-making under the Local Government Act 2002, which requires councils to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future. The survey findings will help inform Council’s long-term plan, including decisions on service levels, funding, and rates.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

15. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	✓
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	✓
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	✓

16. The survey findings inform all Tauranga City Council community outcomes, particularly:
  - **Tauranga Tatai Whenua – A well-planned city that is easy to move around**, through strong support for investment in transport and core infrastructure.

- **Tauranga Taurikura – A city that values, protects and enhances our environment**, by highlighting tensions between environmental aspirations and affordability.
- **An inclusive city**, by providing insight into differential impacts across age groups, wards, and financial circumstances.

### OPTIONS ANALYSIS

17. There are no options associated with this report. The report is provided as information only.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

18. The survey itself has no direct financial impact. However, the findings have significant implications for rates setting, service prioritisation, and expenditure decisions within the Annual Plan 2026/27 and Long-term Plan 2027-2037. Residents express a strong preference for rates restraint, protection of core infrastructure, and reductions or delays to discretionary spending.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / RISKS

19. There are no direct legal risks arising from receiving this report. Risks could arise if Council decisions are perceived as inconsistent with clear community feedback, particularly in relation to rates affordability and service prioritisation.

### TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

20. The survey included Māori respondents but did not involve targeted engagement with tangata whenua. The findings should be considered alongside existing relationships and engagement with mana whenua, particularly where decisions affect water, land, and long-term infrastructure. Ongoing engagement through established channels remains important to ensure decisions reflect both community-wide feedback and tangata whenua perspectives.

### CLIMATE IMPACT

21. The survey highlights strong community prioritisation of infrastructure resilience, including water services, stormwater, and transport, which supports adaptation to a changing climate. At the same time, residents express lower willingness to protect environmental programmes where these are perceived as discretionary. Council decisions informed by this report will need to balance affordability with obligations to reduce emissions and enhance nature and biodiversity.

### CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

22. Significant engagement has already occurred through the survey, which captured feedback from a broad cross-section of Tauranga residents. No further engagement is required for the purposes of receiving this report. Further engagement will occur through the long-term plan process as required.

### SIGNIFICANCE

23. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
24. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
- (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region

- (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the matter.
  - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
25. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the matter is of medium significance and the decision to receive the report is of low significance.



### ENGAGEMENT

26. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the matter is of medium significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision to receive this report.
27. The survey findings relate to decisions with city-wide social and financial implications and affect a large proportion of residents. However, this report itself does not make binding decisions; it provides evidence to inform subsequent annual and long-term plan decisions.

### NEXT STEPS

28. If received, the survey findings will be used to inform:
- Annual Plan 2026/27 rates and budget decisions
  - Long-term Plan 2027-2037 service level and prioritisation discussions
  - Communications with the community on trade-offs and affordability
29. The report (**Attachment 1**) and cross tabs (**Attachment 2**) attachments will also be published on our website.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think --2026 - A20321125 [↓](#) 
2. TCC\_Cross Tabs - A20321124 [↓](#) 



2026



# Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think

## Survey results

Prepared For :  
Tauranga City Council

Prepared By :  
PublicVoice



Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

## Prepared by PublicVoice Limited

This report was produced by PublicVoice Limited, in partnership with Tauranga City Council. The analysis combines quantitative survey research with qualitative thematic coding to provide evidence-based insights into resident views on what matters most for Tauranga's future.

## About PublicVoice

PublicVoice Limited is a leading research and engagement consultancy headquartered in Wellington, New Zealand. We specialise in public policy research and consultation, providing services to various local and central government agencies throughout New Zealand. To learn more about our work, please visit [www.publicvoice.co.nz](http://www.publicvoice.co.nz).

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<b>Author(s):</b>	PublicVoice Limited Research Team

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Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

## Contents

1	Executive summary.....	3
2	Introduction.....	6
3	Methodology.....	8
4	Respondent profile.....	14
5	Council services.....	22
6	Rates and spending.....	28
7	Long-term priorities.....	36
8	Trust in Council.....	45
9	Qualitative themes.....	48
	Appendix A: Weighted vs unweighted comparison.....	64
	Appendix B: Full questionnaire.....	66
	Appendix C: Sub-group breakdowns.....	76

## Figures

<b>Figure 1:</b>	Response channel (n=1,000).....	14
<b>Figure 2:</b>	Age band: sample vs Tauranga 18+ census (n=981).....	16
<b>Figure 3:</b>	Gender: sample vs Tauranga 18+ census (n=982).....	17
<b>Figure 4:</b>	Ethnicity (total response): sample vs Tauranga 18+ census (n=967).....	18
<b>Figure 5:</b>	Ward: sample vs Tauranga 18+ census (n=987).....	19
<b>Figure 6:</b>	Tenure: sample vs Tauranga 2023 Census estimate (n=975).....	20
<b>Figure 7:</b>	Household financial situation (n=949).....	21
<b>Figure 8:</b>	Service importance ranked by top-2-box (weighted).....	22
<b>Figure 9:</b>	Service importance: full weighted distribution.....	24
<b>Figure 10:</b>	Activities respondents see as NOT core council business.....	26
<b>Figure 11:</b>	Feelings about the proposed rates increase (weighted).....	28
<b>Figure 12:</b>	Services residents would protect from reductions (select up to three).....	29
<b>Figure 13:</b>	Areas residents would be comfortable seeing reduced or delayed (select up to three).....	31
<b>Figure 14:</b>	Service areas residents think could be delivered more efficiently.....	33
<b>Figure 15:</b>	10-year priorities, % ranking each in their top three (weighted).....	36
<b>Figure 16:</b>	10-year priorities: full rank distribution (weighted).....	37
<b>Figure 17:</b>	Decision principles, % ranking each in their top three (weighted).....	39
<b>Figure 18:</b>	Decision principles: full rank distribution (weighted).....	40
<b>Figure 19:</b>	Where Council’s long-term funding focus should be (weighted).....	41
<b>Figure 20:</b>	Preferred option for future rates increases (weighted).....	42
<b>Figure 21:</b>	Preferred rates band (Q10) by long-term funding focus (Q9), weighted.....	43
<b>Figure 22:</b>	Trust in Council: summary (weighted).....	45
<b>Figure 23:</b>	Trust in Council: full 0-10 distribution (weighted).....	46

## Tables

Table 1:	Key project dates.....	7
Table 2:	Fieldwork channels and dates.....	10
Table 3:	Response channel.....	14
Table 4:	Sample profile vs Tauranga 18+ census.....	15
Table 5:	Age band.....	16
Table 6:	Gender.....	17
Table 7:	Ethnicity (total response).....	18
PublicVoice		1

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

Table 8: Ward (derived from self-reported suburb) .....	19
Table 9: Tenure (prioritised summary) .....	20
Table 10: Tenure and property (total response) .....	20
Table 11: Household financial situation .....	21
Table 12: Service importance: full distribution (weighted) .....	25
Table 13: Activities respondents see as NOT core council business .....	27
Table 14: Q2: Themes in residual 'Other' responses .....	27
Table 15: Feelings about the proposed rates increase .....	28
Table 16: Services residents would protect from reductions (select up to three) .....	30
Table 17: Q4: Themes in residual 'Other' responses .....	30
Table 18: Areas residents would be comfortable seeing reduced or delayed (select up to three) .....	32
Table 19: Q5: Themes in residual 'Other' responses .....	32
Table 20: Service areas residents think could be delivered more efficiently .....	34
Table 21: Q6a: Themes in residual 'Other' responses .....	34
Table 22: 10-year priorities for Tauranga (weighted) .....	38
Table 23: Principles for long-term Council decisions (weighted) .....	40
Table 24: Long-term funding focus .....	41
Table 25: Preferred option for future rates increases .....	42
Table 26: Preferred rates band by funding focus (weighted) .....	43
Table 27: Trust and confidence in Council (weighted) .....	46
Table 28: Trust score: full 0-10 distribution (weighted) .....	47
Table 29: Q6: Theme frequencies for efficiency suggestions .....	54
Table 30: Message to Elected Members: theme frequencies .....	62

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

## 1 Executive summary

Tauranga City Council commissioned this survey to hear from residents about what matters most for Tauranga's future. It captured resident views on rates, service priorities, long-term funding focus, and trust in Council across postal, community network, online panel, and Council subscriber channels. Of 1,072 valid responses, a subsample of n=1,000 was used for analysis, with weighted analysis applied on age and gender to align the sample to the Tauranga 2023 Census.

### 1.1 The headline

Residents want Council to spend less, but deliver more visibly on the things that matter. The picture is consistent across the closed and open questions: a clear ranking of core services first, frustration with discretionary spending and operational drag, and a desire for elected members to listen, be transparent, and govern with discipline.

### 1.2 Where residents land on rates and direction

Sentiment on rates is firmly weighted toward restraint. Nearly half (48%) feel rates should be lower, even if that means further service reductions, against 32% who think rates are about right and 10% who would accept higher rates for better services, with 10% not sure. When asked to pick a specific path forward, 37% chose the 4-7% option (small service reductions) and 20% the 0-4% option (significant reductions), versus 10% for 10%+ (more services). At the same time, 57% want a balanced approach between current and future communities, suggesting the appetite for cuts is bounded: residents don't want short-term savings that mortgage the future.

This sits alongside low trust. The mean trust score in Council is 4.3 out of 10 (weighted), with 39% scoring 0-3 and only 10% scoring 8-10. Restraint and low trust are reinforcing each other: residents are reluctant to fund what they don't yet see being delivered well.

### 1.3 What counts as core council business

Residents push back on the framing that any of Council's listed activities are inherently non-core: 45% said none of the ten listed activities should be classed as non-core council business. Where respondents did nominate something, events and festivals (38%) was the clear outlier, followed by supporting community organisations (22%) and economic development and tourism (20%). The pattern says residents see most of what Council does as legitimately Council's job; the question is whether the discretionary edges are worth funding at current levels.

### 1.4 What residents want protected, and what they'd let go

Q4 and Q5 set up a direct trade-off: which services should be protected from cuts, and which would residents accept reducing if Council needs to find further savings. The two lists are close to mirror images of each other.

**Protect:** Three waters and roads sit clearly at the top of the protect list (water 55%, wastewater 38%, stormwater 33%, roads and transport 33%), reinforced by the importance ratings in Q1 (roads/footpaths at 96% top-2-box, water and rubbish/recycling at 95%).

**Reduce:** Events and festivals (59%), new community facilities (44%), street and landscape improvements (35%), libraries and cultural facilities (31%), and environmental and sustainability programmes (27%) are where residents would accept cuts.

The cuts residents will tolerate are the discretionary edges, not the core. Environmental and sustainability programmes show a clear reduce-protect gap: only 11% nominated them for protection while 27% were comfortable seeing them reduced or paused.

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

On 10-year priorities, “Deliver and maintain core services” (73% top-3) and “Address transport” (71%) lead clearly, with “Enable housing and manage growth” (56%) a step behind. On principles, “Accountable and transparent” (78%) sits ahead of “Look after what we’ve got” and “Value for money” (both 71%).

### 1.5 Where residents see efficiency gains

Beyond protect-and-reduce, residents point to a third lever: doing the same work for less. Building and resource consents (52%) and city planning and growth (49%) top the list of services residents think could be delivered more efficiently, followed by roads and footpaths (44%) and customer service (27%).

The open question on efficiency reinforced this: of 790 substantive responses, the dominant themes were bureaucracy and red tape (100 comments), streamlining consents (80), and faster delivery and decision-making (50). Roading drew a sub-theme of getting works right the first time and planning ahead of growth, with frequent reference to visible inefficiencies on works sites.

### 1.6 The message to elected members

963 respondents wrote a substantive message to elected members. Two themes of roughly equal weight dominated: governance (465) and rates and financial (466). Within governance, the strongest thread was relational: listen, be transparent, explain decisions, set egos aside. “*Council not listening to residents*” alone drew 119 mentions, with calls for genuine engagement and transparency following close behind. Within financial, the largest topics were wasteful spending (149) and a focus on core services (149), with rates affordability and direct calls to lower the increase close behind. Specific recurring concrete issues were paid parking discouraging CBD visits (30 mentions) and the closure and slow reopening of the Mauao tracks (29). A meaningful minority (45 respondents) used the open space to thank Council and the Mayor.

### 1.7 Where subgroups diverge

Most splits are modest, but a few stand out:

- **Age.** Under-35s are markedly more open to higher rates and more investment now: 17% chose the 10%+ option (vs 6-10% for older groups), 18% want Council to invest more for future communities (vs 5-10%), and they place protect-the-environment higher in priorities (49% top-3 vs 24% for 65+). Over-65s anchor the core-services-and-restraint position: 82% put “deliver core services” in their top-3 (vs 56% of under-35s), 67% would reduce events and festivals (vs 51% of under-35s), and they’re more likely to call rates about-right (46%) than too high.
- **Ward.** Pāpāmoa is the strongest concentration of rates-down sentiment, with 59% wanting rates lower and only 25% calling them about-right. Mauao/Mount Maunganui is more accepting of higher rates (16% say rates should be higher). Te Papa records the highest trust (29% scoring 7-10), Tauriko the lowest (17%).
- **Gender.** Males are more likely than females to protect three waters services (water 59% vs 51%, wastewater 46% vs 32%) and to favour reductions in libraries (38% vs 27%). Females are more likely to rate environmental, community, and emergency-management services as important (top-2-box gaps of 18, 12, and 13 points respectively).

### 1.8 Reading these results together

The four multi-select questions (Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6a) describe a coherent expectation of Council: protect the three waters and roads, accept reductions on events, new facilities, streetscape, libraries, and environmental programmes, and look hard at consenting, planning, and customer service for efficiency gains. Almost nothing residents identified for cuts sits in the infrastructure tier, and almost nothing they identified for protection sits in the discretionary tier.

The clearest message overall is a coherent one: residents want Council to do the basics very well, hold the line on rates, govern transparently, and stop or slow what feels discretionary. The qualitative comments suggest the standard isn’t “do less” so much as “do the core well and visibly”. Trust will not lift through

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

communication alone. It follows visible delivery on consenting, roadworks, water, and growth-related infrastructure. The subgroup picture suggests Council will need to balance the strong restraint signal from older ratepayers and Pāpāmoa with the willingness-to-invest signal from younger residents, especially on environment and future infrastructure.

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Purpose of the survey

Tauranga City Council commissioned this community survey to hear from residents about what matters most for Tauranga's future. The survey gathers resident views on rates, service priorities, long-term funding focus, and trust in Council, so that future Council decisions reflect the voices of Tauranga people.

### 2.2 Coverage

The survey covered the Tauranga 18+ resident population and was delivered through a mix of postal, in-person, online panel, and Council subscriber channels. A total of 1,072 valid responses were collected and analysed against the Tauranga 2023 Census population.

### 2.3 How to read this report

Headline figures in the main report are weighted to the Tauranga 2023 Census on age and gender. Sub-group differences are described in prose where they are statistically significant. The full unweighted comparison appears in Appendix A, the questionnaire in Appendix B, and sub-group breakdowns in Appendix C.

### 2.4 Project background

Tauranga is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing cities. Population growth, housing intensification, and pressure on transport and three waters infrastructure have been recurring features of Council planning for the past decade. Significant capital investment is underway across roading, water, wastewater, and stormwater networks, and several years of large rates increases have made affordability and value-for-money live issues for residents.

The survey was conducted in the second year of TCC's current Long-term Plan cycle. It gave Council an opportunity to test direction with the community on a small number of strategic questions where resident input shapes future decisions on services, rates, and priorities.

The survey also comes at a particular point in TCC's governance cycle. Tauranga's elected mayor and councillors returned in July 2024 following the Crown-appointed commissioner period (2021-2024). Several commissioner-era decisions, including major capital commitments and rates settings, continue to flow through current budgets, and Council has signalled an interest in understanding how residents view the direction of travel after the first full year back under elected governance.

### 2.5 Policy questions the survey was designed to answer

The survey instrument was built around six questions Council wanted to test with the community:

- **What services do residents value most?** Importance ratings across seventeen Council services (Q1), set against what residents would protect from reductions (Q4), what they would be comfortable seeing reduced (Q5), and where they think Council could deliver more efficiently (Q6).
- **What do residents consider core council business?** A test of whether activities like community facilities, events, economic development, and supporting community organisations are seen as legitimate council functions, or as discretionary spend (Q2).
- **How do residents feel about the proposed rates increase?** A direct read on whether the rates direction sits too high, about right, or too low against the service implications (Q3).
- **Which rates pathway do residents prefer over the longer term?** A forced choice between four rates trajectories tied to service levels: 0-4% (do less), 4-7% (service reductions), 7-10% (status quo), and 10%+ (do more) (Q10).
- **Where should Council's long-term focus sit?** The balance between keeping costs lower now, investing more for future communities, or a balanced approach (Q9); the priorities residents want

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

Council to lead with over the next ten years (Q7); and the principles residents want guiding long-term decision-making (Q8).

- **How much do residents trust Council to make good decisions on their behalf?** A 0-10 trust score (Q11), together with a free-text message to elected members where respondents could speak directly to the people making the decisions.

These six questions shape the structure of the body sections that follow.

## 2.6 Key project dates

Stage	Date
Survey design and TCC sign-off	March - early April 2026
Postal mail-out and community fieldwork open	13 April 2026
Online panel top-up open	28 April 2026
TCC database invitation open	3 May 2026
Fieldwork close (all channels)	10 May 2026
Draft report to TCC	12 May 2026
Final report to TCC	19 May 2026

Table 1: Key project dates

## 2.7 Guide to the rest of the report

The report is organised so the survey sections sit together in the body. The **Methodology** section sets out how the survey was designed and fielded, and how the analysis was conducted. The **Respondent profile** section describes who answered, compared to the Tauranga 18+ Census population. Body sections then cover **Council services** (Q1 importance, Q2 not-core), **Rates and spending** (Q3 rates feel, Q4 services to protect, Q5 areas to reduce, Q6a efficiency areas), **Long-term priorities** (Q7 ten-year priorities, Q8 decision principles, Q9 funding focus, Q10 preferred rates option), and **Trust in Council** (Q11). The **Qualitative themes** section draws together the open-text material, including the Q6b efficiency suggestions and the message-to-elected-members responses. Appendices provide the weighted-versus-unweighted comparison, the full questionnaire, and sub-group breakdowns by age, gender, and ward, with the fuller cross-tabs (including ethnicity, tenure, and financial situation) in the supporting cross-tab workbook.

Tauranga, Tell Us What You Think — 2026

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Overview

This section describes how the Tauranga City Council, Tauranga, tell us what you think survey was designed, fielded, processed, and analysed. The survey was commissioned by Tauranga City Council (TCC) and delivered by PublicVoice between March and May 2026. It was designed to give Council a current read on resident views on rates, service priorities, long-term funding focus, and trust in Council, to help guide future direction for the city.

The approach combines a randomly-sampled postal invitation to complete the survey online (the methodological backbone) with three supplementary channels that broaden reach into harder-to-recruit groups. The postal channel was a mailed letter offering both online and paper completion; in practice almost all postal respondents completed online. Headline results are weighted to the Tauranga 18+ resident population on age and gender, using 2023 Census targets. Open-ended responses were coded using a structured two-pass framework built from the data itself, with manual review at each stage.

### 3.2 Survey instrument

#### Questionnaire structure

The instrument was developed jointly by PublicVoice and TCC's elected members, with input from the Community Relations and Policy and Corporate Planning teams. It runs to 17 core content questions and a small set of demographic and follow-up items, designed for a 6-10 minute completion time.

The core content blocks are:

- **Service importance** (Q1) - 17-item importance battery covering services delivered by Council, rated on a 5-point importance scale plus Don't know
- **Council "core business"** (Q2) - multi-select of activities respondents consider NOT core business for a council
- **Rates** (Q3) - feeling about the proposed rates increase
- **Services to protect** (Q4) and **services comfortable to reduce** (Q5) - paired multi-select questions (up to three per question) exploring the trade-off Council faces
- **Efficiency** (Q6) - service areas residents think could be delivered more efficiently, with an open-text follow-up
- **10-year priorities** (Q7) - ranking of seven strategic priorities
- **Long-term decision principles** (Q8) - ranking of six principles Council should weight when making long-term decisions
- **Funding focus** (Q9) - whether Council should focus on keeping costs lower now, investing more for the future, or balancing both
- **Preferred rates option** (Q10) - choice between four rates pathways tied to service implications (0-4%, 4-7%, 7-10%, 10%+)
- **Trust** (Q11) - confidence in Council on a 0-10 scale
- **Open feedback** - a single message to elected members and a final general comment

Demographic items (Q12-Q17) cover age band, gender, ethnicity (total response, multi-select), suburb, tenure, and household financial situation. A short follow-up block (Q18) offers the prize draw, a copy of survey responses, and opt-in to future research.













































































































































































































## 11.2 Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 at June 2026

**File Number:** A20273011

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### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report presents the draft annual plan summary financials for the Annual Plan 2026/27 to be adopted on 23 June 2026. The June draft annual plan incorporates Council decisions on budgets and funding from April and May 2026 along with impacts of the updated capital programme and interest rate movements.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 at June 2026".
- (b) Approves to be incorporated in the Annual Plan for adoption on 23 June 2026:
  - (i) the Annual Plan 2026/27 Financials including a rates requirement of \$351m, which is an increase of 7.5% after growth of 0.5%.
  - (ii) the revised capital programme from **Attachment 3** of \$432m.
- (c) Notes additional carry forward budget requirements for capital projects of approximately \$18m are anticipated, which would bring the total capital programme for the year to \$450m.
- (d) Notes the financials do not meet the balanced budget requirement which the Local Government Funding Agency has included as a condition of its bespoke covenant with TCC (which includes growth interest but excludes development contribution revenue).
- (e) Notes Council will need to explain to the Board of Local Government Funding Agency the reasons this condition is not met.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report presents the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 incorporating Council decisions to date, revised debt forecasts, finalisation of the capital programme including impacts on operating expenditure and final internal review of budgets and funding. Interest budgets have been updated to reflect a higher interest rate assumption using latest market information and higher debt and deposit levels.
3. These adjustments are reflected in the financials contained in this report (Table 1) with the summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses and other summary information included in **Attachment 1**. A rates increase of 7.5% after growth of 0.5%, has been retained.

4. The rating impact by category is summarised in **Attachment 2**. Results for each category vary slightly influenced by relative changes in capital values. The rates increase for the median property in each category is as follows:
  - (a) median residential increase is 7.4%,
  - (b) median commercial increase is 7.5%,
  - (c) median industrial increase is 7.2%.
5. A capital programme of \$432m is budgeted for 2026/27 which is within the \$450m programme envelope, reflecting the rebudgeting of unspent project budget from 2025/26. A further carry forward amount of about \$18m is anticipated to be confirmed in July/August which would bring the total programme to be delivered up to \$450m.
6. Project savings have been identified totalling \$11.5m from major projects which is reflected in future capital budgets. The Papamoa East Interchange (PEI) in total has realised savings of \$8.5m with \$5.5m reflected in the 2025/26 budget year. Te Manawataki o Te Papa (TMoTP) has also realised a reduction in total project costs of \$3m. Details of the capital programme are included in **Attachment 3**.
7. The estimated year-end debt position at 30 June 2027 is \$1.736b, an increase of \$48m from the 21 April 2026 Annual Plan update report. This increase in debt results from a higher closing debt position in 2025/26, lower subsidy revenue and a change to the assumption of total capital delivery through 2026/27 based on the status of projects in the revised capital programme.
8. The balanced budget benchmark overall is 96.7%, with most of the imbalance relating to three waters which has a benchmark of 91.8%. TCC excluding 3 waters has a balanced budget benchmark of 98.6%. A balanced budget has been set as a condition of the Local Government funding Agency (LGFA) bespoke covenant. Council will need to advise the LGFA Board of the reasons for variance from 100% under the Prudence Benchmark calculation of the balanced budget.
9. Further rates surplus from 2025/26 could be added to the already agreed price volatility reserve to cover interest rate, price and material volatility. The available rates surplus will be confirmed at the 15 September City Delivery Committee meeting when the draft full year results are presented, subject to final audit.
10. The development of the Annual Plan document is underway. The format follows that of previous years. Financial tables are required to compare the Annual Plan operational budgets and capital programme with year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan. This Annual Plan document will be presented for adoption on 23 June 2026.

## BACKGROUND

11. At the 21 April 2026 Council meeting, Council agreed to a target rates increase of 7.5% after growth of 0.5% for the Annual Plan 2026/27. Projected rates surplus from 2025/26 of \$3.2m was agreed as a funding source for 2026/27 expenditure. Other expenditure was agreed to be funded by borrowing. Council also agreed to additional expenditure requests from two CCOs, Bay Venues and Tourism Bay of Plenty.
12. At the 12 May 2026 Council meeting, Council agreed to funding of this additional CCO expenditure from reserves, loans and 2025/26 rates surplus, reducing the potential price volatility reserve.
13. At the 10 February 2026 Council meeting, Council agreed to a total capital programme of \$450m for 2025/26 based on a programme of \$400m for the 2026/27 year and carry forward of unspent budgets from 2025/26 of \$50m.

## STATUTORY CONTEXT

14. This report continues the development of the Annual Plan 2026/27 as required under the Local Government Act 2002.

- 15. The Annual Plan document is a formal document to be adopted by Council identifying key changes from the Long-term Plan and summary financials.
- 16. The content of the Annual Plan document is currently being developed. In most respects the document follows that of previous years. Financial tables are required to compare the Annual Plan operational and capital budgets with year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan. The Annual Plan document will be presented for adoption on 23 June 2026 and will be circulated to elected members the week beginning 8 June for feedback.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

- 17. The Annual Plan contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	✓
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	✓
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	✓

- 18. The Annual Plan aligns with all community outcomes as it represents the resources Council commits to run the organisation and deliver services, grants to other organisations and capital investments to achieve these outcomes.

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

- 19. There are no options presented in this report as it is an update of the draft Annual Plan resulting from previous decisions of Council and updates to the capital programme and debt and interest rate assumptions. This report is the final opportunity for Council to consider the draft before the final Annual Plan is presented to Council for adoption on 23 June 2026.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Update of Key Financials for Draft Annual Plan 2026/27**

- 20. The draft Annual Plan key financials are summarised in Table 1 below. Consistent with Council’s earlier decision the rates increase proposed is 7.5%. The draft Annual Plan 2026/27 incorporates Council decisions to date, revised debt forecasts, finalisation of the capital programme and its operating cost impacts and final internal review of budgets and funding.

**Table 1 – Draft Key Financials for the 2026/27 Annual Plan**

Draft Key Financials for the 2026/2027 Annual Plan				
at 2 June 2026	TCC excluding 3 Waters	3 Waters	TCC including 3 Waters	Variance to previous year AP
	2027 Draft Annual Plan	2027 Draft Annual Plan	2027 Draft Annual Plan	Variance to 2026 Annual Plan
	\$m	\$m	\$m	Plan \$m
<b>Capital and Debt Summary</b>				
Capital Programme	238	140	378	(47)
Operational Expenditure of a Capital Nature	54	0	54	(24)
	292	140	432	(71)
Net Debt	1,098	638	1,736	88
Debt to revenue ratio (LGFA compliance)*	232%	421%	279%	19%
Financial Limit on Borrowing (debt to revenue ratio - bespoke)	330%	330%	330%	0%
Additional Borrowing Capacity at 330% D:R (Headroom)	446	(138)	309	
<b>Operational Summary</b>				
Total revenue including all asset development revenue	440	218	658	20
Capital subsidies	40	5	45	(16)
Total operating revenue	385	152	537	5
Total operating expenditure including losses & provisions	431	170	602	11
Balanced budget (LGFA requirement)	98.6%	91.8%	96.7%	(3.5)%
<b>Rates Revenue</b>				
Rates Revenue (Excluding WBM)	255	96	351	26
Water by Meter revenue	0	49	49	6
Rates Revenue (Including WBM)	255	145	400	32
<b>Year on Year Rates Increases</b>				
Total rates Increase Excluding WBM (net growth & penalties) %	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	
Water by Meter revenue increase %		15.1%	15.1%	
Water by Meter unit rate and increase (\$m <sup>3</sup> incl GST)		\$4.16	\$4.16	7.5%

- Debt in the debt to revenue calculation is exclusive of borrower notes of \$57m in the debt to revenue calculation

21. The key operating metrics are shown in **Attachment 1**, with three waters activities shown separately from the rest of Council. In summary the key operating metrics are as follows:
- The rates requirement is \$351m which represents a rates increase of 7.5% after growth of 0.5% based on the overall movement in rates requirement year on year.
  - This increase in rates is reflected in the rates increases for various categories of ratepayers with some minor changes due to relative capital value changes. The median rates increase by ratepayer category for the median property are as follows:
    - Residential 7.4%
    - Commercial 7.5%

- (iii) Industrial 7.2%
- (c) The draft rate impacts by ratepayer category are included as **Attachment 2**.
- (d) Total revenue is \$658m with a reduction of subsidies related to Tauriko West timing offset by an increase in vested assets revenue based on an update in the timing of growth projects. A target of \$800,000 for other subsidy and partnership funding has been included in capital subsidies in addition to already agreed funding for specific projects.
- (e) Total expenditure is \$602m with most of this expenditure funded from rates and user fees but a portion funded from rates surpluses from 2025/26, loan funding and funding from the risk reserve. The combination of higher debt and higher interest rates has led to higher interest revenue and expense in the Annual Plan than in earlier drafts. There has been some movement between categories of expenditure, and changes to depreciation as a result of changes to the capital programme and assets created and their useful lives.

### Debt and Borrowing Limits

- 22. The budgeted year-end debt position is \$1.736b an increase of \$48m from the 21 April 2026 report. This increase reflects revision to timing of capital grants revenue, an increase in the assumption of the amount of the capital programme likely to be delivered for the year, and non-rates funding of additional expenditure.
- 23. With a debt to revenue ratio of 279%, Council is effectively at the standard LGFA borrowing limit (280%), with little headroom. This is because the waters activities have debt well above the limit. Recognising this challenge Council applied for and was provided a bespoke covenant by the Board of LGFA. The bespoke covenant limit is 330%. At this limit Council has borrowing headroom of \$308m. If the three waters activities were hypothetically already in a separate water organisation, Council would have a debt to revenue ratio of 232% and debt headroom of \$446m.

### Capital Programme

- 24. A capital programme of \$432m is included for 2026/27, which includes \$54m of opex of a capital nature. The amended rephasing and costing associated with the capital programme is detailed in **Attachment 3. Table 3.3b** in the attachment shows the projects that make up the \$54m opex of a capital nature. A further carry forward of project budgets of about \$18m is anticipated to be confirmed in July/August 2026. This carry forward would bring the total programme to be delivered up to \$450m.
- 25. Key changes from year 3 of the Long-term Plan have arisen from project savings, reductions in future budgets, rephasing and new projects.
- 26. Project savings have been identified totalling \$11.5m from major projects which is reflected in capital budgets across current and future years. The Papamoa East Interchange (PEI) in total has realised savings of \$8.5m with \$5.5m reflected in the 2025/26 budget year. Te Manawataki o Te Papa (TMoTP) has also realised a reduction in total project costs of \$3m. Future budgets for the Public Art Framework have also been scaled back.
- 27. Rephasing has included bringing forward Opal Drive Pump Station, Baypark Arena Extension and Mount College Pool. Offsetting this, some major projects have been deferred from the timing in the LTP as listed in attachment 3.2. Additional budgets have been included for Mount College pool, Te Maunga Closed Landfill and Mauao and Beachside remediation.
- 28. Revisions to the capital programme have resulted in changes to operating costs which are reflected in Attachment 1. Overall there has been only a small impact on total rates requirement which remains at 7.5% after growth of 0.5%.

**Interest rate Changes**

29. Interest revenue and expenditure budgets have been updated based on current market conditions. The future risk associated with interest costs arises primarily from the cost of borrowing, but also from the timing of expected loan drawdowns. The key revisions to market rate assumptions and borrowing are shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 – Interest Rate Assumptions**

2027 Annual Plan Treasury Metrics		March	May	Comments
Floating debt	90 day swap rate	2.99%	3.27%	Based on average of four major banks most recent forecasts
	LGFA margins	1.16%	0.99%	Average of 2034-2037 maturities as we are targeting longer terms.
	<b>Average interest on floating debt</b>	<b>4.15%</b>	<b>4.26%</b>	LGFA margins increased from March to May
Fixed debt	Average fixed for new debt	4.95%	4.95%	Average LGFA fixed rate term based on 2032 -2034 maturities. No change in assumption. Note at 19 May 5 year swap rate (2031) is 4.12% plus 76bp margin (4.88%)
	<b>Average cost of borrowing</b>	<b>4.05%</b>	<b>4.15%</b>	Generated by interest model. This includes existing debt which fixed
	<b>Weighted average cost of borrowing (WAC)</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	<b>3.98%</b>	Based on individual tranches
	2026 Debt (\$m)	1,500	1,510	2026 forecast assumption
	2027 borrowing including maturities	536	513	Includes \$288m of maturities
	<b>Calculated gross interest expense based on WAC</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>70.3</b>	2026 debt plus 2027 borrowing with phased approach

**Price Volatility Reserve**

30. The Middle East conflict creates significant budget risk for the annual plan due to ongoing price volatility of materials and fuel, and interest rate volatility.
31. To recognise these risks and enable some mitigation a price volatility reserve has already been agreed by Council. Final decisions on available surplus that could be carried forward to this reserve will be presented to Council for decision in August/September.

**Finalisation of Rates Surplus to Fund 2026/27 Expenditure**

32. The Annual Plan 2026/27 will be presented for adoption on 23 June 2026, with the budget to be in place from 1 July 2026. The Annual Plan assumes rates surpluses will be available to fund a portion of expenditure (\$3.2m). The available surplus will be confirmed in the draft financial results presented to City delivery Committee on 15 September 2026, subject to audit, with additional surplus potentially able to be transferred to the price volatility reserve.
33. Capital expenditure carry forwards will also be finalised at that time and the additional carry forward budget requests put to Council.

**Balanced Budget Performance**

34. Council’s balanced budget benchmark based on the Financial Prudence Regulations 2014 has moved to an unbalanced position in this Annual Plan. The benchmark is intended to show whether Council is collecting enough operational revenue to cover its operational expenditure with 100% being a balanced budget where revenue is equal to expenditure. **Table 1** shows the overall balanced budget at 96.7%, with 3 waters benchmark at 91.8% and the rest of Council at 98.6%.

35. Growth revenue and expenditure is inconsistently treated under the Balanced Budget prudence benchmark. Development Contribution (DC) revenue is excluded from the calculation but the interest expenditure on growth debt is included. For the 2026/27 Annual Plan DC revenue is budgeted at \$28.7m and growth interest expense is budgeted at \$26m. Most of the growth revenue and expenditure is in three waters activities. If Council were able to account for 75% of DC revenue in its calculation, which is what LGFA has allowed for waters CCO debt ratios, then three waters would have a balanced budget of (101.9%) and the whole of Council would have a balanced budget of 100.2%.
36. Funding of operating expenditure by loans, reserves and rates surpluses from prior years all contribute to an imbalanced budget metric, even if these funding sources are considered appropriate based on Council's Revenue and Financing Policy. For example, the use of loan funding for one-off expenditure to support grants to other organisations for assets, for waters establishment work, and migration off the ozone digital platform to SAP all contribute to the imbalanced budget as shown in the second half of Table 3. As most of this expenditure is short term in nature, and there is ongoing rating for debt retirement and contribution to the risk reserve, this imbalance is not expected to be a long-term problem other than the imbalance that results from not recognising DC revenue. In the early years of the 2027-37 Long-term Plan there is expected to be significant capital subsidy resulting from roading projects and the infrastructure funding and Financing drawdown on these projects. This will result in a favourable balanced budget metric.
37. The following table provides a summary of the balanced budget prudence benchmark results for TCC. The first half of the table shows the calculation of the balanced budget metric. The second half of the table looks more specifically at what Council operating expenditure has been funded from loans and reserves and the amount of unfunded depreciation.

**Table 3 Balanced Budget**

2027 Draft Annual Plan 15 May	TCC excluding 3 Waters	3 Waters	TCC including 3 Waters
Balanced Budget (LGFA/Financial Prudence)	\$m	\$m	\$m
Operating Revenue	385	152	537
Capital Subsidy revenue	40	5	45
Investment property reval gains	0	0	0
Other gains	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>582</b>
Operating Expenditure	431	170	601
Plus other losses and provisions	1	0	1
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>602</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(20)</b>
<b>Balanced Budget (LGFA/Financial Prudence)</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
If allow 75% DC revenue	99.6%	101.9%	100.2%
<b>Balance to Operating surplus/(deficit)*</b>			
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) - LGFA/Financial Prudence</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(20)</b>
Remove Capital subsidy revenue	(40)	(5)	(45)
<b>Operating Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>(65)</b>
<b>Opex funded from debt:</b>			
- Waters CCO establishment costs		10	10
- TW loan - funded in advance of developer payments	3		3
- Digital SaaS loan funded (net)	8		8
- City Development loan funded (net)	3		3
- Loan funded planning costs (net)	0		0
- Grants for delivery of capital (net loan funded)	4		4
<b>Opex funded from reserves:</b>			
- Funding from prior year	3		3
- Weather event reserve funding	3		3
<b>Other funding impacts:</b>			
- Cash activity (surplus)/deficits	(8)	(7)	(15)
- Unfunded Transport Depreciation (NZTA)	22		22
- Capitalised interest from growth debt	7	19	26
- Other net reserve movements + debt repayment	1	(3)	(2)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>
*note this "operating deficit" differs from the surplus in the SOCRE which includes vested assets and development contributions			

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / RISKS**

- 38. There are no specific legal implications associated with the update on the annual plan.
- 39. There are risks relating to revenue and expenditure assumptions. Specific risks relate to interest rate and price volatility associated with the Middle East conflict and ongoing fuel supply issues that are reflected in higher prices for fuel and oil-related materials. Support in principle from Council to carry forward additional of rates surplus into a price volatility reserve is sought in this report, with final amounts to be contributed to this reserve decided by Council when considering the draft full-year results for the Annual Report 2025/26 in August/September.
- 40. There are also risks to the annual plan if the forecast rates surpluses do not eventuate. This could mean that there may be lower or no available reserves for price and interest volatility and that some of the expenditure intended to be funded by rates surplus will not have this funding available. Unfunded expenditure is effectively funded through Council borrowing. In that case unfavourable volatility would need to be managed through lower expenditure or higher debt.

## TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

41. The annual plan represents resourcing to include the outcomes agreed by Council. The outcomes are addressed through decisions on activities, capital expenditure and services. These should align with Council's Te Ao Māori approach. The level of resourcing for the annual plan should have regard to the agreed outcomes and deliverables the expenditure aims to achieve.

## CLIMATE IMPACT

42. The annual plan includes both operating and capital expenditure to adapt to a changing climate, reduce emissions and enhance nature and biodiversity. These initiatives are included in the Groups of Activity information.

## CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

43. On 10 February 2026, Council resolved not to consult on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27.
44. At the same time Council resolved to conduct a demographically-sound survey of community sentiment across a number of issues, including matters relevant to both the Annual Plan 2026/27 and the development of the 2027-2037 Long-term Plan. The results of that survey are available as a separate report on this agenda.
45. There are a number of results from the survey that talk directly to matters relevant to the Annual Plan 2026/27 and decisions made in its development including, but not limited to, the following:
- When asked about the proposed rates increase of 7.5%:
    - 54% of those offering an opinion felt it should be lower
    - 32% felt it was about right
    - 11% felt that it should be higher.
  - When asked to rate the importance of council services, the services rating above the average rating (79%) were:
    - Roads, footpaths, and parking – 96%
    - Rubbish and recycling – 95%
    - Each of the three waters – 92%-95%
    - Emergency management – 88%
    - Parks, reserves, and open spaces – 87%
    - Climate resilience (including flood management) – 84%
  - When asked which activities respondents did not consider core council business, the activities rating higher than the average (14%) were:
    - Events and festivals – 38%
    - Supporting community organisations – 22%
    - Economic development – 20%
    - Environmental and sustainability – 16%
  - When asked which activities respondents were most comfortable seeing reduced or delayed delivery in order to reduce costs, the activities rating higher than the average (27%) were:
    - Events and festivals – 59%

- New community facilities – 44%
- Street and landscape improvements – 35%
- Libraries and cultural facilities – 31%

## SIGNIFICANCE

46. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
47. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
- (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
  - (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the matter.
  - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
48. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the matter is of medium significance.




## ENGAGEMENT

49. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the matter is of medium significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

## NEXT STEPS

50. The Annual Plan document will be circulated to Elected Members the week beginning 8 June for feedback before 12 June.
51. The Annual Plan 2026/27 will be presented to Council for adoption on 23 June 2026.
52. The draft Annual Report 2025/26 will be presented to Council in August/September with an indication of rates surpluses.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 - Operating budgets - SOCRE-KPIs-Rates-Allocations for 2 June - A20317860** [↓](#) 
2. **Attachment 2 - Annual Plan 2026-27 Rates Impact by Category - A20306694** [↓](#) 
3. **Attachment 3 - Capital Programme Summaries for 2027 Annual Plan - A20281229** [↓](#) 



































































**11.3 Development Contributions Policy 2026/27 - consultation feedback and deliberations**

**File Number: A20325306**

**Author: Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

**Authoriser: Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services**

**BACKGROUND**

1. The report accompanying this agenda item, 'Development Contributions Policy 2026/27 - consultation feedback and deliberations', will be circulated separately prior to the meeting.

#### **11.4 User Fees and Charges 2026/27 - Hearings and Deliberations**

**File Number:** A20325369

**Author:** Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor

**Authoriser:** Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. The report accompanying this agenda item, 'User Fees and Charges 2026/27 - Hearings and Deliberations', will be circulated separately prior to the meeting.

## 11.5 Te Awanui Maori ward

**File Number:** A19992273

**Author:** Jeremy Boase, Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience  
Anne Payne, Principal Strategic Advisor

**Authoriser:** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To determine whether to retain or dissolve the Te Awanui Māori ward at the end of this Council term in October 2028.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Te Awanui Maori ward".

#### Te Awanui Māori ward

- (b) Approves
  - (i) Option 1A: Disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward at the end of this Council's term  
**Or**
  - (ii) Option 1B: Hold a binding poll on whether to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward  
**Or**
  - (iii) Option 1C: Conduct a non-binding survey of community views before considering the substantive issue of the future of the Māori ward

#### Timing of referendum (direction only required if Option 1B selected above)

- (c) Approves
  - (i) Option 2A: Hold the binding poll as early as possible  
**Or**
  - (ii) Option 2B: Hold the binding poll as late as possible (before 28 March 2027)  
**Or**
  - (iii) Option 2C: Hold the binding poll at a different date

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Under current legislation, Council is required to consider whether it wants to disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward or to put the matter of that ward's future to a binding poll of the community. That decision has to be made before 30 November 2026 and any resulting binding poll to be held by 28 March 2027. Council is invited to make a decision through this report but does not statutorily need to so until November.

3. Also under current legislation, the existence or otherwise of a Māori ward or wards is a key element of the wider representation review (being how the community is represented by elected members) that Council needs to undertake during 2027.
4. Recent announcements by the government regarding the potential for structural reform of local government in the reasonably near future involve timelines that cross-over with the existing legislative requirements noted above. There is currently a lack of clarity as to the impact of those announcements on existing legislative requirements. This lack of clarity may or may not be addressed soon. In the meantime, this report is written in accordance with the legislation as it currently stands.
5. The Te Awanui Māori ward is strongly supported by Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana.
6. If Council decides to put the issue of the Māori ward to a binding poll of the community, the costs of such a poll are likely to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Mayor Drysdale has written to relevant Ministers seeking to defer any poll to be held alongside the 2028 local authority elections. This would save the costs of a stand-alone poll.
7. More than 40 other councils took the issue of their Māori wards to binding polls during the 2025 local authority elections. Half of these resulted in the Māori ward being retained, and half saw the Māori wards disestablished.
8. If a poll is held, and particularly if it is held earlier rather than later, there is the opportunity to also ask the community a range of other binding or non-binding questions about matters of Council's choosing. This could enable significant feedback on matters that may be relevant to the representation review, the development of the draft long-term plan, or any number of other issues.
9. The key matters to be considered when deciding whether to hold a poll or to disestablish the Māori ward relate to leadership, relationships, cost, and the provision or otherwise of certainty as the representation review commences.
10. The government announcements on potential structural reform create significant uncertainty, and that uncertainty itself becomes a factor as Council considers the matters raised in this report.
11. No recommendations are provided on these matters as this issue is political rather than technical.

## BACKGROUND

### Framing – Head Start pathway

12. The substance of this report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 as currently enacted.
13. On 5 May 2026, the government announced its 'Head Start pathway' as part of its Simplifying Local Government programme that is intended to lead to the development of reorganisation plans for regions.
14. The government's commentary and publications to date are unclear as to how the Head Start pathway (or the 'backstop approach' that will apply to councils not involved in the Head Start pathway) dovetails with existing legislative requirements including many referenced in the remainder of this report.
15. This paper assumes that Council will wish to make a decision on its Māori ward in accordance with the existing legislation. However, it also recognises that efforts have been initiated to address the apparent incoherence between the Head Start pathway and existing legislative requirements.

**Te Awanui Māori ward – origins and elections**

16. The Te Awanui Māori ward originated in two reports considered at Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council (“TW/TCC”) Committee meetings in June and July 2020<sup>1</sup>. At the second of these meetings, that committee resolved to recommend to Council the establishment of a Māori ward.
17. On 25 August 2020, the elected-Council of the day approved the recommendation from the TW/TCC Committee and agreed to establish a Māori ward for the 2022 election. At that time, the legislation allowed for 5% of voters to petition for a binding poll (i.e. referendum) on this decision.
18. Council received a valid petition seeking a binding poll on 29 January 2021. Public notice that a binding poll would be held was given on 12 February 2021.
19. The part of the legislation which allowed electors to demand a poll on a proposed Māori ward<sup>2</sup> was then repealed by the government, effective 2 March 2021<sup>3</sup>. The repealing legislation also stated that any valid demand for a poll under the legislation before it was repealed should be disregarded<sup>4</sup>. As such, on 9 March 2021 Council gave public notice that the binding poll had been cancelled.
20. On 12 April 2021, the elected-Council’s decision on August 2020 was reconsidered by the Commission. The Commission had three options available to it under the legislation at that time:
  - (a) Confirm the establishment of the Māori ward, consistent with the elected Council’s decision of August 2020
  - (b) Revoke the elected Council’s decision
  - (c) Hold a non-binding referendum before making a decision between options (a) and (b).
21. The Commission confirmed the decision of the elected Council which, under the legislation at that time, meant that that decision was final.
22. The Te Awanui Māori ward was first contested at council-wide elections that closed on 20 July 2024<sup>5</sup>. Cr Mikaere Sydney was elected.
23. When Cr Sydney resigned due to ill health, a by-election for the Te Awanui Māori ward was held that closed on 29 April 2025. Cr Hēmi Rolleston was elected.

**Further changing legislation**

24. On 30 July 2024, the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 (“the Amendment Act”) received Royal Assent and was enacted. The amendments were then reflected in the Local Electoral Act 2001.
25. Among other changes, the Amendment Act required that any council that had established a Māori ward and wished to retain it, needed to test that decision via a binding public poll<sup>6</sup>.
26. For all councils except Tauranga, the new legislative requirements were actioned prior to or during the October 2025 local authority elections.

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<sup>1</sup> Noting that a previous Council decided not to introduce Māori wards ahead of the 2016 triennial elections (Council meeting 17 Nov 2014)

<sup>2</sup> Sections 19ZA to 19ZG, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>3</sup> Section 7, Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021

<sup>4</sup> Clause 5 of Schedule 1, Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021

<sup>5</sup> This was an ‘out-of-sequence’ election date, as determined by the Minister of Local Government (Kieran McNulty) under powers vested in him by sections 258I and 258J of the Local Government Act 2002

<sup>6</sup> The legislation allowed for some exceptions, including where Māori wards had been established by specific legislation. This applies to Bay of Plenty Regional Council where its three Māori wards are established under the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Māori Constituency Empowering) Act 2001.

27. Because Tauranga's 2025 election was cancelled by the Minister of Local Government<sup>7</sup> ('early' elections having been held in July 2024), the Amendment Act provides legislative direction specific to Tauranga City Council<sup>8</sup>. That legislation provides that:

*Council must, by 30 November 2026,--*

*(a) resolve to disestablish (for the 2028 triennial general election onwards) its Māori ward; or*

*(b) resolve to hold, by 28 March 2027, a poll on the question whether the district should be divided into 1 or more Māori wards<sup>9</sup>.*

28. The legislation also states that:

- a decision to disestablish the Māori ward does not affect representation arrangements in place until the 2028 election<sup>10</sup>, and
- a decision to disestablish the Māori ward (whether by Council or by the results of a binding poll) applies to the next two triennial general elections of Council (i.e. 2028 and 2031)<sup>11</sup>.

29. For clarity, this means that the outcome of the Council's decision on the Māori Ward (whether directly or by the results of a binding poll) must be included in the Council's 2027 representation review<sup>12</sup>.

### **Wider representation review**

30. The decision on whether to retain or disestablish the Māori ward is one part of a wider series of decisions regarding representation and elections.
31. By 31 July 2027, Council must determine by resolution the proposed representation arrangements for the 2028 election<sup>13</sup>. Such representation arrangements include the number (if any) of wards, the number of elected members, the distribution of those elected members across the wards or 'at large', and the inclusion or otherwise of community boards.
32. The final decision on the Te Awanui Māori ward will affect the wider representation review. Until that decision is made, the representation review may need to proceed under two separate assumptions: with a Māori ward, and without one.
33. The process to reach a resolved position is lengthy and is likely to involve 'pre-consultation' with the Tauranga community later in 2026. Once Council has resolved its initial proposal, the legislation requires:
- public notice and a period of consultation
  - Council making a final proposal
  - a period for appeals and objections
  - the forwarding of all appeals and objections to the Local Government Commission
  - hearings by the Local Government Commission
  - a final determination by the Local Government Commission
  - appeals to the High Court.
34. A representation review needs to be undertaken at least once every six years. Since the Local Electoral Act 2021 was enacted, this council has undertaken four representation

<sup>7</sup> Using the same powers as allowed the Minister to set the 20 July 2024 election date

<sup>8</sup> Sections 47 to 54 of Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>9</sup> Section 48 of Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>10</sup> Section 49(1) and Section 53(4) of Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>11</sup> Section 49(2) of Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>12</sup> Section 53(5) of Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>13</sup> Sections 19H, 19J, and 19K, Local Electoral Act 2001

reviews (ahead of the 2004, 2010, 2016, and subsequently-cancelled 2022 elections respectfully). Each of those processes has resulted in appeals or objections to Council's final proposal and therefore the Local Government Commission has made the final decision. In two of these processes, the Local Government Commission has supported Council's final proposal. On the other two occasions it has made amendments<sup>14</sup>.

### Electoral system

35. In addition to the representation review, Council will also need to determine whether it continues with single transferable voting ("STV") as the electoral system for the next two elections, or changes back to first-past-the-post ("FPP").
36. This decision needs to be made by 12 September 2026<sup>15</sup>.
37. The decision on STV versus FPP is linked to the representation review as there are specific advantages and disadvantages of each system depending on the number of members to be elected in any ward or at large. In general, the more members to be elected in each ward, the more advantages accrue to the STV system. A full paper on this issue will be brought to Council ahead of the September deadline.

### Māori ward, or wards

38. This report is written as focusing on the existing Te Awanui Māori ward. However, the potential number of future Māori wards is dependent on other decisions made through the representation review.
39. The way in which the number of Māori wards is calculated is set out in Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001. In essence, this provides for the number of Māori ward members compared to non-Māori ward members (excluding the mayor) to be in the same proportion as the size of the Māori electoral population compared to the general electoral population.
40. With the current complement of nine elected members (excluding the mayor), the calculations allow for one Māori ward member. If decisions are made through the representation review to increase the total number of elected members, then the number of Māori ward members would need to be recalculated and may also increase.
41. If the numbers require two Māori ward members, then Council will have a decision through the representation review as to whether those two members represent a single ward or whether two Māori wards are established.
42. That is a decision for a future time. At this stage, all references to 'Māori ward' or 'Te Awanui Māori ward' should be read as referring to the existing ward and any potential changes through the representation review if the concept of Māori wards is retained.

### Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA")

43. The LGA requires that all local authorities must act in accordance with the principle that it should provide '*opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes*'<sup>16</sup>.
44. Similarly, the LGA requires that all local authorities must '*establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority*'<sup>17</sup>
45. The inclusion of a Māori ward is one avenue for Council to respond to these legislative requirements but it is not the only one. Council has resolved to include mana whenua

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<sup>14</sup> In 2004, Council proposed three wards of four members each; the LGC then decided on seven members at large and three wards with one member each. In 2010, Council proposed ten members all at large; the LGC then decided on four members at large and three wards with two members each.

<sup>15</sup> Section 27, Local Electoral Act 2001

<sup>16</sup> Section 14(1)(d), Local Government Act 2002

<sup>17</sup> Section 81(1)(a), Local Government Act 2002

representation on each of its main committees; the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee has been in place for many years; there are other specific committees and advisory groups that have mana whenua membership per their terms of reference; and council supports and regularly consults with Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana.

### **Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana (“Te Rangapū”)**

46. Te Rangapū have consistently and strongly supported the Te Awanui Māori ward.
47. This support was evident when Council considered the matter in 2014 and again when it was considered in 2020.
48. More recently, the Chair of Te Rangapū presented their views to the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting on 22 April 2026. Those views strongly supported the retention of the Te Awanui Māori ward and requested that Council show leadership by voting to retain the ward and therefore proceeding to a binding poll.
49. These views were included in a tabled document of ‘Additional Comments’ referred to when the Chair spoke to her report to that meeting. A copy of the relevant elements of those Additional Comments is included as **Attachment 1** to this report.
50. In response to the Te Rangapū Chair’s report, the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee resolved as follows:

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Recommends to Council:
  - (i) To retain the Māori Ward; and
  - (ii) To investigate and advocate for the deferral of the Māori Ward referendum to the 2028 election.

51. This recommendation was considered by Council at its meeting of 26 May 2026.

### **Other councils’ experiences**

52. During the 2025 triennial elections, 42 councils held binding polls regarding the future of their Māori ward(s). Of those, 20 electorates supported their Māori ward proposal and 22 electorates rejected theirs. A small number of councils (for example, Kaipara and Upper Hutt) voted to disestablish their Māori ward without recourse to a poll.
53. Within those results, there were some noticeable regional differences. For instance, the electorates for all seven councils in the greater Wellington region supported their Māori wards, while the four electorates in the Taranaki region and the four in the Hawkes Bay region all rejected Māori wards.
54. In the central North Island, 13 councils took Māori ward proposals to a binding poll (as required where the council wished to retain the Māori ward). Five of these proposals were supported and eight rejected.
55. Within the five that were supported, it should be noted that four of these were the four council areas with the highest Māori populations per the 2023 census, ranging from 43% to 63% (Rotorua, Whakatane, Gisborne and Kawerau). On the same basis, Tauranga has a Māori population of 19%.
56. Of the other nine councils in the central North Island, only Hamilton city voters voted to retain their Māori ward. The other eight council areas voted by an average of 57.5% to 42.5% to reject their Māori ward proposals.
57. See **Attachment 2** to this report for further details on other councils’ experiences during the 2025 elections.

**Binding poll / referendum – challenges**

58. As noted above, should Council decide to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward, it must test that decision with the community via a binding poll.
59. While 42 other councils undertook this process during the 2025 triennial elections, this council faces some challenges that are distinct to its circumstances.
60. From a **publicity** perspective, council will be undertaking the binding poll on its own. There is no opportunity for 'awareness building' efforts to benefit from neighbouring councils, or other councils where non-resident ratepayers live, undertaking their own publicity around the issue of Māori wards.
61. From a **cost** perspective, the 42 councils were able to absorb the binding poll into their wider triennial election activities. As such, the cost for many was likely to be relatively minor. Because this council does not have the opportunity to share costs between the binding poll and a triennial election, the direct costs are significantly greater.
62. On 24 March 2026, Council resolved to budget \$500,000 for a binding poll in the 2026/27 financial year, if one was required by today's decision. That was in large part based on an early indication from council's election provider, electionz.com. Since that early indication was received, global events have seen marked increases in oil and fuel prices which are likely to flow through to postal rates.
63. An updated proposal from electionz.com was received on 1 May 2026. That shows an increase in estimated postal costs of \$77,510 over the estimate used for the 24 March paper noted above. This estimated increase is based on NZ Post's recent increase. electionz.com use DX for their postal needs, and DX have yet to announce any increases but it would be prudent to consider the potential for increases, hence the updated proposal. Note that the updated proposal does not include any change to the electoral officer's fees, just to the postage costs.

**Binding poll / referendum – opportunities**

64. The legislation does not prohibit council asking **other questions** of the electorate alongside the binding poll on the Māori ward decision. As such, and depending on the timing of a poll, council could use the opportunity to undertake, for instance, pre-consultation on long-term plan issues or pre-consultation for the representation review itself or for anything else where the opinions of city-wide voters would be helpful.
65. While the responses would be non-binding, such questions could be 'poll-like' (i.e. largely binary or simple voting or ranking) and fairly easily integrated into the poll. It is likely there would be additional costs for printing and processing, but the core cost of postage would be unaffected.
66. If there was a desire to ask questions that are more narrative in nature, staff would need to engage more fully with electionz.com as to how the responses would best be processed and reported.

**Binding poll / referendum – timing**

67. If Council decides to hold a binding poll, the Local Electoral Act specifies certain actions and processes, each of which have defined timeframes. In short, if Council decides today to hold a binding poll and notified the electoral officer tomorrow, the earliest that a binding poll could be held is Tuesday 15 September 2026.
68. The latest date that the binding poll can be held is 28 March 2027<sup>18</sup>.
69. There are advantages and disadvantages of holding a binding poll earlier or later. These are outlined in the options section of this report.

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<sup>18</sup> Clause 48, Schedule 1, Local Electoral Act 2001

**Binding poll – possibility for statutory relief**

- 70. In response to both the resolution of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee referenced above, and the cross-over between the current statutory requirements and the government’s Head Start pathway initiative, on 19 May 2026 Mayor Drysdale wrote to the relevant Ministers seeking a ‘pragmatic alternative’ to the requirement to hold a binding poll.
- 71. That alternative is to defer ‘Council’s statutory requirement to resolve or hold a poll on this matter, with the intent that it be addressed as part of any future governance arrangements arising from the Simplifying Local Government reforms.’ A copy of the letter is included as **Attachment 3** to this report.
- 72. At the time of writing, no substantive response has been received from the Ministers.

**STATUTORY CONTEXT**

- 73. Relevant provisions in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2002 are set out in detail in the Background section of this report and are not repeated here.
- 74. Similarly, the currently non-statutory ‘Head Start pathway’ approach to local government reform has been addressed in the Background section of this report.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

- 75. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a city that supports business and education	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 76. Māori representation on Council, or involvement in Council decision-making, contributes to the *Tauranga Matarauui – An inclusive city* outcome. The Inclusive City Strategy recognises that ‘*The three iwi of Tauranga Moana, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangī and Ngāti Pukenga provide the foundation stones for an inclusive city. Part of this foundation are the Māori values of:*
  - *Manaakitanga – holistic hospitality whereby mana whenua have inherited obligations to be the best hosts they can be*
  - *Kothitanga – unity, cohesion, and collaboration*
  - *Whanaungatanga – a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging’.*
- 77. Each of these values can speak to the formal and informal relationships that council has with mana whenua. One expression of those relationships is currently through the Māori ward.

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

- 78. There is one key decision to be made through this report, while a second consequential decision on timing may be required depending on the decision on the first.

**Issue 1: to retain or disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward**

- 79. Under the legislation, there are two options available to Council as set out earlier in this report. A third option is provided which allows for the collection of more information from the community before the two main options are considered.

Option 1A: Disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward at the end of this Council’s term

- 80. Under this option the current electoral arrangements would remain in place until October 2028 when the next triennial election is to be held. At that time, the Te Awanui Māori ward would then cease to exist and whatever representation arrangements that Council and/or the Local Government Commission put in place for the 2028 election and beyond would not include a Māori ward or wards.
- 81. If adopted by Council, this option is a final decision.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides certainty to the electorate.	Removes the community’s opportunity to make this decision directly.
Provides certainty as Council undertakes its representation review.	Inconsistent with the long-standing views of Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana on behalf of iwi and hapu in the city.
Avoids the need for a costly binding poll.	Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 as currently enacted, this decision applies to the next two triennial elections (i.e. 2028 and 2031).
	Potentially reduces the opportunity to argue for Māori wards through the Head Start pathway process.

- 82. In addition to the matters raised above, this option has the following risks:
  - Risk that this decision has a negative impact on council / mana whenua relationships.

Option 1B: Hold a binding poll on whether to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward

- 83. Under this option a binding poll would be held. The final decision on whether or not the Te Awanui Māori ward is retained for the 2028 elections and beyond would be made by the community through that poll.
- 84. As for Option 1A, the current electoral arrangements would remain in place until October 2028 regardless of the outcome of the poll.
- 85.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Clear statement of support from the Council.	Cost of the binding poll.
Consistent with the long-standing views of Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana.	Extends the uncertainty about the future of the Māori ward as Council and the community embark on the representation review.
Supports continuing formal presence of mana whenua in Council decision-making.	Uncertainty as to the impact of a binding poll on the likely success of any Head Start proposal that involves this council.
Allows the community to make the final decision directly.	
Provides a clear current Council direction if the matter of Māori wards is to be considered through the Head Start pathway process.	
If a binding poll is held before any Head Start	

pathway proposal is submitted, would provide evidence of the wider community's views on Māori wards.	
Would provide for a process consistent with that of the other councils that may be involved with this council on Head Start pathway processes.	

86. In addition to the matters raised above, this option has the following risks and opportunities:

- Risk that the binding poll and the public discourse surrounding it will lead to divisions in the Tauranga community
- Opportunity to use the binding poll process to ask other (binding or non-binding) decisions of the community

Option 1C: Conduct a non-binding survey of community views before considering the substantive issue of the future of the Māori ward

87. Under this option, council would conduct a demographically-sound survey of the community as a guide to the likely outcomes of a future binding poll. Such a survey would mimic the question to be posed in the binding poll but would simply be for the benefit of Council in deciding whether or not to adopt Option 1A or Option 1B at a future time (before the statutory deadline of 30 November 2026 to make that decision).

88. Council could determine the sample size for the survey depending on the calculated margin of error that it was willing to accept in the results.

89. As a guide, a similar 1,000 response survey that was undertaken adjacent to the 2026/27 annual plan process cost approximately \$50,000. That survey had a margin of error of +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level.

90. If a survey about the Māori ward involved just a single question, the processing and reporting costs would be expected to be less than the multi-question survey recently undertaken. (Likewise, if Council took the opportunity to ask other questions through the survey then costs could naturally increase depending on the number and complexity of those questions.)

91.

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Allows Council a more detailed view of the community's views before making a decision.	Cost of the survey is potentially in addition to the cost of the subsequent referendum.
Potential for significant financial savings (\$450,000-plus) if the survey firmly indicates a binding poll is unlikely to support the Māori ward and Council therefore decides not to proceed with that poll.	Extends the uncertainty about the future of the Māori ward as Council and the community embark on the representation review.
If undertaken quickly, the survey could be used to inform any Head Start pathway proposal (and could ask wider questions on that process).	

92. If this option is resolved, it is recommended that the survey be held as early as possible to enable Council's substantive decision (Option 1A or Option 1B above) at the earliest possible opportunity.

**Issue 2: timing of a binding poll (only relevant if option 1B adopted above)**

93. If Council decides to hold a binding poll, there is flexibility as to when that poll could be held. This report offers three broad options to help guide staff in arranging the poll:

- As early as possible
- As late as possible
- Somewhere in the middle

Option 2A: Hold the binding poll as early as possible

94. The Local Electoral Act 2001 sets out the steps that must be taken in preparing for the binding poll, and the various timeframes for those steps.
95. With a decision on 2 June 2026 and the electoral officer formally being informed within 48 hours, the earliest that a poll could be held under the legislation is on or around Tuesday 15 September. This is the date that voting closes. Voting papers would start being delivered approximately one month prior.
- 96.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Opportunity to ask timely non-binding questions about the wider representation review alongside the binding poll question.	Provides less time for those on either side of the debate to organise campaigns.
Opportunity to ask timely non-binding questions about the preparation of the draft long-term plan alongside the binding poll question.	Provides less time for people to ensure they are on the electoral roll (though special votes can and will be taken up to the poll date).
Provides a definitive answer as early as possible so that it can be taken into account in the wider representation review, allowing for efficiencies in that process.	
Avoids the timeframe of the upcoming general election (Tuesday 15 September is seven-and-a-half weeks before the Saturday 7 November date for the general election).	
Opportunity to also ask questions to inform any final Head Start pathway proposal that Council may be considering.	

97. From a staff perspective, and taking into account the potential opportunities for efficiencies in other processes, this option is recommended. No opinion is provided by staff on the political advantages or disadvantages of an early poll.

Option 2B: Hold the binding poll as late as possible

98. The statutory deadline for the binding poll is Sunday 28 March 2027.
- 99.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides more time for those on either side of the debate to organise campaigns.	Reduced or nil opportunity to ask timely non-binding questions about the wider representation review alongside the binding poll question (Council's representation

	proposal needs to be resolved by 31 July 2027 at the latest but could be earlier depending on Council's will).
Provides more time for people to ensure they are on the electoral roll (though special votes can and will be taken up to the poll date).	No opportunity to ask timely non-binding questions about the preparation of the draft long-term plan alongside the binding poll question.
Avoids the timeframe of the upcoming general election (Sunday 28 March 2027 is 20 weeks after the Saturday 7 November 2026 date for the general election).	Provides a definitive answer as early as possible so that it can be taken into account in the wider representation review, allowing for efficiencies in that process.
	Too late to meaningfully impact on any final Head Start pathway proposal that Council is considering (current timelines are for final proposals in late March).

100. In addition to the above, this option has the following opportunity:

- If Council has agreed its draft long-term plan early enough, it is possible that a non-binding poll could be conducted alongside the formal consultation on the long-term plan that is scheduled for mid-March to mid-April 2027. To ensure that all respondents are able to contribute equally, this would require all draft long-term plan details to be finalised and published before voting packs are distributed in late February. This could be a challenging deadline.

Option 2C: Hold the binding poll somewhere in the middle

101. This option clearly has a wide variability, though once various other constraints are taken into account that variability reduces somewhat.

102. Holding a local binding poll close to the general election may be considered confusing for voters. Equally, it could be seen as an opportunity to ensure that voters are engaged in the voting process and therefore are more likely to contribute. If the general election period is to be avoided, and given that there is approximately one month between voting packs being distributed and the poll closing, then options for the poll date closing are centred on mid-December.

103. Holding a binding poll through the summer school holidays is not considered likely to increase turnout. Releasing voting packs in mid-January for a mid-February poll closing date is considered the earliest realistic possibility (the advantage and disadvantages of this period including Waitangi Day on 6 February would also need to be considered).

104. In effect, the options for a 'somewhere in the middle' poll centre on the poll closing:

- 7 November, if wanting to merge with the general election, or
- Approx. 7 December to, say, 18 December 2026, if wanting to avoid the general election and its build-up, or
- Mid-February to mid-March 2027 (any later effectively blends into Option 2A).

105. If this option is selected, a further paper with more details about the options and the timeframes needed for the various implementation steps (particularly the impact around the Christmas / New Year / school holidays period for council and electionz.com staff) will be brought to the next Council meeting. Advantages and disadvantages of specific date-ranges will be provided at that time.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

106. Council has budgeted \$500,000 for a poll in its draft 2026/27 annual plan. At the time this decision was made<sup>19</sup> it was explicitly stated that this decision related to the budget provision and was not a substantive decision on whether a binding poll would be held.
107. The \$500,000 budget was prepared based on an early quote from electionz.com and an allowance made for an advertising and promotions budget to accompany the poll.
108. The exact cost of a poll will depend on:
- up-to-date information on, in particular, postage costs at the time the poll is held<sup>20</sup>
  - the extent of advertising and promotions activities to accompany the poll
  - the extent of any other information provided to voters (printing costs)
  - the type and extent of any other questions asked alongside the binding poll (processing and reporting costs).
109. As noted earlier in this report, an updated proposal from the electoral officer shows an estimated increase in postal costs of \$77,000 (or 34%) since an earlier proposal provided in late 2025.
110. If Council determines not to hold a poll (i.e. it adopts Option 1A above), the \$500,000 budget can be removed from the 2026/27 annual plan. This has a \$350,000 impact on the rating requirement.
111. A non-binding survey, undertaken as a precursor to a future decision, is expected to cost no more than \$50,000.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / RISKS

112. As noted earlier in this report, the process to hold a binding poll is specified in detail in the Local Electoral Act 2001. Adherence to this Act and the processes contained within will reduce any legal risks through this process.

## TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

113. The matter of a Māori ward or wards is clearly of significant interest to the Māori community in Tauranga. As noted in the Background section to this report, and in Attachment 1, the existing Māori ward has been strongly and consistently supported by Te Rangapū for many years.
114. In terms of Council's Te Ao Māori Approach, this matter aligns strongly with several of the key principles within that approach:
- Manaakitanga – ahurutanga / haumarutanga – a strong duty of care and safety for our people
  - Rangatiratanga – mana motuhake – self determination
  - Whanaungatanga – relationships and network support systems

## CLIMATE IMPACT

115. The matter of the retention or disestablishment of the Te Awanui Māori ward has negligible impact on council's climate responsibilities.

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<sup>19</sup> Council meeting, 24 March 2026

<sup>20</sup> NZ Post have announced a 24% increase in the price of standard medium envelope postage effective 1 July 2026. Council, through electionz.com, use DX Mail who at time of writing have yet to release their pricing plans. Understandably, the price of fuel is having a significant impact on postal companies' operating costs.

## CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

116. No specific pre-engagement has been undertaken with the community prior to writing this report.
117. Feedback on the Te Awanui Māori ward has been received through a range of sources. These include at the time the elected-Council and then the Commission approved the establishment of the Te Awanui Māori ward, at the time of the 2024 election and the 2025 by-election, and through other submission processes such as the 2024-2034 long-term plan. Collectively, this feedback shows that the community has a wide range of views on the establishment of, and therefore potentially retention of, the Te Awanui Māori ward.
118. As noted in the Background section of this report, Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana also provided feedback on this matter to the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee on 22 April 2026.

## SIGNIFICANCE

119. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
120. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
- the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
  - any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the decision.
  - the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
121. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the decision is of high significance. It is a statutorily required decision that is likely to have high or, in some quarters, very high community interest.

## ENGAGEMENT




122. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of high significance, and depending on the actual decision taken by Council, the following engagement should occur:
- If the decision is to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward (as soon as possible under Option 2B or at some future time under Option 2C), a binding poll needs to be conducted under the Local Electoral Act 2001. The extent of information and material to be provided to the community around that poll will need to be determined by Council.
  - If the decision is to disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward, engagement with mana whenua and the wider community regarding that decision needs to be carefully considered.

## NEXT STEPS

123. The next steps will depend on the decision made on Issue 1 (and then on Issue 2 if applicable).
124. If Council decides to disestablish the Te Awanui Māori ward, this decision is final and no further substantive action is required. Under the current legislation, Tauranga City Council would not have a Māori ward at the 2028 and 2031 elections.

125. If Council decides to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward and decides to hold the binding poll as soon as possible, the next step is for the chief executive to formally inform the electoral officer. This will initiate the formal process under the Local Electoral Act 2001. At a subsequent Council meeting, Council will be invited to provide further direction on what, if any, other matters should be put to the electorate alongside the binding question on the Māori ward.
126. If Council decides to retain the Te Awanui Māori ward but to hold the binding poll other than at the earliest opportunity, or wishes to defer the substantive decision until after a non-binding survey is undertaken, staff will bring back further options on these matters to a subsequent Council meeting.
127. Alternatively, Council could choose to make no decision at this stage and defer consideration of this matter to another time closer to the current statutory deadline on 30 November. During that deferral period further information may emerge regarding a Ministerial response to Mayor Drysdale's letter, the intersection of existing legislation and the Head Start pathway process, and this and other councils' views on what any Head Start pathway proposal might look like.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Te Rangapu views on Maori ward issue - A20319186** [↓](#) 
2. **Maori ward votes in 2025 referenda PDF - A20319245** [↓](#) 
3. **Letter to Hon Simon Watts and Hon Chris Bishop re Maori Ward poll - A20319341** [↓](#) 













## 11.6 Draft Amendment to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026

**File Number:** A19853013

**Author:** Jane Barnett, Policy Analyst

**Authoriser:** Sarah Omundsen, General Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek Council approval of the proposed draft fireworks amendment to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw (the bylaw) and associated Statement of Proposal for public consultation and seek direction on whether to reconsider the proposed real estate sign size dimensions and associated enforcement timeframes.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Draft Amendment to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026".
- (b) Approves the draft amendments to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026 (**Attachment One**) and associated Statement of Proposal (**Attachment Two**) for community consultation which proposes to:
  - (i) prohibit the lighting of fireworks in all public places owned, managed, maintained or controlled by Tauranga City Council without approval and
- (c) Retain the real estate sign size limits adopted on 3 March 2026 but defer their enforcement commencement date from 1 July 2026 to 1 February 2028.
- (d) Resolves, in accordance with section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002, that the proposed draft amendments:
  - (i) are the most appropriate way to address public safety, nuisance, animal welfare and environmental risk associated with fireworks in council controlled public places;
  - (ii) are the most appropriate form of bylaw to address those risks; and
  - (iii) are not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, noting that any limitations are reasonable and demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society (**Attachment Three**).
- (e) Delegates the General Manager: Regulatory and Community Services to approve the final wording of the bylaw amendments and Statement of Proposal (as per Council direction) prior to consultation.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. During consultation on the draft Street Use and Public Places Bylaw (the 'bylaw') in late 2025, a submission from the SPCA asked Council to consider prohibiting the use of fireworks in public places unless prior approval is granted by Tauranga City Council.
3. Fireworks were not within the scope of the original consultation and Council was therefore unable to introduce any changes to the firework rules without undertaking further community consultation.

4. On 3 March 2026, Council adopted the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026 and agreed to consider a prohibition on fireworks being lit in public places<sup>21</sup> without approval. Council directed staff to prepare a draft amendment and supporting material for community consultation.
5. This report gives effect to that direction by seeking Council approval to consult on the proposed draft fireworks amendment.
6. In addition, the report provides Council with the opportunity to consider whether the proposed real estate size dimensions within the bylaw are appropriate, or whether modification to either the permitted size or the enforcement commencement date is warranted. Feedback received, from three sign installation companies, since the adoption of the bylaw indicates that they consider the proposed sign size dimensions to be restrictive and challenging to implement in practice.
7. Extending the effective date for the real estate sign size provision has been recommended to allow more time for transitioning to the new requirements, while maintaining the intended safety and amenity outcomes of the bylaw.
8. The proposed amendments address concerns relating to public safety, nuisance, animal welfare, fire risk and damage to Council and addresses concerns about complying with the new real estate size dimensions.
9. In accordance with section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), the draft amendments are considered the most appropriate and proportionate way to address the identified issues and is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
10. There are no significant direct financial implications associated with seeking approval to consult. Consultation and reporting costs will be met within existing budgets. If adopted, any enforcement costs for either fireworks controls or real estate sign rules are expected to be modest and absorbed within existing compliance activities.
11. It is recommended that Council approve the proposed draft amendment and Statement of Proposal for consultation to enable community feedback.
12. Subject to Council approval, consultation is proposed to occur between mid-June and mid-July 2026, with staff reporting back to Council following hearings.

## BACKGROUND

### Fireworks

13. During the community consultation held between November and December 2025 on the draft Street Use and Public Places Bylaw, the SPCA raised concerns about fireworks in public places owned or operated by Tauranga City Council. Their submission highlighted:
  - Distress and harm to domestic animals and wildlife
  - Injury risk to children and adults
  - Fires in reserves, dunes and parks
  - Excessive noise affecting vulnerable residents.
14. The SPCA requested that Council update the bylaw to include clear restrictions on the use of fireworks in public places unless *'part of an approved public display, where risk management planning, professional handling, and advance public communication help protect people, property, the environment and animals.'*

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<sup>21</sup> Means an area that is open to or used by the public, and which is owned, managed, maintained or controlled by Tauranga City Council. Public places include, but are not limited to roads, streets, footpaths, alleys, cycle tracks, lanes, accessways, carparks, reserves, parks, domains, beaches, foreshore, berms, verges and recreational grounds.

15. Regulation of fireworks has been raised with council in past submissions, complaints, and consultation processes. It has also been raised by the public at national level, including recent petitions to Parliament calling for tighter controls, signalling growing interest in reducing harm associated with fireworks.
16. Other councils (including Auckland, Wellington, and Hamilton) already have stronger regulatory approaches, including bans on fireworks in public places such as beaches, reserves, and sports fields.
17. On 3 March 2026, Council agreed to consider this and directed staff to prepare a draft bylaw amendment for community consultation. This report responds to this directive.
18. The draft amendment is provided in **Attachment One**. It proposes to amend clauses 7.3 and 7.4 of the bylaw to prohibit the lighting fireworks in public places without approval. It also adds a definition of 'fireworks' and inserts a new clause 7.5 to clarify that clauses 7.3 and 7.4 are subject to prohibitions or restrictions imposed by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

### Real Estate Signs

19. The bylaw adopted on 3 March 2026 includes updated provisions for real estate signs displayed on public places. These provisions were developed to support improved amenity outcomes, pedestrian and traffic safety, and greater consistency of signage across the city. In particular, the approach reflects advice from transport engineers, which identified the need to manage potential impacts on pedestrian movement, sightlines and driver visibility, especially where larger signs may create obstructions or distractions in the road corridor.
20. The current Street Use and Public Places bylaw does not set a size limit for real estate signs displayed in public places. The new bylaw, due to come into force on 1 July 2026, introduces a maximum size limit of 1200mm high x 800 mm wide for all real estate and auction signs in public places. This aligns with the existing provisions for all other business signs. These dimensions apply only to signs displayed in public places; signs on private land are regulated under the City Plan.
21. Since the adoption of the bylaw, we have received feedback from three sign installation companies indicating that the new size dimensions will be challenging to comply with in practice, particularly during the transition from the larger sign formats currently in use.
22. Three real estate agents have also been in touch seeking information on the new rules. One agent expressed strong support for the new provisions, while the other two were neutral.
23. Sign installation companies have advised that their current standard sign boards are typically 1800mm high x 1200 wide and that the new size limits coming into force will have a significant impact on their business.
24. This report provides Council with the opportunity to decide if they want to reconsider the appropriateness of the size dimensions or whether any changes to either the permitted size or enforcement date are warranted. These options are outlined in the Options Analysis section of this report. Any changes to the sign size would require consultation under the LGA, as this would constitute a change to the bylaw.
25. The recommended option is to extend the enforcement commencement date for real estate sign size provision from 1 July 2026 to 1 February 2028. This would allow time for affected businesses to transition and align existing signage with the new requirements, while maintaining the intended safety and amenity outcomes of the bylaw.

### STATUTORY CONTEXT

26. The ability for Council to make this amendment comes from sections 145 and 146 of the LGA. Section 145 enables Council to make bylaws for the purpose of protecting public health and safety and protecting the public from nuisance in public places. The requirement for Council approval provides a proportionate mechanism to manage those risks.
27. The proposed change to the enforcement commencement date for the real estate sign size provisions within the bylaw does not require formal consultation because the substance of

the rule is not changing instead it introduces a transitional period to allow sign installers and real estate companies to adjust.

28. Section 155 of the LGA requires Council to assess whether the proposed amendment is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem and whether the proposed amendment gives rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. This analysis is presented in **Attachment Three**.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

29. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	✓
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	✓

- 1.
30. The proposed draft fireworks amendment aligns with four of the community outcomes. It contributes to:
- an inclusive city by reducing distress and harm for vulnerable residents and animals by preventing unpredictable fireworks in public places
  - valuing and protecting the environment minimises fire risk and environmental damage in sensitive areas like dunes, beaches and reserves
  - a well-planned city that is easy to move around by improving public safety and reducing potential hazards on roads, berms and footpaths by prohibiting fireworks in public places
  - being a vibrant city that embraces events by supporting well managed community fireworks displays by allowing Council approved events.
31. The proposed change to the enforcement commencement date supports a proportionate and practicable transition while maintaining the bylaw’s intended outcomes.

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

**Fireworks amendment**

32. Council is asked to decide whether to approve the proposed draft fireworks amendment and the associated Statement of Proposal for community consultation.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Option One:</b> Approve for community consultation the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposed draft amendment to prohibit the lighting of fireworks without approval and</li> <li>• Statement of Proposal</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the opportunity for the community to give feedback on the fireworks proposal that was raised during submissions.</li> <li>• Meets legislative requirements under the LGA.</li> <li>• Responds to concerns raised by the SPCA.</li> <li>• Responds to concern about</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a prohibition is ultimately adopted, fireworks use may be displaced to private property and there may be increased enforcement expectations.</li> </ul>

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	<p>safety, animal welfare, nuisance, fire risk or damage to Council assets associated with fireworks in public places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with the 3 March 2026 Council decision to progress consideration of a fireworks amendment.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Option Two:</b> Do not approve the proposed draft amendment and statement of proposal for community consultation.</p> <p>Retain the current approach of allowing fireworks in public places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retains the current approach, providing continuity for users of public places.</li> <li>Reduces the risk of fireworks use being displaced to private property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not provide an opportunity to understand current community views on fireworks in public places.</li> <li>Does not address public safety, animal welfare, nuisance, fire risk or damage to Council assets associated with fireworks in public places.</li> <li>Does not respond to the SPCA's concerns.</li> <li>Inconsistent with the Council decision made on the 3 March 2026 to consider a fireworks prohibition in public places.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Option Three:</b> Rely solely on non-regulatory approaches (e.g. education and reliance on Police response) to address safety, animal welfare and nuisance and fire risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional regulation required.</li> <li>Supports voluntary compliance through education and awareness- raising.</li> <li>Avoids potential compliance and enforcement expectations associated with the bylaw amendment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not respond directly to concerns public safety, animal welfare, nuisance, fire risk or damage to Council assets associated with fireworks in public places.</li> <li>Education alone may not reliably address repeat or high-risk behaviour.</li> <li>Does not provide a clear framework for setting expectations.</li> </ul>

**Real Estate Sign Provisions**

33. Council can consider whether it wishes to reconsider the real estate sign provisions adopted as part of the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026. Feedback received since adoption is that some stakeholders consider the current size limits to be restrictive in practice,

particularly given the existing signage and the costs associated with transition to the new size requirements.

2. Option	3. Advantages	4. Disadvantages
<p><b>Option One:</b> No change</p> <p>Retain maximum dimensions of 1200mm (H) x 800 mm (W) for all real estate and auction signs in public places to take effect 1 July 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports safety and reduced visual clutter in public places.</li> <li>• Consistent with the maximum dimensions for business signs.</li> <li>• Consistency with Council’s recent decision.</li> <li>• Larger signs can still be displayed on private property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited time for industry to adapt and may create operational challenges.</li> <li>• May be viewed as restrictive by some of the real estate industry.</li> <li>• May reduce sign visibility, potentially impacting property marketing.</li> <li>• Risk of non-compliance or pushback during early implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Option Two:</b> Retain the dimensions but delay enforcement.</p> <p>Keep the 1200 x 800 mm limit but extend the transition period before enforcement begins from 1 July 2026 to 1 February 2028.</p> <p><b>Recommended</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows time for stakeholders to adjust.</li> <li>• Supports safety and reduced visual clutter in public places.</li> <li>• Consistent with the maximum dimensions for business signs.</li> <li>• Larger signs can still be displayed on private property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays improvements in safety risk and visual amenity.</li> <li>• Risk that the delay is perceived as weakening the intent of the bylaw.</li> <li>• Continued use of larger signs in the interim means no change in safety or visual amenity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Option Three:</b> Propose to amend the rule to allow larger signs (1800 mm x 1200 mm) as requested by industry stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This option would require public consultation. The consultation could be added to the consultation on the firework amendment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds directly to feedback from sign installation companies.</li> <li>• Greater visibility for property marketing.</li> <li>• May improve compliance.</li> <li>• No transition issues for existing sign stock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visual clutter and reduced amenity outcomes.</li> <li>• Inconsistent with the provision for business signs set out in the bylaw.</li> <li>• May result in requests for larger business signs.</li> </ul>

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

34. There are no significant direct financial implications associated with seeking Council approval to consult on the proposed bylaw amendment.
35. Consultation costs (including communications, analysis of submissions, and reporting back to Council) will be met within existing budgets.

36. If the amendment is adopted there may be modest ongoing costs associated with enforcement. However, these are expected to be minimal and absorbed within existing compliance and monitoring activities. Over time, the prohibition may result in cost savings through reduced damage to council assets such as parks, reserves, playgrounds, litter bins and reduced clean-up costs following fireworks use.
37. Any approval requests for fireworks displays will be managed through existing approval processes.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / RISKS

38. Fireworks were not included in the scope of the earlier consultation on the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026. As a result, introducing a prohibition on fireworks without further consultation would be inconsistent with the consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, given that the proposal represents a substantive policy matter.
39. This report addresses that risk by seeking Council approval to consult on the proposed amendment and statement of proposal before any decision is made to adopt the prohibition.
40. Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990 has also been considered through the section 155 analysis in **Attachment Three**.
41. If Council decide to reconsider the size dimensions for real estate signs in public places this will require community consultation. There are also protentional perception risks with Council amending provisions adopted on 3 March 2026.

### TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

42. The proposed consultation aligns with Te Ao Māori principles, particularly Manaakitanga and Kaitiakitanga, which inform council's approach to managing public spaces.
43. From a Manaakitanga perspective, the proposal supports community wellbeing by promoting safer, more inclusive use of public places and reducing potential harm, distress and nuisance for people and animals.
44. From a Kaitiatanga perspective, the proposal supports the protection and stewardship of the natural and built environment. Reducing the use of fireworks in public places has the potential to minimise harm to native species, companion animals, vegetation and public spaces that are collectively cared for on behalf of present and future generations.
45. Consultation will provide an opportunity for Māori, mana whenua, and the wider community to share their views on the proposal and any potential impacts.

### CLIMATE IMPACT

46. There are no direct or specific climate change impacts associated with the proposal to consult on a bylaw amendment relating to fireworks in public places.
47. The proposal may, however, have indirect environmental benefits. These include reduced litter, pollution and damage to vegetation in public places. By strengthening Council's ability to manage activities in shared spaces, the proposed amendment supports the ongoing protection of green infrastructure, such as trees and planted areas which contribute to environmental wellbeing and climate resilience.

### SIGNIFICANCE

48. The LGA requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
49. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:

- a. the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
  - b. any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the decisions.
  - c. the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
50. The matters addressed in this report involve two related decisions, each of which has a different level of significance.
  51. The decision to approve consultation on a proposed amendment to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026 is considered of low significance.
  52. The decision is procedural and does not itself introduce any changes to regulatory controls, community practices or rights and obligations. Its purpose is to enable community views to be sought and considered before Council decides whether to adopt the proposed amendment.
  53. Given the limited immediate impact and absence of direct consequences, the decision to consult does not meet the threshold for medium or high significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.
  54. However, the proposed prohibition on the use of fireworks in public places, if adopted following consultation, is considered of medium significance. The proposal would introduce a new rule for public places and would affect a broad range of users, including individuals, community groups and event organisers. It raises matters of public interest relating to public safety, animal welfare, nuisance, fire risk and protection of Council assets.
  55. While important to sections of the community, the proposal:
    - Applies only to public places owned, managed, maintained or controlled by Tauranga City Council;
    - Allows approved and controlled public firework displays to continue; and
    - Does not involve a significant financial implication or long-term constraints on Tauranga City Council's ability to perform its role.
  56. For these reasons, the proposal does not meet the threshold for high significance under the policy.
  57. Real estate sign dimensions are assessed as having low to moderate significance. While it affects a specific stakeholder group and has some impact on community amenity, it does not materially affect the wider community, Council finances, strategic assets or levels of service.
  58. However, the issue does have public visibility, amenity and safety implications and these factors can elevate the matter above low significance.

## ENGAGEMENT




59. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision to consult is of low significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.
60. Public consultation is appropriate and required before any decision is made on whether to adopt the proposed prohibition, due to the medium significance of the potential change and the LGA requirements.
61. If Council decide to reconsider and amend the currently adopted real estate sign provisions, consultation will be required, as any amendment to the bylaw must be consulted on in accordance with the LGA.

## NEXT STEPS

62. If Council approves the proposed draft bylaw amendment and statement of proposal for community consultation this will be carried out in June/July 2026.

63. If there are any submitters who wish to speak to their submission, Council will hold hearings in August/September 2026. Council will then deliberate on the issues and consider formally adopting the bylaw amendment.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. **Draft Fireworks Amendment - Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2026 - A20269962**  [↓](#)
2. **Draft Statement of Proposal - A20110030**  [↓](#)
3. **Section 155 Analysis for Fireworks Amendment - A20102349**  [↓](#)















































## 11.7 Review of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee Terms of Reference

**File Number:** A20282692

**Author:** Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services

**Authoriser:** Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Council with proposed amendments to the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee (the Committee) Terms of Reference, as endorsed by Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC).

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Review of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee Terms of Reference".
- (b) Endorses changes to the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee Terms of Reference as attached, including:
  - (i) Changing the frequency of meetings to quarterly (or as required).
  - (ii) Increasing the Western Bay of Plenty District Council representation from one member to two, plus an alternate.
  - (iii) Amending the name of the committee from 'Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee' to the 'Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee'
- (c) Notes that the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee may further review its Terms of Reference, and that any additional changes would require the approval of all three partner councils.

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### DISCUSSION

2. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) recently considered several matters relating to its governance structure, with the intention of clarifying transport governance, particularly in the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region.
3. Due to this review, the first meeting in 2026 for the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee was delayed.
4. On 24 March 2026, BOPRC re-confirmed the Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee, appointing Cr Tim Maltby, Cr John Scrimgeour, and Cr Kat Macmillan (alternate) to the Committee. It also approved some proposed changes to its Terms of Reference (subject to agreement of partner Councils), including:
  - (a) Changing the frequency of meetings to quarterly (or as required)
  - (b) Increasing the Western Bay of Plenty District Council representation from one member to two
  - (c) Amending the name of the Committee to the Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee

5. At its Council meeting on 28 April 2026, WBOPDC confirmed the same changes to the Terms of Reference and appointed Cr Laura Rae and Cr Rodney Joyce to the Committee, with Mayor James Denyer as the alternate.
6. The proposed amended Terms of Reference are included as Attachment 1 to this report.
7. The Terms of Reference state that the appointment of the Chair/Deputy and the Committee the associated administrative support is rotated on an annual basis between BOPRC and Tauranga City Council (TCC), meaning that this year the governance support sits with TCC.
8. The following meeting dates have been set for the remainder of 2026:
  - (a) 5 June 2026
  - (b) 11 September 2026
  - (c) 27 November 2026

### NEXT STEPS

9. If approved by all parties, the updated Terms of Reference will be approved and in force.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. **Proposed Western Bay of Plenty Transport Committee Terms of Reference - A20284257**  





## 11.8 Temporary Road Closure Report for Events 2026 - 2027

**File Number:** A20206811

**Author:** Shawn Geard, Manager: Transport System Operations  
Jenna Quay, Events Facilitation Manager

**Authoriser:** Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek Council approval for temporary road closures associated with upcoming events.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Temporary Road Closure Report for Events 2026 - 2027".
- (b) Pursuant to Clause 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, approves the temporary closure of the roads listed in Attachment A to ordinary vehicular traffic, on the dates and during the times specified, to facilitate the safe and effective delivery of the events identified.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In accordance with Clause 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, this report seeks Council approval for temporary road closures associated with events outlined in Attachment A.
3. The proposed road closures are intended to enable safe, well-managed events by protecting participants, supporting efficient transport network operation, and minimising disruption to residents and businesses.
4. Event organisers are required to:
  - Engage with affected residents and businesses prior to the event.
  - Submit a detailed Temporary Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to the Corridor Access and Temporary Traffic Management Team for approval as part of the Council's event approval process.
  - The TMP must outline road and parking closures, detour routes, and all required signage, in accordance with the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM).

### BACKGROUND

5. Council staff coordinate an annual events calendar in collaboration with event organisers and key stakeholders. Planning meetings are held in advance of events, involving Council teams, external stakeholders, and event organisers. Traffic management and road closures are critical to ensuring public safety and maintaining an efficient transport network during some events.
6. Road closures enable safe access to and from event sites by separating pedestrian and vehicle movements. The broader event approval process, led by the Event Facilitation Team, also manages impacts on residents and ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, including noise control, building consents, liquor licensing, and communications planning for example.

**STATUTORY CONTEXT**

- 7. This report seeks approval under Clause 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

- 8. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	✓
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	✓

- 9. Supporting these temporary road closures enables the safe and effective delivery of events, contributing to a vibrant city that embraces and celebrates community activity. They also support a well-planned city by effectively managing traffic flows and maintaining safe, efficient movement for all road users during events.

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

- 10. Council can either approve or decline the proposed temporary road closures. Approving the closures enables the safe and effective delivery of events, supports coordinated traffic management, and contributes to a vibrant, event-friendly city.
- 11. Declining the closures may result in events being cancelled or significantly altered, increased safety risks, and negatively impact the community and local businesses.
- 12. On balance, approval is recommended as it best supports safe event delivery and effective transport management.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13. There are no direct financial implications. Traffic management costs are the responsibility of the event organisers.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / RISKS**

- 14. Council approval of the road closures represents the first stage of a two-step approval process. The second stage requires a warranted Site Traffic Management Supervisor (STMS), typically engaged by the event organiser, to submit a TMP for approval.
- 15. The Corridor Access Team, acting under delegated authority as Traffic Management Coordinator (TMC), is responsible for reviewing and approving TMPs in accordance the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM).
- 16. The traffic management contractor must ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the safe and efficient movement of all road users. This includes undertaking a risk assessment prior to implementing any traffic management measures.

**TE AO MĀORI APPROACH**

- 17. There are no specific Te Ao Māori implications. This report relates to statutory regulatory requirements.

**CLIMATE IMPACT**

- 18. There are no identified climate impacts. This report relates to statutory regulatory requirements.

## CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

19. Temporary road closures must be publicly notified, allowing time for public submissions. Any objections must be considered by Council prior to making a decision.
20. The proposed road closures were publicly notified in the *Bay of Plenty Times* on Monday 11 May 2026, with the consultation period ending on Sunday 31 May 2026. Staff will advise Council of any objections received at the meeting.

## SIGNIFICANCE

21. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
22. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
  - (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
  - (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the decision.
  - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
23. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the decision is of low significance.

## ENGAGEMENT

24. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of low significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

## NEXT STEPS

25. Staff to progress the event approval process with event organisers.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment A - Temporary Road Closure Report for Events 2026 - 2027 - A20221391** [↓](#)  






**11.9 Remuneration for Tangata Whenua Appointed to Council Standing Committees and Water Organisation Joint Committee**

**File Number:** A20316624

**Author:** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

**Authoriser:** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Partnerships & Growth

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- To seek a Council decision on remuneration of Tangata Whenua representatives on standing committees of Council and the Water Organisation Joint Committee.


**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council:

- Receives the report "Remuneration for Tangata Whenua Appointed to Council Standing Committees and Water Organisation Joint Committee".
- Approves remuneration for the Tangata Whenua representatives on the City Future Committee, the City Delivery Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Water Organisation Joint Committee at \$1,118 per Committee meeting and \$559 per workshop or approved duties, effective from 2 June 2026.

**BACKGROUND**

- At the Council meeting of 24 March 2025 Council resolved to approve remuneration for the Tangata Whenua representatives on the City Future Committee, the City Delivery Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee at \$1,085 per Committee meeting and \$542 per workshop or approved duties.
- The decision took into account independent advice from Strategic Pay (with the key recommendations copied below).

<b>StrategicPay</b> 				
<b>Recommendation</b>				
Role / Committee	Recommended Fees Range		Full day Pay	Half day pay
Strategic Pay Directors Fees Survey	\$20,000	\$27,171	\$1,086	\$543
SSC Fees Framework	\$15,535	\$29,875	\$1,195	\$597
Relativities to Councillor Analysis (approximately 15% - 20% of full council duties based on workload)	\$20,385	27,180	\$1,085	\$542

- At the 21 April 2026 Council meeting, a Water Organisation (WO) Joint Committee (JC) was established. Western Bay of Plenty District Council also passed a resolution approving the establishment of the WO JC. At the 12 May 2026 Council meeting TCC, as administrative

agent for the Local Waters Done Well partnership, appointed the tangata whenua representatives and alternates to the WO JC.

5. Council has given Tangata Whenua an undertaking to have the remuneration of TW representative based on independent advice of the appropriate remuneration level.

**REMUNERATION FOR TANGATA WHENUA REPRESENTATIVE ON WATER ORGANISATION JOINT COMMITTEE (INCLUDING OPTIONS)**

6. It is proposed that the remuneration be based on the Strategic Pay advice considered in March 2025, and updated for inflation at 3%. This would move the remuneration to \$1,118 per Committee meeting and \$559 per workshop or approved duties. It is proposed that this would apply to the Standing Committees of Council and the WO JC so that there is parity across these.
7. An option of seeking an independent advice report on the appropriate remuneration level / band was considered, but this was not progressed due to:
  - The previous advice from Strategic Pay is just over a year old, so reasonably current.
  - Market information in respect of staff remuneration levels shows that there have not been significant movements in the market remuneration over the last year.
  - Information publicly available suggests that public sector governance roles similarly have not experienced significant movements.
  - Cost of the independent advice quoted at a band of \$4,500 - \$5,500 plus 1.5% office fee.
8. Discussions have been held with WBOPDC staff who have advised that WBODPC endorses the proposal. WBOPDC has also confirmed that the current arrangements that for administrative matters the administrative agents’ arrangements and policies would apply.
9. Remuneration for Tangata Whenua representatives on the SmartGrowth Leadership Group will continue to be paid in accordance with the TCC Tangata Whenua Remuneration Policy. <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/Portals/0/data/council/policies/files/tangata-whenua-remuneration-policy.pdf>

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

10. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a city that supports business and education	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

11. Costs of remuneration for Council committees are included in the Democracy budget. It is has been agreed with WBOPDC that the Tangata Whenua remuneration for the WO JC would be funded by the Water Organisation transition budget.

**TE AO MĀORI APPROACH**

12. This decision will support the partnership with Tangata Whenua as it provides remuneration and recognition of Tangata Whenua participation in governance processes.

### CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

13. As noted above, discussions have been held with WBOPDC who are supportive of the proposed approach.
14. Tangata Whenua representatives have previously advised that they support the remuneration being set based on independent advice.

### SIGNIFICANCE

15. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
16. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
  - (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
  - (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the .
  - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
17. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the decision is of low significance. This is because there has already been agreement that remuneration will be paid and this report only sets the level based on independent advice.

### ENGAGEMENT

18. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of low significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

### NEXT STEPS

19. Remuneration for Tangata Whenua participation will be paid in accordance with the resolution going forward.

### ATTACHMENTS

**Nil**

**11.10 Status updates on actions from prior Council meetings**

**File Number:** A20325406

**Author:** Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor

**Authoriser:** Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services

**BACKGROUND**

1. The report accompanying this agenda item, 'Status updates on actions from prior Council meetings', will be circulated separately prior to the meeting.

**12 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

**13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**Resolution to exclude the public**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution</b>
<p><b>13.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 May 2026</b></p>	<p>s6(a) - The making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial</p> <p>s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

**14 CLOSING KARAKIA**