



AGENDA

Council Workshop meeting Thursday, 26 March 2026

I hereby give notice that a Council Workshop meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 26 March 2026

Time: 9:30 am

**Location: Level 1, 90 Devonport Road
Tauranga**

Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed and the recording will be publicly available on Tauranga City Council's website: www.tauranga.govt.nz.

**Marty Grenfell
Chief Executive**

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1 BUSINESS

1.1 Annual Plan - Engagement Survey

File Number: A19961787

Author: Jeremy Boase, Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience

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

Presenter(s): Jeremy Boase, Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience
Susan Davidson, Head of Communications & Engagement

External presenter(s): To be determined

Workshop information

Purpose of workshop

1. To finalise the questions elected members would like to see asked through the 1000-response demographically-sound survey.

Background

2. On 10 February 2026, Council resolved not to consult on the draft 2026/27 annual plan. At the same time, Council resolved to undertake engagement activities referencing both the annual plan and 'in anticipation of the long-term plan'.
3. That resolution specifically referenced 'a demographically-sound and independent survey ... with 1000 respondents'.
4. Because the supplier used for a similar but smaller survey during the 2025/26 annual plan process was unable to undertake a survey of this scale, a procurement process was initiated to establish the supplier. That process is substantially (but not formally) complete, and we are expecting that the preferred supplier will be present at this workshop, likely remotely.
5. A working group of elected members has prepared a schedule of draft questions (see **Attachment 1** to this report). This schedule has been provided to the preferred supplier ahead of the workshop.
6. The previously-circulated timeframe for the survey and the wider annual plan preparation is included below:

Survey	Procure survey provider	March
Survey	EMs to decide on questions to potentially ask (2 weeks)	16 March - 27 March
Budget	Agenda with 'base case' numbers (and LoS papers, and decision on referendum budget) published	17 March

Budget	Council meeting to approve base case and make decisions on LoS and referendum budget	24 March
Survey	Finalise questions and format of survey with provider* (4 days)	30 March - 2 April
	Easter Weekend	3 April - 6 April
Survey	Script and test survey (4 days)	7 April - 10 April
Budget	Up-to-date budget numbers incorporating 24 March decision-making distributed to elected members	13 April
Budget	Agenda with up-to-date numbers published	14 April
Survey	Survey in field (3 weeks)	14 April – 1 May
Budget	Council meeting to approve up-to-date numbers	21 April
Survey	Process survey results / report writing (2 weeks)	27 April – 15 May
Survey	Draft survey report to staff for Q&A	12 May
Survey	Survey results and report finalised and shared with elected members informally	19 May
Survey & budget	Agenda published with survey results and annual plan financials as attachment	26 May
Budget	Council meeting to adopt annual plan financials	2 June
Budget	Agenda published with final annual plan for adoption	16 June
Budget	Council meeting to adopt final annual plan	23 June (could be shuffled to 30 June if required – currently a City Future Cttee meeting day)

* = all survey dates will depend on final negotiations with the yet-to-be-procured survey provider

Attachments

1. Survey questions proposed by EM working group - A19924046 [↓](#) 

1. What are the most important things a council must deliver for its community?

2. What are not core business for a council?

3. Satisfaction with proposed rates increase

The current Long-term Plan forecast a rates increase of **10.4%** for 2026/27. Council is now proposing to reduce this to **7.5%**.

Are you satisfied that enough has been done to reduce the increase?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neutral / unsure
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

4. Support for minor service reductions

To reduce the rates increase, Council has reduced internal costs, delayed some projects, and made some minor reductions to levels of service.

To what extent do you support making minor service reductions to keep rates increases lower?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral / depends
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

5. Services that should be protected

Are there any Council services that should not be reduced, even if that means higher rates?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, which services should be protected most?

(Select up to three)

- Water supply
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Roads and transport
- Public transport
- Emergency management / resilience
- Parks and reserves
- Environmental programmes
- Libraries
- Community facilities
- Sporting and recreation facilities
- Other (please specify)

6. Areas where spending could be reduced

If Council needs to reduce spending, which areas would you be most comfortable seeing reduced or delayed?

(Select up to three)

- Events and festivals
- New community facilities
- Environmental programmes
- Sporting and recreation facilities
- Libraries and cultural facilities
- Streetscape / place-making upgrades
- Transport improvements
- Growth-related projects
- I would not support further reductions
- Other (please specify)

7. Open comment on efficiencies

Are there any areas where you think Council could operate more efficiently while still delivering good outcomes?

Response type: Open text

8. Priorities for capital investment

Thinking about major projects and capital investment over the next 10 years, which should be Council's highest priorities?

Please rank your top three.

- An inclusive and accessible city
- Protecting and enhancing the environment
- A well-planned city that is easy to move around
- Supporting business and education
- A vibrant city with events and experiences

9. Council's four broad planning priorities

Which of these should be most important to Council over the next 10 years?

Please rank from most important to least important.

- Enable housing
- Address transport
- Enhance our environment
- Deliver services for our community

10. Guiding principles for decision-making

Which principles should matter most when Council makes long-term decisions?

Please rank from most important to least important.

- Look after what we've got
- Accountable and transparent
- Value for money
- Everyone pays a fair share
- Growth pays for growth
- Bold and innovative

11. Focus of funding decisions

When Council makes funding decisions, where should the strongest focus be?

- Keeping costs lower for current residents and ratepayers
- Investing more now for future residents and ratepayers
- A balanced approach between current and future communities
- Not sure

12. New aquatic facility

Do you support Council building a new major aquatic facility at Memorial Park in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / need more information

13. Future of the Mount Library

Once the new central city library opens, what do you think should happen with the Mount library?

- Keep it as a full library
- Keep it, but with a smaller or different role
- Repurpose it for another community use
- Close it
- Not sure

14. Trust and confidence

On a scale from **0 to 10**, how much trust and confidence do you currently have in Tauranga City Council?

(0 = no trust and confidence at all, 10 = very high trust and confidence)

15. Message to elected members

If you could send one message to Tauranga's elected members, what would it be?

Response type: Open text

16. Do you own or rent the home you live in?

17. Do you own any residential investment property in Tauranga?

18. Do you usually vote in local council elections?

19. Which of the following best describes your household's financial situation?

- Finding it very difficult
- Finding it somewhat difficult
- Managing okay
- Reasonably comfortable
- Very comfortable
- Prefer not to say