# AGENDA

## Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting

## Wednesday, 2 December 2026

**I hereby give notice that a Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting will be held on:**

**Date:** **Wednesday, 2 December 2026**

**Time:** **9:30 am**

**Location:** **Maungatapu Marae**
**25 Wikitoria Street, Tauranga**

**Gareth Green**

**Interim Chief Executive**

# Terms of reference – Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee

## Common responsibilities and delegations

The following common responsibilities and delegations apply to all standing committees.

### Responsibilities of standing committees

- Establish priorities and guidance on programmes relevant to the Role and Scope of the committee.
- Provide guidance to staff on the development of investment options to inform the Long Term Plan and Annual Plans.
- Report to Council on matters of strategic importance.
- Recommend to Council investment priorities and lead Council considerations of relevant strategic and high significance decisions.
- Provide guidance to staff on levels of service relevant to the role and scope of the committee.
- Establish and participate in relevant task forces and working groups.
- Engage in dialogue with strategic partners, such as Smart Growth partners, to ensure alignment of objectives and implementation of agreed actions.
- Confirmation of committee minutes.

### Delegations to standing committees

- To make recommendations to Council outside of the delegated responsibility as agreed by Council relevant to the role and scope of the Committee.
- To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role and scope of the Committee subject to the delegations/limitations imposed.
- To develop and consider, receive submissions on and adopt strategies, policies and plans relevant to the role and scope of the committee, except where these may only be legally adopted by Council.
- To consider, consult on, hear and make determinations on relevant strategies, policies and bylaws (including adoption of drafts), making recommendations to Council on adoption, rescinding and modification, where these must be legally adopted by Council.
- To approve relevant submissions to central government, its agencies and other bodies beyond any specific delegation to any particular committee.
- Engage external parties as required.

# Terms of reference – Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee

## Membership

| | |
|---|---|
| **Independent chair** | Mr Anthony Fisher |
| **Deputy chair** | Mayor Mahé Drysdale |
| **Tauranga City Council members** | Mayor Mahé Drysdale<br>Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular<br>Cr Hautapu Baker<br>Cr Kevin Schuler<br>Cr Hēmi Rolleston |
| **Tangata Whenua members**<br>**6 members from Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana** | Ms Matire Duncan<br>Mr Puhirake Ihaka<br>Ms Destiny Leaf<br>Ms Kura Martin<br>Mr Whitiora McLeod<br>Mr Steve Te Kani |
| **Quorum** | Half of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is even; and a majority of the members present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is odd. |
| **Meeting frequency** | Six meetings a year to be held on marae. |
| **Members from Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana to attend meetings** | Members from Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana are to be invited to all meetings.<br><br>At the Chair's discretion, Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana members may speak to reports.<br><br>To avoid doubt only members of the Committee can move or second recommendations or vote. |
| **Hapū presentations** | Hapū presentations to be held at the beginning of each meeting.<br><br>The remainder of the business of the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee will be held at the conclusion of the hapū presentation. |
| **Minutes** | Minutes will be confirmed at each meeting. |
| **Livestreaming of meetings** | The meetings will be livestreamed.<br><br>Livestreaming of presentations by hapū will be subject to permission from the marae. |

**Rapua te huarahi whanui hei ara whakapiri**
**i nga iwi e rua i te whakaaro kotahi**

**Seek the broad highway that will unite the two peoples**
**toward a common goal.**

## Membership

**Partners** Tauranga City Council and "nga hapu me nga iwi o Tauranga Moana" representing Tangata Whenua within the Tauranga City Council rohe (boundaries).

Tangata Whenua representatives are to be those with signed hapu protocols. One of the six Tangata Whenua representatives is to be a Kaumatua. Kaumatua representation is to have the ability to be shared between two Kaumatua if required.

## Background

Council is committed to establishing and monitoring appropriate links with Tangata Whenua to enable effective relationships to develop and meet a number of legislative requirements including those under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act.

1. Tangata Whenua are deemed to be the respective Iwi and Hapū of Tauranga Moana.
2. The Local Government Act 1974 and Local Government Act 2002 contain provisions relating to the exercise of the powers, functions and duties of the Tauranga City Council.

## Principles of the partnership

The Partners:

- Recognise the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa NZ.
- Will work with respect, goodwill, honesty, trust and integrity toward the other party and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Recognise that the relationship is a mutual two-way relationship and any changes of the agreement need to involve discussions and agreement between the partners.
- Recognise the need for Tauranga City Council to work within a legislative framework.
- Recognise the independence of each partner, including:
  - (a) The tangata whenua representatives as a voice for the Māori communities;
  - (b) Recognise the independence of hapū and iwi;
  - (c) The Council as a democratic decision maker, responsible to the community as a whole.

## Role and scope

- To forge an ongoing effective and meaningful partnership between the Tauranga City Council and Tangata Whenua.
- To facilitate meaningful understanding of future impacts on key issues affecting Tangata Whenua and Māori that Council can influence.

The functions and key tasks are:

(a) To bring to the other partner's attention issues / concerns in respect of existing strategy or policy.
(b) To exchange information of mutual interest.
(c) To discuss new initiatives approaches and directions.
(d) Agree agenda topics for the following three consecutive meetings.

## Communication

- To educate the wider community on Tangata Whenua issues.
- To establish and maintain communication and consultation channels within the Council organisation and Tangata Whenua groups.

## Monitoring

- To regularly monitor projects, policies and strategies managed or under development by Council which affect Tangata Whenua.
- To regularly monitor progress of key issues identified by Tangata Whenua through reporting of Council and the Tangata Whenua Collective (Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana).
- To monitor the on-going development and process of the Standing Committee.

## Power to recommend

- To Council or any Standing Committee as it deems appropriate.
- Reports to Council.

# Order of Business

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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 ORDER OF BUSINESS

# 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

## 7.1 Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 26 August 2026

**File Number:** **A21505633**

**Author:** **Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

**Authoriser:** **Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 26 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

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## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 26 August 2026**




# DRAFT MINUTES

## Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting

## Wednesday, 26 August 2026

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## Order of Business

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL**
**TANGATA WHENUA / TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**
**HELD AT THE MARAE**
**ON WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | Mr Anthony Fisher (Chair), Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Hēmi Rolleston, Ms Matire Duncan, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Steve Te Kani (online) |
| **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** | Cr Rod Taylor |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | Jeremy Boase (Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience), Keren Paekau (Head of Strategic Māori Engagement), Cynthia Hamel (Acting Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Leonie Cairns (Kaiārahi Māori), Tuana Kuka (Kaiārahi Māori), Yolande Gallagher (Kaiarahi Māori), Emma Joyce (Open Space & Community Facilities Planner), Ryan Russell (Team Leader Communications: City Development and Partnerships), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor), Quinn Tawaka (Governance Advisor). |
| **EXTERNAL:** | Mr Kevin Lavery (Establishment Chief Executive – Water Organisation) |

Timestamps are included at the start of each item and signal where the agenda item can be found in the recording of the meeting held on 26 August 2026 at Council's You Tube Channel.

## 1 OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Hēmi Rolleston opened the meeting with a karakia.

## 2 APOLOGIES

### APOLOGY

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW/26/0/1

Moved: Cr Hēmi Rolleston
Seconded: Ms Matire Duncan

That the apology for absence received from Member Puhiraki Ihaka and Kura Martin be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## 3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

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## 4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

## 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

## 6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 7.1 Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 24 June 2026

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW/26/0/2**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular
Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 24 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Member Whitiora McLeod advised he was a trustee of Mangatawa Pāpāmoa Blocks Incorporation.

## 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

### 9.1 Presentation: Mr Kevin Lavery – Establishment Chief Executive – Water Organisation

**Mr Kevin Lavery**

Mr Lavery introduced himself to the Committee and provided the following points:

- An outline of his background in local government, health, water reform, and establishing new organisations.
- Safe drinking water and sanitation had been among the most important public health improvements in history and emphasised the critical importance of water services.

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- The Bay of Plenty region already had strong water operations, capable staff, good infrastructure, and positive relationships with communities and marae.
- The new water entity's ambition was to be the country's leading water organisation, delivering safe, reliable, and affordable services.
- Relationships with Tangata Whenua would be central to the organisation and that a Marae Partnerships Lead would report directly to him. Engagement with Tangata Whenua should be embedded across the organisation rather than being the responsibility of one person.
- Highlighted the importance of maintaining focus on key projects, Te Mana o te Wai outcomes, workforce development, and succession planning.
- A successful and stable transition to the new water entity was the immediate priority.
- The new entity would have greater borrowing capacity than councils, enabling increased investment in water infrastructure and renewals.
- Borrowing was appropriate for long-life water assets because it spread costs more fairly across current and future users.
- Stronger public education on water conservation and sustainability was supported, while noting that water metering and digital technology could help reduce consumption.
- Collaboration with marae, iwi, trusts, councils, and communities to help deliver sustainable water solutions and future investment was encouraged.

Mr Lavery then played a video to further introduce himself (this video can be seen on the livestream).

**Mr Lavery in response to questions**

- The new water entity would be able to borrow more than councils, enabling greater investment in infrastructure, renewals, and compliance.
- The key benefit for communities would be the ability to do more, deliver services efficiently, and build on the strong foundations already established by Tauranga and Western Bay.
- The Māori Partnerships Lead reported directly to him because the relationship with Tangata Whenua was a priority and needed leadership from the top of the organisation.
- Responsibility for engagement with Tangata Whenua should sit across the executive leadership team, not with one individual.
- The new entity would work closely with the existing Māori teams at Tauranga City Council and Western Bay through ongoing collaboration and service level agreements.
- The preferred candidate for the senior iwi partnership role was undergoing reference checks and that iwi representatives would be invited to meet the candidate before the appointment was finalised.
- Concerns about borrowing were acknowledged. Efficiencies, careful capital programme management, and performance improvements would be needed to minimise costs to customers.
- Borrowing for long-life infrastructure was appropriate because it spread costs fairly across current and future generations who would benefit from the assets.
- Balancing growth with environmental protection was supported. High environmental standards and development could be achieved together.
- Stronger regulation by Te Mana o te Wai was driving improved drinking water and wastewater standards.
- Tauranga and Western Bay were starting from a strong position with generally good water compliance and performance.
- Water conservation education was supported. Digital technology, metering, and behavioural change would help reduce water consumption.
- Agreed that alternative approaches such as greywater use should be considered as part of future water sustainability efforts.
- Less money should be spent on regulatory and consent processes where possible, and more should be directed towards environmental improvements.

The Chair thanked Mr Lavery for his attendance, presentation and answering questions.

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## 9.2 Discussion Topics: Tangata Whenua Engagement Review Update and Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway

### Tangata Whenua Engagement Review Update

The Manager, Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience provided the committee with an update, making the following points:

- The original engagement review had gone to Council on 26 May 2026, and Council had requested further work before a final decision was made.
- Consultant Jocelyn Mikaere had completed a report which identified key principles, components, and areas of focus for an integrated engagement model. The report emphasised the need for clearly defined roles, responsibilities, communication pathways, decision-making processes, and any hierarchy within the engagement framework.
- The consultant's report was not the final answer, and further work was required before recommendations could be considered by Council.
- Christine Jones and Ms Matire Duncan had begun working through how to progress the recommendations and implementation approach.
- Additional work would be undertaken quickly, with a further report planned for the meeting on 28 October 2026. The recommendations from the committee would then be incorporated into a report to Council scheduled for 10 November 2026.
- The intention was to bring the review process to completion and establish a new engagement structure.
- Feedback from Tangata Whenua had been considered and that implementation would provide further opportunities to refine the model and continue consultation.
- The Committee's feedback would help shape the final recommendations and implementation process before matters returned to Council.

### Questions, comments and responses

- Members supported further work on the integrated engagement model.
- Member Whitiora McLeod advised that Māori Land Trust representation was identified as a gap requiring further discussion.
- The need to involve iwi chairs and Te Rangapū together during implementation was emphasised.
- Staff confirmed further refinement and consultation would occur during implementation.
- Future hui involving iwi chairs, Te Rangapū, the Combined Tangata Whenua Forum and SmartGrowth representatives were planned.
- The committee was advised it would receive a further report on 28 October 2026 before recommendations went to Council in November.

### Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway

Mayor Mahé Drysdale provided the Committee with an update, making the following points:

- Discussions had focused on debt, governance, and Tangata Whenua representation.
- Tauranga City Council supported the Head Start proposal, while Western Bay did not.
- Tauranga and Rotorua had jointly submitted a compliant Head Start proposal to Government.
- The proposal would reduce the number of councils and create more efficient regional governance arrangements.
- There could be opportunities for improved Tangata Whenua engagement and representation, but some details still needed to be worked through.

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- Cabinet would decide in September whether the proposal would proceed to the next stage.
- The proposal presented both risks and significant opportunities for the region.

**Questions, comments and responses**

In response to questions from Member Whitiora McLeod, Ms Matire Duncan advised that:

- Planning for the Māori ward referendum was still uncertain due to the proposed council reorganisation, noting that a joint approach was being considered. She advised the committee was waiting for more clarity on the Head Start process before progressing further.
- Mr Des Heke and Ms Destiny Leaf had been appointed as Ngāti Ranginui representatives to Te Rangapū, noting they had been temporarily withdrawn during a representation review. Ngāti Ranginui were looking to appoint representatives back onto Te Rangapū.
- In response to a question, Mayor Mahé Drysdale advised that the six territorial authorities identified were Ōpōtiki, Kawerau, Whakatāne, Rotorua, Tauranga, and Western Bay of Plenty.

## 10 BUSINESS

### 10.1 Tangata Whenua - Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairperson's Report - August 2026

**Chair Tony Fisher**

Chair Tony Fisher spoke to his report and invited questions and comments.

**Ms Matire Duncan**

- The report raised important questions about Tangata Whenua representation and Treaty obligations under local government reform.
- Increased Māori participation would require additional capacity and capability support for iwi and hapū.

**Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular**

- The Deputy Mayor supported the report and suggested it be used as an ongoing guide or work programme for the committee, suggesting that the reports key issues and questions could be regularly monitored.
- Ms Matire Duncan suggested focusing on the six key questions at the end of the report as a starting point.

**Mr Whitiora McLeod**

- Mr McLeod asked whether a specific Treaty policy should be developed and sought clarification on whether the Te Ao Māori Framework was a policy or guidance document.
- He suggested Māori Land Trust forums should be considered when discussing future Māori representation.
- The Chair, Mr Anthony Fisher, agreed there was value in clarifying how Te Ao Māori considerations were being applied in council reports and decision-making.

**Head of Strategy, Governance & Climate Resilience**

- The Te Ao Māori Framework formed part of Council's strategy and was intended as a foundation for ongoing capability building and organisational improvement.
- It was acknowledged that while current practice was not perfect, it represented improvement

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compared with previous years

**Action Requested:**

- That staff ensure that the sentiments of the Chairperson's report, and in particular the questions posed on the final page, are incorporated into (a) the development of structures and processes in response to the tangata whenua engagement review, and (b) the development of future local government structures under the Head Start Pathway process, if Tauranga City Council is selected for that process by Cabinet. Both processes to report back to this Committee accordingly.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW/26/0/3**

Moved: Mr Whitiora McLeod
Seconded: Cr Hēmi Rolleston

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua - Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairperson's Report - August 2026".

**CARRIED**

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### 10.2 Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - August 2026

**Ms Matire Duncan**

**In response to questions**

Progress on a strategy to support a potential Māori ward referendum and whether there was an update on the planning work being undertaken:

- Ms Duncan advised that a joint approach had been considered, however, there was still uncertainty due to the proposed local government merger process, and it was unclear whether a Māori ward referendum would still be required. She noted that the committee was effectively waiting for more certainty before progressing further.
- The Head of Strategic Māori Engagement advised that the focus at the moment had been on the general election, and that a draft plan around who would be reached out to when the process started had begun. This was on hold until 7 November 2026. Following this there was a plan to start a campaign around Māori wards.

**Cr Hēmi Rolleston**

- The uncertainty around local government reform affected Māori ward referendum planning.
- Council needed to prepare for multiple scenarios and be ready to pivot once Government decisions were known.
- It was important to continue preparatory work rather than waiting for certainty

**Action Requested:**

- That staff to continue developing the Māori Ward education, engagement and participation plan and provide the communications and networks relating to this to the Committee.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW/26/0/4**

Moved: Ms Matire Duncan
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - August 2026".

**CARRIED**

### 10.3 Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - August 2026

**Staff** Keren Paekau, Head of Strategic Māori Engagement

The Head of Strategic Māori Engagement provided report updates and answered questions.

**In response to questions**

Taylor Reserve:

- The matter needed to come back for further discussion with elected members and mana whenua representatives.
- Staff had prepared a report previously, but the next step was likely to be a workshop or briefing with elected members before a Council report was considered.
- The Taylor whānau had been involved in discussions and would continue to be involved.

Wikitorea Street Property:

- Council was awaiting a proposal from Ngāti Hē.
- Correspondence had recently been received requesting a meeting and expected discussions to continue.
- Engagement with iwi representatives would continue and a future update would be provided once a proposal has been received and considered.

Waimapu Marae:

- Staff were preparing a report for a November Council meeting on support for marae that would cover insurance, water, emergency management, and other support requested by marae.
- Staff were developing a comprehensive package of current support, future options, and how the new water services entity could contribute.

**Actions Requested:**

That staff:

- Prepare a Papakāinga Taskforce update for the Committee to be brought back to the next committee meeting.
- Progress Taylor Reserve naming discussions and report back.
- Provide an update on the Wikitorea Street properties proposal.
- Prepare a November Council report on marae support (including insurance, water and emergency management).
- Bring unresolved issues requiring governance direction back to elected members and Te Rangapū

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### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW/26/0/5

Moved: Cr Kevin Schuler
Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - August 2026".

**CARRIED**

## 11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

## 12 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Hēmi Rolleston closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 11.16am**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 2 December 2026.**

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# 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

# 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

## 9.1 Hapū Presentation - Ngāti Hē and Ngāi Te Ahi

## ATTACHMENTS

**Nil**

# 10 BUSINESS

## 10.1 Tangata Whenua - Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairperson's Report - December 2026

**File Number:** **A21245906**

**Author:** **Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

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

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Chairperson of the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee to provide updates and insights to the Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua - Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairperson's Report - December 2026".

### ATTACHMENTS

**1. Tangata Whenua/TCC Committee - Chairperson's Report - December 2026 - A21502764**

**TCC/Tangata Whenua Standing Committee**
**Maungatapu Marae**
**2 December 2026**
**Chairperson's report**

Tēnā koutou e ōku Rangatira, koutou ngā mema ō te Kaunihera, koutou hoki ngā mema ō te Rangapū. Ka tika ngā mihi, ngā tangi, ngā poroporaki, ki a rātou kua wheturangihia. Haere koutou ki te waka o te rangi, ki ngā urupā o rātou mā. Haere koutou, okioki koutou, kaati ra. Tēnā anō hoki tātou ngā kānohi ora.

**Strong relationships with tangata whenua: simply good local government**
**Purpose**
At the time of writing this paper we were all awaiting the outcome of the counting of special votes from the General Election and therefore what the likely make-up of the new coalition government may be. All things being equal popular predictions are that the new government will be a right wing National-led coalition. If that were to be the case, would we continue along much the same trajectory as the last regime? For the most case I would think - probably.

If it were to be a left leaning Labour-led coalition, would they undo most or much of what the previous regime had underway? Likely not.

So where does that leave Māori? Where does it leave tangata whenua? Where does it leave Councils?

For people working in central government, navigating changes in political ideologies and government-of-the-day policies goes with the job. The same can be said of Councils and Council. But does that mean institutions should abandon common sense and logic because of political ideologies? I would argue strongly that, irrespective of the political position taken by any particular central government towards Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori, it makes sound practical, democratic and economic sense for local authorities to build and sustain strong working relationships with the iwi and hapū of their district. This is not simply an argument about complying with Treaty obligations. It is an argument about good local government.

Recent years have demonstrated that the political and legislative settings surrounding Māori rights and Te Tiriti can change significantly. Changes have affected Māori wards, Māori involvement in council governance arrangements and Treaty provisions across legislation.

The Waitangi Tribunal was strongly critical of aspects of the Government's approach to Māori wards, finding failures relating to partnership, consultation, active protection and good-faith decision-making.

Councils, however, need not allow national political disagreements to determine the quality of local relationships. Governments change. Councils change. Legislation changes. **Tangata whenua remain tangata whenua.**

Iwi and hapū will remain in their rohe through successive governments and electoral cycles. Councils and tangata whenua will continue to share an interest in the same whenua, waterways, infrastructure, communities and local economy.
The central proposition is therefore straightforward:

A council should maintain strong relationships with tangata whenua because knowing, trusting and working with people who have an enduring relationship with the district helps the council govern it better.

**1. Tangata whenua are enduring local institutions**
Iwi and hapū are communities, but they are also enduring institutions with histories, leadership structures, assets, responsibilities and relationships with particular places. That distinguishes tangata whenua from many conventional stakeholders.

A particular business, advocacy group or community organisation may come and go. Hapū and iwi do not. Their relationship with their rohe is intergenerational.

This matters because many council decisions are also intergenerational. Water infrastructure, roads, flood protection, land-use planning, reserves, urban development and climate adaptation can shape communities for decades. There is therefore a natural alignment between councils, whose decisions have long-term consequences for places, and tangata whenua, whose interests and responsibilities in those places are also long-term.

**2. Better relationships produce better decisions**
Perhaps the strongest practical argument is also the simplest: councils make better decisions when they understand their district well.
Tangata whenua can bring knowledge of:

- whenua, waterways and environmental change;
- culturally significant landscapes and sites;
- mātauranga and local ecological systems;
- Māori communities that conventional consultation may not reach;
- local histories, including the effects of earlier government decisions;

- development aspirations for Māori land and assets; and
- long-term community and environmental priorities.

None of this means that iwi or hapū views must determine every council decision. Elected councils remain responsible for balancing competing priorities, financial constraints and the interests of the whole community. But deliberately excluding relevant knowledge rarely produces better decisions.

**3. Good relationships save time, money and conflict**
Poor relationships are expensive. Just ask the Port of Tauranga.

When engagement occurs only after a preferred solution has been designed, opposition can produce repeated consultation, legal advice, hearings, litigation, project redesign, delays and damaged public confidence. Strong relationships allow difficult issues to be identified earlier, when there is still room to find solutions.

In recent discussion of resource-management reform, Māori environmental practitioner Tina Porou made the practical observation that investing in relationships at the beginning is cheaper than managing a long-term bad relationship with iwi and hapū. Consider major infrastructure. The worst time to discover that a proposed route affects a place of deep significance to mana whenua is after design work is completed and funding committed.

Early engagement does not guarantee agreement and does not need to confer a veto over council decisions. Its value is that disagreements emerge while there is still an opportunity to resolve them.

That is good project management.

**4. Relationships help councils fulfil their legal responsibilities**
The practical case does not replace the legal one.
The Local Government Act 2002 contains specific responsibilities concerning Māori participation. Section 81 requires local authorities to establish and maintain processes providing opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making, consider ways to foster Māori capacity to participate, and provide relevant information.

The Resource Management Act 1991 similarly contains provisions relating to tangata whenua, Māori interests and the Treaty, while resource-management law continues to evolve. In addition, individual councils may have responsibilities arising from Treaty settlement legislation, statutory acknowledgements and other specific arrangements.

A council that already understands its local iwi and hapū, their respective interests, settlement arrangements and appropriate representatives is much better placed to meet these obligations efficiently than one that must begin again for every project.

**5. Relationships provide continuity when government policy changes**
This is particularly important during periods of political and legislative change.

Formal mechanisms for Māori participation may change. Māori wards, committee arrangements, resource-management mechanisms and statutory requirements may be strengthened, weakened or redesigned. But changing the mechanism does not remove the underlying need for the relationship.

A council may operate under different legislation tomorrow, but it will still have to deal with mana whenua over waterways, subdivisions, roads, wastewater, flooding, reserves, environmental restoration and culturally significant sites.

Councils should therefore distinguish between the relationship and the mechanism used to express it.

Committees, Māori wards, advisory groups and statutory mechanisms can change but the underlying relationship should endure.

**6. Iwi are increasingly important economic partners**
There is also a strong economic rationale.

Iwi and Māori organisations are increasingly important regional investors, employers, landowners, developers and partners in housing, tourism, environmental projects and social services.An iwi organisation can simultaneously be mana whenua, a Treaty settlement entity, landowner, investor, developer, employer and community organisation.

A council interested in the economic development of its district should understand the aspirations of significant institutions operating within it.
Stats NZ now provides substantial iwi-level information covering population, employment, income, housing, education and other characteristics, reflecting the importance of iwi as economic and social communities.

For councils planning infrastructure and development 10, 20 or 30 years ahead, understanding iwi demographic, land-development and economic aspirations is simply prudent planning.

**7. Councils and tangata whenua share an interest in the environment**
Environmental management provides perhaps the clearest area of common interest.

Councils have responsibilities for water, wastewater, stormwater, biodiversity, land use, coastlines, natural hazards and climate adaptation. For tangata whenua, these same matters are frequently understood through kaitiakitanga, whakapapa and relationships with particular awa, roto, maunga, whenua and coastal environments.

There is often a considerable overlap in the desired result: healthy waterways, resilient ecosystems, responsible development and resources that remain available for future generations.

Mātauranga Māori and intergenerational local knowledge can complement engineering, scientific and regulatory expertise. One does not need to displace the other.
The objective is better-informed decision-making.

**8. Strong relationships strengthen community resilience**
The case extends to civil defence, emergency management and climate adaptation. Marae, iwi organisations, Māori providers and whānau networks often possess strong community connections. In an emergency those networks can assist with communication, community hubs, welfare support and reaching vulnerable whānau.

A relationship created during ordinary times can effectively become community infrastructure during a crisis.

**9. Partnership does not undermine democratic accountability**
One of the most contentious arguments is that particular arrangements with tangata whenua somehow compete with representative democracy.

The two need not be in conflict. Councillors are elected to make decisions and remain accountable for them. ***But representative democracy does not require councillors to make decisions with less information***.

Councils routinely maintain structured relationships with businesses, farmers, developers, environmental organisations, disability groups, neighbourhood organisations and other sectors. Engaging with those groups does not diminish democracy.

**10. Strong relationships must survive disagreement**
A mature council-iwi relationship cannot depend upon agreement.

There will inevitably be disagreements about development, rates, water, environmental regulation, land use, representation and spending priorities. Indeed, this is one of the strongest reasons to invest in the relationship.

A functioning relationship should allow the parties to say:
*We disagree about this decision, but we understand each other's position, we know how to talk to each other, and this disagreement will not destroy the wider relationship.*
The real test of a relationship is not how it operates when interests align. It is whether trust and communication survive when they do not.

**11. Conclusion**

In conclusion**,** councils don't need to choose between a Te Tiriti rationale and a practical governance rationale for engaging with tangata whenua. Both lead substantially to the same conclusion.

Legal and Treaty obligations remain important. But even if those considerations were put temporarily to one side, the practical case would remain compelling - Iwi and hapū possess knowledge councils need. They are community leaders, landowners, economic participants, environmental kaitiaki and enduring institutions with an intergenerational stake in their rohe.

Strong relationships give councils better information, identify problems earlier, reduce the risk of expensive disputes, strengthen community resilience and improve the likelihood of durable decisions.

Central-government policies will continue to change. The statutory mechanisms governing Māori participation may change with them. The relationship between tangata whenua and their rohe does not.

The most sensible position for a council is therefore neither ideological nor partisan. It is pragmatic: We should build strong relationships with tangata whenua, through whatever forum(s) they choose to represent themselves because we share the same place and its future, and because understanding and working with one another helps us make better decisions for the whole district.

Seen in those terms, maintaining meaningful relationships with iwi and hapū is not something additional to good local government.

It is simply part of doing local government well.

Kāti ake nei

## 10.2 Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - December 2026

**File Number:** **A21245857**

**Author:** **Caroline Irvin, Governance Advisor**

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

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee members with updates on Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana matters and their progress.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - December 2026".

### ATTACHMENTS

1. **RMW Report to Tangata Whenua/TCC Committee - December 2026 - A21502710**
2. **Tauranga City Council Tangata Whenua engagement Review - A21502898**

**Report to Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2 December 2026, Maungatapu Marae**

TO: Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee

FROM: Chair Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana

DATE: Wednesday 2 December 2026, Maungatapu Marae

SUBJECT: Te Rangapū Report and Strategic Update

PURPOSE: To update the Committee on Te Rangapū policy engagement, strategic initiatives and the development of effective tangata whenua and Council partnership arrangements.

## 1. The Relationship

Te Rangapū remains committed to building and maintaining constructive relationships with elected members and Council staff, grounded in manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, mutual respect and genuine partnership.

## 2. Workshops and Policy Engagement

Regular workshops enable Te Rangapū to provide collective guidance on Council policy and strategic proposals at a formative stage, while recognising that individual iwi and hapū retain their own mandates and engagement pathways.

### a) Commissioning Cultural Reports Procedure

Te Rangapū received an initial presentation on the review of Commissioning and Paying for Cultural Impact and/or Māori Values Assessments Procedure. The review offers an opportunity to clarify when assessments are commissioned, how relevant iwi and hapū are identified and engaged, and how cultural advice influences project design and decisions.

Te Rangapū encourages early engagement, realistic timeframes, fair recognition of cultural expertise and clear protocols for the management and appropriate protection of sensitive information.

Further consideration of the draft procedure and associated templates is anticipated before finalisation.

**b) Strategic Framework and Eventful City Framework**

Te Rangapū contributed to the original strategic framework in 2023. Council has since discussed a stocktake of strategies in the context of the Long-Term Plan and elected-members direction, including proposed strategic documents for events and an Eventful City Framework.

Te Rangapū seeks ongoing involvement so that tangata whenua aspirations, cultural values and opportunities for meaningful participation are reflected in any revised framework.

**c) National Environmental Standard – Papakainga (NES-P)**

Council staff provided an update on the implications of the National Environmental Standard for Papakāinga for the Tauranga City Plan.

Te Rangapū welcomes planning pathways that support papakāinga on whenua Māori and emphasises the importance of accessible guidance for landowners, alignment with infrastructure planning and continued recognition of iwi and hapū interests.

The practical implications for individual developments will require ongoing engagement and clear advice from Council.

**d) Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness**

The Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness kaupapa held at TCC City Futures provides an opportunity to strengthen marae-led preparedness, response and recovery in the event of natural hazards and other emergencies.

Priorities for consideration include marae-specific emergency plans, resilient access, water and power supplies, communications, training and coordination with Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Marae are important centres of manaakitanga and community support, but their capacity and willingness to undertake emergency response functions must be determined by marae themselves.

Te Rangapū encourages ongoing engagement with marae, iwi and hapū to identify needs, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish appropriate resourcing and practical next step.

**e) Regional Spatial Plan**

Regional spatial planning is a significant kaupapa for tangata whenua, particularly in the context of the proposed new planning system, Smartgrowth and implementation of the WBOP Regional Deal.

Te Rangapū seeks early and appropriately resourced involvement of iwi and hapū in identifying spatial priorities, including whenua Māori development, papakainga, access to marae and Māori land, infrastructure servicing, protection of cultural landscapes and environmental resilience.

Coordination through the Smartgrowth Combined Tangata Whenua Fortum (CTWF) can support a collective contribution while respecting individual iwi and hapū mandates. Further clarity is sought on the programme, timeframes, governance arrangements and how tangata whenua priorities will influence the Regional Spatial Plan and subsequent investment decisions.

## 3. Strategic Projects and Initiatives

### i. Tangata Whenua / TCC Relationship Review

In September 2026 – Te Rangapū initiated a tangata whenua-led process to develop a collective response to the proposed relationship arrangements. Te Aro Pū, through Carlo Ellis, has been engaged to facilitate wānanga to present back to TCC.

The scope of the TCC Tangata Whenua Engagement Implementation Plan is to facilitate tangata whenua led process to clarify an agreed structure for Tauranga City Council engagement with Tangata Whenua. The scope includes facilitating a clearly defined purpose, shared objectives, agreed components and their respective terms of reference, membership and functions.

The first relationship review wānanga, was held on 1 October 2026, with invitations issued to Te Rangapū chair and deputy, the Tangata Whenua / TCC Committee chair, Iwi chairs and tangata whenua representatives of the 3 Council Committees.

The discussion explored the distinct purposes and connections of four existing mechanisms: the Joint Standing Committee, Mayor / Iwi Forum, Te Rangapū, and relationship agreements and protocols.

Emerging themes include strengthening the Committee's strategic and recommendatory role, clarifying feedback pathways, retaining Te Rangapū's collective advisory and policy functions, and refreshing relationship agreements and further engagement wānanga is being proposed.

Te Rangapū supports a coordinated system that strengthens existing relationships without diminishing the standing, autonomy or mandates of individual iwi, hapū or established forums.

Carlo will present his initial findings at the 2 December TW/TCC Committee hui.

### ii. Head Start – Simplifying Local Government

Potential local government structural reform remains a significant strategic matter for tangata whenua.

Te Rangapū are still keen to be involved and seeks early, coordinated involvement in any next-stage proposals, with clear consideration of Treaty settlement arrangements, Māori

representation, existing partnership commitments, engagement pathways and the implications for tangata whenua.

Any proposed efficiency gains should be assessed alongside the continuity and quality of relationships and decision-making.

**iii. Western Bay of Plenty Regional Deal**

Attention is turning to the implementation of the Western Bay of Plenty Regional Deal and its connections with SmartGrowth, regional spatial planning, housing and infrastructure.

Te Rangapū supports an integrated approach that provides meaningful pathways for iwi, hapū and collective tangata whenua advice while respecting the different mandates of participating parties.

Priorities include whenua Māori development, papakāinga, Māori economic opportunities, infrastructure and environmental outcomes.

Te Rangapū supports continued coordination between the Regional Deal, SmartGrowth and existing tangata whenua partnership structures that includes the Combined Tangata Whenua Forum (CTWF) to avoid duplication, make best use of existing work and expertise.

A Tangata Whenua Implementation Plan was presented by Rangimarie Ririnui at the CTWF hui held in late September 2026. Te Rangapū supports progressing the plan, with continued tangata whenua involvement.

**iv. Te Awanui Maori Ward and Referendum**

The future of the Te Awanui Māori Ward remains an important issue for tangata whenua. Te Rangapū continues to support Māori representation as a meaningful contribution to Council governance and decision-making.
Preparations should prioritise accessible, accurate and non-partisan civic information about the referendum process, voting eligibility, key dates and the implications of the result.

A Project Leadership Group has been established comprising of TCC staff and Te Rangapu to initiate planning and delivery, including budget management, communications & engagement plan, programme messaging and resourcing towards the Māori ward poll civic education and participation programme. This group meets weekly.

The key purpose and objective will be to support informed participation in the Te Awanui Māori Ward referendum by providing neutral, factual information that helps Tauranga residents understand the referendum, understand what they're being asked to decide, and confidently participate in the vote.

A wider working group will be established to provide input to and test a preferred model for project plan, communications & engagement plan, programme messaging and resourcing.

The group will be made up of Te Rangapu representatives, TCC staff and TCC governance representatives.

**Action:** Te Rangapū invites 2 Elected members to join the Wider Working Group.

**v. Submission – NZ's New Planning System – Testing the Approach to National Policy Direction**

Te Rangapu have prepared submission to the New Zealand's New Planning System – Testing the Approach to National Policy Direction highlighting several matters worth examining from the perspective of iwi Māori, hapū, marae, whenua Māori trusts and tangata whenua governance.

Te Rangapu feedback focuses particularly on what these changes could mean for mana whenua decision-making, tino rangatiratanga, papakāinga development, protection of cultural values, infrastructure, and participation in regional spatial planning.

The National Policy Direction would guide regional spatial plans, land use plans and natural environment plans.

The important implication for Māori is that decisions about development, infrastructure and environmental priorities may increasingly be settled at the national and regional planning stages, rather than through individual resource consent processes.

This creates concerns and raises questions about whether iwi, hapū and in particular Māori land trusts will have sufficient influence over decisions made at those earlier stages.

In short, Te Rangapu recommendation points for our submission will be based on:

1. Strengthen Māori participation: Specify meaningful, early and resourced iwi and hapū involvement, including recognition of distinct mandates and collective forums.
2. Enable whenua Māori development: Link planning provisions to infrastructure investment, access, servicing and implementation.
3. Protect mātauranga Māori: Ensure cultural evidence requirements are determined with mana whenua and protect sensitive information.
4. Protect Treaty settlement arrangements: Provide clarity about continuity of existing settlement rights and obligations.
5. Integrate environmental and cultural outcomes: Recognise kaitiakitanga, mauri and interconnected environmental values.
6. Require accountability: Establish transparent reporting on how Māori interests are reflected in regional spatial plans and subsequent decisions.

**vi. Voting Rights for non-elected members**

A submission on behalf of Te Rangapū and the Smartgrowth Combined Tangata Whenua Forum (CTWF) was provided to TCC Governance Services on 9 November 2026, followed by opening comments at the Council meeting on 10 November 2026 (Item 11.13).

The submission sought exceptions to retain existing voting rights and quorum status for affected tangata whenua representatives, including duly appointed alternates when acting in place of substantive members. This covers the Tangata Whenua / TCC Joint Standing Committee, Audit and Risk, City Futures, City Delivery, Smartgrowth Leadership Group, Wastewater Management Review Committee (subject to confirmation of the legal position), and Tāheke – Bay Waters Joint Committee.

The proposed changes place more than two decades of partnership progress at risk. Seven of the twelve members of this Committee are affected, with significant implications for quorum and the partnership character of the Committee. Speaking rights alone do not provide the same opportunity to influence formal outcomes as voting membership.

The submission requested coordinated applications with relevant partner councils, including for all four tangata whenua members of the Smartgrowth Leadership Group, by the 18 November deadline. Confirmation of the applications lodged and any Ministerial decisions is sought.

Te Rangapū acknowledges the support and contributions of tangata whenua representatives, iwi and hapū in strengthening the submission.

**Conclusion**

The Relationship Review, local government reform, the Regional Deal, papakāinga planning and Māori representation are connected matters that will shape participation in Tauranga Moana for years to come.

Te Rangapū remains committed to practical, enduring partnership with Council, supported by clear roles, timely engagement, communication and accountability.

We acknowledge the ongoing mahi of iwi, hapū, elected members, Council staff and community partners.

# EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have general support and are placed in order of priority to restore certainty in a strengthened relationship model going forward.

## A. UPDATE EACH IWI AND HAPŪ RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

- Confirm mandated contact
- Confirm when and how to engage appropriately

## B. CLARIFY THE TREATY SETTLEMENT FORUM

- Establish a forum for high level discussion on matters of urgency especially from Crown e.g. Waters reform, Planning reform etc
- Establish a Memorandum of Understanding that confirms inclusive membership and sets expectations

## C. UPDATE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

- Update Terms of Reference including membership and pathways to inform decision making table
- Establish a Joint Planning Process

## D. CLARIFY THE ROLE OF RANGAPŪ

- Update the Terms of Reference to clarify advice and guidance role
- Set a clear work programme including informing Council business on matters of collective agreement

# TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL TANGATA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

Report to
Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana
November 2026


## Abstract

This report explores a strengthened Tangata Whenua engagement model that upholds mana motuhake, respects iwi and hapū autonomy, and supports stronger partnership outcomes with Tauranga City Council



Prepared by Carlo Ellis
Te Aro Pū Consultants

## SUMMARY

This Report presents findings from two wānanga exploring Tangata Whenua expectations for a future engagement model with Tauranga City Council. It examines four key components and identifies actions to strengthen their purpose, alignment and effectiveness. While timeframes are tight, the proposed approach combines two options into a unified model that prioritises iwi and hapū autonomy alongside collective advice and guidance.

Feedback continues to be invited in order to inform the report to Council and support decisions on the future form of Tangata Whenua engagement.

A. This Update Report presents the findings from a series of Wānanga adding clarity to Tangata Whenua expectations of a future model of engagement

B. The timeframes for Tangata Whenua engagement are very tight to align with Council meeting cycles therefore rely heavily on thinking triggered by earlier reporting processes

C. The four key components identified through the He Ara Whakamua Report and the subsequent Options Paper have been explored through two Wānanga

D. Each component has a proposed purpose statement and a series of strengthening actions identified

E. Attendees to the Wānanga support the Model presented as Option One alongside Option Two as a complimentary clarification diagram, thereby combining the two Options into one model for further development

F. All respondents have emphasised the importance of prioritising updating agreements with each iwi and hapū, some have indicated this is essential before considering the remainder of the model

G. Implementation support in the form of resourcing, financing and staffing have been identified as out of scope for now but will be essential to successful implementation

# INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Te Aro Pū have been engaged to facilitate additional clarity to assist Council with decision making on the future form of Tangata Whenua engagement. We acknowledge the expertise, effort and headway made by all contributors to the previous reports including the authors, but also to every person and entity spoken to.

The objective is to facilitate further clarity from a Tangata Whenua perspective, taking into account a wide range of views that strengthen the relationships across the spectrum.

This update to the Joint Standing Committee is designed to test progress thus far, and trigger discussion between members.

## SCOPE OF PROJECT

The scope of this piece of work is targeted towards further defining the components recommended in the previous reports. This is on the basis that those pieces of work have undertaken extensive review of the engagement processes and landed on their recommendations.

In summary they have found that the relationship is active and valued, that the components are appropriate but that they require strengthening, improved cohesion, and clarity to create more efficiency and effectiveness for both Council and Tangata Whenua.

## OUT OF SCOPE

It is useful to identify aspects that are out of scope to manage expectations. In doing so, we also acknowledge that some feedback has been provided in the areas below and will be valuable as Council determines its way forward. We have collected that feedback and will provide that separately mainly to ensure Tangata Whenua can share their feedback freely and avoid having to repeat themselves as this process develops.

1. It is not within this scope to remove or add components that have not been identified in the previous reports
2. It is not within this scope to analyse or comment on any specific resourcing required to support implementation
3. It is not within this scope to analyse or comment on TCC Staff structures to support implementation

## PROCESS UPDATE

With tight timeframes aiming to bring a lengthy process towards decision making it was acknowledged that the scope is very targeted. As such we undertook the following process on the understanding that Tangata Whenua would be free to respond and reflect (or not) as they see fit, that their autonomous feedback would be valued and that we would seek a way forward that balances Council local government requirements with cultural appropriateness and autonomy.

An initial wānanga was arranged to consider the recommended components, discuss opportunities for strengthening taking into consideration issues and concerns, and to refine options for a wider audience to consider. Invitees included iwi leaders, Rangapū chair and deputy chair, Tangata Whenua members on Council committees and the independent chair of the Joint Standing Committee.

This informed the formation of a discussion diagram that was circulated with an invitation to a second wānanga with a wider invite list. Invitees included all of those identified above as well as all mandated representatives of all 17 iwi and hapū in the TCC region and the kaumatua forum.

In the process of arranging these wānanga we also undertook to canvas feedback from as many Tangata Whenua as possible to inform these papers including receiving a number of responses by email setting out clear parameters, concerns and feedback for us to consider.

Overall, the process was designed to be inclusive, respectful of differences and with many pathways for input albeit over a limited period of time.

We must emphasise that participation in this process was to provide feedback, advice and guidance and is not any final endorsement or approval of any outcome. In the same way that non-attendance does not generate any assumption either way.

This is information for your consideration.

## CONTEXT TO NOTE

In considering how we ensure our feedback is grounded in Tangata Whenua feedback there are a number of aspects worth noting, all of which were presented to us in the course of this process.

Many kaumatua and longstanding representatives across the spectrum reminded us that **the original relationship protocols and the mechanisms were driven directly by Māori leadership across Tauranga Moana and into Te Arawa ki Tai**. This includes the Joint Standing Committee and the Tangata Whenua Collective. All three of these components were developed steadily over a significant period of time with a clear view of balancing iwi and hapū autonomy with collective strength and guidance where appropriate. This process enabled many achievements and accomplishments to be noted and recognised with the current model, alongside clear recognition of underutilisation and misunderstanding at times.

The recent addition of **the Mayor and Iwi Leaders Forum is highly valued by attendees**. The recent developments of Deeds of Settlement were duly recognised as changing the landscape and reviewing how Tangata Whenua organise themselves was seen as a valuable exercise.

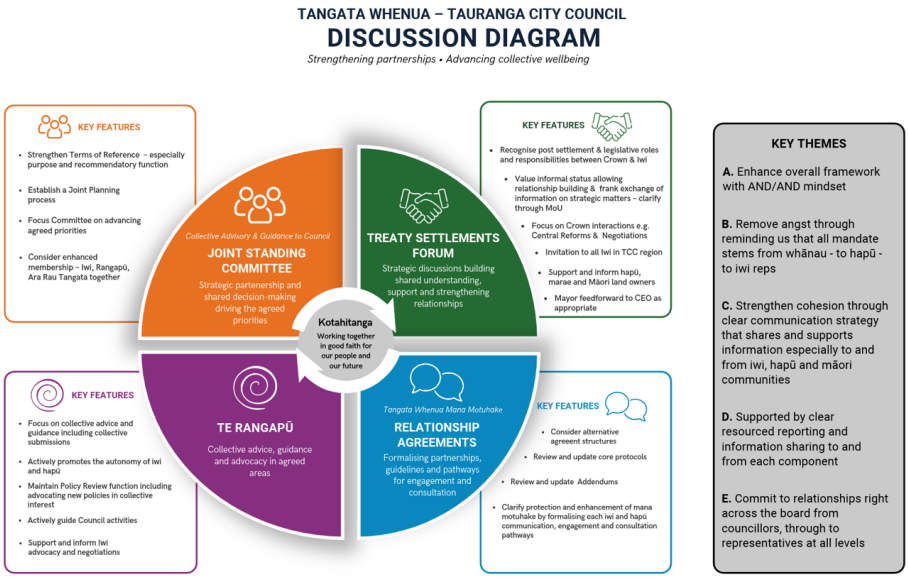
There is generally **an appetite for positive change** although the form of that positive change is not entirely agreed by all. Attendees at the wānanga have expressed a strong desire for an enhancing approach driven by inclusivity that respects autonomy. The term used was “and/and” rather than “instead of”, allowing attendees to support those who chose their pathways, whichever channel or channels that may be.

Of the seventeen Iwi and Hapū within the Council region, three Iwi have responded in writing expressing a strong preference to clarify their direct relationships with Council before considering wider collective arrangements. They have remained positive and constructive in advocating this. They have also indicated that they have advised their reasoning directly to Council leaders and expect direct engagement and response.

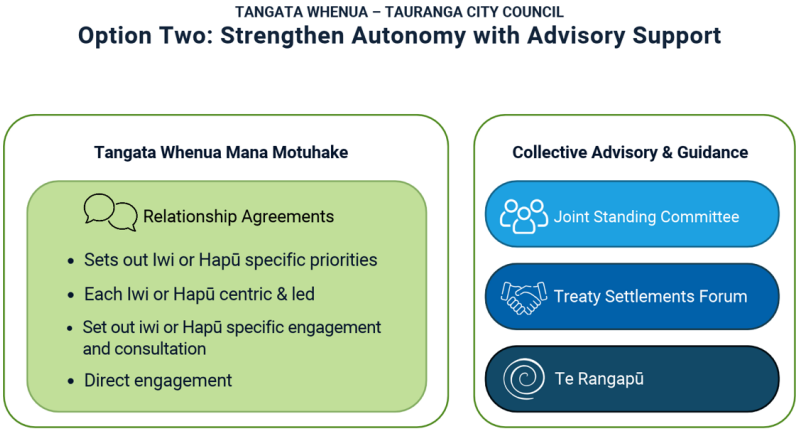
In addition, the **key requirement by Council is under s4 of the Local Government Act** requiring Council to maintain and improve Māori participation in decision making. The ultimate participation in decision making is actually making the decision and the obligation is to Māori, in whatever form they may present themselves.

## OPTIONS PRESENTED

Within the scope provided, the attendees from the first wānanga were able to inform a Discussion Diagram to be presented at the second wānanga. This focussed on key strengthening actions to clarify and align the components acknowledging that support resourcing and staffing would be a further discussion to enable successful implementation. The following diagram is updated to incorporate the feedback of attendees and features some key themes evident in discussion over both wānanga, arrangement of the components to work together with common purpose and key features required to strengthen each component.



In addition, a second diagram was developed taking into consideration the concerns of risk to autonomy if collective forums were treated as engagement, consultation, agreement or any other form of dilution. This identified the autonomous relationship agreements as paramount, clearly identifying the other three forums as collective advisory and guidance mechanisms for Council processes.




At the conclusion of the second wānanga, **attendees agreed that they support the modified Option One, with Option Two to be included as helpful** to clarify the status of autonomous Relationship Agreements as paramount with the forums clearly identified as collective advice and guidance. Given the tight timeframes these were supported to be presented as a unified diagram **for further discussion and development, not inferring any universal agreement or endorsement**.

## FURTHER DISCUSSION ON COMPONENTS FOR CLARITY

The following sections set out the feedback regarding each of the four components available within the scope of this work. These are broken into two sections to distinguish:

a. The primacy of direct Relationship Agreements with autonomous iwi and hapū expressed as Tangata Whenua Mana Motuhake; and
b. The suite of Collective Advisory and Guidance to Council Activities in the form of the Joint Standing Committee, the Treaty Settlements Forum and Te Rangapū.

# *TANGATA WHENUA MANA MOTUHAKE*

## RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS

This component has been purposefully placed first as Tangata Whenua have consistently fed back that **mana motuhake is paramount** and that no Iwi or Hapū should be subject to broadbrushing into any other entity or collective position whether by absence or subsuming or otherwise.

As such the purpose of these relationship agreements is for each Iwi and Hapū to **establish a clear, direct and autonomous pathway for their relationship with Council.**

Each Iwi and Hapū currently has a protocol in place and each should have a relationship agreement in place going forward. This will set out (and be updated at least annually):

a. Rules of engagement agreed with Council;
b. Mandated representatives;
c. Communication, engagement and consultation channels and processes;
d. Priority areas and issues;
e. Any relevant strategic or planning documents; and
f. Any other information considered relevant for the relationship.

These relationship agreements form the basis of all interactions with that iwi or hapū and it should be expected that these will be proactively applied to any Council business.

This is where any specific requirements, processes and information can be prioritised without undue influence thereby protecting every iwi and hapū in their own right. It establishes pathways of direct engagement with any part of Council.

***Key actions required to strengthen***

i. Legal review of forms of agreement to establish the most appropriate form;
ii. Update of current Protocol template (if being retained);
iii. Update of current Addendum template (if being retained);
iv. Dedicated process to update all agreements;
v. Dedicated process for annual review.

# COLLECTIVE ADVISORY & GUIDANCE TO COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

This component is addressed next as the highest form of decision making allowed under the Local Government Act besides Council itself[1]. It is considered an underutilised pathway that has lost its strategic focus and punch diminishing the benefits to Council, to Tangata Whenua and to the wider community. However it was also identified as having huge positive potential and worth taking a purposeful approach to strengthening and revitalising.

Reflections recognised that membership has been via Rangapū and there are benefits in creating space for a wider range of Māori representation. Iwi leaders were supported as members to enable the Treaty Settlement and strategic matters across iwi regions to be progressed towards a decision making table. Māori landowners were identified as potential members given the correlation between Council business and Māori land ownership on many matters.

It was acknowledged that Tangata Whenua can strengthen the proposals and discussions brought to this table and that Councillors will be expected to engage in discussions to help shape outcomes and actively advance any agreed directives to the Council table for decision making.

Its purpose should be **to identify strategic areas of mutual benefit that can be tested for presentation to full Council for decision making**.

### *Key Actions Required to Strengthen*

i. Update the Terms of Reference to reflect the nature of the relationship, the purpose set out above and the supporting content required to reflect the objectives;
ii. Strengthen the Membership to include representation from Iwi leadership, Rangapū leadership and Māori landowners so that any discussions are well informed across a wider spectrum of Māori;
iii. Undertake a joint planning process to agree on strategic objectives as a focus for this Committee.

[1] We are aware of pending legislation affecting Tangata Whenua participation in committees and we encourage Council to facilitate discussions with Tangata Whenua in due course.

## TREATY SETTLEMENT FORUM

The Mayor and some Iwi leaders have been meeting on an informal basis for some time, facilitating strategic discussions often (but not always) including negotiations with Central Government e.g. Regional City Deals, Water Reforms, Resource Management Reforms. We understand this forum focusses on Iwi in a post settlement state. It is a forum valued and appreciated by the Mayor, and is also valued and appreciated by those Iwi leaders who have been attending.

We must acknowledge that Iwi members that attend this forum did not attend either wānanga so no detailed understanding could be gained or shared with others. However feedback and reference by those who have participated in the Mayor and Iwi leaders forum clearly indicate a preference for this pathway and an expectation that communications made through this pathway will be considered by Council and actioned in support of their particular relationships.

The role of this layer was identified in both preceding reports as a channel that can feed strategic matters forward into the Joint Standing Committee to enter the decision making pathway. There are recommendations to formalise this forum which could address concerns of transparency, alignment with hapū and Māori landowner initiatives and any fears of unnecessary division. Equally others have expressed support for a space for Iwi leaders and the Mayor/Councillors to build relationships, trust, understanding and context and the informal nature is helpful. Perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding could balance these concerns alongside Relationship Agreements that preserve autonomy.

Therefore, the purpose could be **to create an appropriate space for Iwi leaders and Councillors to develop strategic discussions on a mana to mana basis**. Whether that builds relationships and stays in the room, or leads to actions of mutual benefit can be plugged into other pathways.

***Key Actions Required to Strengthen***

i. Consider a Memorandum of Understanding that:
    a. recognises post settlement status;
    b. focuses on Treaty Settlement support and Crown interactions;
    c. supports and informs Māori aspirations; and
    d. has clear access to a decision making pathway when required.
ii. Strengthen the invitation list to extend to all entities with a signed deed of settlement

## TE RANGAPŪ

This component is addressed next as the longest standing forum borne from the origins of the Council relationship with Tangata Whenua. As previously pointed out, its development was Tangata Whenua led over a long period of sustained discussion in support of each other.

Formerly known as the Tangata Whenua Collective, this forum has proven to be enduring through waves of change for the benefit of Council, of Tangata Whenua and of the community at large. With longevity has come a sustained history of membership, a lengthy list of achievements and issues of complacency, lost direction at times and the risk of being used as pseudo engagement or consultation. The latter is especially concerning if there is a risk of being complicit to decisions even when absent.

All of these aspects are worth addressing whether its respecting membership by holding space, whether its recognising the role of seeking out areas of collective agreement to promote, or strengthening purpose and function so no ill intention can be exercised.

Discussions have identified many examples valuing the inclusive membership. Examples whereby iwi and hapū have engaged in robust discussions sometimes landing on collective positions, sometimes supporting each other's differences, and sometimes agreeing to disagree. Members have valued having both iwi and hapū at the table together. There are also examples of periods of absence by some iwi and hapū sometimes intentionally, sometimes by prioritisation and sometimes a lack of availability. Always recognised by others and supported with ongoing communication of all information and maintaining an open seat at the table if and when they may choose to return.

However a common understanding remains and is worth reinforcing. The purpose of Rangapū is to **seek out areas of collective agreement to guide and advise Council activities, whilst always maintaining the autonomy of any member and their entity**.

There are aspects that Rangapū have addressed over the years that others do not wish to interrupt e.g. Policy prioritisation and Review processes as long as the pathway for direct engagement and consultation is never compromised.

There are also aspects that Rangapū members are concerned may not happen if left to others e.g. submissions to relevant processes such as Long Term Plan and legislative reforms. Discussions have highlighted the ability to provide collective position leaving room for differences of opinion to come from individual iwi and hapū. Any such

submission can be shared to all iwi and hapū to ensure alignment and avoidance of contradiction.

***Key Actions Required to Strengthen***

i. Update Terms of Reference to clarify purpose, parameters and correlation to other components;
ii. Update annual Work Programme to clearly identify roles and functions in line with Rangapū Strategic Plan;
iii. Establish a communications plan to support transparency, celebrate successes and invite input.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

**Prioritise mana motuhake through relationship agreements** – this will respect any Iwi or Hapū and their right to participate in any Council led forums, or not. It will ensure there are pathways for Council to meet its obligations, and in a manner led by the respective Iwi or Hapū. It will ensure no Iwi or Hapū will have their voice assumed or disregarded by collective forums.

**Clarify other forums as informing Council processes through advice and guidance** – this will help Council understand the function and provide security for Tangata Whenua. It will prevent over extension into engagement and consultation whilst maintaining the benefits of collective wānanga to both Council and Tangata Whenua.

**Commit to strengthening** – Council has a history of deciding and undeciding support and/or significant delays. There is no perfect answer but a multiple entry system creates flexibility to accommodate all approaches acknowledging the complexities of engaging with Māori. Addressing the key strengthening actions will allow a more accurate assessment of the model on a more regular basis.

**Ongoing wānanga** – Tangata Whenua have advised that these considerations through wānanga are overdue, underutilised and are of high value. Find a way to proactively facilitate discussions that maintain and uplift the relationships. This might simply be better utilisation of the workshop programmes currently resourced.

**Maintain an open and inclusive approach even under pressure** - respect the autonomy of each entity by creating channels for involvement and contribution. Avoid compulsion but rather maintain open communication and an open seat at any table.

# APPENDIX A

## OUT OF SCOPE

The purpose of this section is to note information and ideas shared through this process that might inform future considerations:

**Kaumatua Forum** – this foundational forum seems to have escaped consideration and is a humble but crucial component of the Māori community. They have a history of standing alongside Council in the development of key initiatives such as the extensive series of Museum discussions over many decades. They are a constant force of support and guidance that should not be underestimated or undervalued.

**Māori Landowners** – given the amount of Council business related to Māori land utilisation it will be useful to consider what pathway for engagement is enabled. Some Māori land trusts have little involvement with iwi or hapū and some are well resourced, successful entities in their own right. Council has an obligation to this cohort and would benefit from enabling their success.

**Other Māori entities not aligned with Iwi or hapū** – in a similar vein to above, there is a cohort of entities that service Māori and may be relevant for Council processes and community development. Examples include pan iwi health and social services.

**Takawaenga** – This unit has endured the journey of Council Māori Engagement guiding and supporting its development with a steady hand. Tangata Whenua have always worked closely with Takawaenga and even in the search for autonomy and direct engagement with decision makers, Takawaenga is often the voice of reason keeping kaupapa Māori at the fore within the Council walls. The form and function may require modification to align services to Tangata Whenua aspirations but many participants we encountered recognise the resilience, loyalty and dedication of the team over the past 18months of uncertainty.

## 10.3 Marae Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

**File Number:** **A21469069**

**Author:** **Keren Paekau, Head of Strategic Māori Engagement**
**Clare Dowthwaite, Principal Strategic Advisor**

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

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek feedback from the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee on the Marae Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Report (the Report), and endorsement of the recommendations, with or without amendment, to refer back to the City Future Committee or Council for a decision.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Marae Resilience and Emergency Preparedness".

(b) Endorses the recommendations in the report to be referred to the City Future Committee or Council for a decision *with the following additions / changes:*

- *xxxx*

### DISCUSSION

2. At the City Future Committee on Tuesday 18 November 2026, it was resolved to defer the Marae Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Report (The Report) to the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting on 2 December 2026.

3. The Report responds to what council has heard through engagement with marae, including the Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae submission, the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group's request, matters raised through the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee, and coordinated marae visits. Marae have asked for recognition of their role in the community and have indicated that they value a coordinated council approach, while retaining ownership and control of their land, facilities and decisions. The proposed approach responds to this by building on existing relationships, respecting marae autonomy and being clearer about what council prioritises. The proposed approach also recognises the fiscal constraints which Council is facing through this next LTP period.

4. Staff have engaged directly with Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana on this report. Staff gave a presentation on Thursday 29 October and received endorsement to progress the report. The group also highlighted other issues that need to be addressed including improving access to urupā and other buildings and facilities that provide community benefits and need investment. On Tuesday 27 October, staff emailed Tauranga marae contacts a summary of the draft recommendations and invited feedback. No feedback was received prior to 17 November.

5. At the City Future Committee meeting there was some discussion on whether, with establishment of a ring-fenced marae fund, marae should still be eligible to also apply for the remaining non-ring-fenced community grants funding.

6. Staff request any feedback on this report from the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee, and endorsement for the recommendations, with or without changes, to go back to the City Future Committee or Council for a decision.

## NEXT STEPS

7. Subject to the feedback heard from Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee, staff will look to make updates to the Report and present back to the City Future Committee on February 9, 2027. If the resolved recommendations have a potential impact on the quantum of budget required, then the matter will likely be referred to the 15 December 2026 Council meeting as part of the Long-Term Plan development process.

8. **Continued engagement**: Subject to the City Future Committee's (or Council) decisions on the report, staff would continue the coordinated marae visits and communicate outcomes directly with marae, including the referral of the Waiāri request to Tāheke – Bay Waters. The Statement of Marae Support Priorities would be developed with iwi, hapū and marae leaders, with early and transparent communication so that all marae understand what council prioritises and feel able to engage on their support needs.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1. Marae Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Report. 17 November 2026 - A21496432**
2. **Attachment 2. Report Attachment 1: Marae in Tauranga - A21415719**
3. **Attachment 3. Report Attachment 2. Draft Statement of Marae Support Priorities - A21418632**

### 9.1 Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness

**File Number:** **A20986483**

**Author:** **Keren Paekau, Head of Strategic Māori Engagement**
**Clare Dowthwaite, Principal Strategic Advisor**

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

**Please note that this report contains confidential attachments.**

| Public Excluded Attachment | Reason why Public Excluded |
|---|---|
| Item 9.1 - Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness - Attachment 4 - Tauranga Moana Marae Overview - Confidential | s7(2)(c)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. |

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report considers how Tauranga City Council can increase marae resilience and emergency preparedness while strengthening relationships with marae to better support their aspirations and needs through the Long-term Plan 2027–2037.

2. It outlines marae contributions and challenges, seeks direction on clearer Council priorities, and requests decisions on a dedicated marae fund and the referral of the Waiāri water remission request.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Future Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Marae Resilience and Emergency Readiness".

(b) Approves the development of a *Statement of Marae Support Priorities*, with existing staff resources being applied to work with marae to progress their opportunities where appropriate, and with the Statement to be reported back to the Committee for endorsement.

(c) Approves establishing a dedicated marae fund of up to $100,000 per annum within existing Community Grants allocations, with staff to report back on proposed fund assessment criteria.

(d) Endorses referring the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group's request for marae drinking water remissions to Tāheke – Bay Waters for consideration through the Water Services Strategy.

(e) **Attachment 4** is to remain in the public excluded section for a minimum of a 12-month period, as it contains information given in confidence, following which it will be reviewed in consultation with iwi, hapū and marae and released to the public if it is no longer confidential.

(f) **Attachment 4** can be transferred into the open <<This field populates from the Attachments screen where you selected a confidential reason, please go back and add

a reason in the available field.>>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Recent severe weather events have highlighted the important role of marae as trusted places of refuge, providing accommodation, meals and practical support to affected communities. This contribution strengthens Tauranga's emergency response capacity, but depends on safe facilities, reliable infrastructure and the willingness and capacity of each marae to participate.
2. Marae occupy a distinct position as independently governed centres of cultural identity and living heritage that also deliver wider community benefits. They sustain whakapapa (genealogy and kinship ties), tikanga (customs and protocols) and te reo Māori, host education, health services, hui and events, and complement the city's accommodation and community facilities. However, ageing buildings, compliance requirements, rising insurance costs, infrastructure pressures and climate risks place increasing demands on limited funding and volunteer-led committees. These challenges can compound, delaying essential repairs and restricting access to insurance and funding.
3. Council is well placed to coordinate practical and strategic support through its relationships with marae and its emergency management, regulatory, infrastructure and community funding functions. Current assistance includes staff advice, grants and rates remissions, but relies largely on marae identifying needs and navigating separate processes. Coordinated marae visits are beginning to build a clearer understanding of priorities across the city. This review provides an opportunity to move towards a more proactive and consistent approach as part of the Long-term Plan 2027–2037.
4. The report recommends progressing a Statement of Marae Support Priorities to coordinate council support for marae, respecting marae autonomy and clarifying council's responsibilities. Resilience and emergency readiness would guide its development in collaboration with marae aspirations.
5. Approval is sought to establish a dedicated marae fund within existing Community Grants allocations. The indicative fund allocation of up to $100,000 per annum, reflects the existing funds allocated to marae (average per annum over the last four years), but allows for a more direct funding process and potential to collaborate on a joint regional fund with philanthropic partners.
6. The report also proposes that the dedicated marae fund could be used for minor Māori roadway repairs, with the Māori Roadways Procedure updated to acknowledge this pathway.
7. The report recommends referring the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group's drinking water remission request to the issues list of Tāheke – Bay Waters (the joint water organisation being established by Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council) for consideration through the Water Services Strategy ahead of the scheduled water-services transfer on 1 July 2027. Referral does not approve additional relief or guarantee when a decision will be made.
8. The report also provides an update on Whareroa Marae. The emergency exit bridge was to be included in the Transport Citywide Resilience Fund proposed budget, but that provision has since been deferred. Staff are investigating the issue including alternative funding options and will report back to Council.
9. The proposal to develop a new Statement of Marae Support Priorities, alongside a dedicated fund would help prioritise health and safety, compliance, essential infrastructure and emergency readiness before issues become more costly or disrupt community use. It would set a clear message to marae to encourage them to engage on key priorities. The intended outcome is stronger, more self-sufficient marae and sustained wider community resilience.

## BACKGROUND

10. This paper brings together Council discussions, requests from marae, and recovery work that have highlighted the need to consider marae support more broadly. These matters provide the background to reviewing how council can strengthen relationships with marae and coordinate support for their resilience. This section highlights key examples informing the paper.

11. The role of marae in the response to and recovery from the January 2026 severe weather events has highlighted the need to strengthen support for marae and build resilience and emergency readiness before emergencies occur. At Mangatawa, the evacuation of around 150 people on 28 January after a slip threatened a watermain above the marae and papakāinga involved geotechnical and water infrastructure assessments, arrangements for a temporary water connection and temporary accommodation for those unable to return home. Te Whetū-o-Te Rangi Marae hosted and fed some evacuees, while Hungahungatoroa and Waikari marae in Matapihi also offered support. This experience reinforces the case for earlier, coordinated work with marae to identify infrastructure vulnerabilities, strengthen emergency planning and agree practical support that reflects each marae's willingness and capacity to participate.

12. Council has received a submission from Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and the Maungatapu Marae community raising concerns about stormwater infrastructure and marae resilience. Presented on 12 May 2026, the submission sought recognition of marae as critical infrastructure and consideration of funding for stormwater improvements, raising the wider question of how council invests fairly and responds to the resilience needs of all marae.

13. A further request sits with Council from The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group, who have requested access to Waiāri Water for all Tauranga marae with full water-charge remissions. The request is detailed from the 11 March Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting, from the cultural recognition actions list. This includes a request for TCC and WBOPDC to develop a consistent approach to providing water to marae and this to be incorporated into the respective LTP to be considered by the respective councils.

14. On 23 June 2026, Council endorsed the updated LTP Issues List, including a broader review of marae support, and requested a paper considering overall support. This report responds to that direction.

15. Council has worked with Whareroa Marae for a number of years to address challenges arising from limited exit routes, nearby heavy industry, and the community's exposure to flooding and climate-related risks. Several of these issues have been raised through the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee, including a request for funding for an emergency exit solution that has been awaiting a response for several years.

16. Subsequent Council discussions have reinforced the value of considering marae needs together, rather than responding only to individual requests. This paper responds to that direction by bringing the wider support context and specific matters requiring decisions into one report.

17. There are several outstanding matters on the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee's issues list that relate to marae. These include future resilience and the role of marae in emergency management, water issues and roadway maintenance.

18. Staff have engaged directly with marae and with Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana on the issues outlined in this report. Te Rangapū endorsed the proposals and noted that they would like to see more done to support the wider marae community, including buildings, accessways and urupā that also provide broad community benefits.

19. Together, the recovery experience, ongoing work with marae, outstanding requests and Council direction outlined above provide the basis for this paper. They highlight the opportunity to strengthen relationships with marae and move towards earlier, coordinated support across council, with resilience and emergency readiness as priorities.

## Overview of marae

**20.** This report focuses on the current resilience and emergency readiness of Tauranga's 11 marae. For the purpose of this report, all other surrounding Māori land and buildings are excluded. This includes papakāinga housing, kura (schools) and urupā (burial grounds).

21. **Attachment 1** provides a more detailed overview of a marae complex, its purpose, the management structure, and a full list of Tauranga marae and their locations.

### Local council role with marae

22. Through the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, the Crown entered into a partnership with Māori and committed to recognising and upholding Māori rights, interests, and wellbeing.

23. The Local Government Act 2002 provides Council with the ability to support marae through grants, advice and agreed activities, subject to its statutory purpose, decision-making requirements and financial responsibilities. It also requires Council to provide opportunities for Māori participation in decision-making and to consider Māori relationships with ancestral land, water and taonga in relevant decisions. These provisions enable a coordinated, partnership-based approach to marae support, but do not create an automatic entitlement to funding or transfer responsibility for marae assets to Council.

24. Tauranga City Council has a longstanding relationship with tangata whenua through its relationship protocol agreements, which set out communication and engagement between council and iwi/hapū/marae.

### Community benefits of marae

25. Across Tauranga Moana, local marae provide cultural, social and practical benefits that extend from mana whenua and whānau to the wider city.

26. During emergencies, marae can contribute accommodation, meals, local knowledge and established networks to support affected communities. This adds to the city's response capacity and provides an alternative setting for people seeking help. That contribution depends on each marae's willingness and volunteer capacity to host, participate, the safety and suitability of its facilities, and the resources available; it should not be treated as an unlimited or cost-free service.

27. Marae sustain cultural identity and intergenerational connections by providing places where whakapapa (genealogy and kinship ties), te reo Māori, tikanga (customs and protocols) and local histories are shared and practised. Their significance extends beyond the buildings themselves to the relationships, knowledge and connections to whenua they sustain. Cultural exchange, educational visits and civic gatherings also provide opportunities for the wider community to understand the heritage of Tauranga Moana and build relationships with mana whenua.

28. Marae also provide spaces for social connection, learning and practical support. Hosting hui, wānanga, health and whānau services, communal meals and community activities bring people together and provide opportunities to access support in a familiar setting. These activities strengthen relationships and support networks that can assist people both in everyday life and during times of hardship.

29. Marae facilities also complement the city's wider network of venues and accommodation by hosting visiting groups, educational activities, sporting participants and significant gatherings. This flexibility supports Tauranga's ability to bring people together and host events, while providing opportunities for visitors to experience local culture. Availability remains subject to each marae's priorities, tikanga (customs and protocols) and operational capacity.

### Current operational support

30. Council involvement with marae spans several teams at different stages, depending on each marae's needs. Te Pou Takawaenga supports relationships and helps marae navigate services, while Community Development and Community Funding staff assist with support and funding pathways. During early planning, climate advisors can help identify adaptation needs, and waters and transport teams provide input on infrastructure, drainage and safe

access. When building work or changes in use are proposed, planning, building, regulatory and compliance teams advise on applicable consent, inspection and ongoing compliance requirements, with accessibility input where needed. Waste teams assist with waste services and minimisation, while Emergency Management works with marae on preparedness, evacuation planning, response and recovery. This breadth of involvement makes coordinated advice and clear responsibilities important, while regulatory decisions remain subject to the relevant statutory requirements.

31. Council's transport team works with marae to plan and deliver projects within the Transport Minor Safety and Accessibility Programme, which supports marae, papakāinga and Māori communities across Tauranga. **Attachment 3** lists projects that have been completed, are underway or are included in future programme planning. These include projects near Waimapu, Waikari and Hangarau marae. Projects are prioritised alongside others in the wider programme.

32. The current approach relies largely on marae self-identifying needs and seeking assistance, which can favour those with greater capacity to navigate council processes and leave other needs less visible. Requests follow council's assessment and approval processes to meet statutory and public expenditure requirements, but these can add delays and administrative demands for marae.

33. Coordinated marae visits, led by Community Development are now helping staff understand needs and strengthen relationships with marae committees. Te Pou Takawaenga, Emergency Management, Building Compliance, Accessibility and Waste Management staff discuss marae aspirations, operational and infrastructure needs, emergency readiness and compliance.

34. Visits to date have included Hungahungatoroa Marae and Maungatapu Marae (Te Marae o Opōpōti). The visits have reinforced marae's role in community resilience and the need for compliance, accessibility and ongoing emergency planning support. Marae have also indicated that they value a coordinated council approach. The programme will continue with plans to visit the remaining marae to build a city-wide understanding of infrastructure, compliance, resilience, emergency management and support needs.

### Current funding and service support

35. There are existing council grants schemes that are open to marae to apply to including the Community-Led Adaptation Funding Initiative, Community Grants Scheme, Climate Action Fund, Community Development Match Fund and the Kaupapa Māori Event Fund for cultural events on marae.

36. Council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with five marae in Tauranga to provide waste management services at no cost to them. In return, Council can work with those marae to prepare for and respond to emergency events in the Tauranga region. Council's aim is for all 11 marae to be part of this arrangement. The service currently continues to be provided to the original five marae, while the remaining six marae committees review their draft MOU arrangements to receive the same benefits.

### Current rating provisions

37. Marae are included in the provisions of Council's Rates Remission Policy that apply to certain non-rateable land used for community purposes. These provisions also cover places of religious worship, such as churches, and not-for-profit early childhood centres. The following sections set out how these provisions apply to marae.

38. **Land rates:** Marae are non-rateable under Section 8 and Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Amendments made through the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 removed the previous two-hectare limit and extended this status to marae on all land types, rather than only Māori reservations.

39. **Water supply rates**: Eligible non-rateable marae with meter connections greater than 20 mm may receive remission of the water base rate above the minimum charge. The minimum base rate and metered water-use charges remain payable.

40. **Wastewater rates**: Eligible non-rateable marae may receive a 66.66% remission of the wastewater rate under Council's Rates Remission Policy.

41. **Solid waste rates:** Marae are treated as commercial properties for waste collection purposes, so the residential waste collection targeted rate does not apply, regardless of their non-rateable status. Council does not provide rate-funded waste collection services to commercial operations, which would ordinarily arrange their own collections directly with private waste operators. However, as described in paragraph 36, an alternative arrangement provides solid waste services at no cost to the marae covered by the Memorandum of Understanding.

### Local and central government approaches

42. Different Councils approach marae funding and partnerships in various ways, reflecting differences in iwi and hapū structures and the number of marae in each district. The following examples illustrate these approaches, alongside the central government context.

43. **Western Bay of Plenty District Council** combines a dedicated marae maintenance fund with practical administrative resources and tangata whenua engagement. Its Marae Sustainability Initiatives Fund had an allocation of $63,000 for 2025/2026 and was available to marae within the district. Council's stated rationale recognises that marae serve as meeting places and community hubs, reducing demand for Council-funded community halls.

44. **Auckland Council** supports marae through targeted funding for facilities, capability and cultural activity. It supports the Marae Ora outcome in Tāmaki Ora, the Council's Māori Outcomes Strategy 2025–2027. In 2019, Auckland Council established a $60 million Marae Infrastructure Programme to improve 32 marae across Auckland. It was designed as a decade-long programme, initially targeting around four marae each year, with funding focused on repairs, maintenance and upgrades to facilities including wharenui, wharekai and wharepaku.

45. **Rotorua Lakes Council** supports a formal partnership with Te Arawa through Te Tatau o Te Arawa, an independent trust representing Te Arawa in Council decision-making. This provides a mechanism for engagement and advancing shared priorities, rather than a directly comparable marae maintenance fund. Rotorua Lakes Council provides ongoing operational funding to Te Tatau o Te Arawa, paid in half-yearly instalments.

46. At a central government level, the Te Puni Kōkiri Māori Development Fund prioritises economic growth, asset productivity and exports, alongside community resilience, making routine marae improvements a less direct fit. The dedicated Oranga Marae Lottery pathway has been replaced by broader funding arrangements, with marae projects considered alongside other community facilities.

47. The need to sustain marae facilities and strengthen their resilience is not unique to Tauranga. The examples above demonstrate how councils and central government are addressing this need through funding, infrastructure investment and partnerships, although approaches and available resources vary.

### Unique challenges marae face

48. Marae are not like other community facilities. Their ownership, location, buildings and sacred spaces are fixed, and this shapes the challenges they face. Many marae buildings are ageing, and upgrades are costly and complicated, with compliance requirements and rising insurance premiums adding to the pressure. Water and stormwater infrastructure adds ongoing costs, and existing remissions provide only partial relief.

49. Marae are tied to whenua and whakapapa, and their connection to that land will always remain. Flooding, erosion and coastal hazards must be managed in place, and available adaptation funding does not meet larger infrastructure needs. Upgrades and infrastructure works must also be designed around sacred spaces and taonga, which can limit the options available.

50. Over the years, surrounding development and industrial activity have affected access, parking, drainage, privacy and air quality, and marae cannot move to avoid these impacts. Marae are run by volunteer committees with limited funding, which makes these pressures harder to manage.

51. Marae occupy privately or collectively owned land, which shapes what Council can do to support. Council-funded work should have a clear public benefit, funding approval and the agreement of authorised landowners or trustees, and these requirements can be hard to navigate for volunteer-led committees with limited time and capacity. Historical experiences of land loss and external control mean some marae are wary that assistance may come with conditions that compromise their autonomy. This can affect how readily marae engage with council, even where there is a clear need. Marae ownership and control over their land, facilities and decisions must be respected throughout.

52. Further information relevant to this matter is provided in confidential Attachment 6.

## STATUTORY CONTEXT

53. Recent and proposed reforms may affect how marae are planned, funded and supported. Resource management reform will result in some changes to consenting, land-use planning and how cultural and environmental values are considered, while local government reform could alter council structures, funding pathways and partnership arrangements. Marae also face increasing expectations as emergency resilience hubs and ongoing pressure to meet building, health and safety, fire and accessibility requirements, particularly where facilities are ageing or heavily used.

54. The Emergency Management Act 2026 replaced the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. It strengthens the role of iwi Māori and communities in emergency management, including representation on emergency management committees and involvement in developing regional and national plans.

55. The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 lists civil defence emergency management as a core service that councils must have particular regard to when setting priorities and making financial decisions. This does not guarantee a particular level of funding.

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

56. 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 | ✓ |

57. **We are an inclusive city:** The proposed approach recognises marae as places of cultural identity, belonging and connection that also provide wider community benefits. More coordinated and accessible Council support would help address barriers faced by marae, sustain their cultural and community activities, and strengthen their capacity to support people during emergencies, while respecting each marae's autonomy.

58. **We value, protect and enhance the environment:** The report identifies climate risks and infrastructure pressures affecting marae, including flooding, coastal hazards and stormwater challenges. Supporting adaptation planning and prioritising essential infrastructure improvements would help marae respond to these risks and protect their facilities, taonga and connections to ancestral whenua.

59. **We are a city that supports business and education:** Marae are places of learning where whakapapa, te reo Māori, tikanga and local histories are shared and practised. Schools, tertiary students and community groups visit marae to learn about the culture and history of Tauranga Moana first-hand, helping the wider community better understand mana whenua and the heritage of the city. Supporting marae to keep their facilities safe and usable helps sustain these learning opportunities, which depend on each marae's priorities, tikanga and capacity to host.

60. **We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around:** The proposed approach also aligns with wider SmartGrowth spatial planning, which recognises the need to better provide for marae as centres and is exploring a broader marae centres or marae zones approach. This work may provide opportunities to better integrate marae aspirations, papakāinga, infrastructure, accessibility and resilience into future sub-regional and regional spatial planning.

61. **We are a vibrant city that embraces events:** Marae add to Tauranga's capacity to host events by offering accommodation, communal dining and gathering spaces for visiting groups. For example, marae have accommodated visiting teams during the AIMS Games, helping the city host large events while giving visitors an opportunity to experience local culture. Marae are also culturally significant places where high-profile international guests and event delegations can be formally welcomed through traditional customs such as pōwhiri, giving visitors a meaningful experience of manaakitanga and the living culture of Tauranga Moana.

## OPTIONS ANALYSIS

### Dedicated marae fund

62. Approval is sought to establish a stand-alone marae fund within existing Community Grants allocations to be able to prioritise marae projects and provide more certainty of funding. An indicative allocation of up to $100,000 per annum is proposed, with criteria arrangements to be confirmed before implementation. The fund could provide a clearer pathway for considering needs together and prioritising risk and urgency.

63. Over the last four financial years, Council has provided fourteen grants totalling $387,295 to marae and related trusts. Eleven grants ($337,295) were made through the Community Grants Scheme, two ($40,000) through the Climate Action Fund and one ($10,000) through the Community Development Match Fund. By year, funding has annual totals that ranged from $16,000 to $190,000, averaging about $97,000 per year, which is close to the indicative allocation of up to $100,000 proposed in this paper.

64. Over the same period, Manawa Trust and BayTrust contributed over $1 million to Tauranga and Western Bay marae. Initial staff-level discussions have identified early interest in a joint marae fund involving Council and philanthropic partners. A Council commitment now to a dedicated marae allocation within its existing Community Grants budget would provide a clear basis for progressing these discussions and create an opportunity to attract partner investment.

65. Local precedents include the Tauranga Western Bay Community Event Fund, Western Bay Emergency Response Fund and Kaupapa Māori Event Fund. A joint approach could align investment and extend the reach of council's contribution; however, partner participation, contributions and funding arrangements would remain subject to further discussion and agreement.

66. This proposal reprioritises existing funding, reducing the amount available through general grants rounds. It does not increase the overall budget or meet all marae needs, and marae would no longer be eligible to apply to the general Community Grants Scheme. The dedicated marae fund could operate effectively as a stand-alone council fund, providing a clear pathway for targeted funding within the approved allocation. Its establishment would not

depend on securing partner contributions. A joint funding arrangement would be an opportunity to build on this foundation, not a prerequisite.

67. Option 1: Approve establishment of a stand-alone marae fund of up to $100,000 per annum within existing Community Grants allocations. ***Recommended***

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| • Creates a clear, targeted funding pathway without increasing the overall grants budget.<br>• Enables marae priorities and staged investment to be considered together.<br>• Provides a basis for attracting partner contributions and potentially simplifying applications. | • Reduces funding available through general grants rounds.<br>• Requires operating criteria, approval arrangements and administration.<br>• The allocation would not meet all needs or guarantee project funding; partner contributions and administrative savings remain uncertain. |

68. Option 2: Status Quo. Retain current Community Grants arrangements, with marae applying alongside other community organisations.

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| • Preserves flexibility across the full grants budget and avoids establishing a separate allocation and operating settings.<br>• Marae remain eligible for support through existing rounds. | • Provides less visibility of funding for marae.<br>• Support remains dependent on individual applications and contestable rounds, with limited certainty about timing or scale and no dedicated pathway for considering marae priorities together. |

### Statement of Marae Support Priorities

69. A new Statement of Marae Support Priorities (the Statement) is proposed to provide a more focused approach to bring marae requests and support processes together, rather than handling them separately. It would also respond to the call to further recognise marae as critical infrastructure.

70. The Statement would give staff across council a shared direction and show marae clearly where council's investment priorities lie. By being open about what council prioritises, the Statement aims to encourage all marae to reach out and engage more with council on their support needs, so that needs are identified earlier and support can reach every marae, however much time or capacity they have to work through council processes. **Attachment 2** provides an example of how this Statement could take shape. The final Statement would be developed with iwi, hapū and marae leaders and aligned with funding grant criteria.

71. Option 1: Progress a **Statement of Marae Support Priorities** with marae to identify Council support priorities, with resilience and emergency readiness guiding its development. ***Recommended***

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| • Provides shared principles and transparent priorities;<br>• Coordinates advice and funding | • Requires staff time and engagement to develop and maintain.<br>• Could add administration if overly |

| | |
|---|---|
| pathways across Council;<br>• Supports earlier identification of needs and emergency readiness while respecting marae autonomy. | prescriptive or raise funding expectations beyond available resources.<br>• Does not itself resolve infrastructure or funding shortfalls. |

72. Option 2: Status Quo. Retain existing case-by-case support through current policies, relationships and service processes.

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| • Retains flexibility to respond to individual circumstances within existing budgets.<br>• Avoids the development and maintenance effort of a Statement of Marae Support Priorities. | • Leaves priorities and responsibilities spread across separate processes.<br>• Support may depend on marae capacity to navigate them, with less visibility of unmet needs and repeated administrative effort. |

## Separate marae matters

### Minor Māori roadway improvements

73. The Māori Roadways Policy was revoked by the City Future Committee on 13 October 2026. Under the previous policy, Council's ability to consider maintenance and upgrade requests for Māori roadways was limited, as roadways were required to be vested in Council for improvements to be considered and undertaken.

74. In support of the revocation of the policy, a Māori Roadways Procedure has been developed to provide guidance for both applicants and Council staff on the information requirements and assessment process for requests relating to the maintenance, repair, or upgrade of Māori roadways. The current procedure requires all funding requests to be considered through Council's Annual Plan or Long-term Plan processes. Some requests may involve relatively low-cost improvements that provide immediate community benefit, so this requirement may result in unnecessary delays and additional administrative effort for marae, staff and elected members.

75. A dedicated marae fund (recommended resolution (c)) would provide a more streamlined pathway to address this. Grants could cover the cost of minor repairs to Māori roadways, within the indicative allocation of up to $100,000 per annum and subject to the development of fund criteria. The Māori Roadways Procedure would be updated to acknowledge this pathway for marae. Any other request for roadway improvements would continue to be considered through Council's Annual Plan or Long-term Plan processes.

76. A delegated financial authority was considered as an option to enable minor road repairs for marae. However, while these works could be included within the Transport programme, they are unlikely to be prioritised or delivered given the existing backlog of safety-critical improvements, which is expected to increase due to LTP prioritisation.

77. Subject to approval of the dedicated marae fund, staff will update the Māori Roadways Procedure to acknowledge the fund as a pathway for minor marae roadway repairs.

### Whareroa Marae Projects

78. Council has worked with Whareroa Marae for a number of years to address challenges arising from limited exit routes, nearby heavy industry, and the community's exposure to flooding and climate-related risks. Several of these issues have been raised through the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee.

79. Staff have been working with Whareroa Marae on emergency exit options and a potential solution of a bridge over an open drain on airport land. This would provide access to the established emergency route from a point further away from the industrial area and potential hazards, improving evacuation resilience for Whareroa Marae, surrounding papakāinga, kōhanga reo, local residents, and workers at Ngāi Te Rangi Rūnanga offices and nearby businesses.

80. The emergency exit bridge project was to be included in the Transport Citywide Resilience Fund proposed budget; however, that provision has since been deferred.

81. Two further pieces of work focus on the marae's longer-term resilience. The first, the Whareroa Future Proofing Project, is exploring how a parcel of land could be made available to help the Whareroa Marae community respond to climate change and other threats, in a way and at a time that reflects their needs. A separate paper will come to Council on this project.

82. Secondly, Ngāi Tukairangi are planning to apply for funding from Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council through the Community-led Adaptation Fund (CLAF), which would contribute towards integrated coastal erosion, flooding, drainage and stormwater resilience planning for Whareroa Marae.

83. Ngāi Tukairangi's planned CLAF application provides a funding route for integrated coastal erosion, flooding, drainage and stormwater resilience planning, and council climate and resilience staff will continue conversations with Whareroa Marae and Ngāi Tukairangi as the application is developed.

84. Staff are investigating issues including alternative funding options for the emergency exit bridge and will report back to Council with funding options as soon as possible, through the Long-term Plan or Annual Plan process as appropriate. In addition, staff will work on an updated community evacuation plan with Whareroa Marae and the surrounding community to respond safely while longer-term solutions are progressed.

**Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae submission**

85. This report and the recommendations would respond, in part, to the Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae submission, introduced in paragraph 12**,** where there is a call for partnership and recognition of marae’s important community role in Council planning and support decisions. It would not approve stormwater improvements or funding. Council staff need to assess the technical report supplied with the submission, including the risks, proposed solutions and responsibilities for public networks and private drainage, before any funding decision. It is also an issue that requires close coordination with Tāheke – Bay Waters who will assume responsibility for stormwater assets from 1 July 2027. Council also does not yet have a complete picture of climate adaptation needs across all marae, and only a few have progressed this far in their planning. Fair assessment should therefore consider risk and urgency alongside project readiness, while supporting other marae to identify their needs.

86. Staff will continue working in partnership with Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae to assess their submission requests.

**Marae insurance**

87. Council staff are currently exploring insurance options with Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited in response to concerns raised by iwi and hapū leaders. Although insurance is not directly a council responsibility, this shows how council can help achieve better outcomes for marae. Any investigation would be exploratory, with marae participation voluntary.

88. Staff will continue exploring support options through Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited.

**Responding to Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group**

89. The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group has asked for full water-charge remissions for all Tauranga marae. The request comes from the cultural recognition actions list (11 March meeting) and asks Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council to develop a consistent approach to providing water to marae, to be considered through each council's Long-term Plan.

90. The recommended approach is to refer the request to the issues list of Tāheke – Bay Waters, for consideration through its Water Services Strategy. Existing charging and remission arrangements would continue unless formally changed. Staff would advise the Advisory Group about the referral, and pass on the request and supporting information.

91. This is recommended because Tāheke – Bay Waters will take over drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services on 1 July 2027, and Tauranga and Western Bay have different approaches to marae remissions. Tāheke – Bay Waters will also be developing pricing strategies over the short, medium and long term. The decision for marae should form part of that strategy development process. Considering the request through Tāheke – Bay Waters allows eligibility, charging and funding to be assessed together and supports fair and consistent treatment across both districts, without Council committing to an ongoing subsidy beforehand. Referral does not approve additional relief or guarantee when a decision will be made.

92. Option 1: Refer the Waiāri request to Tāheke – Bay Waters' issues list for consideration through the Water Services Strategy. Retain existing charging and remission arrangements. ***Recommended***

| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|---|---|
| • Enables consideration alongside Tāheke – Bay Waters charging and funding arrangements and the councils' differing remission approaches.<br>• Supports fair and consistent treatment across both districts without establishing an ongoing Council subsidy. | • Provides no immediate additional relief and extends uncertainty over an outstanding request.<br>• May be perceived as passing responsibility to Tāheke – Bay Waters.<br>• Approval, eligibility and timing remain uncertain; relief is not guaranteed from 1 July 2027. |

93. Option 2: Alternative. Establish an ongoing Council-funded subsidy for eligible marae's drinking water charges, before and after transfer to Tāheke – Bay Waters, subject to confirmed eligibility, costs, a lawful funding mechanism and budget approval.

| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|---|---|
| • Provides direct and continuing financial support, responds to the request and reduces ongoing water costs for eligible marae.<br>• Gives greater funding certainty without depending on Tāheke – Bay Waters approving a remission. | • Creates an ongoing Council funding commitment, with costs dependent on charges, consumption and eligibility.<br>• Could result in different support across Tāheke – Bay Waters' service area and requests for similar assistance from other community facilities. |

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

94. Establishing the dedicated marae fund would reprioritise existing Community Grants allocations, not increase the overall grants budget. The indicative amount of up to $100,000

per annum, final allocation and commencement date remain to be confirmed, with a corresponding reduction in funding available through general rounds. Potential funding partnerships remain unconfirmed.

95. Statement development and fund administration would require staff time; capacity and costs remain to be confirmed. Any exploratory insurance work would also require scope and resourcing to be agreed. Additional resources and future investment would require separate assessment and approval through relevant programme, Annual Plan or Long-term Plan 2027–2037 processes.

96. This report does not seek a decision on, or approve funding for, the Whareroa emergency exit bridge or stormwater works, nor does it approve insurance subsidies or additional water-charge relief.

## RISKS AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

97. Council owns the risks arising from its own decisions, statutory functions, assets and spending relating to marae. Responsibility for marae governance, maintenance and insurance generally remains with marae owners and trustees.

98. A key risk for council is that the city will not have a resilient network of emergency hubs, including marae, which could reduce the safety and support available to whānau and the wider community in an emergency. This risk is being managed by progressing marae visits to understand emergency preparedness, developing a dedicated marae fund proposal and Statement of Marae Support Priorities that prioritise emergency preparedness, and progressing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with the remaining marae on using marae for emergency events.

99. There is a known risk of limited emergency exit routes for Whareroa Marae and the surrounding community. A funding pathway for the proposed emergency exit bridge is not yet confirmed. Staff are investigating alternative funding options and will report back to Council as soon as possible, through the Long-term Plan or Annual Plan process as appropriate. Staff are also working with the marae on an updated community evacuation plan in the interim.

## TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

100. This report responds to what Council has heard through engagement with marae, including the Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae submission, the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group's request, matters raised through the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee, and coordinated marae visits. Marae have asked for recognition of their role in the community and have indicated that they value a coordinated Council approach, while retaining ownership and control of their land, facilities and decisions. The proposed approach responds to this by building on existing relationships, respecting marae autonomy and being clearer about what Council prioritises.

101. **Continued engagement:** Subject to Council's decisions, staff would continue the coordinated marae visits and communicate outcomes directly with marae, including the referral of the Waiāri request to Tāheke – Bay Waters. The Statement of Marae Support Priorities would be developed with iwi, hapū and marae leaders, with early and transparent communication so that all marae understand what Council prioritises and feel able to engage on their support needs.

## CLIMATE IMPACT

102. The recommendations would strengthen climate adaptation by enabling earlier identification of marae vulnerabilities to flooding, erosion and coastal hazards, and prioritising resilience and emergency readiness. Any future works would require project-specific assessment of climate risks, emissions and opportunities to protect or enhance nature and biodiversity.

## CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

103. Staff have engaged directly with Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana on this report and the proposed approach. Staff gave a presentation on Thursday 29 October and received endorsement to bring this paper forward. The group also highlighted other issues that need to be addressed including improving access to urupā and other buildings and facilities that provide community benefits and need investment.

104. Communication with marae committees: On Tuesday 27 October, staff emailed Tauranga marae contacts a summary of the draft recommendations and invited feedback. Marae will be kept informed of Council's decisions, and the Statement of Marae Support Priorities will be developed with them if endorsed.

## SIGNIFICANCE

105. 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.

106. 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 proposal.

    (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

107. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the proposal is of medium significance.

108. Marae, iwi and hapū are particularly interested in the decisions proposed in this report, which will influence Council's relationships with them. Working in partnership with marae, iwi and hapū is therefore of high significance.

109. Overall, the decisions proposed in this report are assessed as medium significance. Most of them progress key issues without significantly affecting the wider region or ratepayers. The marae fund would be reprioritised within existing Community Grants allocations, which reduces the funding available to other applicants. The Statement of Marae Support Priorities would be developed using existing staff resources, and the Waiāri referral would not change existing charging or remission arrangements. The Whareroa emergency exit bridge is the most significant matter in this report because of its safety and resilience implications for the Whareroa community. No decision on the bridge is sought in this report. Staff are investigating alternative funding options and will report back to Council separately.

## ENGAGEMENT

110. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the proposal is of medium significance, officers are of the opinion that no further public engagement is required beyond the engagement already undertaken with Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana and Tauranga marae contacts.

## NEXT STEPS

111. Subject to the Committee's decisions, staff would continue coordinated marae visits and work with iwi, hapū and marae to develop the Statement of Marae Support Priorities, which would be reported back to the Committee for endorsement. Community Development and Te Pou Takawaenga would support this work, with relevant service teams contributing advice and proposed responsibilities.

112. Subject to approval, Community Funding staff would develop the fund's eligibility, criteria, approval and reporting arrangements with marae input, including how it could support minor

Māori roadway repairs, and would report back to Council on the proposed assessment criteria, allocation and commencement date. Staff would also explore partnership opportunities without making establishment of the fund dependent on them. Transport staff would update the Māori Roadways Procedure to acknowledge the marae fund as a pathway for minor roadway repairs, with no change to staff delegations.

113. Staff will report back to Council as soon as possible, through the Long-term Plan or Annual Plan process as appropriate, with investigation into the matter of the Whareroa emergency exit including alternative funding options. In the interim, staff will work with Whareroa Marae and the surrounding community on an updated community evacuation plan, and continue to work with Whareroa Marae and Ngāi Tukairangi on the Whareroa Future Proofing Project (to come to Council in a separate paper) and the planned Community-led Adaptation Fund application.

114. Staff would continue to work with Ngāti Hē Hapū Trust and Maungatapu Marae to assess their submission, including the accompanying technical report, before any stormwater investment decision. Staff would also continue to provide marae with insurance and climate adaptation advice, with any insurance investigation remaining exploratory and voluntary.

115. Subject to Council's decision, staff would advise the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group of the referral, pass the request and supporting information to Tāheke – Bay Waters, and seek an indicative review timetable. Existing charging and remission arrangements would continue unless formally changed.

## ATTACHMENTS

- **1. Marae in Tauranga - A21415719**
- **2. Draft Statement of Marae Support Priorities - A21418632**
- **3. Transport Projects Supporting Marae and Maori Communities - A21415722**
- **4. Tauranga Moana Marae Overview - Confidential - A21422485 - Public Excluded**

**Attachment 1 - Marae in Tauranga**

**Features of a marae complex**

1. A traditional marae complex includes a wharenui (carved meeting house) alongside several other key structures and open spaces which are likely to include:
    - Marae ātea: The open courtyard or gathering space directly in front of the wharenui, used for formal welcome ceremonies (*pōhiri*)
    - Wharekai: The dining hall and kitchen area used for communal meals after gatherings
    - Wharepaku / Ablution block: Facilities containing toilets and showers
    - Waharoa: The gateway or formal entrance welcoming people onto the marae grounds
    - Driveway/parking space: Access to the marae

2. For the purpose of this report, all other surrounding Māori land and buildings are excluded. This includes papakāinga housing (), kura (schools) and urupā (burial grounds).

**The role of marae**

3. Marae are non-profit venues with spiritual centres that serve multiple purposes in the community – they are a sacred communal meeting place that reinforces identity, kinship, and heritage.
4. Marae are extremely versatile 'living heritage' spaces used for:
    - Tangihanga (funerals)
    - Pōhiri (welcome ceremonies including welcoming our new migrants)
    - Venue for gatherings and hui (significant city-wide milestones & events)
    - Celebrations and festivals
    - Wānanga and workshops (education on language, history, culture)
    - Cultural exchange (welcoming schools, tourists, and the wider public to learn about Māori history, genealogy (whakapapa), and values (tikanga))
    - Places of worship (religious practice)
    - Indoor sports/community group activities (venue for martial arts programme: mau rākau, practice venue for waiata/kapa haka groups)
    - Communal housing and hospitality (emergency, educational and sports related accommodation for large group visits)
    - Hauora (venue for health and family services)

**Management of marae**

5. Marae committees and marae trusts work together to run a marae. Marae trusts hold legal ownership and governance responsibility for the land and assets under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, while marae committees manage the daily operations, bookings, events, and ground-level upkeep

**Tauranga marae**

6. The following marae are located within Tauranga City Council's jurisdiction

| Marae | Location | Hapū | Iwi |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wairoa Marae | Bethlehem | Ngāti Kahu | Ngāti Ranginui |
| Hangarau Marae | Bethlehem | Ngāti Hangarau | Ngāti Ranginui |
| Huria Marae | Judea | Ngāi Tamarawaho | Ngāti Ranginui |
| Waimapu Marae | Waimapu | Ngāti Ruahine | Ngāti Ranginui |
| Hairini Marae | Hairini | Ngāi Te Ahi | Ngāti Ranginui |
| Maungatapu Marae | Maungatapu | Ngāti Hē | Ngāi Te Rangi |
| Mangatawa Marae | Te Maunga | Ngāti Kaahu ki Mangatawa | Ngā Pōtiki |
| Waikari Marae | Matapihi | Ngāti Tapu | Ngāi Te Rangi |
| Hungahungatoroa Marae | Matapihi | Ngāi Tukairangi | Ngāi Te Rangi |
| Whareroa Marae | Mount Maunganui | Ngāti Kuku | Ngāi Te Rangi |
| Tahuwhakatiki Marae | Welcome Bay | Ngā Pōtiki | Ngā Pōtiki |
| ** Te Whetū-o-Te Rangi Marae | Welcome Bay | n/a | Ngāti Pūkenga |

7. Tauranga City Council's area of responsibility is limited to the Tauranga City local authority district, while iwi and hapū interests extend beyond these administrative boundaries.
8. **Te Whetū-o-Te Rangi Marae is one key additional marae that is recognised as part of this report. While it sits outside of the perimeter (on the opposite side of Welcome Bay Road) – it still sits well within the iwi boundaries and holds a strong link with our Tauranga community who made use of the marae in recent emergency response events.

# Attachment 2 – Statement of Marae Support Priorities

*DRAFT for discussion – City Future Committee, 17 November 2026. The final statement would be developed with iwi, hapū and marae leaders.*

## Purpose

This statement outlines how Tauranga City Council will work alongside marae to support their aspirations, priorities and long-term resilience. It provides a shared reference point for marae, iwi, hapū and council staff, helping to strengthen relationships, improve understanding of needs and opportunities, and ensure council support is accessible, responsive and aligned with the aspirations of each marae.

Guided by the importance of marae resilience and emergency preparedness, the statement seeks to support marae to maintain safe, functional and sustainable facilities that can continue to serve their whānau, hapori and wider communities, including during times of emergency. It recognises and respects the autonomy of marae as independently governed centres of cultural identity, mātauranga and living heritage, with council's role being to enable, advocate for and support marae-led outcomes.

## Guiding principles

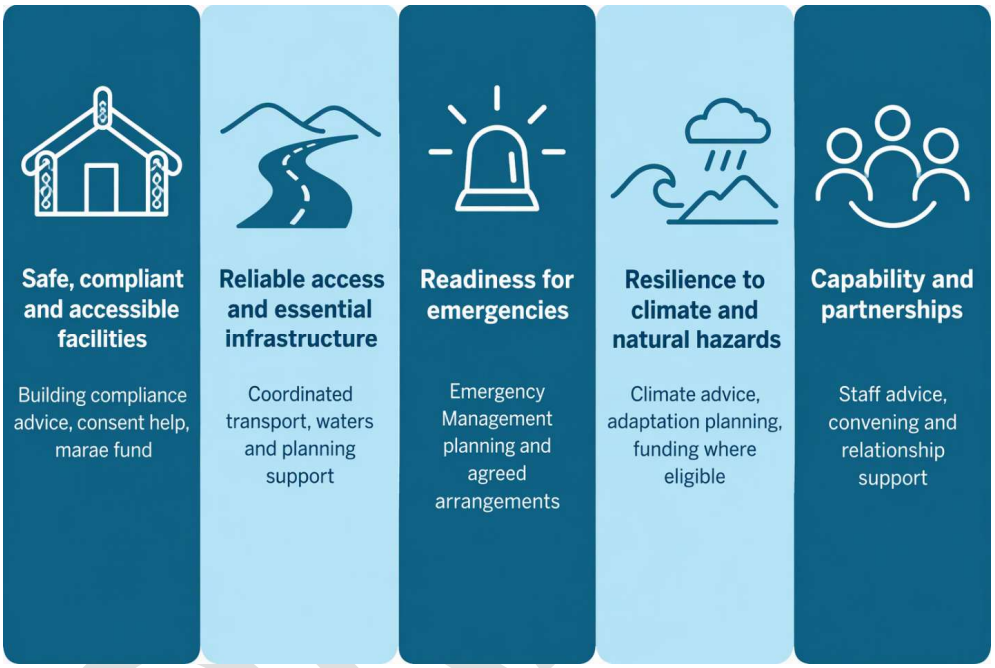
Council's support for marae will be guided by the following principles.

- **Partnership:** Council will work alongside marae, hapū and iwi, building on its longstanding relationships and the engagement avenues set out in its relationship protocol agreements.
- **Marae autonomy:** Marae own and control their land, facilities and decisions. Council support is offered, not imposed, and participation is voluntary.
- **Resilience first:** Support is directed first to keeping people safe and facilities usable, before issues become more costly or disrupt community use.
- **Fairness and transparency:** Council will be open about what it prioritises and how decisions are made, and will consider the needs of all marae together rather than responding only to individual requests.
- **One council approach:** Advice, regulatory input and funding pathways will be coordinated across council teams, with clear roles and a single point of contact through Te Pou Takawaenga.
- **Realistic expectations:** Support is subject to council's statutory purpose, decision-making requirements and available budgets. It does not create an automatic entitlement to funding.

DRAFT

## Identified marae needs and opportunities for council support

The table below sets out the common needs identified for marae. It shows where the opportunities for council support are, and will help guide prioritisation. Risk and urgency will be considered within each need.




| Marae need | What this includes | Opportunities for council support |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Safe, compliant and accessible facilities** | Marae need buildings that are safe, secure and accessible, including electrical, plumbing, fire safety and hygiene (kitchens, ablutions and drainage), and that meet building consent and other regulatory requirements. | Advice from building compliance and accessibility staff, help navigating consents, and funding through the dedicated marae fund once established. |
| **2. Reliable access and essential infrastructure** | Marae need safe access and roadways, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and drainage so they can operate and people can reach them safely. | Coordination between transport, waters and planning teams and Tāheke – Bay Waters from 1 July 2027, and |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | requests under the Māori Roadways Procedure. |
| **3. Readiness for emergencies** | Where a marae chooses to act as a place of refuge, it needs emergency preparedness plans, evacuation planning, and practical readiness such as backup power, safe water, communications and emergency supplies. | Emergency Management support for planning, response and recovery, and agreed arrangements for hosting, resources and reimbursement. Participation is voluntary and agreed with each marae. |
| **4. Resilience to climate and natural hazards** | Marae need to understand and plan for flooding, erosion and coastal hazards that threaten facilities, access, taonga and connections to whenua. | Strategic advice from climate advisors, support to develop adaptation plans, and access to the Climate Action Fund and Match Fund where eligible. |
| **5. Capability and partnerships** | Marae may need governance and planning support, readiness to apply for funding, and options with partners such as philanthropic funders and Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited (including insurance, which is exploratory only). | Staff advice, convening and relationship support. Council would not rely on partners to establish the marae fund. |

Cultural and community activities on marae, such as events and wānanga, remain valued. [Staff to confirm which existing schemes, such as the Kaupapa Māori Event Fund, remain available to marae once the dedicated marae fund is established.]

## How priorities will be applied

When considering requests for support, staff and decision-makers will consider:

- **Risk and urgency:** the likelihood and consequence of harm, damage or loss of use if the need is not addressed.
- **Emergency role:** whether the marae has agreed to, or is likely to, provide refuge or support in an emergency, and what it needs to do so safely.
- **Project readiness:** a clear scope, costs, any required consents, and confirmation of authority from the landowners or trustees.
- **Public benefit:** a clear benefit to the wider community, as council-funded work requires.

- **Marae capacity and priorities:** each marae's own aspirations, willingness and volunteer capacity, with extra support for marae still identifying their needs.
- **Other contributions:** funding or support from the marae, iwi, hapū or partners, noting that this is not a prerequisite for council support.

## What this statement does not do

- It does not guarantee funding or create an entitlement to support.
- It does not approve individual projects; these are considered through separate processes.
- It does not transfer responsibility for marae governance, assets, maintenance or insurance to council.
- It does not cover papakāinga housing, kura or urupā, which are outside the scope of the overarching report.
- It does not replace council's statutory, regulatory or consenting requirements.

## Working together

This prioritisation statement would create more clarity around process and how council work with marae to encourage closer collaboration. Including to:

- Help marae navigate council services and connect with the right teams.
- Take part in a coordinated marae visits, where council staff discuss aspirations, infrastructure, compliance, accessibility, waste and emergency readiness needs together.
- Share known needs and risks early, even if projects are not yet fully planned, so council can understand needs across the city.
- Use a marae emergency preparedness plan, such as the template available through Emergency Management Bay of Plenty, to identify readiness gaps.
- Once established, apply to the dedicated marae fund through Community Funding staff, using the criteria developed with marae.

## Developing and reviewing the statement

If the City Future Committee approves the approach, staff would finalise this statement with iwi, hapū and marae leaders, align it with the dedicated marae fund criteria, and communicate it directly to all marae. Coordinated marae visits would continue to inform the priorities, and the statement would be reviewed as part of Long-term Plan 2027–2037 planning.

DRAFT

## 10.4 Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - December 2026

**File Number:** **A21245831**

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

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee on matters raised by Tangata Whenua at previous Committee meetings.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

(a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - December 2026".

### DISCUSSION

**Issues table**

2. The attached table of issues is October meeting updates (deferred to 2 December).

3. The issues have been raised by Iwi/Hapū and Marae at previous Committee meetings and Hui held with Council. The table provides an update on the progress of these issues. The table also includes a column which outlines the next actions and who is responsible for undertaking those actions.

   Traffic light key in the table:

   - Purple – Complete (will be removed from next report);
   - Green – On track;
   - Yellow – Progress being made; and
   - Red – Unlikely to progress further.

4. There are a few updates from the October table that are outlined below.

   - **Peterehema Marae. *Ngāti Hangarau*(Bethlehem) - 1 December 2021**
     **Resourcing to assist the development of Māori land for housing.**
     A Ngāti Hangarau Hapū Update hui on the Natural Environment Solutions (NES) work programme and papakāinga development has been scheduled with hapū representatives and relevant Council staff for 24 November 2026.

   - **Peterehema Marae. *Ngāti Hangarau* - 9 October 2024**
     **The hapū wish to see new footpaths installed and get better engagement for the plan.**
     Positive engagement with marae representatives completed, with broad agreement on the proposed design. Minor feedback received regarding stormwater infrastructure and speed hump placement. Works will start January 2027.

- **Huria Marae. *Ngāi Tamarāwaho* - 17 September 2025**
  **Mobil Station at Chapel Street – CBD Presence. Update on where the land transfer from TCC to Ngāi Tamarāwaho is at.**
  LINZ have signed and issued the Agreements for Sale and Purchase for the reclaimed land. We have received the signed Agreement from the Hapū and is now with TCC to sign. We are anticipating LINZ to publish the Gazette Notices (which is the next step) in late January, with settlement to follow that.

- **Maungatapu Marae. *Ngāti Hē* (Maungatapu) 26 April 2023**
  **Rangataua Waahi Tapu areas.**
  On 5 November, staff met with hapū representatives to update them on the hapū Annual Plan submission supporting the marae stormwater issues. Sump upgrades are programmed for this year to replace the sump pumps at the top of the driveway to the marae and at the bottom of Wikitoria Street, which will help with some of the stormwater issues.

- **Mercury Baypark. Ngā Pōtiki - 25 June 2025**
  **Engagement on Infrastructure – Long term plan for infrastructure and growth**
  Ngā Pōtiki's proposed Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan and Implementation project has been approved and is under way.

## 5. Unable to Action further

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wairoa Marae. *Ngāti Kahu* (Bethlehem) 25 March 2025** | |
| • Erosion – River / Whenua | **Responsibility:** NZTA, Land Trust and Ngāi Kahu |
| **Hungahungatoroa Marae. *Ngai Tukairangi* (Matapihi) November 2022** | |
| • Matapihi Community Plan.<br>Community / Hapū led plan. Te Pou Takawaenga will continue to support | **Responsibility:** Nga hapū o Matapihi & Matapihi Community |
| **Waimapu Marae.*Ngāti Ruahine* (Waimapu) 22 April 2026** | |
| • Continue working with willing landowners on wetland protection and enhancement projects. Outside the remit of TCC | **Responsibility:** BOPRC / Hapū |
| **Mercury Baypark, Ngā Pōtiki 25 June 2025** | |
| • Rangataua – Restoration and enhancement Oxidation ponds Nga Papaka o Rangataua group to meet and discuss Rangataua Plan | **Responsibility:** Ngā Pōtiki |

## ATTACHMENTS

**1. Table - Tangata Whenua Matter Raised - TW/TCC 28 October 2026 - A21330550**

## Tangata Whenua Action List – 28 October 2026

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wairoa Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Kahu***<br>**(Bethlehem)**<br><br>**25 March 2025**<br>**(Leonie Cairns)** | • Housing is a priority for Ngāti Kahu - Stage 2 Papakāinga | • Application to the Papakāinga Housing Fund received from the Trust. | • Papakāinga Housing Fund Panel are still assessing this application. Awaiting further information from the Trust.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Assessment Panel | |
| | • Cycleway | • NZTA continues to lead the SH2 revocation project, while TCC is clarifying tangata whenua interests and relevant historic commitments that may affect the permanent cycleway and asset transfer.<br>• Confirmed from NZTA that appropriate iwi and hapū engagement is being undertaken and will be reflected in the Revocation Plan. | • No further action can be taken at this time<br><br>**Responsibility**: NZTA | |
| | • Return severance block of land at Pōteriwhi | • Council await State Highway revocation before assessing road stopping options.<br>• No progress can be made until the revocation of SH2 is complete. | • No update at this stage.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategic Property/NZTA | |
| **Peterehema Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Hangarau***<br>**(Bethlehem)**<br><br>**1 December 2021**<br>**(Leonie Cairns)** | • Resourcing to assist the development of Māori land for housing. | • Continued supporting Ngāti Hangarau whānau in progressing their papakāinga aspirations by coordinating engagement between whānau and Tauranga City Council's planning team and providing guidance on planning processes and development opportunities. | • Hui with Ngāti Hangarau in November to update them on the National Environmental Standards – Papakāinga.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Strategy, Growth & Partnerships | |
| **Peterehema Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Hangarau***<br>**(Bethlehem)**<br><br>**9 October 2024**<br>**(Leonie Cairns)** | • The hapū wish to see new footpaths installed and get better engagement for the plan. | • Progress on the Stage 3 footpaths is nearing the next project phase, with final internal approvals almost complete and planning underway for engagement with the marae and Inlet View residents.<br>• The Transport team has maintained strong relationships and effective communication with the hapū throughout. | • Complete the remaining internal approval and commence stakeholder engagement meetings with the marae and residents to review the proposed plan and next steps.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Transport/Safety Team | |
| **Hungahungatoroa Club.**<br>***Ngati Tapu, Ngai Tukairangi***<br>**(Matapihi)**<br><br>**14 October 2021**<br>**(Tuana Kuka)** | • The Southern Pipeline was raised as a significant and ongoing burden on the Matapihi community. TCC established the Matapihi Southern Pipeline Advisory Group (MSPAG). This is made up of hapū members (2 each from Ngāti Tapu and Ngāi Tukairangi) and TCC members (Councillors, General Manager, Technical Manager & Takawaenga). | • MSPAG hui held on 17 September 2026. | • MSPAG members recommended progressing a community hui and suggested a committee site visit to Matapihi<br>• Te Poutakawaenga to organise a Hui with hapū and community in November.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Waters / Te Pou Takawaenga | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Whareroa Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Kuku***<br>**(Mount Maunganui)**<br><br>**18 January 2022**<br><br>**and**<br><br>**9 September 2025**<br><br>**(Tuana Kuka)** | Whareroa Emergency Plan.<br>• Project to establish a new community emergency exit route at a safer distance away from the industrial area.<br>• Existing emergency exit was deemed inadequate due to proximity to hazardous sites.<br>• A key to the airport evacuation site is held by a community representative, but this is not an ideal solution.<br>• Whānau must move past hazardous areas to reach safety, which undermines the effectiveness of current emergency planning.<br>• Emergency planning options should not require further alienation of Māori land.<br>• The community urged council to do better — to find solutions that protect lives without compromising whenua or tino rangatiratanga.<br>• Council acknowledged the need for a comprehensive risk assessment and emergency response strategy.<br>• Whareroa has been here for 150 years and will be here for another 150 years. Not all residents want to move — and many cannot move. A lot of whānau are getting sick and need urgent protection.<br>• A possible solution has been identified, and this option is being investigated | • The bridge has been considered as part of the resilience walking and cycling package associated with tsunami evacuation routes. Current resilience programme funds are not allocated in the draft LTP hence these projects will be incorporated in the Minor Improvements - safety and accessibility programme. The bridge is subject to prioritisation of city-wide projects delivered within council's approved LTP funding envelope, which is put forward to council for consideration and endorsement. | • Staff have options paper for Elected Members to consider through the LTP process in November.<br><br>**Responsibility:** TCC - Airport / Transport / Legal / Civil Defence Emergency Management / Te Pou Takawaenga / CEO | |
| **Whareroa Marae**<br>**Ngāti Kuku**<br><br>**9 September 2025**<br><br>**(Tuana Kuka)** | • The newly elected council met with Ngāti Kuku, kaupapa covered at the hui included<br><br>• Future-Proofing Whareroa – Council Engagement with Ngāti Kuku<br>• Discussion included the opportunity to relocate to the Marae, Kaumatua flats and Kohanga to land in Omanu, the community reaffirmed that Whareroa is home.<br>• Community position was a strong commitment for the Marae to remain and to also continue with this opportunity for the land at Omanu as a future proofing option for the marae should it ever need it.<br>• Whareroa community confirmed that there should be consideration for the Kaumatua flats and Kohanga to relocate.<br>• Community wants to see action, returning whenua without conditions.<br>Recognition that Whareroa has been impacted over time by multiple pressures: the harbour bridge, port expansion, and encroaching heavy industry. | • Whareroa Community have established the 'Omanu Future Proofing Subcommittee' which includes Marae and Hapū representation<br>• Council staff met with the Subcommittee on 5 August to provide background, current status and next steps information. | • Staff to write an options paper for Elected Members to consider at a workshop late 2026.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategic Property / CEO | |
| | • Environmental Impacts and Air Quality | • Mount Air Quality Working Party (AQWP) meetings with marae, community and agencies changed to biannual meeting | • Te Pou Takawaenga to meet with BOPRC to ensure connection with hapū | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | • Residents expressed deep concern over cumulative pollution from surrounding industries, including tank farms, waste management, and port operations.<br>• Health impacts, including chronic exposure to contaminants, were raised as urgent human rights issues.<br>• Calls for managed retreat of noxious industries and stronger enforcement of environmental protections and accountability.<br>• Council acknowledged the severity of the issue and committed to supporting air quality monitoring and exploring collective impact regulations. | • The new Planning Act and natural environment act was enacted on 30 September. The following plan will be developed:<br>- Regional Spatial Plan is in the establishment phase between all the territorial authorities in the Bay.<br>- Land use plan will be developed by TCC which will replace the district plan, and will include spatial application of sones and overlays.<br>- Natural environment plan will be developed by BOPRC<br>-<br>• Early engagement will occur in preparation of these new regulatory requirements.<br><br>• This Issue will be closed with the planning and environmental matters continuing to be addressed through the Regional Spatial Plan and Land Use Plan development as per Issue below. | **Responsibility:** BOPRC | |
| | • Climate Change and Coastal Risk | • Council Teams continue to be available to support Whareroa Marae<br>• TCC provided funds through the IHMP grant for Ngati Kuku to create their Hapu Management Plan | • An invitation has been sent to Ngāti Kuku to meet with the climate change team to discuss possible support for community climate support.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Climate Change Team / Ngāti Kuku hapū | |
| | • Mount Spatial Plan Land Use, Reclassification<br>• Changing planning instruments to reflect community priorities. Concerns from the Hapū about the hold on Plan Changes and the Judges' comments about the legal standing of the Mount Spatial Plan. Seen as a waste of time.<br>• Central government announced on 16 July that plan changes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) are no longer permitted without an exemption.<br>• On 12 August 2025, Council noted that there is a low likelihood that TCC's plan changes would progress through RMA.<br>• Whareroa is not an industrial zone — the community called for council to rezone the area, review existing land use rules, and send a strong message that Whareroa whānau matter.<br>• Strong support for reclaiming whenua and accelerating the return of ancestral land without conditions.<br>• Council was urged to separate land return from industrial zoning and pollution mitigation. | • As noted above, in the Environmental Impacts and Air Quality update, TCC will begin engagement with iwi and hapū in the Regional Spatial Plan development process, and also subsequent Land Use Plan. | • Next steps agreed was that staff can scope out the roles and responsibilities of tangata whenua representation at both the Spatial Planning Committee and Secretariat level, and make recommendations back to CTWF in the last quarter of 2026.<br>• Preparation of the Regional Spatial Plan will commence in 2027.<br>• Council to provide update on the RMA reform as we receive updates from Central Government.<br><br>**Responsibility:** City Planning and Growth | |
| **Huria Marae.**<br>***Ngāi Tamarāwaho***<br><br>**17 September 2025**<br><br>**(Tuana Kuka)** | • Urupā. Limited further capacity for future burials on Ngāi Tamarāwaho urupā on Motuopae due to space and ground level.<br>• Ngāi Tamarāwaho are seeking support from TCC to locate appropriate land within Ngāi Tamarāwaho area and provide the land to the hapū for a new urupā. | • Staff have considered various sites but have not been able to locate any that are suitable due to access issues or low-lying nature of the sites.<br>• Future acquisitions may be considered for appropriateness and suitability. | • Te Pou Takawaenga to discuss potential opportunities with elected members.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga | |
| | • Te Reti Papakāinga Development<br><br>• City transport and water infrastructure has been built through the Te Reti land block to service the city and surrounding community and developments. | • Application to the Papakāinga Housing Fund received from the Trust. | • Papakāinga Housing Fund Panel are still assessing this application. Awaiting further information from the Trust.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Assessment Panel | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | • People returning to build dwellings on Te Reti are required to fund infrastructure upgrades and apply for resource consents because local infrastructure is at capacity because it services surrounding community and developments even though the infrastructure runs through the papakāinga area. | | | |
| | • Kopurererua Valley – Concept Plan and hapū aspirations | • Master Plan Work – Largely completed - finalising the Plans to be submitted into the LTP.<br>• Hapū have requested a ranger in the valley. | • Starting Wayfinding and signage<br>• Project team are working on agreements with hapū for deliverables<br><br>**Responsibility:** Spaces & Places / Te Pou Takawaenga | |
| | • Tamarāwaho Crescent. Revisit the maintenance contract for this council esplanade to instead contract with the hapū nursery development entity to undertake maintenance (Te Mahi a Nuku). | • TCC Staff have met with hapū reps to begin discussions on hapū undertaking the maintenance work in this area.<br>• The area being considered is part of the crown settlement with Nga Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Trust of which this land parcel will ultimately be transferred to the hapū of Ngāi Tamarāwaho. | • Review treaty settlement arrangements and discuss steps to transfer the land parcel to the hapū<br><br>**Responsibility:** Spaces & Places / Legal | |
| | • Mobil Station at Chapel Street – CBD Presence. Update on where the land transfer from TCC to Ngāi Tamarāwaho is at. | • Solicitors are progressing easements and titles | • No further update available<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategic Property Team | |
| | • Protocol Document. Update on the status of the protocol agreement between Ngāi Tamarāwaho and TCC. | • A protocol document with Ngāi Tamarāwaho is under review by the hapū. | **Responsibility:** Hapū | |
| **Mangatawa Marae.**<br>***Tamapahore***<br><br>**03 Dec 2025**<br>**(Tuana Kuka)** | • Improved roading infrastructure on the roads around Mangatawa Marae (Tareha Lane, Truman Lane and the road to the local water reservoir) | • TCC Waters and Transport team are compiling a programme of works with engineers estimates to address road surface issues including the private roads identified Tareha Lane.<br>• These teams are liaising with the recovery team to coordinate where there is cross over. | • On 13 October 2026, a report went to council with recommendations to revoke the Māori Roadways Policy.<br>• This policy was revoked and now allows for council to establish a process for Māori roadways to be considered on a case-by-case basis for assistance with maintenance.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Transport | |
| | • Investigate the possibility for a transport hub near Sandhurst Road to support the commercial and residential area. | • Te Pou Takawaenga have talked with the hapū rep to clarify the request. | • A transport hub could be considered in spatial planning with Ngā Pōtiki and Ngāti Kaahu ki Mangatawa<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga | |
| | • Support response for hapū with the Emergency Management Plan. | • Council will consider a paper through the LTP process to provide support for Marae in October/November. Matters being considered include: Roading, water infrastructure and emergency management | • Staff are drafting a paper for LTP process in November<br><br>**Responsibility:** Civil Defence and Emergency Management | |
| **Hei Marae.**<br>***Te Kapu o Waitaha***<br>**(Te Puke)**<br><br>**(Yolande Tipuna)** | • Waiari action. Request that TCC make a concerted effort to ensure promises made are delivered.<br><br>Cultural Recognition #7 was agreed as being *free water to marae that whakapapa to or have been impacted by the Waiari watertake consent in the WBOPDC and TCC area.* | • Council will consider a paper through the LTP process to provide support for Marae in October/November. Matters being considered include: Roading, water infrastructure and emergency management | • Staff are drafting a paper for LTP process in November<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategy, Growth and Partnerships | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | • Development of a pathway to Taiao regeneration.<br>• Iwi request ecological monitoring of the Waiari. | • Te Kapu o Waitaha are seeking pathways for initiatives to grow capability in kaitiakitanga for their uri. These include Waiari - Riparian restoration, catchment work, water management and water engineering Pāpāmoa - Seaside restoration, water management.<br>• SLR via Waters team have now engaged with Waitaha; they have been out already and will continue to work towards building capability in eco-monitoring.<br>• Steady progress being made to develop and build capability within the iwi | • TCC to maintain partnering with SLR and iwi on current monitoring plan, with the next steps profressing in March 2027<br>• Raise for consideration for inclusion in the Water Organisation Tangata Whenua relationship work plan<br><br>**Responsibility:** WKAG / Te Pou Takawaenga / Waters | |
| | • Resourcing for cultural recognition opportunities allocated through WKAG | • Resourcing for cultural recognition has been allocated with project in progress. | • Mahi toi cultural recognition to be approved in October. Works will be completed in the new year.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Waters / Te Pou Takawaenga / Waters | |
| **Whakaue Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu***<br><br>**24 August 2023**<br>**(Yolande Tipuna)** | • Request for resourcing and assistance to develop Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu Priority project list – the main area of interest for involvement by TCC is retreat, and climate change erosion. | • Maketu sits outside the TCC rohe, however engagement occurs regarding Te Tumu and Eastern Papamoa where Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu have an interest. | • No further action WBOPDC is supporting iwi with progressing their retreat plan.<br><br>**Responsibility:** WBOPRC / Te Pou Takawaenga | |
| **Moko Marae.**<br>***Tapuika Iwi***<br><br>**4 December 2024**<br>**(Yolande Tipuna)** | • Renaming Taylor Reserve to Wairakei. | • Multiple hui have occurred between TCC, Tangata Whenua and the Taylor family. | • A report for dual/renaming has been prepared by Spaces and Places for presentation to Council in November<br><br>**Responsibility:** Spaces & Places | |
| | • Tapuika request to proactively work with TCC on land disposals within the rohe of Tapuika | • Tapuika continue to be advised when potential land disposal are being considered | • Further actions dependant on whether TCC intends to dispose of any land in their rohe.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategic Property | |
| | • Tapuika request a strong presence by TCC regarding Waiari matters, specifically supporting and progressing the cultural recognition. | • Tapuika have advised Takawaenga that engagement on Council projects is currently on hold. Takawaenga acknowledges and respects this position and will continue to maintain communication channels.<br>• Tapuika to engage in the current cultural recognition project.<br>• Mahi Toi as part of the cultural recognition is underway. | • Raise for consideration for inclusion in the Water Organisation Tangata Whenua relationship work plan<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Waters | |
| | • Tapuika Taiao Tuku iho. Opportunity for all works around the Waiari, (planting, clearing, water management) to have a Tapuika uri priority. | • As above, Tapuika engagement is on hold.<br>• TCC continues to engage regularly through WKAG regarding activities at the Waiari. TCC awaits proposals or specific requests in relation to Tapuika uri priority across Waiari works. | • Tapuika capacity issues continue to be a challenge.<br>• Raise for consideration for inclusion in the Water Organisation Tangata Whenua relationship work plan<br><br>**Responsibility:** Iwi / Waters | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Maungatapu Marae.**<br>***Ngāti Hē***<br>**(Maungatapu)**<br><br>**26 April 2023**<br>**(Cynthia Hamel)** | • Re-engage with staff and TCC on TCC-owned Wikitoria St properties regarding lease and possible sale / transfer to hapū. | • The hapū and Marae trustees want to re-establish discussions with Council about the lease and long-term use of the Wikitoria St property. | • Hapū Chair and Marae trustees to advise Council when they are available to meet with staff.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Property Team / Te Pou Takawaenga / Hapū / Marae | |
| | • Rangataua Waahi Tapu areas. | • Staff have met to discuss the stormwater issues at Rangataua and Maungatapu Marae.<br>• Modelling may assist with understanding options re: stormwater issues. Staff to progress this. | • Staff to meet with hapū in November to respond to the hapū submission on stormwater issues.<br>• Raised for consideration for inclusion in the Water Organisation Tangata Whenua relationship work plan<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Waters | |
| **Hairini Marae.**<br>***Ngāi Te Ahi***<br>**(Hairini)**<br><br>**10 April 2024**<br>**(Cynthia Hamel)** | • Opening of Hairini bus lane proposed 7pm – 6am, weekends and school holidays. | • No change as the continuation of the trial is dependent on the 15th Avenue to Turret Road project. | • No actions needed at this stage.<br><br>**Responsibility: Transport** | |
| | • Invest in Hapū kaitiakitanga management (FTE for resource management kaupapa for Ngāi Te Ahi and Ngāti Hē). | • On 16 October 2026, hapū representatives met with staff to discuss engagement. Hapū representatives were encouraged to engage with the consultant on proposals for engagement.<br>• The tangata whenua engagement review recognises that capacity and capability of representation continues to be a challenge for hapū.<br>• A consultant has also been engaged to support and facilitate discussions with iwi and hapū on the proposed review structures and processes. To date, he has met with a small tangata whenua working group, Te Rangapū, and most recently facilitated a hui with iwi and hapū on 19 October 2026. | • Further discussion through the Tangata Whenua engagement review process<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategy, Growth & Partnerships. | |
| **Waimapu Marae.**<br><br>***Ngāti Ruahine***<br>**(Waimapu)**<br><br>**22 April 2026**<br><br>**(Cynthia Hamel)** | • Engage with responsible agencies (eg Transport, Bay of Plenty Regional Council) regarding river debris, bridge resilience, and flood risk mitigation. | • Trees from private land block opposite Waimapu Marae fall into the Waimapu River and cause log jams that undermine the riverbank below the urupā.<br>• Has been a longstanding issue for the hapū but Council are unable to action further.<br>• BOPRC have previously been notified by Council and the hapū, but the issue remains. | • TCC unable to progress but might sit within the scope of the water organisation<br><br>**Responsibility:** Waters | |
| | • Provide clearer guidance on how receiving environment capacity and cultural landscape values are influencing planning decisions. | • Te Rangapū have reviewed the Cultural Impact-Maori Values Assessment Procedure to strengthen processes that include reports back to the hapū. | • The Policy Team that includes Te Rangapū representatives are to sign off the final procedure before it goes to the Clearing House on 3 December 2026 for approval.<br>• Te Pou Takawaenga to review the Te Kete Mahi Pai training for best practice engagement training on how to include reporting back to hapū processes<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Policy Team | |
| | • Improve early-stage engagement with tangata whenua on reforms (notably water services). | • RMA reforms have started.<br>• Waters has been established and will be operational 1 July 2027.<br>• On 26 August 2026, the CE of Tāheke Bay Waters attended the TW/TCC Committee hui.<br>• A consultant has been engaged to support and facilitate discussions with iwi and hapū on the proposed tangata whenua engagement review structures and | • On 27 October 2026, the Head of Māori and Iwi Partnerships for Tāheke Bay Waters will be welcomed at a pōhiri. Part of this role is to establish a work stream for tangata whenua engagement. Te Pou Takawaenga will assist, and ongoing engagement will be communicated back to hapū through Te Rangapū | |

| Hui<br>(Kaiārahi) | Issue | Update/Status | Action<br>Responsibility: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | processes. To date, he has met with a small tangata whenua working group, Te Rangapū, and most recently facilitated a hui with iwi and hapū on 19 October 2026. | • On 29 October 2026, Tāheke Bay Waters may attend Te Rangapū<br>• Further updates will be forthcoming from the tangata whenua review consultant, and following a workshop to be held with elected members a report will go to Council.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga / Waters | |
| | • Continue committee-level dialogue as a monitoring and governance forum, not just an information channel. | • The tangata whenua engagement review recognises that roles and responsibilities of existing engagement mechanisms are unclear, and communication channels continue to be challenging.<br>• A consultant has been engaged to support and facilitate discussions with iwi and hapū on the proposed tangata whenua engagement review structures and processes. To date, he has met with a small tangata whenua working group, Te Rangapū, and most recently facilitated a hui with iwi and hapū on 19 October 2026. | • Hapū to confirm position on supporting a governance arrangement that hapū and Council continue a dialogue together ie. the TW/TCC Committee. Once confirmed, this will be communicated to the consultant undertaking the tangata whenua review<br><br>**Responsibility:** Te Pou Takawaenga | |
| | • Establishment of a hapū urupā at Poike. | • Spaces & Places have met with the hapū representative to progress discussions about the potential development of an urupā at Poike (Windermere). | • Staff will seek direction on this matter within Council and continue discussions with hapū<br><br>**Responsibility:** Spaces & Places | |
| **Mercury Baypark**<br>**Ngā Pōtiki**<br><br>**25 June 2025**<br>**(Keren Paekau)** | • Ngā Pōtiki Spatial Plan | • A target Te Maunga spatial plan is being considered as part of the MoU discussion<br>• Support through the Iwi/Hapū Management Plan fund continues to be available | • Application to the Iwi/Hapū Management Plan Fund<br><br>**Responsibility:** BOPRC **/** Ngā Pōtiki | |
| | • Engagement on Infrastructure – Long term plan for infrastructure and growth | • The parties agreed that the MoU should focus on how TCC and Ngā Pōtiki will work together, including engagement, decision-making and relationship principles. This will sit as an addendum to the current Ngā Pōtiki / TCC Relationship Protocol.<br>• A draft work programme has been developed for Te Maunga issues | • A briefing and subsequent Council report will be held elected members in November on the proposed approach to the Ngā Pōtiki MoU, the Te Maunga site workstream, and related Long-term Plan programme and budget implications.<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategy, Growth and Partnerships, Operations & Infrastructure, Ngā Pōtiki | |
| | • Marae – Emergency management | • Council will consider a paper through the LTP process to provide support for Marae in October/November. Matters being considered include: Roading, water infrastructure and emergency management | • Staff are drafting a paper for LTP process in November<br><br>**Responsibility:** Strategy, Growth and Partnerships | |

## 11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

## 12 CLOSING KARAKIA