


## Minutes Whakatāne District Council Meeting – 21 December 2023

	Details of Meeting:	<b>WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE TOTARA ROOM, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2023, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.</b>
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors G Dennis, A Iles, J Jukes, T O’Brien, T Boynton, J Pullar, N Rangiaho and W James <i>Via Teams: Councillor N Tánchez</i>
	In Attendance:	S O’Sullivan (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Development and Environment Services), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Experience), S Perdia (General Manager Strategy and Transformation), G Connolly (CFO/General Manager Business Partnering), E Hatch (GM People and Engagement), L Woolsey (Manager Strategy and Performance), H Allison (Strategic Policy Analyst), J Caverhill (Manager Financial Accounting), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office), C Viljoen (Manger Governance Services), C Tongariro and A Dass (Governance Support Advisors), and S French (Senior Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams: P Warbrick (Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships)</i>
	Visitors:	D Perese (Toi EDA) <i>Via Teams: D Walker (Audit New Zealand), S Henderson (Independent Chair Risk and Assurance Committee)</i>
	Apologies:	

### 1 KARAKIA

Councillor Rangiaho opened the meeting with a Karakia at 9:00 am.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Nil.

### 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Councillor Iles congratulated the Landing Road roundabout project team and acknowledged Waka Kotahi and the wider Council staff for this achievement. He noted the additional work carried out to ensure the relocated trees survival and the successful communications of the project to the public.

### 4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Refer to page 9 of the agenda.

### **5.1 Public Forum**

Nil

### **5.2 Deputations**

#### **5.2.1 Toi EDA**

Refer also to pages 9a-e of the tabled items.

Toi-EDA is the Economic Development Agency for the Eastern Bay of Plenty based in Whakatāne. It is a partnership between Kawerau District Council, Ōpōtiki District Council, Whakatāne District Council, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, working together with local Iwi. Toi-EDA undertakes activities to contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the local economy.

Speaking to a visual presentation, Ms Perse gave an organisational update. She spoke about Toi EDAs focus areas: civil construction, aquaculture, housing, Māori and Pasifika business support and talent attraction campaign. She advised Toi-EDA had won two best practice awards, and she talked of the success of the youth programme and the driver operator training.

In conclusion Ms Perse gave a background of the current Board Members and offered to share the Draft Regional Refresh Strategy.

Members acknowledged the mahi carried out and it was suggested there was an opportunity for involvement of the Youth Council.

**Attendance:** Ms Perse left the meeting at 9:25 am.

## **6 Confirmation of Minutes – 15 November 2023**

Refer to page 9 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Pullar

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Council confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## **7 Minutes and Recommendations from Standing and Joint Committees**

### **7.1 Standing and Joint Committee Minutes**

Refer to page 10 of the agenda.

Moved Deputy Mayor Immink / Seconded Councillor Iles

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the following Committee minutes be received:

- Property policy Hearing – held on 6 June 2023
- Risk and Assurance Committee – held on 13 November 2023
- Infrastructure and Planning Committee – held on 30 November 2023
- Finance and Performance Committee - held on 11 December 2023

**CARRIED**

It was confirmed that Councillor Dennis attended the Risk and Assurance public excluded meeting.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Boynton

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Public Excluded minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 13 November be received.

**CARRIED**

**8 MAYORAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

**8.1 Mayor’s Report – October to December 2023**

Refer to pages 11-26 of the agenda.

**Attendance:** Mr D Walker (Audit New Zealand) joined the meeting at 9:31 am.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Dennis

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Council receives the Mayoral Report – October to December 2023.

**CARRIED**

**8.2 Chief Executive’s Report**

Refer to pages 27-32 of the agenda.

The Chief Executive reflected on the district’s successes over the past year and said she was proud of the achievements of Council’s and its partners. She thanked the Elected Members for the governance they provided and for their support to the Executive and staff.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor O’Brien

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Chief Executive’s Report - December 2023 be received.

**CARRIED**

**9 REPORTS**

**9.1 Long Term Plan 24/34 Draft Budget Version 1**

Refer to pages 33-36 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Councillor Rangiaho

**RESOLVED:**

1. **THAT** the Long Term Plan 23/34 Draft Budget V1 report be **received**; and,
2. **THAT** the Council **adopt** the Draft Budget V1 presented to Council at the briefing on 13 December 2023 as a working draft; and,
3. **THAT** the Council **note** that the guidance and directions provided by Councillors to the Executive Leadership Team following the draft budget briefing on 13 December 2023, will be used to review and prepare a second version of the budget for presentation to Council in early 2024; and,
4. **THAT** the Council **note** the process described in the report for subsequent reviews of the budget and work programme to prepare it for community consultation

**CARRIED**

**9.2 Adoption of the Whakatāne District Council Annual Report 2022/23**

Refer to pages 37–217 of the agenda and the following tabled items:

	<b>Tabled document</b>	<b>Refer pages:</b>
1	Tabled Annual Report	T1-T171
2	Schedule of Proposed Changes 21 December 2023 <i>(Listing of all updates since the Annual Report version published in the meeting agenda.)</i>	T172-T180
3	Independent Auditors Report	T181-T186
4	Representation Letter for the Year Ended 30 June 2023	T187-T194

GM Strategy and Transformation acknowledged the commitment of the Elected Members with a Council meeting this close to Christmas, in order to adopt the Annual Report. He acknowledged Audit New Zealand for their work and noted they had identified an issue regarding water complaints which resulted in a qualified audit. He thanked the Finance and Strategy teams for their dedication, flexibility, and agility. In conclusion he advised that all grammar and spelling errors would be corrected and previously noted suggestions from Elected Members would be included.

CFO and GM Business Partnering advised Audit New Zealand had continued to provide further required updates to the Annual Report and, alongside the updated Draft Annual Report, he tabled the above noted documents to assist Elected Members.

Mr Walker acknowledged the size of the task and thanked Council staff for their input and their dedication. He said new standards were audited within the non-financial reporting area and issues found had resulted in a qualified audit. Mr Walker explained the Summary Annual Report would be released within 30 days.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am and recommenced at 10:35 am.

The following additional updates were noted:

- i) Update required to rural hall photograph (page 32).
- ii) Satisfaction with the sewage system correct to 'more than 75%' (page 61).
- iii) GM Infrastructure to confirm flooding event reporting (page 65).

