


Minutes Whakatāne District Extraordinary Council Meeting – 19 December 2024

	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2024, COMMENCING AT 1:00 PM.
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors T Boynton, G Dennis, A Iles, W James, J Jukes, T O'Brien, J Pullar, N Rangiaho, Via Teams: Councillor N Tánczos
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), D Caudwell (Acting GM Strategy and Growth), E Hatch (GM People and Partnerships), B Gray (GM Finance and Commercial Services), A Pickles (Acting GM Community Experience), M Hingston (Acting Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships), H Allison (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), S Ellis (Acting Manager Strategy and Performance), H Keravel (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services) and S Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams: A Naidoo (Strategic Policy Analyst)</i>
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	

1 KARAKIA

Mayor Luca welcomed all to the meeting at 1:00 pm, and Councillor O'Brien opened with a Karakia.

2 MEETING NOTICES

Meeting attendees were advised on the following subjects:

- Health and Safety aspects attendees needed to be aware of.
- Standard meeting protocols when livestreamed.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Kotahitanga 2024, and the work achieved by Council staff during the year were acknowledged.

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Annual Plan 2025/26 Draft Budget Options

Refer to pages 10 – 19 of the agenda.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The operating deficit information was presented in a different format to previous years, and this reporting was received well by the Elected Members.
- Many Councils were in a similar position, and Central Government was predicted to be in deficit to 2029.
- Although several impacts outside of Council's control had passed, Council would still carry the burden of this over the next 25 years.
- The levels of service conversation would be included with the full-time-employee discussions.

Attendance: Acting Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships entered the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Councillor Jukes	Option 2
Councillor O'Brien	Option 3
Councillor James	Option 2
Councillor Dennis	Option 3
Councillor Pullar	Option 2
Councillor Rangiaho	Option 3
Councillor Iles	Option 4
Councillor Boynton	Option 3
Deputy Mayor Immink	Option 2
Councillor Tánczos	Option 2
Mayor Luca	Option 3

Option 2

No change to the rates increase in year two of the LTP (12.7%), apply any savings to the operating deficit = **5 votes**

Option 3

Reduce year two rates by a small amount and apply some of the savings to reducing the operating deficit = **5 votes**

Option 4

Apply any savings achieved to reduce the year two rates increase in the LTP = **1 vote**

Councillor Iles then requested his vote be updated to option 3.

Option 3 then became the guidance given for using any budget savings achieved in the annual plan.

Moved Deputy Mayor Immink / Seconded Councillor Pullar

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Annual Plan 2025/26 Draft Budget Options report be **received**; and,
2. THAT the Council discuss and debate the options outlined in Section 5 of this report and **direct** staff on its preference for using any budget savings achieved in the annual plan; and,

3. THAT the Council **notes** that the guidance and preferences provided by Councillors to the Executive Leadership Team at this meeting, will be used to prepare a first version of the Annual Plan 2025/26 budget for presentation to Council in February 2025; and,
4. THAT the Council **notes** the process described in the next steps section of the report for subsequent reviews of the budget work programme and when Council will determine if community consultation is required.

CARRIED

Attendance:

GM People and Partnerships and the Senior Strategic Policy Analyst left the meeting at 2:08 pm.

6.2 Mayor's Task Force for Water

Refer to pages 20-24 of the agenda.

Attendance: GM People and Partnerships re-entered the meeting at 2:12 pm.

Mayor Luca confirmed he was open to suggestions for membership of this advisory group and that this listing would be presented to the Councillors when available.

It was requested Mātanga Māori be incorporated within the Terms of Reference.

Attendance: Councillor Iles left the meeting at 2:24 pm and re-entered at 2:28 pm.

Moved Mayor Luca / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Mayor's Task Force for Water report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Council **notes** that the Chief Executive will be establishing an advisory group – the Mayor's Task Force for Water.

CARRIED

6.3 Whakatāne District Council Annual Report 2023/24 Adoption Deferred

Refer to pages 25-27 of the agenda.

GM Finance and Commercial Services summarised the issues causing the adoption to be deferred.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Pullar

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council **notes** that due to the continuation of audit, the 2023/24 Annual Report will not be adopted at this 19 December 2024 Council meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2:34 pm with a Karakia by Councillor O'Brien.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:	
CHAIRPERSON	