



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

**Thursday 26 March 2026
at 10am**

**Council Chamber
Liardet Street, New Plymouth**

Chairperson:	Mayor Max	Brough
Members:	Cr EJ	Barrett
	Cr Sam	Bennett
	Cr Gina	Blackburn
	Cr Gordon	Brown
	Cr David	Bublitz
	Cr Graham	Chard
	Cr Murray	Chong
	Cr Christine	Fabish
	Cr Damon	Fox
	Cr Moira	George
	Cr Te Waka	McLeod
	Cr Dinnie	Moeahu
	Cr Kerry	Vosseler
	Cr John	Woodward

Purpose of Local Government

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option outlined in each report meets the purpose of local government and:

- Promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.
 - Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council.
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OPENING

The chairperson, or a person authorised by the chairperson will open the meeting.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Health and Safety Message / Te Whaiora me te Marutau

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the main entrance.

Once you reach the footpath please turn right and walk uphill, towards Pukekura Park, congregating outside the Spark building, directly next door.

Council staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

If there is an earthquake – drop, cover, hold and remain where you are until further instruction is given.

Please be mindful of the glass overhead.

APOLOGIES / NGĀ MATANGARO

None noted

Elected Members Declaration of Interests (ECM 9631686)

as at 16 February 2026

(please advise the Governance Team of any amendments)

Mayor and Councillors

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
EJ Barrett	No declaration advised	
Sam Bennett	Speaking Made Easy Full Circle Bespoke Life Events Heart of Brooklands New Plymouth Operatic Society Celebrants Aotearoa (CANZ) Celebrants Aotearoa (Taranaki) Residential Property Owner APJ and DM Bennett and PJ Bennett Age Concern Justice of the Peace for New Zealand Institute of Directors Taranaki Age Concern Taranaki New Plymouth Club FENZ Taranaki Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Francis Douglas Memorial College Foundation member Funeral Director Vosper’s Funeral Home Len Lye Centre GBAG Communio – Coronial Support Deceased/Tūpāpaku	Ownership of company Ownership of Company Ownership of Company Sponsorship Manager Member Member Family Trust Board member Ministerial duties and Nominated Person Oranga Tamariki Member Chairperson Member Chairperson Member Board member Contractor Friend member Contractor

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
Gina Blackburn	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga Te Whiringa o Ngāti Mutunga Charitable Trust Te Uru o Te Rangi Waitara East School Blackburn Ventures Ltd Residential Property Interests	Employee Trustee Chairperson, Trustee Member Trustee Shareholder
Gordon Brown	Taranaki Chamber of Commerce New Plymouth Bowls Club Writing Services Ltd	Contracting work Member Director
Max Brough	Aluminium Imports (NZ) Ltd Edging Systems (NZ) Ltd Waste Minimisation (NZ) Ltd Knight Ridge Orchard Ltd Fitzroy Kiosk Ltd Max Brough Family Trust Residential properties	Director Director Director Director Director
David Bublitz	New Plymouth Boys' High School New Plymouth Golf Club Residential Property owner Bublitz Family Trust YMCA Taranaki	Employee Member Board member

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
Graham Chard	New Plymouth and Districts RSA NPRSA Support Trust NPRSA Poppy Trust Okato Community Trust Chardz Holdingz Ltd Chardz Investmentz Ltd Taranaki Iwi Trust New Plymouth Club Kaitake Community Sports Hub NZMCA Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust	President Chairman, Trustee Chairman, Trustee Vice Chairman, Trustee Managing Director Director Affiliate Executive Committee Member Social Member Member Member
Murray Chong	ZenVest Adviser Services Ltd T2X Productions Taranaki Chamber of Commerce NZMCA	Co-Director Director Member Member
Christine Fabish	Dudley District Hall Society Hudson Essex Terraplane Club Family residence Inglewood First Trust	Member Member Trustee
Damon Fox	Salvation Army Bridge Programme ACT Local	Employee Member

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
Moirā George	Residential properties New Plymouth and Kairakau Beach, Central Hawkes Bay George Partnership Trust Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Govett Brewster Foundation (Purpose purchasing art for the gallery)	Trustee Member Member
Te Waka McLeod	Puna Hau Ltd Residential property interests	
Dinnie Moeahu	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Te Korowai o Ngaruahine Te Kahui o Taranaki Ngāti te Whiti Ngati Moeahu Ngati Manuhiakai Te Maruata Roopu Whakahaere Te Aroha Connections LGNZ National Council	Affiliate Affiliate Affiliate Affiliate Affiliate Affiliate National Board Member Ownership of Company Member

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
Kerry Vosseler	PIHMS (Chef tutor) Family Trust East End Surf Club	Employee Trustee Member
John Woodward	No declaration advised	

Community Boards Declaration of Interests (ECM 9631686)

as at as 16 February 2026

(please advise the Governance Team of any amendments)

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
Mike Anderson (KCB)	Taranaki Regional Council	Contractor
Mike Baker (PBBCB)	Family Residence Bowls New Zealand Waitara Bowling Club Bell Block Community Pool Charitable Trust	Taranaki Umpires Group Level One Club Member / Bar Manager Trustee
Ian Cummings (CCB)	Family Residence (Onaero)	
Ewen Darling (KCB)	Paneltech Panelbeaters Lifestyle Autos NP Sportfishing and Underwater Club Vintage Car Club of NZ Taranaki Vintage Car Club Frankleigh Star Indoor Bowling Club Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church	
Rebecca Dearden (ICB)	Emission Insights NZ Providence Bay Farm Equestrian	Business owner – sole trader Business owner – sole trader

Name of Member	Interest Being Declared	Nature of Interest/Transaction (includes positional or transactional interests eg funding agreements, proposals and other relationships)
	Stratford District Council Inglewood Pony Club Dudley Districts Hall Society Taranaki Mounted Games Association Taranaki Masters Hockey Club Residential property owner New Zealand Pony Clubs Association Sustainable Taranaki	Employee Member Member Committee Member Member Board Member Volunteer
Paul Lobb (KCB)	Asset Plus NZ King Salmon Residential Properties Oakura Board riders Club Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust NZ Plant Protection Society	 Life member Member Member
Trevor Dodunski (WCB)	No declaration advised	

Council Agenda (26 March 2026) - Register of Interests

Teresa Goodin (KCB)	No declaration advised	
Teresa Hayston (CCB)	Urenui Beach Camp & Store Urenui Community Centre Waitara Citizens and Services Club	Joint owner Treasurer Member
Donald McIntyre (ICB)	No declaration advised	
Lance Mepham (PBBCB)	Pride Taranaki Charitable Trust	Treasurer and Current Trustee
Dale Michielsen (WCB)	Michielsens Transport Ltd Waitara Soccer Club Western Central Districts Road Carriers	Director Vice President Committee Member
Tyla Nickson (CCB)	Tongapōrutu Hall Society	Member
Tiri Porter (WCB)	Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana Trust Te Reo Irirangi o Taranaki Charitable Trust Waitara Taiohi Trust He Rau Oranga Trust North Taranaki Sport and Recreation Incorporated	Employee Contractor Board member Board member Board member

Council Agenda (26 March 2026) - Register of Interests

Joe Rauner (WCB)	ANZCO Foods (Eltham) Joe's Cycles	Employee Owner
Greg Robinson (ICB)	Balance Agri Nutrients Family Trust	Employee Trustee
Murray Seamark (CCB)	MW & CJ Seamark Family Trust Tongaporutu Hall Society Inc Family residence	
Michael Self (ICB)	No declaration advised	
Adrian Sole (PBBCB)	Squirt Products MA & AE Sole Trust Residential Property Red Rabbit Coffee Co Ltd	Director
Kim Sowman (PBBCB)	Frankley School Residential Property Bell Block Community Facebook Page TSB Showplace	Employee Administrator Volunteer

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST / NGĀ ARA KŌNATUNATU

1. People who fill positions of authority must undertake their duties free from real or perceived bias. Elected members must maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as an elected member. Failure to do so could invalidate a Council decision and leave the elected member open to prosecution and ouster from office.
2. An elected member is entitled to interact with the Council as a private citizen. However, they cannot use their position as an elected member to gain an advantage not available to the general public.
3. Elected and appointed members will:
 - Declare any interest whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary at a meeting where the interest is relevant to an item on that agenda.
 - Exclude themselves from any informal discussions with elected members relating to a matter they have an interest in.
 - Seek guidance from the Chief Executive if they are unclear of the extent of any interest.
 - Seek guidance or exemption from the Office of the Auditor General if necessary.

ADDRESSING THE MEETING

Requests for public forum and deputations need to be made at least five days prior to the meeting. The Chairperson has authority to approve or decline public comments and deputations in line with the standing order requirements.

PUBLIC FORUM / ĀTEA Ā-WĀNANGA

Public Forums enable members of the public to bring matters to the attention of the committee which are not contained on the meeting agenda. The matters must relate to the meeting's terms of reference. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, with no more than two speakers on behalf of one organisation.

- Jill Creasy - Disability Ramp from Beach Street to the Fitzroy Beach carpark

DEPUTATIONS / MANUHIRI

Deputations enable a person, group or organisation to speak to the meeting on matters contained on the agenda. An individual speaker can speak for up to 10 minutes. Where there are multiple speakers for one organisation, a total time limit of 15 minutes, for the entire deputation, applies.

- New Plymouth District Ratepayers, Sheridan George & Kevin Moratti - LGNZ membership (Tab 1)
- Tiri Porter – LGNZ membership (Tab 1)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES / NGĀ MENETI O MUA

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the following meeting of the Council, and the proceedings of the said meeting, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record:

Council	25 February 2026
Council Extraordinary	4 March 2026
Going for Growth Committee	4 March 2026
Council Briefing	19 March 2026

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of the following meetings, as circulated be received and:

- a) Decisions made under delegated authority by the committees be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting of the Council.**

Clifton Community Board	10 March 2026
Inglewood Community Board	10 March 2026
Kaitake Community Board	16 March 2026
Te Huinga Taumatua	18 March 2026
Age and Accessibility Working Party	19 March 2026

REPORTS

- 1 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Membership
- 2 Climate Change Work Programme 2026
- 3 Revised Terms of Reference - Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
- 4 Public Excluded for the Remainder of the Meeting

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND MEMBERSHIP

MATTER / TE WHĀINGA

1. The matter for consideration by the Council is whether New Plymouth District Council remains a member of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).
2. This report has been updated since being withdrawn from the February 2026 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION / NGĀ WHAIKUPU

That having considered all matters raised in the report, Council:

- a) **Renew Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) membership for 2026/2027**
- b) **Review membership for the 2027/2028 financial year prior to March 2027.**

COMPLIANCE / TŪTOHU	
Significance	This matter is assessed as being of some importance.
Options	This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renew LGNZ membership 2. Not renew LGNZ membership for 2026/2027
Affected persons	The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are elected members and staff who benefit from the services offered by LGNZ.
Recommendation	This report recommends option 1 renew LGNZ membership for addressing the matter.
Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan Implications	No
Significant Policy and Plan Inconsistencies	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

3. Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is a membership based organisation representing councils across the country. LGNZ provides member councils with coordinated advocacy to central government, governance guidance and training, and sector networks. This report recommends that New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) renew its LGNZ membership for the 2026/2027 year because the benefits and risk-mitigation value of collective representation are expected to outweigh the annual fee.
 4. Renewing membership keeps NPDC connected to sector-wide positions and resources at a time when councils are managing major reform, funding pressure and infrastructure challenges. Membership provides access to member-only support such as draft submissions and reform briefings (often supported by legal and specialist advice), governance guidance, and professional development via the Ākona platform, as well as opportunities to collaborate with other councils on shared issues. Collectively, these supports reduce the time and effort NPDC would otherwise need to invest to track, interpret and respond to fast-moving policy and legislative change.
 5. NPDC's annual membership fee has increased from about \$65,000 in 2019/2020 to approximately \$89,000 in 2025/2026. Additional costs are incurred for additional benefits (such as membership of Te Maruatua). Not renewing would avoid the membership fee; however, NPDC would need to replace key services—particularly reform monitoring, policy analysis, submission drafting, and access to sector expertise—through internal capacity and/or external advice. Given the current volume and pace of reform, replacing these services is likely to require additional unbudgeted resourcing and may still deliver less influence than a coordinated sector position.
 6. LGNZ provides councils with a collective voice to central government (including Ministers and officials) on issues that directly affect local communities, including the shape of reform programmes and potential changes to roles and responsibilities across the sector. Renewing membership supports NPDC to influence national initiatives through coordinated advocacy and shared evidence. Without membership, NPDC risks reduced access to sector coordination, fewer opportunities to shape common positions, and reduced visibility into emerging issues—potentially affecting NPDC's ability to respond efficiently and to advocate for local priorities.
 7. The principal risks of renewing membership are the ongoing cost and the possibility that LGNZ's advocacy priorities do not always align with NPDC's. On balance, the report concludes that the risks of not renewing are greater in 2026/2027—particularly reduced access to elected-member development, weaker sector connections, and less support during a period of significant change. For this reason, the recommendation is to renew membership for 2026/2027 and to review the decision prior to March 2027 for the 2027/2028 year.
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BACKGROUND / WHAKAPAPA

8. LGNZ was formed around the time of the 1989 Local Government Reforms and has evolved into its current structure.
9. New Plymouth District Council have been long-time members of LGNZ. Annual membership has been provided for in the Long-Term and Annual Plans, and as such Council has not considered, on an annual basis, whether or not to renew membership with the exception of a consideration in 2001.
10. In 2024, the LGNZ's National Council reset the organisation's purpose to "serve members by championing, connecting and supporting local government." The purpose is met through:
 - a) **Champion**
Advocacy, relationship building with central government, making submissions and speaking for local government in the media.
 - b) **Connect**
Bringing members together through zone, sector and conference events and specialist networks (like Te Maruata and Young Elected members).
 - c) **Support**
Providing professional development and supporting councils and individual elected members when they are stuck or dealing with pressure and harassment.
11. LGNZ have set out their most recent achievements under these pillars in their [2024/2025 Annual Report](#)

Operating structure

12. Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) operates as an incorporated society of New Zealand councils. Governance is provided by a National Council comprised of mayors and elected members from across the country. Representation comes from each of the council zones, sectors and a member each from the Te Maruata and Young Elected Member committees.
 13. Annual membership fees are levied on member Councils according to factors such as size, population, and governance role. Membership fees are invoiced annually. Larger councils typically bear the higher end of the fee spectrum.
 14. LGNZ supports councils through policy advocacy, sector wide collaboration, and providing tools and training that strengthen governance, and performance primarily for elected members.
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15. At the end of 2025, LGNZ changed its leadership, with Mayor Rehette Stoltz and Mayor Dan Gordon taking over as President and Vice President in December. The new National Council has signalled a clear reset with a strong emphasis on members driving LGNZ.
 16. This reset follows concerns from some in the community (including those Councils that have exited LGNZ) around the direction of LGNZ not meeting the direction of individual Councils (highlighted for some through the Three Waters process). LGNZ is now taking greater care to ensure they get the feedback of members who they represent.
 17. In recent triennia, LGNZ has provided elected members from member Councils with access to Ākona (the professional development platform) at no additional cost (beyond the membership fee). Previously, this information was provided on a per user basis.
 18. LGNZ information is available via a mix of (currently) freely available information available on the organisation's website (lgnz.co.nz) (such as the Good Governance Guides and Standing Order templates) and member-only information (such as the Ākona).

Collaboration within the Local Government Sector

19. The opportunity for collaboration between Councils and networking between individual elected members and Council Officers is a unique aspect of Local Government in New Zealand. It is not common for there to be "competition" between Councils.
20. LGNZ provides a range of collaboration and networking opportunities through zone and sector meetings, national forums, conferences and professional development programmes.
21. The LGNZ team (at Governance and Operational level) have strong networks throughout the sector and are able to readily access expertise within the sector when developing guidance and/or advocating on proposed policy and legislative change. LGNZ regularly submits on behalf of Councils, a task that would be beyond individual Councils ability to do alone. The direction of this advocacy is set by the membership, and National Council.
22. LGNZ Officers also work closely with representatives of Taituarā (a leading membership network for professionals working in and for local government).

What's happening within the sector

23. New Zealand Councils are operating in a rapidly changing environment driven by major central government reforms. These reforms, combined with inflationary pressures and infrastructure funding challenges, are reshaping council roles, responsibilities, and financial models.
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24. Given the quantity of reform and the short timeframes for input, the capacity for Council Officers to engage effectively in influencing the reforms (when provided with the opportunity to do so) is limited. LGNZ are in regular contact with the Prime Minister, Ministers and officials at a level that individual councils cannot realistically achieve. Having a sector representative advocating in this space can be advantageous when capacity at individual Councils is stretched.
 25. Currently 71 out of 78 councils in New Zealand are members. In response to current economic and environmental pressures some councils have reviewed (and ceased) their memberships as a means of reducing organisational costs¹.

Feedback from Council's that have exited LGNZ

26. Following deputations at the February Council meeting, an approach was made to those Councils who have recently left LGNZ. Only two Councils responded. Neither Council had noticed any operational disadvantages.
27. One of the Officer spoken to advised that they did not maintain networks with other Councils and did not foresee the need to build connections or require the professional components.
28. The other Council noted that they maintained strong networks within their region and this was not expected to change in future. While they have lodged some submissions on legislation, capacity constraints meant that some have not been submitted on.
29. At their Council Briefing meeting on 10 March, Kaipara District Council received a briefing from LGNZ representatives. At the time of writing this report no decision had been made on whether they will rejoin.
30. Neither Council was aware of a proposed establishment an alternate organisation, intending to provide a similar offering to LGNZ.

Financial Implications

31. Sector feedback has highlighted concerns about year-on-year subscription increases and the extent to which these costs provide an adequate return.
32. The table below reflects payments made to LGNZ (or associated organisations) since 2019/2020. The table does not include travel and accommodation expenditure for attendance at events.
33. Professional Development costs primarily relate to elected member induction sessions following a triennial election.

¹ Auckland City, Kaipara District, West Coast Regional, Grey District, Westland District Councils (in 2023), Christchurch City Council (2024) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (2025)

34. The draft Annual Plan 2026/27 includes provision for membership costs. If membership were rescinded, Council would deliver save at least \$89,000 per annum in subscription fees plus additional variable cost associated with conferences, training and related travel which fluctuate based on participation.

Year	Annual Membership (GST excl)	Additional expenditure (GST excl excluding travel and accommodation)	
		\$	Description
2019/2020	64,793	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		748	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		13,109	Professional Development
2020/2021	64,793	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		650	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		1,304	YEM Hui
		633	Professional Development
		5,615	Superlocal Conference registration
2021/2022	64,793	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		825	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		9,250	CouncilMARK
		10,135	Superlocal Conference Registration
2022/2023	66,736	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		825.00	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		11,794	CouncilMARK
		8,803	Professional Development
		11,335	Superlocal Conference registration
2023/2024	70,741	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		825	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		400	Future for Local Government Fora
		6,975	Superlocal Conference
		2,685	Community Board Conference
2024/2025	81,352	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		825	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		412	All of Local Government Fora
		470	Te Maruata registration
		6,600	Superlocal Conference
		250	Combined Sector Meeting
2025/2026 (to Dec 31)	89,080	6,339	Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs
		870	Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy
		8,185	Professional Development
		195	Young Elected Members (YEM)
		195	Te Maruata

* Excludes matters where LGNZ fills a coordination role (leaky homes litigation, election campaign and the [Ratepayer Assistance Funding Scheme²](#))

² The Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) is a collaborative initiative led by LGNZ, LGFA, funding councils, and other partners. At this point in time, participating councils do not need to be members of LGNZ.

35. LGNZ's membership fees were held flat for two years during Covid-19, and for the four years prior, LGNZ applied a 1.8% increase. This period of minimal adjustments created the need for catch-up increases at the same time that general inflation rose sharply. The 2024/25 increase was also influenced by the decision to include elected members' access to LGNZ's professional development platform (Ākona) within the membership fee.
36. While annual membership costs are rising, LGNZ's fee as a proportion of NPDC rates has decreased: it was 0.07% of rates in 2019/20 and 0.05% of rates in 2024/2025.
37. Deputations at the February Council meeting queried the membership figures quoted in this report advising that NPDC paid more to LGNZ than the (approximately) \$89,000 quoted in this report. This primary focus of this report is the annual membership fee for LGNZ. As set out in the table above, 2025/2026 membership fee was 89,080. The table above also shows the additional payments for Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs, Community Boards' Exec Committee Levy, Professional Development and Young Elected Members (YEM). The table also notes that the table excludes matters where LGNZ fills a coordination role (leaky homes litigation, election campaign and the [Ratepayer Assistance Funding Scheme](#)). This explains the variation in figures.

Risk assessment

38. Renewing LGNZ membership could become financially prohibitive in the short to medium term. There is also a risk that Council considers it does not receive sufficient benefit for the financial outlay.
39. Conversely, not renewing membership could result in reduced professional development and networking opportunities for elected members and a lack of voice in sector reform. Local Government professional development opportunities (beyond Ākona) are limited. Other options are likely to be more generic (eg director training rather than councillor training) and have a higher cost associated with them.

Advantages and Disadvantages

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Renew LGNZ Membership.	Provision of advocacy and representation LGNZ has extensive networks and access to specialist expertise, providing opportunities to	Annual subscription fees and other variable costs Perceived value when LGNZ outcomes are misaligned with NPDC priorities.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	<p>share sector-wide content and research.</p> <p>Retain a representative voice at a time of increasing local government reform when Officer capacity (at councils) is stretched.</p> <p>Access to additional resources including professional development programmes for elected members.</p> <p>Provides opportunities for regional and national connection and collaboration with fellow elected members.</p>	
Not renew LGNZ membership for 2026/2027.	Short to medium term cost savings.	<p>Reduced access to sector resources.</p> <p>Reduced opportunities to connect with elected members.</p> <p>Increasing need to submit on policy and legislative reform. This may have resourcing implications.</p>

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT AND CONSIDERATIONS / HURINGA ĀHUARANGI

40. This is an administrative matter and there are no climate change impacts or considerations.

NEXT STEPS / HĪKOI I MURI MAI

41. Council Officers will implement Council's decision.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT / KAUPAPA WHAKAHIRAHIRA

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42. In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as being of some importance. While there is a financial implication this is comparatively minor in the wider Council budget. Membership fees have been budgeted for in the Long-Term and Annual Plans.
43. Council's decision on this matter can be reconsidered in the future.

OPTIONS / KŌWHIRINGA

44. There are two reasonably practicable options:

Option 1 Renew LGNZ Membership

Option 2 Not renew LGNZ membership for 2026/2027.

Assessment of the two options has primarily been undertaken through the body of this report. Additional matters are assessed below.

Alignment with Strategic Framework and Promotion or Achievement of Community Outcomes / Te Hāngaitanga ki te Anga Rautaki me Te Tutuki/Whakatairanga o Ngā Whāinga ā-hāpori

45. Renewing membership of LGNZ supports New Plymouth District Council's strategic vision of becoming the Sustainable Lifestyle Capital by enabling the council to leverage national advocacy, expertise, and collaborative tools to advance sustainability, resilience, and community wellbeing.
46. Membership in LGNZ means NPDC can benefit from a national voice when advocating to central government on funding, infrastructure, environmental policy, and rural-community issues.

Statutory Responsibilities / Ngā Haepapa ā-ture

47. There are no statutory responsibilities in relation to membership of LGNZ. Membership of LGNZ does not affect the requirements of elected members to adhere to the Local Government Act³.
48. There are however references in various Acts requiring LGNZ to be consulted on secondary legislation or make an appointment to an entity. Not being a member could then compromise our ability to influence some of those things as we would not necessarily be provided any separate opportunity to influence those matters if we were not members. Examples include:

³ As opposed to members of the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) which has implications for elected members in relation to financial discipline, risk management and governance obligations.

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- a) The Local Government Commission must include someone appointed after consultation with the "New Zealand Local Government Association Incorporated" (i.e. LGNZ)⁴
 - b) LGNZ must be consulted about the list of guiding principles, matters etc that the Minister will take into account before utilising any of the Crown intervention powers in the LGA (Commissioners, Observers etc.)⁵
 - c) the Minister must consult with the "New Zealand Local Government Association Incorporated" (i.e. LGNZ) before imposing or increasing fees and charges relating to rating valuations.⁶
 - d) a statutory role for LGNZ in the preparation or review of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport⁷.
 - e) LGNZ has one appointed person on the New Zealand Geographic Board, which is the organisation that formally determines geographic place names⁸.

Consistency with Policies and Plans / Te Paria i ngā Kaupapa Here me ngā Mahere

49. Both options (withdrawing from or renewing membership of LGNZ) are consistent with Council policies and plans.

Participation by Māori / Te Urunga o Ngāi Māori

50. While membership of LGNZ is an administrative matter, and there has been no participation by Māori in the preparation of this report, Officers note that LGNZ has established Te Maruata. Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere is a sub-committee of the National Council of LGNZ and is made of up Māori elected members who are metro, rural and provincial and regional sectors representatives, Māori wards and constituencies representatives, young, elected member representatives and members elected at large.

51. Te Maruata's role is to:
- i) promote increased representation of Māori as elected members of local government,
 - ii) enhance Māori participation in local government processes,

⁴ LGA s33

⁵ LGA s258O(5)

⁶ Rating Valuations Act 1998 (s42(4))

⁷ Land Transport Management Act 2003 s67(1)(c)

⁸ New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 Sch1 Cl1(2)(e)

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- iii) provide support for councils in building strong relationships with iwi, hapu and Māori groups, and
 - iv) provide Māori input on development of future policies or legislation relating to local government.
52. Councillor Dinnie Moeahu is a co-chair of Te Maruata for the 2025-2028 triennium. Should NPDC not renew LGNZ membership, NPDC elected members are unlikely to be able to participate in Te Maruata meetings and/or events.

Community Views and Preferences / Ngā tirohanga me Ngā Mariu ā-hāpori

53. Community views and preferences have not been sought. The benefits of renewing membership primarily relate to the organisation and elected members. Council Officers expect that some members of the community would support the cost saving aspect of not renewing membership.
54. At the 26 February Council meeting, representatives of the New Zealand Taxpayers Union and the New Plymouth Ratepayers Alliance presented deputations based on an earlier version of this report. The deputations spoke against LGNZ membership as they believe that LGNZ does not represent ratepayer interests, duplicates council functions and/or staff roles, and uses ratepayer-funded membership fees to operate as a private business with priorities misaligned to community affordability. These matters are addressed in the body of this report.
55. The deputations also requested a 12 month reset. The recommendation on this report has been updated to include a review in 12 months time.

Recommended Option

This report recommends option 1 – renew LGNZ membership for addressing the matter.

FURTHER REFERENCES

[LGNZ Constitution](#)

[LGNZ Strategy on a Page](#) (2025)

[LGNZ Annual Report 2024/2025](#)

Report Details

Prepared By: Julie Straka (Manager Governance)
Team: Governance
Approved By: Gareth Green (Chief Executive)
Ward/Community: District Wide
Date: 13 January 2026 (original report) – updated 12 March 2026.
File Reference: ECM 9699132

-----*End of Report*-----

REFOCUS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE (NATURAL HAZARDS) WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2026/2027

MATTER / TE WHĀINGA

1. The matter for consideration by the Council is to agree to refocus the climate change (natural hazards) work programme for Annual Plan 2026/2027 in response to updated guidance from the Government and recent national severe weather events.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION / NGĀ WHAIKUPU

That having considered all matters raised in the report, Council:

- a) **Notes that Council resolved on 18 February 2026 for the Chief Executive, in light of recent national severe weather events, to bring forward a report revising Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme to ensure it is focused on the issues that matter most to the District in an efficient, streamlined manner.**
- b) **Agrees that the predominate focus of the climate change (natural hazards) work programme for Annual Plan 2026/2027 is:**

Area	Focus
Climate change adaptation	Improve risk knowledge, asset resilience and undertake climate change adaptation plans for at-risk communities.
Energy and emissions	Prioritise the management of whole-of-life energy and infrastructure costs to reduce Council's exposure to rising Emission Trading Scheme and energy costs.
Community support	Provide targeted support for the community facing cost-of-living pressures linked to climate change impacts (e.g. ETS, energy, insurance) or where there are other substantial benefits for the community.

- c) **Agrees to make the following changes to previous Council decisions:**
 - i) **Withdraw from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.**
 - ii) **Cease Carbon Disclosure Program reporting.**
 - iii) **Cease undertaking climate-related disclosures.**
-

- iv) **Cease requesting Council-controlled organisations to undertake climate-related disclosures but instead instruct Council-controlled organisations to understand and report on their strategic climate change risks and opportunities.**
- v) **Alter the scope for revising the District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan to not include community emissions reduction targets; and instead to focus on a Council energy strategy and management, supporting local energy innovation, and targeting Climate Action Loan eligibility.**
- vi) **Not pursue a separate regional transition plan.**
- d) **Determines that these matters are broadly in line with the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 and do not require further community consultation.**
- e) **Notes the Government has announced it will introduce legislation to require territorial authorities to undertake climate change adaptation plans in at-risk areas which:**
 - i) **Will need to be considered in the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037.**
 - ii) **Requires a changed approach for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in development.**
- f) **Agrees to combine the revised District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan into a single resilience and climate change plan.**

COMPLIANCE / TŪTOHU	
Significance	This matter is assessed as being of moderate importance
Options	This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to the changes proposed 2. Do not agree to make changes
Affected persons	The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are residents and ratepayers of New Plymouth District.
Recommendation	This report recommends option 1 for addressing the matter.
Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan Implications	The draft Annual Plan 2026/27 includes a reduced budget and a revised 10-year budget will be required for the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037.

COMPLIANCE / TŪTOHU	
Significant Policy and Plan Inconsistencies	No. The recommended approach is broadly in line with the decisions made in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

2. This report recommends changes to Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme for the Annual Plan 2026/2027. This responds to the Council resolution when considering initial decisions for the Annual Plan 2026/27. The changes focus on Council's energy use, reducing whole-of-life infrastructure costs, reduce reporting and international relations that do not provide value to Council, and reflect proposed Government legislation to require climate change adaptation planning.
3. Budgetary changes have been made in the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 with a direct rating impact of approximately half of what was planned in the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034 (\$550,000 opex and \$200,000 capex compared to \$1,120,000 opex). The LTP 2027-2037 will need to revise 10-year budgets and further work to identify the appropriate focus for Council's ongoing resilience and climate change (natural hazards) work programme.

BACKGROUND / WHAKAPAPA

4. Council has been evolving its climate change (natural hazards) work programme over time, with the past two Long-Term Plans both including increased funding and initiatives. Council resolved on 18 February 2026 for the Chief Executive, in light of recent national severe weather events, to bring forward a report revising Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme to ensure that prior to further work through the LTP 2027-2037, the current work programme is focused on the issues that matter most to the District in an efficient, streamlined manner.
5. This report recommends that Council confirms its key focus for the climate change (natural hazards) work programme¹ for the Annual Plan 2026/2027 are:

Area	Focus
Climate change adaptation	Improve risk knowledge, asset resilience and undertake climate change adaptation plans for at-risk communities (see later in the report).
Energy and emissions	Prioritise the management of whole-of-life energy and infrastructure costs to reduce Council's exposure to rising Emission Trading Scheme and energy costs.

¹ Note that actions such as active/public transport, waste and biodiversity actions are part of other Council work programmes rather than as part of the climate change (natural hazards) work programme.

Community support	Provide targeted support for the community facing cost-of-living pressures linked to climate impacts (e.g. ETS, energy, insurance) or where there are other substantial benefits for the community.
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6. This approach places a strong emphasis on adaptation and resilience issues because that is where Council has the largest statutory function, and the focus for this work is on the issues identified in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in development. Energy and emission workstreams are focused on Council's operations (with prioritisation based on whole-of-life costs), while community support is targeted to where it is most pressing. This reflects that the primary responsibility for emissions reduction rests with national policy decisions (including the national Emissions Reduction Plan, Emissions Budgets, and the Emissions Trading Scheme).
7. Some previous Council decisions need to be altered to enable officers to implement these adjustments. The table below outlines several key changes to previous Council decisions:

Matter	Decision sought	Rationale
<p><u>Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy membership</u> Association of over 13,000 local authorities to work towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient future. Agreed by Council resolution in 2018.</p>	<p>Withdraw membership.</p>	<p>There has been negligible benefit to Council in being a member. Council is one of six New Zealand members.² While there is no cost implications or policy directives for membership, participation does require reporting under the Carbon Disclosure Program (see below). Venture Taranaki have confirmed that withdrawing membership will not impact on their ability to access European Union Horizon Funding.</p>
<p><u>Carbon Disclosure Program reporting</u> Global reporting regime covering a wide range of climate change and related data (emissions, energy, transport, waste, water, pollution, food etc). Agreed by Council resolution in 2017.</p>	<p>Cease reporting.</p>	<p>This disclosure programme takes time for Officers to report annually. This is an international regime and does not align to New Zealand territorial authority responsibilities. The annual score is not reported or used by Council. Ceasing this would free up resourcing. This is required for membership of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.</p>

² Along with Auckland, Christchurch City, Dunedin City, Rotorua Lakes District and Wellington City.

Matter	Decision sought	Rationale
<p><u>Climate-related disclosures</u> Annual disclosure of Council's governance, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets around climate change following a global and national disclosure model. Agreed through the LTP 2024-2034. Council-controlled organisations requested to undertake this work in Statements of Expectations for 2026/27 issued in 2025.</p>	<p>Cease undertaking these disclosures, including ceasing being part of Annual Reports. Cease requesting CCOs to undertake these disclosures but instead require them to understand and report on their strategic climate change risks and opportunities.</p>	<p>Council's first disclosure was undertaken for 2024/25. There are significant gaps to the disclosure standard which will take significant resourcing to meet. Council is not required to undertake these disclosures. Ceasing this would free up resourcing and would also mean that CCOs can cease investigating and undertaking this work. CCOs should instead be required to understand their strategic climate change risks and opportunities, and can do so in a more cost-effective manner than the disclosure regime approach.</p>
<p><u>District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan revision</u> The Plan was adopted by Council in September 2023. Council resolved in adoption, and again in June 2025, to include greater focus on community emissions reduction issues (including targets) in a revised plan.</p>	<p>Alter the scope of this revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not include community emission reduction targets. • Include a greater focus on an energy strategy and management, whole-of-life costs and supporting local energy innovation. • Continue to target Local Government Funding Agency Climate Action Loan eligibility. 	<p>This change focuses this funding onto managing Council's energy and other emission-related costs that will increase with Emissions Trading Scheme costs. Council has limited levers to reduce community emissions so targets may create a sense of influence/control that is not realistic. One major action that Council could undertake is further protected cycleways, but there may not be buy-in at this time for this. There are some cost-effective approaches that can be undertaken that do not require targets or a plan. Being eligible for the Local Government Funding Agency's Climate Action Loans would secure Council a 0.02% interest rate discount on its debt, providing further cost savings.</p>

Matter	Decision sought	Rationale
<p>Regional transition plan A regional transitional plan is a plan to move the economy towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient future. Council resolved in June 2025 to investigate a regional transition plan.</p>	<p>Do not pursue a regional transition plan. Note – the other Taranaki local authorities have not been approached or agreed to pursue this work.</p>	<p>Such a plan will require significant resourcing and funding to undertake. There are risks in separating these transitional activities out from wider economic development activities. The Tapuae Roa Strategy and Action Plan already provide a basis for much of this work to occur and any additional activities to support a regional transition are best addressed when the Action Plan is next revised rather than having a separate plan.</p>

8. Officers will make other changes to implement Council’s decisions. For instance, the Sustainability Accelerator Fund (SAF) was established in the LTP 2024-2034 as a \$200k p.a. fund (raising to \$300k p.a. from 2027/28 onwards) to improve sustainability outcomes across Council operations. The draft Annual Plan 2026/27 has shifted the SAF from being an operating expenditure budget to a capital expenditure budget to reduce its rating impact. In line with the decisions above, the SAF will be focused solely onto energy management initiatives to support managing Council’s energy costs.

New legislation will also change the work programme and needs to be factored in

9. The Government has [announced that it will introduce legislation](#) to require territorial authorities to undertake “climate change adaptation planning” in priority areas identified by regional spatial plans. These plans (often referred to as “local adaptation plans”) will have statutory effect and will require 10-yearly reviews. This aligns to work completed or underway within Council, including the [Preliminary Community Climate Change Risk Assessment](#), the development of a district-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan (the CCAP) and the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan³ in the LTP for 2025/26 and 2026/27.
10. The announcement means that Council must (subject to legislation being enacted) have a long-term ongoing work programme of undertaking these plans, implementing them and reviewing them. An in-house programme of work approach may therefore be more cost effective than utilising consultancy services for one-off planning projects. This would also help to retain institutional knowledge of those plans over time. The most cost-effective approach will need to be considered in the LTP 2027-2037 process, alongside a wider reconsideration of the climate change budget.

³ See the report to the [Clifton Community Board on 10 February 2026](#) for more information.

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11. The regional spatial plan will, because of this law change, set priorities for Council. Therefore, the CCAP will not be the vehicle to identify and sequence communities. However, the next priority should be to undertake a climate change adaptation plan for Waitara. This is because Waitara has been identified as the most at-risk community in the District and the draft (for consultation) [Tiritiri o Mātangi: Waitara Spatial Plan](#) also identifies this need. Officers consider it prudent, in light of the risk and the recent national severe weather events, to continue to plan for this work.
 12. The draft CCAP is therefore nearing being ready for presentation to Elected Members. The CCAP has been developed internally with input across Council and with engagement to date via an initial community survey and from mana whenua through the Ngā Kaitiaki Forum. The draft CCAP is aligned with Council outcomes and key strategic documents, particularly the Infrastructure Strategy, ensuring consistency across organisational direction. The draft CCAP's actions focus on:
 - a) Strengthening climate-related data and information,
 - b) Improving the resilience of Council assets and infrastructure,
 - c) Embedding climate adaptation across Council functions,
 - d) Supporting community resilience through local adaptation planning, funding approaches, and partnerships.
 13. With a revised scope for the District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan review and the CCAP nearing completion, there is an opportunity to consider a more succinct singular plan that addresses both mitigation and adaptation collectively. This approach can provide a clearer statement to the community on what Council sees as the scope of its role in addressing resilience alongside climate change and provide a clearer statement of priorities and actions. There are several actions that can be brought together, such as improving infrastructure and asset management for both emissions reduction and improving resilience, thereby undertaking a more cost-effective approach. The main downside of this approach is that it will delay the CCAP being presented to Elected Members for consideration, but there are actions, such as to improve risk management (in line with the new Risk Management Framework), that can be undertaken now and that fit within the recommended work programme in this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT AND CONSIDERATIONS / HURINGA ĀHUARANGI

14. These changes will alter Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme to prioritise climate change adaptation and reducing Council's emissions through strategic energy management and whole-of-life infrastructure costs. This will alter Council's climate change objectives.
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NEXT STEPS / HĪKOI I MURI MAI

15. The next step to implement each item, if agreed to, is outlined below.

Matter	Next step(s)	
Work programme revision	Officers to implement into activities	
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy	The Mayor (supported by Officers) to notify the secretariat of the decision to withdraw.	
Carbon Disclosure Program	Officers to notify the Program of the decision.	
Climate-related disclosures	Cease work. Notify CCOs that they do not need undertake disclosures but still need to understand their strategic climate change risks and opportunities.	
District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan revision	Officers to undertake the revision in line with the new scope.	Combine the two plans into a single plan.
Climate change adaptation planning	Support the regional spatial plan to identify priority communities for adaptation planning. Continue with the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan. Identify resourcing requirements for the next LTP.	
Regional transition plan	Not begin work or seek LTP funding for it.	

16. The LTP 2027-2037 will provide an opportunity to reset the climate change response budget.
17. The major initiative underway for direct community support under the climate change (natural hazards) work programme is involvement in the [Ratepayer Assistance Scheme](#) (the RAS) development. The RAS would allow ratepayers to obtain low-cost finance for solar and other energy initiatives, as well as providing a national scheme for rates postponements and deferring development contributions. A report will be provided to Council in coming months (subject to Government decisions) on the next steps for the RAS.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT / KAUPAPA WHAKAHIRAHIRA

18. In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as being of moderate importance because the decisions sought are largely in line with the LTP 2024-2034, have minor implications for community outcomes and levels of service, reduce immediate financial requirements and are generally reversible in the future. Council will continue to mitigate and adapt to climate change in a manner that prioritises whole-of-life cost reduction and increasing resilience against major weather events.
19. The recommended approach remains within the broad parameters of what was agreed to in the LTP 2024-2034. This means that further community consultation is not required. A more significant change in priorities, or a cessation of activity altogether, would necessitate consultation with the community through an Annual Plan or LTP process.

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20. The creation of a single climate change plan is likely to be assessed as significant so community engagement would likely be required before adoption. The LTP 2027-2037 may also provide an opportunity for community consultation in the future if required.

OPTIONS / KŌWHIRINGA

21. The following considerations are assessed as being the same across both options.

Promotion or Achievement of Community Outcomes / Hāpaitia / Te Tutuki o Ngā Whāinga ā-hāpori

22. Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme supports all the community outcomes identified in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, particularly the *Environmental Excellence / Te Kounga ā-Taiao* goal as it is the main activity to support its sub-goal of *Tacking the challenges of climate change / Te whakamauru hoki i ngā uauatanga o te hurihanga āhuarangi*.

Statutory Responsibilities / Ngā Haepapa ā-ture

23. The Local Government Act 2002 places obligations on Council to consider both current and future communities, to consider environmental outcomes and to undertake its role in a sustainable development approach. Other legislation also has specific obligations for Council in relation to climate change, such as the Resource Management Act 1991. As noted earlier, the Government is introducing legislation to require territorial authorities to undertake climate change adaptation plans in priority areas.

Consistency with Policies and Plans / Te Paria i ngā Kaupapa Here me ngā Mahere

24. The decisions being sought are largely consistent with the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, albeit representing a decrease in funding and scope.

Participation by Māori / Te Urunga o Ngāi Māori

25. There has been no participation by Māori in this decision. Mana whenua are, and will continue to be, engaged in Council's climate change initiatives as appropriate. For instance, Ngā Kaitiaki have been involved in the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Ngāti Mutunga are partnering in the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan.
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Community Views and Preferences / Ngā tirohanga me Ngā Mariu ā-hāpori

26. Council has sought community views around climate change matters on numerous occasions in recent years:
- a) The LTP 2024-2034 consulted on a permanent climate change budget, with 77 per cent of submissions favoured funding climate change planning, with 39 per cent favouring enhancing the programme.
 - b) A survey undertaken in May 2025, as an input into the CCAP development, found three-quarters of respondents concerned about the impacts of climate change, and two-in-five extremely concerned.
 - c) Consultation was undertaken on the District-Wide Emissions Reduction Plan in 2022, with nearly two-thirds of respondents supporting Council to do more emissions reduction action.
27. There will also be future opportunities for community engagement, including through the consultation on a single climate plan (under option 1) and potentially through the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 consultation process.

Option 1 Agree to the changes proposed

28. A sub-option is to agree to some of these changes, but not all.

Financial and Resourcing Implications / Ngā Hīraunga ā-pūtea, ā-rauemi

29. The LTP 2024-2034 included a staggered uplift in the climate change budget over two years which was extended in Annual Plan 2025/26 and again in the draft Annual Plan 2026/27. The Annual Plan 2026/27 budget has a direct rating impact of approximately half of what was planned in the LTP (\$550,000 opex and \$200,000 capex compared to \$1,120,000 opex).
30. The LTP 2027-2037 will need to consider the appropriate resourcing and funding for an ongoing climate change (natural hazards) work programme, particularly with the legislative climate change adaptation plan requirements.
31. One of the key actions of Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme is to manage Council's energy use and cost (\$3.7m in 2024/25). Similarly, investment in adaptation and resilience can reduce the financial implications of future natural disasters. The changes proposed increase focus on these issues.
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Risk Analysis / Tātaritanga o Ngā Mōrearea

32. Climate change is one of Council's identified strategic risks. The risk is that Council either fails to meet climate change emission reduction targets or fails to adapt effectively to climate change. The root causes include Council action or inaction, competing priorities, limited resources, or misaligned strategic focus. The impact can be reputational, financial, environmental, and health and safety consequences.
33. Recent national events have highlighted the significant natural hazard risks being exacerbated by climate change. Ex-cyclone Gabrielle and the January 2026 storms resulted in over 20 lives lost. Significant damage has also occurred to both community and council assets across these events. Communities were displaced, with many properties no longer habitable. Investing in adaptation and resilience can help to reduce these risks for the community and Council.

Advantages and Disadvantages / Ngā Huanga me Ngā Taumahatanga.

34. These changes reduce Council's climate change (natural hazards) work programme through removing reporting obligations and ambitious new (and largely unfunded) work programmes. The changes continue the focus on reducing Council's energy and whole-of-life costs and climate change adaptation.

Option 2 Do not agree to make the changes*Financial and Resourcing Implications / Ngā Hiraunga ā-pūtea, ā-rauemi*

35. Additional resourcing and funding will be required to undertake some of the actions. This will need to be considered in the LTP 2027-2037.

Risk Analysis / Tātaritanga o Ngā Mōrearea

36. There is a risk that Council has a more ambitious work programme than it is willing or able to resource sufficiently, resulting in mismatched expectations and unachievable targets.

Advantages and Disadvantages / Ngā Huanga me Ngā Taumahatanga.

37. This option will result in continuing with a more ambitious climate change (natural hazards) work programme to support the community to move towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient future but may also involve Council committing to actions or targets that it cannot realistically achieve within its resources. It would also continue with reporting obligations and relationships that may not provide value for Council or the community.

Recommended Option

This report recommends option 1 - Agree to the changes proposed for addressing the matter.

Report Details

Prepared By: Greg Stephens (Climate Change Response Lead)
Team: Climate Change Response
Approved By: Renee Davies (Manager Strategic Planning)
Ward/Community: District Wide
Date: 27 February 2026
File Reference: ECM 9722985

-----*End of Report*-----

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE - FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (2025-2028)

MATTER / TE WHĀINGA

1. The matter for consideration by the Council is approval of revised Terms of Reference for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the 2025-2028 Triennium.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION / NGĀ WHAIKUPU

That, having considered all matters raised in the report, Council adopt the Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as outlined in Appendix 1 (ECM 9725721).

COMPLIANCE / TŪTOHU	
Significance	This matter is assessed as being of some importance.
Options	<p>This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the revised Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. 2. Retain the current Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee within the Council's Committee structure.
Affected persons	The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are elected members and Committee appointees.
Recommendation	This report recommends option one for addressing the matter.
Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan Implications	No
Significant Policy and Plan Inconsistencies	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

2. Officers recommend that Council adopt the revised Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the 2025–2028 triennium.
3. The Terms of Reference have been refreshed to reflect the new committee structure established on 10 December 2025.
4. The revised Terms of Reference better informs the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Annual Work Programme by defining the Committee’s responsibilities and key assurance activities in alignment with Council priorities.
5. The revised Terms of Reference have been developed in consultation with Bruce Robertson, the independent Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Graham Chard in his role as Deputy Chair of the Committee.
6. If approved, the Committee will operate under the new Terms of Reference immediately.
7. The following table outlines key changes to the Terms of Reference that we adopted by Council in December 2025.

Table 1: Summary of Key Changes to Terms of Reference

Substantive change area	Terms of Reference adopted December 2025	Revised Terms of Reference
Purpose / committee posture	Primarily an advice/recommendation role on governance, risk, financial management and controls; sets/monitors internal & external audits; focuses on compliance and fraud controls; assurance over information quality; comments on strategic projects.	Shifts to an explicit independent advice and assurance posture, including transparency, accountability and stewardship; expands assurance over strategic, operational and emerging risks; stronger integrity focus (fraud/corruption and protected disclosures); explicit assurance over governance/delivery of major projects and Strategic Project business cases.
Role boundaries	No explicit statement limiting the committee to assurance/advice.	Adds explicit boundary: committee provides assurance/advice and does not manage operations or make executive decisions; management retains accountability for

		systems/controls, procurement/contract management and delivery.
Responsibilities framework	Traditional headings (Monitoring; Work programme; Risk management; Statutory reporting; External audit; Internal audit; Legal compliance; Other matters).	Reframes and expands into Governance; Finance; Audit (External – Audit NZ; Internal – Third Party; Internal – In-house); Risk (Enterprise Risk Oversight; Organisational Resilience; Integrity/Compliance/Internal Controls); Council Controlled Organisations; Statutory reporting.
Governance expectations (committee maturity)	Work programme approval/monitoring with staff; no explicit self-review requirement.	Adds annual self-review, continuous improvement, and setting/reviewing the Annual Work Programme after seeking Council contributions; broader assurance over legal compliance frameworks.
Finance & treasury oversight	Monitors financial/non-financial performance against LTP/AP; assurance over reporting and accounting policy appropriateness.	Adds explicit review/recommendation of Financial Strategy and monitoring performance against it; adds assurance over Treasury Management (liquidity, cash, debt, investment) and a stronger focus on actual vs budget alignment.
Enterprise risk governance	Annual review of Risk Management Framework; monitoring of strategic/significant risks; deep dives; business continuity and insurance oversight.	Adds development/annual review of enterprise risk appetites (for recommendation to Council); explicit external environment scanning; explicit climate-related risk and cyber/information security oversight under "Organisational Resilience".
Major projects / strategic project assurance	Monitors significant capital project delivery; reviews post-project evaluations; comments	Adds explicit assurance over new Strategic Project business cases (especially where central government/external funding

	on business plans for strategic projects.	is involved), including robustness, risk alignment and funding/delegation obligations; adds monitoring of designated Tier 1/Tier 2 "Strategic" programmes against P3M Tier status assessment (list provided by officers).
CCO oversight	Not included.	Adds selective, targeted, assurance-focused reviews of Council Controlled Organisations (explicitly not routine performance reporting).
Internal assurance planning	Internal audit charter + internal audit plan + review of internal audit reports.	Adds oversight of a triennial Internal Assurance Plan (in-house internal assurance), alongside internal audit arrangements.
Reporting back to Council	No stated additional briefing requirement.	Adds a requirement to provide a twice-yearly briefing to Council on activities, key themes and matters requiring Council attention.

BACKGROUND / WHAKAPAPA

8. On 10 December 2025 Council adopted the Committees terms of reference for the 2025-2028 triennium. This included that the Finance, Audit and Risk Terms of Reference and delegations from the previous term be retained in the interim period.
9. Council Officers noted that this is the first time that the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee will have had an independent Chairperson and it is likely that the Terms of Reference may be reviewed during the Triennium.
10. Mayor Brough has appointed Mr Bruce Robertson as the independent Chairperson of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Mr Robertson brings significant sector expertise to this role, with a long track record advising senior local government leaders and chairing audit and risk committees across the country. His background as a former Assistant Auditor-General and his extensive governance and assurance experience provide a depth of financial, audit and risk oversight capability that will strengthen the Committee's effectiveness.

11. Council Officers have worked closely with Mr Robertson and the Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham Chard, in developing the revised Terms of Reference. This collaborative approach has ensured the resulting Terms of Reference and delegations are clearly structured, aligned with best-practice governance principles, and designed to support robust oversight and well-informed decision-making throughout the 2025–2028 triennium.

NEXT STEPS / HĪKOI I MURI MAI

12. Officers will update the Committee Compositions, Terms of Reference and Delegations (2025-2028) to reflect Council's decision. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee will operate under the adopted Terms of Reference and delegations.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT / KAUPAPA WHAKAHIRAHIRA

13. In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as being of some importance. The delegation of authority and the Committee Terms of Reference are administrative processes and decisions can be reversed if required.

OPTIONS / KŌWHIRINGA

14. There are two reasonably practicable options:

Option 1 Adopt the revised Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Option 2 Retain the current Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee within the Council's Committee structure.

Both options have been assessed together.

Financial and Resourcing Implications / Ngā Hīraunga ā-pūtea, ā-rauemi

15. External appointees referenced in this report fall into the exemption categories of Council's applicable Remuneration Policy (P21-006¹). Remuneration, where required, will be met from within existing budgets.

¹ [Remuneration and Reimbursement of expenses For External Appointees to Council Committees and Working Parties.](#)

Risk Analysis / Tātaritanga o Ngā Mōrearea

16. The implementation of any new committee structure is likely to result in unanticipated consequences such as lack of clarity around delegations, or cross-over of delegations. These matters will be rectified on a case-by-case basis as the Terms of Reference can be amended at any time.
17. The Terms of Reference, having been revised in line with the committee structure established on 10 December 2025, is the more fit for purpose of the two options.

Alignment with Strategic Framework and Promotion or Achievement of Community Outcomes / Te Hāngaitanga ki te Anga Rautaki me Te Tutuki/Whakatairanga o Ngā Whāinga ā-hāpori

18. The revised Terms of Reference provide a clearer basis for developing the Committee's Annual Work Programme, one of the Committee's defined responsibilities. By setting out the Committee's financial, audit and risk oversight functions with greater clarity, the updated Terms of Reference support a programme of work that is well-sequenced, more comprehensive and aligned with organisational priorities and assurance cycles. This will assist the Committee in supporting Council's wider community outcomes over the 2025–2028 triennium.
19. This clarity enables Officers and the Committee to design a programme of work that is well-sequenced, more comprehensive, and aligned with organisational priorities and key assurance cycles, supporting consistent delivery against community outcomes over the 2025–2028 triennium.
20. Implementation of a Committee structure is an administrative matter.
21. The matters considered by the Committees will contribute to all of the community outcomes.

Statutory Responsibilities / Ngā Haepapa ā-ture

22. The Mayor has the power² to establish a Committee structure and make appointments to Committees. The Mayor does not have authority determine a Committee's Terms of Reference, including the delegation of authority.

Consistency with Policies and Plans / Te Paria i ngā Kaupapa Here me ngā Mahere

23. Implementation of a Committee structure is an administrative matter.

² s41A - LGA

Participation by Māori / Te Urunga o Ngāi Māori

24. There has been no participation by Māori in the preparation of this report. Council Officers anticipate that feedback on the structure, and particularly the operation of Te Huinga Taumatua, will be provided in due course. Council will respond to that feedback as appropriate. Council can amend the Terms of Reference at any time.

Community Views and Preferences / Ngā tirohanga me Ngā Mariu ā-hāpori

25. Both options enable community views and preferences to be part of the Council's decision-making processes.

Recommended Option

This report recommends **option 1** - Adopt the revised Terms of Reference and delegations for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, for addressing the matter.

APPENDICES / NGĀ ĀPITI HANGA

- Appendix 1 Revised Terms of Reference and Delegations – Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (2025-2028) (ECM 9725721)

Report Details

Prepared By: Ashlee Carter (Governance Advisor)
 Team: Governance
 Approved By: Claire Kelly (Acting Manager Governance)
 Ward/Community: District Wide
 Date: 3 March 2026
 File Reference: ECM 9725793

-----End of Report -----

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Chairperson:	Bruce Robertson (Independent Chairperson)
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Graham Chard
Members	Mayor Max Brough
	Cr EJ Barrett
	Cr David Publitz
	Cr Moira George
	Cr Dinnie Moeahu
	Cr John Woodward
	TBC (1 external lawyer)
	TBC (1 external accountant)

The members, taken collectively, will have a broad range of skills and experience relevant to the operations of the Council. The desirable skills include finance, accounting, legal expertise, risk management and information services.

Quorum: Five members

Meeting Frequency: Every second month

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Council to fulfil its financial management, governance, risk management and control objectives by:
 - Providing independent advice and assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's governance, financial management, internal control and risk management frameworks, including the systems that support transparency, accountability and prudent stewardship of public resources.
 - Overseeing the external and internal audit functions, ensuring the audit plans are appropriate, audit work is carried out effectively, and that management responds to audit findings and recommendations in a timely and robust manner.
 - Monitoring the integrity and quality of financial and non-financial reporting, including obtaining assurance over the reliability of information provided to Council, the appropriateness of accounting policies, and compliance with statutory reporting obligations.

- Providing assurance over the identification, assessment and management of Council's strategic, operational and emerging risks, including but not limited to climate-related risks, cybersecurity, health and safety, business continuity, insurance, and the broader organisational risk framework.
 - Monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of systems, processes and controls that support legal compliance, prevent and detect fraud or corruption, uphold protected disclosure (whistleblowing) requirements, and maintain organisational integrity.
 - Providing assurance to Council over the governance and delivery of major projects by monitoring significant capital project delivery against the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan, and by reviewing business cases for Strategic Projects (as determined by Council) to ensure robust analysis and risk assessment.
2. The Committee's role is to obtain assurance and provide advice to Council. It does not manage operations or make executive decisions. Management remains responsible for designing and operating systems and controls, developing and implementing policy, conducting procurement and contract management, and delivering projects and services.

Areas of Responsibility

Governance

3. Set, monitor and review the Annual Work Programme for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, after seeking Council's contributions.
4. Seek assurance over legal compliance frameworks and obligations relevant to Council, including (but not limited to) rating legislation.
5. Conduct an annual self-review.
6. Review and provide feedback on any major policies, as required.
7. Adopt and lead a culture of continuous improvement.

Finance

8. Review and recommend the Financial Strategy for Council and monitor performance against the Strategy.
9. Assure the completeness and quality of financial information, with a focus on actual versus budget and alignment with Council's financial strategy.

10. Monitor Council's financial and non-financial performance against the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan, key performance indicators and benchmarks.
11. Oversee assurance of Treasury Management, including policies, limits and reporting for liquidity, cash, debt and investment.
12. Monitor the systems, processes and controls to prevent, detect and investigate the risk of fraud.
13. Monitor significant capital project delivery against the Long-Term and Annual Plan.

Audit

External – Audit NZ

14. Engage with Council's external auditors prior to audit commencement.
15. Review the interim and final management letters provided during external audit and recommend their approval to Council as appropriate.
16. Monitor management's implementation of recommendations made during the external audit.

Internal – Third Party

17. Review the Internal Audit Charter, including the mandate for internal audit.
18. Set and Review the Internal Audit Plan in conjunction with the Chief Executive.
19. Receive and review reports including findings, recommendations and ratings and monitor implementation of recommendations.
20. Approve any changes to the Internal Audit Plan during the year (allowing the Chief Executive and Committee Chair to agree time-sensitive changes in between meetings).

Internal – In-house

21. Oversee the development of the triennial Internal Assurance Plan.
22. Review internal audit reports and the effectiveness of actions to address related audit recommendations.

*Risk*Enterprise Risk Oversight

23. Oversee the development and annual review of enterprise risk appetites and Risk Management Framework for recommendation to Council.
24. Monitor the effectiveness of the Risk Management Framework through regular reporting on how Council's strategic and significant risks have been identified and are being managed, including changes to the risk registers.
25. Review and provide assurance over new Strategic Project business cases, with particular emphasis on projects involving central government or external funding, to ensure financial robustness, risk alignment, and compliance with NPDC's delegations and funding obligations.
26. Oversee the monitoring of Strategic capital projects and programmes that meet the Strategic Qualification Criteria and are designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 against the P3M Tier status assessment. (*List to be provided by Officers*).
27. Complete 'deep dives' on topics scheduled in the Annual Work Programme.

Organisational Resilience

28. Provide oversight and assurance on the identification, assessment and management of climate-related risks — including organisational resilience, adaptation planning and financial exposure — and seek assurance that management's systems and controls to address these risks are effective.
29. Provide oversight and assurance on cybersecurity and information security risks, including organisational resilience, incident response preparedness, and protection of critical data assets.
30. Scan the external environment for emerging risks to the organisation and raise any concerns with the Chief Executive or Council, as appropriate.
31. Provide assurance over the Council's organisational resilience, including business continuity planning, emergency management arrangements, and the appropriateness of insurance coverage; and recommend any changes to Council.

Integrity, Compliance and Internal Controls

32. Seek assurance as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's health and safety risk management systems, reporting, and governance.

33. Seek assurance over the Council's governance integrity and internal control environment, including legal compliance systems, protected disclosure (whistleblowing) mechanisms, and the effectiveness of financial and non-financial controls.

Council Controlled Organisations

34. Support Council's shareholder responsibilities by undertaking periodic, risk- and assurance-focused reviews of Council-controlled organisations. These reviews will be selective and targeted, and will focus on matters of material financial exposure, strategic risk, governance assurance, and Council risk transfer, rather than routine operational or performance reporting. It is not the role of the Committee to receive standard or regular CCO performance reports, but to provide Council with independent assurance and insight through planned annual or multi-year deep dives, or where specific issues warrant additional scrutiny.

Statutory Reporting

35. Review and monitor the integrity of the interim and annual report including statutory financial statements and any other formal announcements relating to the Council's financial performance, with a particular focus on:
 - a) compliance with, and the appropriate application of, relevant accounting policies, practices and accounting standards
 - b) compliance with applicable legal requirements relevant to statutory reporting
 - c) the consistency of application of accounting policies, across reporting periods and the Council group
 - d) changes to accounting policies and practices that may affect the way that accounts are presented
 - e) any decisions involving significant judgement, estimation or uncertainty
 - f) the extent to which financial statements are affected by any unusual transactions and the manner in which they are disclosed
 - g) the clarity of disclosures including contingent liabilities and contingent assets
 - h) the basis for the adoption of the going concern assumption
 - i) significant adjustments resulting from the audit.

Delegated authority

- 36. Determining the Internal Audit Plan (including any subsequent changes) in conjunction with the Chief Executive.
- 37. Determining the Annual Work Programme (including any subsequent amendments) in conjunction with Council staff.

Procedural Matters

- 38. At the start of each meeting, the Chairperson will confirm with Management if there have been any breaches of the Code of Conduct and/or the Fraud or Corruption Policy, and if any protected or other disclosures alleging such breaches have been received. This is to ensure that such incidents are investigated and reported appropriately.
- 39. The Committee will provide a twice-yearly briefing to Council on its activities, key themes arising from its work, and any matters that require Council's attention.

Notes

- 40. Remuneration for the external members is determined through a contract for service.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

MATTER /TE WHĀINGA

1. This report details items that are recommended should be considered with the public excluded, and the reason for excluding the public.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

That having considered all matters raised in the report, Council hereby resolves that, pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- a) **New Plymouth Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF) Guardians - Board appointments**
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. This particular interest being protected by section 7(2)(a) of the Act.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

COMPLIANCE / TŪTOHU	
Significance	This matter has been assessed as being of some importance.
Options	This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exclude the public. 2. Not exclude the public.
Recommendation	This report recommends Option 1 for addressing the matter.
Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan Implications	There are no budget considerations.
Significant Policy and Plan Inconsistencies	This report is consistent with Council's Policy and Plans.

BACKGROUND/ WHAKAPAPA

2. This report details items that are recommended should be considered with the public excluded, and the reason for excluding the public.
-

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT / KAUPAPA WHAKAHIRAHIRA

3. In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as being of some importance because the exclusion of the public is a statutory procedure that will have a little or no impact on the Council's strategic issues.

OPTIONS / KŌWHIRINGA

Option 1 Pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, good reason exists to exclude the public for consideration of the items listed.

Option 2 The Council can choose to consider these matters in an open meeting.

Risk Analysis / Tātaritanga o Ngā Mōrearea

4. Release of information which meets the statutory tests for withholding (under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) may expose the Council to legal, financial or reputational repercussions.

Recommended Option

This report recommends **Option 1**: Exclusion of the public for addressing the matter.

Report Details

Prepared By:	Carol Allen (Governance Adviser)
Team:	Governance
Approved By:	Claire Kelly (Acting Governance Manager)
Ward/Community:	District Wide
Date:	2 March 2026
File Reference:	ECM 9725901

-----*End of Report*-----

CLOSING

The chairperson, or a person authorised by the chairperson, may make a statement to close the meeting.
