



Local Governance Statement

May 2026

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Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**



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Introduction

This document outlines the governance and functions of New Plymouth District Council, including Council's responsibilities, key legislation, governance processes and decision-making framework.

As a local authority, Council must act in accordance with the following principles:

- Ensure that the role of democratic governance of the community and the expected conduct of elected members, is clear and understood by elected members and the community.
- Ensure that the governance structures and processes are effective, open and transparent.
- Ensure that, so far as is practicable, responsibility and processes for decision-making in relation to regulatory responsibilities is separated from responsibility and processes for decision-making for non-regulatory responsibilities.
- Should be a good employer.
- Should ensure that the relationship between elected members and management of the local authority is effective and understood.
- Foster the free exchange of information between, and expressions of opinion by, elected members.
- Foster the responsibility of its elected members to work collaboratively to set and deliver the local authority's policy agenda, determine its policies and budgets, and make decisions on behalf of its communities.



What the Council does

Functions

As with all councils, New Plymouth District Council's purpose⁴ is to enable democratic local decision-making to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Generally, the Council's governance roles are to:

- Set major policy including the long-term plan, annual and district plan, long-term strategies and funding policies.
- Appoint and monitor the performance of the chief executive.
- Make decisions on matters that it has not delegated to committees or staff.

When carrying out these roles the Council is expected to:⁵

- Conduct its business in an open, transparent, accountable and efficient manner.
- Take into account the views and diversity of the community for now and in the future.
- Provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making process.
- Collaborate and co-operate with other local authorities and other bodies.
- Use sound business practices in its commercial activities.
- Ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of its resources.
- Take a sustainable development approach, taking into account:
 - the social, economic and cultural interests of people and communities; and
 - the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and
 - the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

Activities

In order to perform these functions, there are a number of activities that the Council undertakes, and these are outlined the Council's long-term plan, annual plan and annual report. Broadly speaking, the activities of Council are as follows.

Community Partnerships	Customer and Regulatory Solutions
Economic Development	Emergency Management and Business Continuance
Flood Protection and Control Works	Governance
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre	Management of Investments and Funding
Parks and Open Spaces	Puke Ariki and Community Libraries
Stormwater Management	Transportation
Venues and Events	Waste Management and Minimisation
Wastewater Treatment	Water Supply

⁴ s10 Local Government Act 2002

⁵ s14 Local Government Act 2002

Electoral System

Elections must be held every three years. Under the Local Electoral Act (2001), Council can choose between two electoral systems:

- First Past the Post (FPP); or
- Single Transferable Vote (STV).

The members to be elected at New Plymouth District Council are:

- The Mayor.
- 14 Councillors.
- 20 Community Board Members.

Under an **STV system** voters rank candidates, using numbers, in order of preference. You can find out more information on this system on the [STV website](#).

Under an **FPP system** voters indicate their preferred candidate(s) by selecting a maximum number of candidates. The candidate(s) that receives the most votes is declared the winner, regardless of the proportion of votes that candidate(s) received.

NPDC held the 2019, 2022 and 2025 elections under the STV system.

STV means electors rank candidates in order of preference. Voters can rank as many or as few candidates as they wish. To get elected, candidates need to reach a quota of votes. If all positions are not filled, the surplus proportion of votes for successful candidates are redistributed among the other candidates according to voters' preferences.

If the positions are not filled by redistributing the surplus proportion of votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded and that candidate's second preferences votes are also distributed among the remaining candidates according to voter's preferences. This process of redistributing votes continues until all positions are filled.

Council can resolve to change the electoral system used for the next two triennial elections. The resolution must be taken no later than 12 September in the year, two years before an election.

Communities can also require Council to hold a binding poll on the question of electoral system, including overturning a Council's decision.

Representation arrangements

Representation arrangements relate to the way that councillors and community board members are elected. When deciding on the arrangements, Council will decide:

For Council	For Community Boards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total number of councillors.• Whether the councillors are elected by wards and/or by the district as a whole.• The boundaries of any wards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether there should be community boards.• The boundaries of community board areas.• The total number of community board members on each board.• Whether the community board areas are subdivided (similar to wards).

Māori wards

In July 2020, the Council resolved to establish a Māori Ward from the 2022 election.

Subsequent legislative changes required a binding referendum, to be held alongside the 2025 election, on whether a Māori Ward should be established for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

In the New Plymouth District Council referendum, 15,004 electors voted to disestablish the Māori Ward and 12,046 electors voted to retain a Māori Ward.

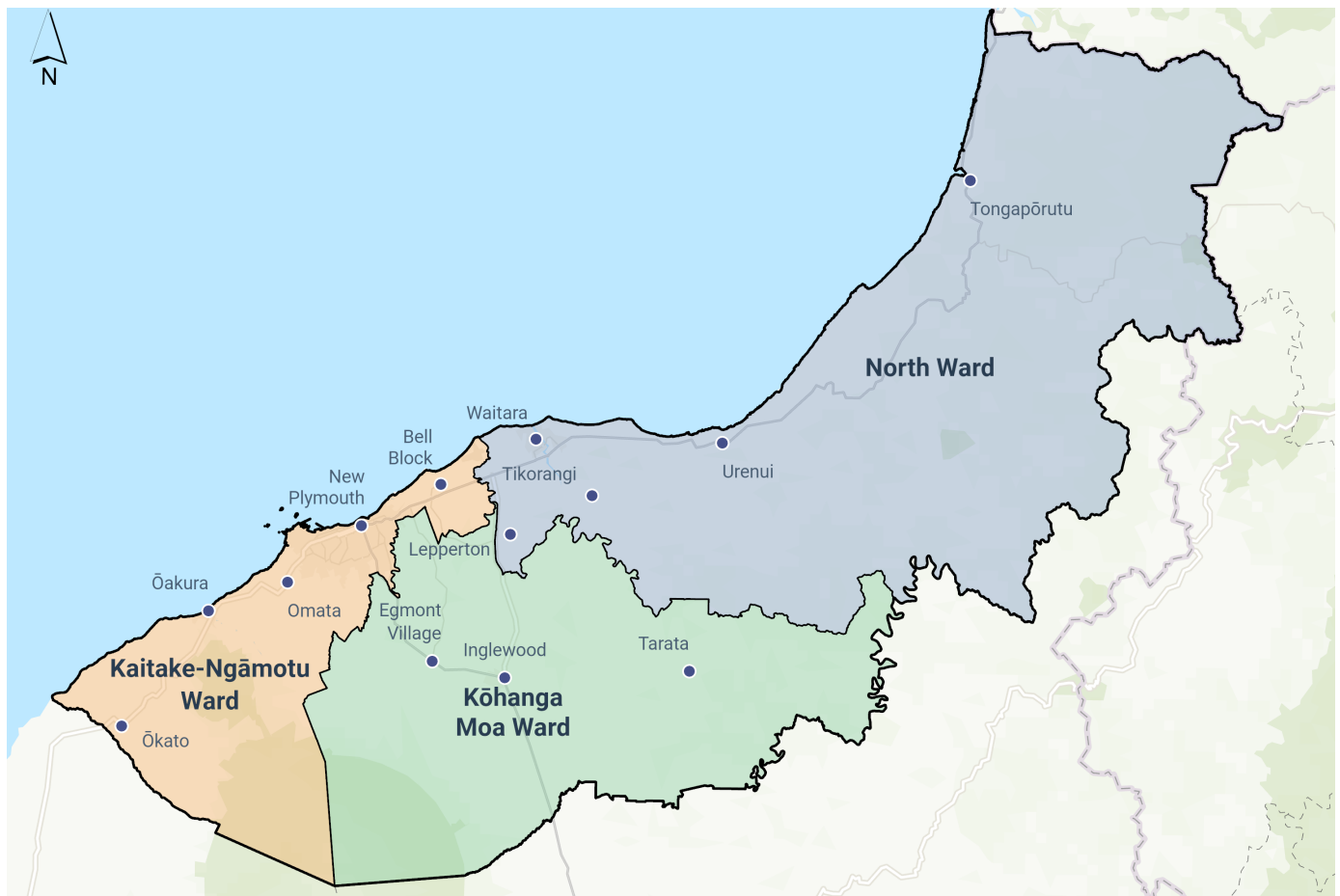
New Plymouth District Council cannot consider whether there should be a Māori Ward(s) until after the 2031 triennial election.

New Plymouth representation

Council last reviewed its representation arrangements in 2021. The next review will be held prior to the 2028 election.

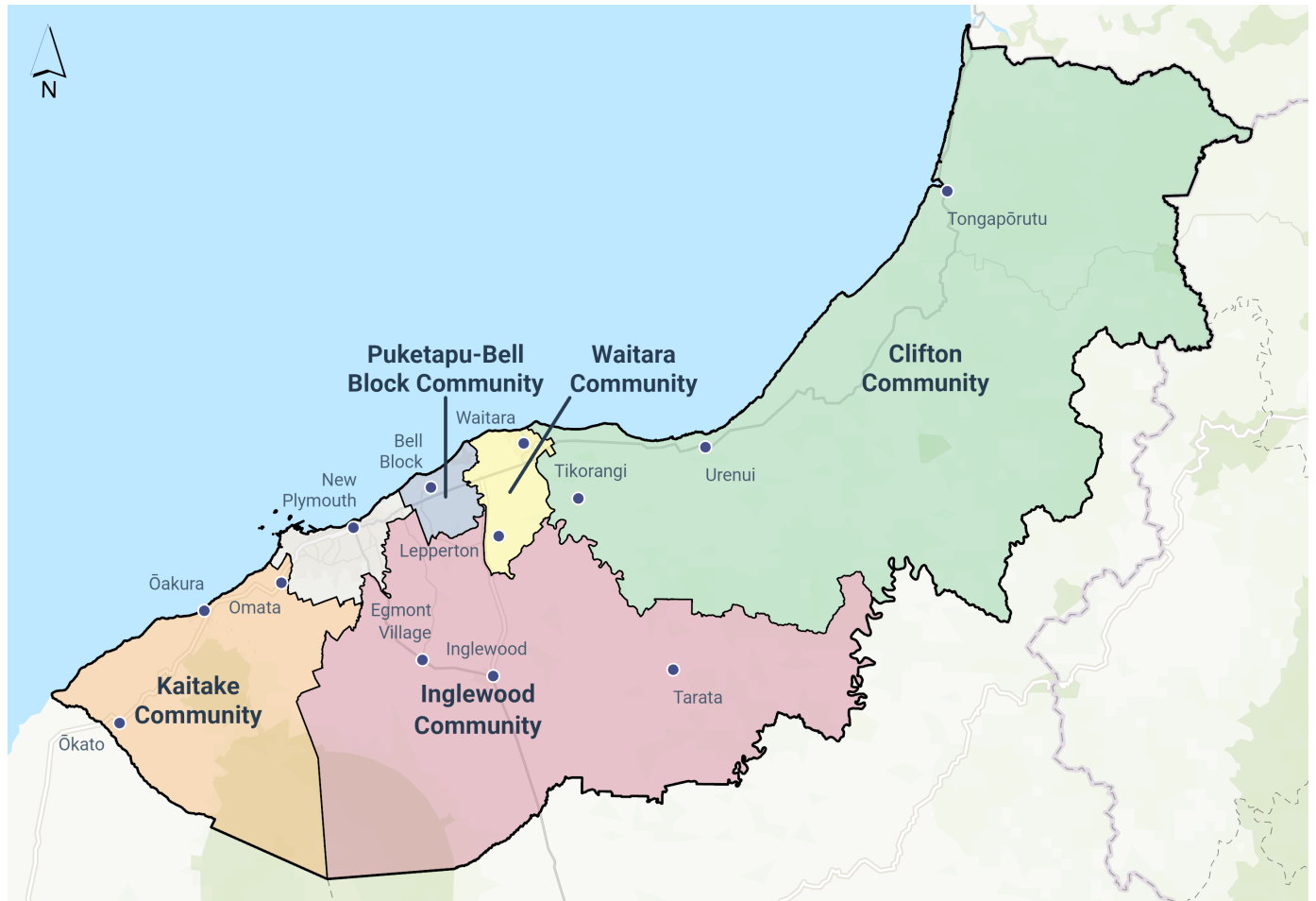
New Plymouth District Council currently has a mixed representation system with five councillors elected at large and nine councillors elected from the following four wards.

Ward	Ward population (estimates as at November 2021)	Ward population (estimates as at June 2024)	No. of councillors
Kaitake-Ngāmotu	54,318	60,500	6
Kōhanga Moa	9,528	10,500	1
North	8,934	9,890	1
Te Purutanga Mauri Pūmanawa Māori	6,885	9,450	1



Community Boards

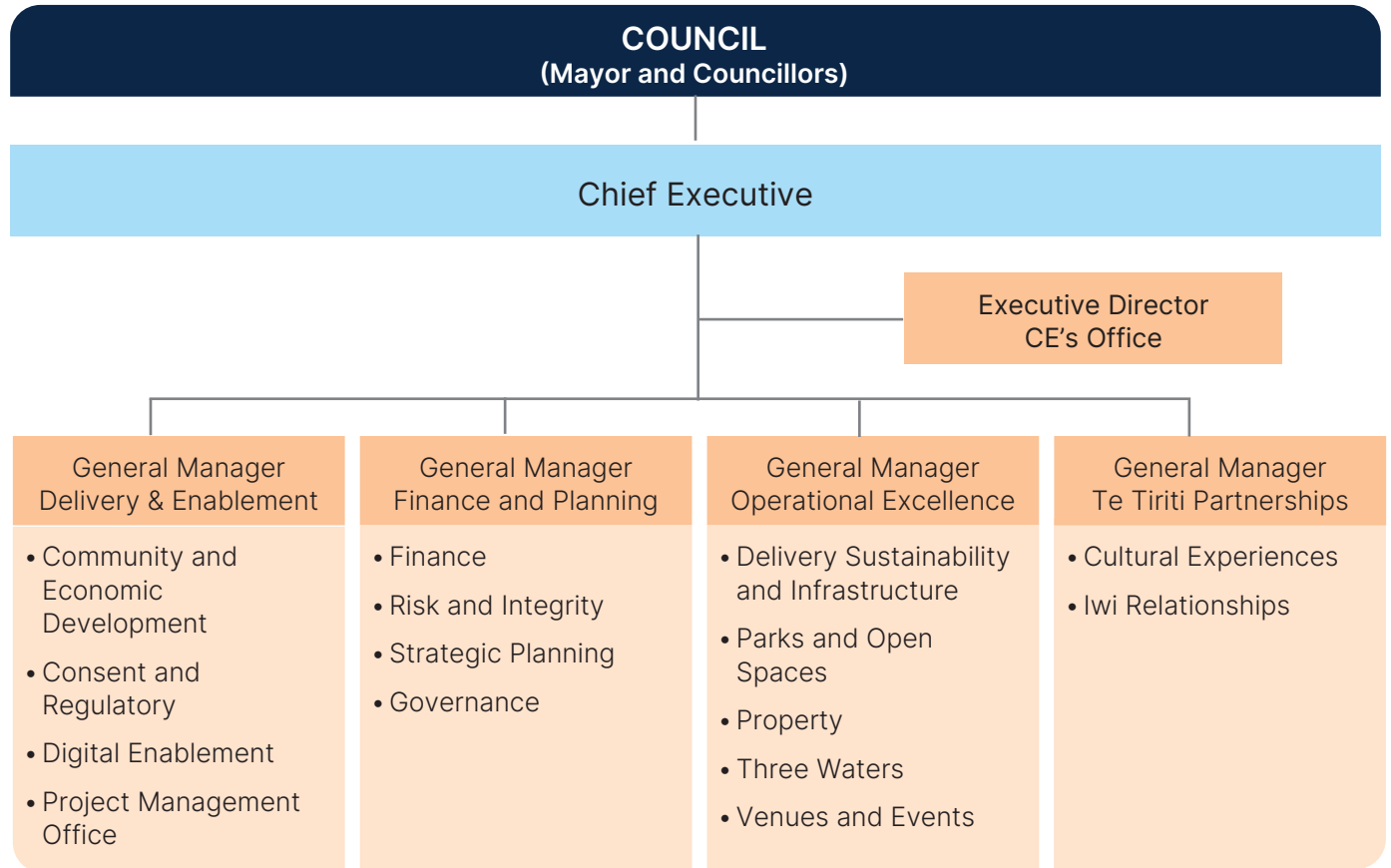
There are five community boards, one for each of the Clifton, Inglewood, Kaitake, Puketapu-Bell Block and Waitara communities of interest. Each board comprises of four members elected by the community plus one councillor, appointed by the Council. Each board elects its chair at their first meeting after the election.



Governance structure and processes

Management structure

The following shows the organisation management structure, and where that sits in relation to Elected Members.



Governance structure

The following provides an overview of the current governance Committees, Working Parties and Community Boards that are operated by the Council.

COUNCIL (Mayor and 14 councillors)



Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

- Bruce Robertson (Chair - external appointee)
- Cr Graham Chard (Deputy Chair)
- Mayor Max Brough
- Cr EJ Barrett
- Cr David Bublitz
- Cr Moira George
- Cr Dinnie Moeahu
- Cr John Woodward
- External Appointee (Legal)
- External Appointee (Finance)



Te Huinga Taumatua Committee

- Cr Gordon Brown (Co-Chair)
- Iwi Representative (Co-Chair)
- Mayor Max Brough
- Cr Gina Blackburn
- Cr Te Waka McLeod
- Cr Sam Bennett

Five iwi representatives with one nomination from each of:

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru (Taranaki Trust)
- Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
- Te Kotahitanga o Te Ātiawa Trust



Going for Growth Committee

- Cr Moira George (Chair)
- Cr David Bublitz (Deputy Chair)
- Mayor Max Brough
- Cr Gina Blackburn
- Cr Murray Chong
- Cr Damon Fox
- Cr Te Waka McLeod
- Cr Kerry Vosseler



Public Engagement Committee

- Cr Murray Chong (Chair)
- Cr John Woodward (Deputy Chair)
- Mayor Max Brough
- Cr EJ Barrett
- Cr Graham Chard
- Cr Christine Fabish
- Cr Damon Fox
- Cr Kerry Vosseler

Clifton
Community
Board

Inglewood
Community
Board

Kaitake
Community
Board

Puketapu-
Bell Block
Community
Board

Waitara
Community
Board

Other Committees

Stadium Taranaki Joint Committee, District Licensing Committee, Hearings Commission

Age and Accessibility Working Party

Committees - purpose and delegations



Finance, Audit and Risk Committee - Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Council to fulfil its financial management, governance, risk management and control objectives by:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) 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.
 - f) 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.

Delegated authority

3. Determining the Internal Audit Plan (including any subsequent changes) in conjunction with the Chief Executive.
4. Determining the annual work programme (including any subsequent amendments) in conjunction with Council staff.



Te Huinga Taumatua Committee - Terms of Reference

Kaupapa: Purpose

1. To identify, report and decide (where delegated authority) on the issues and priorities of cultural, economic, environmental and social importance to Māori of the New Plymouth District.
2. To provide strategic guidance and advice to the Council on matters of importance to Māori.
3. To foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.
4. To jointly determine Māori cultural issues and priorities of importance for integration into long-term planning in line with the Strategic Framework.
5. To receive deputations and public fora on matters of importance to Māori and other relevant reports as appropriate.
6. To attend briefings and/or presentations at the invitation of the Mayor.

Matters within the delegated authority of the committee include, but are not limited to:

7. Road naming and renaming (under the Council's Policy on Naming and Renaming of Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way).
8. Naming and renaming of Council administered reserves and walkways (under the Council's General Policies for Council Administered Reserves).
9. Determination of grants under the Community Funding Investment Policy as follows:
 - a) Marae Development Grant applications over \$10,000.
 - b) Manaaki Urupā Grant applications over \$10,000.
 - c) Whanake Grant applications.
 - d) Cultural Heritage Protection Grants over \$10,000.
10. Approval of Tiriti/Treaty Outcomes Framework.
11. Any individual matter referred by the Council or another committee for final decision.



Going for Growth Committee - Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to:

1. Support a thriving, diverse, and resilient local economy by providing a forum for the business, development and tourism communities to provide feedback directly to Elected Members.
2. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth that benefits the whole district.
3. Signal a clear intent for NPDC to take a more active leadership role in supporting growth, investment, and business confidence across the district.

Delegated authority

The Committee has delegated authority to:

4. Seek suggestions and observations from the business and development communities to:
 - a) Ensure NPDC's strategies, services, and systems actively support business and economic development.
 - b) Strengthen economic partnerships between Council, iwi, business, and central government.
5. Receive monitoring and update reports from the business and development community (such as the Ngāmotu District Growth Advisory Panel (NPDGAP) update reports).
6. Receive monitoring and update reports from Council Officers in relation to Central Government legislative and policy changes (relating to the Committee's purpose), and Council strategies and plans that are not within the Terms of Reference of another Committee.
7. Provide feedback to Council officers (as part of the meeting processes) on early stage proposals to guide decision-making.
8. Engage with the business, development, events and partnership communities outside of formal meeting processes (such as hosting business roundtables and sector engagement sessions) to hear directly from business leaders, investors, developers and entrepreneurs.
9. Provide guidance to management on governance expectations in relation to small, specific, targeted growth, and economic activity matters.



Public Engagement Committee - Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Committee is to provide organisations and members of the public with an opportunity to speak directly to elected members in a setting that is not constrained by the time limits and discussion restrictions of Standing Orders governing public forums and deputations.
2. The Committee will facilitate scheduled speaking opportunities enabling constructive dialogue and engagement on matters of public interest.

Delegated authority

3. To receive and hear presentations from members of the public and organisations.
4. The Committee may engage in discussion with the presenter within the allocated speaking time.
5. The Chairperson has discretion to decline to hear, or to terminate, a presentation for the reasons set out under deputation restrictions in Council's Standing Orders.
6. To provide feedback and recommendations to the Council and Council officers on matters raised during engagement sessions.

Stadium Taranaki Joint Committee

This is a joint committee with representatives from New Plymouth District Council and Taranaki Regional Council.

Purpose

The Committee is responsible for:

1. Long-term maintenance and development of the stadium and approval of the stadium asset management plans.
2. Monitoring the implementation of adopted asset management plans.
3. Prepare and approve the draft annual budget.
4. Providing advice to the Councils on the implementation of the adopted Yarrow Stadium Strategic Plans.

Delegated authority

5. The committee has all the powers necessary to enable it to carry out its functions.
6. The Committee has the power to make recommendations to the Councils, but does not have the power that would commit either of the Councils or the Trust without their specific approval.
7. The Committee may hold as many meetings as considers necessary to carry out its functions. The Councils anticipate that the Committee will need to meet at least twice a year.
8. The Committee cannot appoint subcommittees or delegate its power.

District Licensing Committee

Purpose

To deal with licensing matters for the district.

Delegated authority

As set out in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and/or the District Licensing Committee Administration Policy.

Hearings Committee

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Committee is to hear and determine matters under legislation or existing Council policies or bylaws that provides for the right to appeal, to the elected Council, a decision of a Council Officer excluding matters under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Delegated authority

2. Authority to hear and determine matters under legislation or existing Council policies or bylaw that provides for the right to appeal, to the elected Council, a decision of a Council Officer excluding matters under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
3. The Chairperson has authority to appoint at least two members to each of hearing on a case-by-case basis.

Roles and conduct of elected members

Unless otherwise provided in the Local Government Act 2002 or in standing orders, the Council and Community Boards can only act by majority decisions at meetings. Each member has one vote. Any individual member (including the Mayor) has no authority to act on behalf of the Council unless the Council has expressly delegated such authority.

Mayor

The Mayor of New Plymouth District is elected voters across the entire district and serves as the public face and principal leader of the Council. The Mayor plays a pivotal role in providing strategic leadership, fostering collaboration, and ensuring effective governance. As one of the elected members, the Mayor shares the same responsibilities as other members of the Council, including participation in decision-making, policy development, and community representation.

Key responsibilities

Leadership and representation

The Mayor leads the Council and represents the district at civic and ceremonial events and advocates for the district's interests locally, regionally, and nationally.

Presiding over Council meetings

The Mayor chairs Council meetings ensuring the orderly conduct of business during meetings. They facilitate constructive debate to help guide the Council toward consensus.

Strategic direction and policy leadership

The Mayor leads development of the Council's plans (including the long-term and annual plans), policies, and budgets for consideration by Council.

Appointments and committee establishment

The Mayor has the authority⁴ to:

- Appoint the Deputy Mayor.
- Establish committees and appoint chairpersons.

The Mayor is a member of every Council Committee.

Community engagement and advocacy

The Mayor plays a key role in engaging with the community, listening to concerns, and advocating for initiatives that promote the well-being of residents. They also work to strengthen relationships with iwi/Māori as Treaty partners.

Working with the Chief Executive

The Mayor works closely with the Chief Executive to ensure the effective implementation of Council decisions and the delivery of services. They provide political leadership while respecting the operational independence of the organisation.

⁴ s41A Local Government Act 2002

Deputy Mayor

In addition to exercising the same roles as other elected members, where the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, or the office of the Mayor is vacant, the Deputy Mayor must perform all of the responsibilities and duties, and may exercise the powers, of the Mayor.

In the 2025-2028 term, the Mayor has determined that the role of Deputy Mayor will rotate amongst the Standing Committee Chairpersons as below.

Deputy Mayor	Period
Murray Chong	5 November 2025 to 30 April 2026
Moira George	1 May to 31 October 2026
Gordon Brown	1 November 2026 to 30 April 2027
Murray Chong	1 May to 31 October 2027
Moira George	1 November 2027 to 30 April 2028
Gordon Brown	1 May to 14 October 2028

Mayor and Councillors

New Plymouth District Council is governed by a Mayor and 14 Councillors, elected to represent the district's diverse communities. Elected Members play a vital role in shaping the district's future, ensuring democratic decision-making, and promoting community well-being.

Key responsibilities

Representation

Elected members represent the interests of residents across the district, including those in general and Māori wards. They engage with individuals, iwi, community groups, and businesses to understand local priorities and advocate for their communities.

Strategic leadership and governance

NPDC's elected members set the strategic direction for the district, guided by the vision of building a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital. They adopt key plans such as the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, and District Plan, and establish priorities that reflect community aspirations.

Decision-making

Councillors make decisions on a wide range of matters including infrastructure, environmental management, community services, and financial planning. These decisions must balance statutory obligations, community input, and long-term sustainability.

Oversight and accountability

Elected members oversee the performance of the Council organisation, including the Chief Executive, ensuring that operations align with Council policies and community expectations. They are responsible for maintaining transparency, integrity, and public trust.

Stewardship of public resources

As stewards of public assets and funds, elected members are expected to promote financial prudence, environmental sustainability, and responsible governance. Their decisions impact the long-term well-being of the district.

Collaboration and partnership

NPDC elected members work in partnership with iwi/Māori as Treaty partners, other councils, central government agencies, and community organisations. These relationships are essential for delivering shared outcomes and enhancing service delivery.

Community Boards

NPDC has five Community Boards (Clifton, Inglewood, Kaitake, Puketapu-Bell Block, and Waitara), each with four elected members and one appointed councillor. The Boards represent and advocate for the interests of their local communities and contribute to Council decision-making. New Plymouth District Community Boards develop individual Community Board Plans, and each board allocates up to \$150,000 per annum of discretionary funding in line with the Community Boards Discretionary Funding Framework.

Applicable statutory requirements

There are specific obligations on elected members in the following legislation:

- Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which includes obligations to act as a good employer in respect of the Chief Executive and to abide by the current code of conduct and standing orders.
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 which regulates the conduct of elected members in situations where there is, or could be, a conflict of interest between their duties as an elected member and their financial interests (either direct or indirect).
- Secret Commissions Act 1910, which prohibits elected members from accepting gifts or rewards which, could be seen to sway them to perform their duties in a particular way.
- Crimes Act 1961 regarding the acceptance of gifts for acting in a certain way and the use of official information for private profit.

Code of Conduct

The [Code of Conduct](#) sets out standards of behaviour expected from elected members in the exercise of their duties. Its purpose is to:

- Enhance the effectiveness of Council and the provision of good local government of the New Plymouth District.
- Promote effective decision-making and community engagement.
- Enhance the credibility and accountability of the Council to the communities.
- Develop a culture of mutual trust, respect and tolerance between the members of the Council and between members and management.

It also covers disclosure of information by elected members.

Conflicts of Interest

All elected members are required to maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as a governing body member, member of a committee/subcommittee, or of a local board or local board committee, in accordance with the Conflicts of Interest Policy for Elected Members, and the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

Elected members must disclose all personal and outside interests, relationships and duties, and abstain from discussion and voting where they have a conflict of interest or a closed mind.

Elected members are required to complete an annual declaration of interest statement in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

Elected members also complete a Related Party Transactions declaration that is reported in the annual report.



Meeting processes

There are legal requirements determining how the Council, community board and committee meetings run. The meeting rules are set out in the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Council's Standing Orders.

New Plymouth District Council meetings are held on a monthly cycle which concludes with a full Council meeting on the last Thursday of the month. Upcoming meetings are published monthly. Meeting and Council workshop dates are also available on the [Council's website](#).

The public are welcome to attend all Council, community board, committee meetings and elected member workshops. Occasionally confidential matters will be discussed. The public are not able to attend those parts of the meetings. There are limited reasons for excluding the public from a meeting. The reasons are set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and generally relate to protection of personal privacy, professional or legal privilege, commercial negotiation or commercial sensitivity.

Meeting and workshop agendas, minutes, presentations, and videos are available online. Reports and minutes containing confidential information will not be available online.

At the start of each meeting a deputation and public forum session is held. This is the only opportunity for the public to speak to elected members during a meeting. Requests to speak to elected members at a meeting can be emailed to governanceteam@npdc.govt.nz or made by phoning 06 759 6060.

The Public Engagement Committee has been established to hear from members of the public who wish to share their thoughts with elected members on any topic, providing a less formal environment for community engagement. Requests to speak can be emailed to governanceteam@npdc.govt.nz.

Standing Orders

Councils must adopt standing orders for the conduct of their meetings.

Underpinning the standing orders are several principles, the most important being that councils and their members:

- Conduct their business in a transparent manner through public notice of meetings, provision of access to information, publicly open discussions, and meetings that are open to the public.
- Respect confidentiality, in accordance with relevant legislation, when making decisions that contain sensitive information.
- Represent their community when making decisions by taking account of the diversity of its communities, their views and interests, and the interests of communities in the future.
- Acknowledge, and, as appropriate, make provision for Te Ao Māori and local tikanga in meeting processes.
- Ensure that decision-making procedures and practices meet the standards of natural justice, in particular, that decision-makers are seen to have open minds.
- Have a high standard of behaviour which fosters the participation of all members, including the expression of their views and opinions, without intimidation, bullying, or personal criticism.
- Act with professionalism by ensuring their conduct is consistent with the principles of good governance and the behaviours outlined in the Council's [Code of Conduct](#).

In addition, application of standing orders must comply, as appropriate, with the decision-making provisions of Part 6, LGA 2002. There must also be consistency with section 39, LGA 2002, that “governance structures and processes are effective, open, and transparent” (LGA 2002, s 39).

The New Plymouth District Council Standing Orders are available on the [Council's website](#).

Consultation policies

The Local Government Act 2002⁴ sets out principles that must be undertaken in relation to any decision or matter before the Council. These include consulting in a way that ensure affected or interested people:

- a) Receive reasonable access to information in appropriate formats.
- b) Are encouraged to present their views and are given clear information about the consultation purpose and decision scope.
- c) Have a reasonable opportunity to provide their views.
- d) Have their views considered with an open mind.
- e) Can access a clear record of decisions made.

Guidance on how an appropriate level and/or type of consultation is provided in Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

⁴ s82 Local Government Act 2002 - Principles of Consultation

Significance and Engagement Policy

This policy sets out for the community and Council the framework that Council uses to make decisions about significance (how important an issue is), and then whether to engage the community in the decision-making process. The Council provides various opportunities for the community to participate in key strategic decision-making processes, including:

- Long-Term Plan (three-yearly).
- Annual Plan.
- Representation review.
- District Plan review.

Meaningful community input into Council decision-making processes contributes to informed Council decisions.

Consultation and relationships with Māori

Council is committed to maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes.

Council will engage with local iwi and hapū before making a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. This is so that Council can properly consider the relationship of local iwi and hapū and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

Council may also engage with local iwi and hapū on other matters as they arise. Council is more likely to engage where the significance assessment indicates that a decision impacts on the known issues of significance for the iwi and hapū.

Council will determine the best form of engagement on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the level of significance of the matter, and any other relevant considerations. Council will engage with local iwi and hapū as early in the process as is reasonably practicable in the situation.

The long-term plan process also considers Māori participation in decision-making.

Council uses a range of mechanisms and processes, which acknowledges our relationships with Māori including, but not limited to:

- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), charters, relationship and partnership agreements.
- Co-management committees, working parties and Council/Iwi collaborations.
- Funding supporting tangata whenua engagement on resource management-related issues.
- Mana Whakahono Rohe arrangements.
- Ngā Kaitiaki.
- Treaty of Waitangi settlement arrangements.

Additional support to enhance effective relationships with Māori and outcomes for Māori is also provided through forums like the Council's Te Huinga Taumatua Joint-Committee, the Iwi Relationships Team and management and staff cultural competencies programme.



Employee and employment policies

Remuneration of Council Employees Policy

The Council's policy on Remuneration of Council Employees sets out high level principles for employee remuneration and confirms the role of the Chief Executive as employer to apply the policy through the Council's remuneration framework.

The following statements guide the remuneration of Council employees.

1. Remuneration will support the business of the Council and will be aligned with the Council's strategic intent and current Long-Term Plan.
2. Remuneration will be affordable and within annual budgets.
3. Remuneration will be fair and equitable.
4. Remuneration will be nationally competitive within a local government environment, particularly in relation to similarly sized local authorities, to position the Council appropriately within the marketplace.
5. The remuneration framework will have sufficient flexibility to respond to any changes in circumstances.
6. The remuneration framework will have integrity and legal standing.
7. The remuneration framework will be efficient, manageable and easily understood.
8. Remuneration will be driven and supported by a modern efficient and credible performance management system.
9. All NPDC employees be paid a minimum of the living wage from 1 July 2020.

A copy of the policy is available on the [Council's website](#).

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

NPDC is committed to providing equality of opportunity in employment irrespective of age, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, religious belief or economic background.

Key policy and planning documents

Long-Term Plan

Every three years the Council adopts a new Long-Term Plan (LTP). The LTP is the Council's main strategic document.

The LTP sets out a detailed budget for the next three years, and an outline for the next seven years. It provides an integrated, long-term focus for decisions and activities for the whole Council. The LTP provides a basis for our accountability to our community. It describes what we do, and what we are trying to achieve.

The plan is reviewed every three years following extensive public consultation. Council adopted the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 in July 2024.

Annual Plan

The Annual Plan is the Council's work programme and budget for the current year. The plan details the Council activities for the year, why they are being undertaken and the cost of doing those activities.

An Annual Plan is produced every year except for the year an LTP is adopted. In the LTP years, the Annual Plan is incorporated into the LTP.

Annual Report

Annual Reports are Council's way of being accountable to residents and ratepayers. They compare Council's achievements and progress to what was planned in our LTP. All councils are required to produce an Annual Report and for certain information to be audited.

District Plan

The District Plan provides guidance and rules about how land can be used and developed. The Plan helps determine where activities can take place, what restrictions might be put in place and what natural and cultural features should be protected.

The District Plan is a statutory document required by the Resource Management Act 1991. Following a full review, Council adopted a new District Plan in mid 2023. Several matters are still subject to appeal.

Revenue and Financing Policy

NPDC must undertake services in a financially prudent and sustainable way for the Council and community as a whole.

The Revenue and Financing Policy explains how Council will fund the operating and capital expenditure for each Council activity. The policy indicates which groups and/or individuals the Council sees as benefiting from each of the Council's activities. The Revenue and Financing Policy is reviewed once every three years as part of the development of the LTP.

Asset Management Plans

These help the Council make effective decisions throughout the lifecycle of each asset.

The assets are important as they are required to deliver the Council's activities and meet the levels of service adopted in the LTP.

New Plymouth District Council considers asset management an essential element of governance for local authorities and allows us as an organisation to take a planned approach towards our service delivery arrangements, levels of service, associated risks and financial forecasts.

Asset Management Plans bring together all of the data and information about assets and provide clarity to the organisation and community regarding the level of work required to implement comprehensive and quality lifecycle asset management strategies. This helps ensure the delivery of targeted and essential infrastructure to the district and its residents.

The Council holds property, plant and equipment assets of approximately \$3.8 billion.

Legislation

The Council works with a variety of legislation, the main Acts being:

- Building Act 2004
- Burial and Cremation Act 1964
- Crimes Act 1961
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Gambling Act 2003
- Health Act 1956
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- Land Transport Rule: Setting of Special Limits 2022
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968
- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- Local Government Act 1974
- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Public Bodies Leases Act 1969
- Public Records Act 2005
- Remuneration Authority Act 1977
- Reserves Act 1977
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
- Secret Commissions Act 1910
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008
- Water Services Act 2021
- Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

Some legislation affects a particular local authority or a small number of local authorities, rather than the entire nation. The following is a list of local legislation the Council is bound by:

- Inglewood Town Board Leases Validation Act 1904
- Inglewood County Act 1919
- New Plymouth Borough Council Empowering Act 1924
- New Plymouth Borough Council Empowering Act 1929
- New Plymouth Borough Council Empowering Act 1937
- New Plymouth Borough Land Exchange and Empowering Act 1939
- New Plymouth Borough Reserves and Street Exchanges Act 1898
- New Plymouth City Empowering Act 1952
- New Plymouth District (Perpetual Investment Fund) Act 2023
- New Plymouth Airport Act 1961
- Taranaki County Reserves Act 1966
- Paritutu Centennial Park Act 1968
- New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Act 1999
- Taranaki Regional Council Empowering Act 2001
- New Plymouth District Council (Waitara Lands) Act 2018

Bylaws

Bylaws are rules or regulations that are created to control specific activities within New Plymouth District. Bylaws help ensure that our community is safe, healthy and vibrant. Their purposes include:

- Requiring activities to be licensed; to ensure that activities are carried out in a safe and responsible manner.
- Informing the community about acceptable standards of behaviour in public places.
- Promoting a nuisance free environment, i.e. through rules on the keeping of animals.
- Ensuring that the public can safely use public land.

Bylaws are a useful way of dealing with particular local nuisance problems. They focus on issues that the Council determines are significant enough to pass enforcement options.

The New Plymouth District Council Bylaws are made in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002 and a full list can be found in Appendix 1.

Emergency Management

New Plymouth District Council is a member of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group along with Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, and Taranaki Regional Council. NPDC CDEM obligations are administered by the Group Office, Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO).

Taranaki Regional Council is the administering authority to the CDEM Group, and NPDC is the service provider to TEMO. This is detailed in a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Taranaki Regional Council and NPDC.

Further information can be accessed on the [Taranaki Emergency Management](#) website.

The mayoral responsibilities for civil defence in New Zealand include:

- **Declaring a state of local emergency:** Mayors have the authority to declare a state of local emergency for their territorial district, which requires significant and coordinated response.
- **Coordinating emergency management:** Mayors are responsible for ensuring that local authorities coordinate their emergency management efforts through regional groups, focusing on risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.
- **Maintaining situational awareness:** Mayors must stay in contact with the Group Controller to ensure they are informed about emergency events and can respond effectively.
- **Promoting community resilience:** Mayors play a key role in educating the community about hazards and risks, encouraging preparedness through planning and communication.

These responsibilities are outlined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, which governs emergency management in New Zealand.

Where the Mayor is absent, an elected official can declare on behalf of the Mayor and can represent the Mayor at meetings of the Joint Committee.



Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)

Under the Local Government Act 2002, New Plymouth District Council maintains governance and oversight of several Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs). These entities are either wholly or partially owned by NPDC and operate to deliver strategic outcomes aligned with the Council's objectives, while maintaining a degree of operational independence. The following outlines NPDC's current CCOs.

Each CCO operates under a Statement of Intent, which outlines its objectives, nature and scope of activities, and performance targets. NPDC monitors the performance of its CCOs to ensure alignment with Council policies and community expectations, while enabling these organisations to operate efficiently and effectively in their respective domains. The following outlines NPDC's current CCOs.

Papa Rererangi i Puketapu Ltd (PRIP)

Established in 2017, PRIP manages the full operations of New Plymouth Airport. It is a semi-commercial investment tasked with operating the airport sustainably, optimising asset use, and generating a reasonable return on investment. PRIP plays a vital role in facilitating tourism, trade, and regional economic development.

New Plymouth PIF Guardians Ltd

This entity oversees the Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF), ensuring prudent stewardship and long-term financial sustainability for the district.

Venture Taranaki Trust

Venture Taranaki is the regional development agency for Taranaki, supporting local entrepreneurship and enterprises to grow, promoting our region, and helping develop our sectors to build a thriving Taranaki economy. Venture Taranaki is incorporated as a charitable trust, and operates a leveraged funding model with NPDC funding at its core. Venture Taranaki also partners with South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council to deliver regional development services around the Maunga.

New Plymouth Water Services CCO (NPDC WSCCO)

Established in July 2025, the NPDC WSCCO is a wholly Council-owned entity responsible for delivering drinking water and wastewater services across the district. Stormwater services remain under direct Council control.

Forestry Joint Ventures

NPDC holds interests in various forestry ventures, contributing to sustainable land use and long-term investment returns.

For more detailed information, refer to [NPDC's Council Controlled Organisations](#) page and [CCO governance document](#).

Requests for information

NPDC is committed to conducting our day-to-day business openly and making decision-making processes and information available and accessible. The majority of the information is publicly available on request or on our website.

Any person may request information from the Council and any request for information is made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). You do not have to say you are making a request under the LGOIMA.

Requests must be responded to as soon as practicable and a decision about the request for information provided no later than 20 working days (although there are certain circumstances where this timeframe may be extended). Members of the public can request information at any time. This can be done by:



Emailing lgoima@npdc.govt.nz



Asking in person at one of our customer service centres



Calling us on 06 759 6060



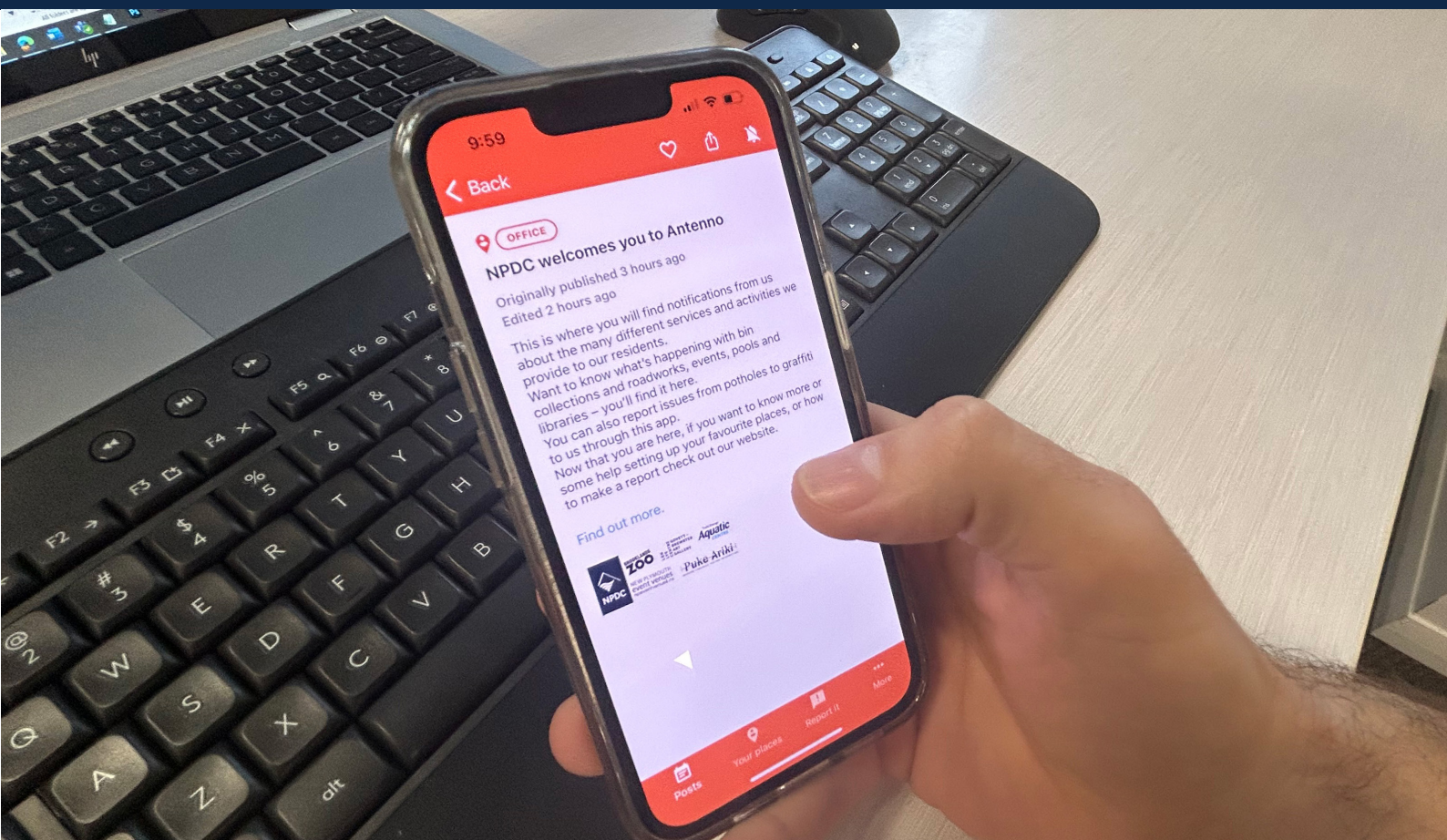
Writing to us: Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth

If a request will require a lot of staff time to research and compile, or a lot of information is required, the requester may be asked to pay some or all of the cost in advance. The Council always contacts requesters before a charge is incurred.

Sometimes the information requested cannot be released. When the Council decides to withhold information, the requester is provided with the reasons why. The reasons for withholding information are set out in the LGOIMA. The most common reasons for withholding information are to:

- Protect people's privacy.
- Enable the Council to carry out its commercial activities.
- Protect confidential or commercially sensitive information.
- Maintain legal privilege.

More information on NPDC's [LGOIMA Policy](#) and [Privacy Statement](#) can both be found on the Council's website.



Enquiries and complaints

Customer Enquiries

Phone: 06 759 6060 - the Customer Services Call Centre is open 24 hours, 7 days per week

Email: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

Visit: The Civic Centre, 84 Liardet Street, New Plymouth; or
Bell Block Library and Service Centre, 188 Parklands Avenue. New Plymouth
Inglewood Library and Service Centre, 46 Rata Street, Inglewood
Waitara Library and Service Centre, 17 Queen Street, Waitara

Antenno App

Keeping up to date on what's going on in your community has never been easier. The Antenno app sends notifications directly to your mobile device on a range of topics including rubbish and recycling reminders, road closures, water restrictions and events.

The app can also be used to report things that need fixing in your community or any other Council-related issues.

Simply download from the app store or google play to set up the app on your phone.

Useful links

Contact us: npdc.govt.nz/contact-us/

Report a problem: npdc.govt.nz/services/report-a-problem

Antenno: npdc.govt.nz/services/antenno/

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Appendix 1: NPDC Bylaws

Traffic, Parking and Stock Control Bylaw 2025

Adopted: June 2025

Amended: January 2026

Allows Council as a road controlling authority to regulate traffic, parking and stock control on the roads under its care, control, or management.

Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2025

Adopted: June 2025

Provides for the management of public places to balance the different, but sometimes competing, lawful uses for which public places may be used. The bylaw sets reasonable controls to protect the public from nuisance, protect promote and maintain health and safety, and minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in public places. It also regulates the use of signs and trading activities in public places.

Trade Waste Bylaw 2025

Adopted: June 2025

To protect public health and the security of the public wastewater system as well as protect the Council's investment in existing and future infrastructure, treatment plants and disposal facilities.

Dog Control Bylaw 2022

Adopted: March 2022

To give effect to the Council's Dog Control Policy by regulating the keeping of dogs for the protection of the health and safety of the public.

Alcohol Control Bylaw 2020

Adopted: December 2020

To prohibit, regulate or control the consumption or possession of alcohol in public places to reduce alcohol related harm.

Animals Bylaw 2020

Adopted: June 2020

To control the keeping of animals (including pigs, poultry, bees, livestock and cats) within the district to ensure they do not create a nuisance or endanger health to neighbours and other members of the public; and to regulate the slaughtering of animals to avoid causing nuisance or offence.

Fire and Smoke Nuisance Bylaw 2020

Adopted: June 2020

To protect the public from nuisance caused by smoke from fires and to maintain public health and safety (other than in relation to fire safety, which is governed by the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017).

Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2020

Adopted: April 2020

To facilitate the orderly, safe, and efficient management of cemeteries and crematoria under the control of the Council; and minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in cemeteries and crematoria under the control of the Council.

Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019

Adopted: September 2019

Amended appendix: September 2020

Amended: September 2024

To promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation in the New Plymouth District and ensure that waste collection and disposal does not have significant environmental or health impacts, by regulating recycling, ownership of the waste stream, waste storage, waste management and waste collection.

Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

Amended and readopted (five year review): November 2024

To regulate freedom camping in the district in order to protect local authority areas, the health and safety of people who may visit local authority areas and access to local authority areas.

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS 2010

Part 1: Introductory (Supplementary to Part 1 Introductory New Plymouth District Council Bylaw 2008)

Adopted: September 2010

Amended and readopted: September 2014

To provide consistency in interpretation of terms used in the bylaw and deals with some matters which are general to all parts of the bylaw.

Part 6: Beauty Therapy, Tattooing and Skin Piercing

Adopted: September 2010

Amended and readopted: November 2017

To promote and protect public health by requiring those persons and premises undertaking skin and body piercing; beauty therapy procedures and tattooing to comply with minimum standards which reduce the risk of injury, transference of communicable diseases and infections.

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS 2008

Part 1: Introductory

Adopted: 2008

Reviewed: September 2014

To provide consistency in interpretation of terms used in the bylaw and deals with some matters which are general to all parts of the bylaw.

Part 14: Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Services

To be reviewed under Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

Adopted: 2008

Amended and readopted: May 2021

To manage and regulate the Council's water supply, wastewater and stormwater drainage services and associated assets.

NEW PLYMOUTH CITY CONSOLIDATED BYLAW 1958

Part XXXVI: Airport (Amendment 3 1962)

Adopted: 1958

Reviewed: 1962

To enable the Council to restrict access to parts of the airport, charge fees, prevent obstructions, prohibit smoking, fires and damage to property, implement parking restrictions, erect signs and notices and manage sale and hireage of goods.

Appendix 2: Elected Member contact details

MAYOR MAX BROUGH

Email: max.brough@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 021 311 656

COUNCILLORS AT-LARGE

Murray Chong

(Deputy Mayor: 5 November 2025 to 30 April 2026 and 1 May to 31 October 2027)

Email: murray.chong@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 021 936 837

Sam Bennett

Email: sam.bennett@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 751 5100

David Bublitz

Email: david.bublitz@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 021 251 1870

Dinnie Moeahu

Email: dinnie.moeahu@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 021 146 2813

John Woodward

Email: john.woodward@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 260 7751

KAITAKE-NGĀMOTU GENERAL WARD COUNCILLORS

EJ Barrett

Email: ej.barrett@npdc.govt.nz

Gordon Brown

(Deputy Mayor: 1 November 2026 to 30 April 2027 and 1 May to 14 October 2028)

Email: gordon.brown@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 776 6277

Graham Chard

Email: graham.chard@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 220 4549

Damon Fox

Email: damon.fox@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 231 231

Moira George

(Deputy Mayor: 1 May to 31 October 2026 and 1 November 2027 to 30 April 2028)

Email: moira.george@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 021 944 809

Kerry Vosseler

Email: kerry.vosseler@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 027 201 2831



TE PURUTANGA MAURI PŪMANAWA - MĀORI WARD COUNCILLOR

Te Waka McLeod

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NORTH WARD COUNCILLOR

Gina Blackburn

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KŌHANGA MOA WARD COUNCILLOR

Christine Fabish

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CLIFTON COMMUNITY BOARD

Murray Seamark (Chair)

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Phone: 021 431 432

Tyla Nickson (Deputy Chair)

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Phone: 027 774 5257

Ian Cummings

Email: ian.cummings@npdc.govt.nz

Phone: 020 4002 0868

Teresa Hayston

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Phone: 027 253 3839

Gina Blackburn (Councillor)

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Phone: 027 926 5610

INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY BOARD

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Michael Self (Deputy Chair)

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Rebecca Dearden

Email: rebecca.dearden@npdc.govt.nz

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Greg Robinson

Email: greg.robinson@npdc.govt.nz

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Christine Fabish (Councillor)

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Phone: 021 525 8659

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Teresa Goodin (Deputy Chair)

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Phone: 027 454 3585

Ewen Darling

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Paul Lobb

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Kerry Vosseler (Councillor)

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Phone: 027 201 2831

PUKETAPU-BELL BLOCK COMMUNITY BOARD

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Lance Mepham

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Kim Sowman

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EJ Barrett (Councillor)

Email: ej.barrett@npdc.govt.nz

WAITARA COMMUNITY BOARD

Dale Michielsen (Chair)

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Joe Rauner (Deputy Chair)

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Phone: 06 754 8263

Trevor Dodunski

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Phone: 06 754 7157

Tiri Porter

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Te Waka McLeod (Councillor)

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Phone: 021 024 4617





Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

