

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING NO. CM25-2
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1484 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2025 AT 9.30AM**

1 KARAKIA

Whakatau mai te wairua
Whakawātea mai te hinengaro
Whakarite mai te tinana
Kia ea ai ngā mahi

Āe

Settle the spirit
Clear the mind
Prepare the body
To achieve what needs to be
achieved.
Yes

2 PRESENT

Cr M Murray-Benge (Chairperson), Cr G Dally, Cr T Coxhead, Mayor J Denyer, Cr M Grainger, Cr A Henry, Cr R Joyce, Cr L Rae, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Cr A Sole, Cr D Thwaites, Cr A Wichers, Ōmokoroa Community Board Chairperson C Dever, and Katikati Community Board Member N Mayo.

3 IN ATTENDANCE

M Taris (Interim Chief Executive Officer), R Davie (Deputy CEO/General Manager Strategy and Community), R Gallagher (Acting Policy and Planning Manager), J Crummer (Senior Recreational Planner), J Rickard (Community and Strategic Relationships Manager), S Cuers (Strategic Housing Programme Lead), L Carnie (Community Outcomes Advisor), T Mouldey (Community Outcomes Officer), V Lambert (Events Specialist), R Garrett (Governance Manager), H Wi Repa (Governance Systems Advisor), and E Logan (Governance Advisor).

ABSENT

Te Puke Community Board Chairperson K Ellis and Maketu Community Board Chairperson T Hopping.

4 APOLOGIES

4.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION CM25-2.1

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge
Seconded: Cr L Rae

That the apology absence from Cr D Thwaites, Cr A Henry, Waihi Beach Community Board Chairperson Simpson and Katikati Community Board Chairperson Clements be accepted.

CARRIED

5 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Nil

8 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

9 REPORTS

9.1 DELEGATION OF DECISION MAKING FOR 2025 – COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Community Outcomes Programme Coordinator, who provided a brief summary of the report.

RESOLUTION CM25-2.2

Moved: Cr M Grainger

Seconded: Ōmokoroa Community Board Chairperson C Dever

1. That the Community Outcomes Support Coordinator's report dated 25 June 2025 titled 'Delegation of Decision Making for 2025 – Community Matching Fund' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That pursuant to clause 32 schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Committee delegates to the following three councillors: Allan Sole, John Scrimgeour, and Tracey Coxhead, together with the Chief Executive Officer, or her nominee(s), the power to make decisions in respect of applications to the Community Matching Fund 2025, including but not limited to the following powers:

-
- (a) To award grants according to the purposes and guidelines of the Community Matching Fund 2025, within the allocated budget of \$160,000.
And
 - (b) To make payments to grant recipients as soon as practicable after the award decision have been made.

CARRIED

9.2 SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE FUND OUTCOMES AND FUTURE

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Community Outcomes Advisor, who provided an overview of the report and the rationale for the recommendations.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Council worked with the Kai Resilience Network which had small groups that operated across the entire district.
-

RESOLUTION CM25-2.3

Moved: Cr M Grainger

Seconded: Cr A Sole

1. That the Community Outcomes Advisor's report dated 25 June 2025 titled 'School Sustainability and Resilience Fund Outcomes and Future' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That the Community Committee agrees to discontinue the redirection of a portion of the Community Matching Fund – Environmental Fund budget to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Schools Sustainability and Resilience Fund.

CARRIED

9.3 SEA CLEANERS APPLICATION

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Community Outcomes Advisor, who provided an overview of the report and the rationale for the recommendations.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Council had clearly communicated to Sea Cleaners that, if approved by the committee, funding would be limited to one year. This allowed Sea Cleaners time to build the relationships and networks needed to operate in the district.
-

- If staff later determined that extended funding would benefit Council, the matter would be referred to Elected Members for a decision.
- As Sea Cleaners were unable to address the issue of waste alone, they were expected to collaborate with the community.
- Sea Cleaners were expected to dedicate 30% of its time to the Western Bay of Plenty District, reflecting its share of the region's coastline.
- The Bay of Plenty Regional Council managed areas below the high tide mark, while District Councils oversaw areas above it.

RESOLUTION CM25-2.4

Moved: Cr L Rae

Seconded: Cr A Sole

1. That the Community Outcomes Advisor report dated 25 June 2025 titled 'Sea Cleaners Application' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That the Community Committee agrees to fund Sea Cleaners Trust \$25,000 for one year to deliver a coastal, harbour and estuary litter clean up programme, with \$5000 provided from the existing Waste Levy budget and \$20,000 provided from the multi-agency environmental programmes budget.

CARRIED

9.4 COMMUNITY FORUMS EXPO OUTCOMES 2025

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Governance Advisor. The Deputy CEO/General Manager Strategy and Community provided an overview of the report and invited ward convenors to share insights from their respective Community Forum Expos.

The following tākupu were made by members:

- Members thanked staff for their efforts in organising each expo and noted the shift to an expo format had been well-received by the community.
 - Community Forum Expos proved to be an effective way to engage with residents, and members recommended retaining them in the next triennium.
 - Some members received feedback that the previous format was also appreciated by certain individuals.
 - It was suggested that information presented at each expo be uploaded to Your Place Tō wāhi.
 - The expos served as a valuable tool for both community consultation and sharing updates on ongoing projects.
-

RESOLUTION CM25-2.5

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr R Joyce

That the Governance Advisor's report dated 25 June 2025 titled 'Community Forum Expo Outcomes 2025' be received.

CARRIED

9.5 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – JUNE 2025

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Chairperson, who provided an overview of the report.

RESOLUTION CM25-2.6

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Katikati Community Board Member N Mayo

That Councillor Murray-Benge's report dated 25 June 2025 titled "Community Committee – Chairperson's Report – June 2025" be received.

CARRIED

10.12am The hui adjourned.

10.32am The hui reconvened.

10 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT**10.1 HOUSING ACTION PLAN 2024: PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Strategic Housing Programme Lead who introduced the report and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Council worked to meet statutory timelines under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), as missing these increased developer's' holding costs. Most of the time, Council successfully streamlined its processes to meet these timeframes, which was considered a highly desirable outcome.
 - Staff often relied on census data, resulting in information delays. However, they expected that the overall local housing trends had remained relatively stable since 2023.
-

- At the start of winter, 20 Degrees held its annual curtain, heater, and blanket drive.
 - Repurposing large appliances, particularly those from retirement villages, posed storage challenges before being passed to new owners. Staff encountered several logistical issues however were actively working on solutions.
 - Council had the capacity to upgrade the Te Āhuru Mōwai o Hiria elderly housing units in Katikati with platform lifts, and planned to install these as tenants moved in. Staff also implemented a placement strategy to ensure tenants with mobility needs were not assigned to upstairs units.
 - No further feasibility studies were required for whenua Māori housing developments across the district. Existing study details were sufficient for submitting Resource Consent Applications, though Central Government funding was still needed for infrastructure work.
-

10.2 FACILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY FUND 2024/25 DECISIONS

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Senior Recreational Planner. The report was taken as read.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Staff would look into tidying up the application process, particularly the confusion around eligibility.
- Staff would provide the Committee with the decision spreadsheet for the 2024/25 fund to provide members with a wider view.

The following tākupu were made by members:

- The fund's eligibility criteria had been unclear, and none of the received applications fully met the requirements. The panel removed those that clearly did not qualify, and considered those that came close.
 - The fund was financed through Financial Contributions (FinCos). Payments were made by developers to contribute to facilities that were used by the community but not provided by Council. The applications approved supported activities accessible to the public in some form.
 - It was essential that the eligibility criteria remained flexible enough to allow the fund to achieve its intended purpose.
-

10.3 COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Event Specialist, who provided an overview of the report.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Council assessed applications that came through for events in the Western Bay of Plenty District.
 - Few applications were received for events specifically targeting children; those that did apply were generally funded.
 - Staff explored ways to more proactively share Council's event-related expertise. They frequently attended events to promote available funding opportunities.
 - The funding criteria did not guarantee future funding for previous recipients, as the fund was not designed for that purpose. Council could not alter the criteria since it did not administer the fund.
 - Council covered Traffic Management Plan costs for select major events in the district.
-

10.4 PEST FREE PARKS UPDATE

The Committee considered a report dated 25 June 2025 from the Community Outcomes Advisor, who provided an overview of the report.

Staff responded to pātai as follows:

- Staff developed a methodology for short-term park prioritisation, though implementation had not yet begun.
 - Several parks were expected to have already achieved pest-free status.
 - The methodology included assessing neighbouring properties, particularly their biodiversity and weed presence.
-

The Meeting closed at 12.17pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record by Council on 24 July 2025.