Report 25.427

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 21 August 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.31am.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata (until 11.55am and from 12.11pm)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Staples participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of the Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Archdeacon Rev. Stephen King, Living Wage Movement, spoke to agenda item 9 – Living Wage Accreditation: Approval for Application and Milestone Plan.

Sherryn Arthur and Peter Glensor, Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata - The People Speak, spoke to agenda item 10 – Council's response to Porirua Citizens Assembly recommendations.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 26 June 2025 – Report 25.308

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Saw

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting of 26 June 2025 – Report 25.308.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 26 June 2025 – Report PE25.317

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Bassett

That the Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting of 26 June 2025 – Report PE25.317.

The motion was **carried**.

The Council Chair accorded priority to agenda item 9 Living Wage Accreditation: Approval for Application and Milestone Plan – Report 25.382 and agenda item 10 Council's response to Porirua Citizens Assembly recommendations – Report 25.395, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

6 Living Wage Accreditation: Approval for Application and Milestone Plan – Report 25.382

Kareena Harris, Senior Procurement Advisor – Living Wage/Social Procurement, and Hemi Kanji, Manager Procurement, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Ponter

That Council:

1 Notes the investigations detailed in the previous report (Living Wage Accreditation Update – Report 24.348) determined that suppliers, other than in public transport, engaged by Greater Wellington on contracts for services and falling within accreditation requirements are already paying Living Wage and as a consequence, Greater Wellington will not incur additional cost to initially 'uplift' payments to accommodate for payment of the Living Wage.

2 Notes that Living Wage payments associated with rail operator sub-contracts will not be factored into the rail operator contracts until 2031 and, therefore, the financial impact will be from 2031 onwards and will be higher due to the increase in Living Wage over time.

3 Notes the milestone plan aligns with contract retendering dates to enable the costs to be accommodated in the 2027/28 Long Term Plan funding requests and proposes that Greater Wellington will be paying Living Wage in all contracts by 2031.

4 Agrees to apply for accreditation with Living Wage Aotearoa to become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

5 Notes that should Greater Wellington not meet its agreed milestones and continue to pay the Living Wage, it will lose accreditation status resulting in reputational impact.

6 Agrees to consider in the 2026/27 Annual Plan process, in the context of other funding priorities in a constrained fiscal environment, funding an uplift for contractor and subcontractor employees not already receiving the living wage.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Council's response to Porirua Citizens Assembly recommendations – Report 25.395

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, and Ana Nicholls, Director Matauranga Taiao, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Duthie

That Council:

1 Acknowledges its support of the six recommendations of the Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate.

2 Notes the activities Greater Wellington is already undertaking which align to the assembly recommendations (Attachment 1).

3 Recommends that the key opportunities/programmes identified in paragraph 26 of this report should be considered by the incoming Council in the process of preparing the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

4 Agrees that a letter is prepared which provides a formal response from the Chair and Chief Executive, on behalf of Greater Wellington, to Helmut Modlik, on behalf of the Porirua Citizens Assembly, reflecting the decisions Council agrees to based on this report.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Local Water Done Well – Approval of the Water Services Delivery Plan – Report 25.372

Julie Knauf, Group Manager Corporate Services, and Amanda Cox, Programme Director Local Water Done Well, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That Council:

1 Notes that the joint Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) for the Wellington metropolitan area, as attached as Attachments 1 and 2 to this report:

a is based on the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) template and guidance including for financial modelling;

b has had input and development from a range of technical experts;

c has been the subject of robust legal and technical reviews;

d has been subject to independent financial and delivery model peer review;

e has used the best available information and includes detailed risk analysis;

f has been certified by the Chief Executive that it complies with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act) and that the information contained in the WSDP provided by Greater Wellington is true and accurate.

2 Adopts the joint Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) for the Wellington metropolitan area.

3 Notes that, following adoption by all five councils, the joint Water Service Delivery Plan will be submitted to the Secretary for Local Government (via the Department for Internal Affairs) on behalf of all five councils by the legislated deadline of 3 September 2025.

4 Notes the draft foundation documents presented with this report (Attachments 3 to 6) represent the collective direction to date and will continue to be developed further.

5 Endorses the draft Constitution (Attachment 3) noting that the draft Constitution will be approved by the Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) and then finalised for ratification by Council and partner organisations following the 2025 triennial local elections.

6 Endorses the draft terms for the Partners Agreement (Attachment 4) noting that the draft Agreement will be approved by the AOG and then finalised for ratification by Council and partner organisations following the 2025 triennial local elections.

7 Endorses the draft principles for the development of the Statement of Expectations (SOE) (Attachment 5) noting that the principles for the SOE will be finalised for ratification by Council and partner organisations following the 2025 triennial local elections, with the SOE to then be finalised and approved by the Partners' Committee.

8 Endorses the draft principles for assisting the Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (working name Metro Water) to develop a Customer Charter, (Attachment 6) noting that these principles will be finalised for ratification by Council and partner organisations following the 2025 triennial local elections, and will be incorporated into the final SOE to be implemented by Metro Water.

9 Notes that a number of matters of importance to Greater Wellington require further work and will continue to be advanced by Greater Wellington through the AOG and the process ahead.

10 Notes the 1 July 2025 version of the Memorandum of Intent (Attachment 7), which includes the updated Terms of Reference for the AOG, as approved by Council at the 26 June 2025 meeting.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 11.05am and resumed at 11.21am.

9 Waterloo Transit Oriented Development: Reference Design options analysis – Report 25.323

Emmet McElhatton, Manager Policy, Nathan Briggs, Manager Rail Assets, and Campbell Jensen, RCP Ltd, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Duthie

That Council:

1 Notes that as part of the Waterloo Transit Oriented Development project decision-making process, Council is being asked to determine the Reference Design option for the Waterloo Transit Oriented Development project.

2 Notes that five Reference Design options have been shortlisted for Council consideration:

a Option 1: 'Do nothing'

b Option 2: Upgraded underpass

c Option 3: Shortened underpass with pedestrian crossing

d Option 4: Long overpass

e Option 5: Short overpass (preferred option).

3 Notes that Option 5 is considered the best and most cost-effective option to deliver Council's agreed objectives (refer to Initiating Transit Oriented Development in the Wellington Region – Report 21.501 and Waterloo Priority Development Area – Report 24.131) for the transit-oriented development programme and thus take forward to business case and Go-to-Market phase.

4 Agrees to take Option 5 forward to full Reference Design and business casing.

5 Notes that Option 5 includes - aligned and upgraded platforms, underpass removed, new overpass providing access from Oxford Terrace to Cambridge Terrace, at-grade pedestrian crossing from Cambridge Terrace to Trafalgar Square, and two sets of new enclosed sheltered entries with compliant stairs and lifts for accessibility.

6 Notes that the Phase III project work has raised concerns about the long-term feasibility of retaining an underpass at Waterloo Station due to questions of integrity of the current infrastructure and likely environmental and regulatory compliance challenges associated with renewing or replacing the current underpass.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan 2025/26 – Report 25.354 [For Information]

Myfanwy Hill, Manager Environment Operations, and Glen Falconer, Team Leader Pest Animals spoke to the report.

Cr Ropata left at 11.55am at the conclusion of the above item.

11 Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill – Report 25.399

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, and Kathryn Malone, Principal Strategic Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

1 Approves its submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill (Attachment 1), subject to appropriate wording being included in the submission to emphasise the Council's opposition to the removal of the four well-beings from the Local Government Act 2002.

2 Delegates to the Council Chair authority to approve the substantive commentary regarding the four well-beings, and minor editorial changes for the purpose of finalising the submission.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Finance Update Report – June 2025 – Report 25.391 [For Information]

Ashwin Pai, Head of Finance, spoke to the report.

13 Submission on the Going for Housing Growth proposals – Report 25.397

Josh Patterson, Project Lead - Business Development Capacity Assessment & Future Development Strategy, and Jaine Lovell-Gadd, Head of Secretariat, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Connelly

That Council:

1 Approves the submission, provided in Attachment 1, responding to the Going for Housing Growth proposals.

2 Delegates to the Council Chair the ability to make minor editorial changes to the document prior to submission being finalised and sent.

The motion was **carried**.

Cr Ropata returned at 12.11pm during discussion of the above item.

14 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.339

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Saw

That Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025 – Report RPE25.312

Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility – Contract Update – Report RPE25.380

Chief Executive performance review for 2024/25 – Report RPE25.326

Chief Executive remuneration review for 2024/25 – Report RPE25.327

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific ground/s under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025 – Report RPE25.312	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
Information contained in these minutes relates to future rail and bus service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage,

necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (section 7(2)(i) of the Act). Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility – Contract Update – Report RPE25.380	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
Information contained in this report relates to future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (section 7(2)(i) of the Act). Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Chief Executive performance review for 2024/25 – Report RPE25.326	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
This report contains information relating to the current Chief Executive's performance agreement. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).
Chief Executive remuneration review for 2024/25 – Report RPE25.327	
Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	*Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution*
This report contains information relating to the current Chief Executive's remuneration review. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require,

which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 12.12pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: