



## Te Kārearea Agenda

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 July, 2020  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** Takahiwai Marae  
**Attendees:** Taipari Munro (Marae based hui)  
Cr Phil Halse (Chairperson Council Chambers)  
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai  
Gavin Benney  
Cr Ken Couper  
Cr Greg Innes  
Cr Anna Murphy  
Cr Carol Peters  
Cr Simon Reid  
Delaraine Armstrong  
Janelle Beazley  
Deborah Harding  
Merepeka Henley  
Sharon Kaipo  
Mike Kake  
Violet Gough-Sade

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact  
the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

<b>1. Open Meeting</b>	
<b>2. Karakia/Mihi</b>	
<b>3. Apologies</b>	
<b>4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)</b>	
<b>5. Previous Minutes</b>	
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<b>6. Reports:</b>	
6.1 Te Huinga, Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum and Maori Participation in Decision Making	11
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<b>8. General Business</b>	
<b>9. Closure of Meeting - Karakia</b>	

## ***Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum – Terms of Reference***

### **Membership**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Council based meetings: Councillor Phil Halse Marae based hui: Taipari Munro
<b>Members</b>	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai Councillors Gavin Benney, Ken Couper, Greg Innes, Anna Murphy, Carol Peters, Simon Reid Seven mandated hapū representatives Delaraine Armstrong, Janelle Beazley, Violet Gough-Sade, Deborah Harding, Merepeka Henley, Sharon Kaipo, Mike Kake
<b>Meetings</b>	Monthly to September 2020, alternating between Council Chambers and Marae based hui
<b>Quorum</b>	8 comprised of 4 councillor and 4 hapū members

### ***Preamble***

Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum was formed late in 2012 between Te Huinga (as advocates of the hapū of Whangarei) and Whangarei District Council. The desire to 'develop more robust partnership arrangements over time' was signaled in the agreement. This partnership Committee Represents an important step in that process. While the Purpose, Key Responsibilities and Delegations form the basis for the Terms of Reference to determine what the Committee will do, it is important that the respective principles of each of the Partners continue to underpin the relationship. The Statement of Principle for each of the Partners, as established in the foundation relationship agreement, is below.

### **Te Huinga Statement of Principles**

He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni (Declaration of Independence – 1835) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, 1840 provides the foundational doctrines of authority and partnership that are being sought after by the hapū of Whangārei as the relationship develops with the Whangārei District Council.

Te Huinga will work towards achieving the strategic intent.

#### ***Strategic Intent***

- Vision/Te Pae Tawhiti: 'Ma nga hapū ano nga hapū e korero' - 'Hapū self reliance and prosperity'
- Mission/Te Kaupapa: 'Achieving hapū aspirations through effective and enduring relationships'
- Whangārei - Māori Community Outcomes:
  - a A rohe with a vibrant Māori culture
  - b A Māori community, which is healthy and highly educated
  - c A society that protects and cares for all its members

- d A rohe with a flourishing Māori economy
- e A society that appreciates and cares for its natural environment
- Nga tikanga – Values
  - a Whanau – the extended family is the social unit that Māori identify with.
  - b Mana Hapū - Hapū are the cornerstone of the Māori community and identity.
  - c Mana Motuhake – self-determination, self-reliance and self-sustainability.
  - d Whakarite – Invest time and energy in building decision-making capacity and capability.
  - e Te Manawatoopu – Of one heart and mind. We are stronger working together.
  - f Kia maia – Providing leadership through courage.

### Whangārei District Council Statement of Principles

In order to improve and enhance relationships with Māori, Council acknowledge a strategic platform is required upon which to continue to build strong relationships. Council is committed to collaboration with Māori organisations within the District.

Council has a contribution to make towards Māori wellbeing, be it environmental, social, cultural/spiritual or economic. Additionally, further collaboration and relationship building processes with Crown agencies and other local territorial authorities will continue as all such organisations make up part of the many services that impact on Māori wellbeing.

Whangārei District Council wishes to engage with Māori hapū and to recognize the Treaty of Waitangi. The Local Government Act 2002 outlines the obligations of local authorities around the Treaty of Waitangi.

### Purpose

To enable the primary partners (Council and hapū of Whangārei) to work closely together to achieve the agreed vision 'He Whenua Rangatira - Whangārei, a district of prosperity, wellbeing and empowered communities' and mission 'Ka tūtuki te Kāwanatanga ā-rohe, ka puāwai hoki te kotahitanga me ōna tini kaupapa - Local Government that works through effective partnership and shared decisions to provide practical solutions'. Central to this is continued development of robust partnerships through learning conversations.

The Committee provides a platform for high level/strategic discussions and priority setting between the primary partners, with preference given to *kanohi ki te kanohi* (face-to-face) and preserving tikanga. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to;

- Identifying the cultural, economic, environmental, and social issues/decisions of Council that are significant for Māori<sup>1</sup> in the Whangareia District. (participation)
- Ensuring Council complies with statutory provisions that refer to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), including providing oversight of key processes and controls (assurance)
- To agree mutual strategic priorities (direction)

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<sup>1</sup> Māori in this context is defined as people that affiliate to a whanau, hapū, Iwi, mana whenua groups

## Key responsibilities

- Participation
  - Develop pathways (and processes) that will achieve lasting and meaningful relationships between Māori and Council.
  - Ensure the views of Māori are taken into account.
  - Recommend ways to develop Māori capacity to contribute to decision making processes
  - Recommend ways to develop Council capacity for He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi
  - Provide for equitable participation
- Direction
  - Provide advice on topics referred by Council and Māori
  - Provide advice and recommendations on key strategic policies, plans and projects of Council, including but not limited to growth strategies, the Long Term Plan and the District Plan
  - Identify matters of significance to Māori that may require joint positions/advocacy with external agencies (i.e. co-governance) or recommendations to Council
  - Identifying joint/agreed strategic priorities of the partners, along with the mechanisms for implementation
  - Monitor progress of each partner on strategic priorities
  - Recommend to Council the name for a new Standing Committee
- Assurance
  - Monitor and advise on council's compliance with its legislative obligations to Māori, including under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991.
  - Receive and consider audit reports on Council's compliance with its legislative obligations
  - Monitor and ensure that appropriate action is being taken
  - Monitor and assess the primary partner relationship against its vision and mission
  - Monitoring compliance with statutory provisions that refer to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), including providing oversight of key processes and controls





## Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, 23 June, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
 Forum North, Rust Avenue  
 Whangarei

**In Attendance**  
 Cr Phil Halse (Chairperson Council Chambers)  
 Taipari Munro (Chairperson - Marae based hui)  
 Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai  
 Cr Gavin Benney  
 Cr Ken Couper  
 Cr Greg Innes  
 Cr Anna Murphy  
 Cr Simon Reid  
 Delaraine Armstrong  
 Janelle Beazley  
 Deborah Harding  
 Merepeka Henley  
 Sharon Kaipo  
 Mike Kake

**Not in Attendance**  
 Cr Carol Peters  
 Violet Gough-Sade

**Scribe**  
 Nicolene Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

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**Also present:** Cr Vince Cocurullo, Cr Nicholas Connop, Aoranga Kawiti, Aperahama Edwards (Manager Maori Relationships), John Isles (Independent Chairperson Risk and Audit Committee), Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy), Alison Geddes (General Manager Planning and Development), Tracey Schiebli (Manager Democracy and Assurance), Murray McDonald (Manager RMA Consents), Melissa McGrath (Manager District Plan), Merryn Statham (Consultation Advisor).

1. **Open Meeting** – Cr Phil Halse and Taipari Munro
2. **Karakia/Mihi** – Aperahama Edwards
3. **Apologies**

Cr Carol Peters and Violet Gough-Sade.

**Moved By** Cr Greg Innes  
**Seconded By** Cr Ken Couper

That the apologies be sustained.

**Carried**

**4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)**

**5. Reports:**

**5.1 Inaugural Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum**

**Moved By** Cr Greg Innes  
**Seconded By** Cr Ken Couper

That the Partnership Forum note the report.

**Carried**

Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy) provided a presentation to the meeting. The challenge is to start korero on what strategic looks like and how to align priorities as a collective.

Melissa McGrath (Manager District Plan) provided the meeting with an overview of the regulatory framework that Council is subject to in terms of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the rolling review of the District Plan.

Cr Innes stated that a lot of influence can be exercised by being proactive in how we approach things. Hapū have to be proactive in this space and the way to do this is through Hapū Environmental Management Plans which must be given effect to. Eighty percent of hapū have put together or considered Hapū Environmental Management Plans, forty percent said that these were ineffective, primarily because of lack of capacity.

Melissa McGrath replied that they could be more effective, the ones that we currently have range in nature, it is difficult to balance the issues. Council planners do their best to interpret Hapū Environmental Management Plans but rely on hapū to direct and be the experts.

Aoranga Kawiti stated that strategic engagement needs to occur early on in the review process.

Melissa McGrath replied that council planners do try to bring the District Plan changes to hapū as early as possible but there has to be some drafting done in order to present something to hapū, it is a moving process and things shift and change.

Delaraine Armstrong stated that the capacity and funding provided for hapū engagement is insignificant. NRC provide funding of \$5000 to hapū to prepare Hapū Environmental Management Plans. This amount of funding will not produce a



substantial document. Hapū do not have the resourcing to engage but Te Huinga would like to look at this again in order to find ways for hapū to participate in this process.

Cr Halse stated that for hapū to build capacity, Te Huinga must look at what capacity is needed and this must be put into the Long Term Plan.

Her Worship the Mayor stated that if we want Te Huinga to think like Councillors, Councillors need to think like Māori. She expressed an interest in the future plan changes, particularly the Tangata Whenua / Mana Whenua Plan Change and queried the progress of the RMA Fast Track Bill.

Melissa McGrath advised that council planners have started thinking about the Tangata Whenua / Mana Whenua Plan Change, this is going to be a big piece of work and council planners would like to start off the process with discussion about the best way to approach this and what would work best for all sides. The RMA Fast Track Bill has come out. Melissa McGrath and Murray McDonald (Manager RMA Consents) have reviewed the bill and have submitted a submission outlining their concerns. One of the concerns is that the legislation refers only to iwi authorities, this needs to come down to include hapū. Other concerns raised in the submission is that this legislation bypasses the District Plan and that managing the process raises capacity issues for council.

Dominic Kula provided the meeting with an overview of the upcoming Long Term Plan (LTP) process.

Merepeka Henley requested feedback on the submission that's she had made on funding of Community Halls by Council.

Dominic Kula replied that Council has considered the broader definition of Community Halls, but increased funding has not been considered as this will form part of the LTP.

Cr Murphy advised that Council voted to enlarge the definition of Community Halls to consider other types of facilities and this has been changed to the Community Facilities Fund to allow for other facilities to apply for funding and support through the LTP.

Te Huinga provided a presentation to the meeting. Deborah Harding stated that this presentation is about who Te Huinga are and want to be, and what Te Huinga brings to the table.

Taipari Munro spoke to Te Huinga's presentation explaining the vision and mission of Te Huinga. Te Huinga's vision is to ensure that hapū are self reliant and prosperous. The Huinga's vision is to advocate and advance hapū aspirations. Hapū in the North do not have the same tribal make up as hapū in the South. In the North, hapū are more autonomous. All Māori hapū in the Whangarei District have the right to be represented by Te Huinga, working together as tribes, not in isolation. The

concerns of Māori must be balanced with the concerns of other members of the Whangarei district.

Mike Kake spoke to Te Huinga's presentation and went through the intended hapū outcomes. He stated to achieve these outcomes, resources are needed.

Deborah Harding stated that although there is a difference in world views, both views need to come together. Te Huinga needs the backing of their marae and Council needs the backing of their communities.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that as Elected Members they get feedback from Māori that Te Huinga do not represent them. Could this be explained?

Taipari Munro explained that Te Huinga's position has always been that any Whangarei hapū can become a member of Te Huinga, this is strongly encouraged. However, there are some hapū that prefer to approach Council directly.

Delaraine Armstrong acknowledged the independence of hapū but also recognised the need for interdependence. All hapū are welcome to come to Te Huinga but they also have a right to come direct to Council. Where action is required, hapū often come to Te Huinga as a working way forward.

Merepeka Henley stated that Te Huinga have always had an open door policy but they respect that independent hapū may want to act autonomously from Te Huinga.

Delaraine Armstrong stated that recently there was example of a group who were invited but did not wish to come to Te Huinga. This group approached Council which was viewed as derisive, these things are difficult to manage.

Cr Halse acknowledged Te Huinga's presentation as a good way to document what Te Huinga stand for, for the whole community to understand.

Cr Couper asked about people who are not affiliated to hapū and who have no ability to organise themselves, is there a way to reach out to these people?

Taipari Munro replied that Te Huinga must consider tribes that are from outside of the district because if Māori issues come up, these people need Māori support and cannot sit on the outside. Te Huinga are working through how to respond to these people.

Taipari Munro advised that at Te Huinga Level, they represent their hapū but at a Te Karearea level they have to represent the whole district.

Delaraine Armstrong acknowledged that Council has recognised the need for Māori participation.

## **6. General Business**

Her Worship the Mayor stated that she would like to base Te Karearea's workstreams on the tikanga and principles in the Tane Whakapiripiri report. At some

stage we will have to agree to have a collective discussion on our relationship with iwi and where we stand on this.

Cr Innes stated that our relationship with NRC is also important, it is about more than RMA processes, we can be proactive and influence, he would like to see an incentivised approach and collectively we can provide strength.

Cr Benney stated that he is looking forward to diving deeper into the issues.

Cr Halse stated that we need to find understanding in order to find a way to navigate clear path going forward. The co-chairpersons will meet to plan the next agenda and get some action points in place.

Deborah Harding asked whether the Te Karearea working group will be continuing? Cr Halse confirmed that this group would continue for a few more meetings.

## **7. Closure of Meeting – Karakia**

The meeting concluded at Aperahama Edwards – 14.58pm.



## 6.1 Te Huinga, Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum and Māori Participation in Decision Making

**Meeting:** Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum  
**Date of meeting:** 22 July 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy)

### 1 Purpose

For the Chairs to provide background on, and facilitate understanding of, Te Huinga, Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum and discussions around Māori Participation in decision making in this term of Council.

### 2 Recommendations

That Te Kārearea:

- a) Notes the report
- b) Notes the meeting schedule for Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum as outlined under section 4.4.
- c) Notes the Chairpersons' will amend or add to the meeting schedule if required.

### 3 Background

Councils are required under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making. This has taken a number of different forms across the Country.

In Whangārei Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum was formed late in 2012 between Te Huinga (as advocates of the hapū of Whangarei) and Whangarei District Council (WDC). The desire to 'develop more robust partnership arrangements over time' was signaled in the agreement, which was superseded by a Strategic Relationship Agreement in 2014.

Since that time different representation and relationship structures have been in place alongside Te Kārearea. These have included advisory representation on committees and a strategic alliance between Te Kārearea and the Northland Regional Council's Te Tai Tokerau Māori and Council (TTMAC) Working Party.

Since the beginning of this term (October 2019) there has been extensive korero between hapū and Council around how to build on the relationship. A key theme has been a desire to be more strategic, with the potential for a Standing Committee of Council also being highlighted.

In May 2020, following delays as a result of COVID-19, Council resolved to 'establish Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum from June 2020 - September 2020 in order to bed in a new way of working, and test Terms of Reference'. In doing so it 'noted that Terms of Reference will be reviewed and reported back to Council along with the procedure for establishment of the Standing Committee in September 2020'.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Te Huinga

Te Huinga is a collective forum of hapū that is committed to working together in the strong belief that so much more can be achieved together than working in isolation.

Te Huinga seeks to play a significant part in advocating and advancing the interests of the hapū and the people of Whangarei. Te Huinga members focus individually and collectively to:

- a) Promote discussion and debate issues significant to hapū.
- b) Advocate strongly for hapū at the decision making table.
- c) Influence decision making through the hapū world view.
- d) Implement the agreed Te Huinga priorities through to completion.
- e) Support key hapū initiatives.

As Te Huinga made up of hapū representatives from throughout the Whangarei District Council rohe each hapū has historically had hui to determine membership. Through this process a member was selected to represent their hapū and mandated either by way of the hapū hui, marae hui or Trust Board hui. An alternate was also chosen.

From a meeting of Te Huinga, and after considerable discussion, Te Huinga then nominated the eight hapū representatives to represent all Māori within the rohe at Te Kārearea. Given that Council resolved to continue with Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum through to September 2020 membership of Te Kārearea has continued as:

Taipari Munro, Mike Kake, Delaraine Armstrong, Deborah Harding, Sharon Kaipō, Violet Gough-Sade, Merepeka Henley and Janelle Beazley.

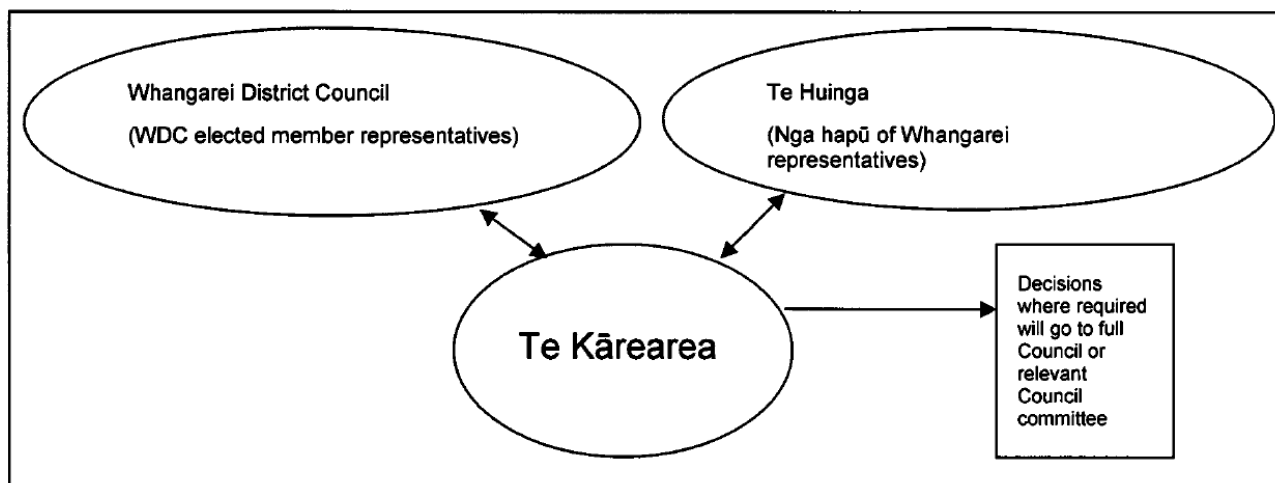
These representatives will be in place until the next process of hapū mandating is completed in September 2020 (discussed below)

### 4.2 Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum

Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership is a dedicated Forum in which the partners (Council and hapū of Whangārei) work closely together to achieve the agreed vision 'He Whenua Rangatira - Whangārei, a district of prosperity, wellbeing and empowered communities' and mission 'Ka tūtuki te Kāwanatanga ā-rohe, ka puāwai hoki te kotahitanga me ōna tini kaupapa - Local Government that works through effective partnership and shared decisions to provide practical solutions'.

Central to this kaupapa is continued development of robust partnerships through learning conversations. The Committee provides a platform for high level/strategic discussions and priority setting between the primary partners, with preference given to *kanohi ki te kanohi* (face-to-face) and preserving tikanga.

The following diagram, taken from the 2014 relationship agreement, provides an overview of how the Partnership has historically worked:



### 4.3 Māori participation in decision making

Immediately following the 2019 election (08 November 2019) a hui was held between councillors and hapū. The hui identified a desire from both parties for the Partnership to be more strategic. While not a decision-making forum, participants also indicated initial support for Te Kārearea becoming a Standing Committee of Council.

Following the hui each of the Partners worked through the potential for Te Kārearea to become a Standing Committee of Council. Further workshops and public Briefings were then held to work through draft terms of reference, alongside other options for Māori participation in decision making.

At a February 2020 Briefing a Working Group of hapū representatives and councillors (Deborah Harding, Merepeka Henley, Delaraine Armstrong and Councillors Halse, Couper and Reid) was formed to find a path forward and present a recommendation to the March 2020 Council meeting.

The Working Group met twice before informally reporting its recommendations back to Council (via a further workshop on 11 March 2020) and Te Huinga. Its recommendation was then presented to the Council meeting of 26 March 2020 for a decision. However, the meeting of 26 March was cancelled due to the announcement of COVID-19 Alert Level 4

Having met to work through the implications of COVID-19 the Working Group took its recommendations back to Council on 28 May 2020. At that meeting Council established Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum from June 2020 - September 2020, noting that Terms of Reference will be reviewed and reported back to Council, along with the procedure for establishment of the Standing Committee, in September 2020. An understanding of collective strategic priorities will be fundamental to identifying areas of focus (and potential delegations) for the Terms of Reference.

The first hui of Te Kārearea on 22 July 2020 therefore provided an opportunity for the Partners to work through their aspirations, and start the discussion of 'what strategic looks like'. At that meeting there was discussion of key processes and mechanisms where hapū and Council could work together to implement strategic outcomes including through:

- Resource Management Act 1991 processes.
- The Long Term Plan.
- Implementation of Tane Whakapiripiri..

Alongside the above Te Huinga have been working through a hapū process for consultation and mandating through to September 2020. Te Huinga will provide an overview of the proposed process at this meeting.

#### 4.4 Meeting Schedule

During the previous term the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum met on the third Wednesday of the month and alternated monthly meetings between Council Chambers and Marae.

It is recommended that where possible the Forum follow the same format going forward. The proposed meeting dates for 2020 are:

Time	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
9am	<b>23</b> Council Chamber	<b>22</b> Marae	<b>19</b> Council Chamber	<b>17</b> Marae	<b>21</b> Council Chamber	<b>19</b> Marae	<b>9</b> Council Chamber

Of note is that the June and July meetings have already been held/scheduled and dates for Oct – Dec (shaded grey) are placeholders pending a decision from Council in September.

Previous experience has also shown that amendments to the meeting schedule are inevitable. The Forum is asked to note the Chair's have the ability to amend or add to the schedule when necessary.