

Council Briefing Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 20 May, 2025

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue

Elected Members: His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

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

1. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai
2. Reports / Ngā Ripoata
 - 2.1 Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee –
Review of Committee Terms of Reference 2023-2025 3
3. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

2.1 Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee – Review of Committee Terms of Reference 2023-2025

Meeting:	Council Briefing
Date of meeting:	20 May 2025
Reporting officer:	Mark Scott (Manager, Māori Outcomes) Aaron Taikato (General Manager, Strategy and Democracy)

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To provide a progress report for the working group established by Council to review the Terms of Reference of the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee.

2 Background / Horopaki

In February, Council endorsed the establishment of a working group to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee (Te Kārearea). Now in its second term as a standing committee within Council's governance structure, Te Kārearea continues to operate under a ToR largely carried over from its first term (2020–2023)—a document that was developed without co-design with tangata whenua. As a result, the current ToR has been increasingly scrutinised for:

- Narrowly aligning Te Kārearea's scope to Council-determined priorities;
- Lacking clarity in the definition of the Committee's key responsibilities; and
- Falling short in supporting the partnership intent.

The formation of the working group is a direct response to longstanding aspirations from Whangārei hapū for stronger, more equitable representation and a meaningful role in Council's governance arrangements. While Te Kārearea has evolved from early relational engagement into a formal standing committee, hapū have consistently advocated for delegated decision-making powers and clearer pathways for participation in policy development and planning processes.

3 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

The working group met twice over March and April. At its first meeting in March, the group confirmed the review timeline and identified key challenges across both governance and operations that affect Te Kārearea's ability to function effectively as a committee.

At the April meeting, the group focused on reviewing the *Purpose* and *Key Responsibilities* sections of the Terms of Reference. It was agreed that the current version lacks clarity and direction for both governance and operations. The group emphasised that a well-defined purpose is critical, as it will shape and inform the Committee's responsibilities.

To address this, the working group agreed that the Committee's purpose should be succinct, strategic, and aligned with Council's wider governance structure. By distilling the current, concept-heavy purpose into a clear and coherent statement, this will support:

- Better alignment between purpose and key responsibilities; and
- More structured and effective engagement with other Council committees.

3.1 Matters of Significance to Māori

In mid-2022, the Council adopted a revised understanding of what constitutes a "matter of significance to Māori." This shift aligned more closely with hapū and iwi worldviews, recognising that all activities occurring within tribal boundaries—effectively the entire district—are of significance to Māori.

The working group found that the current Terms of Reference limit the Committee's strategic autonomy by:

- Lacking a clear articulation of what constitutes significance to Māori; and
- Presenting a disjointed and inconsistent list of key responsibilities that are not meaningfully connected to that significance.

This broader interpretation has substantial structural implications. If all Council matters are considered significant to Māori, then Te Kārearea's scope mirrors that of the full Council. This creates a scenario where:

- Te Kārearea is positioned, in effect, as a "second Council"; and
- Tensions arise within the governance and operational systems, as New Zealand's local government model is not designed to support dual governance structures operating over the same scope.

3.2 Committee Capacity

Acknowledging that the full spectrum of Council activity is significant to Māori introduces a substantial capacity challenge for Te Kārearea. While this recognition is essential, it also requires that appropriate mechanisms be established to ensure engagement remains feasible and effective within the Committee's limited meeting schedule and resources.

In March 2024, Council took a step toward addressing this issue by approving changes to the Terms of Reference that increased Te Kārearea's meeting frequency from bimonthly to monthly.

The working group has since been briefed on additional mechanisms to help address the capacity challenge, including:

- A *priority works matrix*, to help identify, triage, and schedule matters for Te Kārearea in a manageable way; and
- *Structured pathways for hapū participation* across all Council standing committees, such as the hapū appointed members to Te Kārearea and/or the appointment of hapū-nominated members with relevant subject matter expertise.

3.3 Decision-making Powers

A longstanding issue for Whangārei Hapū and hapū members appointed to Te Kārearea that despite Te Kārearea being tasked with reviewing matters of high strategic and cultural significance, for two terms it has only been afforded advisory powers—unlike other standing committees of Council, which have delegated decision-making authority within their specialist areas.

Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) allows councils to establish committees and delegate to them any responsibilities, duties, or powers—except those specifically reserved to the Council under Clause 32(1) (e.g., adopting the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, or bylaws). Clause 31(4)(a) requires that any committee with delegated authority must include at least one elected member. Te Kārearea, with equal representation of elected and hapū-appointed members, meets this requirement.

With Te Kārearea's scope now corrected and aligning with that of the full Council, a key structural challenge arises: which areas of Council business should be led by Te Kārearea? Without clear delineation, Council risks duplicating its governance functions—effectively creating the perception of “two Councils” and adding pressure to resources, clarity, and efficiency.

To address this, the review will need to explore:

- Which areas of Council business are most appropriately led by Te Kārearea;
- How Operations are guided in progressing items to Te Kārearea; and
- Clear processes for referring matters between committees.

Delegations:

In the first meeting an inference was noted regarding the delegations being contradictory to a standing committee with only advisory powers. Council officers cannot find a single time this term when an item was presented that required approval for any financial expenditure which is consistent for a standing committee with only advisory powers. When the matter of “decision-making powers” is resolved in the review, the review will need to also address accordingly delegations for Te Kārearea.

3.4 Navigating the Political Environment to Support Te Kārearea's Ongoing Role

The enduring role of Te Kārearea within Council's governance structure is influenced not only by structural considerations, but also by the political climate in which it operates. While its establishment reflects a commitment to genuine partnership with tangata whenua, the continuation and evolution of this role requires sustained political support across election cycles and shifting priorities.

To navigate this environment, the review will need to articulate:

- The benefits of Māori-Council strategic-partnership for community outcomes, policy quality, and local democracy;
- An alignment of Te Kārearea's purpose with Council's broader objectives to demonstrate shared goals;
- Transparent performance measures and regular reporting to build trust and accountability;
- How to strengthen capability to support strategic partnership-based governance approaches; and

- How cross-Council understanding of the role tangata whenua play in local decision-making and planning.

By taking a systems-based approach and continuing to normalise the place of tangata whenua in governance, Council can help ensure Te Kārearea is not dependent on any one political term or leadership style, but instead becomes an enduring feature of its governance architecture.

3.5 Risks

The critical risk to the working group's assignment is the restricted timeframe. This relates to Council's inability to make material decisions three months prior to the local elections on 11th October 2025. Officers continue to work with the working group to expediate outputs emphasising the intent to meet the final due date for adoption by Council on 26 June 2025.

4 Financial/budget considerations / Ngā pānga pūtea/tahua

The working group has been established on a voluntary basis and holds no material financial changes to the forecasted budget for Te Kārearea.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

6 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Te Kārearea Terms of Reference Working Group Meeting Minutes 19 March 2025

Te Kārearea Terms of Reference Draft version 1 (tracked changes)

Te Kārearea Terms of Reference Working Group Meeting Minutes 3 April 2025 Minutes

Te Kārearea Terms of Reference Draft version 2 (tracked changes)

MINUTES – TE KAREAREA TERMS OF REFERENCE WORKING GROUP MEETING

Date and time	Wednesday 19 th March 2025, 02:15 pm
Location	Hui Rua Committee Room – WDC Office, Te Iwitahi
Attendees	Cr. Deb Harding, Cr. Phil Halse, HWM Vince Cocurullo, Tame Te Rangi, Aaron Taikato, Mark Scott, Angelina Marshall, Delaraine Armstrong, Hohipere Williams
Apologies	

	Agenda Item	Lead
	Karakia/Mihimihi	Deb
1.	Confirmation of Code of Conduct	Aaron
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified that Code of Conduct applies to this working group. A Copy was sent to everyone via email yesterday for reference. 	
2.	TOR scope for review; Understand and confirm we are able to meet our Scope and Key Responsibilities. Categorise the Current TOR for review	Deb/Aaron
	<p>Induction for Hapu Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the need for induction so hapu members can quickly get up to speed with the lingo and standard operating procedures. <p>Timeline for TOR Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim to get revised TOR to the 26th of June Council meeting – TORs would need to be ready by end of May to meet agenda deadlines. Take TOR to Te Huinga at the start of June. Take as agenda item to Te Karearea Marae based Hui on the 16th of April <p>Alternate Tenure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An alternate tenure to council would be preferable. TK term to end 30th of March. Would help to avoid gaps when new Council is inducted. <p>Redefine Purpose:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see how we demonstrate and measure shared decisions and other key aspects. <p>Delegations and Decision Making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify how delegations relate to decision making. • The current TOR is missing the step where the committee contributes to decision making. • Acknowledged that TK is not a Committee of the Whole so does not have decision making delegations. • TK does have the power to make recommendations to Council – need to build confidence in committee to put recommendations forward. • Script in TOR needs to be strong enough to build this confidence within the committee. <p>Scope of Work/Equitable Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently unclear what TK advises or provides deep-level discussion on in comparison to other committees with a more defined scope of work. • Unclear the connection between operations and the committee • Proposal of a Matrix: Run through Council's entire portfolio of works and categorise based on importance/value. These indications then trigger what items to engage on. Similar to Risk Matrix but more external focused. • Noted Councillors have access to all committee meetings, Hapū do not. • Hapū placement across other committees is another option for equitable participation. • Need to set up TOR that are clear and can be transferred each time a new council comes in if they decide to reinstate the committee. • Current TOR are not as clear as the TOR for other committees. • TK should be funded to the same level as other committees. <p>Disconnect in Consents Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted there is a disconnect between RMA consents process and getting consent from Hapū. • Applicants are not being notified at time of applying that this will be needed and lack of Hapū resourcing is holding up consents. • Queried if the TK TOR is the appropriate place to address this problem. <p>Mission and Vision:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to keep the effective partnerships, shared vision and aligned goals. • Need to ensure measurable results. • Need clarity on what TK is and what its intended outcomes are. • Purpose and shared vision should replace mission. • Need aligned goals, measurable results in the Key responsibilities. • Is there a need to add wording to specify how hapu membership is appointed across the district – This is a Te Huinga mandated process. 	
3.	Action List: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Everyone to go through current TOR and make their own tracked change document to bring and discuss at next meeting. » Draft up an engagement Matrix » Next meeting confirmed for 3rd of April 9:30am – 11am. » Schedule briefings for decision dates » Draft agenda update including proposed timeline for marae-based meeting 16 April 	<p>Everyone</p> <p>Aaron/Mark</p> <p>Everyone</p> <p>Aaron/Mark</p> <p>Mark</p>

Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee – Terms of Reference

Membership

Chairperson	Council based meetings: Deb Harding Marae based hui: to be determined from mandated hapū members*
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Phil Halse
Members	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Councillors, Nicholas Connop, Patrick Holmes, Carol Peters Simon Reid and Phoenix Ruka Eight mandated hapū representatives: Delariane Armstrong, Len Bristowe, Sandra Hawken, Simon Mitchell, Tame Te Rangi, Sean Walters, Nicki Wakefield and Hohipere William
Meetings	Monthly
Quorum	8 comprised of 4 councillor and 4 hapū members

Note: Marae based hui will be held bimonthly and held in accordance with Tikanga and as such are outside of Standing Orders adopted under the Local Government Act 2002.

Purpose

To enable the primary partners (Council and hapū of Whangārei) to work closely together to achieve the agreed vision:

To oversee and enhance the strategic partnership between Council and Whangārei Hapū, ensuring tangata whenua have meaningful input into decision-making, reflecting that all matters within the Whangārei District are of significance to tangata whenua.

'He Whenua Rangatira—Whangārei, a district of prosperity, wellbeing and empowered communities' and

Agreed 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.

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 Māori¹ and the community in the Whangārei District. (Participation)*
- *Ensuring Council complies with statutory provisions that refer to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi).*
- *To agree mutual strategic priorities as and when required (Direction)*

Key responsibilities—advice and recommendations

• Strategic Partnership & Decision-Making

- *Facilitate and strengthen the partnership between Whangārei District Council and hapū.*
- *Ensure Māori perspectives, tikanga, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles are integrated into Council decision-making.*
- *Provide a forum for high-level, strategic discussions and joint priority setting.*

• Statutory Compliance & Treaty Obligations

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- Ensure Council meets its obligations to Māori under the **Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)**, the **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)**, or any other Act.
- Monitor and advise on Council's compliance with statutory responsibilities relating to Māori interests and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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• **Policy & Planning Integration**

- Provide guidance on policies, plans, and projects to ensure they reflect Māori values and aspirations.
- Identify and assess the impact of Council decisions on Māori communities, taonga, and whenua.
- Support the development of Te Ao Māori frameworks and cultural competency within Council processes.

• **Resource Management & Environmental Stewardship**

- Ensure Māori perspectives are embedded in resource management decisions under the RMA.
- Advocate for the protection and sustainable management of whenua, awa, moana, and taonga tuku iho.
- Support Council in upholding kaitiakitanga responsibilities alongside mana whenua, hapū and iwi.

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• **Community Engagement & Capacity Building**

- Promote kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) engagement between Council and mana whenua, hapū and iwi.
- Support initiatives that enhance Māori participation in local government.
- Advocate for resourcing to enable hapū to participate effectively in Council processes.

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• **Monitoring & Reporting**

- Review and monitor Council's performance in relation to Māori outcomes and engagement.
- Provide recommendations on improving Council's responsiveness to Māori.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of agreed partnership priorities.

• **Participation**

- Develop pathways (and processes) that will achieve lasting and meaningful relationships between Māori and Council.
- Ensure the views of Māori and the community are equally considered

¹ Māori in this context is defined as people that affiliate to a whanau, hapū, iwi, mana whenua groups



- ◉ ~~Governance oversight of initiatives – To Karearea budget and resourcing to build capacity (both Council and Māori) and deliver on the Terms of Reference~~
- ◉ ~~Ensure equitable participation, by adequately resourcing hapu to engage, e.g., paid hapu reps for all Council related mahi, hui, etc~~
- ◉ ~~Ensure that Marae hui are open to the public~~
- ◆ ~~Direction~~
- ◉ ~~Identify strategic priorities to address the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.~~
- ◉ ~~Provide guidance and advocacy on protection of “nga taonga tuku iho” (special and natural indigenous resources) impacted by the Wildlife Act and Conservation Act.~~
- ◉ ~~Prepare and provide agenda items in a timely manner on topics referred by Council and Māori~~
- ◉ ~~Provide recommendations on harbour and waterway matters (within the jurisdiction of WDC)~~
- ◉ ~~Provide advice and recommendations on Three Waters and flood protection infrastructure~~
- ◉ ~~Provide oversight and advice on central government reform initiatives relating to strategic priorities of the partnership~~
- ◉ ~~Provide advice to council to manage the allocation of the “Better Off funding”.~~
- ◉ ~~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 Annual and District Plan~~
- ◉ ~~Information sharing / discussions on Treaty Settlement processes and potential partnership opportunities (where appropriate)~~
- ◉ ~~Identify matters of significance to Māori that may require joint positions/advocacy with external agencies (i.e. partnerships) or recommendations to Council.~~
- ◆ ~~Assurance~~
- ◉ ~~Develop a workplan and strategy log to monitor input to, and decision making/progress on, strategic priorities identified by the Committee~~
- ◉ ~~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 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.~~

Key Responsibilities

- 1) ~~Establishing Audit Processes for statutory provisions relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi).~~

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~~2) Establishing Council processes and templates for Mana-whakahono ā-rohe Agreements and Iwi/Hapu Environmental Management Plans~~

~~—Developing a Te Ao-Maori framework for decision-making~~

~~3) Developing collaborative relationships on strategic priorities/areas of focus.~~

• Delegations

- The approval of financial expenditure of less than \$1 million, plus GST.

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- **The Committee does not have:**

~~III~~.I. The power to appoint members (including external members).

~~IV~~.II. The power to establish sub-committees.

~~V~~.III. The powers Council is expressly prohibited from delegating as outlined in Clause 32(1)(a)-(h) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; being:

- the power to make a rate
- the power to make a bylaw
- the power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan
- the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report
- the power to appoint a chief executive
- the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement
- the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.

MINUTES – TE KAREAREA TERMS OF REFERENCE WORKING GROUP MEETING

Date and time	Thursday 03 rd April 2025, 01:00 pm
Location	Hui Rua Committee Room – WDC Office, Te Iwitahi
Attendees	Cr. Deb Harding, Cr. Phil Halse, HWM Vince Cocurullo, Aaron Taikato, Mark Scott, Angelina Marshall, Delaraine Armstrong
Apologies	Tame Te Rangi, Hohipere Williams

	Agenda Item	Lead
1.	Confirmation of previous meeting minutes	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted briefings and Council/TK meetings have all been scheduled. Minutes confirmed. 	
3.	Matrix	
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Read through “Hapū Priorities for Engagement with WDC” Document.</i> New TOR will give guidance that is currently missing on how to flow items through to TK. Governance role is to set direction, operations then carry that direction out as best as they can with resources and timeline that they have. TOR currently give zero guidance and are hard to understand. Need to get clear on purpose of committee and what are the key responsibilities. Key responsibilities will map out priority areas. TORs will then start informing other mechanisms such as the matrix. Then this will help configure other mechanisms that will help guide the organisation on pulling items together. Need to start with what committee is not – it is not council it is a committee of council. 	
5.	Workshopping of Tracked Changes docs	
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noting it is a Strategic Partnership Committee – a key part of the purpose is the point that everything within the district is of significance to Māori. The purpose captures all the obligations across all legislation. Key responsibilities are aligned with the purpose – nothing added or omitted. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would then better inform the matrix. <p><i>Review Of Mark's Tracked Changes Version:</i></p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around whether “Meaningful” should be included or taken out. • Could be taken out with minimal impact on the meaning of the sentence. • Should remain but need to be able to measure what “meaningful” is. • Discussion noted – will come back to this later. <p>Key responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Partnership & Decision-making: No Change • Statutory Compliance & Treaty Obligations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point 1 – Need to ensure we capture crown reforms (and are aware of any crown reforms). • Policy & Planning Integration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point 1 – Change wording from “Projects” to “programmes of work” – All agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note around resourcing – Needs to be included in KPIs organisation wide, not just Māori Outcomes team. ▪ This is already incorporated through a value sharing system which is more effective than KPIs. ○ Point 2 – “Identify and Assess” sounds more operational than governance. Agreed to explore new wording. ○ Point 3 – Supported • Resource management & Environmental Stewardship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amend and remove reference to RMA ○ Keep Heading to Environmental Stewardship/Kaitiakitanga ○ Query referring to Natural Resource management as opposed to RMA ○ Remove 1st bullet point and keep points 2 and 3. • Community Engagement & Capacity building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No change • Monitoring & Reporting: 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted a need for an annual take stock of what TK has contributed in regard to TOR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covered in last point. ▪ Could be a survey/covered in quarterly. ● Other Points for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should there be specific input from hapu on infrastructure 30-40yr plan included in Key Responsibilities? if so where. ○ How do Māori wards fit into TOR? This should be included in preamble. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Circulate Mark's version to group for further review. » Schedule next session for two weeks' time. 	Mark Melissa
7.	General Business	
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noted TK is not a decision-making committee at present. Delaraine raised concern that setting up new TOR now, may limit the committee in future if there was a new Mayor who decide to give TK decision making delegation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HWM recognises the desire for decision-making abilities for this committee, however, notes that the legal responsibility of the decision-making of Council sits with Elected Members. ○ Mark noted that everything that happens within the district is of importance to Māori, under this definition the decision-making abilities are more complex. ○ It was noted that is important to tidy the TORs first to determine should be present, or if it needs to be a combination of decision making and recommendations. ○ Clarifying the TOR should give a clearer picture of what would be appropriate. ● Noted that involvement in MACA should be added to the EM induction 	
9.	Next Steps	
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic for discussion at next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The return of resources/assets. ▪ Preface/preliminary around term. ▪ Scenario testing. 	

Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee – Terms of Reference

Membership

Chairperson	Council based meetings: Deb Harding Marae based hui: to be determined from mandated hapū members*
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Phil Halse
Members	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Councillors, Nicholas Connop, Patrick Holmes, Carol Peters Simon Reid and Phoenix Ruka Eight mandated hapū representatives: Delariane Armstrong, Len Bristowe, Sandra Hawken, Simon Mitchell, Tame Te Rangi, Sean Walters, Nicki Wakefield and Hohipere William
Meetings	Monthly
Quorum	8 comprised of 4 councillor and 4 hapū members

Note: Marae based hui will be held bimonthly and held in accordance with Tikanga and as such are outside of Standing Orders adopted under the Local Government Act 2002.

Purpose

To oversee and enhance the strategic partnership between Council and Whangārei Hapū, ensuring tangata whenua have **meaningful (??)** input into decision-making, reflecting that all matters within the Whangārei District are of significance to tangata whenua.

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Key responsibilities

• Strategic Partnership & Decision-Making

- o Facilitate and strengthen the partnership between Whangārei District Council and hapū.
- o Ensure Māori perspectives, tikanga, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles are integrated into Council decision-making.
- o Provide a forum for high-level, strategic discussions and joint priority setting.

• Statutory Compliance & Treaty Obligations

- o Ensure Council meets its obligations to Māori under the **Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)**, the **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)**, or any other Act.
- o Maintain oversight of, and responsiveness to, ongoing Crown reforms that may impact Māori-Council relationships, statutory responsibilities, or the governance and operational environment of local government.
- o Monitor and advise on Council's compliance with statutory responsibilities relating to Māori interests and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

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• Policy & Planning Integration

- o Provide guidance on policies, plans, and ~~projects~~ programs of work to ensure they reflect Māori values and aspirations.
- o Provide governance oversight to ensure Council policies and planning processes uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and consider impacts ~~Identify and assess the impact of Council decisions~~ on Māori communities, taonga, and whenua.
- o Support the development of Te Ao Māori frameworks and cultural competency within Council processes.

- ~~Resource Management &~~ Environmental Stewardship

- ~~Ensure Māori perspectives are embedded in resource management decisions under the RMA.~~

- Advocate for the protection and sustainable management of whenua, awa, moana, and taonga tuku iho.
 - Support Council in upholding kaitiakitanga responsibilities alongside mana whenua, hapū and iwi.

- Community Engagement & Capacity Building

- Promote kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) engagement between Council and mana whenua, hapū and iwi.
 - Support initiatives that enhance Māori participation in local government.
 - Advocate for resourcing to enable hapū to participate effectively in Council processes.

- Monitoring & Reporting

- Review and monitor Council's performance in relation to Māori outcomes and engagement.
 - Provide recommendations on improving Council's responsiveness to Māori.
 - Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of agreed partnership priorities.

- Delegations

- The approval of financial expenditure of less than \$1 million, plus GST.

- The Committee does not have:

- I. The power to appoint members (including external members).
- II. The power to establish sub-committees.
- III. The powers Council is expressly prohibited from delegating as outlined in Clause 32(1)(a)-(h) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; being:
 - the power to make a rate
 - the power to make a bylaw
 - the power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan
 - the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report
 - the power to appoint a chief executive
 - the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement
 - the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.