

Workshops

From time to time council will hold workshops. The purpose of a workshop or briefing is to prepare councillors with the appropriate background and knowledge to make robust decisions for their communities, and to allow discussion among and between elected members and council staff. Workshops are part of an educative phase of the council’s decision making process. Workshops cannot be used to make final decisions, as final decisions and resolutions cannot lawfully be made outside the context of a properly constituted meeting.

It is intended that all workshops are open to the public in accordance with requirements of the LGA 2002, that ‘....a local authority should conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner....’

The reasons for excluding the public from a workshop are detailed in Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information Meetings Act 1987.

The table below provides information on whether a session is open or closed to the public and if closed, the reason for this decision.

Rotorua Lakes Council workshops

Date/Time /Venue	Duration	Title of workshop & workshop notes	Workshop outline	Open / closed workshop	Councillor attendance
4 March 2027 11am-12.30am Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 16: CD run through			
4 February 2027 11am-12.30am Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 15: Communication and Engagement Plan for CD consultation	The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of the Stage 2 investigations and outline the Working Group’s MCA assessment and resulting recommendations for Council consideration. The session will walk through the key findings and the solution options proposed toward confirming a preferred long-term approach for the Recovered Water Project.		
19 November 2026 9am-11.30am Chamber	2.5 hours	Recovered Water Management Solution Project Councillor Workshop	The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of the Stage 2 investigations and outline the Working Group’s MCA assessment and resulting recommendations for Council consideration. The session will walk through the key findings	Open	

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			and the solution options proposed to progress toward confirming a preferred long-term approach for the Recovered Water Project.		
16 November 2pm-4pm 2026	2 hours	Museum funding recommendations workshop	The purpose of this workshop is to present outcomes from value management process and preferred funding pathway.	Closed Reasons for confidentiality: This workshop will be confidential as the financial model will be discussed. Grounds: To enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s7(2)(h)).	
4 November 1.30pm-3pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 14: Funding and Delivery - Part 2 - rating framework			
4 November 11am-12.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 13: Funding and Delivery - Part 1: The financial strategy, capex programme and what it costs to deliver council services			
23-Oct-26 10.00am-12.00pm Chamber	2 hours	Tuamaka Implementation Plan	Purpose of this workshop is to introduce the Tuamaka 10 Year business plan.	Open	
27 October 2.30pm-4pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 12: Financial Policies			
19 October 2026 1pm-2.30pm	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 11: Financial Sustainability proposals			
7 October 1.30pm-3pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 10: Financial Sustainability proposals			

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5 October 1pm-2.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 9: Infrastructure and Assets proposals			
30 September 9.30am – 11am Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 8: Infrastructure and Assets proposals			
14 September 2026 3pm -4.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 7: Economy and Community Proposals cond.	Thie workshop is a continuation of the previous workshop on the 9 September.		
9 September 1.30pm-3pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 6: Economy and Community Proposals	The purpose of this workshop is to bring forward of any economy and community proposals.		
7-Sep-26 1pm-3.00pm	2 hours	PARS - Strategy Investment Options Workshop Questions from Councillors included: • Before depreciation is determined will councillors be shown the value of assets that depreciation would be underfunded of? • Should this be delayed until the wider context of the LTP has been brought to Councillors? • Is there value in Officers sharing a view on a direction? • Do the options just reflect a decision made previously in the Annual Plan? • How does the proposed skate park relate to current indicative options? • Would indicate stormwater work in Sheaf Park impact the timing for creating the new skatepark? • Could active recreation and ecological restoration be considered together? • Is there an ability to carry out investment from leftover capital funding? • Is the Shared Water Sports Hub proposed facility based on the Rotorua Lakefront? • Is the investment proposals for Tikitapu include events utilisation? • Is there a high needs ablution block at Lake Tikitapu? • Is the ablution block at Ray Boord Park expected to service the new Titoki Place reserve? • Is there any investigation or discussion with event’s organisers at Puketawhero Park regarding the large unused space often used for food vans, as potential parking space? • Have clubs approached council regarding upgrading the Puarenga Park toilets? • Which items in the indicative options are more highly advocated for? • Which options or projects come alongside co-investment? • Is there room for less parks but higher quality in more central locations? • Is the access group meeting often and if so how often? • Have clubs looked at investments like covered outdoor courts at a lower cost? • Is the investment in Titoki Place addressing the need of the proposed Westbrook Sports Precinct?	This workshop is a follow-up to the elected members workshop held on 15 April 2026, where progress on the PARS Strategy and development of the draft plan were discussed. Officers will present the proposed investment options for consideration and seek elected member feedback ahead of stakeholder engagement.	Open	Mayor Tapsell (via Zoom), Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Lee, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Maxwell, Cr Barker, Cr Raukawa-Tait (via Zoom)2, Cr Paterson, Cr Wang. Apologies: Cr Wang (lateness), Cr Brown, Cr Sandford

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		- Are there ways to seek cost recovery for Whakarewarewa Forest? - Are we looking at exploring options with Council owned facilities that could be converted into mixed use? - Does the 500m KPI for play space include those around Whakarewarewa Forest? - How will there be direction or ability to design bespoke options for consultation or delivery? - Do the options regarding Ecological Enhancements affect the current or proposed work on revegetation? - When will we start to investigate the possibility of brining in-house the regional council roles relating to the environment that naturally align to the parks and open spaces team? - How do we ensure that everyone has a playground without being expected to travel from Ngongotaha to Rotorua as an example?			
25 August 3pm-4.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 5: LTP Strategies: Infrastructure Strategy & Environmental Strategy Questions and feedback from Councillors included: - What is engineering infrastructure for parks and open spaces? - Does facilities and property include property included in the strategy being prepared? - Is Puketawhero Park included in engineering components? - Is the Infrastructure Strategy a purely internal document? - How do iwi input into long-term strategic planning? - Does a mechanism exist to allow input from Iwi in the ideation phase of strategies? - Is sport club infrastructure considered built infrastructure or engineering infrastructure? - How does the water services strategy relate to pan charges for water usage and charging? - How can Council ensure its environmental strategy is integrated with the environmental and climate resilience activities of its CCOs, especially Rotorua Airport? - Could the water services strategy be used to fund the Ohau channel wall? - Where is the place for Climate change in the infrastructure strategy? - Does the Trade waste discharge plan assist in managing zinc run-off? - Are the risks the trade waste plan addresses wider than just trade waste? - Is there a way of dealing with road waste/water run-off?			Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Brown (via Zoom), Cr Paterson, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford, Cr Wang. Apologies: Cr Lee
25 August 1.30pm-3pm	1.5 hours	Local Water Done Well workshop Questions and feedback from Councillors included: - Where preexisting arrangements with Iwi currently exist how will these be addressed? - Are Iwi on board with moving to a CCO? If not, how do we bring them along the journey?	This workshop will be an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and ask questions on the final report of the multi-council WSCCO investigation which has been developed during this year through the regional Waters	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Brown (via Zoom), Cr Paterson, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford, Cr Wang. Apologies: Cr Lee

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		• How will headstart impact the decision? • How able is the council to change with a number of changes already coming? • Is the transferring of Stormwater fully understood? • Has any modelling been done to show how household savings are impacted in the first few years, rather than aggregated? • Are the long-term scale and benefits, worth transferring the large value of assets and their control, when Rotorua can clearly operate independently? • What happens to ownership and voting for the CCO if the eastern bay councils joint to form a unitary authority? • Is this going to be better for the people of Rotorua or what? • How do the headstart dates and the reports decision dates match up? • How can Council confidently progress Water CCO milestones and governance decisions when the Head Start process may significantly change future council structures before those milestones are reached? • Have the Eastern Bay councils and iwi indicated a preference for a Water CCO, retaining water services in-house, or aligning with a future unitary authority model? • Has consideration been given to the impact on remaining services or operations based on the change? • Will we be ensuring the status quo option is explained more clearly, and includes information to explain that water services are ring fenced from rates?	Working Group and authored by Martin Jenkins.		
12 August 1.30pm-2.30pm Chamber	1 hour	Property Disposal Policy workshop Questions and feedback from Councillors included: • Is identifying surplus property and the process for its disposal both contained in this policy? • Does the policy include weighing the achievement of community outcomes over sale price when disposing? • Is this a new policy? • Can the business case methodology be updated to capture councillor preferences and expectations? • How does the policy interact with the PARS Strategy? • Where does the significance and engagement policy and/or community views come into any future businesses cases? • What does private treaty refer to in relation to disposal? • Can lessons from previous property disposals be incorporated into the methodology?	The purpose of this workshop is to present the draft Facilities Disposal Policy that is being developed in conjunction with the Facilities Strategy & Policy	Open	Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Sandford, Cr Brown, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang, Cr Lee (Zoom), Cr Raukawa-Tait (Zoom). Apologies: Mayor Tapsell
12 August 11.30am- 12.15pm Chamber	45 min	Significance and Engagement Policy workshop Questions and feedback from Councillors included: • Have there been situations where our measurement of significance has not matched the community’s views? • If minimal change was proceeded with, how can operational change be implemented to better use the policy going forward?	The purpose of this workshop is to gain direction from Elected members on the extent of the review of the Significance and Engagement Policy.	Open	Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Sandford, Cr Brown, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang, Cr Lee (Zoom), Cr Raukawa-Tait (Zoom). Apologies: Mayor Tapsell

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		- Can we explain the distinction between an operational decision and a council decision and the implication of the significance and engagement policy in either? - When was the last time the policy was reviewed? - What does the time line for engagement between now and the LTP look like? - Does the policy and its performance relate to decisions such as moving the night market, and retiring the InfraCore Nursery?			
11 August 2.30pm-4pm Chamber	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 4: Economic and Significant Forecasting Assumptions Workshop Questions and feedback from Councillors included: - Should Council be considering a different rates strategy other than a conservative approach (fixed rate) to council borrowing at this time. - Is the conservative approach to borrowing similar to other councils' approach at the moment? - What might other options look like, should we go to market? - How accurate were the cost growth assumptions in the existing LTP when compared with actual Council capital projection inflation over the last 3 years? - Is it correct that we break up our debt into a number of loans and fixed over different periods? - Will each individual Council loan be fixed over a certain period of time? - What would the landscape look like looking forward over the next 10 years? - How many maturing loans does Council have coming up and when are they coming up? - Will there be flexibility to address assumptions if situations change in the future, such as a scrapping of potential rates capping? - Given we generally overestimate capital expenditure, is there space to be more realistic in forecasting? - Will the decision around meeting the rates capping requirements come to a Council meeting? - Has Central Government determined what the rates capping is? - Do we know what the Oppositions view is on rates capping? - Given that there is some direction from the Government on Regional Councils, does that change the forecasting assumptions? - Where do NEET's sit in Rotorua? - Do Immigration NZ get to see RotoruaNZ collateral? - Regarding strategy for Council going forward, is it preferable to continue backing traditional industries, or look to new alternatives? - What is Council's/RotoruaNZ role in supporting a more highly skilled labour force (our people)? - Are local hotels changing hands a positive sign going forward? - Is there a measure of the local Māori economy? And a way to unlock it more? - What does increasing productivity in the tourism industry mean? - Are we in touch with the few businesses running the golden visa's?	The purpose of this workshop is to cover the current environment with external speakers attending the workshop. Based on these discussions, the Significant Forecasting Assumptions will be developed.	Open	Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa Tait, Cr Barker, Cr Paterson, Cr Sandford, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Lee (via zoom), Apologies: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Brown, Cr Wang.

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5 August 1.30pm-3pm Chamber	1.5 hours	RM Reform and Regional Spatial Planning Questions and feedback from Councillors included: • Will the Regional Spatial Plan (RSP) have an impact on other strategies Council has developed? • What will be the effect of switching from Infometrics data to StatsNZ data? • Will the ownership of the lakes be a part of the RSP? • Where will the secretarial role lie, given the upcoming changes to local government? • How often will the RSP get reviewed? • Is there public engagement prior to notification (June 2028)? • How often are governments likely to change national instruments? • How will Council manage to integrate the Waikato functions? • Do we have a communication strategy around the RSP? • Is the plan being structured for flexibility given potential changes from Head Start? • Will the secretariat role be clearly defined? • Can you explain the roles of the Council JC’s? • Comment that Joint Committees would be important to keep a local voice. • When will we know what staff requirements and costs will be required for this to come to pass? • Will this replace some of the Governance that is undertaken by the Regional Council?	The purpose of this workshop is to inform Elected Members on the statutory requirements and work programme for the development of the BOP Regional Spatial Plan in preparation of the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill being enacted in September. The workshop will be followed by a report to the August Council meeting seeking direction and feedback on options for the process agreement.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Lee, Cr Sandford, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Wang (via Zoom), Cr Paterson Apologies: Cr Brown
5 August 9.30am-11.30am	2 hours	Head Start workshop Questions and feedback from Councillors included: • Preference for calling Unitary authority as just ‘Rotorua’ not ‘Central’. • Concern around transitional decision-making when 6 Councils are involved. • Suggestion that proposal asks for funding to cover the \$9m gap of Regional Council funding and an ‘off ramp’ if the process does not work for Rotorua. • Noted that the ‘Central’ naming convention allowed for Taupō wanting to be part of the Unitary Authority. • Suggestion that proposal should use ‘complexity’ to explain our region, which is the same terminology used by the DIA representative who spoke to Councillors initially. • Suggestion that a timeline would be useful to include in the proposal. • Suggestion that the proposal highlights that if all BoP proposals are not accepted then the plan for the whole BoP would fall over. • Ambiguity of the process mentioned a number of times. • The importance in the process of the BoP Mayoral Forum was noted as an example of working together within the region. • The importance of making a submission as the whole region, to avoid the whole proposal falling over was noted.	The purpose of this workshop is for the CE to share the Council’s final Head Start proposal with elected members, prior to the Council decision on 7 August.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Lee, Cr Sandford, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Wang (via Zoom), Cr Paterson Apologies: Cr Brown

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		• Question as to whether other regions have indicated a preference for the make-up of their Regional Transition Committee? • Suggestion that the proposal does a good job of focussing on the unique character of Rotorua and also quantifies the complexity of iwi and other relationships in the proposal. • Question about whether Kawerau signed up to Eastern Bay? • Question about whether the Rotorua Central Authority would have one Mayor and Councillors, and would this be the same for the other BoP Authorities? • Suggestion that terminology is tightened up when talking about • Is Rotorua proposing to include entire Kaituna catchment as noted in document, if not needs to be clarified which parts of the catchment? • Review use of ‘Te Arawa waka’ as it implies inclusion of Tūwharetoa. • Retention of Māori Wards captured well within the document. • Contribution of Te Arawa to the District and wider region should be better described in the document. • There is a risk around how the Quayside assets will be handled, should this be added as a request that it be covered as a bespoke legislative requirement in the proposal? • There was some more discussion on the reasons for the Central Authority name. • Would potential boundary adjustments be a part of the detailed design? • Should the Crown property rating remain as a conditional item in the proposal, given the contents of the letter received from the DIA. • Are the terms ‘conditional’ and ‘negotiable’ the right terms to be using in the proposal? • Could the proposal include a map showing the geographical region. • Suggestion that Rotorua’s messaging is similar to the other BoP proposals for consistency. • Noted that a key issue for bringing the proposal together is lack of time. Is there a possibility of getting a short extension of time (one month) to work with Taupō who is indicating that they have not had enough time to make a decision. • Final feedback focused on removing or not the conditional/negotiable column in the proposal.			
27 July 2pm-4pm Chamber	2 hours	Draft Water Services CCO Investigation Report workshop Questions from Councillors included: • Would a 64% Shareholding put Council at a disadvantage? • If a water services CCO fails financially, do the liabilities ultimately revert back to the participating councils? • If a water services CCO fails, can the directors be held personally liable for that failure? • Could Rotorua be disadvantaged under the proposed voting arrangements despite holding the majority of the shares? • How do directors' duties to the company align with representing the interests of their local communities?	The purpose of this workshop will be to share the draft WSCCO report with Councillors.	Open	Cr Barker, Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Paterson, Cr Wang, Cr Sandford. Apologies: Cr Raukawa-Tait

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		• Why has the model proposed only one representative per territorial authority? • Would it be better to have more than one representative per territorial authority to improve accountability and representation? • Would iwi representation exclude other groups such as PSGEs, land trusts, or unsettled iwi? • Does the proposed water services CCO operate under the Companies Act? • Would the representative forum be governed by the Local Government Act? • How would iwi representatives legally participate if future legislation restricts voting rights for unelected members on council committees? • How can a not-for-profit water services CCO pay dividends if it is not intended to generate profits? • What is the best way for councillors to provide feedback on the proposed governance structure and model? • How would the option of an independent chair work and how would that person be appointed? • How can council ensure existing relationships and obligations to hapū continue to be recognised under a future CCO structure? • Would Option 1 be considered a co-governance model? • Which voting-threshold option best protects Rotorua's interests as a territorial authority? • How would existing partnership agreements with iwi transfer to a new water services CCO and remain protected? • What would happen to this proposal if Rotorua later became a unitary authority through another governance process? • Does the modelling contain a positivity bias by relying mainly on successful examples from elsewhere? • Are the projected efficiency gains based on assumptions of around 7.5% savings and approximately 3% inflation? • If council prefers an in-house business unit, would that option also go out for public consultation? • Will the consultation material include a comparison between the in-house model and the CCO model? • Does the report compare Rotorua's partnership agreements with iwi and mana whenua against those of the other Eastern Bay councils?			
17 July 9.30am-11am Chamber	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 3: Community Outcomes Questions from Councillors included: • Could Tuamaka and Strong Relationships in the Priorities be switched to reflect that the Tuamaka Strategy is a vehicle through which stronger iwi relationships and treaty obligations are achieved? • If Treaty obligations are a principle that underpins the way we work, is there value is also making it a fourth priority? • Could strategic partnerships to support community development be moved to broaden the meaning to more than Iwi relationships? • How do the community outcomes become a lens through which work or decisions are made?	The purpose of this workshop is to continue the setting of Council’s Community Outcomes for the LTP	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Brown, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Lee (via Zoom), Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Barker. Apologies: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong Cr Wang

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14 July 2.30pm-3.30pm Committee Room 1	3 hours	Local Water Done Well Workshop Questions from Councillors included: - Is Rotorua's participation the main reason the proposed CCO delivers significant savings and efficiencies? - Would Rotorua bear a larger share of the transition costs because it is the largest participant? - How do councils' debt levels affect the efficiency benefits of a multi-council CCO? - Why does Rotorua receive the largest savings while also being critical to generating savings for the other councils? - Why do the financial benefits not appear until around 10 years after establishment? - Would transferring water services to a CCO create any debt-to-revenue concerns for Rotorua Lakes Council? - Why should councillors be confident that a water CCO will perform better than previous CCO arrangements? - How have the efficiency assumptions in the financial model been tested and validated? - Are the projected efficiencies driven mainly by greater scale or by stronger regulation and governance? - Why are the efficiency gains expected to compound over time? - Are the projected efficiency gains similar to the temporary improvements seen when SOEs were first established?		Open	
8 July 11am-3pm Chamber	4 hours	Head Start Risk Workshop Questions from Councillors included: - Is the risk brainstorming in general or a reflection of current circumstances? - Does effort in the workbook, reflect time – in particular staff time? - Is the lawfulness or legality of options for the headstart decision being considered and which criteria would it be included under? - Does the work today, create a box within which councillors will have to work with? - Does good decision-making and this framework stand in circumstances when key information is missing? - In terms of Local Waters Done Well will information be available in relation to the decision? - Should Police boundaries be included in assessment of shared services between council districts? - Will Rural vs Urban be included in the assessment? - Is information from unitary authorities going to be included in assessments? - How will regional representation and diversity of thought be ensured or preserved? - What does Voice & Representation relate to? - Do we know what the government's thinking is around catchments and how they relate to new boundaries? - Transport is considered in a different criterion, but relates to economics as well, what's the relationship between traffic and economic criteria? - Has anything stood out in terms of infrastructure, and future growth in the work being undertaken?	The purpose of this workshop is to identify risk appetite and tolerance on the Head Start and Back Stop options.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Mr Collins (Lakes Community Board, Chair), Cr Raukawa-Tait (Via Zoom), Mr Guyton (Via Zoom) (Rural Community Board, Chair) Mr Timmer (Via Zoom) (Audit & Risk Committee, Chair), Cr Wang. Apologies: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong

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		• In the analysis of other economy’s was any information shared regarding their handbrakes and concerns? • What’s the relationship between binding referendums on representation outcomes? • Could we consider the risk of failing to agree and how that may lead to a non-preferred outcome? • Are staff working alongside DIA officials to develop the options and the final proposal? • What level of cross-party support is there on this topic? • In terms of emerging governance appetite it changes for each criterion or topic, how can this be captured?			
6 July 2pm-4pm Committee Room 1	2 hours	Homeless Strategy Workshop		Closed Reasons for confidentiality: Workshop will discuss the collective response involving several other agencies and stakeholders in which council is one player all be it a key player. Includes unpublished data and reports from other agencies shared in confidence. Grounds: To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: i. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. Would be likely otherwise to	

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				damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c))	
29 June 2.30pm-4.30pm Committee Room 1	2 hours	Development of Council Facilities Policy and Long-term Strategy workshop Questions from Councillors included: - Is pensioner housing in the category of second highest return on investment? - Looking at the Critical Facilities Supporting Services slide, in the column that says Unimportant Asset it lists the Stadium and Puketawhero score board and turn style building, and yet and yet on of the earlier slides said excluding PARRS, so wouldn't those two fall under PARRS? - If we were going to divest the Puketawhero score board and turn style building, who would we sell that too? - On the financial Liabilities slide, it says a 3.5% rates increase would be required. Is that if we just chose to maintain what we've got? - Is there an amount of money we need to bring these properties up to a standard that for them to be continued? - On the Priorities Properties slide, I know that we have a member of the public interested in the Blue Baths and a potential partnership there. Could we have that on the list as a priority? - A Councillor queried the rankings of certain properties, eg how have the Redwoods I site, the sports drome and Stadium been ranked low in terms of importance or function - There is a difference between urban and rural public toilets, I thought public toilets around lakes would be quite highly used? - Also, why does the Croquet Club rank so low? - What sort of information do you see coming back to elected members via the business case? - Once we get the business cases back how to we put in a really robust process so that we can be scoring these facilities or making decision on what decision with letting it become a political hot ball where we're hearing form only some users, but not necessarily that wider community who pay for it under general rates. - I was wondering if it would be possible to set up in the Green Room the spreadsheets that we have seen in this presentation so that we can familiarise ourselves with the information? - There was one other property I was expecting to see – land at Tarukenga... has that progressed? - Will this strategy be coming back to an Infrastructure Committee meeting for approval and then come back to an LTP workshop around 30 September?	The purpose of this workshop is to present further to elected members on the review of Council's property and facilities assets and the development of the Facilities Policy and Long-term strategy.	Open	Mayor Tapsell (Zoom),Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Lee, Cr Wang (Zoom joined 2.42pm) Apologies: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Maxwel
18 June 10am-11.30am Chamber	1.5 hours	Iwi Relationship/Engagement Strategy workshop Questions from Councillors included: What is the relationship between the feedback raised by iwi/hapu and the strategy? How will the feedback be addressed?		Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Paterson, Cr Lee, Cr Sandford, Cr Brown, Cr Barker, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Maxwell Apologies:

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		• How does council, translate a desire to do better by iwi, if the strategy is an internal management strategy? • What is the strategy’s relationship between strategic direction of governance and operational action? • Is there a similarity between the organisational implementation of the strategy and other similar organisations? • Is there equivalent community engagement strategies? • Is there a suggestion that we do not have relationships with other communities? • Given Section 4 of the Local Government Act and recent case law does this strategy overstep? • Would it be possible to provide a publicly available map of areas of relationship and goodwill between Māori and Council? • Given the significant number of partners the council has, how does the strategy ensure we are sufficiently resourced to mitigate any risks of not meeting our obligations? • What are some examples of how relationship mapping/tracking will be created? • Are there any organisations doing relationship mapping well? • Are there current infrastructure projects that tuamaka would be relevant too? What are some examples of how relationship and partnership with Māori are part of infrastructure projects?			Cr Wang, Cr Raukawa-Tait
11 June 2pm-3.30pm	1.5 hours	Museum Programme workshop		Closed Reason for confidentiality: Information is being shared about contracts that is commercially sensitive and has been supplied by external contractors. Grounds: To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s7(2)(i)). AND To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the	

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				information would be likely to: ii. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or v. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c))	
10 June 1.30-3pm Chamber	1.5 hours	Museum Exhibition Design workshop	Overview of design and funding requirements	Closed Reason for confidentiality: There are multiple other museum projects underway around the country - some of which will open well in advance of RLC project. Releasing designs too early runs the risk of duplication ahead of RLC project. Grounds: To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: v. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that	

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				such information should continue to be supplied; or i. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c))	
10 June 11am-12.30am Committee Room 1		LTP workshop 2: Vision and Outcomes Questions from Councillors included: • The Deputy Mayor reminded Councillors that they had set priorities that went into the annual plan, which have been further developed through the Induction following the triennial elections. (see workshop presentation for themes) • Should the economy and community be wrapped in together as a priority as they are both significant in their own right? • Why are events not listed in the outcomes? • How will we track performance against outcomes? • Will RotoruaNZ’s performance be measured against these outcomes? • On Outcomes slide ‘invest’ should be removed from “live, work, play, invest” and ‘attractive for investment’ should be a separate heading. • Observation that categories are high level, so don’t need to itemise everything at this stage. • Suggestion that ‘lwi partnerships’ and ‘Honouring Treaty of Waitangi’ as a header with outcomes. • Under ‘Community and Development’ can we add ‘world class place to live’ and under Strategic Economic Development’ can we add strategic community development’. • Noted that rural infrastructure did not appear under ‘Infrastructure’ outcome? • How will our environmental protection be measured? • Noted the Rural Community Board has prepared a strategy document that could be used as a strategy document for LTP? • Noting that we do not mention maintain and upgrading infrastructure. • What is the basis for Council using Chamber of Commerce Vision as guiding document for the LTP instead of RotoruaNZ? • Concern that there are not enough specifics mentioned. Suggested wording ‘Rotorua has reliable resilient and growth enabling infrastructure delivered on time and within budget alongside a protected and enhanced natural environment supporting housing, economic development and strong urban and rural communities’. • Suggested wording change for Outcome 3: ‘Rotorua is financially sustainable through prudent financial management, strategic partnerships, alternative revenue sources and investment that supports long-term growth’. • Would be good to include something around partnerships and the opportunities they bring.	Confirmation on the Council's priorities that have led to the development of the Vision and Outcomes. Information provided on the community outcomes and how these flow through an LTP		Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang (Zoom), Cr Paterson, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait & Cr Temara-Benfell Apologies for lateness: Mayor Tapsell (zoom), apologies Cr Lee

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		- Regarding the wording ‘a strong focus on core service delivery’ Who sets what a core service is? Is it indicating ‘pipes over people’? - LTP should be about leading city into a growth mode. Can we incorporate growth into outcomes as a positive outcome? - Consider balance of wording, so that ‘economic’ considerations do not always come first. - When will Councillors have an idea of Council’s financial position? - Do we have any timing on the passing of the Systems Improvement bill? - Comment that this is not a normal LTP given the legislative changes underway from central Government and other factors? - When can we expect to see a new draft incorporating comments? - Mayor intends to share presentation with Community Boards.			
27 May 1.30pm-3pm Council Chamber	1.5 hours	LTP workshop 1: LTP programme introduction Questions from Councillors included: - In terms of communications with the community, can there be an integrated approach to communicating with the community about LTP, Headstart, LWDW etc. and can Councillors be involved? - When does the decision on rates capping get made? - Are there any decisions from Central Government that may affect the LTP? - When will community proposals be considered? - How do community ideas get incorporated into the LTP process? - Where does the Property Strategy and PARS fit into the LTP? - Are there any other classifications other than natural hazards in regard to forecasting assumptions and risk? - Is there an opportunity through the LTP to look at other ways of generating revenue? - Where do we benefit from the Museum being completed in 2028?	Provide an overview of what an LTP is and the work programme required to be delivered. Traverse all of the elements of the financial side of an LTP a major foundational piece of the LTP. Within the discussion will look at the significant forecasting assumptions that are used to build a financial model and look at the ways in which services are currently funded.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang, Cr Paterson, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait & Cr Temara-Benfell
27 May 11am-12.30pm Council Chamber	1.5 hours	Simplifying Local Government Questions from Councillors included: - How will proposals/future legislation incorporate community boards? - Will there still be a requirement for a representation review? - The proposal assessment criteria doesn’t mention Iwi engagement, what mechanisms are available for Iwi to oppose structures? - If Iwi partners oppose a proposal what mechanisms are available to them to do that? - What happens when a Council has adopted Māori Wards? - Will bespoke legislation for each Unitary Authority make things very inflexible and will this be a problem moving forward? - Will we be having representation reviews going forward, will they be needed? - Would councils be able to change their bespoke legislation with a local bill? - What might happen if there is a change of Government? - What voice will Māori have? - Does it mean that the LGA 2002 will be repealed?	On 5 May 2026, the Government announced the Head Start for Simplifying Local Government—a streamlined, voluntary pathway for councils willing and able to reorganise before the wider reform of local government from 2028. This workshop provides information for elected members on the process and decisions required to develop a proposal for Government to consider.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang, Cr Paterson, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Raukawa-Tait & Cr Temara-Benfell

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		• What does the Government want to achieve out of this process? • Other than changing the structure of what Council’s do, what is the real benefit? • Is there going to be enough time in the second part of the process for Councils to engage with their communities? • At what stage in the proposal will things like CCO’s, CDEM service centres be determined? • What happens to regional council functions and resources under new unitary authorities? • If there is an unwilling partner in a proposed unitary authority, what powers does the unwilling partner have to refuse? • In order to assist and enable new unitary authorities, will the Minister accept rates on Crown buildings? Can it be something we put in our proposals? • Is there funding coming from Central Government to help fund the change? • Would catchment management be a key consideration for the proposal? • Is there any indication on the level of detail required for proposals? • In regard to Government criteria vs RLC criteria, is there a LWDW overlay? • Can the environment be included in the RLC assessment criteria? • Can operational alignment be included in the RLC assessment criteria? • How would our existing debt, deferred renewals etc be treated? • Where does the Headstart process fit with Significance and Engagement policy?			
25 May 2pm-4pm Committee Room 2	2 hours	Recovered Water Management Solution Project Workshop	This workshop will provide an overview of the work completed in Stage 1 by the Working Group and presents preferred solutions and potential sites that the Working Group will be recommending Council approve in the June meeting to progress into Stage 2 of the previously approved MCA process.	Closed Reasons for confidentiality: Workshop identifies commercially sensitive projects and sites and confidential information shared by strategic partners. Grounds: To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s7(2)(i)). AND To protect information which is subject to an	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Sandford, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Wang, Cr Paterson, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong Cr Raukawa-Tait & Cr Temara-Benfell (Apologies for lateness)

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				obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: ii. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c))	
22 May 2026 9.30am-12.30pm Chamber	3 hours	Water Service Delivery Plan implementation technical information sharing workshop 1 Questions from Councillors included: - Is the communications and engagement plan integrated across councils? - Does the decision referenced in the timeline for December relate to consultation or a final decision? - How does the decision in December align with the head start pathway (Simplifying local government) proposal? - When the compliance costs increase, will this impact existing consents? - How certain is council around metering, and has consideration been given to the impact to long-term planning? - Does Whakatane, Kawerau or Opotiki have water meters currently? - How can a feasibility assessment on cost/benefit be fair if the requirements (ie. Water Meters) are unclear? - Would the public have the same access to governors of a CCO compared to current councillors? - Would a CCO board meet with public stakeholders similar to a Council? - Does the financial modelling currently assume all four councils are included? - How would the governance structure be set up and proportioned? - Are the merits of board member appointments to CCO’s set by shareholders or in legislation? - Overseas examples of these changes have taken 15 years to generate benefits – will this be the case in Rotorua? - What does a harmonisation approach to pricing mean for each district? - Have similar comparative price paths been scoped should council keep water services in-house?	A large amount of technical information is being worked through the Waters Working Group on the investigation into a multi council water services council-controlled organisation for future water services delivery. This workshop will allow all elected members access to the same information	Open	Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Maxwell, Cr Barker, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown (Via Zoom), Cr Raukawa-Tait Apologies: Mayor Tapsell

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		• Could a CCO governance structure be determined by population? • Will the decision on governance structure be a decision of council, or the working group? If so when and how? • 11.35-11.43			
12 May 3pm-4.30pm Committee Room 2	1.5 hours	Inner City workshop	The purpose of this workshop is to: • Overview of the four inner-city workstreams • Narrowed-down options for consultation • High-level sequencing • What we're not doing (out of scope)	Confidential To enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s7(2)(h)).	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee , Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown, Apologies: Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Wang, Cr Maxwell
6 May 11am-12.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	Property Strategy Workshop Questions from Councillors included: • Are Water and PARS assets outside of the strategy? • Is the old landfill included in the Strategy? • Do contractors still have obligations where assets have degraded earlier than would been expected? • Is the Strategy something new that Council is doing to increase transparency? • Where Council facilities were outsourced did those organisations understand the implications of the transfer? • How was the weighting in the prioritisation framework decided on? • As a facilities owner, isn't a responsibility to deal with issues like water tightness of buildings? • Have facilities been assessed against previous framework? • Why is the isite in the city high importance and the isite in the forest low importance? • Is having a dog pound a legislative requirement? • Is utilisation a consideration in the framework and how is it assessed? • What criteria is used to assess social and community benefit? • Does Governments legislative change around purpose of local government effect Councils core services? • How does future optimisation effect buildings on Gifted Reserves? • Councillors asked that a dollar value be set for social and community benefit. • Can we get visibilty on the financial defict of individual assets? • Why are Communtly Halls and Pensioner housing not on the Business case disposal list? • Councillors woud like to understand how income from facities from properties could be used to offset costs to ratepayers? • How does efficiency (in regard to the repair of facilities) fit with the strategy framework? • Will a similar prestation be presented on PARS facilities?	The purpose of this workshop is to present to Elected Members the review of Councils property and facilities assets, and the development of the Facilities Policy and long term Strategy.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee , Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Fisher Wang (via zoom).

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15 April 3pm-4.30pm Chamber	1.5 hours	Pārekareka (PARS) Strategy Update workshop Questions from Councillors included: • Who prepared the draft plan in 2024? • Can you explain the difference between engagement and consultation? • Would the increases in size of Westbrook Precinct improve our ability to bid for larger sporting events? • Was feedback from sporting organisations included in the preparation of Pārekareka? • The plan seems to largely focus on keeping our youth active, how do we keep our older people active? • Are we looking at any exemplary districts that do things well in regard to equitable access/pricing etc? • Will we be looking to review the decision on the skate park? • Are we reviewing the use of the Stadium as part of Pārekareka? • Are we giving any consideration to consolidation of some of our under-utilised reserves to be sold and using the funding to develop other parts of our network? • Will a synopsis of Pārekareka go to our Members of Parliament and the Ministry of Health? • How big is the advisory group? • Is there any away we can get help from the advisory group to ensure we retain tournaments in Rotorua? • Is our local return on investment better than the national average? • As Council is doing the Council asset review, could this help identify facilities that could address urgent PARS needs? • Are the Infrastructure and Assets team leading the strategic review on property working with the Parks and Open Spaces team? • Are their any plans to talk to Regional Council about the ecological enhancements part of Pārekareka? • Do we currently have differential charging for our community facilities for non-profit community organisations? • How do we balance fixing what we have versus establishing new facilities that we may need?	The purpose of the workshop us to update elected members on Pārekareka’s progress, outline high level proposed implementation and investment priorities and timeframes informed by recent advisory group engagement, set out planned next steps, and seek feedback on any additional considerations to refine the programme.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee (left workshop at 1.31pm), Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Wang.
11 March 3pm – 4.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	Pensioner Housing Workshop		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. 7(2)(a)	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell Apologies: Cr Wang

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				To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: i. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest 7(2)(c)	
11 March 1.30-3pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	Local Water Done Well Waters Working Group Workshop Questions from Councillors included: • If water services are made into a CCO, is there a parallel discussion being had about how the decision would fit into the future of local government? • What does political vulnerability mean in the context of the collaborative model? • What forms of proactive engagement have other councils undertaken regarding Water Service Delivery? • Would a collaborative model have cushioned the financial impact of recent weather events if it had been implemented earlier? • Is there positive elements from Three Waters that Iwi in Waikato are willing to bring into Local Water Done Well? • How can council have confidence in a CCO model, when considering it within the context of Wellington Council’s situation? • Are there international models of water service delivery that could help inform our future service delivery? • The likely governance models for a multi CCO would be appointed by the Councils –is democratic accountability in that model/process? • What mechanism will be used to generate revenue to pay debt? • Is the cost of installing water meters feasible in our district? • Can a timeline for engagement work on the project be shared with elected members?	The purpose of the workshop is to orientate workshop participants on the study purpose, community and iwi Engagement, and their upcoming decision on the Water Services CCO.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Paterson, Cr Brown, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell Apologies: Cr Wang
11 March 11am – 12.30am	1.5 hours	Te Arawa Lakes Trust Request Workshop		Closed	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Maxwell, Cr Sandford, Cr Lee,

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Council Chamber				To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: iii. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or iv. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (s 7(2)(c))	Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Brown Apologies: Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Wang, Mayor Tapsell (early departure)
3 March 1pm-2.30pm Committee Room 1 This presentation will be rescheduled to a later date.	1.5 hours	Quayside Holdings Ltd presentation	The purpose of the workshop is for Mark Wynne (Chair) and Lyndon Settle (Chief Executive) to provide an update to Councillors on Quayside Holdings Ltd.	Open	
25 February 1.30pm-4.30pm Committee Room 1	3 hours	Annual Plan Workshop 4		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. To protect information which if public would: Disclose a trade secret; or Unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s7(2)(b))	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Wang, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford, Cr Maxwell, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Paterson, Cr Barker
12 February Committee room 1		Annual Plan Workshop 3		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Wang, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford, Cr Maxwell, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Paterson, Cr Barker

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				that of deceased natural persons. To protect information which if public would: Disclose a trade secret; or Unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s7(2)(b))	
11 February 1pm-3pm Committee Room 1	2 hours	Central Government Submissions Workshop Questions from Councillors included: Natural Environment and Planning Bills - Given ‘regions’ are not defined in the bills, how are regional spatial plans going to be designed? - How do the bills relate to the simplifying local government proposal? - Can we coordinate with key groups in our region about their perspective, such as the downgrading of trout and salmon and potential lost protections? - Will these changes have an impact on our revenue? - Could council determine the areas in which high growth planning is applied? - Is responsibility for environmental management shifting to territorial authorities? - Have our iwi partners been consulted with in regard to our council submission on the bills? - Is it possible to include a request for a simplified process to transition to fee simple from cross lease property titles? - What is the likelihood the ongoing work around rural and urban environments is lost through the bill changes? - Could we include an assumptions section in the submissions? Simplifying Local Government - Will there be 6 Mayors, crown representation? - Which elections would any changes from the representation review affect? - Can Council carry out a condensed representation review? - How long will there be a Māori ward? - Why request regulatory relief if we are required to start the projects now? - What do we not support about crown representation on CTB’s? - Is there discussion or support for Mayors workload in the proposal?	The purpose of this workshop is to provide councillors an update on government legislation currently under consultation.	Open	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Wang, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford, Cr Maxwell, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Paterson, Cr Barker
2 February 2026 3pm-4.30pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	Reorganisation Reform Workshop (3-4.30pm)		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford

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				that of deceased natural persons. To protect information which if public would: i. Disclose a trade secret; or Unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s7(2)(b))	Apologies for lateness: Cr Barker, Cr Wang
2 February 2026 1-3pm Committee Room 1	1.5 hours	Annual Plan workshop 2		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. To protect information which if public would: i. Disclose a trade secret; or ii. Unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (s7(2)(b))	Mayor Tapsell, Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Sandford Apologies for lateness: Cr Barker, Cr Wang
21 January 2026		Iwi Relationship Health Check workshop		Closed To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (s7(20(a)).	Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait Apologies: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Temara-Benfell