

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 10 April 2025.

Report 25.84

Unconfirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council
34 Chapel Street, Masterton, at 10.01am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban (from 10.15am)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata (from 11.42am until 12.15pm)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

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

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That the Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Gaylor and for lateness from Councillors Laban and Ropata.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Ben Bruno, as a member of Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO), spoke to agenda item 15 – Potential Land Acquisition – Lower Hutt – Report PE25.55.

Bruce Spedding, on behalf of the Eastbourne Community Board, spoke to agenda item 15 – Potential Land Acquisition – Lower Hutt – Report PE25.55.

Tony Randle spoke to agenda item 7 – Public Transport Annual Fares Review – Report 25.33.

Councillor Laban arrived at 10.15am during the above item.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 5 December 2024 – Report 24.650

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 5 December 2024 – Report 24.650.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 5 December 2024 – Report PE24.652

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Connelly

That Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 5 December 2024 – Report PE24.652.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Approval of Draft Regional Public Transport Plan for Statutory Consultation – Report 25.6

Emmett McElhatton, Manager Policy, and Samantha Gain, Group Manager Metlink, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Duthie

That Council:

- 1 Notes that on 16 February 2023, the Transport Committee approved the commencement of a review of Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-2031 (Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 Review - Report 23.12).

- 2 Notes that the narrative of the draft Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 (Draft RPTP 2025-35) has been built around the strategic priority of “an efficient, accessible, affordable and low carbon public transport network” achieved through:
 - 3 Increasing the attractiveness of public transport relative to driving
 - a Reducing public transport emissions by decarbonising the fleet
 - b Continuing to improve passenger experience across all aspects of our network
 - c Improving access to public transport for those with specific needs.
- 4 Approves for consultation the Draft RPTP 2025-35 as set out in Attachment 2 to this report.
- 5 Agrees that the Draft RPTP 2025-35 will be consulted on using the Special Consultative Procedure with public consultation scheduled to occur between 3 March 2025 and 28 March 2025.
- 6 Notes that officers will be holding a series of engagement events for the Draft RPTP 2025-35 including four online engagement events during the consultation period on 10, 11, 13 and 15 March 2025 and a “drop-in” engagement event on 20 March 2025.
- 7 Notes that formal hearings on the Draft RPTP 2025-35 are scheduled to occur on 6 and 7 May 2025. An “informal” hearings session will be held 30 April 2025.
- 8 Agrees that the Transport Committee convene as a hearings committee to consider the submissions on the Final Draft RPTP 2025-35 and to make its recommendations to Council.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Public Transport Annual Fares Review – Report 25.33

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager Strategy and Investments , spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Connelly

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the policy in Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-31 provides that fare levels will be adjusted annually with inflation within 1% to 3%, subject to Council decision through annual fares review and the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.
- 2 Notes that the current Ko te Kaupapa Here Moni Whiwhi me Ahumoni Revenue and Financing Policy 2024 aims to maintain an average 30% of total operating revenue from fares and other user charges over the years of the Long Term Plan.

- 3 Notes that in the financial year 2023/24, fare revenue (including Crown funding of national concessions for SuperGold and Community Services Card) was 24% of total operating revenue and lower than the 30% budgeted for the year; changes to travel behaviour and lower patronage levels after COVID-19 pandemic, Government Community Connect Concession and inflationary cost pressure were the main drivers for lower than expected fare revenue and fares share of funding in the financial year 2023/24.
- 4 Notes that the last general fare increase implemented on 1 July 2024 was 10% to bring fare levels up in line with the level of inflation over the past 5 years.
- 5 Notes that fare revenue for the current financial year 2024/25 is currently forecast to be approximately \$10 to \$12 million lower than the current Long Term Plan budget.
- 6 Notes that the national contribution to funding of the public transport 'continuous programme' has been significantly reduced in the allocations of the current National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) for the triennium 2024-27.
- 7 Notes that as part of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 that is reflected in Government's new conditions of funding, all regions are expected to actively work towards increasing public transport private share by 30 June 2027, including setting targets each year; this includes operating within approved funding of public transport continuous programmes, reviewing services that are delivering very low farebox recovery, considering appropriate fares and relevant sources of third-party funding.
- 8 Notes that the budget for the Annual Plan 2025-26 accounts for a combination of fare revenue increases and cost savings to reduce pressure on rates and debt funding, while attempting to keep fares affordable for fare paying passengers.
- 9 Notes that based on the budget review, the draft annual plan 2025-26 assumes a fare increase by inflation (2.2%) and reduction to the current off-peak discount (from 50% to 30%) to partially offset the cost pressure and reduced funding levels.
- 10 Notes that the impact of reducing the current off-peak fare discount level from 50% to 30% on travel behaviour is expected to be less than a larger general increase in fares, which would make peak prices less competitive when compared to other travel options.
- 11 Agrees to increase fares by 2.2% (level of inflation) and reduce off-peak discount from 50% to 30% from 1 July 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 10.57am and resumed at 11.37am.

8 2025/26 Annual Plan Engagement – Report 25.52

Christina Underhill, Advisor Planning and Reporting, and Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager Strategy and Investments, spoke to the report. Draft print copies of the Proposed Annual Plan 25/26 were tabled.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Agrees the ‘inform and engage’ approach for the 2025/26 Annual Plan.
- 2 Approves the 2025/26 Annual Plan engagement materials as set out in Attachments 1-3.
- 3 Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes to the proposed 2025/26 Annual Plan engagement materials to correct errors and improve public understanding.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Ropata joined the meeting via MS Teams at 11.42am during the above item.

9 2025 Triennial Local Elections – Report 25.9

Will Ogier, Principal Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Notes that all territorial authorities in the Wellington Region will use the postal voting method for the 2025 triennial elections.
- 2 Notes the timetable for the 2025 triennial local elections (Attachment 1).
- 3 Agrees that the names of the Wellington Regional Council candidates at the 2025 triennial local elections (and any subsequent by-elections during the 2025–28 triennium) are arranged on the voting paper in random order.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Impact of Legislative Changes on Council’s Powers, Functions and Duties – February 2025 – Report 25.48

Will Ogier, Principal Advisor, and Andrew Banks, Resource Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Connelly

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 has implications for Council’s powers, functions, and duties.
- 2 Delegates to the Chief Executive all the powers, functions, and duties under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and any associated regulations (as set out in Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

11 Greater Wellington’s Quarter Two 2024/25 Summary Report – Report 25.62

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Accepts Greater Wellington’s 2024/25 Quarter Two Performance Summary Report, as at 31 December 2024 (Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

12 Finance Update – January 2025 – Report 25.66 [For Information]

Alison Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance and Risk, spoke to the report.

Resolution to exclude the public

13 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.27

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Lee

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

Strategic public transport asset ownership – PE25.35

Potential land acquisition – Lower Hutt – PE25.55

Appointment of Director to Predator Free Wellington – PE25.72

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 5 December 2025 – RPE24.651

Bus services procurement: transition out of current contracts – RPE25.36

East by West Funding arrangements update – RPE25.26

Lower North Island Integrated Mobility: Procurement update – RPE25.24

Interim review of the Chief Executive’s performance for 2024/25 – RPE25.18

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

Strategic Public Transport Asset Ownership – PE25.35	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
Information contained in this report is commercially sensitive. Release of	- The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section

<p>this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on commercial activities (section 7(2)(h)).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>7(2)(h) of the act in order to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p>
<p>Potential land acquisition –Lower Hutt – PE25.55</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report relates to a proposed land purchase upon terms and conditions that are yet to be negotiated and agreed. Having this part of the meeting open to the public would disadvantage Greater Wellington in its negotiations as it would reveal Greater Wellington negotiation strategy (section 7(2)(i) of the Act).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
<p>Appointment of Director to Predator Free Wellington – PE25.72</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the proposed candidate. Withholding this information prior to Council’s decision is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their</p>	<p>- The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>

<p>consideration as a board member of Predator Free Wellington.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p>Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 5 December 2025 – RPE24.651</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in these minutes relates to future bus services procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations and may affect the probity of the bus services procurement process (section 7(2)(i) of the Act).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
<p>Bus Services Procurement: Transition out of Current Contracts – RPE25.36</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Certain information contained in this report relates to future bus service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations and may affect the probity of the bus services procurement process (section 7(2)(i) of the Act).</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>

<p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p>East by West Funding Arrangements update – RPE25.26</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report is commercially sensitive. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on commercial negotiations (section 7(2)(i)).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
<p>Lower North Island Integrated Mobility: Procurement Update – RPE25.24</p>	
<p><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Certain information contained in this report relates to future rail service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region. Excluding the public from the proceedings of the meeting is necessary as considering this information in public would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (section 7(2)(i) of the Act).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>

the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	
Interim Review of the Chief Executive's Performance for 2024/25 – RPE25.18	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>This report contains information relating to the current Chief Executive's full year performance review. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of the Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the Chief Executive's privacy.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons).</p>

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

- 2 That Mary Kilkelly, Director – Financial Advisory, Deloitte, be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of her knowledge of the matters under consideration for the Bus Service Procurement: Transition out of Current Contracts. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because of her knowledge of Greater Wellington's bus contracts.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 12.23pm.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: