

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 10 April 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.36am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Duthie

That Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Gaylor.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Frances Mountier, Free Fares, spoke to agenda item 8 – Interim Public Transport Private Share Targets – Report 25.34.

Tony Randle, spoke to agenda item 8 – Interim Public Transport Private Share Targets – Report 25.34.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 27 February 2025- Report 25.84

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Saw

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 27 February 2025 – Report 25.84, as corrected.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Part 3 of the resolution in item 6 in the minutes was corrected to be part of the alphabetical list within part 2 of the resolution.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 13 March 2025 – Report 25.113

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Connelly

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 13 March 2025 – Report 25.113.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 20 March 2025 – Report 25.132

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Connelly

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 20 March 2025 – Report 25.132.

The motion was **carried**.

The Chair accorded priority to agenda item 8 – Interim Public Transport Private Share Targets – Report 25.34 in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

7 Interim Public Transport Private Share Targets – Report 25.34

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager, Strategy and Partnerships, and Emmet McElhatton, Manager, Policy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Ponter

That Council:

- 1 Notes that NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) requires Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to adopt interim Public Transport Private Share targets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 by the end of March 2025.
- 2 Notes that NZTA expects Greater Wellington to be able to demonstrate that it is actively working towards the adopted interim Private Share targets, and that performance against them may have an impact on future National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) funding levels and investment decisions.
- 3 Notes that, following high-level preliminary analysis and forecasting, officers have developed three Private Share target options for the Council to consider, based on of the level of stretch or aspiration Council wishes to pursue.
- 4 Agrees to adopt the Private Share targets for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 at 23.9% and 25.1% respectively; and an indicative target of 25.7% for 2026/27.
- 5 Notes that the proposed targets are in line with the current expectations of revenue and expenditure in the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan budget set for the triennium 2024 to 2027.
- 6 Notes that NZTA has indicated that it expects that Greater Wellington will signal its intentions to grow Private Share in the years beyond the current LTP triennium.
- 7 Agrees to adopt longer term indicative Private Share stretch targets as set out in Option 1 (as set out in table 4, paragraph 70 of the report), which includes private share rising to 33% by 2033/34.
- 8 Notes the risk that in a currently volatile operating environment, particularly with economic and unemployment factors putting pressure on fares and other forms of revenue, the current annual plan targets are likely to be challenging.
- 9 Notes that NZTA has indicated that, as long as Greater Wellington can demonstrate it is actively working towards achieving the targets adopted, it will not be disadvantaged in future funding considerations; there is currently no further guidance on what this will mean in practice.
- 10 Notes that future Council decisions in relation to Metlink public transport will need to take the interim Private Share targets into account.
- 11 Requests officers to prepare a report outlining an accelerated roadmap for Metlink to introduce key ticketing measures linked to patronage growth, including fare capping, integrated fares between bus and rail.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Decision on Making Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region Partially Operative – Report 25.118

Fathima Iftikar, Director, Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Richard Sheild, Project Lead Policy, and Josephine Knight-MacLean, Policy Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Lee

That Council:

- 1 Notes the list of provisions that form part of the current Decisions Version of Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region as set out in Attachment 1 to this report that are proposed to be made operative.
- 2 Approves the new Appeals Operative Version of Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region as set out in Attachment 2 to this report.
- 3 Notes that the Chief Executive, under the Chief Executive’s current delegation from Council, will give effect to the Appeals Operative version of Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement by affixing the Common Seal of Council in accordance with clause 17 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 4 Agrees that the Appeals Operative Version of Change 1 and Variation 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region shall become operative from 22 April 2025 in accordance with Clause 20 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991. This will be notified through the public notice set out in Attachment 3 to this report.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 11.01am and resumed at 11.22am.

9 Greater Wellington’s Communication Policy for the 2025 Pre-Election Period – Report 25.135

Benjamin Robinson-Drawbridge, Senior Media Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Adopts the pre-election communication protocols in paragraphs 15-25 of this report for the period 4 July 2022 to 11 October 2025.
- 2 Notes the Taituarā guidance ‘Communications in the pre-election period 2025’ (Attachment 1).
- 3 Notes Greater Wellington’s ‘Social media guidelines for candidates 2025’ (Attachment 2).

The motion was **carried**.

10 Policy on the Appointment of Non-Elected Members to Committees, Subcommittees, and Advisory Bodies – Report 25.40

Will Ogier, Principal Advisor, Democratic Services, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council:

- 1 Revokes Council's *Policy on the appointment of non-elected members to committees, subcommittees, and advisory groups 2021* (Attachment 1).
- 2 Adopts the *Policy on the appointment of non-elected members to committees, subcommittees, and advisory bodies* (Attachment 2), effective immediately.
- 3 Approves an increase in Greater Wellington's standard daily attendance allowance from \$235 to \$250, effective immediately.
- 4 Agrees to a triennial review of the standard daily attendance allowance, aligned to the triennial review of the *Policy on the appointment of non-elected members to committees, subcommittees, and advisory bodies*.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses – Report 25.94

Will Ogier, Principal Advisor, Democratic Services, Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, and Ross Lynch, Chief Technology Officer, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Duthie

That Council:

- 1 Notes the Remuneration Authority's advice that the proposed revised *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* does not require its subsequent approval before that policy can take effect.
- 2 Revokes the current *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses 2024* (Attachment 1), effective from the day following the declaration of the official results for Greater Wellington's 2025 triennial local elections.
- 3 Adopts the revised *Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses* (Attachment 2), to take effect on the day following the declaration of the official results for Greater Wellington's 2025 triennial local elections.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Change to Council's Delegations of Powers, Functions and Duties – April 2025 – Report 25.142

Will Ogier, Principal Democratic Services Advisor, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Saw

That Council:

- 1 Notes that Greater Wellington considers that the Project Lead Policy needs delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991 to make decisions under the appeals process for the Regional Policy Statement Proposed Change 1.
- 2 Revokes, with effect from 10 April 2025, the delegations made by Council on 21 September 2023 to specified officers under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 3 Delegates its powers, functions, and duties under the Resource Management Act 1991 to the specified officers in Attachment 1, except those powers retained explicitly by Council, with effect from 10 April 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

13 Draft Statement of Intent for WRC Holdings 2025/26 – Report 25.152

Grant McPherson, Head of Company Portfolio and Economic Development, and Jan de Bruin, Senior Advisor, Company Portfolio and Economic Development, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Bassett

That Council:

- 1 Receives the draft 2025/26 Statement of Intent from WRC Holdings.
- 2 Authorises the Council Chair to finalise a letter to the Chair of WRC Holdings with any comments and feedback to be considered for the final Statement of Intent.

The motion was **carried**.

14 Finance Update – February 2025 – Report 25.125 [For Information]

Darryl Joyce, Manager, Accounting Services, spoke to the report.

Resolution to exclude the public

15 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 25.148

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Connelly

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

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025 – Report PE25.85

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 20 March 2025 – Report PE25.133

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025 – Report RPE25.86

Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded minutes of Council Meeting on 13 March 2025 – Report RPE25.115

East by West Contract – Report RPE25.104

Bus Services Procurement Strategy – Report RPE25.103

Zero Emissions Bus Strategy – Report RPE25.107

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

Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025 – Report PE25.85	
<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>Information contained in these minutes relates to –</p> <p>a strategic public transport asset ownership, which is commercially sensitive and release of 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>b a proposed land purchase upon terms and conditions that are yet to be negotiated and agreed, and having this part of the meeting open to the public would disadvantage Greater Wellington in its negotiations as it would reveal Greater Wellington’s negotiation strategy (section 7(2)(i)).</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 under section 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, and 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>

Confirmation of the Public Excluded Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 20 March 2025 – Report PE25.133	
<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>Information contained in these minutes relates to Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) Project legal advice, commercial information and costs. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington to carry on negotiations without prejudice (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 to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025 – Report RPE25.86	
<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>Information contained in these minutes relates to –</p> <p>a a future bus service procurement and contracting in the Wellington Region, and 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>b an East by West funding arrangements update, which is commercially sensitive and 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</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded under section 7(2)(i) of the Act in order to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>

disclosure of this information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information	
Confirmation of the Restricted Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting on 13 March 2025 – Report RPE25.115	
<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>Information contained in these minutes relates to a lease opportunity in southern Wellington. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the ability of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to carry on 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>	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
East by West Contract – Report RPE25.104	
<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>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>	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(i) of the Act to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
Bus Services Procurement Strategy – Report RPE25.103	
<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>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>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 to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>
<p>Zero Emissions Bus Strategy – Report RPE25.107</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 to enable Greater Wellington to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</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.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.44am.



Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: 23/05/2025

