

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2026 AT 3:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Fran Wilde (Chair), Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Chris Archer, Cr Andrea Rutene, Cr Simone Baker, Cr Rachel Clarke, Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rupert Watson and Cr Rob Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Clare Barton (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Alex Pigou (Manager, Communications) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS: This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 3:00pm to 4:04pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

6 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

6.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Mayor Wilde expressed disappointment at the limited timeframe provided by central government to develop and submit the proposal, noting that it had not enabled comprehensive community

consultation. Mayor Wilde also acknowledged and thanked staff for the significant work undertaken in preparing the proposal.

Members debated the second decision and highlighted a range of considerations in support of both governance options.

RESOLUTION DC2026/51

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Ellims

Council resolved to receive the report *Local Government Reform*.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION DC2026/52

Moved: Cr Archer

Seconded: Cr Ellims

First decision: Council resolved to agree to be part of a 'Head Start' proposal for Local Government Reform, noting that the proposed Back Stop process may not be in the best interests of the community.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION DC2026/53

Moved: Cr Ellims

Seconded: Cr Isaacs

Second Decision a: Agrees to submit a Wairarapa Unitary Council Head Start proposal (Appendix 1).

In Favour: Cr Ellims, Cr Bosely, Cr Clarke, Cr Baker.

Against: Mayor Wilde, Cr Archer, Cr Isaacs, Cr Taylor, Cr Watson and Cr Rutene.

LOST 4/6

Following the loss of the motion, the alternative proposal became the substantive motion.

Second Decision b: Agrees to submit a Wellington/Wairarapa Unitary Council Head Start proposal (Appendix 2).

In Favour: Mayor Wilde, Cr Archer, Cr Isaacs, Cr Taylor, Cr Watson and Cr Rutene.

Against: Cr Ellims, Cr Bosely, Cr Clarke, Cr Baker.

CARRIED 6/4

Noted: the third, fourth and fifth recommendations in the report became moot following the resolution to submit a Wellington/Wairarapa Unitary Council Head Start proposal.

RESOLUTION DC2026/54

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Taylor

Sixth Decision: Authorises the Chair of the Mayoral Forum to submit the Head Start Proposal to Government on behalf of the councils who have agreed to it by 9 August 2026.

In Favour: Mayor Wilde, Cr Archer, Cr Rutene, Cr Clarke, Cr Isaacs, Cr Watson and Cr Taylor

Against: Cr Bosley, Cr Ellims and Cr Baker.

CARRIED 7/3

RESOLUTION DC2026/55

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Taylor

Seventh Decision: Notes that Cabinet has indicated that it will decide on those Head Start proposals that it will accept before the national election in November 2026 and that, if a proposal is accepted, Government may seek modifications.

CARRIED

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4:04pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Mayor)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)