

Tuesday, 27 January 2026

Administered by Hastings District Council

Joint Hastings District, Central Hawke's Bay District & Napier City Councils

Transitional Governance Group Meeting

(Hawke's Bay Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSSCO) Project)

Ngā Minitī

Minutes

Te Rā Hui:
Meeting date: **Tuesday, 27 January 2026**

Te Wāhi:
Venue: **Council Chamber
28-32 Ruataniwha Street
Waipawa**

Time start – end: **3:00 PM – 4.19 PM**

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council: Transitional Governance Group Meeting

Ngā Miniti

Minutes

Te Rārangi Upoko

Table of Contents

Item	Page No.
1. Apologies – <i>Ngā Whakapāhatanga</i>	2
2. Conflicts of Interest - <i>He Ngākau Kōnatunatu</i>	2
3. Confirmation of Minutes - <i>Te Whakamana i Ngā Miniti</i>	2
4. Update from the Interim Establishment Chief Executive	3
5. Status Report Update	3
6. Programme Plan Update	4
7. Minor Items - <i>Ngā Take Iti</i>	4
8. Urgent Items - <i>Ngā Take Whakahihiri</i>	4

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Hastings District Council: Transitional Governance Group Meeting

Ngā Minitī

Minutes

Kua Tae ā-tinana: **Independent Chair:** Jon Nichols
Present: **Deputy Chair:** Cr Keith Price (NCC)

Members:

Hastings District Council

Mayor Wendy Schollum (HDC)

Cr Michael Fowler (HDC)

Napier City Council

Mayor Richard McGrath (NCC)

Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Mayor Will Foley (CHBDC)

Cr Brent Muggeridge (CHBDC)

Kua Tatū:
In attendance:

Chief Executive - Nigel Bickle (HDC)
Deputy Chief Executive - Bruce Allan (HDC)
Group Manager: Infrastructure - Craig Thew (HDC)
Chief Financial Officer - Graham Watson (HDC)
Strategic Financial Advisor – Jess Noiseux (HDC)

Chief Executive - Doug Tate (CHBDC)
Director – Organisational Planning - Donna Harvey (CHBDC)
Senior Communications Advisor – Audrey Malone (CHBDC)
Strategic Governance Manager – Jane Budge (CHBDC)

Chief Executive, Louise Miller (NCC)
Executive Director Water Services - Russell Bond (NCC)
Manager Regional Waters, Bevan Trotman (NCC)

Project Convenor, HB Regional Recovery Agency - Andrew Lebioda
Programme Manager, HB Regional Recovery Agency – Chris Gordon

Kei Konei: **Establishment Advisory Board**
Also present: Chair - Wendy Harvey, invited to join the table
 Interim Chief Executive, Chris O'Reilly
 Member – John Loughlin
 Member – Steven Joyce

Chief Executive, Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC), Doug Tate opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. APOLOGIES – NGĀ WHAKAPĀHATANGA

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - HE NGĀKAU KŌNATUNATU

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - TE WHAKAMANA I NGĀ MINITI

Councillor Fowler/Councillor Price

That the minutes of the Transitional Governance Group held Wednesday 26 November 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

The Chair, Jon Nichols gave an update on progress since the last meeting as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation (CG-18-10-00012) noting the appointment of the new interim Chief Executive, and the following key points:

- Project Plan: First cut produced. Programme currently rated green at this early stage, but momentum and milestones are critical.
- Budget & funding: A working capital facility exists pending detailed numbers and documentation.
- Workstreams: Standing up the six major programme workstreams is underway; a focus on clarity of structure, resourcing, milestones and associated budgets.
- Reporting: Weekly with the PSG (CEs), with an intent to provide clear milestones and transparent reporting; fortnightly to TGG updates were also discussed later for consistency.
- Risks and readiness: Need to stand up corporate capabilities (legal, funding/financing, change management, etc.) alongside programme delivery; the Chair highlighted several "yellow flags" and the need to "go now".
- Name and branding: Need to start thinking about what the new entity is to be called.

4. UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM ESTABLISHMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(Document 26/19)

The Interim Establishment Board Chief Executive, Chris O'Reilly spoke to the report and led the discussion noting need for action, clarity on structure and budget, and what needs to be contracted vs. in-house. Engagement with peer entities to avoid reinventing the wheel and to share templates/approaches.

Issue was raised concerning handover, and what is in place should a council not deliver on their programme prior to vesting into the new entity. There are rules contained in the Act to cover these issues.

Mayor Schollum/Mayor Foley

That the Transitional Governance Group receive the report titled Update from the Interim Establishment Chief Executive dated 27 January 2026.

CARRIED

5. STATUS REPORT UPDATE

(Document 26/18)

The Programme Manager, Hawke's Bay Regional Recovery Agency - Chris Gordon, spoke to the report and led the discussion, noting the following key points:

- Traffic-light approach: Everything is currently green, highlighting the early stages of the programme.
- High-level risks: overview page discussed noting some items may shift from green to amber/red as work decomposes into tasks.
- Key risk focus: standing up the organisation and corporate structure (incl. pricing model, roles and governance for incorporation).

Councillor Muggeridge/Mayor Foley

- A) That the Transitional Governance Group receive the report titled Status Report Update dated 27 January 2026.
- B) That the Transitional Governance Group note the status report.

CARRIED

6. PROGRAMME PLAN UPDATE

(Document 26/20)

The Programme Manager, Hawke’s Bay Regional Recovery Agency – Chris Gordon spoke to the report and led the discussion, noting additional clarity to be inserted into the plan on governance/management structure, change control, and decision-making processes; updated plan to go to Board/Transitional Governance Group and be signed off by PSG.

Mayor Schollum/Councillor Fowler

- A) That the Transitional Governance Group receive the report titled Programme Plan Update dated 27 January 2026.
- B) That the Transitional Governance Group note the process for approving the Programme Plan.

CARRIED

7. MINOR ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE ITI

There were no additional business items.

8. URGENT ITEMS - NGĀ TAKE WHAKAHIHIRI

There were no extraordinary business items.

The meeting closed with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4.19pm

Confirmed:

Chair:

Date: