NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Napier Civic Building
231 Hastings Street
t +64 6 835 7579
e info@napier.govt.nz
www.napier.govt.nz

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Open Minutes

Meeting Date:	Tuesday 24 February 2026
Time:	1.00pm – 1.20pm (Adopt Triennial Agreement)
Venue	Small Exhibition Hall War Memorial Centre Marine Parade Napier
	Livestreamed via Council's YouTube page

Present	**Chair:** Mayor McGrath **Members:** Deputy Mayor Crown, Councillors Brownlie, Chrystal, Lawrence, Mawson, Morley, Price, Simpson, Isaac-Sharland, Raihania and Taylor
In Attendance	Chief Executive (Louise Miller) Deputy Chief Executive / Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services (Jessica Ellerm) Executive Director Water Services (Russell Bond) Head of Finance, Data & Digital (Caroline Thomson) Communications, Marketing & Engagement Manager (Julia Stevens) Governance Manager (Anna Eady)
Administration	Governance Advisors (Carolyn Hunt)

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – Open Minutes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Order of Business **Page No.**

Karakia....3
Apologies....3
Conflicts of interest....3
Public forum....3
Announcements by the Mayor....3
Announcements by the management....3
Confirmation of minutes....3
Minor Matter....3
- Council Communication....3

Agenda Items

1. 2025-2028 Triennial Agreement....4

Minor matters....5

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Karakia

The meeting opened with the Council karakia.

Apologies

Nil

Conflicts of interest

Nil

Public forum

Nil

Announcements by the Mayor

Nil

Announcements by the management

Nil

Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Deputy Mayor Crown / Councillor Chrystal

That the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 12 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

Minor Matter

- Council Communication

AGENDA ITEMS

1. 2025-2028 TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT

Type of Report:	Legal and Operational
Legal Reference:	Local Government Act 2002
Document ID:	1892431
Reporting Officer/s & Unit:	Anna Eady, Governance Manager

1.0 Executive Summary - Te Kaupapa me te Whakarāpopototanga:

1.1 This report presents the draft Triennial Agreement to Council for adoption.

1.2 Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that by 1 March following a triennial election all local authorities in a region must enter into an agreement stating how they will work together and govern their communities effectively for the triennium.

1.3 The Hawke's Bay Local Government Leaders Forum has endorsed the draft document and recommends that Councils in Hawke's Bay consider and adopt the Triennial Agreement before the 1 March deadline.

At the meeting

The Governance Manager, Ms Eady spoke to the report. Ms Eady advised that other signatory Councils would be considering the Triennial Agreement at their meetings on 25 February 2026.

The Chief Executive, Ms Miller advised that discussions were held with new Mayors at the beginning of the Triennium in relation to delegation if the Mayor or Chief Executive were unable to attend a Mayor and Leaders Forum, no decision was formalised at that time.

Ms Miller confirmed that when a decision on delegations had been made by the Forum, elected members would be advised.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Councillors Lawrence / Mawson

That Council

a. **Receive** the report titled "2025-2028 Triennial Agreement" dated 24 February 2026.

b. **Adopt** the draft 2025-2028 Triennial Agreement (Doc Id 1898426).

c. **Authorise** the Mayor and Chief Executive to execute the draft Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 on behalf of Napier City Council.

Carried

Minor matters

Council Communication – Deputy Mayor Crown advised that for purposes of transparency she wished to table correspondence (Doc Id 1900029) she received from the Mayor on 23 February 2026 requesting her resignation as Deputy Mayor by 5.00pm on Tuesday, 24 February 2026. She considered it a miscarriage of due and fair process and requested that officers organise training in communication and leadership skills for the Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Crown advised that she would be seeking a judicial review on the decision-making process triggered by the Mayor's actions and had requested advice about the costs and resources that would be incurred for ratepayers.

In response to a question regarding the appointment of Deputy Mayor, the Governance Manager, Ms Eady clarified that section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 provided the Mayor discretionary power to appoint the Deputy Mayor. If a mayor chooses to appoint the deputy mayor they are also able to remove that appointment.

However, if a mayor chooses to forego their discretionary powers under Section 41A the Council would elect a deputy mayor and the mayor would not be able to remove that appointment.

Mayor McGrath had appointed Councillor Crown as Deputy Mayor and therefore legally he is able to remove that appointment.

ACTION: ***Direct*** *staff to bring a paper with a communications training and leadership development plan for the mayoral role, that this be funded from the allocated professional development budget.*

The meeting closed with a karakia at 1.20pm

Approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairperson .....

Date of approval .....

Below Mayor's script tabled and circulated at the Council meeting on 24 February 2026 by Deputy Mayor Crown which was received on 23 February 2026.

I've asked to meet with you today to formally request your resignation as Deputy Mayor.

If you choose not to resign, I will be removing you from the Deputy Mayor role. That decision has been made and is final.

The reason for this is that I no longer have the level of trust and confidence I need in my Deputy. The relationship has reached a point where I do not feel I have someone at my side I can rely on completely. I need a Deputy Mayor I trust implicitly and who fully supports me in leading the city.

Unfortunately, I do not believe we are in that position.

If you would like examples of where I feel that trust has been compromised, I can provide two - although there have been other instances I won't revisit today:

- Public commentary in the media that has undermined unified leadership.
- Undermining behaviour within council-only forums.

This decision relates to the Deputy Mayor position only. Your other roles and responsibilities will remain unchanged, provided you wish to continue in them.

As mentioned, I will give you the opportunity to decide how you would like to step down from the Deputy Mayor role, including the option to resign. I will need your decision by 5pm today.

If you choose to resign, I'm prepared to work with you on a joint media statement so this can be handled professionally and with dignity.

If you choose not to resign, I will issue a statement after 5pm today confirming the change.

You remain an elected member and I respect the mandate you hold.

I expect that we will continue to work professionally together in the best interests of Napier.