

Council

Meeting of 06 May 2026

Business Unit: Corporate

Date Created: 23 April 2026

Appointment of Marae Liaison Councillors

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To seek Council approval for the confirmation of six marae liaison appointments.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council:

1. Appoints the following marae liaison Councillors:

Marae	Liaison Councillor
Aorangi	Cr Rob Duindam
Parewahawaha	Cr Alison Short
Poupatatē	Cr James McKelvie
Taumata o te Rā	Cr Colin Dyer
Te Hiiri	Cr Sam Hill
Te Tikanga	Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

2. Notes that further report on marae liaison appointments will be presented to Council for confirmation at a later meeting.

Report prepared by:

Ash Garstang

Governance and Assurance Manager

Approved for submission by:

Frances Smorti

General Manager - Corporate

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Council is progressing the confirmation of marae liaison appointments across the district to strengthen relationships between elected members and marae.
- 1.2 Marae liaison roles support engagement with hapū and iwi, enabling councillors to participate in hui and build meaningful connections with their respective marae.
- 1.3 Due to the timing of marae governance processes, appointments are being brought to Council as they are finalised. The appointments included in this report represent those marae that have completed their approval processes to date.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 This report supports Council's strategic priority of "A future planned together" by strengthening relationships with marae and iwi across the district.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The appointments included in this report represent those marae that have completed this process and are ready for Council confirmation. Confirming these appointments at this stage enables councillors to begin engaging with their respective marae without unnecessary delay, supporting relationship-building and participation in hui and related activities.
- 3.2 Given not all marae have finalised their arrangements, it is appropriate to bring appointments to Council as they become available rather than waiting for all appointments to be completed. This approach reflects the independent timing of marae decision-making processes while maintaining a clear and transparent approval process.
- 3.3 Further appointments will be presented to Council for confirmation once remaining marae have completed their processes.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 This report relates to Council's strategic risk "Iwi Relationships", which recognises the importance of maintaining strong and effective relationships with iwi and tangata whenua.
- 4.2 Strong relationships between marae and Council support positive collaboration, improve engagement in Council decision-making, and enable more effective navigation of Council regulatory and project processes.
- 4.3 These relationships also support marae by providing a consistent point of contact with Council, improving access to information, and enabling more effective participation in Council processes and decision-making. They also play an important role during local emergencies, where marae often act as key community hubs providing welfare support, shelter, and coordination for affected communities.

4.4 The appointment of marae liaison councillors is a key enabler within this risk area, supporting ongoing relationship-building at a local level. Confirming these appointments in a timely manner helps strengthen connections between marae and Council, contributing to improved trust, communication, and collaboration.

4.5 Council has a cautious risk appetite in the areas of reputational and cultural risk. In practice, this means that Council seeks to carefully manage risks associated with relationships and cultural engagement, while still proactively investing in opportunities to strengthen partnerships that deliver long-term value.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision and Māori Engagement

5.1 The decision is considered to be of low significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy. While no broader community engagement has been undertaken, targeted engagement has occurred with marae through their own governance processes, supported by Council. This approach aligns with the principle of engaging directly with relevant parties where a matter is of specific interest to those groups.

Community Engagement

5.2 No additional community engagement is required.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 There are no operational implications with this report.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 There are no statutory requirements relating to the appointment of marae liaison Councillors.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Marae liaison appointments confirmed through this report will take effect following Council approval, with councillors commencing engagement with their respective marae.

9.2 A subsequent report will be presented to Council at a later stage to confirm remaining marae liaison appointments.

10 Attachments Ngā ĀpitiHanga

- Nil.