

ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE/ NGĀ ĀRAHINA MAHINGA

Chair	Councillor Galloway
Membership	Councillor Chen Councillor Davidson Councillor Donovan Councillor Templeton
Meeting Cycle	Monthly
Reports To	Council
Focus	Task based

Background / context

The Council carries out a range of different forms of engagement, from formal consultation (as required under the Local Government Act) through to community outreach. There are a myriad of touchpoints where the Council engages with residents. In line with national and international trends, the Council has seen survey results showing declining trust and confidence in decision-making. In the 2021 General Satisfaction Survey, only one third of residents understand the decision-making process, and rate it favourably. The Council has received feedback from the draft Strengthening Communities Strategy, the Long Term Plan and other consultations that our residents want us to engage in more effective and meaningful ways. To address the current perceptions associated with Council decision-making, a multi-faceted approach is required – one that enables active and connected communities to own their future, support s elected members to understand the diverse views and interests of communities (as required by the Local Government principles, Sections 14 (1) (b -e)), and give s regard to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Purpose

The Engagement Working Group will make recommendations to the Council on opportunities to improve awareness of and community participation in decision-making processes, including the 2024 Long Term Plan.

Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Identifying any gaps and opportunities where public engagement could increase participation of the community in democratic processes.
- Considering innovative solutions to address these gaps and opportunities.
- Providing advice and feedback to staff in advance of decisions, and raising awareness and overseeing the development and implementation of an engagement action plan.
- Making recommendations to the Council for approval of the engagement action plan.
- Make recommendations to the Council on an engagement strategy to be considered as part of the planning for the 2024 Long Term Plan programme of work.

Delegations

There are no delegations provided to this group. The Engagement Working Group will bring recommendations to the Council, as the final decision –maker.

Status

The Engagement Working Group does not have the status of a Committee, and the Council's Standing Orders accordingly do not apply to its meetings.