



Te whakarite whai  
wāhitanga Māori ki ngā  
whakataunga Kaunihera  
**Tairāwhiti Piritahi: Fostering  
Māori Participation in  
Council Decision-Making  
Policy**

Fostering Māori participation in Council decision-making



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## Introduction

Tangata whenua have a long historical settlement and connection to Tairāwhiti, and an equally long term role in the future planning and decision-making for the region.

The powers and functions exercised by Council in its rates collection, regulatory and local public service functions have a significant impact on Māori and how they collectively express their values, priorities and lives.

Council acknowledges that there is further work required on this policy due to new spaces of collaboration required such as Te Mana o te Wai, this will include working with Māori as co-creators of the next iteration of this policy.

## He aha te take kei a tātau tēnei kaupapa?

### Why do we have this policy?

Council has statutory, constituent and organisational obligations to Māori. Council has a three-pronged method to delivering on our obligations to Māori.

- The legal obligations are Council's starting point to deliver on our Māori outcomes. By meeting these obligations, there will be significant contributions by Māori to Council's own planning and decision-making.
- The constituent obligations to Māori in our community as citizens with distinctive cultural aspirations. These aspirations should be understood and incorporated in all aspects of our work. This will result in our service delivery meeting the needs and aspirations of Māori.
- Our organisational obligations are what we have promised to do with Māori. This includes our formal agreements and ensuring they are successful. This will result in partnerships with Māori that contribute to sustainable Tairāwhiti outcomes.

Council is committed to contributing to Māori plans, inter-generational projects and long term aspirations to create better outcomes for Tairāwhiti.

Council therefore requires an understanding of te reo Māori and tikanga and effective relationships with Māori of Tairāwhiti in order to undertake its core role of leading and representing its communities.

## He aha te take o tēnei kaupapa?

### What is the purpose of this policy?

This policy promotes and facilitates Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes, including a framework for building organisational capability and additional opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making processes<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Significance and Engagement Policy outlines Council's overall approach to engagement, including engagement with Māori

## Ngā aronga a te kāwanatanga

### Central government direction

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the guiding document in the relationship between Māori and the Crown. There have been a number of treaty settlements in Tairāwhiti already, further settlements are to be finalised<sup>2</sup>.

In 2019 the New Zealand government adopted Maihi Karauna – the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019-2023<sup>3</sup>. Local government as part of the public service has a role to play in fulfilling the goals set in this strategy. The goals are:

- By 2040, 85% of New Zealanders (or more) will value te reo Māori as a key element of national identity.
- By 2040, one million New Zealanders (or more) will have the ability and confidence to talk about at least basic things in te reo Māori.
- By 2040, 150,000 Māori aged 15 and over will use te reo Māori as much as English.

Section 81 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 requires Council to facilitate enhanced opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.

The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 recognises Māori interests in natural and physical resources and contains specific provisions and tools for consulting and working with tangata whenua, such as joint management agreements.

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<sup>2</sup> Te Aitangi a Māhaki, Te Whānau a Apanui, Tūranganui-a-Kiwa

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/a-matou-kaupapa/maihi-karauna>

# He aha ta mātau āhua whakamahi?

## What is our approach?

Our approach to fostering Māori participation in Council decision-making includes building the capability and capacity of the organisation to provide for this, as well as ensuring there are opportunities for it to occur.

The approach is underpinned by the following principles:

- **Tika** – a shared commitment to “do the right thing” – morally and ethically – by making certain that everyone is treated with equal respect and fairness.
- **Pono** – a shared commitment to ensure informed decision-making is underpinned by, and made with, honesty, integrity and good faith.
- **Manaakitanga** – the mutual elevation of mana in encounters and when engaged in discourse as a means of seeking shared understanding based on the spirit of respect and dignity.
- **Kete mātauranga** – Council recognises that tangata whenua have an embodied set of expertise and skills in providing a Māori world view in decision-making processes.

The following tables outline Council's four approaches under this policy. It includes an explanation of the approach, the type of actions that will be taken under this approach, and what we believe success looks like.

Council's activities span a broad range of areas and the application of the four threads below may vary between activities based on any legislative requirements applicable to those activities. There may be variances in application between activities also due to need.

He rōpū whakamana e aro ana ki ngā tikanga ao Māori An empowered organisation that values te ao Māori		
He whakamārama Explanation	Ngā tukanga Actions	Te āhua o te angitū What success looks like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding and recognising te ao Māori, (values, tikanga and decision-making frameworks) is an essential step when developing policy and decision-making in Tairāwhiti settings in order for successful implementation. Acknowledging kaitiakitanga, tikanga, mana whenua, rangatiratanga, mātauranga Māori and their role in better outcomes for Tairāwhiti.</li> </ul>	<p>We will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting staff to build cultural knowledge about Māori through providing training opportunities such as te reo Māori me ona tikanga (basic and advanced courses)</li> <li>• build cultural capacity and capability of Council staff by exposure to Māori values, relationships, language and projects</li> <li>• supporting staff to incorporate mātauranga Māori into their work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of our staff have a basic level of Māori cultural knowledge.</li> <li>• There are a number of opportunities for staff exposure to Māori values, relationships, language and projects – including working with our Māori communities.</li> <li>• Council has a mātauranga Māori framework that enables staff to work with the appropriate iwi/hapū/groups/individuals to incorporate it into their everyday work as well as projects.</li> </ul>

He rōpū whakamana e aro ana ki ngā tikanga ao Māori

**An empowered organisation that values te ao Māori**

He whakamārama <b>Explanation</b>	Ngā tukanga <b>Actions</b>	Te āhua o te angitū <b>What success looks like</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>networking and capability building opportunities to work with our Māori communities</li> <li>applying the policy framework to all of the work we do. This and its associated tools are evident in our planning and decision-making through Council reports, project plans, engagement plans and outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tairāwhiti Piritahi is clearly reflected in our planning and decision-making process including our reports, project plans, engagement plans, and outcomes</li> </ul>

Whakatutuki i Te Tiriti o Waitangi

**Enable Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

He whakamārama <b>Explanation</b>	Ngā tukanga <b>Actions</b>	Te āhua o te angitū <b>What success looks like</b>
Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the guiding document in the relationship between Māori and the Crown.	We will do this by supporting the spirit and implementation of our district's iwi Treaty settlements (which are now largely settled).	Māori aspirations for Tairāwhiti are enabled through recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Customary Rights.

Te whai wāhi-tanga rangatira a te Māori ki ngā mahinga Kaunihera

**Effective Māori participation in Council democracy**

He whakamārama <b>Explanation</b>	Ngā tukanga <b>Actions</b>	Te āhua o te angitū <b>What success looks like</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council recognises that Māori decision-making processes are collective in nature. We ensure that we are including the right people, at the right level, at the right time and on the right terms.</li> </ul>	<p>We will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create and adhere to processes that ensure Māori needs/issues/concepts are considered and Māori are participating effectively throughout</li> <li>co-ordinate and resource iwi engagement forums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our processes consider Māori needs/issues/concepts and includes relevant information reflective of Māori audiences.</li> <li>Māori can participate effectively in any Council decision-making process.</li> <li>Iwi engagement forums are well-resourced and</li> </ul>

Te whai wāhi-tanga rangatira a te Māori ki ngā mahinga Kaunihera  
**Effective Māori participation in Council democracy**

He whakamārama Explanation	Ngā tukanga Actions	Te āhua o te angitū What success looks like
	<p>with a consistent investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allocating the time and resource Māori collectives require in order to make informed decisions about our processes</li> <li>• making our information relevant and reflective of Māori audiences</li> <li>• developing and maintaining more collaborative partnerships and processes with agreed mutual outcomes instead of one-off consultation on an issue-by-issue basis.</li> </ul>	<p>contribute to improved outcomes in Council decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of collaborative partnerships and processes with dedicated mutual outcomes and reliance on consulting on an issue-by-issue basis is reduced.</li> </ul>

Whakaū ngātahi kaupapa me te whakapakari whanaungatanga ki te iwi Māori  
**Strengthen relationships and share decision making with Māori**

He whakamārama Explanation	Ngā tukanga Actions	Te āhua o te angitū What success looks like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council aims to move away from transactions into relationship-based partnering with Māori. This will result in longer term outcomes for the benefit of all Tairāwhiti. Some interactions with Māori are straight-forward customer service transactions, however Council's interactions with Māori collectives (e.g. whānau, hapū, marae, iwi, Māori as communities with cultural perspectives) can benefit from greater preparation, planning and co-ordination.</li> </ul>	<p>We will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting co-designed and co-located projects and processes</li> <li>• formulation of effective policy that considers Māori needs and issues and partners early in our process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are co-designed and co-located projects and processes that deliver improved outcomes for the community.</li> <li>• Development of policies includes Māori partners early in the process resulting in effective policies that consider and reflect Māori needs and issues.</li> </ul>

In using this approach, Council is open to opportunities for improved innovation.

## Te takina kaikiri-kore a Te Kaunihera

### Council's anti-racism journey

The LGA provides the framework and minimum statutory requirements for engagement with Māori, however it does not specify that councils should be anti-racist. There are other mechanisms for this like the Code of Conduct, values and expectations and the policies that guide the behaviour, conduct and actions of councils.

On 13 August 2020 Council committed to an anti-racism journey comprising:

- Historical/contextual understanding – research into Gisborne District Council's past and present. Examination of policies and practices.
- Identification of significant issues/interventions and development of a measurement framework.
- Action plan and workshops.

Elements of this policy already support anti-racism through encouraging respect, understanding and participation. It is anticipated that as this work progresses further amendment to this policy will be required to reflect how embracing anti-racism at an individual, collective and systems level will tangibly change our approach and/or actions under this policy.