
In attendance:

Trustees: David Battin (Chair), Te Pūoho Katene – Trustee (Deputy Chair), Dan Jex-Blake, Nicki Sutherland, Rehette Stoltz, Ron Aitken and Warren Williams were present in person.

Trust Tairāwhiti executive team members: Doug Jones – Chief Executive Officer, Alex Hawea – General Manager Māori Economy, Audine Grace-Kutia – General Manager Hapori, Hayden Green – General Manager Economic Development, Laura Stonehouse – Chief Financial Officer and Melonie Brouwer – Board Secretary were present in person.

Cultural Advisors Tā Derek Lardelli and Lady Rose Gould-Lardelli were present in person.

Item 2.6a Tapuwae Trails representatives: Lyall Evans, Sheridan Gundry, Gillian Ward, Jeremy Muir and Tyler Kirk from 9:08 to 9:55am. Acknowledgement to representatives from Tapuwae Trails trustees for agenda item 2.6a.

Tā Derek Lardelli opened the meeting with a karakia.

2.0 Open meeting – Public included

2.1 Apologies: Nil

2.2 Declaration of trustee and CEO interests taken as read and noted.

Te Pūoho Katene: Labour Party candidate for Māori seat in the Te Tai Hauāuru electorate

Rehette Stoltz: President of the Local Government NZ National Council

2.3 Confirmation of Agenda and Late items.

2.4 Approval of Open Minutes and Matters Arising

2.4.a Approval of the open minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 were taken as read and approved.

Moved by Trustee Stoltz

Seconded by Trustee Williams

Unanimous Approval

Matters arising: Nil

2.5 Strategy and decision making – Nil

2.6 Beneficiary Presentations and Public Forum

2.6a Tapuwae Trails presentation: - Te Ara o Taruheru

Representatives from Tapuwae Trails presented the Te Ara o Taruheru pathway project and outlined the vision, benefits, delivery approach and partnership opportunities associated with the proposed development.

Trustees heard that the pathway is intended to provide a safe and accessible walking, cycling and wheeling corridor linking homes, schools, recreational areas and community services across Gisborne. The project aims to improve community wellbeing, encourage active lifestyles and create stronger community connections through improved access and connectivity.

Presenters advised that the revised pathway proposal had significantly reduced costs compared with the original 2022 concept by shifting portions of the route away from the river edge and adopting a staged delivery approach.

The presentation highlighted a range of anticipated benefits including improved health and wellbeing outcomes, safer routes for children and families, reduced reliance on vehicles, enhanced environmental outcomes, improved resilience and emergency preparedness, and opportunities for economic and urban revitalisation.

Representatives also outlined the collaborative governance structure currently in place between mana whenua, Gisborne District Council and Tapuwae Trails representatives. The partnership approach was described as a strong example of community and local government collaboration.

A recorded presentation from Morehu Pewhairangi acknowledged the partnership between Trust Tairāwhiti and Tapuwae Trails and outlined aspirations to incorporate local stories and cultural narratives throughout the pathway through interpretation signage and storytelling elements.

Trustees discussed the staged construction approach, estimated costs, contingency allowances and proposed delivery timelines. It was noted that Stage One would focus on the western end of the pathway due to its accessibility, network connectivity and ability to link several schools and community destinations. Trustees were advised that the pathway had been designed to allow flexibility in delivery depending on available funding and partnership opportunities.

Representatives advised that Council endorsement of the route had enabled the project to progress to the next phase, including early design work, community engagement and expressions of interest from delivery partners.

Presenters outlined the proposed next steps for the project, including development of detailed design scenarios for Construction Phase One, further refinement of pathway layouts and surface options, and public consultation on preferred design approaches. The Steering Group also intends to continue seeking funding partnerships and undertake additional engagement with mana whenua, community stakeholders and potential delivery partners to support staged implementation.

2.7 Board Updates

2.7.a CEO quarterly report 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026 taken as read.

Management noted that the Marae Solar programme was nearing completion, with planning underway for a potential second phase involving additional marae across the region.

Management also provided an update on water infrastructure initiatives and ongoing support for applicants involved in Water for the Economy projects.

Trustees discussed the current economic environment and the impact of weather events, transport disruption and infrastructure constraints on regional businesses. Management noted that additional analysis and economic monitoring work was being undertaken to better understand the impacts on the region.

An update was also provided on destination management and tourism activity. Trustees acknowledged the ongoing challenges facing the tourism sector, including reduced visitor spend and broader economic headwinds affecting domestic travel.

Discussion included the importance of continuing to strengthen regional tourism products, destination storytelling and partnerships with neighbouring regions. Trustees also discussed opportunities to focus on more resilient and sustainable tourism offerings. Management noted that visitor information centre trends continued to decline nationally, although some centres were operating sustainably through strong partnerships and diversified offerings.

Trustees were advised that publication of the Wellbeing Survey insights had been delayed slightly while further modelling and refinement work was completed.

2.8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC FROM PROCEEDINGS

Moved by Trustee Stoltz

Seconded by Trustee Aitken

Unanimous Approval

SECTION 48 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

THAT: The public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely for discussion or decision on agenda items:

- 3.0 Strategy and Decision Making
- 4.0 Operational Updates
- 4.2-4.5 Approval of closed minutes and matters arising
- 5.0 Risk management

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter check	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item 3.0	Strategy and decision making	Sections 7(2)(b(ii)) (c) (f) (h) (i) (j)	48(1) (a)
Item 4.0	Operational updates	Sections 7(2)(b(ii)) (c) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j)	48(1) (a)
Item 4.2-4.5	Approval of closed minutes and matters arising	Sections 7(2)(a) (b(ii)) (c) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j)	48(1) (a)
Item 5.0	Risk management	Sections 7(2) (a) (f)	48(1) (a)
	Appendices	Sections 7(2) (b(ii)) (f)	48(1) (a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Content

Section 7(2) (a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

Section 7(2) (b) (ii) To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Section 7(2) (c) Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information:

- i. Would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or
- ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

Section 7(2) (f) Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through:

- iii. The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members of officers or employees of any local authority, or any persons to whom Section 2(5) applies, in the course of their duty; or
- iv. The protection of such members, officers, employees and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

Section 7(2) (g) Maintain legal professional privilege.

Section 7(2) (h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Section 7(2) (i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

Section 7(2) (j) Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

That the following people be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded:

- i. Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Manager Economic Development, General Manager Hāpori, General Manager Māori Economy, Board Secretary and Cultural Advisors for items 3.0 – 5.0.

because of their knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation the matters being discussed because of their role and work performed.

The public excluded minutes follow and are not publicly available. There being no further business the public meeting closed at 9:10am.

CHAIR
DAVID BATTIN