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# Whau Local Board

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Whau Local Board held in the Whau Local Board Office, 31 Totara Avenue, New Lynn on Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 1.00pm.

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### TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

<b>Chairperson</b>	Kay Thomas
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Fasitua Amosa
<b>Members</b>	Ross Clow
	Catherine Farmer
	Sarah Paterson-Hamlin
	Warren Piper
	Susan Zhu



## 1 Nau mai | Welcome

Chairperson Kay Thomas opened the meeting with the karakia.

## 2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

There were no apologies.

## 3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

The following are declared interests of elected members of the Whau Local Board:

Member	Organisation	Position
<b>Kay Thomas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Lynn Citizens Advice Bureau</li> <li>• Western Quilters</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Bureau</li> <li>• Waitākere Board</li> <li>• Literacy Waitākere</li> <li>• West Auckland Heritage Conference</li> </ul>	Volunteer Member Chair Board member Committee member
<b>Fasitua Amosa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity NZ</li> <li>• Massive Theatre Company</li> <li>• Avondale Business Association</li> </ul>	Vice President Board member A family member is the Chair
<b>Ross Clow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portage Licensing Trust</li> <li>• Te Whau Coastal Walkway Environmental Trust</li> <li>• Bay Olympic Sports Club</li> <li>• Forest and Bird Society</li> <li>• Waitākere Ranges Protection Society</li> <li>• New Lynn Heritage Protection Society</li> <li>• Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club</li> </ul>	Trustee Patron  Life Member Member Member  Member  Member
<b>Catherine Farmer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avondale-Waterview Historical Society</li> <li>• Blockhouse Bay Historical Society</li> <li>• Blockhouse Bay Bowls</li> <li>• Forest and Bird organisation</li> <li>• Grey Power</li> </ul>	Member  Member Patron Member Member
<b>Sarah Paterson-Hamlin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UpsideDowns Education Trust</li> </ul>	CEO Employee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Zealand Down Syndrome Association</li> </ul>	
Warren Piper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Lynn RSA</li> <li>New Lynn Business Association</li> </ul>	Associate member Member
Susan Zhu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Women Association of New Zealand</li> <li>Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand</li> </ul>	Member / Legal Advisor Member / Deputy Chair

#### 4 Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content

Resolution number WH/2023/1

MOVED by Chairperson K Thomas, seconded by Deputy Chairperson F Amosa:

**That the Whau Local Board:**

- a) **note its concern that the leading nature of the wording in the consultation documents tacitly implies that the adoption of the budget is a foregone conclusion which could lead the public to question whether consultation is genuine**
- b) **note its concern that the proposed wording in each of the consultation documents in reference to the reductions to local board operational funding and the dollar amount specific to each local board is very unclear to the general public and does not adequately reflect the significant local impact that the proposed reductions will have on the community**
- c) **request that the local consultation document content (Attachment A) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) and the “Responding to our budget challenge” section (page 2) with the following wording:**

**“This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, which is made up of our Locally Driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 46 per cent to Whau Local Board’s discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as arts and culture, environment and climate response, library services and opening hours, community programmes, events and youth. The Whau Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$669,000.”**
- d) **request that the local supporting information content (Attachment B) be amended to replace the Introduction section (page 1) with the following wording:**

**“This year, the council’s proposed response to mitigate the budget pressures for 2023/2024 includes a proposed reduction of \$16 million to local board operational funding, which is made up of our Locally Driven Initiatives budget and Asset Based Services budgets. As only a small portion of Asset Based Services budget is available to be**

considered for savings due to existing contractual commitments and the inability to realise savings for FY24, this means that the proposed reduction will likely represent a cut of up to 46% to the Whau Local Board's discretionary budgets. This will result in a significant reduction in spending on local services such as arts and culture, environment and climate response, library services and opening hours, community programmes, events and youth. The Whau Local Board would need to reduce its planned operation spend by \$669,000"

- e) note that in light of the recent flooding emergency Council should be prioritising funding for resilient infrastructure and climate action
- f) note the essential role in the response played by community organisations and question who will fulfil that role in future emergencies if funding is cut
- g) note that community support, the arts, library services and environmental projects will bear the brunt of the proposed cuts and are not desirable
- h) note that cutting funding for community events will impact on the Whau's placemaking and economic activity, which will have a compounding effect following from the impact of Covid on local businesses
- i) note that proposed cuts will disproportionately impact those areas that are taking on the majority of intensification at precisely the time they need investment for the benefit and future economic and cultural growth of the entire Auckland region
- j) note that the Governing Body has proposed an additional \$7 million reduction in open space and stormwater maintenance across the 21 local board areas which will have implications for our local board area
- k) note Resolution number WH2022/124 passed at the 7 December 2023 Business Meeting, particularly a) to d) as follows:
  - i) *note that the Whau Local Board's primary concern and commitment is to the community, further noting that parts of the Whau Local Board area are deprived and have less ability to access services currently provided by Auckland Council privately*
  - ii) *note its concern that the Mayor's statement about minimising financial impacts on households primarily through service cuts fails to take into account that the proposed mechanisms for cost savings will likely have a disproportionate impact on the ability of our most deprived residents to access key services*
  - iii) *note the proposed 5 per cent reduction to local board budgets but also note that this will almost certainly equate to a very significant cut to discretionary Locally Driven Initiatives (LDI) budgets as the complexity of cutting operational Asset Based Services (ABS) budgets related to facilities is unlikely to be feasible for the 2023/2024 financial year*
  - iv) *note its concern that such a significant reduction in local board funding could undermine Auckland Council's shared decision-making model as established under the Local Government Auckland Council Act 2009 and could disempower local communities*
- l) reiterate its concern around losing valuable staff that support and deliver for the Whau Local Board as a result of the budget reductions
- m) approve local consultation document content (Attachment A) and local supporting information content (Attachment B) for inclusion in the

- Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation material with the amendments noted in resolutions c) and d)
- n) delegate authority to the local board Chair to approve any changes required to finalise the local consultation document and supporting information content for the Whau Local Board for the Annual Budget 2023/2024
  - o) approve the following Have Your Say event in the local board area during the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation period:
    - i) Have Your Say community hui 4:30-6:00pm, Wednesday, 15 March 2023, New Lynn Community Centre, 45 Totara Ave, New Lynn
    - ii) Have Your Say drop-in 9.30-11:30am, Wednesday, 22 March 2023, New Lynn Memorial Library, 3 Memorial Drive, New Lynn
  - p) delegate authority to the local board Chair to approve any changes required to the Have Your Say event
  - q) delegate to the following elected members and staff the power and responsibility to receive feedback and hear from the public through “spoken (or New Zealand sign language) interaction” at the council’s public engagement events during the consultation period for the Annual Budget 2023/2024:
    - i) All local board members and Chair
    - ii) General Manager Local Board Services, Local Area Manager, Local Board Senior Advisor, Local Board Advisor, Local Board Engagement Advisor
    - iii) any additional staff approved by the General Manager Local Board Services or the Group Chief Financial Officer.

**CARRIED**

**Attachments**

- A 8 February 2023, Whau Local Board Item 4 Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content – Local Board Consultation Document Content
- B 8 February 2023, Whau Local Board Item 4 Annual Budget 2023/2024 local board consultation content – Local Board Supporting Information Content

Note: Pursuant to Standing Orders 1.9.7. Member C Farmer requested that her abstention be recorded.

1.12 pm

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD  
AT A MEETING OF THE WHAU LOCAL BOARD HELD  
ON

**DATE:**.....

**CHAIRPERSON:**.....