

Name: Arohanui Allen
Ward: Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward
Date: February

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
16/2	Quarterly Celebrations: New Starters Pōhiri	Attended to welcome new staff, including our Te Hono GM and Office of the Mayor Office Executor. Very exciting and I always appreciate an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of kaupapa Māori and whanaungatanga as part of organisational culture.
18/2	Procurement and Contractor Engagement	Participated in discussions focused on improving procurement processes, increasing transparency, and reducing barriers for local and Māori businesses.
18/2	TUIA Filming	Had the pleasure of pulling out a selfie-video to promote our TUIA Programme. Rangatahi engagement and authentic involvement in Council is a high priority of mine.
18/2	Te Kūkupa Committee for Strategy, Policy and Regulation	Unfortunately, administrative errors meant I did not have voting rights at this hui. Having had this, I would have voted in favour of science-aligned emission goals. I was happy to have a vote once the recommendation came to Council.
19/2	Road Maintenance Contracts EM Workshop	Engaged in workshop reviewing contract performance, delivery challenges, and opportunities to strengthen local contractor participation. I am very excited by roading contracts enabling a proactive approach.
19/2	Te Puāwaitanga EM Workshop	Engaged in a workshop on the development and options regarding Te Puāwaitanga. I look forward to more information being made available in order to make informed decisions with our community.
20/2	Ministerial Visit – Hon Shane Jones	Attended visit by Hon Shane Jones, with a focus on regional priorities

25/2	Te Koukou – Transport and Infrastructure Committee Meeting	Considered transport and infrastructure delivery across the district. Including approval to commence installation of four temporary speed humps at Ōkaihau following strong community support. It was a great meeting, with deputations from community groups, updates on transport maintenance, capital works, resilience and emergency response, ferry operations, waste management and alternative option for discharge and reuse of sludge, traffic management for major events, and contractor performance reporting. The Committee also received operational updates from the Transport Team.
25/2	Final dress rehearsal – State of the Far North	
26/2	Coffee – Check-in: Delivery & Operations – BWCB	Informal check-in to discuss delivery priorities, operational challenges, and community impacts. Re-emphasised my focus on local procurement, Ivan was able to give a great example of working with Focus Paihia during Waitangi week.
26/2	State of the Far North	
27/2	Te Hiku Media Interview	Update on State of the Far North

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
Local Procurement	<p>After a social media post re: Local Procurement, I had several local SMEs reach out to become preferred contractors on Council database.</p> <p>These SMEs were introduced to the respective staff member to support them in this.</p> <p>SiteWise was identified as a community need to enable SMEs to become Council contractors and tender for Council contracts or be considered for Direct Award Contracts.</p>
Housing for the Elderly	This remains a priority to address and find solutions for.
Rangatahi Strategy	Rangatahi employment, training and pathways remains a priority.

Portfolio Update: (Name of Portfolio)

- **Kōkako – Rangatahi Portfolio**
Feb YEPP meeting endorsed the youth portfolio structure, meeting processes and participant-led priorities, ensuring alignment with the terms of reference. Key initiatives discussed included a youth council with governance training, mentoring and networking, a district-wide hackathon, and strengthened partnerships to build youth leadership, improve civic education, and expand employment and cadetship pathways across the district.
- **MTFJ**
Continued to focus on strengthening pathways into employment, training and education for rangatahi during February. Engagement with employers and agencies expanded, resulting in work experience, fixed-term and permanent employment opportunities across multiple sectors. Strong collaboration continued with MSD to improve referral processes and follow-up. Promotional events, expos and employer site visits increased visibility and readiness among participants. Governance engagement and mayoral leadership supported alignment with procurement, infrastructure and community partnerships to grow sustainable employment opportunities.

Matters for Discussion

- Opportunities to further reduce barriers for local SMEs and Māori businesses within Council procurement processes.
- Housing pressures facing kaumātua and potential roles for Council in enabling solutions. We need to improve our communication so our whānau are not anxious about the future of their housing situation.
- The need for a clearer, resourced Rangatahi Strategy developed alongside iwi, hapū, organisations and youth providers.