

**Name:** Cr Arohanui Allen

**Ward:** Māori Ward

**Date:** May – Elected Member Report

## Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
01/05	Bisset Road Housing Development Visit	<p>A site visit to the Bisset Road Housing Development was held to brief elected members on project progress, partnerships, and next steps. The visit included representatives from Far North District Council and Te Hau Ora o Ngāpuhi, with presentations covering the project overview, governance and partnership arrangements, and long-term strategic outlook.</p> <p>The visit provided on-site context through a guided walkthrough, enabling elected members to better understand current development activity and delivery challenges. The programme also included a follow-up visit to the Mangakahia Housing Development.</p> <p>Overall, the visit strengthened understanding of the collaborative approach being taken to deliver housing outcomes and highlighted the role of partnerships in progressing development across the district.</p>
01/05	Extraordinary Council Meeting	<p>An Extraordinary Council meeting was held to consider reports carried over from the previous meeting, with a focus on strengthening governance assurance and transparency. Council reviewed options including an independent governance review, appointment of an observer, and enhanced public reporting to improve confidence in decision-making processes. Council decided to hold a workshop to understand what it is “in fact” the Counsellor saw as being “significant problems” in Council. This decision was inline with Min. Watts letter of 9 April stating that <i>“I expect all mayors and councillors across New Zealand, including at the Far North District Council, to collaborate effectively and deliver for their communities.”</i></p>
02/05	He Tai, He Tokerau	<p>This wānanga provided a valuable platform to hear directly from communities on key take. The discussions reinforced the importance of locally led solutions.</p>

04/05	Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga Takiwā Hui	I attended this takiwā hui to listen and provide any information and updates from Council. I was humbled to hear of the efforts by tāngata whenua, mana whenua and marae during and after the weather events.
04/05	Ōkaihau Community Association hui	As the Elected Member to OCA, key actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supporting the Associations desire to increase the utilisation of the community hall,</li> <li>- monitor and provide updates on the playground enquiry still with Council.</li> </ul>
05/05	Northland Waters Done Well Elected Member Workshop	This workshop follows the 29 April Council meeting and is intended to prepare Council for an establishment approval decision by 20 May 2026. I continue to raise concerns regarding land transfer arrangements and the inclusion of hapū.
05/05	Long Term Plan / Reforms - Elected Member Workshop	The sessions were led by staff and covered two key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part one focused on Long Term Plan strategic priorities and community outcomes, delivered as an interactive workshop.</li> <li>• Part two focused on the Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform programme establishment.</li> </ul>
06/05	Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key decisions include appointing Board representatives to the Accessibility Action Group and Kaikohe Kaiwhiringa (Town Activator) project.</li> <li>• Funding applications total \$178k requested against limited available funds (\$12k Community, \$95k Pride of Place).</li> <li>• Ongoing issues raised include flooding, infrastructure, road maintenance, community safety, and housing pressures.</li> <li>• Progress updates provided on hall operations, reserves management, and open resolutions.</li> </ul>
06/05	MTFJ Catchup	Focus this month has been on ensuring the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs continues to deliver outcomes for rangatahi. There are 37 active placements across multiple industries, with most in trades and services. Wrap around support remains a priority, alongside work to use procurement as a pathway into employment through stronger partnerships.
07/05	Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Meeting	Discussed the performance, usage, and maintenance across six Council-owned halls. These facilities continue to support strong community use, hosting a wide range of local events and activities. Committees are generally operating well, with ongoing upgrades

		including heating, lighting, and kitchen improvements. However, some assets require attention, including structural issues at Waipapa Hall and previous repair needs at Whangaroa Memorial Hall. The report highlights the importance of regular maintenance, transparent reporting, and sustained support through funding to ensure halls remain fit-for-purpose and continue to meet the needs of local communities.
07/05	Paihia Water Treatment Plant	<p>Attended a stakeholder briefing relating to the proposed Paihia Water Treatment Plant, which is included in the Long Term Plan to replace the existing Haruru facility. The project aims to deliver a future-focused water supply servicing Paihia, Waitangi, Ōpua, and surrounding areas, with broader benefits for connected communities.</p> <p>Progress to date has been focused on identifying a suitable site in proximity to the Waitangi River, with ongoing involvement from hapū representatives. The session provided an overview of current progress, stakeholder engagement planning, and next steps ahead of formal reporting to Council.</p> <p>The workshop enabled early engagement with stakeholders and provided an opportunity for discussion on project scope and process.</p>
08/05	Kaikohe Christian School Visit - with Cr Allen	<p>I hosted a visit from 25 students from Kaikohe Christian School to Council. The visit highlighted an opportunity to expand this initiative to other schools, kura, and organisations working with rangatahi, as most students had not previously engaged with Council, and awareness of its role and impact was limited.</p> <p>The programme included a Council overview, meeting elected members and staff, and a practical exercise focused on Housing for the Elderly. Students stepped into decision-making roles and shared ideas, all of which were carried forward into a Council workshop on 20 May.</p> <p>The visit also supported increased interest in civic participation, including how to follow Council proceedings.</p>
08/05	LGNZ Briefing: DIA on the Government's Head Start process	The Government has confirmed changes to its Local Government Reform programme, introducing the voluntary "Head Start" pathway for council reorganisation. Under this process, groups of territorial

		<p>authorities can propose amalgamation into unitary authorities by 9 August 2026, ahead of implementation for the 2028 local elections.</p> <p>Proposals must meet criteria including deliverability, improved governance, service efficiency, and maintaining local representation.</p> <p>If councils do not participate, a compulsory “backstop” process will apply post-2028. Final decisions are expected in 2027, with legislation enacted prior to the 2028 elections.</p>
08/05	Te Mauri o te Wai – Te Piiti Marae	Attended the Rāwene Wastewater Treatment Plant electrocoagulation commissioning event held on 8–9 May, marking a significant milestone for Te Tai Tokerau. The event, led by Te Mauri o Te Wai, showcased Aotearoa’s first town-scale electrocoagulation water treatment system and recognised collective efforts to restore water quality.
08/05	Te Mauri o te Wai - Rawene	<p>The programme included pōwhiri and community engagement at Te Piiti Marae, followed by karakia, formal commissioning, and technical presentations. The event highlighted the integration of cultural values, pūrākau, community leadership, hapū led and innovative infrastructure to support long-term environmental and water management outcomes in Hokianga and beyond.</p>
11/05	Q&A Drop in: Northland Waters	Optional online Q&A session on Northland Waters Ltd scheduled following the 5 May workshop to support preparation for the extraordinary Council meeting on 20 May. During engagement, I raised the importance of hapū inclusion within the proposed multi-layered engagement approach and reinforced that land associated with water assets is not transferred. A further session will also be held on Monday 18 May.
11/05	Youth Education and Leadership Pathway	We continue to work towards a draft Rangatahi Strategy (2026–2028) to strengthen rangatahi involvement in council decision-making, with a focus on participation and co-design. Priorities include improving understanding of council processes, increasing representation, embedding rangatahi voice, and strengthening partnerships.
11/05	LGNZ: Community Boards Zoom	The session provided an update on CBEC priorities and wider local government reform. Progress across economic development, infrastructure, and community outcomes remains steady, supported by strong collaboration. National reforms signal significant change, including new legislation redefining council purpose and governance,

		potential rates caps, planning system overhaul, and restructuring of local government. These changes will impact service delivery, funding, and representation. Overall, there is a continued focus on partnership, alignment with council priorities, and delivering measurable community outcomes.
12/05	Te Miromiro Committee for Assurance, Risk and Finance	
12/05	Local Government Reform Workshop	The workshop outlined a decision on whether FNDC should participate in the Government's voluntary Head Start Pathway for local government reform. The pathway enables councils to work with regional partners to develop early proposals for reorganisation ahead of 2028, retaining influence over governance design within a compressed timeframe. Opting out defers involvement to a later, nationally led process with less local control.
15/05	LGNZ Rural & Provincial sector meeting	At the LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector meeting, it was highlighted that Councils can enable more efficient service delivery by accelerating the awarding of contracts.
18/05	LGNZ Briefing: How do unitary council work?	<p>Unitary councils (Regional and Unitary Authorities) combine both regional and territorial roles, delivering regulatory and service functions under statute. They operate across eight core areas: environmental management, flood control, biodiversity, civil defence, transport, maritime safety, economic development, and regional amenities.</p> <p>Central government typically sets national standards and strategy, while unitary councils handle implementation and operations. However, risks include conflicts of interest (e.g. regulating their own activities) and funding mismatches where local ratepayers fund national benefits.</p>
18/05	Q&A Drop-In: Northland Waters	Similar discussion to Drop-In session held on 11/5
18/05	Three60 Consult	Interview regarding Code of Conduct complaints I have laid and pursue an outcome of.
19/05	Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships	<p>Updates focused on strengthening Māori strategic relationships and participation in Council decision-making as is required in the LGA 2002.</p> <p>The Te Kahu o Taonui report highlighted a submission to establish a Te Tai Tokerau Emergency Response and Resilience Hub, supporting an iwi-led, coordinated emergency approach.</p>

		<p>Key asks included embedding a Māori lens across Council strategies, resourcing technical support (including GIS capability), and establishing a Māori Technical Advisory Group to improve iwi and hapū participation.</p>
20/05	Extraordinary Council Meeting	<p>We considered key decisions on LGNZ remits and the establishment of Northland Waters Ltd. Council endorsed remits seeking improvements to the Dog Control Act and greater local authority over place naming. A significant focus was the proposal to establish Northland Waters Ltd as a multi-council organisation to deliver water services across Northland.</p>
20/05	Te Koukou Committee for Transport and Infrastructure	<p>Focus on advancing key infrastructure priorities across the district. A preferred site was confirmed for the Waitangi-Paihia-Ōpua Water Treatment Plant, supported by technical and partnership considerations.</p> <p>The 2024–2027 capital works programme is progressing, with delivery focused on water, wastewater, and community facilities. The Kaikohe Infrastructure Acceleration Fund continues to support housing growth.</p>
20/05	Workshop for Housing for the Elderly	<p>I carried the voice of the rangatahi into this workshop. The workshop highlighted ongoing challenges with the Housing for the Elderly portfolio, including an increasing operational shortfall and significant capital investment needs, with assets ageing and deteriorating.</p> <p>Funding constraints remain, with limited access to central government support and ongoing landlord obligations placing pressure on Council. Options include retaining the portfolio, transferring to FNHL, engaging Community Housing Providers, or divesting assets, with iwi also expressing interest in partnership opportunities.</p> <p>Council provided direction for staff to develop a hybrid option combining targeted engagement with CHPs and reconsideration of Council’s role in pensioner housing, with reports to Te Koukou (17 June) and Council (22 July).</p>
21/05	Monthly Governance and Operational Briefing	<p>Briefing highlighted a steady delivery across council services, with a strong response to recent weather events and continued focus on community communication and resilience. Visitor numbers increased across site centres and Te Ahu Museum, supported by events and cruise activity. Customer services maintained solid performance,</p>

		including first-contact resolution rates. Library usage, particularly digital services, continued to grow. Regulatory services reported consistent consent processing performance. Infrastructure delivery remains under pressure from ageing assets, though progress is being made in water and wastewater resilience. Ongoing work through Te Hono continues to strengthen hapū engagement and Māori outcomes across council activities. I also requested timeframe of when direct award contracts will be uploaded to the Council website and was advised within a week.
23/05	Kororipo Pā Celebration – Whitiōra Marae	<p>We marked the return of Kororipo Pā to Ngāpuhi under the kaitiakitanga of Ngāti Rēhia after nearly 190 years in private and Crown ownership.</p> <p>The event recognises the significance of this outcome and acknowledges the long-standing efforts of iwi, including involvement in Tribunal processes, settlement negotiations, and ongoing stewardship of the site. It also reflects the strong relationships and collective contribution of iwi and stakeholders across Aotearoa in supporting the return of the pā.</p>
26/05	Proposed District Plan Submissions - Workshop 2.	<p>Elected Members were provided with Hearing Panel recommendations on submissions to the Proposed District Plan, covering natural environment, hazards, rezoning, infrastructure, transport, subdivision, and designations. Rezoning changes and new zones/precincts were outlined. Next steps include a further workshop, followed by Council decisions and plan notification in June 2026.</p> <p>Councillors raised concerns around the appeal process and Governance seemingly having no role to play in this process.</p>
26/05	Annual Plan 26/27 Workshop	Elected members heard the final feedback from the consultations.
27/05	Combined Community Board Workshop	<p>We are committed to strengthening relationships between councils and community boards to support effective local decision-making. Community boards play a key role in representing local interests, providing advice, and connecting councils with communities under the Local Government Act</p> <p>It was evident in this workshop that Community Boards were anxious about their future after the Local Government reforms..</p>
28/05	Council Meeting	Council considered acquiring 87.26ha at Taipā (Site 20) for wastewater land discharge to meet consent requirements.

		Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services presented a proposal to repurpose the former Kaikohe library into a youth hub, providing a central, safe space for mentoring, programmes, and coordinated youth services, responding to identified need for accessible support and positive pathways for local taitamariki.
29/05	MTFJ Catchup	

## Community Matters

Topic	Comment
Social housing development	A tour of the Bisset Road housing development highlighted the value of maintaining strong relationships between Council and Māori and social housing organisations. These partnerships are mutually beneficial, supporting economic development outcomes including housing, employment, and local procurement. This work also involves the development of Developer Agreements and ensuring Council has the capacity to deliver timely consenting processes.
Ōkaihau Domain māra hupara / play area	Work continues on an Ōkaihau project aimed at meeting the need for activities for children and young families.
Rangatahi input on Housing for the Elderly	I hosted Kaikohe Christian School at Council, where students were tasked with stepping into the role of elected members to consider a real kaupapa before Council, Housing for the Elderly. While rangatahi demonstrated a strong understanding of how rates impact their own lives, they were equally clear that they did not want to see kaumātua and kuia left without housing or support.  I carried their kōrero into the Housing for the Elderly workshop held on 20 May.
Ōkaihau Speedbumps	The installation of speed bumps, initiated following public consultation, commenced this month.
Ōkaihau Community Association – Community Hall development	The Ōkaihau Community Association manages the Ōkaihau Community Hall for the benefit of the community. I am supporting the association with projects to increase utilisation of the facility.

Amotai – Meet the Buyer and continued relationship	Amotai connects organisations seeking goods and services with Māori and Pasifika-owned businesses. Maintaining this relationship supports local and social procurement and strengthens Council’s ability to deliver services within the district.
South Hokianga Takiwā – whānau support	Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga Takiwā continue to support whānau in South Hokianga with their recovery following the weather event.
Roading Contract and local procurement	To strengthen rangatahi engagement in local government, I have invited schools, kura, and organisations working with young people to participate in Council.
Hosting ākongā at Council	To support rangatahi engagement in local government I have invited schools, kura and organisations working with rangatahi to Council.
SiteWise	Te Whāriki has been instrumental in supporting local contractors through SiteWise. I will continue exploring ways Council can further support capacity building in this space.
Litter and illegal dumping	Many residents in Te Hiku o te Ika are bearing the financial cost of addressing litter and illegal dumping. I am continuing to explore ways Council can better support these individual and community efforts.
Te Whāriki relationship	Whāriki Te Tai Tokerau, the Northland branch of the Whāriki Māori Business Network, plays a key role in growing Māori business capability through networking, advocacy, and capability-building. Strengthening Council relationship Whāriki will further support local and social procurement and Council service delivery.
Taupō Bay Steps	As the Māori Ward Councillor on the Taupō Bay Steps Working Group, I remain committed to contributing to solutions.
Council Direct Awards on Council website	Council is progressing the publication of Direct Award Contracts on its website. This work is currently behind schedule, and I am continuing to follow up to ensure transparency and support for local/social procurement.
Pukepoto Road Bridge	I continue to work with the Pukepoto Road community to address safety concerns with their bridge.

## Portfolio Update

### Youth Education and Leadership Pathway

A draft Youth Participation Strategy (2026–2028) has been developed to strengthen rangatahi involvement in council decision-making. The strategy aims to enable rangatahi to participate meaningfully and co-design solutions that support resilient and inclusive communities.

It is underpinned by principles of culturally grounded engagement, inclusive participation, and shared decision-making, with a clear focus on practical influence.

Key priorities include improving rangatahi understanding of council processes, increasing representation across communities, embedding rangatahi voice in engagement and planning, and strengthening partnerships with hapū, iwi, schools, and community organisations.

Initial implementation focuses on establishing Rangatahi Action Groups across all wards in 2026, alongside a structured engagement programme and baseline measures.

Progress will be reported six-monthly through a Youth Impact Report tracking participation, influence, and outcomes.

### Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

This month, our focus has been on making sure the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs continues to deliver real, on the outcomes for our rangatahi and communities. We are working on strengthening relationships with employers and opening up a wider range of job opportunities, with current placements spanning multiple industries. Of the 37 active placements, the majority are in trades and services (21 placements), with additional opportunities across areas such as construction (4), primary industries (3), and smaller numbers in administration, education and training, agriculture, and other sectors.

We are especially proud of the care and wrap around support the team provides as rangatahi step into placements, not just helping them get jobs, but supporting them to settle in and stay in work. We have also been looking closely at procurement and how it can be better used as a pathway into employment, working alongside partners and stakeholders to think differently about the role they can play, and will continue to build on this work in coming months. We take real pride in the locally led approach that is helping create positive, lasting outcomes for whānau and communities across the Far North.

## Matters for Discussion

### Housing & Social Outcomes

- Housing for the Elderly – balancing financial sustainability with social obligation (incl. rangatahi feedback)
- Role of Council in social housing vs partnerships (CHPs, iwi, other providers)

#### **Youth & Community Development**

- Implementation of Youth Participation Strategy – resourcing and council commitment
- Expanding rangatahi engagement with Council (schools, kura, governance exposure)

#### **Local Economic Development & Procurement**

- Strengthening local/social procurement (Amotai, Whāriki, SiteWise pathways)
- Visibility and transparency of Direct Award Contracts (timelines for publication)
- Leveraging procurement to support employment (link to Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs)

#### **Infrastructure & Community Facilities**

- Ōkaihau Community Hall utilisation and development opportunities
- Ōkaihau Domain play area –community outcomes
- Taupō Bay Steps – progress and resolution pathway
- Pukepoto Road Bridge – safety response

#### **Community Safety & Environment**

- Ōkaihau speed calming – monitoring effectiveness post-installation
- Litter and illegal dumping – enforcement vs community support solutions
- Disaster recovery support (South Hokianga) – ongoing resourcing and coordination

#### **Governance & Delivery Capability**

- Council consenting capacity for development growth
- Strength of Council–Māori partnerships across projects