

Date: 13 May 2025 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: S J Beck, J M S Erwood (*part meeting*), A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, one member of the Media (Stratford Press) and one member of the public.

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, members of the public, staff and the media to the meeting.

The opening karakia was read.

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

An approved leave of absence was noted for Councillor G W Boyde and apologies received from Councillors A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood (lateness) and E E Hall.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

WATT/McKAY
Carried
CL/25/30

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts declared.

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 April 2025 D25/4531 Page 13

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 8 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/31

6.1.1 Public Forum Notes D25/12342 Page 18

The notes from the public forum were attached for Council's information.

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to update the venue to Whangamomona on both the minutes and the public forum notes.

6.2 Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 15 April 2025 D25/12402 Page 21

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SANDFORD/JONES
Carried
CL/25/32

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 29 April 2025 (Hearing) D25/14037 Page 25

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan, held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan, held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 be adopted.

BECK/McKAY
Carried
CL/25/33

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chief Executive noted that officers had been asked to gather further information and public feedback on the use of the green space next to the bike park following the request for relocation from the croquet club. As it is not possible to identify all users of this area it will be put back out for public consultation for a one month period.

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 be adopted.

WATT/VOLZKE
Carried
CL/25/34

7. District Mayor's Report D25/15585 Page 43

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/25/35

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- There had been discussion around the future of holding meetings at Whangamomona following this years meeting. He noted it was suggested a Policy and Services Committee meeting might be better as they allow for more debate. He also noted there had been questions raised around visiting other areas in the District. This needs to be considered when council sets the meeting schedule in November.
- The Passenger Transport Committee is a newly established committee of the Taranaki Regional Council. Stratford District Council has one representative on this. They have held one meeting which was largely procedural to establish the committee, the next meeting will be held in December.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris noted she had been asked by Councillor Boyde to ask if Live Streaming of meetings had been considered. Mr Hanne noted that it was possible but the focus of the new system had been conference calling and remote attendance rather than live streaming. If Elected Members wanted to proceed with live streaming then officers can work on this and provide a range of cost options to be discussed as part of the next Annual Plan. The District Mayor noted it was important to consider the cost vs attendance for live streaming.
- Councillor Harris noted the Whangamomona meeting was held at a difficult time for locals to attend meetings. A different layout would be welcomed from the community.

Councillor Erwood joined the meeting at 3.49pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/25/36

2. THAT it is noted that the formatting and design version of the *Annual Plan 2025/26* is still to be completed and that the Chief Executive be authorised to make any required minor or editorial changes.

3. THAT the *Annual Plan 2025/26*, including Fees and Charges schedule, be adopted.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/25/37

Recommended Reason

To adopt the *Annual Plan 2025/26*, in accordance with section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 to enable Council to set rates for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, and commence its programme of works for the year from 1 July 2025.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- Following a considerable amount of work put into the development of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan council had agreed to not undertake additional consultation as Year 2 of the LTP adopts a business as planned approach.
- While there are no major initiatives it is important to note it is still quite a busy work schedule ahead.
- The overall rates increase is 6.9% which was the same in the LTP.
- There are some changes in the budgets for activities but this is mainly due to economic conditions and political instruction.
- There are some minor changes to the fees and charges and performance measures which were discussed with elected members previously.
- The work of the Corporate Accountant, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant and the Communications Manager was acknowledged in the production of this document.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted the sample rates and percentage increases, he asked that councillors be aware of these as they will be asked questions about the rate increase. 6.9% is the increase on the whole rate take and then how it is apportioned out is dependent on a number of components.
- Councillor Harris commended the cover of the plan.
- It was clarified the targeted rate for forestry had not been increased and that no decision for stepped increase had been made. The total collected per property may have changed slightly.
- It was clarified that the community centres are sent a letter each year to confirm the number of assessments in the area and if they would like to see a change in the rate collected. Toko has written and requested an increase which has been actioned. It is expected that the community group has completed community consultation before requesting a change.
- It was clarified that the increase in the water rate is due to the extra levies which are out of council's control.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/25/38

2. THAT the Stratford District Council sets the following rates, due dates, and penalties regime under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Annual Plan 2025/26* and Funding Impact Statement, on rating units in the Stratford District for the financial year commencing 1 July 2025, and ending 30 June 2026.

Important: All charges are GST inclusive, and funds raised are stated GST exclusive.

GENERAL RATE

Council set a general rate under section 13 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 ("LGRA") calculated on the capital value of each rateable rating unit within the district.

The general rate is set with no differential.

The rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) for 2025/26 is 0.16893 cents, raising \$6,415,500.

General rates will be used to fund all activities that are not covered by the uniform annual general charge, targeted rates or other funding mechanisms outlined in the Revenue and Financing Policy.

UNIFORM ANNUAL GENERAL CHARGE

Council set a UAGC under section 15 of the LGRA in respect of every separately used or inhabited part of a rateable rating unit (SUIP) within the district.

The UAGC for 2025/26 is \$953 per SUIP, raising \$4,298,100.

TARGETED RATE – ROADING

Council set a targeted roading rate under section 16 in respect of roading and street services based on the capital value of each rating unit within the District as follows:

The Default category rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) under section 16 for 2025/26 is 0.10152 cents, with a differential factor of 1, raising \$3,801,600.

The Forestry category rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) under section 16 for 2025/26 is 0.65794 cents, with a differential factor of 6.48, raising \$350,000.

For the purposes of this rate the differential categories are defined as follows:

Default Category

All rateable land not in the Forestry Category

Forestry Category

This category includes:

- a) All rating units where the primary land use is exotic forestry; and
- b) All land used for exotic forestry with an area of greater than 10 ha in any rating unit where the primary land use is not exotic forestry.

The capital value of rating units to which b) applies will be apportioned between the Forestry category and the Default category.

For the purposes of this definition, “exotic forestry” does not include land that is categorised under the valuer general’s rules as indigenous forests or protected forests of any type.

TARGETED RATE – SOLID WASTE (RUBBISH AND RECYCLING)

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for refuse and recycling collection on the basis of the extent to which the property receives a refuse and recycling service in the Stratford and Midhurst domestic collection area. Refer to the maps of the collection area on Council's website, <https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-services/rates-and-property/district-boundaries-and-maps>.

The Solid Waste rate under section 16 for 2025/26 is \$507 per extent of provision of service, raising \$1,224,300. An additional rate of \$507 per each additional refuse and/or recycling container provided will be charged to eligible properties that have had approval by council for additional containers.

The Solid Waste rate will be used to fund the urban domestic refuse collection activity.

TARGETED RATE – WASTEWATER (SEWERAGE)

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for sewerage as a fixed amount per SUIP, and a targeted rate as a fixed amount per rating unit for serviceable properties. Serviceable properties are properties that have Council wastewater reticulation services adjacent, contiguous or nearby to the serviceable properties, and the property boundary is within 30 metres of a public wastewater drain, but are not connected.

For all non-commercial properties the differential factor is 1 (base), and the Wastewater rate for each rating unit is \$464 per SUIP, and for serviceable properties is \$232 per rating unit, being 50% of the targeted rate.

Commercial properties are rated separately based on the number of toilets, and serviceable properties are not charged. Commercial properties are defined as properties that are used for a commercial purpose under the valuer general rules, and are connected to the Wastewater network.

Commercial properties are differentiated by use as follows:

Commercial base category (all commercial rating units not included in any other commercial category) and the differential factor is also 1 (base) and the amount is \$464 per SUIP

- Commercial 2 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 2 toilets) differential factor 150% of base and the amount is \$696 per SUIP.
- Commercial 3 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 3 toilets) differential factor 200% of base and the amount is \$928 per SUIP.
- Commercial 4 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 4 toilets) differential factor 225% of base and the amount is \$1,044 per SUIP.
- Commercial 5 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 5 toilets) differential factor 250% of base and the amount is \$1,160 per SUIP.
- Commercial 6 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 6 toilets) differential factor 275% of base and the amount is \$1,276 per SUIP.
- Commercial 7 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 7 toilets) differential factor 300% of base and the amount is \$1,392 per SUIP.
- Commercial Large (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 8 or more toilets) differential factor 325% of base and the amount is \$1,508 per SUIP.

The sewerage system rate for 2025/26 is to raise \$1,208,500 and will be used to fund the Wastewater activity.

TARGETED RATES - WATER SUPPLY

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for water supply on the basis of the number of connections, per rating unit, to the Stratford, Midhirst, or Toko Water Supply, under Schedule 3, Clause 8 of the LGRA, and a targeted rate as a fixed amount per rating unit for serviceable properties. Serviceable properties are properties that have Council water reticulation services adjacent, contiguous or nearby to the serviceable properties, and the property boundary is within 100 metres of a water main, but are not connected.

The Water Supply rate for properties connected is \$713 per connection, and for serviceable properties is \$356.50 per rating unit, being 50% of the targeted rate, and raising \$1,965,000.

In addition, Council set a targeted rate for extraordinary water supply under section 19 of the LGRA on the basis of an amount per unit of water supplied in the Stratford Water Supply Area, the Midhirst Water Supply area, and the Toko Water Supply Area to any rating unit which has been fitted with a water meter.

The Stratford water supply rate under section 19 for 2025/26 is \$2.53 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$626,156.

The Midhirst water supply rate under section 19 for 2025/26 is \$2.53 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$23,208.

The Toko water supply rate under section 19 for 2025/26 is \$2.53 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$4,396.

The water supply rates will be used to fund the water supply activities in the Stratford, Midhirst and Toko areas.

TARGETED RATES - COMMUNITY CENTRES

Council sets targeted rates under section 16 of the LGRA for community centres on the basis of an amount per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit in the listed community areas. This rate uses a fixed charge based on the location of the rating unit.

The community centre rates for 2025/26 are:

- A fixed charge of \$23.00 within the Wharehuia Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$2,000.
- A fixed charge of \$23.00 within the Te Popo Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$1,000.
- A fixed charge of \$13.80 within the Pembroke Road Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$1,980.
- A fixed charge of \$50.00 within the Toko Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$6,521.
- A fixed charge of \$17.25 within the Pukengahu Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$825.
- A fixed charge of \$17.25 within the Midhirst Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$5,520.
- A fixed charge of \$11.50 within the Makahu Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$510.
- A fixed charge of \$30.00 within the Cardiff Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$2,817.

The community centres rate will be used to fund the operating costs of the community centres and will raise \$21,173.

Refer to the boundary maps for each Community Centre area on council's website, <https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-services/rates-and-property/district-boundaries-and-maps>.

PAYMENT DUE DATES AND PENALTIES

All rates, except those for metered water supply, will be payable in four equal instalments due on:

1st Instalment:	27 August 2025
2nd Instalment:	26 November 2025
3rd Instalment:	25 February 2026
4th Instalment:	27 May 2026

Pursuant to Sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA the following penalties on unpaid rates (excluding metered water rates) will be added:

- A charge of 10% on so much of any instalment that has been assessed after 1 July 2025 which remains unpaid after the due date for that instalment. The penalty will be added on the following dates:
 - 1st Instalment 3 September 2025
 - 2nd Instalment 3 December 2025
 - 3rd Instalment 4 March 2026
 - 4th Instalment 3 June 2026
- A charge of 10% on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2025 which remain unpaid on 10 July 2025. The penalty will be added on 17 July 2025.
- A continuing additional penalty of 10% on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2025, to which a penalty has been added under the immediately preceding bullet point, and which remain unpaid six months after the previous penalty was added. The penalty will be added on 20 January 2026.
- Penalties imposed are exempt from GST.

Payment Due Dates for Metered Water Supply

The due dates are set out in the table below. A charge of 10% on any amount outstanding for the quarter which remains unpaid on the following dates will be added on the dates below:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Penalty Date</u>
1 July to 30 September 2025	26 November 2025	03 December 2025
1 October to 31 December 2025	25 February 2026	04 March 2026
1 January to 31 March 2026	27 May 2026	03 June 2026
1 April to 30 June 2026	26 August 2026	02 September 2026

EARLY PAYMENT

Sections 55 and 56 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 empowers Council to allow for the early payment of rates.

- Council proposes to accept early payment of all rates assessed for the 2025/26 year, but no discount will be applied for early payment. (Section 55).
- Council proposes to accept early payment of all rates assessed for the 2026/27 and subsequent years, but no discount will be applied for early payment. These payments will be applied to general rates or individual targeted rates if requested by the ratepayer, otherwise they will be applied against future general rates. (Section 56).

PAYMENT LOCATIONS – ALL RATES AND CHARGES

Direct Debits are the preferred method of payment. Direct Debit Authority Forms are available at our Council office, or online.

Payments can be made online by going to www.stratford.govt.nz and clicking on “Pay Online”.

Mail and electronic payments shall be deemed to be received at the Council Office on day of receipt. The Council accepts payments by cash, eftpos or credit card between the hours of 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, at the Council offices, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford.

Recommended Reason

The *Annual Plan 2025/26* contains the activities and associated costs of Council and the funding mechanisms, including rates, to meet those costs. The Rates to be set above are consistent with the Funding Impact Statement in the *Annual Plan 2025/26*, as required by law.

The Director – Corporate Services noted one change to the recommendation (page 197 of agenda) where 2024/25 needs to be updated to 2025/26.

10. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Lauree Jones, Taranaki EnviroSchools

Response: Acknowledge presentation and follow up on setting a date to visit.

Speaker: Michael Carr, Sport Taranaki

Response: Verbally thanked for presentation. Council always welcomes having you here and seeing the update on what is happening in the community. It is also good to see presentations such as the one on green prescriptions in the Positive Ageing Forum as well.

11. Questions

- Councillor Harris took the opportunity to say the new sound system worked very well when attending by zoom. She noted the microphones are very sensitive and pick up all conversations including ones between councillors rather than to the meeting.

12. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.06 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 10th day of June 2025

N C Volzke
District Mayor