TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

9 April 2026

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that, the **Ordinary** Meeting of Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford,** on ***14 April 2026,*** beginning at **3.30pm.**

Timetable for 14 April 2026 as follows:

1.00pm	Workshop - Long Term Plan – Early conversations
2.45pm	Break for Councillors
3.00pm	Public Forum - Taranaki Synthetic Turf Trust
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Stratford District
In the heart of Taranaki

63 Miranda Street, PO Box 320, Stratford 4352
Phone. 06 765 6099 | stratford.govt.nz

2026 - Agenda - Ordinary - April (Open)

14 April 2026 09:00 AM

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda Topic — Page

AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of Council

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/05 – D26/11621

Date: 14 April at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

1. Welcome

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 5

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 6

2. Apologies

3. Announcements

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. Attendance Schedule

Page 7

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 10 March 2026
D26/11618 (Open) D26/8034 (PE) Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 10 March 2026, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 17 March 2026
D26/9317 Page 12

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 24 March 2026
D26/11619 (Open) D26/10246 (PE) Page 21

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 24 March 2026 be received.

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 24 March 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. District Mayor's Report

D26/12400 Page 30

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. Public Forum Response

Speaker Lloyd Morgan and Hugh Barnes
Topic Taranaki Synthetic Turf Trust

9. Questions

10. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 37

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai	I draw in (to my being)
Ā hauora	The reviving essence
Ā haukaha	The strengthening essence
Ā haumāia	The essence of courage
Ki runga, Ki raro	Above, Below
Ki roto, Ki waho	Within, Around
Rire rire hau Paimārire	Let there be peace.

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D22/17082

Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, unless guided to an alternative route by staff, please exit through the main entrance. Once outside the building please move towards the War Memorial Centre congregating on the lawn area outside the front of the council building.

If there is an earthquake, please drop, cover and hold where possible. Remain indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit or remain where you are until further instruction is given.

5. Attendance schedule for 2026 Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

Date	10/02/26	24/02/26	10/03/26	14/04/26	12/05/26	09/06/26	14/07/26	11/08/26	08/09/26	13/10/26	10/11/26	08/12/26
Meeting	O	E	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓									
David Chadwick	✓	✓	✓									
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓									
Jaimie Bertie	✓	✓	✓									
Josh Best	✓	A	AB									
Grant Boyde	✓	A	✓									
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓									
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓									
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓									
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓									
Katherine Sextus	A	✓	✓									
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓									

Key	
O	Ordinary Meeting
E	Extraordinary Meeting
EM	Emergency Meeting
✓	Attended
A	Apology/Leave of Absence
AB	Absent
S	Sick
AV	Meeting held, or attended by, by Audio Visual Link

MINUTES
Ordinary

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/11618

Date: 10 March 2026 at 3.33 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor A K Harris, Councillors: S J Beck, J Bertie, G W Boyde, D K Chadwick, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, K A Sextus and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Mr G Hancock, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, one member of the media (Stratford and South), and two members of the public.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read and the H&S message was read. The mayor welcomed members, senior staff to the meeting and members of the public.

2. Apologies

None recorded.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor asked members to stay behind for a councillor-only session following today's meeting.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings was attached. The District Mayor noted that Councillor Sexton's leave for 10 February had not been recorded. The Governance Advisor would amend the record.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 10 February
D26/4442 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on Tuesday 10 February 2026, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/WATT
Moved/Seconded
CL/26/12

6.1.2 Public Forum Notes
D26/4440 Page 14

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

6.2 Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 24 February
D26/6228 Page 16

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council, held on Tuesday 24 February 2026, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/13

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 24 February
D26/6227 Page 18

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be received.

SEXTUS/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/14

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be adopted.

DUDLEY/WATTS
Carried
CL/26/15

The District Mayor noted that this recommendation related only to the adoption of the recommendations, and that any amendments to the minutes would need to be made at the upcoming Policy and Services Committee meeting.

7. District Mayor's Report

D26/7612 Page 26

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

BERTIE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/26/16

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- The all-of-sector and rural provincial meeting was held,, which the Mayor and CE attended. This was the first time the meeting had been held at Parliament. The House was in recess, so most politicians were away. However, Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour and the Minister of Civil Defence, Mark Mitchell, were present. It was noted by the Minister of Civil Defence that the number of emergency events nationwide has been significant. The District Mayor noted it was remarkable our region has not been among those affected.
- The District Mayor noted his attendance at a Grey Power meeting, acknowledging their passion. The transfer station was raised as a concern, and noted the council is aware of this.

8. Decision Report -Rural Meeting April 2026

D26/6775 Page 29

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
CL/26/18

2. THAT the April 2026 Whangamomona-based Ordinary Council meeting does not proceed and instead be held in the Council Chambers.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
CL/26/19

3. THAT a Policy & Services Committee meeting be scheduled at Whakaahurangi Marae for 2026; and a rural roadshow be introduced from 2027, with expressions of interest sought early that year.

HALL/CHADWICK
Carried
CL/26/20

Recommended Reason
Due to low attendance rates at the Whangamomona rural meeting, it is proposed that the April 2026 meeting not proceed there and instead a Policy & Services Committee meeting be held at Whakaahurangi Marae, strengthening our partnership approach with iwi.

The Governance Advisor noted the following points:

- The Whangamomona-based meeting has been a historical one, dating back to 2009. Attendance at the meeting has dwindled over the years, and this paper is based on feedback received from elected members following the most recent meeting.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification on whether there was a possibility for the Whangamomona meeting to become a Policy and Services Committee meeting in future. The Governance Advisor advised that this could be considered as part of the options presented to elected members through the rural roadshow discussions.
- Councillor Watt enquired about the cost of rural meetings. The Chief Executive advised that costs are minimal and relate mainly to staff time and travel.
- Councillor Hall asked whether there had been any interest from other rural areas. The Chief Executive advised that there had been some interest from Tututawa, although this had not eventuated.

9. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Recommendation

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Agenda Item No: 10

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The Percy Thomson Trust Trustee Appointment	The withholding of the information is necessary to	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including

	protect the privacy of a natural person.	that of deceased natural persons (s 7(2)(a)).

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
CL/26/21

10. Public Excluded Item -

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

BECK/BOYDE
Moved/Seconded
CL/26/26

11. Questions

None.

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 36

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.07 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 14th day of April 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Audit and Risk Committee

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/006 – D26/9317

Date: Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 1.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

Mr P Jones (the Chair), the District Mayor N C Volzke, the Deputy Mayor A K Harris, Councillors: G W Boyde, J M S Erwood *(partial left at 3.14pm)*, and E E Hall *(partial left at 3.14pm)*.

In attendance

Councillors: A M C Dudley, J Bertie *(partially)*, K A Sextus, the Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Senior Accountant – Mrs C Craig (part meeting), the Health and Safety/Emergency Management Advisor – Mr D Pemberton (part meeting), the Communications Manager – Miss G Gibson (part meeting), the Property and Project Manager – Mr S Taylor (part meeting), the Customer Service Officer & Committee Secretary – Ms S West, Audit NZ - Mr C Webby, five member of the public, and one member of the media (Stratford and South).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements. The Chair noted a request to change the order of business and move the Percy Thomson items to be considered immediately following the Audit items. This was agreed.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Chair requested councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on the agenda. Councillor Hall declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 16 to 18. The Chair requested that Councillor Hall move to the speakers' table during consideration of those items. This was agreed.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Audit and Risk Committee meetings was attached.

6. Programme of Works

D25/45958 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee's rolling programme of works be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD

Carried
A&R/26/1

- The Chair noted the programme and commented to members on the need to remain flexible as legislation progresses through the House.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee - 16 December 2025

D25/36480 Page 13

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/2

8. Matters Outstanding

D18/27474 Page 19

Recommendation

THAT the matters outstanding be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
A&R/26/3

- It was noted that the Insurance Surplus paper would be brought to the next meeting.

9. Information Report - Health, Safety and Wellbeing

D26/7723 Page 20

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/4

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted would there be an induction with the contract milker, and the Health & Safety Advisor confirmed they would be part of their programme.
- Councillor Dudley queried the transfer station, as noted in the report. The Health & Safety Advisor reiterated his report, confirming that a risk assessment has been undertaken. He has also visited South Taranaki District Council to view their facility. While it differs, options are being explored as to how similar approaches or alternatives could be applied. He

confirmed that a meeting has been held with Waste Management to raise the issue, including returning to prior arrangements. Green waste would return to ground dumping.
- The District Mayor noted his meeting with Grey Power, who would be very supportive of the move to have green waste dumped to ground.

10. Information Report - Risk Management

D26/7413 Page 26

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/26/5

Recommended Reason
To provide an update to the Audit and Risk Committee of any risk events or threats in relation to significant risks on Council's risk register, as part of Council's risk management processes.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following point:
- It was noted that legislative reforms remain ongoing and that the likely impacts will not be known until they are more concrete.

Questions/Points of Clarification:
- Councillor Boyde queried the simplifying local government reform.

11. Information Report - 2025-2026 Annual Report Audit Engagement Letter

D26/2172 Page 34

Recommendations
THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
A&R/26/6

Recommended Reason

This report receives, considers and informs the Committee of the Audit Engagement Letter for the audit of the 2025/2026 Annual Report.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following point:
- The Director introduced Chris Webby, Director, Audit New Zealand. The report was described as administrative in nature, being a standard letter that sets out responsibilities.
- Mr Webby advised that the letter is standard and occurs every three years, outlining the responsibilities of the auditor and the Council. He noted that changes to responsibilities are uncommon. An audit proposal letter will be issued; while these are usually for a three-year period, given current changes it will be issued for a single year.

Questions/Points of Clarification:
- Councillor Boyde noted paragraph 2.3 and the accompanying risk, and queried whether there were any concerns regarding resources and in light of upcoming legislative changes. The Director confirmed that there are currently increased resources within the Finance team and that they are keeping a watch brief.

- The District Mayor noted his Zoom meeting with Minister Simon Watts, during which audit cycles were raised. He queried whether Audit New Zealand had given any consideration to this. Mr Webby advised that audit requirements are set by the Local Government Act.
- The Chair noted the LTP process and ongoing legislative reform, including the introduction of additional mandatory measures that auditors would be required to audit. Mr Webby confirmed that there are mandatory measures; however, not all are material, and different measures would require closer consideration than others.
- The Chair noted to members of the realignment taking place within the Office of the Auditor-General, and Mr Webby expanded on these changes for members.

12. Information Report - 2025-2026 Audit Plan Report

D26/6217 Page 51

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/26/7

Recommended Reason
This report receives, considers and informs the Committee of the Council auditors audit plan for the year ending 30 June 2026.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following point:

- The highlights are outlined in the agenda item and had been reviewed by management, with no unexpected matters identified. Mr Webby noted the roading audit, asset assessment and valuation requirements. He also commented on overseas events advising a watching brief is being held. Material measures and the timetable were noted in the report, and Mr Webby confirmed that the audit is currently on track, with a pre-final expected end of June.
-

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair queried RMA changes, and it was confirmed that these would impact the Long Term Plan rather than the Annual Plan.
- The Chair queried when the engagement letter for the LTP would be issued, and Mr Webby confirmed that work is currently underway on the methodology, with the letter to follow.

13. Information Report - Annual Plan 2026/27 Update

D26/7901 Page 74

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/8

Recommended Reason
This report provides the Committee with an update on the status of the draft Annual Plan 2026/27, and an opportunity to comment on associated risks.

14. information Report -Water Services Reform Implementation Update

D26/7716 Page 80

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

JONES/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/9

Recommended Reason
This report covers the progress made to date regarding the implementation of council's Water Services Business Unit. It enables council to monitor compliance with the submitted Water Services Delivery Plan and keeps it abreast of progress as well as any subsequent changes.

The Chief Executive noted the following point:

- It was noted that the next stage focuses on establishing governance, including the establishment of an internal Water Services Group. The proposed Terms of Reference will be brought to the next Policy and Services Committee meeting. The recruitment of the General Manager Implementation role was noted, and the scope discussed, including that a preferred candidate has been identified and the appointment is close to being finalised. The Chief Executive noted the ongoing government reform and its impacts on rating and water services. Reporting to the Department of Internal Affairs is scheduled for early April on the Water Service Delivery Plan.
- The Mayor confirmed that the composition of the Water Services Committee, including the elected members would be announced at the next Policy and Services Committee meeting.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair queried the GL requirements of ring-fencing water services, and the Director confirmed that she is working on it.

15. Information Report -2025/26 Capital Works Programme – Key Projects Update

D26/6877 Page 89

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/10

Recommended Reason
To provide a summary on the progress of our main capital projects for the 2025/26 financial year and assess Council's ability to complete them on time and within budget.

The Property and Project Manager noted the following point:

- An update was provided in relation to page 91 of the agenda, on the key project updates proposed to be carried over, which include the Grit Tank, the desludging project, the subdivision, Prospero Place, TET, and the Municipal Building. An explanation was provided outlining the reasons these projects are expected to carry over.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor queried the mobile waste service and why the fourth school has not signed up. The Manager confirmed that this is being followed up.

- The Deputy Mayor queried the desludging project, including the drying time. The Manager confirmed that the delay was due to the project timeframe, which has taken longer than anticipated because of its complexity.
- Councillor Boyde queried project delivery, noting some delays. The Director confirmed that some of the projects discussed have been outside Council's control. Delivery of projects has been prioritised this year, with complex projects taking longer. It was confirmed that sufficient resources are in place to deliver this year. Discussion was held on project carry-forwards. The Mayor noted rates capping as a future matter in the pipeline which may slow project delivery.

16. Decision Report - Percy Thomson Trust - Requests for Audit Exemption and Revocation of CCO status revocation

D26/7434 Page 97

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/26/11

2. THAT Council decline the request for revocation of Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) status for Percy Thomson Trust.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/12

3. THAT Council decline the request to exempt Percy Thomson Trust from the standard reporting, auditing and accountability requirements applicable to Council Controlled Organisations as per Section 7 of the Local Government Act (2002).

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/13

Recommended Reason

The order of the above recommendations is intentional as the outcome of recommendation 2 may make recommendation 3 redundant.

Recommendation 2: While the concept of a CCO did not exist at the time of writing of Percy Thomson's will, the instructions contained within his will, that the council(s) shall be the sole appointor(s) of trustees indicates his desire of an enduring involvement and oversight of his bequest by council. Council's ongoing role was further entrenched via the requirement for council approval for Major Transactions within the original trust deed and retained in the revised trust deed. Furthermore, this process is likely to incur significant legal costs and consume significant staff time which is unsustainable within the current environment.

Recommendation 3: Council's key concern regarding the Percy Thomson Trust for some time now has been its medium-term financial sustainability. This has been and still is under significant threat with substantial financial losses year on year. The trust has also gone through significant internal changes. The trust has already removed any council insight into its operations, performance and financials through the outsourcing of its back office functions away from the view and influence of council staff. This makes the formal audit council's only independent insight into the trust's performance and accountability.

The Chief Executive noted the following point:

- It was noted that there were two separate requests from the PTT and that it was appropriate to consider them as one report. It was confirmed that his points were covered in the report, and that the officers' recommendation is to decline the requests.

Deputation – Chair of the Percy Thomson Trust Hall Ellen Hall. Brian Jeffares:

- The Chair of the PTT introduced members of the Trust who were seated in the public gallery. Ms Hall spoke to the requests on behalf of the Trust and confirmed that the intent was to reduce costs to the Trust and enhance access to funding. Ms Hall read her deputation, which reiterated the points outlined in her letter to the Chief Executive. Ms Hall queried aspects of the Council report. Ms Hall stated her view that the Trust is on the right track to sustainability.
- Mr Jeffares read his deputation, which reiterated the points outlined in his material and covered in the letter provided to Council.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde queried the funding rate provided to the PTT, including the 0.5 percent of rates, and whether this was documented. Mr Jeffares noted that the matter had been debated by Council and should be recorded in a Council decision. Further discussion was held on the funding rate, noting that the original amount was $20,000, which covered administrative costs provided by Council.
- Councillor Dudley asked the Trust whether there were other grants they had attempted to access but were unable to due to their CCO status, including funding from the Toi Foundation. Ms Hall confirmed that they are currently in an exploratory phase regarding this. Toi funding was discussed further, with it confirmed that Council can apply on the Trust's behalf, and the wider implications of this were noted.
- The District Mayor queried the costs associated with the legal review of the matter. The Chief Executive confirmed that the report sought approval in principle to incur costs and noted the Council's financial pressures.
- The Chair asked the Trust whether they had sought their own legal advice. It was confirmed that they have some legal support; however, the matter has not progressed as the Council report was only received on Friday. Discussion was held on charitable trust requirements and the original intent of the will.
- The Chair sought clarification as to why the 2002 deed specified the Auditor-General as the auditor and why this provision was subsequently removed. The costs associated with audit fees were discussed, with it noted that spending approximately $25,000 on audit fees was significant to the Trust.
- The District Mayor and Councillor Erwood sought clarification from the Trust regarding the implications of removing CCO status, including the impact on Council funding and whether there would be an expectation that Council would continue to provide $50,000 in funding, noting that this approach does not apply to other grants. Ms Hall confirmed that the Trust is giving consideration to this and is seeking to move forward on good terms. It was noted that not being subject to CCO requirements would improve efficiency. Mr Jeffares stated that the Trust would like funding to continue and noted that similar arrangements exist.
- The Deputy Mayor sought further clarification on the funding the Trust has applied for, other organisations that had applied for similar funding, and the audit costs the Trust would expect to incur if it were no longer a CCO. Ms Hall provided further explanation regarding Toi Foundation funding and noted that $5,000 had been allocated for audit fees under that model. Discussion was held on the scope of Audit New Zealand audits and the assurance they provide.
- The District Mayor expanded on the history of the will and the Trust deed, including the Council's role in appointing trustees and the potential changes that could occur. The Chair further elaborated on the differences between the deed and the will, and the implications arising from those changes.
- Councillor Boyde stated that he would like to see the decision revisited in a few years' time. He supports the auditor requirements and suggested that Council consider covering, or partially covering, the cost of audit fees. Further discussion occurred with members around this.

17. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Half Yearly Report as at 31 December 2025

D26/7124 Page 173

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2.
3. THAT Council receive the half yearly report for Percy Thomson Trust as at 31 December 2025.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/14

Recommended Reason
In terms of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Percy Thomson Trust, being a council controlled organisation, must deliver to Council a half yearly report (as at 31 December 2025) before 1 March 2026.

The Chair of PTT noted the following points:

- The Chair of the PTT highlighted key achievements of the Trust to members, including the number of visits to the gallery and related data. The Chair also noted the costs currently faced by the Trust, with staffing identified as the largest expense.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted a number of observations from the report, including visitor numbers and an asset sale not achieving expected value. The Chair of the PTT confirmed that a loss was incurred on the sale. The Mayor further queried the sale, with Ms Hall noting that it was based on the information available at the time.
- Councillor Dudley asked about administration costs, and Ms Hall confirmed that these are outlined in the report. The Deputy Mayor asked which cost was the highest, and it was confirmed that minute-taking was the largest administration cost.
- The Chair queried page 192 (page 14 of the Trust's report), specifically in relation to the cash deficit. Ms Hall advised that she would need to check this, and confirmed that the position was a result of capital profit gains.

18. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Draft Statement of Intent 2026-2029

D26/7123 Page 197

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/15

~~2. THAT Council adopt the draft Statement of Intent for Percy Thomson Trust for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029, or~~

~~THAT Council respond with alternatives.~~

Recommended Reason
In terms of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002, Percy Thomson Trust, being a Council Controlled Organisation, must deliver a draft Statement of Intent on or before 1 March 2026. This draft was delivered to the Mayor and Chief Executive on 27 February 2026.

The PTT Chair Services noted the following points:

- The Chair provided a high-level overview of the Statement of Intent to members. Ms Hall noted the Council's contribution and advised that Council would need to consider this, and it has not changed for 14 years.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde queried the insurance held by the Trust and whether it was as comprehensive as Council's insurance. Ms Hall confirmed that the Trust's insurance coverage is more comprehensive than Council's and now includes cover for artwork.
- The District Mayor and the Chair noted errors in the accounting within the Statement of Intent, and these were provided to Ms Hall for amendment.
- Members raised queries on the above matter, and it was decided not to adopt the draft Statement of Intent due to the identified errors.

19. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

20. General Business

There was no general business.

21. Questions

There were no questions.

22. Closing karakia

D21/40748 Page 223

The closing Karakia was read.

The Meeting closed at 3.56pm.

P Jones
Chairman

Confirmed this 19th day of May 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Policy and Services Committee

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F22/96/005 – D26/11619

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 3.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor A K Harris (the Chairperson), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors: S J Beck, J Bertie, J R Best, D K Chadwick, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, K A Sextus and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mr G Hancock, the Roading Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Policy Advisor – Ms R Dearden and one member of the media (Stratford and South).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read. The Deputy Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

None noted.

3. Announcements

- The Mayor invited councillors to remain behind for a councillors-only session. This session was to update members on the simplifying local government changes.
- The Mayor also announced appointments to three groups.
    - The first was the Broadway Enhancement Group (BEG). The proposed membership includes Councillors Bertie, Dudley, Hall, and Watt, one Stratford Business Association representative (yet to be named), and two staff members (yet to be named).
    - The Sesquicentennial Committee (150-year celebration) was also announced. The committee includes Councillors Dudley and Sextus, along with community members who are yet to be named.
    - The Water Services Committee was confirmed as including the District Mayor, Deputy Mayor Harris, Councillor Watt, iwi representative (yet to be named), and an independent chair (yet to be appointed). While the independent chair position is vacant, the District Mayor will act as chair.

4. Declarations of members interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached and noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee - 24 February 2026

D26/6227 Page 13

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

DUDLEY/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/10

- Councillor Dudley noted a typo on page 14 of the recommendations. This will be fixed by the Governance Advisor.

7. Matters Outstanding

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/11

THAT the matter outstanding of trucks parking on residential streets be removed.

BECK/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/12

- The District Mayor noted the item regarding trucks parking on residential streets. He advised that members have since received further information on the matter, including the difficulties of enforcement and that it would need to be enforced through a bylaw. He queried whether it was something members wished to pursue given these challenges. Councillor Beck noted the Mayor's advice and supported the position of not pursuing the matter.

8. Decision Report - Proposed Road Closure of Miranda Street for ANZAC Day Service

D26/8950 Page 22

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/13

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, Stratford District Council approves the closure of the following roads between the hours 5.30am to 10.00am on Saturday 25 April 2026 for the purpose of the ANZAC Day Dawn Service:
   - Miranda Street between Fenton Street and Regan Street – 5:30am to 10:00am
   - War Memorial Car park access to be closed from Miranda Street
   - Fenton St from Broadway to Malone Gates and Portia St to the TET carpark

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/14

Recommended Reason
For the Stratford District Council to hold ANZAC Day commemorations, it is necessary to close the roads listed above for the safety of the public gathering for the dawn service at the Cross of Sacrifice on Miranda Street. The proposed road closures require formal approval by a Council resolution.

The Roading Manager noted that the roads are the same as last year.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Dudley queried the timing of the proposed road closures, making sure they are the times listed.

9. Decision Report - 2026/27 Annual Plan Approach

D26/9085 Page 28

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BEST/SEXTUS
Carried
P&S/26/15

2. THAT the requirements of Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 are adhered to in the preparation of the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

3. THAT it is determined that there are no significant or material differences proposed for the 2026/27 Annual Plan from the content of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan.

4. THAT Council approves the preparation and adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan without consultation in accordance with Section 95 (2A) of the Local Government Act 2002.

BOYDE/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/16

Recommended Reason

To adopt the streamlined processes in Section 95 (2A) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the preparation and adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Plan, as the proposals and budgets have already been fully consulted on through the preparation and adoption of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan. This involves adopting the 2026/27 Annual Plan without formal consultation.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- That the report seeks a decision on the adoption of the Annual Plan and is based on discussions with elected members at a workshop held a couple of weeks ago. The Director highlighted water services costs and Brecon Road as changes and noted that, in line with LTP assumptions, these are not considered significant. The Director indicated that the rating increase is likely to be 5.9 percent, and that excluding water services would likely result in a 3.5 percent increase. Due to there being no material changes to the LTP, officers are proposing no consultation.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall queried whether there is a plan for engaging with the community outside of the formal consultation. The Director advised it does not meet the threshold of Council's significance and engagement policy. There will be a process for informing the community, which will be one-way, using a central link and social channels. Councillor Boyde noted the costs associated with going out to consultation.

10. Decision Report - Policy Review - March 2026

D26/9101 Page 34

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/CHADWICK
Carried
P&S/26/17

2. THAT the Elizabeth Maree Watson Estate Fund Policy ~~be adopted unchanged.~~ with changes be adopted.

VOLZKE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/18

Recommended Reason

This is part of council's rolling review of policies. Policies require review from time to time to ensure they still reflect current legislation and best practice, as well as elected members' views and meet the business needs of the organisation.

The Policy Advisor noted that this policy has been rolled over from the previous version.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor noted section 3.2 on page 38 and that the Mayor will have discretion over approvals. The District Mayor clarified that the Public Trustee also has a role in the final decision and queried whether this could be added to section 3.7. It was noted that wording should state that the final recommendation by the Mayor needs to be confirmed with the Trustee. This was supported by Councillor Erwood.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification regarding the wording on page 38 of the policy, noting that the purpose of the policy refers to the needy elderly community, and queried whether the wording could be changed to "older community." The Policy Advisor clarified that the wording is part of the original will and needs to be retained.

11. Decision Report - New Policies - March 2026

D26/9106 Page 40

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/19

2. THAT the Compliments and Complaints Policy be adopted

3. THAT the Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy be adopted

HALL/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/20

Recommended Reason
It is recommended that Council adopt both policies to ensure consistent handling of customer feedback, provide clear processes for managing unreasonable behaviour, and support safe, fair, and effective service delivery.

The Policy Advisor noted the following points:

- This report introduces two new policies to Council. The Policy Advisor noted that Councillor Chadwick had previously brought some typos to attention, and these would be corrected.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarity around section 6.1 of the Trespass Policy and what is the membership of the Trespass Review Panel. The Chief Executive explained that the panel comprises a Director or the Chief Executive, the facility manager, and the Health and Safety Advisor. The District Mayor also sought clarification on whether elected members would be notified of individuals who have been trespassed, given that those individuals are likely to contact them. The Chief Executive stated that he perceived no issues with sharing this information and noted that there is a third internal policy relating to the trespass review process and how the policy is rolled out.
- Councillor Beck queried whether there was training for staff. The Chief Executive confirmed that training is underway.
- Councillor Boyde queried whether notifications should go through the Executive Committee. The Chief Executive clarified this.

12. Decision Report - Water Services Committee - Delegations and Terms of Reference

D26/9197 Page 55

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/SEXTUS
Carried
P&S/26/21

2. THAT the Policy & Services Committee review and endorse the proposed Terms of Reference for the Water Services Committee, with any amendments the Committee considers appropriate, and recommend their adoption to Council.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/22

Recommended Reason
To establish a clear and robust governance framework for the oversight of water, wastewater, and stormwater services in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and the Water Services Delivery Plan.

The Governance Advisor noted the following points:

- That the report provides the Terms of Reference for the Water Services Committee and is based on decisions from the adopted Water Services Delivery Plan. The Terms of Reference are based on those recently adopted by South Taranaki District Council. It was clarified that the membership is based on the District Mayor's announcement made earlier.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification regarding mana whenua representatives and the number proposed. The Chief Executive clarified that this information came from the WSBU when the number had not yet been confirmed. The District Mayor noted it would be a representative and this is being worked out.
- Councillor Hall sought clarification on whether the Chair would be required to have experience in the water space or governance. The Mayor reiterated that experience in both water and governance was preferred. The Chief Executive also advised that water services expertise would be key and would likely be held by a senior person with governance knowledge. The Mayor provided further clarification that additional members could be added and, if so, there would be another councillor appointed.
- Councillor Hall also sought further clarity on whether the majority of members would be councillors. It was agreed that page 63, under membership, would be amended to stipulate that the majority would be councillors.

13. Monthly Reports

13.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/23

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted page 75 and the impending changes to 4G and 5G, and queried whether there would be any further changes to services or additional costs. The Director – Corporate clarified that the IT Manager is managing the changes.

13.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/CHADWICK
Carried
P&S/26/24

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification on when the Wai o Rua business case update would be provided to members. The Director commented that this would be next month.

13.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/25

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought comment on page 100 regarding net debt and what percentage it increases by each year. The Director noted that this depends on the projects and that next year's increase will be higher due to the subdivision. Councillor Boyde requested information for the past five years, which will be provided in the next report.
- Councillor Dudley queried page 111, noting that the most recent water bill was sent out late and sought clarification on the reason for this. The Director confirmed this was a timing issue and advised that Council is still working with this debtor. Further clarification was sought on whether Council is getting closer to issuing water bills by email. The Director confirmed that this is being worked on.
- Councillor Boyde sought clarity regarding LGOIMA requests, noting that these have increased. The Chief Executive clarified the charging policy, including that the first 30 minutes is free. It was also noted that staff try to clarify requests with requesters and provide options where possible.
- Councillor Hall sought comment regarding water meters and community engagement around timing. The Director advised that a workshop would be held in May, with reliable data available by 1 July, and that discussion would occur regarding the process and charging options.
- The Deputy Mayor noted on page 110 that three investments would be maturing. The Director confirmed that new rates have been locked in.

13.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/26

The Director noted the following points:
- Resource Management Reform: Council was in the hearing process. This has now been completed, and Council was not part of it.
- Solar Project: A notice of motion has been lodged and accepted and is proceeding through the direct referral process. Twelve parties have joined out of the twenty-four notified. The Court is currently working on a timetable.

14. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Recommendation

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Agenda Item No: 15

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Stratford District Council Building Consent Authority – Future Direction	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of a natural person.	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (s 7(2)(a)).

BECK/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/27

15. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/10

16. Questions
- None

17. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 5.13 pm.

A K Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 28 day of April 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MONTHLY REPORT
District Mayor

F25/96/004 – D26/12400

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 14 April 2026
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report – March 2026

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

2. THAT the appointments to committees and community representations as listed in ***Table 1*** be confirmed

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Local Government – Zone three meeting

It has been ten years since the Local Government New Zealand Zone three meeting was held in Stratford, but last month we had the privilege of hosting this event again. Zone three is an area that covers the mid/lower portion of the North Island. Around seventy people attended including Mayors, Regional Chairs, elected members, Chief Executives and a range of officials from LGNZ.

The speakers and presentations were well received particularly the presentation given by Contact Energy and BP Solar source who spoke about the future use of solar energy across the country. Private households and businesses installing solar panels is on a major growth trajectory and solar farm proposals are proliferating as well. Taranaki generally and Stratford, are attractive locations for solar energy electricity generation due to the quality of the sunlight, sunshine hours, and atmospheric conditions.

Venture Taranaki gave a presentation on the impact of the gas exploration ban and the future of fossil fuels in New Zealand. The gas decline is already having a huge negative impact on the Taranaki economy, and this will become much more significant as gas supplies dwindle. There are active plans to promote and transfer workers with high skill sets to related trade sectors like engineering and new energy projects like wind farms.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge our staff who organised the two-day meeting and did a great job of pleasing everyone. There were plenty of compliments from our guests.

2. Council Committee Appointments

At the Policy & Services Committee meeting held on 24 March 2026, I announced appointments to three committees. To formalise these appointments, I am exercising my powers under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 to appoint the following elected members to the committees listed in ***Table 1*** below.

COMMITTEE	**MEMBERS**
Water Services Committee	District Mayor Volzke (Interim Chair) Deputy Mayor Harris Councillor Watt Iwi Representative (to be confirmed) Independent Chairperson (to be confirmed)

	Note: The above committee make-up is for the initial period only and may change once the Independent Chairperson is appointed.
Broadway Enhancement Group (BEG)	Councillor Bertie Councillor Dudley Councillor Hall Councillor Watt Representative of the Stratford Business Association (to be confirmed) Two Stratford District Council staff members (to be confirmed)
Sesquicentennial Committee (150 Years Celebration)	Councillor Dudley Councillor Sextus Community members (to be named)

NOTE: All Elected Members have access to the agendas of the Water Services Committee and may attend meetings. However, it is at the Chairperson's discretion whether non-committee Elected Members may sit at the table and/or have speaking rights. Non-committee members do not have voting rights and are not required to submit apologies for non-attendance.

3. EU Ambassador to New Zealand - Visit to Taranaki

In March the EU Ambassador to New Zealand H.E. Lawrence Meredith visited Taranaki. During his visit he hosted a dinner meeting with the regions three Mayors, along with numerous other meetings with business leaders. The Ambassador was very aware of Taranaki's role in the energy sector and the strong engineering base that supported it. He was keen to promote the commercial expertise that EU member countries could bring to New Zealand and Taranaki, particularly in the energy sector and particularly with wind generated electricity. Better linking the energy sector in Taranaki with their EU counterparts is a way to hasten the transition to low emissions green energy here. There are some strong indicators that offshore wind energy is in for an exciting future in the region.

4. Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee meeting

The Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee met on 3 March 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was the adoption of the Financial End of Year report for 2024/25, Quarterly Performance Report and the adoption of the Regional Fuel Plan.

5. Taranaki Mayoral Forum meeting

The Taranaki Mayoral Forum met on 3 March 2026. Items included in the meeting agenda were the confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting and a presentation from Venture Taranaki including a review of Tapuae Roa. Simplifying Local Government proposals and related matters were not on the agenda and were not discussed.

6. Taranaki Regional Transport Committee meeting

The Taranaki Regional Transport Committee met on 19 March 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was the adoption of Terms of Reference for the Committee and the Advisory Group, NZTA Update, Public Transport Operational Report, an update on developing the Regional Land Transport Plan for 2027 and council updates.

7. Creative Communities Assessment Committee

The committee met for the first time this triennium. As well as the usual business of assessing the funding applications and allocating grants to the various groups, the committee was required to appoint a new chairperson. My congratulations to Councillor Matt Watt on being appointed to the chairperson role for this triennium.

8. Ministry of Social Development Regional Commissioner - Appointment

After 48 years of dedicated service to the Ministry of Social Development, long time regional commissioner Gloria Campbell has retired. Gloria was born and raised in Stratford and had a great understanding of the needs and expectations of the people in this area. We wish Gloria well in her retirement and welcome Shaun Coleman as the new Commissioner. It is a very important and influential role.

Shaun is very experienced leader having held senior roles in MSD for many years. Shaun has been active around the region building a network of contacts and providing some good insights into his goals for the vital social services MSD provides. I look forward to working with him to ensure the people of the Stratford District are well supported.

9. Regional Public Servcie Commissioner - Appointment

Bridget Sullivan has been appointed as the new Regional Public Service Commissioner for Taranaki. Bridget, who grew up in Taranaki, has been the Taranaki Regional Lead for Kanoa, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment since 2018. Bridget will be responsible for understanding regional development challenges and opportunities at a community and sector level and working with regional leaders to advance responses. She has experience working collaboratively with Taranaki stakeholders, local and central government. Congratulations Bridget.

10. Civil Contractors New Zealand

Recently I met with representatives from Civil Contractors New Zealand which is an organisation representing members in the civil, construction and general contracting sectors. The Chief Executive Allan Pollard who led the group, was keen to convey the message that councils collectively are key players and big spenders in the construction sector. What is important to the contractors is the transparency and processes around tendering work, as well as having clear procurement processes for non-tendered work. Also of importance is long term planning and consistency that allows the sector to look ahead and understand what future work is on the horizon. Signalling capital projects through 10-year Long Tem Plans and even 30-year plans is important for the sector to forecast future investment needs and delver the services when councils need them.

11. Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – March 2026
- Letter from the Minister of Local Government with an update on Government Action regarding Dog Control

12. Some Events Attended

- Attended – Civil Defence Emergency Management -Joint Committee meeting
- Attended – Taranaki Mayoral Forum meeting
- Attended - Creative Communities Committee meeting
- Attended – New Plymouth District Council member's workshop
- Attended – Regional Transport Committee Planning workshop
- Attended – Taranaki Passenger Transport Joint Committee meeting
- Attended – Youth Council meeting (x1)
- Attended – LGNZ meeting with Minister Simon Watts (by zoom)
- Attended – Regional Transport Committee meeting

- Attended – Citizens Awards Committee meeting
- Attended – Hosted Local Government New Zealand Zone 3 meeting
- Attended - Minister Willis Fuel Update/Developments meeting (by Zoom)
- Attended – Meeting of the Stratford Health Trust (x1)
- Attended - Zone 3 meeting organising group (x1)
- Met – with Shaun Coleman the new Regional Commissioner of MSD
- Met – with Percy Thompson Trust, trustee interviews (x2)
- Met - with South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon
- Met – with EU Ambassador to New Zealand H.E. Lawrence Meredith
- Met - with Mayor Dixon, Mayor Brough and Chairman Williamson
- Met – with Allan Pollard & Kimberly de Vries. Civil Contractors NZ.
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News / Stuff (multiple)
- Access Radio – Conversation with Mayor Interview (x1)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x2)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x3)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x2)
- Attended – Public Forum (x1)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x3)

N C Volzke JP
District Mayor **Date**: 8 April 2026

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Callouts March 2026

The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 16 calls in March 2026:

03-03-26	Brigade van required, alarm action Glover Road Hawera assist Hawera fire brigade stood down
04-03-26	Alarm activation Pembroke Road School Monmouth Road
04-03-26	Alarm activation Stratford High School Swansea Road
05-03-26	Assist ambulance with medical call New World Stratford
06-03-26	Grass Fire Pembroke Road
07-06-26	Tanker and Rural appliances required at burn off out of control Eltham Road assist Opunake, Kaponga, and Kohi fire brigades
10-03-26	Tanker required forest fire, Plantation Road Egmont Village assist New Plymouth and Ngamotu fire brigades
12-03-26	Tractor fire Lady's Mile Eltham assist Eltham fire brigade
15-03-26	Alarm activation Stratford Primary School Regan Street
17-03-26	Alarm activation St Joseph's School Miranda Street
17-03-26	Scrub Fire Makuri Road
20-03-26	Alarm activation Eltham Vets Railway Street Eltham assist Eltham fire brigade stood down before arrival
21-03-26	Alarm activation Marire Home Portia Street
22-03-26	Alarm activation Royale Restaurant Broadway
26-03-26	Assist ambulance with medical call Fenton Street
31-03-26	Workshop fire Dudley Road assist Inglewood and New Plymouth fire brigades stood down before arrival

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue

MIN097

Dear Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives

Update on Government Action regarding Dog Control

I understand that councils are working hard to enforce the Dog Control Act 1996 and I appreciate your tremendous efforts in this challenging area of work. I am aware that the Act is no longer fit for purpose and needs significant change. Therefore, the Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the Act with stakeholder consultation.

In the meantime, I encourage councils to continue using the powers available to them under the Act. I am particularly keen to see all councils specify in their dog control policy that menacing dogs must be neutered[1]. If this is not already the case with your council, I recommend you consider taking this step at your next policy review. Alongside this, determining if your dog bylaw is still fit-for-purpose could be a valuable exercise.

I am aware that non-compliant owners pose a challenge for many councils. I encourage using all the tools available to support compliance and responsible dog ownership, including working with other agencies where possible.

An area councils could focus on is increased monitoring of probationary and disqualified owners[2]. Where conditions are not being met, following through with actions such as fines (or, in the case of disqualified owners, seizing a dog) may be effective.

The current enforcement guidelines provide a range of good practice examples for encouraging and enforcing compliance. I am pleased to report that a review and refresh of these guidelines is well underway. The refreshed guidelines will provide dog control officers with a practical tool to refer to in the course of their work. They will address current dog control concerns through identifying enforcement pathways available and will be supported with enhanced good practice examples, decision flow charts and more. Alongside this, the reporting of dog control data under the Act is being standardised. Accurate and consistent data is crucial for assessing dog control activities and trends nationwide.

[1] Section 10(3)(ea) of the Dog Control Act
[2] Sections 21-29 of the Dog Control Act

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Officials are engaging with a working group composed of animal management staff from councils throughout the country, along with Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand. The review and refresh of the guidelines considers a range of stakeholder feedback and there will be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft guidelines before they are released in mid-2026.

The guidelines and data reporting work provide a basis for informing future legislative change. Current stakeholder engagement and feedback, along with research, is invaluable in helping inform the review of the Act.

Again, thank you for your hard work. I look forward to continuing the efforts to improve dog control in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai	I draw in (to my being)
Ā hauora	The reviving essence
Ā haukaha	The strengthening essence
Ā haumāia	The essence of courage
Ki runga, Ki raro	Above, Below
Ki roto, Ki waho	Within, Around
Rire rire hau Paimārire	Let there be peace.

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