



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

6 August 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 **Tuesday 11 August 2026**, beginning at **3.30pm**.

The timetable is as follows:

1.00pm	Workshop • Long Term Plan – Levels of Service discussion • Long Term Plan – Early Conversations ○ War Memorial – Update ○ Administration Office ○ Public toilets
3.00pm	Public Forum • Sport Taranaki
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2026 - Agenda - Ordinary - August (Open)

11 August 2026 09:00 AM



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13. [Closing Karakia](#)

66

AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council



F25/96/005 – D26/29849

Date: 11 August at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

1. Welcome

- 1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 7
- 1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 8

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

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings Page 9.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

- 6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 14 July 2026**
D26/25831 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/

Moved/Seconded

- 6.1.1 Public Forum Notes
D26/25832 Page 13

- 6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 14 July 2026**
D26/25834 Page 16

Recommendations

- 1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 be received.
- 2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 be adopted.

/

Moved/Seconded

6.3 Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 21 July 2026

D26/27307

Page 23

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.4 Policy and Services Committee – 21 July 2026

D26/27310

Page 27

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. Decision Report - Road Closure for a Car Club Event

D26/27671

Page 35

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council closes the following roads on Sunday 16 August 2026 between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm for the purpose of the annual Stratford Street Sprint 2026
 - Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
 - Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
 - Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
 - Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

Recommended Reason

The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 16 August. This is their 36th year of running the event. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. District Mayor's Report

D26/30554

Page 49

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

9. Public Forum Response

Speaker Michael Carr
Topic Sport Taranaki

10. 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: 11

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 passing this resolution to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Chief Executive Annual Performance Appraisal	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist, under section 6 and section 7 of the Act - specifically Section 7(2)(a) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

_____/_____
Moved/Seconded

11. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

_____/_____
Moved/Seconded

12. Questions

13. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 66



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.



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	26/05/26	09/06/26	14/07/26	21/07/26	11/08/26	08/09/26	13/10/26	10/11/26	08/12/26
Meeting	O	E	O	O	O	E	O	O	E	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
David Chadwick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A					
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jaimie Bertie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Josh Best	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Grant Boyde	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV					
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	✓	✓	✓					
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



F25/96/005 – D26/25831

Date: 14 July 2026 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor Neil Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Gareth Hancock.

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

Apologies were noted from Councillor Chadwick. It was also noted that Councillor Bertie would need to leave at 4.00 pm if the Council meeting was still in session.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Chadwick's apology be received.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
CL/26/52

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive noted Stratford High School was inadvertently recorded as receiving \$500, when the approved amount was \$1,500 in the previous Sport NZ meeting minutes.

Recommendation

THAT correction be included and approved, so that the funding allocation accurately reflects the intended amount of \$1,500 for Stratford High School.

DUDLEY/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/53

The Chief Executive requested that the Elected Member remain behind for one minute to discuss a matter that was not related to the 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. None were noted.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings was attached and noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 9 June 2026 D26/21559 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/26/54

6.2 Policy and Services Committee – 23 June 2026 D26/23152 Page 12

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be received.

BEST/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/55

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be adopted.

BERTIE/BEST
Carried
CL/26/56

6.3 Water Services Committee – 30 June 2026 D26/24141 Page 20

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 be received.

WATT/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/26/57

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 be adopted.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/58

6.4 Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group – 3 June 2026 D26/25059 Page 23

Recommendations

THAT the unconfirmed minutes and associated documents of the Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 be received.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
CL/26/59

Councillor Boyde noted that the Chair and Deputy Chair had been appointed. Management across Taranaki is working well together. The Councillor provided an update from the 7 July meeting, which included a GDP update. Ongoing engagement and the importance of consistent regional messaging were noted, particularly given engagement fatigue within the community. The Mayor provided an update on spatial planning and its effects on the region and advised that members would be kept informed of developments. Councillor Beck asked about public engagement on the plan, and the process was explained. Councillor Hall asked whether this group had terms of reference and what the sign-off process would be. This was explained to members.

7. District Mayor's Report
D26/25704

Page 66

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/26/60

The District Mayor noted the following points

- The new hospital is a regional facility and an amazing one at that. It is truly remarkable and has been a long time in the making.
- The South Taranaki alcohol policy has been in development for a long time. A regional policy would provide significant benefits, and all three councils are now working together on a shared policy.
- The Mayor noted the correspondence attached to his report.

8. Questions

- Councillor Sextus asked whether consideration had been given to reducing the speed limit on Portia Street to 30 km/h, noting the high level of activity in the area due to the swimming pool and netball courts. She advised that he had been approached by a member of the public. The Chief Executive outlined the formal process for requesting a speed limit review and noted that this was the first time the issue had been raised with Council. It was agreed that an explanation of the formal process would be presented to the next Policy and Strategy Committee meeting.

9. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 74

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.51 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 11th day of August 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

PUBLIC FORUM

Notes



F25/96/005 – D26/25832

Date: 14 July 2026 at 11.00am

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor Neil Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, Annette Dudley, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

Apologies

Councillors: David Chadwick, Jono Erwood

In attendance

The Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Gareth Hancock

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, members of the public, staff, and the media. Ngāti Ruanui shared a waiata and karakia. The Mayor read the H&S message and noted the speaking order.

2. Speakers

Speaker: Ngāti Ruanui

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- Welcomed the opportunity to submit and presented the same presentation to South Taranaki yesterday.
- Our preferred position is two unitary authorities, and would otherwise prefer the status quo; however, that is not an available option.
- A two-unitary model preserves and builds on existing relationships with iwi.
- A two-unitary model better reflects community voices, strengthens iwi partnerships, and gives effect to those partnerships.
- A clear position was presented in support of the two-unitary model.
- The model helps protect the voice of Central Taranaki.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Mayor asked how service delivery would be affected under a single unitary model. It was noted that services are built on relationships, and a single unitary authority would result in competing voices, potentially affecting outcomes for our communities. We believe this is a fundamental consideration.
- Councillor Boyde noted that he would like to receive a copy of the submission.

Speaker: Mary Bourke

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- Various issues affecting the region were noted, including the TSB merger. It was highlighted that the local government sector has been under sustained attack, and that maintaining the status quo is no longer an option. There are currently eight separate reform programmes underway that will impact councils.
- This was described as a pivotal point in the history of the region.

- The survey was noted, along with the importance of considering its findings. It was emphasised that all options should be explored.
- A request was made to move away from the politics and back to the basics.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Beck sought clarity on which model was being advocated. It was noted that no particular model was being advocated for. Instead, the focus is on undertaking the necessary work, exploring all options, and recognising that significant work is still required before a decision can be made.
- Councillor Hall sought clarity on views regarding local voice and representation within a single unitary authority model. It was noted that the community needs to be given the opportunity to consider this option. It was also expressed that substantial groundwork needs to be undertaken, and that this should have been done six months ago.

Speaker: Mayor Phil Nixon

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- Thanked the District Mayor for speaking yesterday.
- Noted that no mayor put their hand up for this at the last election.
- Recognised the need to simplify local government and noted that, based on discussions with people, the Government is cracking the whip.
- Noted that reform must not come at the cost of local voice.
- Expressed support, in principle, for a two-unitary-authority model.
- Noted that this view came through loud and clear in the survey results.
- Emphasised the importance of protecting local representation and local voice, and referred to findings from their survey.
- Noted that, at their forum yesterday, the majority of participants supported a two-unitary-authority model.
- Noted that a single unitary authority would not deliver significant benefits.
- Acknowledged that a two-unitary-authority model would come at a cost, but considered this an acceptable trade-off.
- Believes a two-unitary-authority model is the most sensible middle path for reform.
- Noted that it would help retain stronger governance and give residents greater confidence.
- Expressed hope that a united Taranaki proposal could be submitted to the Government.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarity on whether the survey covered the costs associated with a two-unitary-authority model. It was noted that cost was included in the survey; however, the comments received were focused primarily on local voice and representation rather than costs.
- The Mayor asked whether the survey results would be made publicly available. It was confirmed that they would be.

Speaker: Bill Davies

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- Registered objections to the proposal, including concerns about its impact on the local economy.
- Doubts were expressed about whether the community would have adequate representation and a meaningful say in decision-making.
- Concern was raised that Stratford could become little more than a "library-plus" service centre.
- Restructuring would come at a cost.
- Discussion took place regarding the Regional Council and water catchments.
- Discussion also covered potential government changes, including whether these questions had been considered, and whether assets such as the port could ultimately be taken over by the Government.

- It was noted that an operation of this scale should take three to four years, and there was difficulty understanding how the Government had effectively limited the decision-making process.
- The need to prepare for the future was emphasised.
- The opinion was expressed for a single unitary authority, potentially based in Stratford.
- It was noted that there is only one chance to get this right.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted he would catch up separately on some of the issue raised around regional council information.

Speaker: Mackenzie Morrison

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- My position is to support two unitary authorities and the amalgamation of Stratford and South Taranaki.
- The Government's goals were noted.
- Experience of the Auckland local government changes, particularly in relation to Franklin, was discussed.
- The importance of representation and the need to maintain it was highlighted.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Watt queried whether, if establishing two unitary authorities proved to be significantly more expensive, it would impact your position. It was noted that it would not, with reference made to the Auckland amalgamation, associated costs, and representation considerations.
- Councillor Beck noted that the discussion provided something to think about and referenced the Rodney example. It was further noted by the speaker that this experiment has been undertaken before.
- Councillor Hall queried, given the lessons learned from Auckland, whether there were any arguments in favour of a single unitary authority. It was noted that the interests of urban and rural communities are different, and that the best outcome is to acknowledge those differences while continuing to work together.

Speaker: Allen Juffermans

Topic: Simplifying Local Government

Points noted in the presentation:

- Local voice was noted, and that NPDC has outsourced many local decisions, particularly those relating to resource consents. These decisions do not go through councillors.
- Concerns were raised that councillors are not hearing community feedback regarding the consent process.
- The commissioner process was noted, with commissioners effectively controlling the plan.
- It was suggested that a similar situation could arise if all three councils were to amalgamate, with more functions potentially being outsourced.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that this presented a different perspective on the proposed changes.

The forum closed at 12.18pm.

MINUTES

Audit and Risk Committee



F25/96/006 – D26/25834

Date: Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 1.00PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

Mr Phillip Jones (the Chair), the District Mayor Neil Volzke, the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Grant Boyde, Jono Erwood, and Ellen Hall.

In attendance

Councillors: Steve Beck, Annette Dudley, Jaimie Bertie, Katherine Sextus, the Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services –Raelene Johnson, the Director – Community Services –Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Assets –Victoria Araba, the Health and Safety/Emergency Management Advisor –Daniel Pemberton (part meeting), the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Announcements

None.

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 an interest around item sixteen on the agenda.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Audit and Risk Committee meetings was attached. It was noted Councillor Beck attended the previous meeting. The Governance Advisor would correct the record.

6. Programme of Works

D25/45958

Page 11

Recommendation

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

BOYDE/HARRIS

Carried

A&R/26/31

It was noted that the insurance renewal item would likely now be in September, depending on timing.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee - 19 May 2026
D26/18682 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

JONES/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/26/32

8. Matters Outstanding

None

9. Information Report - Health, Safety and Wellbeing

D26/24804 Page 22

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/33

The Health & Safety Advisor noted the following points:

- Noted the proactive approach to contractor management, particularly engagement with the large contractors. There has also been a significant increase in reports submitted by contractors.
- June was Wellbeing Month and was considered a great success. Key highlights are outlined. One initiative that pleasantly surprised the team was the Loop Challenge, which saw participants walk the equivalent distance to Oamaru.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair noted that two contractor sites were shut down and this is a positive example of health and safety management. He enquired about the vehicle accident, asking whether it was minor, and this was confirmed.

10. Information Report - Risk Management

D26/24661 Page 29

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
A&R/26/34

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 noted the following points:

- This is a regular report and is largely a continuation of the May report. The headline risk remains central government reform.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyd noted the significant changes arising from the reforms and asked whether the organisation has sufficient resources to manage them. The CE acknowledged that the reforms are placing considerable pressure on the organisation, particularly given their duration, including the ongoing water reforms. The CE noted that where resources are unavailable internally, specialist contractors such as Morrison Low can be engaged as required. However, outsourcing too much work can result in a loss of ownership. It was noted that there is a fine balance to be maintained and that resources remain stretched. The CE also commented that the success of Wellbeing Month was not accidental, as staff have been operating under sustained pressure for some time.
- Councillor Boyd sought assurance that the focus on reforms would not result in further delays to capital works programmes and queried whether the organisation was taking on too much. The CE advised that the staff working on reform are generally not the same staff responsible for delivering infrastructure projects. However, recruitment and retention within the infrastructure sector remain challenging, and the labour market continues to be difficult.

11. Information Report - 2027/37 Long Term Plan Update

D26/25236 Page 36

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD

Carried

A&R/26/35

Recommended Reason

This report informs the Committee on progress made on issues identified in the Deloitte Audit Reports for the 2024/25 Annual Report.

The Director – Corporate noted the following points:

- One of the greatest challenges is not having legislation in place, which is creating difficulties for the work programme. The associated timelines and impacts are outlined in the report.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair noted the Environmental Scan and emphasised that it is an important document. He commented that elected members should be involved early in the process.
- The Chair sought clarification from the Director as to whether they had reviewed the draft mandatory activities. It was noted that the Government is again proposing to mandate how activities are grouped together. The Director advised that this forms part of the System Improvements Bill and is not legislation.

12. Information Report - 2025/26 Capital Works Programme - Key Projects Update
D26/24466 Page 42

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/26/36

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 Director – Assets noted that this report captures information up to May 2026 and does not reflect the full year-end position.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair sought further clarification from the Director regarding the year-end position. The Director noted that invoicing is still being received and that projects are currently 58% complete, with 42% expected to be carried forward. It was further noted that five projects make up the majority of the carry forwards, and that, excluding these projects, approximately 95% of projects would be completed by dollar amount. Further discussion elaborated on the number and status of the projects.
- The Chair asked about projections for the coming year. It was noted that the target remains 95% project completion, and the team is aiming to achieve this again in the coming year.
- The Chair sought information on the key risks to completing the projects. The Director advised that the recruitment market for project managers remains a key risk and expanded on the challenges associated with this and the team.
- Councillor Beck sought information on LTP practices and the process for projects being carried forward. This practice was explained to the member.

13. Information Report - Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit (SWIBU) -
Implementation Plan Update #3
D26/25262 Page 50

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the Committee notes that future risk reporting will be made to the Water Services Committee.
3. THAT the Committee notes that exceptional risk reporting will continue to be reported to the Committee through regular organisational risks reporting.

BOYDE/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/26/37

Recommended Reason

This report covers the progress made to date regarding the implementation of the Stratford Waters Internal 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 General Manager – Water Services noted the following points:

- This was the initial report presented to the Water Services Committee. It separates operational and governance matters relating to Water Services and outlines nine key workstreams. A key feature of the reforms is the simplifying local government and water service delivery.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair asked what the next key risk would be following the simplifying local government. The General Manager explained that the main risks relate to resourcing, staff wellbeing, and ensuring certainty throughout the transition process. These matters are being addressed through the transition plan.
- The Chair sought clarification on whether staff would remain employees of the Council. It was noted that staff would become part of the new business unit and that this would effectively involve a restructuring process.

14. Information Report - Land and Buildings - 31 March 2026 Valuation

D26/25261 Page 60

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

JONES/HALL
Carried
A&R/26/38

Recommended Reason

To inform the Committee of the asset valuations of the Council land and building assets as at 31 March 2026, and to provide the opportunity for their review by elected members ahead of their inclusion in the 2025/26 Annual Report.

The Director Corporate Services noted the following points:

- The valuation is undertaken every three years in accordance with Council's accounting policies, and there has been little change since the last valuation.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarification on valuation, depreciation and rating changes. This was explained further, noting that any impact would likely be minimal.
- Councillor Beck sought clarification on the information included in the LTP and whether there would be any difference in the valuation. It was noted that discussions with the valuer would be required. Roading was provided as an example.
- Councillor Boyde sought information on the farm and aerodrome and queried why they were not separated. This was explained.

15. Information Report - 2025/26 Infrastructure Assets - Fair Value Assessments

D26/25486 Page 84

Recommendations

THAT the report be received *and the committee endorses the approach.*

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/26/39

Recommended Reason

To inform the committee of the fair value assessments of the infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2026, and to provide the opportunity for their review by elected members ahead of finalising the 2025/26 Annual Report.

The Director - Corporate noted the following points:

- This was similar to previous paper but relates to infrastructure assets that are normally assessed on a three-year cycle. However, the assessment was undertaken two years ago. As a result, we are required to make an assessment. We have been in discussions with engineers and have considered the impacts of the fuel crisis, and are taking a longer-term view. The Director did not believe this would have any material impact on our financial statements.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair noted that a recommendation should be added to record that the Committee endorsed the assessment, and this was agreed.

16. Decision Report - Percy Thomson Trust - Letter of Expectations

D26/25053 Page 90

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT elected confirm their intention to present Percy Thomson Trust with a Letter of Expectations for the 2026/2027 financial year.
3. THAT elected members adopt the attached Letter of Expectations
4. THAT the Chief Executive and District Mayor be authorised to make any required minor or editorial changes.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/26/40

Recommended Reason

Elected Members have voiced concerns regarding certain areas of Percy Thomson Trust's performance and operations and have recently twice declined to adopt a Statement of Intent presented by the trust. A Letter of Expectations is the appropriate mechanism for council to express its expectations and highlight areas of concern to a council controlled organisation.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- This was a direct outcome of discussions with elected members and has contributed to the draft letter. Today's decision provides an opportunity for members to suggest any additions or deletions they would like made to the letter.

The Chair allowed Councillor Hall speaking rights and the following points were noted:

- A spelling error was identified in the letter. Concerns were raised regarding financial accuracy. It was noted that this issue had been addressed since the initial report. The Trust considers communication by telephone to be more constructive. It was noted that the letter did not acknowledge the hard work of the Trust. The Trust appreciates the letter and will provide a response once it has been received. The Trust would, however, appreciate more timely correspondence in the future.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted the review process that the letter had undergone and asked whether it would be appropriate to include a provision allowing the Chief Executive or Mayor to make minor editorial changes. This was agreed.

17. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

18. General Business

There was no general business.

19. Questions

There were no questions.

20. Closing karakia

The closing Karakia was read.

The Meeting closed at 2.12 pm.

P Jones
Chairman

Confirmed this 22th day of September 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES

Extraordinary



F25/96/05 – D26/27307

Date: 21 July 2026 at 9.00am

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor Neil Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaime Bertie, Grant Boyde, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood (Audio Visual Link), Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus, and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Gareth Hancock.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia and H&S message was read.

2. Apologies

THAT the apology from David Chadwick be received.

HARRIS/BECK
Carried
CL/26/61

3. 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.

4. Decision Report- confirmation of preferred option.

D26/27030 Page 6

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLKZE/BEST
Carried
CL/26/63

2. THAT Council notes the decision of New Plymouth District Council to progress a multi-option "[Pathfinder](#)" submission under the Head Start pathway.

3. THAT Council notes the decision of South Taranaki District Council with regards to this subject matter, ~~due to be~~ made on Monday 20 July 2026.

SEXTUS/WATT
Carried
CL/26/64

4. THAT Council confirms a ~~(must strike out one) single / two~~ unitary council approach for Taranaki as its preferred option under the Simplifying Local Government Head Start process.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Division
For 10 Against 1

		<u>Carried</u> <u>CL/26/65</u>
5.	<u>THAT</u> Council authorises the Chief Executive to work with (strike out one if necessary) the Chief Executive(s) of South Taranaki District Council and New Plymouth District Council to draft an outline proposal in line with the adopted direction as per item 4 above for future council adoption prior to submission by 9 August 2026.	WATT/BECK <u>Carried</u> <u>CL/26/66</u>
6.	<u>Agrees</u> to inform the other Taranaki councils of Stratford District Council's decision on its preferred option for a Head Start pathway.	VOLZKE/HARRIS <u>Carried</u> <u>CL/26/67</u>
Recommended Reason On 26 May 2026, Council agreed to participate in the Government's Head Start pathway. To achieve this outcome, direction is required as to Council's preferred model for local government in Taranaki to allow staff to prepare such a proposal.		

The CE and Mayor noted the following points:

- This decision process began on 26 May, with the general thinking that it is better to be doing it ourselves rather than having it done to us by the Government. It was noted that the matter has been through a number of reviews and frameworks, and that the Government is strongly committed to this direction of travel for local government reform.
- It was noted that the decision is between establishing one or two unitary authorities. South Taranaki's preferred option was noted as being two unitary authorities, while New Plymouth's position and potential amalgamation partners were also discussed. New Plymouth is pursuing the Pathfinder Option, which is aiming to meet the March deadline. It was noted that this option sits outside the current decision-making process.
- It was noted that South Taranaki's decision had not yet been formally made at time of the writing of the report. However, there was unanimous support for amalgamation with Stratford. There was limited debate on the matter.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted the purpose of the meeting and that the Government submission is due on 9 August. The CE noted that it would be counterproductive to provide a pre-written proposal without a preferred option, or to prepare two full proposals. Therefore, the process has moved from a one-step process to a two-step process. The proposal will now return for decision on 5 August.
- It was noted that the purpose of today's discussion was to provide guidance and direction on one of the options. The District Mayor noted that this provides an opportunity to indicate the preferred direction of travel and ensure the Council is moving in the right direction. The survey and its results were also noted.
- Councillor Boyde sought clarity regarding the Pathfinder process. The CE noted that it extends the timeframe and includes five possible options. Further discussion occurred regarding New Plymouth's decision, including the timeframe, available options, and the Government's position.
- Councillor Erwood asked whether making this decision today would remove any opportunity for New Plymouth to join at a later date. The CE outlined possible pathways for New Plymouth to do so and noted that the aim remains to achieve a regional agreement. The door remains open and will continue to remain open.
- Councillor Sextus queried a possible cooperation of New Plymouth and Waitomo. The District Mayor noted that he had spoken with the Mayor of Waitomo and that this was not the case.

Points noted in the general discussion on recommendation four:

- The Deputy Mayor noted that community feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of retaining a strong local voice. While a single unitary authority may have benefits on paper, there are several concerning factors identified in the report, including staff costs exceeding budget and a lack of meaningful rates relief. She stated that her role is to represent and do her best for the community. Referring to the previous amalgamation of Stratford County and the Borough, she emphasised the importance of maintaining communities of interest. Given the time constraints, she expressed concern about moving to a single unitary authority without sufficient opportunity to undertake a thorough analysis or reconsider if issues occur. She concluded by noting that the community has spoken, and their views should be respected.

- Councillor Beck, expressed concern that the process has been rushed and lacks sufficient information for decisions of this significance. He reiterated his preference for Stratford District Council to remain an independent, stand-alone council but noted that maintaining the status quo has not been presented as being an option. He considered that inaction could result in a solution being imposed by central government. Emphasising the importance of retaining strong local representation not tokenism and protecting Stratford's rural interests, he raised concerns about dilution of Stratford's voice under amalgamating with New Plymouth District Council if that was to occur. While not endorsing the process itself, he saw that amalgamation with South Taranaki District Council represented the most responsible choice available where faced with limited choice and indicated his support for that option. Proverbs 16.3 was lastly read.
- Councillor Bertie noted that, after listening to the views of the community, she supports the two-unitary model. She said that the people she has spoken with have consistently expressed this preference, and she is listening to the community that has entrusted her with this role. In her view, two councils best align with the wishes of the community and we have a constructive a relationship with the South Taranaki community. She believes that this strong local connection may not be achieved under a single unitary authority, and referenced the recent New Plymouth decision, and emphasised that protecting a strong local voice is important. Based on the feedback she has received, she believes the two-council model is the best way to achieve this.
- Councillor Erwood wished to record his support for Option One, the proposal to amalgamate with South Taranaki and form a sub-regional authority. His position was based primarily on the evidence presented to Council and the clear views expressed through the community survey. He noted that option aligns with those views and preserves a meaningful local voice. In his opinion, this option satisfies section 10 of the Local Government Act. He acknowledged the wider regional context and that New Plymouth District Council has taken a different approach. He also noted that the Taranaki Regional Council's position adds further complexity, given that regional councils cannot submit proposals. He considered that the option meets the threshold required to submit a proposal and, given the overwhelming community preference and the risks associated with inaction, supports a two-unitary-council model.
- Councillor Watt noted that he was not completely sold on either model and remained concerned about what would happen to TRC assets, how the transition involving TRC would be managed, and the potential impact on rates. However, given these uncertainties, he expressed support for the two-unitary model. He noted that, if further analysis over the coming months showed that a single unitary was the better option, the Government would welcome a change. He believed that there may not be another opportunity to pursue a two-unitary model if it is not progressed now. He stated that Council owes it to the community to give the two-unitary option a go. Councillor Watt also noted that the costs of the different models had not been made sufficiently clear and emphasised that cost was not the primary factor in his decision.
- Councillor Boyde noted that he supports the two-unitary model. He considered the timeframe for making a decision to be too short and emphasised that the outcome requires genuine working together. In his view, this willingness has been lacking in the north, whereas South Taranaki has been committed to working collaboratively from the outset. He also referred to the strong community feedback and available information and he had reached a clear decision that he believes is in the best interests of the community.
- Councillor Dudley noted that it is not about dollars; it is about having a voice and ensuring that the local voice is not lost. These are long-term decisions. She noted that Inglewood represents a community of interest too. She added, I need to listen to the ratepayers who elected me.
- Councillor Best noted that, in his view, there are a number of different options. However, he supported maintaining the status quo and the potential for a regional submission that promotes the current structure while strengthening collaboration through the combining of high-cost functions, back-office services, and other regulatory functions to achieve long-term efficiencies. He considered that this approach would respond to the Government's call for reform while preserving local representation. Should greater change be required by the Government, his preferred option would be the two-unitary model. He supported a willingness to reform.
- Councillor Sextus noted that local government reform was not on their bingo card and platform which elected members were elected. She said that any reform needs to genuinely suit Taranaki and expressed concern about the rushed timeline. She also noted that the reforms represented another unfunded cost being placed on ratepayers. After reviewing the available information, supported the two-unitary model, stating that Taranaki is not a homogeneous community and that the model would need to represent both urban and rural voices while remaining conscious of costs and avoiding the pitfalls of an overburdened council. She referred to Morrison Low's advice regarding the risks of dismissing community sentiment and stated that Taranaki's future would be best served by remaining aligned with community voice. She confirmed her preference for the two-unitary model.
- Councillor Hall noted that she was bereaved by the situation and was grieving. She said this district has a history of advocating for itself, and here we are. Local government has been under sustained attack from central government. She noted her first LGNZ conference and read an excerpt from a reading. She noted the utter lack of information on the impact of change and the lack of funding from central government. Like all of you, she felt the Government's process has set us up to fail and

questioned what will be done to us at the end. Regarding consultation with the community, there has been very little information available to inform them. She questioned how backwards it is to go back to the community after a decision, as people are over-consulted. She thanked those who submitted, noting that there were some excellent submissions and that these were valid. She shared all of these concerns. She said that we just do not know which model would best address those concerns. Rates were noted as the priority but also has a history of not making decisions solely based on rates. She questioned how the two-unitary model would remove duplication and noted concerns around the assumptions. She referred to New Plymouth and the issue of trust. She noted that regional collaboration has been poor and referred to previous decisions. When forming her view, she listened to her colleagues and recognised that they all want the same thing. She stated that she was voting against the recommendation, that she listens to her community and sees this issue through the faces of her children. She said a single unitary authority would provide local boards and other options, offer a fresh page for the region, and allow it to look from the past to the future, while ensuring local boards and communities are well supported and funded.

- The District Mayor acknowledged and thanked members, noting that everyone has given the matter a lot of thought and that it has not been an easy journey. The Mayor raised a couple of comments, the first being around risk. Looking at the report, delivery implications, community resistance, complexity, and service levels, there are trade-offs within the criteria we are trying to meet. While there is no weighting, one criteria focuses on efficiencies, often favouring economies of scale and larger organisations, while another focuses on local voice, which tends to favour smaller organisations, creating a tension between the two. There are risks and trade-offs, and how services are delivered on a regional basis is perhaps the biggest risk that will need to be worked through in the coming months. The submission from Ngāti Ruanui particularly resonated with the District Mayor, especially the comments regarding relationships with councils. As organisations become larger, trust can be diluted and effectively has to be rebuilt. The Mayor acknowledged the partnership with iwi and noted the iwi boundaries. The Mayor also commented on the survey asking whether people preferred one council or two. This was largely dismissed by the Regional Council, despite more than 2,000 people submitting responses. It is not an emotional response, and dismissing it belittles those responses. The Mayor noted that the feedback should be taken seriously. Reference was also made to the NSW changes and the reaction against them. With survey results showing support of 80 percent for a two unitary authority, it would be foolish to ignore that level of public support. Once past 9 August, there will be six months to develop the final proposal and work through issues such as financial matters. Some of these issues will not be resolved within that timeframe and may take years to work through. There is still the ability to change direction or stop. The Mayor concluded by noting that it has been an interesting journey, responding to the Government while also dealing with a number of other Government bills, and that this decision is being made in the middle of a storm.

Division called for recommendation four.

Those voting yes: Cr Beck, Bertie, Best, Boyde, Dudley, Erwood, Deputy Mayor Harris, Cr Sextus, Watt, The District Mayor.

Those voting no: Cr Hall.

5. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 10.17am.

N C Volzke

Chairman

Confirmed this 11th day of August 2026.

N C Volzke

District Mayor

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



F25/96/005 – D26/27310

Date: Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 3.00 pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris (the Chairperson), the District Mayor Neil Volzke, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood (Audio Visual Link), Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, Policy Analyst - Rebecca Dearden.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read. The Deputy Mayor reiterated the emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Chadwick who had an approved leave of absence.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Chadwick's apology be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/80

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted that it was the birthday of the Director of Community Services.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. Councillor Erwood noted a conflict of interest in relation to Item 11. It was agreed to defer consideration of this item to Item 12, allowing the councillor to leave the meeting.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee - 23 June 2026

D26/23152 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/81

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 18

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

DUDLEY/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/82

8. Decision Report - Delegations Policy Review

D26/21278 Page 20

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

SEXTUS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/26/83

2. THAT Council adopt the revised Delegations Policy.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/84

Recommended Reason

It is recommended that Council adopt the updated Delegations Policy to provide a clear, contemporary governance framework that supports consistent application of delegations and alignment with legislative requirements and best practice.

The CE noted the following:

- Noted the significant size of the previous version. Council, as a governing body, receives a large number of powers under the Local Government Act and other legislation. Many of these powers are too routine or procedural to be brought to elected members for decision-making each time. To be exercised lawfully, these powers must be delegated.
- The CE role is established under the Local Government Act and is not subject to restructuring so powers are delegated to that role. In some cases, however, powers cannot be sub-delegated.
- Historically, delegations have generally been developed on an as-needed basis. The new electronic system is a product developed by LGNZ. It is used by councils and has been reviewed by Simpson Grierson.
- As part of this work, the Delegations Policy has been separated from the Delegations Register. This aligns with best practice.
- The Policy Advisor provided a demonstration of the new system to elected members.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Beck asked whether the proposed changes were altering the governance structure or simply the operational arrangements. The CE advised that the review separates the policy from the delegations register. Delegations can be located through the system, and Locosoft records who holds each delegation, when the delegation was granted by Council, and provides a wayfinding tool. Councillor Beck sought further advice regarding any potential risks associated with software updates. The CE clarified that the system is maintained appropriately, noting that it is hosted on an external platform.
- Councillor Boyde sought clarification regarding accountability. An example under the Resource Management Act was discussed, where decisions may be made at officer level, while the CE and management retain responsibility through the organisational performance. A question was raised as to whether matters referred to the CE should instead be referred to the Executive Committee. It was clarified that the wording provides that, where a decision is required and it is unclear whether a delegation exists, the matter must be referred to Council.
- The District Mayor asked whether the policy would continue without a list of delegations attached to it. It was clarified that delegations register would be activity-based. The Mayor further asked whether the existing policy contained the committee structure and associated delegations. It was noted that the committee Terms of Reference are contained in a separate document, which has already been adopted by Council.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall expressed appreciation for the work undertaken and noted that she was reassured by the legal review. She commented that the revised approach was a governance dream and would also provide benefits from an audit perspective.

9. Decision Report - Environmental Services - New and amended delegations
D26/23411 Page 88

Recommendations	
1. <u>THAT</u> the report be received.	DUDLEY/WATT Carried <u>P&S/26/85</u>
2. <u>THAT</u> Council approve the delegations to Council Officers under the legislation listed in Appendix 1 of this report.	VOLZKE/WATT Carried <u>P&S/26/86</u>
Recommended Reason	
The proposed delegations will enable Council Officers to efficiently and lawfully exercise statutory powers and functions, support timely decision-making, and ensure Council's delegations framework remains legally compliant and aligned with operational responsibilities.	

The Policy Advisor noted the following:

- Delegations have undergone a significant review that provides greater legal oversight. Through this process, a number of gaps were identified, predominantly affecting the Environmental Services team. The review found that certain powers should be formally delegated to officers, and these proposed delegations are being presented for consideration today.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification regarding matters delegated to the Director of Assets. It was explained that these delegations relate to responsibilities under the Litter Act and are distributed across departments.
- The Mayor noted that the executive summary and approximately 90 clauses had been reviewed. He commented that the review highlighted the need for a modern electronic system and represented a significant step forward.

10. Decision Report - Mana Whakahono a Rohe - Te Kahui o Maru
D26/25835 Page 187

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/87

2. THAT the draft Te Kahui o Maru Mana Whakahono a Rohe in Appendix 1 be adopted.

BOYDE/BERTIE
Division
8 For 3 Against
Carried
P&S/26/88

Recommended Reason

Te Kahui o Maru has initiated a Mana Whakahono a Rohe with the Council and the agreement in Appendix 1 of this report meets the requirements in the Resource Management Act 1991 for a Mana Whakahono a Rohe.

The Director - Environment noted the following:

- Noted that a workshop held earlier today had provided members with detailed information on the matter. Further communication had since been received from the Minister's office in the form of the Minister's press release, issued on official letterhead. The communication did not provide a timeline for the Government's planned stop work on the agreements. It was also noted that a regional meeting would be held next week to discuss future agreements and plans in light of the Government's announcement.
- The Chief Executive provided a brief update for Councillor Erwood who was absent for the workshop.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the risks to Council if it did not approve the agreement. It was explained that the primary risk relates to Council's relationship with iwi.
- Councillor Watt further queried the risks associated with adopting the agreement in light of the Government's decision. The Chief Executive advised that the Government is proposing to discontinue the agreement framework, effectively rescinding agreements.
- Councillor Boyde sought information regarding Treaty settlements. It was explained that the Regional Council has additional responsibilities and requirements from Treaty settlement legislation.
- Councillor Beck asked what the purpose of progressing the agreement was if the Government had decided to remove such arrangements. The Director advised that the Government has not yet phased them out and that they remain a requirement under current legislation.
- Councillor Watt asked when the process had been initiated, noting that Council had 18 months from the date of request to respond. It was noted that the request was received in December, and that Council has until mid-next year to complete the process.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted it is the right thing to be doing, even though the Government is proposing to do away with them, and that we have a great relationship with iwi.
- Councillor Hall noted, I am about building and maintaining relationships with iwi, rather than cruel tools from central government. I am very supportive of cementing this agreement with our partners.
- Councillor Beck noted, I am against it and don't want to see staff resources wasted when it will be buffed out by the Government. Agreements will come across from the Regional Council when they come across.
- Councillor Watt noted, I am against it. I don't think it makes sense, and the Government is going to throw this out. We have seven months to sign this and should wait for the legislation. I don't think it is unreasonable to wait at this stage. It might be replaced with something that works better, and it is not worth doing yet.

- Councillor Sextus noted, I am leaning the same way. Iwi do have a good relationship through already existing arrangements in the RMA and good, strong existing relationships there. I believe we should push pause while we determine the Government's position.
- The District Mayor noted, I understand the different positions, but it is the law under which we are currently operating. It may be speculative that it will be removed. Labour will not be supporting the changes to the RMA, and there could be a change in Government. The money has already been spent, and there are no extra costs associated with approving it, as the work has already been done. I struggle with the suggestion to pause based on the information available to date. I am concerned about the message it would send to iwi if it was not adopted when we had the opportunity to pass it but chose not to. Whether you like it or not there is always going to be a role for iwi within it. I am not going to be the bad guy here.
- The Deputy Mayor noted, I am in favour of the motion. In reading the document, what struck me were the guiding principles and what they speak to. It is about confirming and valuing relationships that are already established. I believe this issue is different to the broader discussion around simplifying local government.
- A Division was called for recommendation two.
Voting Yes: Cr Bertie, Best, Boyde, Erwood, Hall, Deputy Mayor Harris, the District Mayor.
Voting No: Cr Beck, Sextus, Watt.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/26/89

The Director noted the following:

- Noted a correction to the report on page one, and an update was provided on the Portia Street speed reduction rules.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted a performance measure relating to water flow and firefighting requirements, and an explanation was provided regarding how and when these measures are assessed.
- It was also noted that the number of complaints relating to Parks and Sport was reported. Previously, a table was provided that broke these complaints down into categories. It was agreed that this table would be reinstated.

11.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/90

The Director noted the following:

- Acknowledged the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs programme and the work Sam has done to exceed the KPI. Also acknowledged the successful Puanga event and Youth Council event.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor acknowledged the success of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, noting that it had exceeded its contractual targets despite the current economic climate. While the overall number may not appear extraordinary, it is significant for the district and reflects the challenges associated with meeting MSD eligibility criteria. It was also noted that casual employment are not counted towards the programme's targets.
- At present, a contract for the current financial year has not yet been received. The Mayor advised that he has spoken with Mayor Ben Bell and raised concerns with the MSD Regional Commissioner. The Mayor has continued to advocate for the contract to be finalised and issued as soon as possible.
- Councillor Erwood asked whether there are any plans to hold a graduate party. It was confirmed that there was no funding available last year. Previously, the event had been funded through a grant received by the Council; however, this funding was discontinued. As there are costs associated with running such an event, further consideration will need to be given.
- Councillor Dudley provided an update on the Broadway Enhancement Group, noting that it has held two meetings to date. Drone mapping services have been offered to support the group's work. The group is aiming to enhance the appearance of Broadway in time for the 150th celebrations and will require funding to help achieve this.
- Councillor Bertie provided an update on the Youth Council trip. The visit to Parliament was highly engaging, and the youth council had the opportunity to participate in a debate with the Mayor serving as Speaker. Anna and Saba were acknowledged for doing an excellent job organising the event.

11.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/91

The Director noted the following:

- This report is shorter than usual because of year-end closing processes. Regular reporting will recommence next month. An update was provided on the arrival of bird flu, and it was noted that work is being undertaken behind the scenes to prepare for and respond to any impacts.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted a date in the LGOIMA section.

11.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/26/92

The Director noted the following:

- The Environment Court hearing on the solar farm proposal is scheduled to be held online on Friday. No timeline has been provided for a decision following the hearing. The move to the online building consent system has been delayed and is now expected to occur on 21 August.

Councillor Erwood left at 4.11pm.

12. Decision Report - TET Funding Report
D26/25223 Page 216

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/93

2. THAT Council's funding application to the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) for \$287,400 is approved to be submitted *as well as seed funding of \$30,000 for the Broadway Enhancement Group and an economic development contribution of \$150,000 towards Venture Taranaki.*

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/94

Recommended Reason

Projects externally funded will reduce the rating impact for ratepayers.

The Director Community Services noted the following:

- The 150th Jubilee celebration and the need for seed funding were discussed and the proposed solar initiative. Feasibility studies are underway for the solar projects and are being closely aligned to ensure funding opportunities are not missed. However, advice has since been received regarding a potential new funding pathway, and the matter does not require consideration at this time.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor noted support for the proposals as presented but sought clarification on whether sufficient funding was being requested and whether a larger amount could potentially be sought. It was also suggested that the cost of economic development initiatives, such as Venture Taranaki (approximately \$150,000), could be included.
- Councillors Dudley and Boyde noted that seed funding for the Broadway Enhancement Group, could be added at approximately \$30,000.
- Councillor Beck asked what the funding figure was last year. It was confirmed that the amount was \$516,000.
- Councillor Hall sought clarification on whether discussions with TET had included projects other than the solar initiative, and whether adding additional projects would increase or decrease the chance of success. It was advised that there had been no discussion of projects other than the solar initiative.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on whether adding other elements to the proposal would interfere with the new funding pathway. It was noted that the new funding pathway is the Strategic Pathway Fund.
- The Deputy Mayor also enquired about the Council's operational contribution to the pool, and clarification was provided.

13. Questions

- None.

14. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.23pm.

A K Harris

Chairman

Confirmed this 25 day of August 2026.

N C Volzke

District Mayor

DECISION REPORT



F16/1244/011 – D26/27671

To: Council
From: Roading Engineer
Date: 11 August 2026
Subject: Road Closure for a Car Club Event

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council closes the following roads on Sunday 16 August 2026 between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm for the purpose of the annual Stratford Street Sprint 2026
 - Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
 - Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
 - Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
 - Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

Recommended Reason

The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 16 August. This is their 36th year of running the event. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For any street event that requires a road closure, Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 requires a Council resolution to endorse the proposed road closure. This report seeks this endorsement for the purposes of allowing the Stratford District Council ("the Council") to close:

- Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
- Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
- Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
- Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In order for the event to be safely undertaken, it is proposed to close the above roads between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm on Sunday 16 August.
- 2.2 The alternative route for traffic will be Celia Street, Swansea Road, and Warwick Road.

3. Local Government Act 2002 - Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to "enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future"			
Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:		Yes	
Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
✓	✓		

This event attracts entrants to the Street Sprint as well as spectators.

The report is for the purposes of providing good regulatory function, as events such as this require a road to be closed. A Council resolution is necessary to endorse the proposed road closure.

4. Background

- 4.1 The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Council with the view of holding their annual Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 16 August. This is their 36th year of running the event. The event is expected to attract participation of up to 30 cars.
- 4.2 A Traffic Management Plan ("TMP") has been prepared for this event (**Appendix 1**). Further, Stratford District Council have been indemnified against any claims whatsoever arising from the event by Public Liability Insurance ("PLI") (**Appendix 2**).

5. Consultative Process

5.1 Public Consultation - Section 82

An advertisement was placed in Stratford & South on 24 June 2026 and to Council's website on 16 June 2026. Notice for objections closed on Friday 17 July 2026. No objections were received.

The South Taranaki Car Club has completed a letter drop to residents. A copy of the letter is attached in **Appendix 3**.

5.2 Māori Consultation - Section 81

There are no known effects that this event is likely to have on local iwi issues, therefore no separate consultation is required.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 **Council Risk Register – Risk No. 29: Health, Safety and Wellbeing; Public Events.** If health and safety accidents or incidents occur during events, then increased costs can occur to the events, reputation is damaged.

A Safety Plan has been prepared for this event (**Appendix 4**).

- 6.2 To date there have been no known instances of Health and Safety incidents or street damage resulting from the Stratford Street Sprint.
- 6.3 There is a risk that Council assets could be damaged during the event, however, the car club have PLI. Furthermore, there is a risk that an injury could occur to the spectators should one of the entrants lose control of their vehicle. This risk is managed through the Safety Plan for the event.

7. Decision Making Process - Section 79

7.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	Yes. This event brings visitors to Stratford for an event for the community to enjoy as
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	This report supports the performance of Council by providing a regulatory function in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

7.2 Data

The times of the proposed road closure is outlined in the recommendation above. The South Taranaki Car Club have indicated to the Council that they expect up to 30 cars to participate in the event.

7.3 Significance

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?	No	
Is it:	No	
• considered a strategic asset; or	No	
• above the financial thresholds in the Significance Policy; or	No	
• impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	No	
• a change in level of service; or	No	
• creating a high level of controversy; or	No	
• possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	Yes	There will be some moderate impact on the residents that live locally on Romeo Street and Cordelia Street that are within the proposed road closure zone. These residents have been consulted by the Car Club, and no objections have been received by Council.

In terms of the Council's Significance Policy, is this proposal of high, medium, or low significance?		
High	Medium	Low
		✓

7.4 Options

The options to be considered for this report are:

- Option 1.** Approve the proposed road closure as outlined in recommendation two above, to indicate our support for this event. **This is the recommended option.**
- Option 2.** Do not approve the closing of the aforementioned roads. If this is the option chosen, then the South Taranaki Car Club will not be able to host the Stratford Street Sprint.

7.5 Financial

There are no financial contributions required by Council.

Council's officer time for approving the traffic management plan and preparing this report are met from current Roading budgets.

7.6 Prioritisation & Trade-off

The Stratford District Council is confident that Downer NZ who have been engaged to provide the TMP are competent to monitor this event.

Due to the timing and location of the event, the Stratford District Transfer Station will be closed for the day, being Sunday 16 August.

7.7 Legal Issues

Pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, provides powers to Council to formally endorse a recommendation to close a road for the purposes of a street event.

7.8 Policy Issues - Section 80

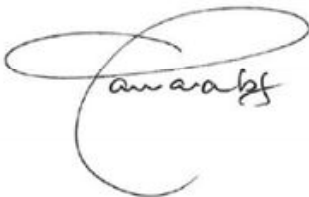
There are no policy issues that arise due to the approval of the road closure for the Stratford Street Sprint.

Attachments:

Appendix 1	Traffic Management Plan
Appendix 2	Public Liability Insurance
Appendix 3	Letter to residents
Appendix 4	Safety Plan



Frank Hick
Roading Engineer



[Endorsed by]
Victoria Araba
Director - Assets



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 7 August 2026

APPENDIX 1 - Traffic Management Plan



TMP overview



TMP Celia St end



TMP Romeo St area



TMP Warwick Rd end

APPENDIX 2 Public Liability Insurance



Level 32, ANZ Centre
23-29 Albert Street
Private Bag 92055
Auckland 1142, New Zealand
Telephone +64 9 306 0350
www.veroliability.co.nz

Insurance Certificate		
	Client ID	Agent No
Public & Products Liability	43826	8005746

We, the Insurers, Vero Liability Insurance Limited confirm that Public & Products Liability insurance has been effected on the following basis:

POLICY NUMBER	HO-LPL-6219838	
THE INSURED	Motorsport New Zealand Inc and Member Clubs in respect of Permitted Events Only	
BUSINESS DESCRIPTION	Administration, Governance and Regulation of Motor Sport in New Zealand	
POLICY PERIOD	From 4.00pm	31 December 2025
	To 4.00pm	31 December 2026
LIMIT OF INDEMNITY	\$ 10,000,000	any one Occurrence and for any one Period of Insurance in respect of Products Hazard
EXCESS	\$ 3,500	per Occurrence
POLICY WORDING	VL POL PL-032022	

This certificate is issued as a matter of information only and is subject to the terms and conditions of the issued policy.

Signed for and on behalf of Vero Liability Insurance Limited

Authorised Officer
DTL



18 December 2025

APPENDIX 3 - Letter to residents



PO Box 310, Hawera, 4640



1st July, 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This notice is to inform you that we have made an application to the Stratford District Council for a Road Closure of your road from 7.30am to 5.30pm on **Sunday the 16th August, 2026** for a Car Club event, our Annual Street Sprint, as to be advertised in your local paper by the Stratford District Council.

We are celebrating the 36th consecutive year of running this event.

As in previous years, we will let traffic through at appropriate times to minimize inconvenience to you or anyone else using the road.

If you need to contact anyone prior to the event, please feel free to contact me as per below, or Ross Twyman (Clerk of the Course) on 021 195 9933.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours in MotorSport

H A Cameron

Helen Cameron
SECRETARY
SOUTH TARANAKI CAR CLUB
Mobile: 027 243 9096
sthtarcarclub@gmail.com

APPENDIX 4 - Safety Plan



Stratford Street Sprint Sunday 16th August, 2026 **SAFETY PLAN**

ORGANISED BY SOUTH TARANAKI CAR CLUB
Permit No: 260216

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authority: In accordance with the current New Zealand Motorsport Manual, Appendix Two Schedule H, this plan sets out the systems that are in place and specifies the processes to use in the event of any injury accident for competitors, officials and the public.

1.2 Event Control Headquarters: The Event Control will be based at the Club's Caravan positioned just before the Start Line on Orlando Street.

The Results Officer will man the control throughout the day.

The Event Senior Officials are:

Clerk of the Course: Ross Twyman
Mobile: 021 195 9933

Event Secretary: Helen Cameron
Mobile: 027 243 9096

Event Safety Officer: Doug Peach
021 532 234

Time Keeper: STCC Officials

1.3 Safety Services Contact Details:

In event of an Emergency Phone 111, - for non urgent calls;

- (a) Police:** Contact - Stratford Police Station: 06 765 8860
- (b) Hospital:** Contact – Hawera 06 278 9933 (Emergency Department)
- (c) Fire Service:** Contact – Dion Howells 0274 352 824
- (d) Medical services:** Doug Peach - 1st Aid

1.4 Event Intervention: The Safety Officer will be in a Holden Utility stationed adjacent to the Start Line for use as the First Response/Intervention vehicle. Doug Peach will have his Utility and Trailer at the ready as a recovery vehicle.

The intervention vehicle will be equipped with;

- Tow rope
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid Kit

- 1.5 Communication Network:** The club radios will be used for communication between the Clerk of the Course, Start line, Time Keeper, marshal points (four), Finish line and the intervention vehicle.

2. VENUE

- 2.1 Location:** The course, situated in the Industrial Area of Stratford, uses part of Orlando Street, Warwick Road, Cordelia Street and all of Romeo Street.

- 2.2 Course - Length and Surface:** The Street Sprint Circuit is 1km in length and is completed twice. It is run in an anti-clockwise direction. The road surface is all chip seal and is in good condition

There will only be two cars on the circuit at one time. The second car will be started once the first car has reached half way around the course.

- 2.3 Vehicle Access and Egress to Venue:** Competitor access to the venue is via the Celia Street end of Orlando Street. At the road closed sign competitors will be directed into Hinton's Yard, which will be the Pit Paddock area for the event. The turn off into the Pit Paddock area will be signposted.

No spectator cars will have access to Orlando Street. Celia Street will be the main area for spectator cars.

There will be access from the intersection of Celia Street and Orlando Street upto the Start line at all times to give easy access for emergency vehicles.

The distance from Orlando Street to Taranaki Base Hospital is 40 km, and is approximately a 35 minute drive. There is adequate room to land a helicopter on the intersection of Orlando Street and Warwick Road, which is approximately 300 metres from the timing caravan, if the need arises.

2.4 Venue Security:

- (1) Road Closure:** The Stratford District Council administers all the roads included in the Road Closure.

Contacts: Director - Assets, Victoria Aroba (for all matters pertaining to the roads including surface damage and any queries on road closure or resident complaints) Phone 06 765 6099 during business hours.

- (a) Road Closure Schedule and Conditions:** All the roads forming part of the Industrial Area named in Article 2.1 of this plan have been closed by order of the Stratford District Council pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974 from 7.30 am until 5.30 pm on Sunday, 16th August, 2026.

Access will be available to local residents under the direct control of the Clerk of the Course.

- (b) Road Closure Marshal Requirements:** There will be a minimum of one (1) marshal at each of the five (5) Road Closed points and the Clerk of the Course will undertake a briefing to inform these persons of their responsibilities particularly regarding:

- Advise on spectator parking and the need to keep the road clear.

- Inform road users of the road closure details and alternate routes to go round the closed off area.
- Advise the Clerk of the Course by radio if any occupants need urgent access through to their properties.

- (2) **Spectator Control:** Spectators will be controlled by safety barriers and/or tape at all Marshal Points and will be under the direction of the Marshals. The nature of buildings on the course severely limits spectator viewing. The majority of spectators view the event from the Start/Finish area and this is defined with water filled safety barriers.

All other areas of the Street Sprint course are deemed prohibited areas and the intermediate post marshals will be briefed to inform the event control immediately if they sight a person who has strayed into any prohibited area.

The Clerk of the Course will prevent any further competitor starting until the person(s) have been moved back to one of the spectator areas.

2.5 Competition Manning Levels:

- (a) **Start line:** Two marshals;

Starter – who will;

- Line up the car at the start line so as not to break the timing beams prior to the start signal, and
- Ensure that the competitors and passengers are buckled in and helmets fastened prior to starting.
- Maintain radio contact, and
- The Starter will co-ordinate the starting procedure with the Time Keeper in the caravan who will release each vehicle with the activation of the start light.
- Act on any instruction from the Clerk of the Course

- (b) **Finish line:** The Time is recorded by the Time Keeper in the Caravan.

- As the vehicles cross the finish line they will proceed on a wind down lap, and their progress will be monitored by the intermediate marshals and finally the finish marshal who will guide them into the pit area.
- Act on any instruction from the Clerk of the Course

- (c) **Intermediate Marshal Points:** There are four intermediate marshal points, each will have a minimum of one marshal. Each post will be equipped with;

- A radio, and
- Red flag, and
- Fire Extinguisher.
- They will be in visual or radio contact with the other Intermediate Marshal and the start/finish caravan.
- They will check progress of all competing vehicles and report any stoppages or accidents to the Time Keeper and Clerk of the Course.
- In the event of an accident, the Marshal will wait for the First Responder before any injured person is moved.
- Once the all clear is given, they will instruct those vehicles stopped to proceed slowly to the pit area.

- 2.6 **Course Clearance:** The Clerk of the Course will personally inspect the course prior to the commencement of the event along with the Steward.

- Before commencing each pair of cars, the time keeper radios every Marshal and must receive acknowledgement that their Marshal position is clear before releasing the first driver.
- The Time Keeper will also hold any visiting occupant vehicles from entering until cleared by the COC.
- No vehicle can move onto the course without the express permission of the Clerk of the Course.

2.7 Venue Layout: Attached to this Plan is a venue plan detailing the areas open for public viewing, the course layout and any safety features added to the venue.

The design incorporates;

- Marshal positions 1-3 are set off to the right side of the escape road. All Marshall points are fully clear of the racing line i.e., not at exit of corners or inside of a corner where a spin could occur
- Approach speeds have been reduced by the chicanes which have been carefully positioned so that the majority of braking is done into the chicane (at a point clear of Marshalls)
- Where vehicles are at a high risk of escaping from a racing line either a barrier or No-Go zone is present.
- Each cone position marking each chicane is painted on the road and set up in the same position and re-marked each year.
- The setup plan is discussed at the briefing and issued to each Marshal.
- The setup follows FIA guidelines for width and alignment of chicanes for a single competing vehicle
- Small cones are placed inside corners one and two behind the edge of seal, if a competitor displaces any cone they incur a time penalty. Corners 3 & 4 have kerbs present.

3. SPECTATOR AREAS

3.1 Spectator Area Plans: Refer to venue plan attached

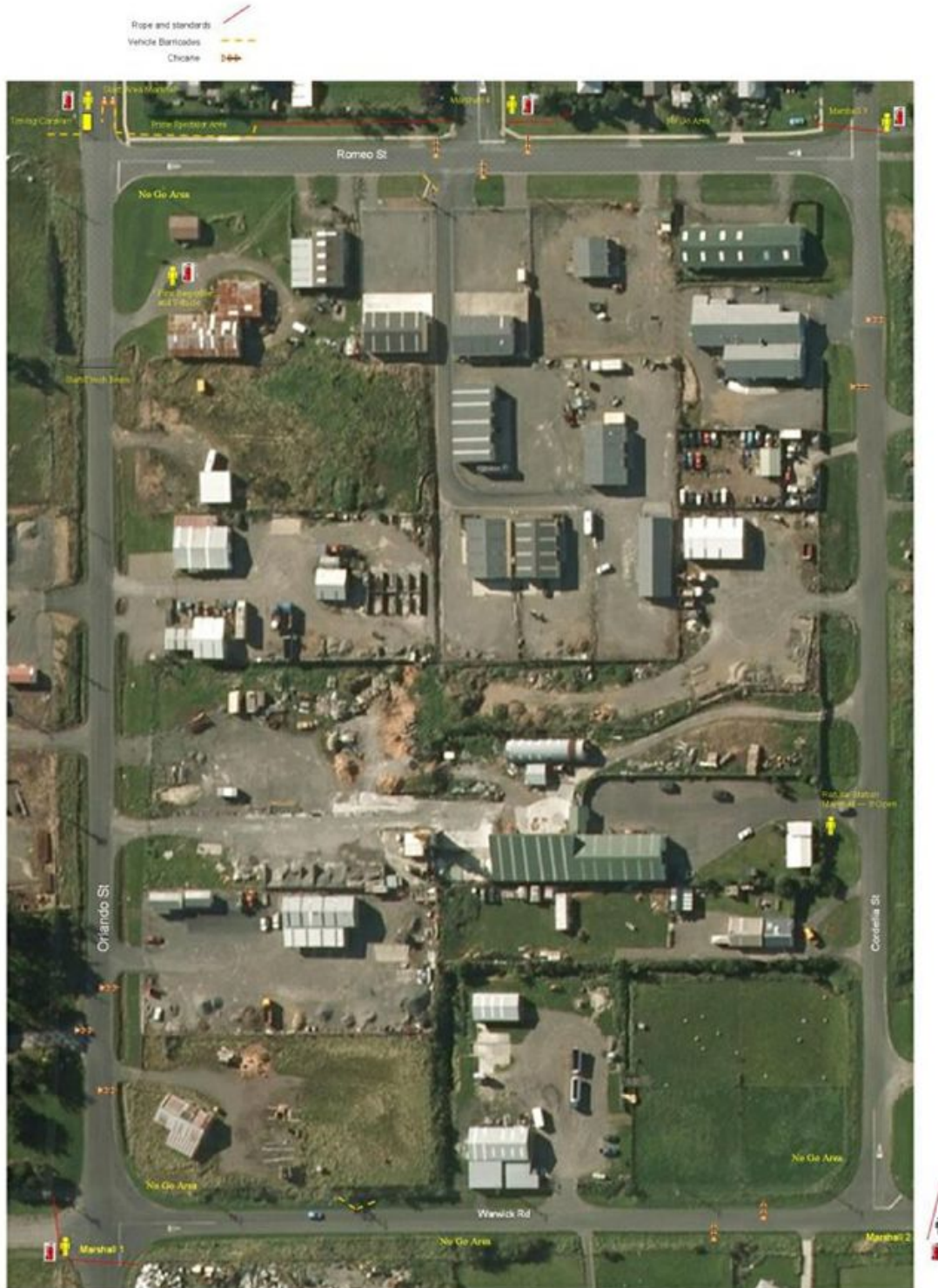
4. SAFETY OF OFFICIALS AND COMPETITORS

4.1 Officials and Marshal Training / Briefings: A marshal briefing will be undertaken by Ross Twyman (Clerk of the Course) at the start line commencing at 9.00am to ensure that all officials controlling the event and particularly those at spectator viewing points are fully aware of safety requirements.

4.2 Competitors Safety: The event will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the current Appendix Five Schedule C Part 1. A competitors briefing will be held prior to the commencement of the event outlining the event procedures with emphasis on all safety aspects.

Attachment
Venue Plan

Stratford Street Sprint Site Plan



MONTHLY REPORT

District Mayor



F25/96/004 – D26/30554

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 11 August 2026
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report - July 2026

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Simplifying Local Government Reforms

It would seem from this report that the month of July has been very quiet. In fact, the opposite is the case, it has been extremely busy. The Simplifying Local Government reforms have consumed a lot of staff time and have been the focus for myself and other elected members. I am not providing a step-by-step update within this report as it is such a fast-moving dynamic, it would be outdated by the time you read this. Various milestones and key decisions have been reported as they occurred to help keep everyone abreast of progress with our proposal.

However, I can confirm that the extraordinary meeting of council held on the 4th of August, elected members gave approval to the draft proposal and confirmed that this will be submitted ahead of the 9th August deadline. Following this, it will be a wait and see situation before we know whether the government approves the proposal moving forward to the detailed design phase. That decision is expected to be made around mid or late September.

2. Local Government Annual General Meeting

At the LGNZ Annual General meeting, nine remits were considered and approved. As the mover, I spoke to the remit that we submitted, being "A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding"

I am pleased to report that the remit received support from 97% of the votes cast. This confirms it is a significant national issue.

All the remits were ranked in order of importance and by this measure the remit came in at 6th place. I thought this was a very good result as the larger metro area's are probably not as affected by this as rural area's, but they carry a lot more weight in the ranking and voting system. This now gives the national executive the mandate to take up the debate with government,

3. Puanga Celebration

This year's mid-winter celebration was a very successful event. It was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by those willing to venture out and brave the harsh winter weather. Attendance numbers seem to be growing year on year and the good will and education that flow from the celebration is notable. I thank our Nga Ruahine iwi partners for the great contribution they make towards the evening.

Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – July 2026
- Stratford MTFJ final report for 2025-2026

- Letter from Hon Chris Bishop regarding proposed changes to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions
- Letter to NPDC notifying them of SDC and STDC Head Start preferred option

Some Events Attended

- Attended – meeting of the Stratford District Youth Council (x1)
- Attended – meeting of the Resource Management Reform Steering Group
- Attended – meeting of the Broadway Enhancement Group
- Attended – Puanga Celebration event
- Attended – the combined meeting of all Taranaki councils (co-chair)
- Attended – meeting with Te Korowai o Ngaruahine Board
- Attended – LGNZ briefing on lessons from UK local government amalgamations (by zoom)
- Attended – LGNZ briefing on partnering with Iwi Maori on Head Start Pathway (by zoom)
- Attended – Justice of the Peace training
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust (x1)
- Attended - Local Government New Zealand - Annual General Meeting
- Travelled to Wellington with the Youth Council
- Met – with Mayor John Roberston from Waitomo
- Met – with MSD Regional Commissioner Shaun Coleman
- Met – with South Taranaki Council (multiple)
- Met – with representatives of Central Taranaki Safe Trust
- Met – with Citizen Award recipients and filmed video interviews (x5)
- Met – with NZTA regional Director Linda Stewart
- Met - with Carl Bates and Barbara Kuriger – National, Members of Parliament
- Met – with representatives of Federated Farmers
- Met – with Bill Davies as a follow up to Public Forum request
- Met – with representatives of the Stratford Xmas Lights event
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News / Stuff (multiple)
- Access Radio – Conversation with Mayor Interview (x1)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x3)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x4)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x2)
- Attended – Council Public Forum (x1)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x5)



N C Volzke JP
District Mayor

Date: 5 August 2026

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Callouts July 2026

The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 23 calls in July 2026:

- 01-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford War Memorial Hall
- 01-07-26 Investigate house fire Regan Street out on arrival assisted by the Toko Fire Brigade
- 03-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford War Memorial Hall
- 03-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford War Memorial Hall
- 04-07-26 Brigade van required meter box smoking Bedford Street Eltham assist Eltham Fire Brigade stood down before arrival
- 06-07-26 Assist ambulance with medical call Ariel Street
- 06-07-26 Alarm activation Avon Primary School
- 08-07-26 Motor vehicle accident car vs. barrier Midhurst overhead brigade
- 09-07-26 Assist with loose roofing iron lifting Farmlands Stratford
- 12-07-26 Alarm activation Taranaki Regional Council Cloten Road assisted by the Toko fire brigade
- 17-06-26 Motor vehicle accident car vs. car Page Street /Miranda Street assisted by the Eltham fire brigade
- 17-07-26 Brigade van required alarm activation Natures Wonder Stanners Street Eltham assist Eltham fire brigade stood down before arrival
- 18-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford Primary school assisted by the Inglewood fire brigade
- 18-07-26 Motor vehicle accident car overbank Cardiff Road assisted by the Eltham fire brigade
- 18-07-26 Assist ambulance with medical call at the New Commercial Hotel
- 19-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford Primary School Regan Street assisted by the Toko fire brigade
- 19-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford Primary School Regan Street
- 22-07-26 Investigate smoke coming from building Mountain Road Ngaere turned out small rubbish fire
- 24-07-26 Motor vehicle accident car rolled Cardiff Road
- 24-07-26 Investigate light pole arcing Broadway North
- 27-07-26 Brigade van required alarm activation Coronation Hotel Eltham assist Eltham fire brigade stood down
- 29-07-26 Alarm activation Mitre10 Fenton Street
- 29-07-26 Alarm activation Stratford Primary School Regan Street

Community Employment Programme

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
End of Year Report June 2026

Stratford District Council



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Mayor Neil Volzke

Stratford District Council

The 2025-2026 year has ended with some very positive outcomes for successful long-term career placements for local youth, but it's not just the long-term placements that have benefitted our community. Some youth who have struggled to find a start onto the permanent employment ladder, have also found opportunities. Even the small 'step on the ladder' roles that start out as work experience or casual are invaluable to someone who thought they were destined to be poor and reliant on living on a benefit for the unforeseeable future.

Like the previous year, this year has been an incredibly challenging one for many people in the Stratford District. General cost of living increases has put an enormous financial and social pressure on many families that, after paying for their essential household items, they have few or no discretionary dollars to spend. The retail sector remains very slow and trades are still struggling, resulting in limited employment opportunities being available. Furthermore, potential employers are being very selective about who they might employ and due to a lack of business certainty, there is a trend towards starting new employees on a casual employment basis only.

The same issues facing youth in the previous year, are still confronting them now. The lack of a driver licence, reliable transport and little or no support from family and friends has left many of these youth with an uphill struggle that is simply unacceptable in this day and age. Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs provides youth with more than just help to get a job; pastoral care, wrap around service ties and one-on-one connections with our employment coordinator create bespoke guidance that can remove barriers to enable youth to learn, grow and get ahead. Often, we are fulfilling the role of parent, teacher, mentor, confidant and councillor.

Having been involved with the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Community Employment Programme for several years now, my observation is that it has morphed onto a completely different agenda. Even though the youth cohort we work with is older, we mustn't lose sight of the original purpose of the programme, that is, helping youth in the rural sector by breaking down the barriers they face so they can move into employment and training to better their lives. For those youth over 18, we need to lower unemployment rates across the country and to stop the cycle of "on benefit, off benefit, on benefit" that is an on-going pattern, especially when tied to some of our larger local businesses.



Mayor Neil Volzke

Our most recent youth unemployment statistics from Dots Loves Data are especially high considering our population of approximately 10,500 people. A 23.3% NEET rate is a number that I'm hoping we can continue to chip away at and lower over the coming years. Almost half (49%) of our youth are leaving school and not enrolling in tertiary education. Working with employers to offer more 'earn as you learn' pathways is something that MTFJ promotes, and it appeals to many young people.

With respect to programme delivery, we have found the changes made to the rules applied within the MTFJ contract more restrictive and operationally more difficult than in the past. While recognising the need to have a greater accountability component in the contract, it comes at the expense of increased barriers to our shared success, and it limits the ability to fulfil the complex needs of some of the youth we work with.

Our strong ties to local employers and our boots on the ground approach helps us get in front of more business leaders each year. This enables pathways to sustainable employment that can reach our youth and start their entry-level roles before they find themselves in the NEET category. Employer relationships with MTFJ is a constant "work on" and is something we will build on as we endeavour to expand our employer database.

Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs allows myself and fellow Mayors across the country the opportunity to address the issues facing our youth jobseekers and show concrete support through the various initiatives, training options, and local connections that the Community Employment Programme brings. This relationship gives MTFJ an advantage in this respect that we can use our collective influence and local networks to continue the grassroots outreach initiatives that are helping create positive outcomes for our community's future.

Our intent for the 2026-27 year is to continue with the MTFJ work that supports young people in our community. We will endeavour to once again hit the targets set in the contract we have committed to for the year and seek out further opportunities for placements and/or training. As District Mayor I believe in the effectiveness of this programme, and I will continue to support and promote it.



MTFJ and Stratford District Council

The Community Employment Programme works closely within Stratford Council to leverage off of opportunities for youth employment within our district. Over the years several youth who have worked with MTFJ have gone on to train as lifeguards at our council operated swimming pool as well as picked up short-term contracts within our council records department doing data entry.

Over the past year the coordinator has worked with the council assets team to promote the Community Employment Programme to local contractors. MTFJ has been part of the conversation with the Open Spaces contractor for possible future employment opportunities and further connections with other council contractors including those for roading and 3 waters are in place.

When there are tender opportunities for council properties open, MTFJ is kept abreast of the situation and local employers are encouraged to apply. There have been meetings established with local employers to advocate for shared contract tenders to allow smaller local businesses to vie for contracts that have been historically grated to national service companies because of their capacity to undertake larger contracts.

Furthermore, the draft Stratford District Economic Development Strategy recognises the importance of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme in supporting local employment outcomes. The strategy prioritises workforce development by embedding support for rangatahi employment and training pathways as an ongoing action, delivered through partnerships with employers, education providers, iwi and programmes such as MTFJ. Participation in the MTFJ programme has also been included as a key measure of success, ensuring its contribution to employment, workforce development and rangatahi outcomes is monitored as part of the strategy's implementation.



Jorja Toucan Taranaki

In March, Jorja registered with MTFJ while working casually at a bar. She wanted full-time work in the care sector, backed by her early childhood training and work experience with disabled people. MTFJ supported her by funding a defensive driving course and her full driver's licence. This has enabled her to take clients out for day trips in the community.

The MTFJ coordinator utilized local networks to connect Jorja with Toucan Taranaki, a disability support provider. This proactive, unadvertised placement resulted in a successful trial period. Jorja is now thriving as a complex needs' caregiver, receiving work clothing from MTFJ to help her at the start and she's now working through on-the-job training to further her qualifications. Additionally, MTFJ connected the employer with an MSD work broker to arrange support funding. This direct, one-on-one approach creates sustainable, long-term career placements that benefit both jobseekers and employers.



MTFJ and Sam Vega was instrumental in helping me get my current job as a Complex Caregiver with Toucan Taranaki. We worked on lots of options for types of jobs I was interested in and interview skills for when I landed an interview. There wasn't a job advertised for the role I'm in now, but Sam called a few of her contacts and found that there might be something coming up with Toucan Taranaki. All the support that MTFJ has given me has directly helped me in my new career. I'm studying for new qualifications and learning lots every day. The job is demanding but satisfying and I see myself progressing and working within this industry for a long time. Thanks for all your help. Jorja



Trent Sanfords Rural Carriers

The Stratford MTFJ coordinator collaborates closely with Stratford MSD case managers and work brokers to fast-track jobseekers into full-time employment. This partnership enables a dual-agency approach that accelerates employment outcomes for shared clients. By exchanging regular progress updates, both organizations streamline the hiring process and significantly strengthen candidates' job applications.

This collaborative strategy proved highly effective for Trent, an MTFJ client aspiring to a professional driving career. The coordinator helped Trent begin his Class 2 driver licence training while leveraging her network contacts to connect him with agricultural and transport operators for vital practical experience. When local transport company Sanfords advertised for a cadet driver, the coordinator utilized these connections to submit Trent's CV directly to the compliance manager. Simultaneously, MSD promoted the position via Kimi Mahi Mai, and Trent applied for the role through the local MSD work broker too. The coordinator stayed in touch with the employer to follow placement progress and Trent was granted an interview a month after applying. Following targeted interview preparation with his coordinator, Trent delivered an outstanding performance and secured the role.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the coordinator proactively collaborated with the work broker to secure Flexi-wage funding as soon as the placement was finalized. This integrated approach continues to deliver sustainable, career-focused placements that strengthens the regional workforce.



MTFJ has been instrumental on getting me started into work. Sam helped me narrow down industries that I wanted to look at for work and start study on my Class 2 driver licence. Connections straight to Sanfords to get me an interview and working on interview skills really helped me land the job. The work clothing provided by MTFJ got me started with the right clothing for the job. I'm loving the job and learning more each day. Thanks for all your help. Trent



Ready 2 Rise Employment Programme Tūtaki



Tūtaki and the Stratford Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) partnered to deliver Ready to Rise, an employment-readiness programme supporting local young people who may face challenges moving into work or training.

The programme consisted of eight sessions delivered over four weeks. Participants developed practical knowledge in areas such as KiwiSaver, tax, employment agreements, nutrition, CV preparation, interviews, workplace expectations and communication. Local businesspeople also shared what employers look for, their experiences of running a business and advice for succeeding in the workplace.

Small groups of approximately four participants created a safe and supportive environment, particularly for young people experiencing anxiety or low confidence. One-to-one sessions with Tūtaki social workers also helped identify barriers and connect participants with medical, dental, mental-health and other wellbeing support where needed.

Every participant showed increased confidence during the programme. Young people who were initially hesitant to speak or engage became more comfortable asking questions, identifying their strengths and communicating with peers, employers and guest speakers. New friendships were also formed, creating valuable peer support.

With practical assistance from MTFJ, a number of participants have since secured employment or progressed into training opportunities. This reflects the strength of combining Tūtaki's trusted relationships and wraparound support with MTFJ's employment expertise and local connections.

Ready to Rise has helped participants build practical skills, resilience, self-belief and a clearer sense of direction. Tūtaki looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership to help more local rangatahi move confidently towards employment, education and a positive future.

Nelson Pulotu - Tūtaki General Manager



Jobseeker Testimonials



I'm Zahn and I'm currently training to be a plumber, gas fitter, and drain layer. I would not have been able to do this without MTFJ. They helped me get my foot in the door, they helped me look over my contract secure a full time contract and helped make sure I knew what the contract meant. They helped me get some tools so I can get right into the work. Without them I would be where I am now thanks MTFJ. Zahn.



MTFJ and Sam helped me land the job I have now and I probably wouldn't have gotten it if it wasn't for MTFJ. We went over lots of different job options and talked about pros and cons and what I wanted to do. It wasn't just getting me to fill out applications online, it was working with me to find a job that I wanted to do and would stick with. Sam heard about a possible apprenticeship opportunity, and we went and had a tour. After talking to my parents, I thought it would be a good place to start. I got the job and started quickly. MTFJ has supported me to get my forklift and W,T & R licences and I've moved up in the job and learning new skills. Thanks for all your help and support. Lexus



The MTFJ programme has really supported me over the past year and helped me get into a job in hospitality at Ngāti Ruanui Mountain Lodge – Stratford. Sam was a huge help leading up to me starting work. I applied for lots of jobs and didn't hear back from most, but Sam heard of jobs that weren't advertised and she helped with work clothing and even petrol to get me to work and to interviews. She even helped my roommate and I find a house after we were living in a motel and got me in touch with Tūtaki who helped me see a dentist after I needed emergency dental help. My roommate and I left Christchurch for a new start but didn't know many people in Taranaki. It's hard leaving everything to start new and we didn't know if we had done the right thing or not. Sam made the move a lot easier especially by helping us both with work and connections in the community. We are both working now and have started up with Te Reo Māori and local Kapa Haka too. Happy to be settled in Stratford now. Looking forward to the future. Meesha



Jobseeker Testimonials



I started a full-time position as a Farm Hand in October 2025. This was my first job, but I was ready for something different. MTFJ helped me out a lot by getting me wet weather gear and helping my **employers** so I could begin training straight away. Thank you, new skills are being learned everyday and I am excited about where I will go in the future. Taytan



MTFJ and Sam helped me a lot when I was looking for work. I did some work experience and completed the Ready 2 Rise programme at Tūtaki which also helped me learn about employment skills and more. I'm working full time now as a trade assistant for a local Stratford business. I'm also getting some tutoring help which has helped me progress at work too. This job wasn't advertised and I wouldn't have found it without the help of MTFJ. Thanks Shayden



The MTFJ programme has helped me find work and get onto the employment ladder with a career in hospitality. The coordinator Sam sat down with me and helped with connections to jobs, work experience, interview skills, and lots of support to help me find work. I did the Ready 2 Rise programme and that helped me get back on track to look for work and build my confidence. I also learned a lot about staying on track and keeping healthy and I also met some new friends! Thank you for all the help. The support has changed my future. Isaac



MTFJ was instrumental in helping me find work. Connecting me with employers and helping me secure interviews was so much better and faster than applying for roles online and hearing nothing back. MTFJ helped me with work clothing, my driver licence, and first aid certificate which has been helpful in my job. I'm still working full time and I've progressed and am getting my apprenticeship in retail now. Thanks, MTFJ for all the advice and support. Erica.



Employer Testimonials



The MTFJ programme is something that we've worked with a few times over the past couple of years. Sam is easy to contact and knows what we're looking for in new starters. Support from MTFJ has helped a few of our new placements with upskilling to help them progress on the job. Lexus, who started this past year, is reliable and willing to learn and progress within our company. He's been a positive addition to our team. We are always happy to give local youth a start into our industry. Working with MTFJ saves us time and money when it comes to finding staff with the right attitude. It's great to have this programme to help youth, especially in Taranaki's rural sector. Haydin Barker Peak Pine



The MTFJ programme has been a fantastic fit for TechSmart. It gave us the opportunity to bring Wessley into the business and start him on a real career path in IT, beginning with his Microsoft training and building from there into hands-on experience across our managed services work - helping clients with day-to-day IT support, getting exposure to the tools we use to keep customer networks secure, and learning the ropes of running a small business helpdesk. Growing new talent in the tech industry matters to us, and MTFJ made it possible to give Wessley that start. It's been great watching his confidence and skills grow, and we're proud to keep backing his development in the sector. Brendon Simons, TechSmart



Employer Testimonials

Ngāti Ruanui Mountain Lodge has partnered with MTFJ to help local young people transition into employment. We met with Sam, the MTFJ Coordinator, to discuss career pathways in the hospitality industry and the qualities and skills we look for when recruiting new team members. Meesha and Isaac joined our team through MTFJ, and we have been working with them to develop their skills while providing outstanding service to our guests. Through experience across our restaurant, kitchen, and housekeeping departments, they have both broadened their capabilities and continue to grow in confidence and experience within the hospitality industry. Recently, we held a staff training session where Meesha delivered a 15-minute presentation on the significance of Matariki. Isaac also showcased his developing skills by preparing cocktails for the team, which was very well received.

Partnering with Sam and MTFJ has made it much easier to find candidates who are a good fit for our business, saving us both time and resources. We also appreciate the practical support provided to Meesha and Isaac, including work clothing and fuel vouchers to help them get started in their new roles.

Supporting local youth into meaningful employment is something we value, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with MTFJ to create more opportunities in the future.

Jeff Ferguson
Ngāti Ruanui Mountain Lodge



The employment programme in Stratford has given lots of support to our new starter Shayden. I'm happy to give youth a chance to start in the workforce and having MTFJ support makes it a smoother transition.

Having potential candidates pre-vetted by MTFJ saves time and energy and support with further learning and upskilling while on the job is helping teach life skills that will help our youth in the future.

Scott Campbell Stratford Garage Doors & Glazing



Conclusion

The MTFJ Community Employment Programme has built a strong reputation across the district, thanks to the coordinator's dedicated efforts to maintain excellent regional relationships. Employers recognize that MTFJ delivers work-ready candidates who are well-suited for their open positions. By operating directly within the rural community, the workforce coordinator provides personalized, one-on-one support to both job seekers and local employers, ensuring optimal placement outcomes. This localized, hands-on approach is uniquely effective in smaller communities where face-to-face engagement is standard practice. It has successfully uncovered unadvertised vacancies and opened doors for future, ongoing work experience opportunities. Looking ahead, the programme aims to sustain and grow these valuable partnerships, creating further avenues to guide rangatahi into fulfilling, long-term mahi.

We will continue offering professional driver training to foster safer road users. This is essential because 70% of jobs require a driver licence, even for roles that don't involve driving. Having a licence is especially vital in rural areas, where commuting distances are greater. Our employment training programme will carry on in the new year too. This teaches best practices for work, including contracts, financial safety, confidence building, and nutrition.

Economic shifts, sustainable placements and artificial intelligence has changed the workforce. Widespread redundancies and the merging of multiple roles into single positions has shrunk job availability. This heavily impacts youth employment by removing the vital entry-level steps people rely on to start their careers. In this challenging landscape, the Community Employment Programme remains dedicated to supporting youth with upskilling, training, connections, advocacy, advice and pastoral support. It ensures they can still access meaningful pathways, securing sustainable wages for themselves and their whānau.



Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Associate Minister of Finance



21 July 2026

CB-COR3111

Tēnā koe

Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill: proposed changes to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions

I am writing to regarding changes the Government intends to make to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill currently before Parliament. Local authorities will continue to lead the delivery of the resource management system under the new legislation, and I wanted to let you know about this intended change that will impact you directly.

The Government intends to amend the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill to remove the provisions that would have saved existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe in the new planning system.

The Bills as introduced provided that existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, and ones initiated before the Bills are enacted, would transfer into the new system, subject to modifications to reflect the scope of the new legislation. The Government has reconsidered that approach.

The Government now intends to progress amendments so that existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe will not transfer into the new planning system. Instead, the Bills will provide for a new instrument scoped to the new system that will be known as 'iwi participation agreements'.

Iwi participation agreements will enable iwi authorities and local authorities to record how iwi authorities will participate in the iwi participation processes provided for in the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill where those processes are the responsibility of local authorities. They may also record processes for engagement where required to give effect to relevant Treaty settlement redress.

This proposed approach will ensure that participation arrangements in the new system are aligned with the scope and design of the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill. Local authorities will have the discretion to enter into these agreements if requested to by an iwi authority – in contrast to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe that must be entered into if iwi authorities initiate them.

I acknowledge that some iwi authorities, hapū, and local authorities have invested significant time and resource in negotiating or implementing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. I also acknowledge that this proposed change may be disappointing for parties who expected existing or initiated arrangements to transition into the new system. The Government's intention for the change is to provide a clearer and more consistent framework for iwi participation under the new legislation.

My officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport are available to discuss with you how the new participation agreements are likely to work. For further information, please contact Clare Maihi (clare.maihi@mcert.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cc: Simon Court, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform



22 July 2026

His Worship the Mayor

New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
New Plymouth 4340

Dear Mayor Brough

Head Start Proposal – South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils' Decision

We are writing to formally notify New Plymouth District Council of South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils' decisions following their consideration of the Government's Head Start pathway and the options available for local government reform in Taranaki.

As you are aware, the Head Start pathway provides councils with an opportunity to develop locally led proposals for future governance arrangements rather than relying on the Government's Backstop process. The pathway requires two or more territorial authorities to work together to submit an outline proposal by 9 August 2026.

At our respective meetings, both South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils resolved that their preferred option was for the two councils to amalgamate to form one unitary authority for southern and central Taranaki.

This position reflects the strong views expressed through our community engagement process, where iwi partners, key stakeholders and community representatives supported our two councils forming a unitary authority and emphasised the importance of maintaining local decision-making and control over the services provided by local government.

South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils will continue to work together to develop an outline Head Start proposal based on this preferred option. We recognise that New Plymouth District Council has been considering its own position in relation to local government reform, and we want to make you aware of our decisions. Council officers from all four councils have been working together constructively and we see this continuing as this process progresses.

We remain committed to maintaining a constructive regional dialogue and to working collaboratively on matters where a regional approach will deliver the best outcomes for the people of Taranaki.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Volzke".

Mayor Neil Volzke
Stratford District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Nixon".

Mayor Phil Nixon
South Taranaki District Council



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.