TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

5 November 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 10 November 2026**, beginning at **3.30pm.**

The timetable is as follows:

1.00pm	Workshop • LTP - Level of Service – Water Services • LTP – Fees and Charges • LTP – Early Conversations
3.00pm	Public Forum • Paul Vanner – Stratford A&P Association
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting

Ngā mihi,



Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2026 - Agenda - Ordinary - November (Open)

10 November 2026 09:00 AM

Agenda Topic

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AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of Council

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/47037

Date: 10 November at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

1. Welcome

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 6

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 7

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 8.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 6 October 2026
D26/38680 (PX) D26/47062 (Open) Page 9

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 6 October 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.2 Water Services Committee – 6 October 2026
D26/38675 Page 13

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Extraordinary Meeting of Council –27 October 2026
D26/45733 Page 17

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 27 October 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.4 Policy and Services Committee – 27 October 2026
D26/45732 Page 19

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2026 be received.

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.5 Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee – 3 November 2026
D26/47445 Page 29

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2026 be received.

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. Decision Report - Proposed Road Closure for the 2026 Christmas Parade.
D26/47311 Page 31

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with 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 Friday 27th November 2026, between the hours of 4.30pm and 7.30pm for the purpose of the 2026 annual Christmas Parade.

    - Miranda Street between Regan Street and Fenton Street and the War Memorial Hall Carpark
    - Fenton Street between Portia Street and Broadway (State Highway 3)
    - Broadway (State Highway 3) between Seyton Street and Page Street

3. THAT Council approves the use of Seyton Street, Juliet Street, Celia Street, Orlando Street and Hills Road as the alternative route for SH3 traffic for both northbound and southbound traffic, whilst the Christmas Parade is in progress.

Recommended Reason
In order for the Stratford Business Association to hold its annual Christmas Parade, it is necessary to close the roads listed above. The proposed road closures require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. Decision Report - Exemption for voting eligibility for non-elected members on committees

D26/46800 Page 38

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

2. THAT Council approve the submission of exemption requests to the Minister of Local Government for the following non-elected roles: *[insert positions*].

3. THAT the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to submit the exemption request and any supporting information required by the Minister.

Recommended Reason
To ensure Council considers the implications of the Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 and determines its preferred approach regarding the future role of non-elected members on Council committees.

/
Moved/Seconded

9. District Mayor's Report

D26/47597 Page 46

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

10. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Paul Vanner – Stratford A&P Association
Topic: General report on upcoming Show.

11. Questions

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 50

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

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

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	04/08/26	11/08/26	08/09/26	13/10/26	27/10/26	10/11/26	08/12/26
Meeting	**O**	**E**	**O**	**O**	**O**	**E**	**O**	**O**	**E**	**E**	**O**	**O**	**O**	**E**	**O**	**O**
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
David Chadwick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jaimie Bertie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Josh Best	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓		
Grant Boyde	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A V	A	✓	✓	✓		
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A V	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A V	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Katherine Sextus	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A		
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

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

MINUTES
Ordinary

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/47062

Date: 6 October 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, Grant Boyde, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director – Community Services - Kate Whareaitu, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Gareth Hancock, the Senior Accountant - Chritine Craig.

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 and media.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Best.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Best's apology be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
CL/26/98

3. Announcements

None.

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 Hall noted a conflict of interest in relation to Item 9, which was identified as a public excluded matter.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 September 2026
D26/34482 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 8 September 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/DUDLEY
CARRIED
CL/26/99

6.1.1 Public Forum Notes
D26/34620 Page 15

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 22 September 2026
D26/25834 Page 16

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 be received.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
CARRIED
CL/26/100

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 be adopted.

BERTIE/BECK
CARRIED
CL/26/101

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 22 September 2026
D26/35907 Page 22

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 be received.

HARRIS/WATT
CARRIED
CL/26/102

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 be adopted.

BOYDE/BERTIE
CARRIED
CL/26/103

7. District Mayor's Report

D26/38377 Page 30

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/CHADWICK
Carried
CL/26/104

The District Mayor noted the following:

- Drew members' attention to the attached correspondence and noted that Powerco had confirmed the generator at Whangamōmona had been commissioned. He acknowledged the role the Deputy Mayor played in progressing the project. The generator is now operational, and he would like residents in the area to be aware that it is available and operational. He also referred to the Minister's letter regarding earthquake-prone buildings and noted that one point that particularly drew his attention was in relation to Council's role in enforcing the requirements.
- Confirmed that the MTFJ contract has now been signed, although the process took three months to complete. The delay between contract resulted in Council needing to revise its target, which has since been revised from 29 to 24. This has resulted in a reduction in funding.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall referred to the Minister's letter and the Mayor's comments. She indicated that she would support writing to the Minister to clarify Council's role and position. This view was shared by other councillors, and the Mayor agreed to write to the Minister on behalf of Council.
- Councillor Hall also asked what advocacy work was being undertaken by mayors in relation to MTFJ. The Mayor advised that a series of meetings had taken place and that Mayor Bell was

leading this work. He noted that the message had been received and that a further meeting with the Minister was scheduled for next week. However, he also noted that there appears to be a disconnect between the Minister and the department.

8. 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: 9 & 10

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The Percy Thomson Trust Trustee Appointment Minutes of the Employment Relations Committee dated 29 September 2026	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of a natural person.	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (s 7(2)(a)).

CHADWICK/WATT
CARRIED
CL/26/105

9. Public Excluded Item –Decision Report - Percy Thomson Trust – Appointment of Trustees

D26/36589 Page 40

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT
CARRIED
CL/26/106

2. THAT, in accordance with the trust deed, Brigid *Taingahue* be re-appointed as trustee of the Percy Thomson Trust for a term of three years.

3. THAT, in accordance with the trust deed, Councillor Ellen Hall be re-appointed as trustee of the Percy Thomson Trust for a term of three years.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
CARRIED
CL/26/107

4. THAT the resolutions from this decision be released from the public excluded section.

VOLZKE/SEXTUS
CARRIED
CL/26/108

5. *THAT the Council progress the advertising and reappointment of the remaining vacancy in accordance with the established process.*

BOYDE/WATT
CARRIED
CL/26/109

Recommended Reason
As per the trust deed, Stratford District Council has the power to appoint trustees to the Percy Thomson Trust. The recommendations of this report enable the exercising of this power and intend to meet the Council's obligations to the trust to ensure that collectively the trustees hold the right range of experience and skills.

10. Public Excluded Item

11. Resolution to Open to the Public

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

VOLZKE/SEXTUS
CARRIED
CL/26/112
d

12. Questions

- None.

13. Closingl Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.09 pm.

Neil Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 10th day of November 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

Water Services
MINUTES

F26/96/005 – D26/38675

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026 2026 at 1.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor (the Chairperson) Neil Volzke, the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillor Mathew Watt.

In attendance

Councillors: Steve Beck, Grant Boyde, Jaimie Bertie, Annette Dudley. The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director Community Services - Kate Whareaitu, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, the General Manager - Water Services Business Unit - Deron Sharma, the Senior Accountant – Christine Craig.

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

None.

3. Announcements

None.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared. None.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Water Services Committee - 30 June 2026
D26/24141 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
WS/26/4

The District Mayor noted a typo in the MCERT acronym, which will be corrected by the Governance Advisor.

7. Information Report - Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit – Establishment Update

D26/37176 Page 11

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

WATT/HARRIS
Carried
WS/26/5

Recommended Reason
The report provides the Committee with an update on the establishment programme of the Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:

- It is proposed that the Committee receive this report at each meeting to track progress against the work programme. It was noted that there are two layers of governance, including the management governance for the Water Services Business Unit.
- Two attachments were noted, along with discussion on the best way to showcase progress and develop a template aligned with each meeting date, demonstrating progress against the work programme.
- It was noted that the key driver is financial ring-fencing. The Water Services Strategy was discussed, including how it aligns with the LTP.
- Asset management plans are key documents. It was noted that requirements are driven primarily by the Local Government Act and, secondly, by determinations set by the Commerce Commission.
- It was noted that nine documents are now required to be produced under the legislation, and the associated planning requirements were discussed.
- Discussion took place regarding national engineering standards.
- A key milestone is progressing to market for the appointment of an independent Chair for this Committee. The Chief Executive provided an update on the recruitment process. It was noted that recruitment had been delayed due to the amalgamation discussions.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that the four well-beings no longer exist and have now been replaced under the System Improvement Bill. He also noted that requirements relating to financial separation and reporting are expected to increase in the coming months.
- Councillor Boyde queried the reporting requirements back to the full Council. It was noted that the Water Services Committee operates under delegated authority, and risk will only be reported to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee when they escalate to a Council-level risk. It was further noted that this risk reporting approach had been requested by the Chair of the A&R Committee.
- Councillor Watt queried the timeline for the Gate Two design phase. It was noted that the organisational design had been delayed due to the Head Start process, as the organisation did not want to put the cart before the horse.

8. Information Report - Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit – Statutory Obligations

D26/37179 Page 19

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
WS/26/6

Recommended Reason
The report provides the Committee with an overview of the regulatory environment that the Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit will be required to operate within.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:

- The purpose of the report is to provide Elected Members with an overview of the landscape under which Water Services is currently operating.
- It was noted that obligations have doubled. Attachment One provides an overview of the requirements.
- This is the first step and will feed into the design process. Many of the requirements have been staged, and it was noted that there have been several amendments to the legislation.
- Most of the workstreams relate to financial and planning matters. Once the go live date has been reached, responsibility will sit with the operational and service delivery workstreams.
- Regulators and the regulatory landscape were noted.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor suggested that a traffic light system for the list of items may assist Elected Members in understanding the status.
- Councillor Watt queried the dates outlined in Attachment Two and specifically referenced the backflow requirements. It was noted that the legislation does not specify a date by which compliance must be achieved. Discussion was held regarding those requirements with no dates.
- The District Mayor commented on the large number of rules that must be complied with, particularly when compared with the intent of the legislation. Discussion noted that Council must comply with both legislative and audit requirements, and that auditors will expect to see supporting records.
- The Mayor referred to Diagram 5.1.2, and discussion was held on its implications. It was noted that the Commerce Commission has enforcement and regulatory powers.
- Councillor Beck noted that significant staffing resources may be required to meet the compliance obligations. Discussion was held on Council's registers and the requirements of the Water Services Act.

9. Information Report - Water Services Delivery Plan – Quarterly Update 3

D26/37196 Page 39

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
WS/26/7

Recommended Reason
The report informs the Committee of progress against the implementation milestones in Council's accepted Water Services Delivery Plan and identifies changes requiring continued oversight.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:

- Clarification was provided on the difference between this report and the previous report. It was noted that the previous report provided an update on the establishment plan and the work required to reach Day One. This report tracks progress against the Water Services Delivery Plan.
- It was noted that the design work is aligned with the Water Services Delivery Plan and that Council's decision was to establish a stand-alone business model.
- This is the report that is submitted to MCERT and is provided to the Committee for visibility.
- There have been no material changes to the delivery of the Water Services Delivery Plan.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that a figure at the bottom of page 51 appeared to be incorrect, with a discrepancy between the projected and actual totals. It was noted that this would be checked. It was likely a calculation error and may also include carry-forward amounts.
- The District Mayor queried how confident officers were that the transition to the new model would be seamless on Day One. It was noted that management shares the same priority as Elected Members and remains committed to ensuring a successful transition and Day One readiness.
- The District Mayor asked about the installation of water meters, including progress to date. It was noted that the project is nearing completion and has become highly data-driven. The first billing cycle was deferred to allow additional time to review and validate the data. Officers noted that sufficient processes have been established to ensure data accuracy before issuing invoices to customers. A Source to Tap education campaign will be rolled out, and mock bills will be issued to customers.

- The District Mayor noted that Elected Members have not yet had a discussion on the proposed charging regime. It was noted that officers have done some initial thinking. Elected Members are expected to consider these over the next three to six months before wider community consultation is undertaken.
- Councillor Boyde asked whether Council is engaging with neighbouring councils, which was confirmed. He also asked whether sample groups would be used for the mock billing process, which was also confirmed.
- Councillor Boyde queried whether there were any concerns regarding the structure of future water service entities, particularly in light of upcoming election. It was noted that councils across the country have adopted a range of approaches, reflecting the different challenges faced by each region, and that no significant trends have emerged. The Chief Executive noted that larger councils have generally established CCOs, while smaller councils have tended to retain services in-house.
- Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the allocation of overhead costs. It was noted that the focus is on ensuring the right resources and that the in-house business unit will have a physical footprint, with associated costs. It was confirmed that staff time-sheeting will not be required.

10. Questions

- None.

11. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 2.08 pm.

Neil Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 17th day of November 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Extraordinary

F25/96/005 – D26/29529

Date: 27 October 2026 at 2.30pm
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, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, 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, Audit NZ - Chris Webby.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia and H&S message was read.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Sextus.

THAT the apology from Councillor Sextus be received.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
CL/26/112

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- 2025/26 Annual Report

D26/45904 Page 6

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/CHADWICK
Carried
CL/26/113

2. THAT the 2025/26 Annual Report be received and approved for adoption, subject to any further changes as requested by Audit New Zealand, the independent auditors.

3. THAT the Mayor and the Chief Executive be given authority to sign the 2025/26 Annual Report and the Summary 2025/26 Annual Report, incorporating any late and minor changes that may be required by Audit New Zealand.

4. THAT the Chief Executive be authorised to publish the 2025/26 Annual Report and the Summary 2025/26 Annual Report within one month of adopting the Annual Report 2025/26.

VOLZKE/BOYDE

Carried
CL/26/114

Recommended Reason
Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Report by 31 October 2026. The audited Annual Report gives the community transparency on the Council's performance for the year. It is a statutory requirement for a local authority to, within one month after the adoption of its Annual Report; make publicly available its Annual Report and a summary of the information contained in its Annual Report.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- The Annual Report is Council's primary way of demonstrating accountability to the public.
- The report highlighted how busy the year has been, with a strong focus on infrastructure. It outlined significant capital expenditure and reflected significant work undertaken by the Assets Team. The report covered Council's performance against its targets and noted that considerable reform work is currently underway.
- Financially, Council performed well, and this was reflected in the Annual Report.
- One negative aspect noted was the audit qualification relating to road smoothness.
- Chris Webby from Audit NZ discussed the qualification, noting that it related to the road count and that, with additional data available next year, it is hoped the qualification will be removed. He also commented on matters raised in the management report, including the supporting information for performance measures. In addition, he noted the revaluation of depreciation; however, these matters were not material. He further noted that there were no management issues requiring Council's attention.

Points noted in the discussion and questions:

- The District Mayor sought clarification regarding the qualification and questioned how much was considered sufficient. Audit NZ advised that this was a matter is a judgement call, with approximately 18% to 20% of the network likely to be sufficient. They noted that coverage was around 10% last year. Audit NZ also advised that Council is not alone in this situation, with a number of other councils receiving similar qualifications.
- Councillor Hall queried what could have been done differently during the year to avoid the qualification. It was noted that the issue related to the use of actual data versus estimates, and this was further explained. The Chief Executive also elaborated, noting that there is currently no guidance from NZTA on the matter. Council has, however, adopted a policy setting out its approach.
- Councillor Boyde commented on Council's strong performance and acknowledged the significant amount of good work reflected in the report. He noted that the qualification has arisen twice and that the lack of guidance from NZTA made the matter difficult to read.
- The District Mayor asked about the higher operating surplus and cash reserves, querying whether this meant Council had additional cash available to reduce debt. It was noted that the funds would likely be retained, as they may be required in the third year of the Long-Term Plan.

5. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 2.52 p.m.

Neil Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 10th day of November 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Policy and Services Committee

F25/96/005 – D26/45732

Date: Tuesday 27 October 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 (left at 5.00pm), David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, 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, the Property and Projects Manager - Steve Taylor, the Services Asset Manager – John Cooper, the Roading Manager - Claude Shaw, the Assets Officer - Tatyana Kooznetzoff, the Aquatic Services Manager - Jason Court.

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Sextus.

Recommendation

THAT the apology from Councillor Sextus be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/136

3. Announcements

The District Mayor reminded councillors that an email from LGNZ regarding the Elected Members Census had been distributed and encouraged members to complete it.

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 Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached and noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee - 22 September 2026
D26/35907 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/137

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 20

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/138

8. Decision Report - Taranaki Lawn and Sports Field Network Plan

D26/38470 Page 21

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BEST/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/139

2. THAT Council endorse **one or all** of the recommendations, relating to the Stratford District, in the draft Taranaki Lawn and Sports Field Network Plan, that the Council:
1) Does not supports clubs to ensure that access to school fields is secured.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/140

2) Upgrades drainage of Page Street sports fields at King Edward Park.
3) Upgrades drainage of Swansea Road Sports Field.
4) Continues with the maintenance and renewals programme for Victoria Park.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/26/141

5) Supports the Stratford Croquet Club in upskilling volunteers to undertake some lawn care services

HALL/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/142

3. THAT Council authorises the CE to approve the final Taranaki Lawn and Sports Field Network Plan, subject to the recommendation 2 above.

DUDLEY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/143

Recommended Reason
The report seeks Council's endorsement of the five proposed Stratford District recommendations so they can be incorporated into the final Taranaki Lawn and Sports Field Network Plan and inform future planning and investment decisions.

The Property and Projects Manager noted the following:

- The report follows on from the workshop. The Taranaki Facilities Consortium was established to coordinate and plan sports facilities across the region. This is the third network plan produced by the Consortium.
- The Consortium has requested that Council endorse and adopt the plan.
- The plan includes five recommendations relating to the Stratford District, which were noted.
- The matters raised in the plan have already been discussed at the LTP early discussions.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor queried whether, by adopting one or more of the recommendations, Council would be adopting only those recommendations relevant to Stratford or the entire plan. It was noted that there is a single regional plan, which also includes recommendations specific to the Stratford District. Members may also comment on regional matters if they wish. It was further noted that the first recommendation is not specific to Stratford.
- Councillor Hall queried the recommendation regarding the Croquet Club and whether the club had been consulted. It was noted that the club had expressed a willingness to manage the facilities itself.
- Councillor Dudley sought clarification regarding the netball court and the lawn area. Further explanation was provided.
- The Deputy Mayor asked about proposed upgrades to Page Street and the sportsgrounds, and whether options would be brought back to elected members for consideration. She also sought clarification on whether the recommendation was intended to provide general direction. It was noted that any improvements to drainage would result in additional costs to Council.
- Councillor Boyde commented on the closure of sports fields due to weather events. Further information was provided regarding the number of days the fields had been closed.
- Councillor Hall noted an apparent contradiction between the recommendations and earlier discussions regarding drainage. She sought clarification from the mover and seconder as to how the proposal aligned with decisions made to date. The Mayor responded that the information presented was not new and that improved drainage would make a difference. He noted that the recommendation was non-committal and that earlier discussions focused on how works would be funded and when it would be undertaken.
- Councillor Boyde queried whether there had been any discussions with the Golf Club or Cricket Club regarding assistance of the Croquet Club facilities. Further explanation was provided.

Point noted in the discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted Recommendation 1 and commented that there is a role for someone to support local clubs.
- The District Mayor expressed his support for improved drainage and the benefits it would provide. He noted that endorsing the plan does not commit Council to any expenditure and the desired outcome. Councillor Erwood considered it a positive step for both Council and the community. The Deputy Mayor also spoke in support of the plan, noting that it serves as a reference document rather than a financial commitment. And added that it provides a useful point of reference and acknowledged the significant work that had gone into its preparation.
- Councillor Hall supported the intent behind the recommendation relating to the Croquet Club, noting that there would likely be some initial costs involved. However, queried the extent to which the club had been consulted and what costs may ultimately fall on the club.

9. Decision Report - Rate Remission Application - Excessive Water Use Due To A Leak

D26/37265 Page 181

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/26/144

2. THAT Council gives consideration under Clause 9 of the Rates Remission Policy to remit water use lost due to a leak.

3. THAT Council approves the application for a rate remission due to a leak.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/145

Recommended Reason

Council Policy allows for rate remission due to a leak to be considered, if the water loss was out of their control. As detailed below, once the occupiers were made aware of the leak they were proactive addressing the leak.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarification regarding the leak, including how long the leak had been present, when it was identified, and how quickly it was repaired following notification. It was noted that the leak was repaired immediately once Council notified of it, and there had been no visible signs of the leak.

Point noted in the discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted that the individual repaired the leak as soon as they became aware of it and that there had been no visible indication of the leak beforehand.

10. Decision Report - 2026/27 Material Damage Insurance - Fire Loss Limit

D26/42419 Page 186

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/146

2. THAT the Committee approves the preferred option to decrease the 2026/27 material damage insurance Council fire loss limit to $38.3 million.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/26/147

Recommended Reason

To review the fire loss limit for the renewal period from 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027 and to recommend on the options presented.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following:

- A decision is required to enable the insurance review to be completed by 1 November. This matter would ordinarily be considered by the Audit & Risk Committee.
- The impact of the new Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) levy and the annual insurance expense was noted.
- AON recommended a lower limit than Council's current maximum cover. The regional insurance arrangement and how the cover applies were also explained.

- The key decision for Council was determining the level at which the fire loss limit should be set.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarification on the value of Council's two most valuable assets and the level of cover available should a fire occur at one of them. It was noted that Council would be covered for fire losses up to $38.3 million in a given year. It was further noted that Council would not be fully protected if a third fire occurred within the same year.
- Councillor Hall queried the FENZ levy and whether it could have a material financial impact on them. It was noted that Council's approach is consistent with that of other councils.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on Stratford District's share of regional costs, noting a 6% and 8% figure. It was explained that 8% is the asset revaluation.
- Councillor Erwood asked what the saving would be for a single asset. It was noted that this information was outlined in the decision report.

11. Decision Report - Roading Network Procurement Strategy 2025-2028

D26/34961 Page 192

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/148

2. THAT the Roading Network Procurement Strategy 2025-2028 is endorsed by council.

3. THAT the Committee allow the amendment of the Roading Network Procurement Strategy 2025-2028 to be undertaken by officers, from time to time, as required by legislation or New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), being a living document. Such amendments will be of a minor nature not requiring the entire strategy to be re-endorsed by council.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/149

Recommended Reason
NZTA requires all Approved Organisation to have a procurement strategy that documents our long-term integrated approach to the procurement of transport activities funded under Section 20 of the Land Transport Management Act and Amendment Act 2013. This strategy replaces the existing expired Road Network Procurement Strategy.

The Roading Manager noted the following:

- The report sought Council's endorsement of the Roading Procurement Strategy. No significant changes have been made to the strategy, and remains aligned with Council's current procurement policy. The previous strategy was expired. It was also noted that NZTA is satisfied that Council is meeting its procurement requirements and standards.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall queried the date of the most recent NZTA advice and when it was presented to Council. It was noted that this was an administrative oversight and that the advice had not previously been brought to Council's attention.

Point noted in the discussion:

- Councillor Beck noted that he felt really comfortable that Council had listened to what councillors were saying about local contractors, and that this came through really well in the strategy.

12. Decision Report - Implementation of a Risk-Based Backflow Prevention Project

D26/38575 Page 243

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/150

2. *THAT Council approves option 2 - Full Service – Charged Per Connected SUIP.. Council manages the project and funds the cost of the device, installation, testing and maintenance over the 20-year life of the asset. The Customer does not reimburse Council, and an annualised cost is spread across all connected SUIP over the life of the asset (20-year life). This annual charge would be $93 per connected SUIP. ~~This option does not include replacement of the asset upon failure, this will be the responsibility of the customer.~~*

DUDLEY/BEST
Division
For 5 No 6
Lost
P&S/26/151

3 *THAT Council approves option 5 - Monitoring Only, Charged Per Customer - Monitoring only. The Customer pays for the device, installation, testing, and maintenance. The Customer will be required to send testing confirmation to Council annually. All administration costs incurred by Council will be reimbursed by the Customer through an annual charge. This charge is $42 for the life of the asset.*

WATT/BERTIE
Division
For 4 No 7
Lost
P&S/26/152

4. *THAT Council approves option 7 – 50/50 split of costs between the customer and connected Separately Used or Inhibited Part [SUIP], to be further developed into a business case to support the development of the 2027-2037 Water Services Strategy budget and programme of work.*

HALL/ERWOOD
Division
For 7 No 4
Carried
P&S/26/153

Recommended Reason
Option 7 provides a middle ground within the key trade-offs. By recovering 50% of the relevant costs from all connected SUIP, Council has greater certainty that this portion of the programme costs will be recovered across the network. The remaining 50% is recovered from the Customer whose property creates the backflow risk, retaining a clear link between the risk created and the cost of managing it.

The Assets Officer noted the following:

- This is a legislative requirement and Council is able to recover the associated costs.
- This decision relates to how Council will recover those costs.
- The available options, risk assessment, and costs associated with each option were outlined.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Dudley noted that, in her opinion, Option Two does not provide a full service, as failure is not covered. It was noted that this would be a debt-funded. Discussion also occurred around depreciation and avoiding double-dipping. The benefits of backflow devices, what the kitsets comprise, and funding for ongoing maintenance were also discussed.

- The District Mayor queried the total number of properties, the number of residential spas, and how the number of spas had been determined. It was noted that this was based on a risk assessment.
- The District Mayor noted Option Six and the proposal to charge properties an annual fee. This was explained. He also queried Option Seven, which involves paying a higher upfront amount, and whether the fee would transfer to a new owner if the property were sold. It was noted that a policy would need to be developed.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarity on the next steps if a decision were approved today. It was noted that, once a decision is made, it would be incorporated into the Water Services Strategy and consulted on with the community. It would then form part of Council's usual consultation processes.
- Councillor Best queried the process for decommissioned spas. It was noted that today's decision relates to cost recovery only and not a bylaw or policy.

Points noted in the general discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted that this has been a contentious topic and would be another cost for the community to face. She had been thinking about the balance between user pays and community pays, and factoring this into the decision-making. The reason why individuals have a backflow device was noted. She also noted the need to balance the cost versus the risk, and who should pay. Option Seven provides a balance for this.
- The District Mayor noted that this is ridiculous when looking at the Water Services Act, the risk, and something Wellington has put upon us. He noted what a backflow is and gave an example of how this could occur. However, this is the law, and it is a cost on people. It is a risk and we are locked in. It comes down to the person who needs the backflow device. He expressed concerns around the cost to the person and being locked in if they were to sell.
- Councillor Best noted that he struggles with the cost being pushed onto people where there is a pre-existing risk.
- Councillor Watt noted, "I don’t want to pay $100 because my neighbour has a spa." He noted that it is businesses and farms that have the risk. It is user pays. "If you can’t afford to have a spa, don’t get one." He supported Option One or Option Five.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that spas have become the enemy in the room. This is the legislation, and the water supplier must protect against the risk. She noted that we have been told today that this is working backwards and weeding out the items. She also noted who benefits, the likelihood of it occurring, and who benefits from being protected against the risk.

Points noted in the discussion on recommendations

Option two:

- Councillor Dudley noted that there is a cost against all of them, and should be spread over everyone that drinks the water.

Division:

Yes: Cr Best, Boyde, Dudley, Erwood the District Mayor.

No: Cr Chadwick, Beck, Bertie, Hall, the Deputy Mayor, Watt

Option five:

- Councillor Watt noted that this is in line with the concerns raised before the division. Those who have the device should pay to maintain it. If there is no incentive to disconnect it, there will be none. He noted that we can consult with the owner first.
- Councillor Bertie noted that these were the rules that were put on her and should apply the same to everyone.
- Councillor Hall noted that we have swung too far, and that there is a community benefit and a need for balance. In her opinion, it does not reduce the risk.
- Councillor Boyde noted that it is a dog of an option. If a customer leaves, they could take it with them. It is a nightmare.
- Councillor Beck noted the discussion around line charges.

Division:

Yes: Cr Beck, Bertie, the Deputy Mayor, Watt

No: Cr Chadwick, Best, Boyde, Dudley, Erwood, Hall, the District Mayor

Option seven:

- Councillor Erwood noted the significant debate that had occurred and that the recommended option is the officer recommendation.
- Councillor Watt spoke against the motion and noted that it does not solve the issue of user pays. He noted that it is messy and inconsistent.
- The District Mayor noted that there were seven options and that two had now been ruled out. He noted that we are all paying for roads that we do not use and elaborated on the options. He noted that it is a compromise between the two motions that had not passed.

Division:

Yes: Cr Chadwick, Beck, Bertie, Erwood, Hall, Deputy Mayor, District Mayor

No: Best, Boyde, Dudley, Watt

13. Information Report - Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre Activity Management Plan – 6 Month Report

D26/45577 Page 263

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/154

Recommended Reason
The Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre Activity Management Plan 6 Month Report provides an update on progress to date.

The Director – Community Services noted the following:

- The report presents a positive story, with positive progress being made across the 30 actions within the plan. Energy consumption was highlighted as a significant area of focus, with substantial savings achieved. The facility has retained its PoolSafe accreditation. Attendance figures and visitor numbers were noted.
- Progress on the marketing strategy was noted.
- Work relating to the café and coffee is continuing.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Dudley noted that the facility was closed for two weeks in January and that overall attendance numbers had declined. She queried whether this was because the facility was no longer new and shinny. It was noted that this could be a contributing factor, along with the impact of cost.
- The District Mayor referred to the operating expenses and depreciation figures and queried whether depreciation was being allocated to a depreciation reserve. He also asked whether the amount exceeded the interest being paid by depreciation reserves. The Mayor would discuss the matter further with staff outside the meeting.
- The Deputy Mayor referred to merchandise. She asked whether any trends had been identified. It was noted that staff were in the process of obtaining a display unit from Zoggs at no cost and were continuing to refine and working with suppliers.

14. Monthly Reports

14.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/155

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor, on behalf of Councillor Boyde, noted that a culvert on the farm is budgeted in Year Four and requested a report from officers on bringing this work forward. Members were supportive, and officers will prepare a report.

14.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/156

14.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/157

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor referred to the financial results, noting the MTFJ figure and noted that the matter had been resolved.

14.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/158

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor referred to the Building Act reforms and queried when they were likely to come into force. It was noted that the changes take effect July next year and that Council will be ready for their implementation.
- Councillor Dudley asked about the scaffolding on Broadway and whether there was a timeline for its removal. It was noted that the scaffolding is compliant with the relevant requirements and falls under roading as it occupies part of the footpath.

15. Questions

- The District Mayor noted that Chorus is undertaking works to the NZ Post building and is pleased that work is being done. He noted that the work likely involves the removal of vegetation and, hopefully, water blasting. He also noted that the building will not be demolished.

16. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 5.17pm.

Amanda Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 24th day of November 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Comittee

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F16/1042/003– D26/47445

Date: Tuesday 3 November 2026, 3.30pm
Venue: Committee Room, Stratford District Council

Present
Councillor A Dudley (the Chairperson),the District Mayor N Volzke, Councillors: D Chadwick and J Whitika

In Attendance
The HR and Governance Administrator – C Reynolds.

Opening Karakia

The opening karakia was read.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from K Dickson, D Christie, R Smith and Councillor K Sextus.

That the apologies be received.

CHADWICK/WHITIKA
Carried

2. Announcements

The District Mayor noted the Local Government Systems Improvement Bill which has recently passed, which takes away the voting rights of members of the committee who are not Elected Members. There are chances of exemptions, it will be decided this coming Tuesday if Council wishes to apply for exemptions. The decision will then decide any action going forward.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 5 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

DUDLEY/WHITIKA
Carried

4. Correspondence

4.1 Inwards

4.1.1 Accountability Form – Toko School – Basketball
4.1.2 Accountability Form – Toko School – Touch
4.1.3 Accountability Form – Toko School – Hockey
4.1.4 Accountability Form – Eastern Districts Netball
4.1.5 Accountability Form – Marco School

4.2 Outwards

THAT the inwards correspondence be received.

WHITIKA/CHADWICK
Carried

Points noted in discussion:
- The accountability forms were of a high standard.
- The District Mayor questioned why some of the rural schools were giving the same amount to families who lived in Stratford as those who lived rurally, when they travelled much less distance.

5. Declarations of Interest

The Chair requested committee members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no declarations of interest.

6. Consideration of Applications

6.1 Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Guidelines - July 2024 - June 2028

6.2 Information Reports

6.2.1 Application Index
6.2.2 Information Report
6.2.3 Summary of Applications

THAT the information reports be received.

CHADWICK/DUDLEY
Carried

Points noted in Discussion:

- The District Mayor questioned if Stratford High School has not put application this time and hoped that it wasn't because of the letter which was sent. If they do not put in a winter application the committee will approach the principal.

6.3 Applications for Funding

THAT the following funding allocations be approved.

WHITIKA/CHADWICK
Carried

6.3.1 Toko School – Touch $600

Points noted in Discussion:

- It was decided that Toko School – Touch would be fully funded

7. General Business

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting has not yet been approved by Council.

Closing Karakia

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Councillor A Dudley
Chairperson

DECISION REPORT

F16/1244/011 – D26/47311

To: Council
From: Roading Manager
Date: 10 November 2026
Subject: Proposed Road Closure for the 2026 Christmas Parade.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with 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 Friday 27th November 2026, between the hours of 4.30pm and 7.30pm for the purpose of the 2026 annual Christmas Parade.

    - Miranda Street between Regan Street and Fenton Street and the War Memorial Hall Carpark
    - Fenton Street between Portia Street and Broadway (State Highway 3)
    - Broadway (State Highway 3) between Seyton Street and Page Street

3. THAT Council approves the use of Seyton Street, Juliet Street, Celia Street, Orlando Street and Hills Road as the alternative route for SH3 traffic for both northbound and southbound traffic, whilst the Christmas Parade is in progress.

Recommended Reason
In order for the Stratford Business Association to hold its annual Christmas Parade, it is necessary to close the roads listed above. The proposed road closures require 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 Business Association to close the roads listed above on 27 November 2026 between the times specified in the recommendation.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 In order for the annual Christmas Parade to be held, for health and safety reasons the Stratford Business Association have requested that several roads are closed for the purposes of gathering the parade floats together and for the route of the Christmas Parade. An alternative route for State Highway 3 traffic will be sign posted for the duration of the parade.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of local government is to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local infrastructure, public services, and regulatory functions.
Does the decision support the purpose of local government? Yes – This annual event brings together the community at a festive time of the year to participate in the parade as well as enjoying the spectacle of the event.

Provision of good-quality infrastructure	Provision of good-quality public services	Performance of regulatory functions	Supports cost-effective service delivery
	✓	✓	✓

The report is for the purposes of providing good regulatory function, as street events such as this, require a Council resolution to endorse a proposed road closure. The costs associated with traffic management are being met by the event organiser, limiting the financial impact on Council and supporting cost-effective service delivery.

4. Background

4.1 Each year the Stratford Business Association request that State Highway 3, Broadway is closed to through traffic between Seyton Street and Page Street. The Stratford Business Association require all participants in the parade to gather in the War Memorial car park with their decorative floats before proceeding in the parade. **Appendix 1** shows the letter received from the Stratford Business Association requesting the road closure.

4.2 The parade route is from the War Memorial car park, south along Miranda Street, turning left onto Fenton Street to State Highway 3 at Broadway. At the southern roundabout, the parade turns left onto State Highway 3 Broadway, heading north towards Regan Street, circles the northern roundabout, before heading south on State Highway 3 Broadway to return to Fenton Street. At the southern roundabout (Fenton Street), the parade turns right into Fenton Street, proceeds along Fenton Street, turning right into Miranda Street to return to the War Memorial car park.

4.3 The alternative route for State Highway 3 traffic for the duration of the parade is Seyton Street, Juliet Street, Celia Street, Orlando Street and Hills Road. This route is available for all southbound and northbound traffic. As State Highway 3/Broadway is a designated High Productivity Mass Vehicle (HPMV), route, Stratford District Council is required to issue a memorandum to all HPMV permit holders using State Highway 3. This memorandum gives permission for the alternative route to be used as a HPMV route for the duration of the closure.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 **Public Consultation - Section 82**

The Stratford Business Association are required to liaise with all residents and traders affected by the proposed road closure. A notification was placed on the Stratford District Council website on 22 October 2026. At the time of writing this report, no written objections have been received by the Stratford District Council. The closing date for feedback was Wednesday 4 November 2026.

Stratford Business Association has contacted the New Zealand Transport Agency, Police, FENZ, St John's Ambulance and the Road Transport Authority seeking their approval for the proposed road closure. At the time of writing this report, no objections have been received.

5.2 **Māori Consultation - Section 81**

There are no known effects that this event is likely to have on local iwi issues.

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 full Health and Safety Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan have been prepared for this event. Further, Stratford District Council have been indemnified against any claims whatsoever arising from the event (**Appendix 1**).

In order for the Christmas Parade to be held in a safe manner on public roads, it is essential that these roads are closed for the duration of the Christmas Parade. This will safeguard the participants in the Christmas Parade as well as spectators along the route of the parade. Each entrant in the parade has to provide two people to walk alongside their float as a safety precaution. This is a requirement of the Stratford Business Association. This requirement has been included in their Safety Plan for the event.

7. Sustainability Consideration

7.1 Council strives to provide a resilient infrastructure network to meet the needs of the current and future generations of Stratford and enable the continuation of the Christmas Parade, in accordance with Council's Sustainability Policy.

The Council's Waste Minimisation Officer will be working alongside the Stratford Business Association to provide recycling bins at various locations within the Central Business District for spectators to dispose of any waste in an environmentally sustainable manner.

8. Decision Making Process – Section 79

8.1 **Direction**

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	Yes. This event brings the community together to participate in a fun activity during the festive season.
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 2004.

8.2 **Data**

Yes, the times of the proposed road closures are outlined in the recommendation above.

8.3 **Significance**

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance Policy in the Long Term Plan?	No	
Is it: • 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	Some traders may be affected by the parade. However, the Business Association have encouraged the traders along Broadway to be part of the late night shopping event.

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

8.4 **Options**

Option 1.
Do not approve the closing of the roads listed above. If this is the option chosen, then the Stratford Business Association will not be able to hold their annual Christmas Parade.

Option 2.
Endorse the proposed road closures as outlined in recommendation two above to indicate our support for this event. This will have a positive impact on Stratford at this festive time of year. **This is the recommended option.**

8.5 **Financial**

The cost of providing the traffic management will be met by the Stratford Business Association. Stratford District Council's officer time for approving the traffic management plan is met from current roading budgets.

8.6 **Prioritisation & Trade-off**

The Stratford Business Association has sought the assistance of Central Traffic Services to provide and monitor the traffic management for the duration of the event.

8.7 **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.

8.8 **Policy Issues - Section 80**

This report is consistent with the policy for Temporary Road Closures.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Letter of request from Stratford Business Association
Appendix 2 – Traffic Management Plan for the event.

Frank Hick
Roading Engineer



[Endorsed by]
Victoria Araba
Director - Assets



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive **Date** 2 November 2026

Appendix 1

Stratford Business Association
Heart of Taranaki

18 AUGUST 2026

Frank Hick
Stratford District Council
PO Box 320
STRATFORD

Dear Frank

2026 Christmas Parade

The Stratford Business Association is planning the annual Christmas Parade to be held on Friday 27th November 2026. The road closure will be in place from 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

The parade will follow the same route as previous years. The proposed areas for road closure are:

- Miranda St between Regan St and Fenton St and the War Memorial Carpark
- Fenton St between Portia St and Broadway (SH3)
- Broadway (SH3) between Seyton St and Page St

We have engaged Central Traffic Services who will be completing the Traffic Management Plan and carrying out the work on the day.

The Stratford Business Association indemnifies the Stratford District Council and New Zealand Transport Agency against any claim whatsoever arising from the Stratford Christmas Parade to be held on Friday 27th November 2026.

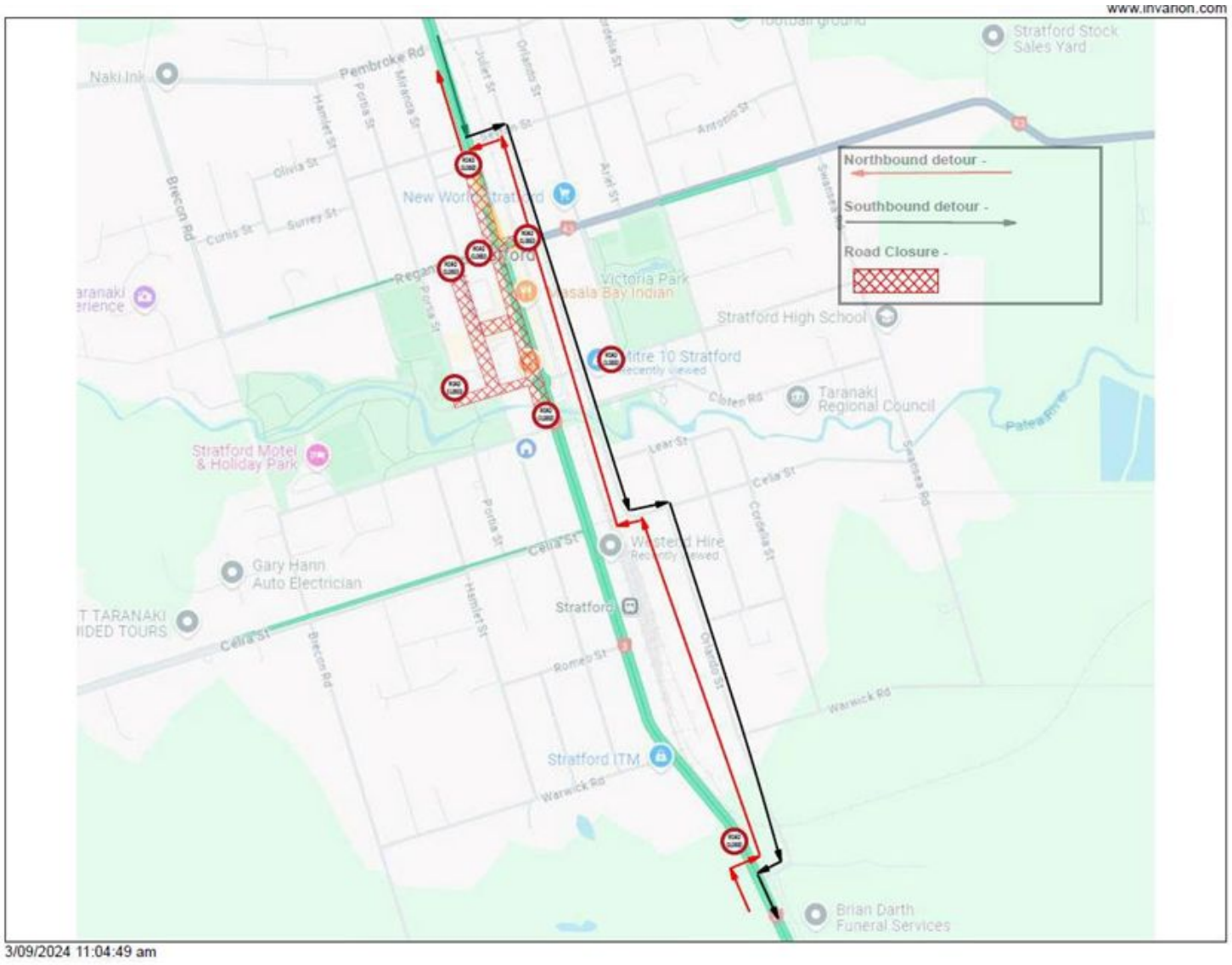
A copy of our public liability insurance Certificate of Currency is attached. Please note that this expires on 29/10/2026. I will send the new policy through once received.

Kind regards,

Amy Hill
SECRETARY

C/O SBA, 246 Broadway, Stratford, 4332 | 027 5116311 | admin@heartoftaranaki.nz

Appendix 2


www.invarion.com
Northbound detour -
Southbound detour -
Road Closure -
Stratford Stock Sales Yard
Pembroke Rd
Victoria Park
Stratford High School
Mitre 10 Stratford
Taranaki Regional Council
Stratford Motel & Holiday Park
Gary Hann Auto Electrician
Stratford
Stratford ITM
Brian Darth Funeral Services
3/09/2024 11:04:49 am

DECISION REPORT

F25/96/004 – D26/46800

To: Council
From: The Governance Advisor
Date: 10 November 2026
Subject: Exemption for voting eligibility for non-elected members on committees

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

2. THAT Council approve the submission of exemption requests to the Minister of Local Government for the following non-elected roles: *[insert positions*].

3. THAT the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to submit the exemption request and any supporting information required by the Minister.

Recommended Reason
To ensure Council considers the implications of the Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 and determines its preferred approach regarding the future role of non-elected members on Council committees.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to decide which non-elected members serving on Council committees should be put forward to the Minister of Local Government for consideration under the Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 (the Act). If approved, those members would be granted an exemption and retain voting rights on the relevant committee.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Minister has written to all Chairs and Mayors advising them of the changes to voting rights arising from the Act. These changes state that voting rights on council committees, joint committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies are reserved for elected members only. This requirement will come into force on 18 March 2027.

2.2 This was one of the few provisions of the Act that did not come into force immediately. The delayed commencement provides councils with time to consider the governance implications of the changes and the future role and of non-elected members.

2.3 The Act does, however, provide for certain exceptions. These include committees or appointments required for the purposes of another enactment (other than the Local Government Act) and arrangements required to give effect to Treaty settlements. An example is the Resource Management Steering Group, which is a requirement of the Planning Act 2026.

2.4 The Act provides for the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government, to grant exemptions where the Minister is satisfied that they are necessary or desirable. Exemptions may be time-limited or indefinite, and may be granted with or without conditions. Council must now decide whether it wishes to submit a request for an exemption to the Minister. The Minister has requested that any such requests be submitted by 18 November 2026.

3. Local Government Act 2002 – Section 10

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of local government is to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local infrastructure, public services, and regulatory functions.
Does the decision support the purpose of local government? This decision relates to governance arrangements and does not directly impact the provision of infrastructure, public services, or regulatory functions.

Provision of good-quality infrastructure	Provision of good-quality public services	Performance of regulatory functions	Supports cost-effective service delivery

This decision is government policy and does not support the purpose of local government.

4. Background

4.1 On 2 June 2026, the Minister of Local Government announced that council voting would be restricted to elected members only. He quoted in his press release "We've seen examples in the Far North, in Tauranga and in Hastings where individuals, such as iwi representatives and young people aged under 18, have been appointed to council committees and given voting rights without being elected by the community. That's not democratic, so we're fixing it".

4.2 The changes were introduced into the Local Government (System Improvements) Bill during its passage through Parliament. Local Government New Zealand and a number of councils subsequently raised concerns regarding the limited opportunity for sector consultation and the short timeframe.

4.3 The Act was passed on 25 September and included several last-minute amendments, such as the removal of the Chief Executive reappointment provisions. Some of these amendments were not subject to the select committee process or formal advice from government departments. The changes to voting rights have been widely commented on by the local government sector.

4.4 The Act means that the following non-elected members will be affected by the changes:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Audit and Risk Committee	Chair – Philip Jones
Water Services Committee	Chair – External Member - TBC Iwi Representative - TBC
Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Committee	Mrs Darleena Christie *(Community)* Mrs Kerri Dickson *(Community)* Mrs Rae Smith *(Community)* Mr Jack Whitikia (*Community)*

Note: The Creative Communities Fund Assessment Committee is established under the New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014 and is therefore exempt from these changes.

4.5 From 18 March 2027, the non-elected members listed above will no longer be able to vote on committee decisions or be counted towards a quorum. To date, Mr Jones is the only member who has openly commented on these changes at an Audit and Risk Committee meeting. Recruitment for the Chair of the Water Services Committee is currently underway, and discussions are also taking place regarding the iwi representative role on that committee. The remaining community-appointed members have not raised any concerns and may be unaware of the changes, as no meetings have been held since the Act was passed. It should be noted that, unless an exemption

is granted, non-elected members will be able to participate in committee discussions from 18 March 2027 but will be advisory positions only.

4.6 The Minister wrote to Chairs and Mayors on 29 September 2026 advising them of the changes to voting rights. A copy of the Minister's letter is attached as an appendix to this report. The Minister has requested that any requests for an exemption be submitted by 18 November 2026. The Minister's expectations are clearly set out in the letter, which states that exemptions will be granted rarely. The Government's position is that non-elected members should generally be non-voting. The letter also outlines the information required to support an exemption request, including a copy of a Council resolution.

4.7 Given that this is an election year, it has been suggested by opposition parties that, if elected, they may seek to amend the legislation. However, any incoming Government would need to determine its priorities. In the meantime, it should be noted that the statutory provisions come into force on 18 March 2027. Under the current law, non-elected members will not have voting rights and are not counted towards a quorum.

4.8 Therefore, Council must determine its appetite for submitting an exemption request before 18 November 2026 and identify which non-elected members should be included in that request. Should Council decide to proceed, the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Mayor, would be authorised to submit the information required by the Minister, together with the relevant Council resolution. This is set out in the Minister's letter.

5. Consultative Process

5.1 **Public Consultation - Section 82**

No public consultation has been undertaken. The decision relates to the implementation of legislative change by the Government and Council's consideration of whether to seek an exemption under the Act. While the community may have an interest in the outcome, particularly given that appointed community members are affected by the changes to voting rights, consultation has not been considered necessary due to the statutory nature of the decision and the limited timeframe for submitting any exemption request to the Minister.

5.2 **Māori Consultation - Section 81**

No specific consultation with Māori has been undertaken. Council notes that the legislative changes may affect Māori representation, as the Water Services Committee includes provision for an iwi-appointed representative. Given the statutory nature of the decision and the limited timeframe for submitting any exemption request to the Minister, specific consultation has not been undertaken.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The legislative changes will require Council to review the role of non-elected members on its committees. If no exemptions are sought, or if any exemption requests are declined, some committees may lose the benefit of specialist knowledge and independent perspectives currently provided by those members. There is a risk that the removal of voting rights could reduce the willingness of some non-elected members to continue serving on Council committees, particularly where they have been appointed to contribute specialist expertise and participate in decision-making. This may be particularly relevant for the Audit and Risk Committee and the Water Services Committee. Both committees have independent Chairs (for the Water Services Committee this will be soon) whose subject matter expertise has been specifically sought to provide assurance and informed advice to Council. Mr Jones is a highly experienced independent Audit and Risk Chairperson and currently provides this expertise to a number of both large and small councils. In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Water Services Committee state that the Chair should have relevant experience and expertise in three waters infrastructure and engineering.

6.2 Council also has provision for an iwi representative on the Water Services Committee. The removal of voting rights may change the nature of that role and could impact Council's relationship with mana whenua. This may need to be considered as part of the committee's future governance arrangements.

6.3 No significant new risks have been identified as a result of this report. The primary risk for Council is ensuring that it complies with the legislative requirements by 18 March 2027 and that any necessary governance arrangements are updated before that date.

7. Sustainability Consideration

This section is not applicable to this decision.

8. Decision Making Process – Section 79

8.1 Direction

	Explain
Is there a strong link to Council's strategic direction, Long Term Plan/District Plan?	None – this is government policy.
What relationship does it have to the communities current and future needs for infrastructure, regulatory functions, or local public services?	None – this is government policy.

8.2 Data

Not applicable. However, the Audit and Risk Committee has had an independent Chair for some time, who has made a significant contribution to Council's risk management and financial reporting.

8.3 Significance

	Yes/No	Explain
Is the proposal significant according to the Significance and Engagement Policy in the Long Term Plan?		
Is it: • considered a strategic asset; or	No	None. This is a consequence of Government policy.
• above the financial thresholds in the Significance and Engagement Policy; or	No	Above.
• impacting on a CCO stakeholding; or	No	Above.
• a change in level of service; or	No	Above.
• creating a high level of controversy; or	Yes	This has generated interest within the local government sector.
• possible that it could have a high impact on the community?	No	Above.

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

8.4 **Options**

Option 1:
Seek Exemptions for **Independent Committee Chairs.**

Option 2:
Seek Exemptions for **All Non-Elected Committee Members.**

Option 3:
Do nothing.

Option Analysis:

Option 1: Seek Exemptions for Independent Committee Chairs

Under this option, Council would submit exemption requests for the independent Chairs of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Water Services Committee. This would recognise the specialist skills and experience these positions bring to Council's governance and decision-making processes, while limiting exemption requests to those appointments where specialist expertise or independent oversight is considered important to the committee's role. This option is likely to be more consistent with the Minister's expectation that exemptions will be granted only in limited circumstances.

Option 2: Seek Exemptions for All Non-Elected Committee Members

Under this option, Council would submit exemption requests for all current non-elected members serving on Council committees. This would enable Council to retain existing governance arrangements and preserve the contribution of community representatives, independent experts, and the iwi representative on the Water Services Committee. While this option would provide the greatest continuity, it may be less aligned with the Government's stated policy that non-elected members should generally be non-voting.

Option 3: Do Not Seek Any Exemptions

Under this option, Council would not submit any exemption requests and would implement the legislative changes as enacted. From 18 March 2027, non-elected members would no longer have voting rights or be counted towards a quorum. This option would be fully consistent with the Government's policy position but may require changes to committee structures and would remove the voting rights currently held by independent and community-appointed members.

Officer Comment

Officers consider that Option 1 represents the most balanced approach. It recognises the value of independent expertise on key governance committees while remaining broadly consistent with the Minister's expectation that exemptions will be granted rarely.

8.5 **Financial**

No significant financial implications have been identified. Independent Chairs would continue to be remunerated at the current rate. If exemptions are not granted, their role would remain advisory and they would not have voting rights.

8.6 **Prioritisation & Trade-off**

This section is not applicable to this decision. Any delay in making a decision however may affect Council's ability to submit exemption requests to the Minister by 18 November 2026.

8.7 **Legal Issues**

No specific legal issues have been identified. The legislative requirements are set out in the Act.

8.8 **Policy Issues - Section 80**

This section is not applicable to this decision. No policy issues have been identified, and the recommendation is not inconsistent with any existing Council policy.

8.9 **Section 11A - Core Services Considerations**

No. This matter relates to governance arrangements and legislative change rather than the delivery of a core service.

Attachments

- **Appendix One:** Letter from the Minister of Local Government – Voting at council committee meetings



Gareth Hancock
Governance Advisor



[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive **Date** **4 November 2026**

Appendix One: Letter from the Minister of Local Government – Voting at council committee meetings

Hon Simon Watts

Minister for Building and Construction
Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue
Minister for Auckland

29 SEP 2026

Mayors and regional council chairs
By email

Dear Mayors and Chairs

Voting at council committee meetings

On 18 September 2026, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal assent. The Act reserves voting rights on council committees, joint committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies ("specified committees") for elected members only.

As I have stated previously, the purpose of this change is to strengthen democratic accountability. Councils may continue to appoint non-elected members to specified committees to provide expertise, stakeholder perspectives, or community representation. However, unless an exception applies, non-elected members must not vote and are not counted toward the quorum of the meeting.

Your council must comply with the Act from 18 March 2027. The purpose of this transition period is to ensure you have enough time to change the structure of or delegations to your council's specified committees, if required.

The Act also provides for certain exceptions. These include committees or appointments that are required under or for the purposes of another enactment and arrangements required to give effect to Treaty settlements.

Additionally, the Act provides for the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government, to grant exceptions where the Minister is satisfied these are necessary or desirable. Exceptions may be time-limited or indefinite, and with or without conditions.

My expectations are that exceptions will be granted rarely. The Government's policy is that non-elected members should generally be non-voting. Councils seeking an exception will therefore need to demonstrate a clear and specific justification that supports the statutory test that the exception is necessary or desirable.

The next page of this letter contains information on how requests for exceptions will be considered.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand | +64 4 817 6814 | s.watts@ministers.govt.nz

If your council considers that an exception may be required, I encourage you to submit a request in writing to the Minister of Local Government by 18 November 2026 enclosing:

- A copy of a resolution from your council in support of the exception.
- Information about the issue the exception would address, why existing governance arrangements would not adequately address the issue, and how the council would manage the issue without an exception.
- Information about the role of the committee, the proposed role of non-elected members, and the steps that would be taken to maintain democratic legitimacy and public accountability.
- Information about how the exception fits within the broader statutory framework, including any comparable precedents.

Requests regarding a joint committee should ideally have the support of all councils who are members of the joint committee.

Requests should contain sufficient information for the Minister to recommend the exception to the Governor-General.

Officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) will assess any requests received and provide advice to the Minister of Local Government after the election. It is my intention that decisions will be made and communicated early next year, and exceptions will come into force at the end of the transition period.

If you require more information:

- Visit the MCERT website at www.mcert.govt.nz/our-work/local-government/local-government-system-improvements/.
- Contact your MCERT Local Government Partnership Director.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

MONTHLY REPORT
District Mayor

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/004 – D26/47597

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 10 November 2026
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report – October 2026

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Local Government Conference

Last month Councillors Dudley, Hall, Bertie and myself attended the Local Government Conference in Rotorua. This year's format was slightly different than in the past, as the Annual General Meeting had been held as an on-line meeting some months earlier. This freed up conference time for other purposes.

Being an election year, it was inevitable to have a gaggle of politicians competing for support for their ideas. Frankly, I didn't hear much to inspire me that the future will be brighter or easier for councils. But what I did hear was that if the current government is re-elected the planned reforms will be back on the table and progress in 2027. On the other side of the political fence, I heard nothing to suggest they would oppose these changes, meaning they will also progress their own version of amalgamation reforms. Either way, huge change is coming.

Conference was a good opportunity for councillors to hear from key note speakers and panel guests, to participate in breakout sessions and of course engage in networking with elected members from other councils. In terms of professional development, providing this opportunity for elected members is valuable. Conference presentations and slides have been shared with our other elected members. Next year's conference is in Hamilton.

2. The BERL Local Government Cost Index 2026

Each year Taituarā commissions economic research consultancy BERL to produce a report to assist local authorities in their planning. The final 2026 annual report provides councils with updated forecasts of the costs they can expect to face over the next decade, helping inform budgeting and infrastructure investment. It is a useful tool and provides a data base for us to utilise when forecasting financials in future years.

This year's report forecasts some significant cost increases in 2026, including:

- **Transport:** 12.5%
- **Roading:** 6.2%
- **Water infrastructure:** 5.4%
- **Waste:** 5.0%

Higher global fuel and energy prices, driven in part by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, are contributing to these increases. While BERL expects this spike to be temporary, with cost growth returning towards longer-term trends from 2027, it warns that councils should prepare for greater volatility and uncertainty in future costs.

Despite these short-term pressures, the longer-term outlook remains relatively stable. Overall local government costs are forecast to increase by an average of **2.37% annually between 2026 and 2036**, only marginally higher than the 2.36% forecast in last year's report.

However, BERL emphasises that slower cost growth does not mean costs are falling. The significant price increases experienced between 2021 and 2023 remain built into the cost of delivering council services and infrastructure.

Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures changes in household costs, the LGCI reflects the goods and services councils actually purchase, including labour, construction, maintenance and infrastructure.

The report provides separate forecasts for key council activities, including roading, transport, water, waste, community services, and planning and regulation, as well as operating and capital expenditure. These forecasts give councils a more relevant basis for planning future expenditure, rather than relying solely on general inflation measures which is clearly the wrong indicator.

With economic uncertainty expected to continue, BERL also encourages councils to plan for a wider range of possible cost outcomes, particularly when making long-term investment decisions.

3. Site visit to CDC Data Centre

Recently Councillors Dudley, Boyde, Beck, Hall, Watt and myself travelled to Silverdale in Auckland to visit and experience a data centre first hand. This centre was operated by CDC, the same people proposing to construct a centre at Stratford. We were accompanied by representatives from Iwi, Venture Taranaki, Contact Energy and some others who joined us on a tour of the facility. This was about learning and understanding what these facilities actually are, how they are constructed and the systems they have in place to maintain continuous service to their customers.

At a personal level, I went there to critique the data centre and to see if any of the issues that opponents of data centres promulgate were evident. Specifically, are they disruptive to neighbours, is there excessive noise, is there any visual impact, are there any environmental issues and if so, how do they mitigate those concerns.

I came away feeling much more informed about the construction and operation of a data centre. It is important to note that elected members, including myself, will not play a part in the consenting process when a consent application is made, but the trip was well worthwhile as most elected members have been approached by people in the community and asked questions. We are now much better equipped and able to provide an informed response when asked.

4. Meeting with representatives of Venture Taranaki and Ngāti Maru

Recently I met with representatives of Venture Taranaki and Ngāti Maru to have a general conversation about the proposed data centre near Stratford. We sought to share our views and perhaps identify any common matters that would benefit from having a collegial, unified approach to the issue. No decisions were made but we are now more aware of any concerns and the views of each other, which later on will lead to better outcomes for all parties.

5. Minister Erica Stanford visit

Election time always brings political visitors to town and last week it was the Minister of Education Erica Stanford who visited Stratford. It was a good opportunity to hear first-hand, her thoughts on the direction of the education system as a whole. I have to say, her enthusiasm for the role and her belief in education as the tool that will enable young people to achieve in life, was very impressive. The changes that have been made to the curriculum are already showing improved outcomes and her understanding of how the system has failed many students in the past, was clear.

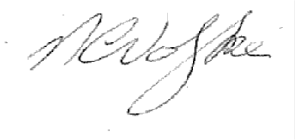
Doing the same old same old, will not solve the problems and steps like returning to the curriculum basics, cell phone bans and better attendance by students are simple, practical improvements that the Minister touted as key factors to improve outcomes. The Minister is certainly not afraid to change things up.

6. Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – October 2026

7. Some Events Attended

- Attended – Site visit of CDC Data Centre at Silverdale
- Attended – Powhiri for NPDC Chief Executive Kelvin Wright
- Attended – Resource Management Reform Steering Group Hui
- Attended – meeting if the SDC Youth Council
- Attended - LGNZ Annual Conference in Rotorua
- Attended - the MTFJ Annual General meeting
- Attended - the Justice of the Peace Association Annual General meeting
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Park Steering Committee
- Attended – St Josephs School Mission Day
- Attended – Maryann Rest Home mini A & P Show
- Attended – Stratford Singers Masquerade Performance
- Attended – Stratford Primary School – Book reading session
- Attended – LGNZ briefing by National Council (by zoom x 3)
- Met – with representatives of Venture Taranaki
- Met – with Minister Erica Stanford
- Met – with NZTA regional director Linda Stewart
- Met - with representatives of Venture Taranaki and Ngāti Maru
- Met – with members of the CE Performance Review Committee (x2)
- Met - with Carl Bates, National Member of Parliament (x 2)
- 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 (x1)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x2)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x5)



Neil Volzke JP
District Mayor **Date**: 4 November 2026

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Callouts October 2026

The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 15 calls in October 2026:

02-10-26	Tanker required at house fire Manutahi Road Lepperton assist Waitara, Inglewood and New Plymouth Fire Brigades
03-10-26	Assist ambulance with medical call Elsinore Street
05-10-26	Investigate residential smoke alarm sounding Celia Street
06-10-26	Gas leak Celia Street
09-10-26	Motor vehicle accident car vs. car Palmer Road assist Kaponga fire brigade
10-10-26	Investigate smoke coming from Industrial Chemistry Services Miranda Street
13-10-26	Brigade van required at alarm activation Kaponga Hotel assist Kaponga and Manaia fire brigades stood down
16-10-26	Brigade van required at car fire Cheal Road assist Eltham fire brigade
18-10-26	Alarm activation Stratford Library Miranda Street
19-10-26	Alarm activation Stratford Library Miranda Street
20-10-26	Alarm activation Avon Primary School Hamlet Street
23-10-26	Investigate vegetation fire Kahouri Road
25-10-26	Vegetation fire Kahouri Road
29-10-26	Assist ambulance with medical call Margaret Street
29-10-23	Alarm activation Taranaki Diocesan School Pembroke Road attended by the Toko and Eltham fire brigades

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

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