



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

1 October 2026

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that, the **Water Services** committee meeting of Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford**, on **Tuesday 6 October 2026**, beginning at **1.00pm**.

Additionally, 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 6 October 2026**, beginning at **3.30pm**.

The timetable is as follows:

1.00pm	Water Services Committee
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Ngā mihi,

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2026 - Agenda - Ordinary - October (Open)

06 October 2026 03:30 PM



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AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council



F25/96/006 – D26/38404

Date: 6 October 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 – 8 September 2026**
D26/34482 Page 9

Recommendation

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

/
Moved/Seconded

- 6.1.1 Public Forum Notes
D26/34620 Page 14

- 6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 22 September 2026**
D26/25834 Page 15

Recommendations

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

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 22 September 2026
D26/35907 Page 21

Recommendations

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

/
Moved/Seconded

7. District Mayor's Report
D26/38377 Page 29

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

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)).

/
Moved/Seconded

9. Public Excluded Item

10. Public Excluded

11. Resolution to Open to the Public

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

 /
Moved/Seconded

12. Questions

13. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 38



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

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

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



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D22/17082

Health and Safety Message

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

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

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

Date	10/02/26	24/02/26	10/03/26	14/04/26	12/05/26	26/05/26	09/06/26	14/07/26	21/07/26	04/08/26	11/08/26	08/09/26	13/10/26	10/11/26	08/12/26
Meeting	O	E	O	O	O	E	O	O	E	E	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
David Chadwick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓			
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Jaimie Bertie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Josh Best	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓			
Grant Boyde	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓			
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓			
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Katherine Sextus	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

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

MINUTES

Ordinary



F25/96/005 – D26/34482

Date: 8 September 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, Josh Best, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

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

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

None.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor acknowledged that this was Gemma Gibson's final Council meeting, as her last day with the Council is Friday. The District Mayor thanked her for her professional contributions and valued input, both as a staff member and as a person.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. None were noted.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Extraordinary Council of Council – 4 August 2026 D26/29529 Page 9

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 4 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/88

6.2 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 August 2026

D26/29842 (PX) D26/31361 (Open)

Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 11 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BECK/BEST
Carried
CL/26/89

6.2.1 Public Forum Notes

D26/30925

Page 17

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 25 August 2026

D26/32315 (PX) D26/34104 (Open)

Page 18

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee, including the public excluded section, meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2026 be received.

VOLZKE/HARRS
Carried
CL/26/90

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee, including the public excluded section, meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2026 be adopted.

DUDLEY/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/91

Councillor Chadwick's name was not included in the list of those present. The Governance Advisor will amend this.

7. Decision Report - Carry Forward Capital Projects from 2025/26 to 2026/27

D26/32734

Page 26

Recommendations

1. THAT the report and attached schedule be received.

ERWOOD/HALL
Carried
CL/26/92

2. THAT 27 budget lines, totalling \$11,808,533, from the 2025/26 financial year are carried forward to the 206/27 financial year.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
CL/26/93

Recommended Reason

The budget of \$11,808,533 is required for the 2026/27 financial year to complete the 23 budget lines that were started in the 2025/26 financial year.

The Property and Projects Manager noted the following:

- Noted that this report carries forward 27 budget lines, totalling \$11,808,533. Of these, five projects represent 95% of the budget. A number of the projects have committed expenditure and require carry-forward funding.
- The desludging ponds project was discussed, and it was noted that expenditure is expected to come in under budget, with the full budget unlikely to be spent.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarification on the desludging project. Further detail was provided, and it was noted that the project is expected to be completed by March 2028.
- Councillor Erwood queried the desludging project and asked how much was expected to be saved. It was noted that the work has currently come in at approximately half of the budgeted amount. However, the final saving will not be known until the project is completed.
- The Deputy Mayor queried whether the renewals projects were tied to specific projects, using safety renewals as an example. It was noted that these are general and are only spent as required.
- The Deputy Mayor asked whether the capital items were rate-funded or loan-funded and this was explained. It was also queried how these carry-forwards would impact the next capital works programme. It was noted that there are 56 projects in the current programme, and the carried-forward projects will be added to these. The focus remains on completing the programme, and it is expected that the projects will be completed. It was also noted that this is the final year of the current LTP.
- Councillor Beck noted that the desludging project is expected to come in under budget and asked whether the underspend would remain in the reserve. This was confirmed. It was further noted that the reserve is funded through a targeted rate and can only be used for wastewater purposes.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the carry-forward amount is significant and raises the same question each year as to if Council is attempting to deliver too much within the timeframe and resources.

8. Decision Report -Restriction of Access to Lower Kohuratahi Bridge #2

D26/31955

Page 37

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/94
2. THAT, pursuant to Clause 9 of the Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw 2025, and Regulation 11 of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, access to the Lower Kohuratahi Bridge #2 (Bridge ID: 0133/0203) is closed to all vehicles and restricted to pedestrian traffic, not exceeding a gross mass of 400 kg, at all times.
BOYDE/WATT
Carried
CL/26/95
3. THAT Officers are authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw 2025 Schedule to reflect Council's resolution on the matter.
VOLZKE/SEXTUS
Carried
CL/26/96

Recommended Reason

Council Roading Engineers received advice from our structural engineering consultants that Lower Kohuratahi Bridge #2 should be closed to traffic for safety reasons, due the age and structural condition of the bridge. A 400 kg mass gross limit was recommended, restricting it only to pedestrian traffic weighing less than 400 kg in gross limit.

The Director - Asset noted the following:

- This report seeks approval to impose restrictions on the bridge, as outlined in the report. The need for these restrictions arose from engineering advice. Upon receiving this advice, Council acted and communicated the closure to ensure safety. It was noted that residents on the far side of the bridge were unhappy with the restrictions. Once a decision is made, options can be considered, including bringing the bridge upgrade forward from Year Four of the LTP.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on the 1,500 kg mass limit, asking whether this applied per axle and what types of vehicles would be able to use the bridge. It was confirmed that the limit related to the vehicle's gross mass and would generally permit only light vehicles. The Deputy Mayor further asked whether a specific event had contributed to the bridge's deterioration. It was confirmed that the deterioration was due to the age of the bridge, which is a swing bridge. It was noted that replacement of the bridge is estimated to cost \$3 million, while repairs are estimated at \$1 million. The purpose of this decision is to formally restrict the bridge, as it has now been closed,

and to allow Council time to identify a long-term solution. The Deputy Mayor noted that the report was six months old and asked when stakeholders had been advised. The Director advised that, when she became Acting Manager of the Roading Team, the issue was brought to her attention and action was taken.

- Councillor Boyde asked whether the bridge inspections occur every two years, noting that the bridge capacity had reduced from 1,500 kg to 400 kg over that period. He also asked whether the affected property had alternative access. It was confirmed that it did not. Councillor Boyde commented that a quicker solution needs to be found for the affected property owner.
- The Mayor asked who would be responsible for enforcing the restriction. It was noted that a bollard solution had been considered, although a similar approach had not worked well previously. The Mayor further asked whether signage alone would be sufficient to transfer responsibility to individuals. It was confirmed that installing a gate was one option if restriction was approved.
- Councillor Beck noted the challenges associated with the signage and sought clarification on signage requirements. This was further explained. It was also confirmed that the advice was based on the bridge's gross mass limit and that the bridge is now closed.
- Councillor Hall queried the two-year inspection cycle and asked whether the bridge had deteriorated significantly during that period. Further explanation was provided, and it was noted that the Director became aware of the issue recently. Councillor Hall also asked whether there was any liability associated with the six-month period between February and now. It was noted that the bridge was closed once the engineering advice was discovered. Councillor Hall further noted that the affected business relies on access across the bridge and that each week of closure has financial implications for the owner. She stressed the importance of providing a timeframe for options and further advice. The Director confirmed that options had been developed, with a fourth option currently being explored that would provide access via a neighbouring property.
- Councillor Dudley sought clarification regarding the restriction on vehicles and whether beef cows would be permitted. The Chief Executive confirmed that the bridge would be restricted to pedestrian traffic with a gross mass not exceeding 400 kg.
- The Deputy Mayor suggested that this case should be considered as part of Council's LGNZ remit on uneconomic bridges. It was agreed that this could serve as a useful example.
- Councillor Boyde asked whether all affected parties had been kept informed of the situation and the progress being made. This was confirmed and further explained.

Points noted in the discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted that this decision is fundamentally about safety.
- The Deputy Mayor spoke in support of the motion. She noted that the affected parties once had a bridge but now effectively do not, and that if an alternative access route were available, it would be in use. She commented that uneconomic bridges are a bane for councils and that there is an obligation to find a solution. The Deputy Mayor also expressed concern about the delay between receiving the engineering advice and taking action, and the associated risks during that period. She noted that NZTA should be a supporting partner in addressing the issue and looked forward to a solution being progressed.

9. District Mayor's Report

D26/33674

Page 61

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/97

The District Mayor noted the following:

- He wished to draw members' attention to the correspondence and noted the Minister's correspondence on rates caps and emergency management. He also noted the letter regarding Mount Maunganui, which has been referred to the Audit and Risk Chair, and that the Chief Executive has raised the matter with the Senior Leadership Team. The NZTA correspondence and the FAR rates were also noted, with FAR funding decreasing. The Minister's letter on civil defence reform was described as a classic unfunded mandate.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the FAR and its impact on rates. It was noted that this would be brought back through the next Corporate Report.

- Councillor Harris sought clarification on how neighbouring councils are responding. It was noted that, according to NZTA, none of the neighbouring councils have experienced an increase.

10. Public Forum Response

Speaker Di Gleeson
Topic Central Taranaki SAFE Community Trust

It was noted that it was good to hear from SAFE Trust, and that they had provided a comprehensive report. A question was raised as to whether South Taranaki provides funding to the Trust, and Councillor Erwood confirmed that it does.

11. Questions

- None.

12. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 70

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.18 pm.

Neil Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 6th day of October 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

PUBLIC FORUM

Notes



F25/96/005 – D26/34620

Date: 8 September 2026 at 3.00pm

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, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

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

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, members of the public, staff, and the media.

2. Speakers

Speaker: Di Gleeson

Topic: Central Taranaki SAFE Community Trust

Points noted in the presentation:

- Thanks were expressed for the funding, which was noted as being well used and greatly appreciated.
- The Trust manages Neighbourhood Support and noted that this contributes to crime-free communities.
- There are 4,026 email subscribers, with information distributed through support networks, Neighbourhood Day events, community gatherings, and support initiatives.
- The Trust manages the Community Patrol vehicle, which carries out checks. The patrol also forms part of Civil Defence emergency response, with 32 volunteers and 191 observations recorded.
- Fourteen cameras are currently monitored, with two new cameras coming on board. Efforts continue to upgrade the camera network.
- Tamper-proof plates were discussed as a crime prevention method, along with Safer Plates Day initiatives.
- A total of 371 car seat cashbacks have been done.
- Swimming lessons were noted as part of the Trust's activities.
- Save a Life programmes, including free CPR and AED training, were highlighted. There are now 39 AEDs in the community, with another 10 planned for installation. A total of 625 people have completed the training course, with further opportunities available to increase participation. Noted the Good SAM initiative they work with.
- Safer Ageing initiatives were also noted, with a goal of encouraging all seniors to complete the programme.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Dudley noted concerns about scammers targeting the elderly and expressed support for the Trust's outreach work.
- Councillor Beck asked whether the Good SAM alerts would apply in rural or urban areas. It was confirmed they would apply to both.
- Councillor Boyde asked whether the Trust attends farmer discussion groups. It was confirmed they are happy to attend and provide assistance.

The forum closed at 3.22pm.

MINUTES

Audit and Risk Committee



F25/96/005 – D26/35905

Date: Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 1.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

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

In attendance

Councillors: Steve Beck, Annette Dudley, Katherine Sextus, David Chadwick, Josh Best, the Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Community Services –Kate Whareaitu, the Health and Safety/Emergency Management Advisor –Daniel Pemberton (part meeting), the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, the Senior Accountant – Christine Craig, the Property and Projects Manager - Steve Taylor.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Announcements

None.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Chair requested councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on the agenda. None were noted.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Audit and Risk Committee meetings was attached. It was noted No corrections were noted.

6. Programme of Works

D25/45958 Page 10

Recommendation

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

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/41

The Chief Executive noted that this report forms part of the normal work programme. The Chair noted that the Water Services Committee has now been established and requested that any key risks to Council be brought forward to the Committee. The Chief Executive advised

that these would be addressed under Item 10 as part of the Risk Management report and, if required, would be brought back to the Audit and Risk Committee through a separate report.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee - 14 July 2026
D26/25834 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 be confirmed as amended a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
A&R/26/42

The Mayor noted an error on page 16, this would be amended by the Governance Advisor.

8. Matters Outstanding

None

9. Information Report - Health, Safety and Wellbeing

D26/34879 Page 18

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
A&R/26/43

The Health & Safety Advisor provided an update on the chlorine gas leak alarm and noted that an action plan has been put in place in response to the incident.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde queried what procedures were in place for the sport field next door in the event of a chlorine leak. It was advised that TET would be notified, and the property manager notified them during the incident.
- The Chair noted and asked whether there was a category for lockdowns. It was explained that there was no specific category in place.

10. Information Report - Risk Management

D26/34954 Page 25

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
A&R/26/44

Recommended Reason

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

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- The CE noted that items 2.2 and 2.3 were the most relevant items on the agenda and elaborated on them for members.
- It was noted that item 2.3 contained positive news across the board. The TET risk continues to progress positively, and constructive conversations are ongoing. Historical consenting issues are also reducing, with general acceptance that Council is not the responsible party.
- The CE also noted the correspondence from the Minister and the organisation's response to that correspondence.
- Discussion was held regarding the Mount Maunganui letter. The CE noted that the organisation's response has been to take a step back and assess the operational risks, including whether there are risks that have simply been accepted over time. The Eastern High Country and slip events were noted as potential examples.
- It was noted that the organisation is identifying issues being managed operationally that could have the most significant credible consequences and considering what the outcomes of those risks could be. The organisation is taking a fresh look at whether certain operational risks have been accepted without review.
- It was noted that work is being undertaken from the bottom up with a fresh review process, and a report will be brought back to the Committee.
- It was noted that the recent decision by the Policy and Services Committee to restrict the bridge.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall noted that she liked the CE's approach of not relying solely on the risk register and was keen to see the outcome of the work.
- Councillor Beck sought clarification regarding slips and the associated risks. The distinction between under-slips and over-slips was explained, along with recent engagement with contractors to proactively address these risks.
- The District Mayor noted that the emphasis of the letter was on councils being aware of risks and not taking action. The focus was on known risks and understanding what triggers their escalation. The CE noted that, due to the Council's size, the escalation process to elected members is relatively short.
- Councillor Dudley noted that procedures were not followed in the Mount Maunganui example and suggested that this type of issue should be reflected in the Council's risk register. The Chair noted in the Mount Maunganui event the out-of-hours responses can present risks, particularly where information is downplayed or not passed to the appropriate person.
- Councillor Hall referred to Risk 72 and elected member decision-making. She noted that there is no assessment of whether staff are providing quality information to elected members and questioned this. The Chair responded that it is a two-way street and elaborated on this. It was further noted that no one has complete knowledge and that hindsight is often clearer. Councillor Boyde noted there is a risk associated with officer advice and that elected members receive large volumes of information. The CE advised that this risk had previously been included on the risk register but may have since been removed. The CE also noted that the risk register is regularly reviewed by the Committee.
- Councillor Boyde raised the Building Act reforms and noted that it is difficult to assess their impact at this stage. He asked when further detail on the legislation and its implications for Council would be available. The Director noted that the timing is dependent on the Government and that the reforms represent an ongoing programme of change. The CE further elaborated on the proposed changes and the potential impacts on Council buildings. It was noted that many building upgrades undertaken by Council are voluntary and driven by civil defence requirements.
- Councillor Boyde referred to the rates cap model summary and asked what changes it would cover, including whether it would apply to targeted rates and the roading rate. It was confirmed that it would. The Chair further elaborated on the model, including its application to water services.
- The Chair asked whether the rates cap model summary was a draft or final version and noted that the formula is based on rateable units. The retirement village model was discussed as an example, noting that a retirement village may comprise multiple dwellings but only one rateable property.

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

D26/35081 Page 40

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/45

Recommended Reason

This report provides the Committee with an update on the status and project plan for the 2027/37 Long Term Plan, and an opportunity to comment on associated risks.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chair enquired about what would be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting in November. The Director of Community Services noted that work would be underway on the consultation document and that staff would be able to provide an update on this. It was noted that, under the "Back to Basics" approach, there are not many significant matters requiring public consultation. Council would normally consult on three key matters and will continue to assess its requirements.
- Councillor Boyde asked whether sufficient resources exist given the volume of legislative change. The CE responded that there were not. Discussion then occurred regarding how Council manages risks associated with limited resources. It was noted that the water services area provided a good example, where additional resources had been allocated to a specific area. It was further noted that the number of submissions being prepared in response to legislative changes has been reduced as a result of all the work required. Discussion also covered the fact that risks cannot always be mitigated simply through additional resourcing. The respective roles of the CE and Mayor were discussed, along with the Government's local government simplification programme and the costs associated with it. The Mayor noted that Council could choose to pivot or withdraw from it if it became too resource-intensive or costly, subject to a Council decision. The discussion concluded with the understanding that any request for additional resources, or a recommendation to cease particular work, would come to Council from the CE.
- The Chair requested that a report be brought back to the next Committee meeting on the LTP. As asset management plans are currently being developed, it was requested that key risks arising from the asset management plans and the financial strategy be reported back to the Committee at a high level.

12. Information Report - 2025/26 Annual Report update

D26/34516 Page 46

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/26/46

Recommended Reason

To provide an update to the Committee on the progress of the 2025/26 Annual Report, including draft financial statements.

The Senior Accountant noted the following points:

- Three auditors are currently onsite. The audit is progressing well, although they have only been onsite for a day and a half.
- A high-level income statement was attached to the report.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor questioned the valuation of assets, noting that a significant decrease in valuation had occurred. It was explained that the reduction related to above-ground land values rather than subsurface and was reflective of current market valuations. It was also noted that this change had not been anticipated. The Mayor queried whether this would result in a reduction in depreciation costs, and this was further explained. The Mayor noted the significance of the decrease and requested a report back on the potential depreciation savings. It was agreed that this would be brought to a future Policy and Services Committee meeting.
- The Chair noted that he had not yet had discussions with the Audit Director as part of the Annual Report process.

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

D26/34621 Page 73

Recommendations

THAT the report be received..

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
A&R/26/47

Recommended Reason

To provide a summary on the progress of our main capital expenditure budgets for the 2026/27 financial year and assess Council's ability to complete them on time and within budget.

The Property and Projects Manager noted the following points:

- The carry-forward report was provided to Council earlier this month and the end-of-year report will be provided at the next Audit & Risk meeting. The terminology used for capital expenditure projects was also noted.
- A number of projects and carry-forwards were highlighted.
- Thirteen budgets are being monitored by this Committee. Of these, 11 have been carried forward from the previous year, and two are new: the Stratford Bore project and the Kopuatama Cemetery works.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted an error in the financial year stated in the report.
- The Chair noted that some projects will carry forward to 2028 and asked whether there was a better way to measure progress or spread project, and whether any lessons had been learned from recent projects. The Chief Executive noted that Council's project management processes have improved significantly over recent years. Desludging was discussed, with it noted that the condition was the worst the operator had seen in a long time, and that the full extent of the issue was not known until work commenced. The subdivision project was discussed, with the Chief Executive noting that the wetland definition were not anticipated and did not exist previously, requiring Council to operate within the current regulatory rules. It was further noted that the Prospero Place project only received budget allocation this year. The Chief Executive advised that Council spent more on capital works in the last financial year than in any other year of the Long Term Plan to date, and that similar levels would be likely. It was acknowledged that some project carry-forwards are inevitable and, to a certain extent, represent best practice. Lessons have been learned from these projects and will be applied to future work programmes.
- The District Mayor noted the project carry-forwards, including the rollover of the TET Stadium project. The Mayor sought assurance that, in light of the changes from Government, Council would not proceed with projects before having an opportunity to review those changes. It was confirmed that the design phase was undertaken in Year One and completed in Year Two. Council is now taking the opportunity to engage with the building manager regarding the civil defence function of the facility and to obtain clarification

before the tender. The Chief Executive confirmed that the IL4 requirements have not changed.

14. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

15. General Business

There was no general business.

16. Questions

The Chief Executive read Risk 72 to the Committee, as the version provided to elected members was an abbreviated version. It was requested that the full risk register be made available in the Resource Centre.

17. Closing karakia

The closing Karakia was read.

The Meeting closed at 2.22 pm.

Philip Jones
Chairman

Confirmed this 17th day of November 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



F25/96/005 – D26/35907

Date: Tuesday 22 September 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, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, the Policy Analyst - Rebecca Dearden, the Senior Accountant – Christine Craig, the Property and Projects Manager - Steve Taylor, the Community and Economic Development Manager – Saba Afzal, the Services Asset Manager – John Cooper.

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Bertie.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Bertie apology be received.

HALL/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/119

3. Announcements

None noted.

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 - 25 August 2026
D26/32315 (PX) D26/34104 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee, including the public excluded section, meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BEST/HARRIS

Carried

P&S/26/120

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 18

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

HALL/CHADWICK

Carried

P&S/26/121

- The Chief Executive noted that the second item on the list is included on today's agenda, and that the first item has been outstanding for some time. He also noted that the Roding Manager is now in the role and will come up to speed in addressing this matter.
- The Mayor noted that, at a previous Policy and Services Committee meeting, he had raised a query regarding the rating of Māori land, but this had not been included. He asked whether there is a point at which productive land becomes rateable. The Senior Accountant explained that if the land is used for a commercial or business purpose, it is rateable. Marae are rated for services such as water, while bare land is generally not rated. The Chief Executive noted that the legislation is set out in the Rating Act. Further discussion occurred on the different land types, it was noted that the land must be classified as Māori freehold land on the title. The District Mayor noted that he would follow up on the matter outside of the meeting.

8. Decision Report - Policy Reviews - September 2026

D26/31041 Page 20

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BOYDE

Carried

P&S/26/122

2. THAT Council adopts *with amendments* the following updated policies:

1. Sensitive Expenditure Policy
2. Discretionary Information in Land Information Memoranda Policy

WATT/SEXTUS

Carried

P&S/26/123

3. THAT Council approves the removal of the Credit Card Policy and Council Workshops Policy from Council's externally facing policy framework and their transition to internally managed documents.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/124

Recommended Reason

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

The Policy Advisor noted the following:

- This review forms part of the rolling policy review programme and reflects current best practice, as well as the needs of the organisation.
- The two new policies were noted and reflect changes within the organisation and updates to legislation. The proposed changes do not alter the intent of the policies.
- Two policies are being reclassified as internal policies, as they are intended for internal use only.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor queried who the Sensitive Expenditure Policy applies to, noting that there was inconsistent wording referring to both staff and elected members, and provided examples. It was agreed that the policy applies to elected members as well, and it was clarified that the policy should reference all relevant parties. The policy will be updated and brought back to Ordinary Council.
- The Deputy Mayor queried whether the references to parking and speeding rules should instead refer to traffic rules. This was agreed.
- Councillor Dudley queried the use of the term "taxi" and whether this includes ride-share services. It was agreed that the wording would be reviewed.

9. Decision Report - New delegations for Corporate Services and Community Services
Delegations for Assets Directorate

D26/32664 Page 34

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/125

2. THAT Council approve the delegations to Council Officers under the legislation listed in Appendix 1 of this report.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/126

Recommended Reason

The proposed delegations will enable Council Officers to efficiently and lawfully exercise statutory powers and functions, support timely decision-making, and ensure Council's delegations framework remains legally compliant and aligned with operational responsibilities.

The Policy Advisor noted the following:

- This is the third and final report bringing delegations back to Council.
- The proposed changes affect the Assets Department and have some overlap with the Environmental Services Department. They reflect the legislation applicable to those roles.
- The delegations provide officers with the authority to carry out their responsibilities efficiently, rather than requiring matters to be brought to Council for routine decisions.
- This report completes the delegation review work programme.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Beck queried the delegation under the Public Works Act and sought clarification that exercising this delegation would have no direct financial impact, noting that the Act includes powers relating to compensation and land acquisition. The Chief Executive advised that these are operational tools available to staff to administer the Public Works Act and that any significant use

of these powers would involve a broader Council decision-making process. An example was provided to illustrate this. It was noted that the vast majority of such matters are addressed through the Long-Term Plan process. The Chief Executive further advised that, if these powers were exercised, this would be reported through the Council's normal reporting channels and could be reflected in relevant procedures. The Mayor noted that any compensation payments would require Council funding and therefore would need to be approved by Council and brought back to elected members for consideration. It was confirmed that this delegation is currently unassigned.

- Councillor Hall queried whether there was any circumstance in which land could be acquired under the Public Works Act for a capital project without the matter being referred back to Council. It was noted that such decisions have budgetary implications and would require Council approval. Further discussion occurred regarding the disposal of property.
- The Mayor queried the delegations relating to the acquisition of private land by agreement and the disposal of land by exchange and provided examples.

10. Decision Report - Community Investment and Impact Policy and Framework

D26/35357 Page 167

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/CHADWICK
Carried
P&S/26/127

2. THAT Council adopt the Community Investment and Impact Policy. *with changes*

3. THAT Council adopt the Community Investment and Impact Framework.

DUDLEY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/128

4. That the Community Relationship Policy is revoked.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/129

5. THAT Council increase annual community investment funding from \$51,000 to \$60,000 from 1 July 2027.

HALL/VOLZKE
Division called
For: 5 Against: 6
Lost
P&S/26/130

6. THAT Council annual community investment funding remains at \$51,000.

BOYDE/BECK
For 8 Against 3
Carried
P&S/26/131

Recommended Reason

Council supported the proposed Community Investment and Impact Policy and Framework when they were considered on 9 September 2026. During that discussion, Elected Members questioned whether the current level of funding provides sufficient capacity for community investment, noting that \$40,000 of the existing \$51,000 is already committed or ring-fenced. An increase would provide greater capacity to respond to community needs and opportunities through the new framework.

The Community and Economic Development Manager noted the following:

- The purpose of this report is to seek the adoption of the policy and framework, and to invite members to consider whether the proposed level of funding is sufficient or whether it should be increased.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Dudley queried whether additional funding was required or whether the current level of funding was sufficient. It was noted that the current approach to spending is conservative. The proposed changes would provide greater flexibility and improve outcomes. However, it was also noted that there was a reluctance to "open a can of worms", and that if demand increased significantly, the current funding level may not be sufficient.
- Councillor Boyde queried whether expanding the fund could create a larger issue by encouraging greater demand. He questioned whether the fund should be expanded at all. It was noted that the recommendation is to increase the funding, while the amount of any increase is a matter for elected members to determine. It was also noted that Council is not seeking to replace or duplicate the role of existing funding providers.
- The District Mayor noted that the framework did not include a section relating to assistance with promotion and advertising. He suggested that this could be beneficial for event organisers, for example through the use of Council's signs at the northern and southern entrances to the town and through social media channels. It was noted that this support would likely be provided through Council officer time. It was agreed that this would be explicitly included in the framework.
- The Deputy Mayor asked whether providing community organisations with the use of the War Memorial Hall would count towards the budget allocation. It was noted that it would, as the value of the hall usage needs to be accounted for and is considered a form of support.
- Councillor Watt queried whether the full \$51,000 budget allocation is typically utilised. It was confirmed that expenditure has not exceeded the available budget. He further queried whether the budget would be exceeded if all eligible requests were approved.
- The Deputy Mayor asked whether any budget overspend would be reported back to Council. It was confirmed that it would be.
-

Points noted in the discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted that the proposed funding level is supported by the policy's development. She commented that the policy will make a positive contribution to the community and provide a robust framework for supporting community initiatives. Councillor Hall noted that the proposed funding level is conservative but will enable the policy to be meaningfully implemented and give staff the ability to deliver on its objectives. She added that the funding provides a practical opportunity for staff to work within the framework while making a meaningful investment in the community.
- The District Mayor noted the importance of supporting community groups. When groups approach him for assistance, he often refers them to the Community Services team, who then work through the requests and competing priorities. The Christmas lights display was provided as an example of community investment. He noted that the proposed increase would be significant in the context of the benefits that could be achieved through the policy.
- Councillor Erwood noted his support for the proposal, commenting that outcomes require funding and will continue to cost.
- Councillor Dudley expressed support for the proposal and noted that it would be valuable to demonstrate to the community how and where this funding is being spent.
- Councillor Sextus expressed support, noting that the funding amount is a limit rather than a target. She commented that the framework provides clear guidance and criteria, and that Council is not actively advertising.
- Councillor Watt did not support the proposal. He noted that, while the amount involved is relatively small, increasing the budget appears irresponsible at a time when Council is working within tight budgets. He questioned why Council would increase a budget when it is not fully utilised.
- Councillor Boyde noted that Council should be focusing on back to basics. He commented that there are many other funding providers available to support community groups and that Council should take a cautious approach. His concern was that increasing the budget could lead to opening the doors, and he suggested allowing time to see how the policy operates before considering any increase.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that, through the Long-Term Plan workshops, Council has been identifying a number of areas. She commented that Council has been agreeing to a number of spending proposals and must also consider opportunities to reduce spending. Given the availability of other funding providers, she advised that she would not be supporting the motion.

A was division has been called.

For: 5: Councillor Dudley, Erwood, Hall, Sextus, the District Mayor

Against: 6 Councillor Chadwick, Beck, Best, Boyde, the Deputy Mayor, Cr Watt.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRISDUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/132

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the analysis of the water metering data indicates a significant number of water leaks, with more than 10 percent of properties appearing to be affected.
- The District Mayor commented that 10 percent of properties is a high number and queried whether the identified leaks would be remedied by 1 July. He also asked whether affected property owners had been notified. It was advised that notification had not yet occurred and that more than 300 properties would need to be contacted.
- Councillor Beck asked whether any of the water loss could be attributed to Council infrastructure. It was explained that once water passes through the manifold, any leak becomes the responsibility of the property owner. It was further noted that, once flow data has been analysed, a water balance can be completed to determine how much water loss is occurring within Council's infrastructure.
- The District Mayor asked when Council anticipated notifying affected property owners. It was noted that the work is being undertaken in stages, with properties being grouped into quadrants.
- Councillor Boyde commented on the Council farm, noting that it has had a fantastic start to the season, with performance currently 56 percent ahead and some cows still yet to calve.
- The District Mayor referred to the photograph of the pile from the desludging ponds, noting its significant size. He queried whether a screen could be installed to prevent this. Discussion followed regarding screening, particularly during high-flow events.
- Councillor Boyde asked how often the ponds are desludged. It was noted that this occurs approximately every 18 to 20 years.
- Councillor Hall queried whether the behaviour contributing to this had improved over time. It was noted that there was no evidence to suggest an improvement.
- Councillor Beck asked how much debris had been removed. It was noted that approximately two cubic metres.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the recent cancellations of a booking at the War Memorial Hall and queried whether deposits had been taken. It was noted that this would be checked and reported back to the member.

11.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/26/133

The Director noted the following:

- Two points were noted: a reminder that applications for the Youth Council are now open, and that Council has now received the MTFJ contract.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde queried how the BEG group was progressing and whether there had been any obstacles. Councillor Dudley advised that the group had encountered some roadblocks, as it does not yet have any formal authority and is currently focused on gathering ideas. She noted that a further update would hopefully be provided at the next meeting and that work is continuing on the strategic plan.
- The District Mayor provided an update on the MTFJ programme, noting that Council had received substantially less funding in the latest funding round, along with fewer placements than in previous years. Further discussion occurred regarding placement numbers and programme requirements.
- Councillor Beck asked whether the MTFJ programme had run its course. It was noted that the programme remains a valuable and broader initiative; however, securing contracts is becoming increasingly challenging. It was further noted that a meeting with Mayors is scheduled.
- Councillor Hall referred to the monthly admissions graph and asked whether swim school data could also be included. It was noted that this information is currently reported through the six-monthly report but could potentially be included.
- Councillor Sextus queried whether the decrease in pool admissions during July and August related to fee changes. It was noted that this was a possibility and would be explored further in the six-monthly report.
- Councillor Sextus noted that there were heating issues during Daffodil Day at the War Memorial Hall and commented on the problems. It was noted that checks are undertaken between events to identify and address such issues.

11.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/134

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted rates in areas with private mortgages, and are we trying to track them. It was advised we do all that we can ourselves and then going through debt collectors. Given the climate it was noted it is not as bad as though.
- Councillor Dudley noted there is a lot of LGOIMA request. And was noted it is taking up staff time, and some of it is AI generated. Discussion occurred around the process and numbers.

11.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

SEXTUS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/135

The Director noted the following:

- The Director highlighted three key matters. Firstly, earthquake-prone building legislation comes into effect on Saturday. While the district is considered a medium seismic risk area rather than a low-risk area, the changes will provide different timeframes. Due to the recent announcements, staff are currently working through the implications of the changes.
- Secondly, the Resource Management legislation is expected to receive its third reading very shortly.

- Thirdly, it was noted that the resource consent for the solar farm has now been granted.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Mayor queried whether the solar farm resource consent decision could be appealed and, if so, under which point. It was advised that any appeal rights are limited to points of law.

12. Questions

- The Director of Community Services noted that, of the 11 cancellations at the War Memorial Hall, one booking was a Council booking. Approximately half of the cancellations were due to low attendance numbers, while the majority of the remaining cancellations involved debtors who are already recorded within Council's system.

13. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.44pm.

Amanda Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 27th day of October 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

MONTHLY REPORT

- District Mayor



F25/96/004 – D26/38377

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 6 October 2026
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report - September 2026

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Simplifying Local Government Reforms

It is not a head start, it is a false start. I refer to Simplifying Local Government Reforms that have been underway over the last 10 months. It is already well documented, so I see no need to comment further in this report other than to say the decision on the proposal the Stratford and South Taranaki District councils submitted has been placed on hold until after the general election. We see this as a delay and not a change of direction. Disappointing – yes, frustrating – yes, surprising – maybe not.

2. New Legislation

As we move nearer to the general election, the parliament has finished its business for this electoral term. As is often the case, they did so with a flourish with a significant number of bills being progressed through the house under urgency. The repeal of the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Improvements Amendment Bill were probably the two that impacted council the most. The latter threw up some last-minute changes as well as the earlier signalled changes such as the removal of the four well-beings from the Local Government Act. The dust is yet to settle on this flurry of legislation and some time will be needed before all the changes are fully understood. But it is clear to everyone that change comes at a cost and we do know that the cost will fall on councils and our ratepayers will foot the bill.

3. LGNZ Election Briefings

Local Government New Zealand has been very pro-active prior to the election by organising a series of Zoom meetings with Ministers and various party spokesmen. Each 45-minute session has included a question-and-answer opportunity enabling participants to raise issues and seek responses from the guest speaker. This has been successful by informing our political leaders of the genuine issues facing the sector and trying to engage in a way that ensures we are all heading in the same direction for the benefit of the communities we collectively serve. Sometimes it seems like a talk fest and a series of election promises but the greater benefit stems from the engagement with the various political parties and the relationships that are being established.

4. Taranaki Crossing Project Completed

Last month I had the pleasure of attending the function that celebrated the opening of the Taranaki Crossing and the completion of the construction project. This crossing project has been progressing slowly for many years, and I can recall attending meetings on this project as far back as 2012. Scoping the project, promoting the concept, obtaining permission and sourcing the funding were all big issues that eventually came together around 2018. Construction work began soon after but it wasn't all plain sailing. Health and safety issues, the hazardous alpine environment and the Covid pandemic were all significant hurdles to overcome, but they were.

Now with a good quality, extensive track network and facilities to support visitors in place, the challenge can move to focus on promotion of the crossing and increasing visitor numbers. We are already seeing the commercial benefit arising from the dramatic increase of visitor numbers to the Maunganui Gorge bridge, which has quickly become a "must do" experience for many.

5. Mayors Task Force for Jobs

After a bumpy start to the financial year and a lengthy delay, I am pleased to report that at last our service contract has been delivered to council. The contract provided for a target of 29 placements for the year and the funding allocation was based on that number. This is lower than the previous year's target.

The contract delays have impacted on our ability to deliver the programme during the first three months of the year. It is already clear that we will struggle to achieve the target of 29. We have notified the programme management of this likelihood resulting in the target figure being lowered further to 24. The attached funding has also been reduced, proportionately to this number.

It is important to note that the target figure is not the only measure of success of the programme. Assistance and support is provided to young people across a range of employment circumstances, but often they don't meet the full criteria required for the target figure and therefore are not included in that measure. For example, casual employees and those working under 30 hours per week are excluded, even if we have provided them with support.

6. Blue Light Graduation

In September, the Blue Light organisation hosted its annual graduation function that celebrated the success of the young drivers who have completed their driver training course. Not having a driver's licence is the number one barrier for young people who are seeking work or need to travel to attend training courses or the like. Statistics also show that for many youth, the first encounter they experience with the justice system is for driving related offences, including driving without a licence. This is more common with at risk youth. The Blue Light driver training programme is available at no charge to the applicant, so it is very accessible and it provides very positive outcomes. The driver training is provided by volunteer instructors who give up their personal time to support and assist these young people. It is a very worthwhile training programme.

7. Po Whakanui Future Leader Programme with Youth Council

A small group of Youth Councillors took part in the Po Whakanui Future Leader Programme held over the last few months. Essentially the programme requires them to come up with an idea or an issue that they would like to see advanced or resolved. The final step in the programme was to provide a presentation on the idea they had been developing over the previous months and the leadership role they would play in making this happen. Having listened to the presentations, it is clear that we have deep thinking and talented young people on our youth council. My congratulations to the participants.

8. International Day of the Older Person

A large number of our more senior citizens along with some visitors from around the region enjoyed a special event held in the War Memorial Centre. They are a great bunch of people who obviously enjoy the camaraderie the day brings when they come together for an event like this. Live music, bingo, lunch and a mix and mingle session made the day relaxing and enjoyable. I thank the community services team for organising this annual event which continues to be very well supported.

9. Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – September 2026 [not available at the time of publishing]
- Whangamōmona generator
- Letter from Hon Simon Watts to Medium and High Seismic Zone Territorial Authorities - Stratford District Council

10. Some Events Attended

- Attended – Blue Light Graduation Ceremony
- Attended – the MTFJ Contract meeting for Mayors (by zoom x 1)
- Attended – Po Whakanui Future Leader Programme with Youth Council
- Attended – SH3 Mayoral Advocacy Group meeting (by zoom x3)
- Attended – LGNZ briefing by National Council (by zoom x 7)
- Attended – Hosted an All of Staff meeting on amalgamation
- Attended – Central Taranaki Schools Cross Country
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust (x2)
- Attended – Official Opening of the Taranaki Crossing
- Attended – presentation by representatives of Contact Energy and CDC Data Centres
- Attended – International Day of the Older Person function
- Visit - Maryann Rest Home and Retirement Village
- Met – with representative of Migrant Connections Taranaki
- Met – with representatives of Venture Taranaki
- Hosted - senior students from Stratford Primary School
- Met - with Carl Bates, National Member of Parliament
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News / Stuff (multiple)
- Access Radio – Conversation with Mayor Interview (x1)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x4)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x4)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x4)
- Attended – Council Public Forum (x1)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x4)



N C Volzke JP
District Mayor

Date: 1 October 2026

Gareth Hancock

From: Neil Volzke
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2026 10:59 AM
To: Gareth Hancock
Subject: FW: Whangamōmona generator

Hi Gareth

Please add to outward correspondence.

Thanks

Neil

From: Neil Volzke
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2026 10:58 AM
To: 'Rochelle West' <Rochelle.West@powerco.co.nz>; Councillor Amanda Harris <amanda.harris@stratford.govt.nz>
Cc: Salevi Tiatia <Salevi.Tiatia@powerco.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Whangamōmona generator

Good morning Rochelle, Amanda and Salevi

Thank you for your email Rochelle. That is good news on a Friday and a welcome assurance that some of the historic power supply and reliability issues in the area have been improved. The community (including Amanda and myself) will be pleased to hear that news.

Can I suggest that Powerco makes this information more widely known, that "the generator has been commissioned and is able to operate if needed". My understanding right now is, that the broader community is of the view that the generator is not commissioned and has just been idly sitting there. We need to correct that information.

Other partner agencies should also be updated, including Civil Defence, as it seems they were also unaware.

Lastly, my thanks to Powerco for the work that has been done overall to improve the power supply issues that had been confronting the Whangamomona community in recent years. These were highlighted at the public meeting that was held in the Republic some years back.

Regards and have a great weekend.

Neil Volzke JP

District Mayor

Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi | Stratford District Council

06 765 6099 | 027 631 7418 | stratford.govt.nz

63 Miranda Street
PO Box 320
Stratford 4352

P.06 765 6099
stratford.govt.nz



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Rochelle West <Rochelle.West@powerco.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2026 10:19 AM
To: Councillor Amanda Harris <amanda.harris@stratford.govt.nz>
Cc: Neil Volzke <nvolzke@stratford.govt.nz>; Salevi Tiatia <Salevi.Tiatia@powerco.co.nz>
Subject: Whangamōmona generator

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Mōrena Amanda,

Lovely to talk with you yesterday, and I've got some good news for you on a Friday 😊.

The Whangamōmona generator was commissioned last year and made automated from our control room in New Plymouth earlier this year. In fact, one of our contracting teams were there this past Tuesday giving the generator routine maintenance.

It's important to know that all our generators do not immediately start if there's an outage in any of the communities they are in. For safety, we need to make sure there have been no accidents or lines down connected to the outage. Typically, this can mean a wait of up to an hour before we can safely start the generator. Storms, accidents and other work in the area can vary the response time. For example, we couldn't use the Himatangi Beach generator in a recent storm event because there was damage to the lines between the generator and the customers it could usually supply.

There's some more information on how our generators work here on our website:
<https://www.powerco.co.nz/what-we-do/our-projects/community-emergency-backup-power>

I hope this information helps. I've copied in Salevi Tiatia Powerco's Community Engagement Specialist for your area, who will be your main contact going forward for information.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Ngā mihi

Rochelle

Rochelle West

Communications and Digital Team Lead

+64 021 102 8860

35 Junction Street, New Plymouth 4312 | Private Bag 2065, New Plymouth 4340

www.powerco.co.nz



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Hon Simon Watts

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



30 September 2026

Neil Volzke
Mayor, Stratford District Council

Email: nvolzke@stratford.govt.nz

To Neil Volzke,

The Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill has now received Royal Assent.

The change forms part of the Government's programme to ensure building regulation is proportionate to risk, does not impose unnecessary costs and supports sensible investment decisions. Territorial Authorities (TAs) remain responsible for managing Earthquake-prone Buildings (EPBs) in their area and will play a critical role in ensuring the legislation achieves this intent.

Building owners in your region stand to benefit from very significant savings

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has calculated that, if given effect as intended, most communities where there are EPBs can expect to make significant savings. This capital then becomes available for building owners to invest in other productive endeavours.

But to achieve these savings, the legislation must be given effect as intended. A key lesson from the previous EPB system is that, to achieve this, council officers need clear direction and oversight from elected representatives. This letter provides context and insight to help you provide that oversight. Please note, however, it does not constitute legal advice nor statutory direction.

TAs will also benefit from the new legislation

Most TAs are likely to enjoy savings thanks to the changes to the EPB system outlined below. Once fully implemented, the narrower scope should result in less work for most councils, freeing up resource and budget to be allocated to other areas.

The range of buildings that can be designated as EPBs has been narrowed

TAs must remove EPB status from all buildings that are not either unreinforced masonry (URM) or multi-storey concrete buildings. Most URM buildings that do not face onto a public road, footpath, thoroughfare, or place where people congregate must also have their EPB status removed. Generally speaking, only URM façades that face onto these areas will require risk mitigation (with the exception of large URM buildings that require a targeted retrofit).

TAs should start planning for this triage process now

The provision giving effect to this change goes live on 1 July 2027, and TAs must complete the process by 1 October 2027. TAs should plan ahead to ensure a smooth and timely triage process. MBIE will provide TAs with an indicative categorisation of EPBs in their jurisdiction in early 2027. The ultimate decision on which EPBs have their status removed, however, rests with individual TAs.

MBIE will provide training and support for TAs to help navigate this transition. Additional details to support the triage process will be contained in the EPB Methodology. MBIE intends to release a consultation draft of the Methodology in late October 2026 and publish the final version in early 2027.

Council officers' decisions should reflect the risk settings in legislation

Under the previous EPB system, TAs designated thousands of low-risk buildings as EPBs, imposing an unreasonable cost burden on their owners, and leading to a situation where widespread non-compliance was inevitable. The legislation is designed to avoid this situation being repeated, and TA decisions should reflect the risk settings Parliament has agreed.

Accordingly, council officers should take a balanced approach to the triage process. For example, a "thoroughfare" is not any pathway that a person can access. The same applies to "places where people congregate". These are places where people are intended to gather (for example, a bus stop) or where they are otherwise likely to gather on a regular basis. The possibility that people *might* congregate there does not meet this definition.

MBIE will continue to provide resolution options through determinations. TA decisions that incorrectly deem buildings to be EPBs or impose remediation requirements beyond that provided for in the legislation can be overturned by determination. It is therefore in the best interests of TAs to ensure they understand the intent of these changes and are prepared to give full effect to it.

I also expect the 'at any time' pathway is used sparingly, for high-risk cases only. You will note MBIE authorisation for EPB designations via this pathway is required. TAs intending to do so may wish to discuss the situation with MBIE in advance.

Remediation requirements will change

There will be two forms of remediation requirement. Most URM EPBs will need to mitigate the risk of their exterior façades falling onto people below. Multi-storey concrete buildings and large URMs in defined urban centres, in contrast, will need targeted retrofits that mitigate the risk of collapse.

URM EPBs that are one or two storeys tall and are located outside of urban centres will not have any remediation requirements. But to have their EPB status removed, the risk of their façades collapsing must be mitigated.

EPB signs must still be displayed on all EPBs, but they will be visually simpler. MBIE will provide templates in due course. TAs will be able to provide EPB notices to building owners electronically.

Fire and accessibility reports should only be required when necessary

Building work that only involves the necessary seismic remediation will no longer also require fire and accessibility upgrades. There is a 'backstop' however, so an EPB's fire safety and accessibility cannot be made any worse than it was before the seismic work.

TAs should only require professional reports as evidence for this backstop when there is a demonstrable need. Professional reports can be expensive, and TAs should take great care to avoid imposing unnecessary barriers to remediation work. Façade securing work on a URM building, for example, is ordinarily unlikely to impact fire safety and accessibility.

TAs can narrow their priority routes, but to do so, must move quickly

Priority EPBs must be remediated in half the time of other EPBs in that area. The definition of priority building has been narrowed to only include EPBs that could fall onto a busy street or block a strategic transport route. TAs must remove priority status from EPBs that were designated priority EPBs due to their usage, such as hospitals or fire stations.

TAs can also remove or narrow priority routes up to 1 July 2027. TAs that want to take advantage of this opportunity will need to start soon, as it requires using the Special Consultative Procedure.

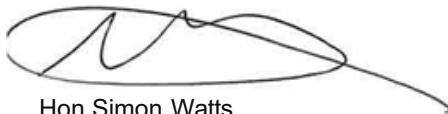
TAs can grant seismic work extensions of up to 15 years - extensions can be used to encourage steps towards remediation

EPB owners will be able to apply to TAs for deadline extensions of up to 15 years, even if the original deadline expired before the commencement date. TAs may grant seismic work extensions in increments, as a means of encouraging tangible steps towards remediation. Wholesale granting of 15-year extensions to all applicants is unlikely to incentivise this.

TA support for this legislation is appreciated

I would like to acknowledge the input of TAs in the development of this legislation. Thanks to your assistance, we have been able to create a better system that will still deliver safe communities while avoiding disproportionate and unreasonable costs for communities around New Zealand.

Yours sincerely



Hon Simon Watts
Minister for Building and Construction



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

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

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