

Date: 9 June 2026 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

### Present

The District Mayor Neil Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, 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, the Roading Manager – Stephen Bowden.

#### 1. Welcome

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

#### 2. Apologies

None recorded.

#### 3. Announcements

The District Mayor advised that there would be a councillors-only session to provide an update on the Simplifying Local Government changes. He further noted that he would elaborate on the invitation issued for a joint meeting of South Taranaki and Stratford elected members.

#### 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 Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee – 5 May 2026 D26/16402 Page 9

#### Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 be adopted.

DUDLEY/WATT  
Carried  
CL/26/44

Councillor Dudley noted there was robust discussion at the meeting and referenced the junior league club. The Councillor also noted there was a carryover of funds, which would be carried over to future rounds.

**Recommendation**

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLKZE/BERTIE  
Carried  
CL/26/45

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the *Audit & Risk Committee* meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the *Audit & Risk Committee* meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be adopted.

ERWOOD/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/26/46

Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the Percy Thomson Trust letter of expectation and requested an update. The Chief Executive noted that this is in progress.

**Recommendation**

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SEXTUS/BECK  
Carried  
CL/26/47

Councillor Boyde noted that his name was omitted from the list of attendees. The Governance Advisor would amend this.

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be adopted.

BOYDE/BEST  
Carried  
CL/26/48

Councillor Chadwick noted the date. The Governance Advisor would amend this.

7. Decision Report - Summary of Early Conversation Discussions – Roothing  
D26/19994 Page 40

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLKZE/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/26/49

2. THAT Council approves the option preferences from the Roothing Activity Early Conversation Workshops

3. THAT the approved options are further developed into business cases to support the development of the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan budget and programme of work.

BECK/HALL  
Carried  
CL/26/50

**Recommended Reason**

The adoption of these option preferences will guide the development of business cases to support the development of the 2027-37 LTP roading budgets and programme of works, which are in themselves subject to public consultation and final approval by Council.

The Roothing Manager the following points:

- This report brings together all decisions, presents the associated costs, and provides a snapshot of the overall financial impact. If all options were combined, the cost would exceed \$100 million over ten years. It outlines each option selected and indicates how and where funding would be obtained.
- The Chief Executive spoke to the third recommendation, noting that officers have worked through the workshops with elected members, can develop greater clarity and costs, and can now refine the options and bring them back to elected members for approval.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification regarding the earlier workshop and whether the figures presented there were included. The Roothing Manager explained the NZTA funding model.

8. District Mayor's Report  
D26/21206 Page 48

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BEST  
Carried  
CL/26/51

The District Mayor noted the following points

- The Stratford Park project was covered in the morning's discussion. The Mayor noted that the funding for the Gorge is very positive news for the region and highlighted the works it will involve. The announcement was made prior to all three Taranaki mayors meeting with NZTA, and they were pleased with that outcome. NZTA made it very clear that funding is for works delivered on the ground, not for consultancy services.
- The Mayor also referenced Minister Watt's letter and the voting restrictions on non-elected members. He noted the implications for the Audit & Risk Chair but clarified that there is an exception process available.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification regarding the exception process. The District Mayor advised that there is a six-month provision to amend standing orders and delegations, as well as a window to apply for an exemption.

## 9. Questions

- None.

## 10. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 57

The closing karakia was read.

*The meeting closed at 3.58 pm.*

N C Volzke  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**