

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.
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.

VOLZKE/HARRS
Carried
CL/26/90

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.
2. THAT 27 budget lines, totalling \$11,808,533, from the 2025/26 financial year are carried forward to the 2026/27 financial year.

ERWOOD/HALL
Carried
CL/26/92

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

