

MINUTES

Extraordinary

F25/96/05 – D26/6228

Date: 24 February 2026 at 2.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor A K Harris, Councillors: S J Beck, J Bertie, D K Chadwick, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, K A Sextus, and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Mr G Hancock, the Customer Service Officer & Committee Secretary - Ms S West, one member of the public, and one member of the media (Stratford and South).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia and H&S message was read.

2. Apologies

An approved leave of absence was noted for G W Boyde, and an apology was received from J R Best.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

DUDLEY / BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/9

3. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Attendance Schedule

The District Mayor noted that the attendance schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings was attached and advised that the attendance rate stood at one hundred percent for all members.

6. Decision Report – Triennial Agreements

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE / ERWOOD
Carried
CL/26/10

2. THAT the District Mayor be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement for the Taranaki Region on behalf of the Stratford District Council.

3. THAT the District Mayor be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region on behalf of the Stratford District Council.

HARRIS / HALL

Carried

CL/26/11

Recommended Reason

The Stratford District Council is required to enter into Triennial Agreements for both regions and the proposed agreements are fit for purpose.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- The Triennial Agreements are a legislative requirement. As a district, we straddle two regions. In the past, we have been the primary party in one and a secondary party in the other. We have a choice as to which agreement we are primarily aligned with, but traditionally it has been the Taranaki Regional Agreement and secondary for the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Agreement. The Council delegates authority to the Mayor to sign these agreements.
- If there is disagreement over clauses or wording within the agreements, these have normally been worked through, often going through multiple versions with changes incorporated as requested by parties.
- The agreements largely set the parameters for the Mayoral Forum and foundational for regional arrangements.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarity around the Mayor's role in the Mayoral Forum, and what the role involves and whether the Mayor represents the Council's view or his own. The District Mayor advised that it is both. Every region is required to have a Mayoral Forum, and it functions largely as a forum focused on communication and cooperation. Decisions are made by consensus, and where consensus cannot be reached, a collective position is not held. Positions are formed on an issue-by-issue basis. The District Mayor noted he is conscious of his view when exercising his responsibilities.
- Councillor Hall sought clarification on whether having two agreements creates any issues where the Council may be compromised or conflicted. The District Mayor could not recall any such instances, and the Chief Executive also advised the same.
- Councillor Hall noted that the Manawatū-Whanganui Region has a climate change action committee and enquired whether there is a similar group in Taranaki. The District Mayor advised that there is one.

7. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 2.44 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 10th day of March 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor