

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/37014

Date: Tuesday 25 August 2026 at 3.00 pm

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris (the Chairperson), the District Mayor Neil Volzke, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, 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 – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, Policy Analyst - Rebecca Dearden., the Corporate Accountant - Karla Lawrence, the Revenue Manager - Sallie Barr.

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Boyde and Erwood who had an approved leave of absence.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Boyde & Erwood apology be received.

CHADWICK/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/94

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.

AKH
NCW

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 21 July 2026

D26/27310 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/95

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 20

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

HALL/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/96

8. Decision Report - Local Government Act 2002 delegations

D26/31326 Page 21

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/97

2. THAT Council approve the delegations to Council Officers under the Local Government Act 2002 listed in Appendix 1 of this report.

HARRIS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/26/98

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 that this was a continuation of previous decision reports and the transition of delegations to an online platform.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall noted that it was standard practice for local government authorities to have delegations in place. The Chief Executive noted that it would be impossible to operate without them, as Council would otherwise need to make all decisions itself. She sought clarification on how any gaps or issues were managed prior to these changes. The Chief Executive noted that many delegations were not frequently used and, where they were, staff would check before exercising any powers or bring the matter to Council for a decision if required.

AKH
PCW

- The Mayor sought clarification regarding section 171 and the general power of entry, which is delegated to the Director and Manager. He questioned whether it would be more appropriate for this power to be delegated solely to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive noted that this would mean only the Chief Executive could exercise the power and would require sub-delegation. The Chief Executive advised that the power would not be exercised without the knowledge of either the relevant Director or the Chief Executive.
- The Mayor sought clarification regarding development contributions. He noted that the wording appeared to allow a degree of discretion and asked whether development contributions must be provided for in a policy. The Director Environment advised that development contributions must be provided for through a policy.
- Councillor Beck sought clarification on delegations, how delegated powers are exercised, and what safeguards are in place. It was explained that appropriate checks and balances exist, and that staff exercising delegated authority are suitably trained and qualified.

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

D26/30204 Page 34

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BEST/CHADWICK
Carried
P&S/26/99

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

WATT/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/100

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 Director – Corporate noted that this is essentially a replication of the previous decision and delegates authority to Corporate Services and one power to community services.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall reiterated her previous question about how these delegations had been exercised previously. It was noted that the changes are largely a tidy-up exercise. She also asked about LGOIMA sign-off processes and the delegation behind them.
- The Mayor queried the rates remission provisions for Māori freehold land and sought clarification on whether, once developed, the land can be rated. Discussion occurred on this matter, and it was noted that the relevant legislation would need to be checked. It was suggested that this be added to the outstanding matters and reported back to elected members.
- Councillor Beck queried why new delegations were being proposed. The Director advised that the changes would not alter the way Council currently works, but rather ensure delegations are formally recorded, with some gaps having been identified through the review process. Further discussion also occurred regarding LGOIMA responses.

AKH
NCW

10. Decision Report - Establishment of a Waste Services Joint Committee

D26/30942 Page 64

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/101

2. THAT Council approves the Waste Services Joint Committee Agreement (Appendix 1), including the establishment of the Waste Services Joint Committee, and approves the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference (Appendix 2).

VOLKZE/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/102

Recommended Reason

Approval of the Waste Services Joint Committee Agreement and Terms of Reference will enable Stratford District Council to participate in regional governance for waste management, supporting collaboration, efficiency, and the delivery of regional waste minimisation initiatives.

The Governance Advisor noted that New Plymouth District Council has now signed the agreement.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Mayor noted that this committee arose from a decision of the Mayoral Forum. It was also noted that a number of committee related to waste management across the region. South Taranaki District Council will host the committee and ensure equal representation of members.
- Councillor Hall noted that she was comfortable with the proposed voting arrangement. She also sought clarification on the agreement and the powers of the committee in relation to individual districts. It was advised that the committee's role is primarily to monitor, provide advice, and act as a reference committee.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on whether there had been any decision to rotate hosting responsibilities. It was confirmed there had not, and it was noted that South Taranaki's appointment as host was based on the food waste recycling activities within the district.

11. Decision Report - Electoral System – First Past the Post or Single Transferable Vote

D26/31532 Page 75

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/103

2. THAT the Committee resolves for the 2028 Stratford District Council triennial elections to either:

- I. Retain the First Past the Post electoral system;
- II. ~~Change to the Single Transferable Voting electoral system; or~~
- III. ~~Undertake a poll of electors on the electoral system;~~

And that public notice be given by 19 September 2026 of the decision and of the right of electors to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used.

HALL/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/104

AKH
NCW

Recommended Reason

Consideration of the electoral system is required by 12 September 2026, with a public notice required by 19 September 2026, under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

The Director - Corporate noted the following:

This decision relates to the 2028 local election, and Council is required to make a decision under the relevant legislation. A workshop was held with Election Services to provide guidance on the process.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Watt raised the issue of local government amalgamation and asked whether there had been any legislative changes. It was noted that there have been no changes at this stage and that Council is continuing to follow the current legislation.
- Councillor Beck asked whether changing the voting system would trigger a referendum. It was confirmed that a poll must be held if one is requested in accordance with the legislation.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted that this was one of the first decisions she made as an elected member and that she had previously advocated for STV, as it provides greater opportunity for minority representation. However, given the number of changes currently occurring, she considered it unwise to consult the community on changing the voting system at this time. She noted that the change would be difficult to explain to the community and was not in the best interests of the district.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/105

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall queried battery disposal and how this had been communicated to the public. It was confirmed that the usual communication channels had been used. Decontamination waste was discussed, and it was noted that the amount was marginal. Clarification was sought regarding a budget item on page 104, which was explained. Clarification was also sought on the frequency of the roading measures. The relevant table was explained. Further clarification was sought on a table on page 88, which was also explained. Waste minimisation was discussed, including the differences between the two months and the variation. This was further elaborated on.
- Councillor Dudley sought an update on water meters. It was confirmed that the manifolds have been completed and that 99 percent have been completed. Councillor Dudley also asked whether mock billing would be undertaken, and it was confirmed that leak detection is being carried out.
- Councillor Beck sought clarification on wastewater desludging. It was noted that progress is slow due to the presence of rags and recent weather conditions. The project remains under budget, with the completion date yet to be determined.
- The District Mayor sought clarification on the grit tank update. It was noted that leaks had been detected, and an update on the investigation and remedial actions was provided.




12.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/106

The Director noted that the Youth Council report was attached, provided a good summary of activities, and that Council is still awaiting the MTFJ contract.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification on the Learn to Swim programme, and asked how this compared to the previous year. It was noted that this information would be provided.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that Te Wera Outdoor Valley Lodge had been through an extensive process to appoint a camp manager and an appointment has been made to date.

12.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/107

The District Mayor acknowledged the Rates Team for the substantial improvement in rates arrears.

12.4 Environmental Services Report

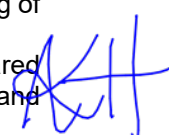
Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/108

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall queried whether a submission on Building Act reform would be prepared. The Director advised that he would review the proposal and that further discussion would occur. Councillor Hall also asked whether there were any further updates on the solar farm, and it was noted that there were none. An update was sought on Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and iwi partners, with it being noted that Council is still awaiting further information from them. Councillor Hall further noted that one Code Compliance Certificate had not been issued within the required timeframe. It was explained that this occurred during a period of high demand and there were no particular story associated with it. Councillor Hall also noted that swimming pool inspections had not yet commenced. The Director confirmed that resources are currently stretched; however, the timing of these inspections remains relatively flexible.
- Councillor Beck sought an update on Building Act reform and the discussion regarding shared liability. This was explained, including where the Government's proposed changes are up to and how they may apply to local government.




13. 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: 14

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 passing this resolution to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Legal Proceedings - Rates	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist, under section 6 and section 7 of the Act - specifically section 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(g) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

WATT/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/109

14. Public Excluded Item

Recommendation

THAT the open meeting resume.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/118

15. Questions

- None

16. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 5.11pm.



A K Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 22nd day of September 2026.





N C Volzke
District Mayor

