

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/27310

Date: Tuesday 21 July 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, Grant Boyde, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood (Audio Visual Link), 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.

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Chadwick who had an approved leave of absence.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Chadwick's apology be received.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/80

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted that it was the birthday of the Director of Community Services.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. Councillor Erwood noted a conflict of interest in relation to Item 11. It was agreed to defer consideration of this item to Item 12, allowing the councillor to leave the meeting.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached and noted.

AKH
RCW

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 23 June 2026

D26/23152 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/81

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 18

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

DUDLEY/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/82

8. Decision Report - Delegations Policy Review

D26/21278 Page 20

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

SEXTUS/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/26/83

2. THAT Council adopt the revised Delegations Policy.

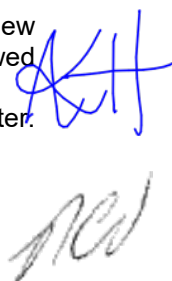
HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/84

Recommended Reason

It is recommended that Council adopt the updated Delegations Policy to provide a clear, contemporary governance framework that supports consistent application of delegations and alignment with legislative requirements and best practice.

The CE noted the following:

- Noted the significant size of the previous version. Council, as a governing body, receives a large number of powers under the Local Government Act and other legislation. Many of these powers are too routine or procedural to be brought to elected members for decision-making each time. To be exercised lawfully, these powers must be delegated.
- The CE role is established under the Local Government Act and is not subject to restructuring so powers are delegated to that role. In some cases, however, powers cannot be sub-delegated.
- Historically, delegations have generally been developed on an as-needed basis. The new electronic system is a product developed by LGNZ. It is used by councils and has been reviewed by Simpson Grierson.
- As part of this work, the Delegations Policy has been separated from the Delegations Register. This aligns with best practice.
- The Policy Advisor provided a demonstration of the new system to elected members.



Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Beck asked whether the proposed changes were altering the governance structure or simply the operational arrangements. The CE advised that the review separates the policy from the delegations register. Delegations can be located through the system, and Locosoft records who holds each delegation, when the delegation was granted by Council, and provides a wayfinding tool. Councillor Beck sought further advice regarding any potential risks associated with software updates. The CE clarified that the system is maintained appropriately, noting that it is hosted on an external platform.
- Councillor Boyde sought clarification regarding accountability. An example under the Resource Management Act was discussed, where decisions may be made at officer level, while the CE and management retain responsibility through the organisational performance. A question was raised as to whether matters referred to the CE should instead be referred to the Executive Committee. It was clarified that the wording provides that, where a decision is required and it is unclear whether a delegation exists, the matter must be referred to Council.
- The District Mayor asked whether the policy would continue without a list of delegations attached to it. It was clarified that delegations register would be activity-based. The Mayor further asked whether the existing policy contained the committee structure and associated delegations. It was noted that the committee Terms of Reference are contained in a separate document, which has already been adopted by Council.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall expressed appreciation for the work undertaken and noted that she was reassured by the legal review. She commented that the revised approach was a governance dream and would also provide benefits from an audit perspective.

9. Decision Report - Environmental Services – New and amended delegations
D26/23411 Page 88

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

DUDLEY/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/85

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

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
P&S/26/86

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:

- Delegations have undergone a significant review that provides greater legal oversight. Through this process, a number of gaps were identified, predominantly affecting the Environmental Services team. The review found that certain powers should be formally delegated to officers, and these proposed delegations are being presented for consideration today.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification regarding matters delegated to the Director of Assets. It was explained that these delegations relate to responsibilities under the Litter Act and are distributed across departments.
- The Mayor noted that the executive summary and approximately 90 clauses had been reviewed. He commented that the review highlighted the need for a modern electronic system and represented a significant step forward.



Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/87

2. THAT the draft Te Kahui o Maru Mana Whakahono a Rohe in Appendix 1 be adopted.

BOYDE/BERTIE
Division
8 For 3 Against
Carried
P&S/26/88

Recommended Reason

Te Kahui o Maru has initiated a Mana Whakahono a Rohe with the Council and the agreement in Appendix 1 of this report meets the requirements in the Resource Management Act 1991 for a Mana Whakahono a Rohe.

The Director - Environment noted the following:

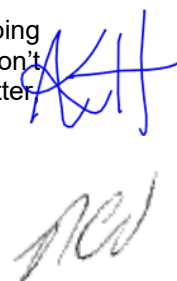
- Noted that a workshop held earlier today had provided members with detailed information on the matter. Further communication had since been received from the Minister's office in the form of the Minister's press release, issued on official letterhead. The communication did not provide a timeline for the Government's planned stop work on the agreements. It was also noted that a regional meeting would be held next week to discuss future agreements and plans in light of the Government's announcement.
- The Chief Executive provided a brief update for Councillor Erwood who was absent for the workshop.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the risks to Council if it did not approve the agreement. It was explained that the primary risk relates to Council's relationship with iwi.
- Councillor Watt further queried the risks associated with adopting the agreement in light of the Government's decision. The Chief Executive advised that the Government is proposing to discontinue the agreement framework, effectively rescinding agreements.
- Councillor Boyde sought information regarding Treaty settlements. It was explained that the Regional Council has additional responsibilities and requirements from Treaty settlement legislation.
- Councillor Beck asked what the purpose of progressing the agreement was if the Government had decided to remove such arrangements. The Director advised that the Government has not yet phased them out and that they remain a requirement under current legislation.
- Councillor Watt asked when the process had been initiated, noting that Council had 18 months from the date of request to respond. It was noted that the request was received in December, and that Council has until mid-next year to complete the process.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Boyde noted it is the right thing to be doing, even though the Government is proposing to do away with them, and that we have a great relationship with iwi.
- Councillor Hall noted, I am about building and maintaining relationships with iwi, rather than crude tools from central government. I am very supportive of cementing this agreement with our partners.
- Councillor Beck noted, I am against it and don't want to see staff resources wasted when it will be buffed out by the Government. Agreements will come across from the Regional Council when they come across.
- Councillor Watt noted, I am against it. I don't think it makes sense, and the Government is going to throw this out. We have seven months to sign this and should wait for the legislation. I don't think it is unreasonable to wait at this stage. It might be replaced with something that works better and it is not worth doing yet.

Handwritten signature and initials in blue ink, located at the bottom right of the page.

- Councillor Sextus noted, I am leaning the same way. Iwi do have a good relationship through already existing arrangements in the RMA and good, strong existing relationships there. I believe we should push pause while we determine the Government's position.
- The District Mayor noted, I understand the different positions, but it is the law under which we are currently operating. It may be speculative that it will be removed. Labour will not be supporting the changes to the RMA, and there could be a change in Government. The money has already been spent, and there are no extra costs associated with approving it, as the work has already been done. I struggle with the suggestion to pause based on the information available to date. I am concerned about the message it would send to iwi if it was not adopted when we had the opportunity to pass it but chose not to. Whether you like it or not there is always going to be a role for iwi within it. I am not going to be the bad guy here.
- The Deputy Mayor noted, I am in favour of the motion. In reading the document, what struck me were the guiding principles and what they speak to. It is about confirming and valuing relationships that are already established. I believe this issue is different to the broader discussion around simplifying local government.
- A Division was called for recommendation two.
Voting Yes: Cr Bertie, Best, Boyde, Erwood, Hall, Deputy Mayor Harris, the District Mayor.
Voting No: Cr Beck, Sextus, Watt.

11. Monthly Reports

11.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/26/89

The Director noted the following:

- Noted a correction to the report on page one, and an update was provided on the Portia Street speed reduction rules.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted a performance measure relating to water flow and firefighting requirements, and an explanation was provided regarding how and when these measures are assessed.
- It was also noted that the number of complaints relating to Parks and Sport was reported. Previously, a table was provided that broke these complaints down into categories. It was agreed that this table would be reinstated.

11.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/90

The Director noted the following:

- Acknowledged the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs programme and the work Sam has done to exceed the KPI. Also acknowledged the successful Puanga event and Youth Council event.

AKH
PCD

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor acknowledged the success of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, noting that it had exceeded its contractual targets despite the current economic climate. While the overall number may not appear extraordinary, it is significant for the district and reflects the challenges associated with meeting MSD eligibility criteria. It was also noted that casual employment are not counted towards the programme's targets.
- At present, a contract for the current financial year has not yet been received. The Mayor advised that he has spoken with Mayor Ben Bell and raised concerns with the MSD Regional Commissioner. The Mayor has continued to advocate for the contract to be finalised and issued as soon as possible.
- Councillor Erwood asked whether there are any plans to hold a graduate party. It was confirmed that there was no funding available last year. Previously, the event had been funded through a grant received by the Council; however, this funding was discontinued. As there are costs associated with running such an event, further consideration will need to be given.
- Councillor Dudley provided an update on the Broadway Enhancement Group, noting that it has held two meetings to date. Drone mapping services have been offered to support the group's work. The group is aiming to enhance the appearance of Broadway in time for the 150th celebrations and will require funding to help achieve this.
- Councillor Bertie provided an update on the Youth Council trip. The visit to Parliament was highly engaging, and the youth council had the opportunity to participate in a debate with the Mayor serving as Speaker. Anna and Saba were acknowledged for doing an excellent job organising the event.

11.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/91

The Director noted the following:

- This report is shorter than usual because of year-end closing processes. Regular reporting will recommence next month. An update was provided on the arrival of bird flu, and it was noted that work is being undertaken behind the scenes to prepare for and respond to any impacts.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted a date in the LGOIMA section.

11.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/26/92

The Director noted the following:

- The Environment Court hearing on the solar farm proposal is scheduled to be held online on Friday. No timeline has been provided for a decision following the hearing. The move to the online building consent system has been delayed and is now expected to occur on 21 August.

Councillor Erwood left at 4.11pm.



Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/93

2. THAT Council's funding application to the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) for \$287,400 is approved to be submitted *as well as seed funding of \$30,000 for the Broadway Enhancement Group and an economic development contribution of \$150,000 towards Venture Taranaki.*

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
P&S/26/94

Recommended Reason

Projects externally funded will reduce the rating impact for ratepayers.

The Director Community Services noted the following:

- The 150th Jubilee celebration and the need for seed funding were discussed and the proposed solar initiative. Feasibility studies are underway for the solar projects and are being closely aligned to ensure funding opportunities are not missed. However, advice has since been received regarding a potential new funding pathway, and the matter does not require consideration at this time.

Questions/points of clarification:

- The District Mayor noted support for the proposals as presented but sought clarification on whether sufficient funding was being requested and whether a larger amount could potentially be sought. It was also suggested that the cost of economic development initiatives, such as Venture Taranaki (approximately \$150,000), could be included.
- Councillors Dudley and Boyde noted that seed funding for the Broadway Enhancement Group, could be added at approximately \$30,000.
- Councillor Beck asked what the funding figure was last year. It was confirmed that the amount was \$516,000.
- Councillor Hall sought clarification on whether discussions with TET had included projects other than the solar initiative, and whether adding additional projects would increase or decrease the chance of success. It was advised that there had been no discussion of projects other than the solar initiative.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on whether adding other elements to the proposal would interfere with the new funding pathway. It was noted that the new funding pathway is the Strategic Pathway Fund.
- The Deputy Mayor also enquired about the Council's operational contribution to the pool, and clarification was provided.

13. Questions

- None.

14. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.23pm.



A K Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 25 day of August 2026.



N C Volzke
District Mayor

