

# ORDER PAPER

## BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026  
**Time:** 6.00pm  
**Venue:** Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi  
Bulls Community Centre  
4 Criterion Street  
Bulls

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**Membership:** Mr Te Arawa Ratana  
Ms Bronwyn Minty  
Mr Evan Harris Plank  
Ms Sarah Howe  
Mr Alistair Stewart  
Mr Graham Jenkins  
Mr David Yates  
Mr Greg Smith  
Cr Graeme O'Fee  
Cr Paul Sharland (Alternate)  
HWTM Andy Watson (Ex Officio)

## Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided<sup>1</sup>.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

## Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 23 November 22 ) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Appended to the Delegations Register

**Notice is hereby given that a Bulls Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 6.00pm.**

## **Order Of Business**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 Welcome**

Members are invited to provide a brief introduction of themselves, along with what their anticipations are as a Committee member and what they hope the Committee will achieve during the 2025-28 triennium.

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

### **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

### **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

## 6 Reports for Decision

### 6.1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair - Bulls Community Committee

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Committee needs to elect its Chair for the Bulls Community Committee for the 2025 – 28 triennium.

#### 2. Election of Chair

- 2.1 Members are asked to nominate and an elect a Chair from the current membership.
- 2.2 Clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which relates to voting systems for certain appointments (including the election or appointment of the deputy mayor, the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a committee, and the election or appointment of a representative of the local authority), states that:
  - (2) ... a local authority or a committee (if the local authority has so directed) must determine by resolution that a person be elected or appointed by using one of the following systems of voting:—
    - (a) the voting system in subclause (3) ("system A"):
    - (b) the voting system in subclause (4) ("system B").
  - (3) **System A—**
    - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and
    - (b) has the following characteristics:—
      - (i) there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and
      - (ii) if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
      - (iii) if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
      - (iv) in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
  - (4) **System B—**
    - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
    - (b) has the following characteristics:
      - (i) there is only 1 round of voting; and

**ITEM 6.1**

(ii) if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

2.3 Once the voting is complete the Mayor or Ward Councillor vacates the chair.

**3. Election of Deputy Chair**

3.1 Members are asked to nominate and an elect a Deputy Chair from the current membership, using the voting system adopted as part of the previous item (Election of Chair).

**Recommendation 1**

That the Bulls Community Committee, for the purpose of electing or appointing persons under Clause 25, adopt either System A, or System B.

**Recommendation 2**

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed Chair of the Bulls Community Committee.

**Recommendation 3**

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed Deputy Chair of the Bulls Community Committee.

## 7 Reports for Information

### 7.1 Guidance and Terms of Reference - Bulls Community Committee

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Purpose of the Community Committee

- 1.1 The purpose of Community Committees is to provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community, and provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- 1.2 Community Committees are also charged with the delegated authority for the annual allocation for defined small local works also referred to as the 'Small Projects Grant'.
- 1.3 Community Committees also help to ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure in the appropriate manner, through promoting the use of the Request for Service procedure and advising community members on how to use the Request for Service procedure.
- 1.4 It is not the role of the Committee to provide details of a Request for Service through their minutes; this needs to be done through direct contact with the Council office on 0800 422522 or through the 'Report it' section of the Council website.
- 1.5 Community Committees are to be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.

#### 2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Bulls Community Committee are attached.
- 2.2 Committees will generally follow the Terms of Reference as listed below:
  - The term of membership of each Committee shall generally coincide with Local Government term of office, i.e. three years. The Committees shall be disestablished at each triennial election, the same as all other Committees of Council.
  - Each Committee will have power to co-opt other members, either from the public generally or representatives of specific community interest groups provide the maximum number of members is not exceeded.
  - One/Two liaison Councillor(s) is/are to be appointed by the Council to serve on each Committee, in order to provide a formal link with the Council at an elected member level. The quorum of a meeting must include at least one member of the local Authority.
  - Committees will determine their meeting frequency, with the option of holding informal workshop sessions if they choose.

#### 3. Role of the Chairperson

- 3.1 The Chairperson of a Community Committee is elected at the first meeting of the triennium. If requested, Council will arrange training for the Chair on Chairing meetings and meeting procedures.

- 3.2 It is the role of the Chairperson to ensure that meetings are productive and correct processes are followed. This includes verifying that a quorum exists at the start of each meeting and is maintained throughout.
- 3.3 The Chairperson has the right, through a report, to direct the attention of a meeting to any matter which is on the agenda or which falls within the responsibilities of that meeting.
- 3.4 Community Committees provide a link between Council and the community, and it is the Chairperson's role to ensure that the issues facing the community are brought to Council's attention through the correct avenues.
- 3.5 Should the Chairperson wish to include an item in the agenda, it is to be sent to the Governance Administrator not less than two weeks prior to the meeting.
- 3.6 Should a committee member or a member of the community wish to include an item in the agenda, this is to be discussed first with the Chairperson.

#### **4. Role of Committee Member**

- 4.1 The role of a committee member is to engage in productive discussion during meetings and act as a liaison for the rest of the community with Council.
- 4.2 Committee members should bring to the Chairperson's attention any issues identified through the community that should be discussed at a committee meeting and potentially referred onto Council for further discussion.

#### **5. Council support**

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of Council to produce and distribute the Committee Order Paper. The Order Papers for Council and all Committees and Boards are uploaded to the Council website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) and are available for the public to read at all Council offices and libraries.
- 5.2 Standing orders require that the Order Paper be sent to each member of a committee at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting. This may be by electronic means.
- 5.3 Questions relating to the agenda may be asked of staff at the meeting.
- 5.4 The minutes of the meeting will be taken by the Committee Support Officer.
- 5.5 The unconfirmed minutes will be electronically circulated to Committee members for information purposes, prior to the following meetings order paper distribution.
- 5.6 Should the Chair wish to follow up on any undertaking by Council staff in relation to a previous meeting, they need to do so with Council's Governance Advisor.

#### **6. Committee recommendations**

- 6.1 The Committee can make a formal request of Council with regard to an agenda item, by way of a resolved recommendation. A good recommendation should stand alone with all relevant information for action contained within its wording. For example:

*That, the Marton Community Committee recommend to Council that the 50 km speed limit zone on Whanganui Road is extended to at least, 2 km west of the main entrance to Huntley School on Wanganui Road.*



- 6.2 A Committee recommendation to Council will be put to their next business meeting by way of confirmation under the Council agenda item 'Minutes and recommendations from Committees' or, if deemed necessary by staff, within its own agenda item.
- 6.3 This could include more information such as process, cost association or research required along with a supporting or alternative recommendation from staff.

**7. Small Projects Grant Scheme (as defined in the Terms of Reference within Council's Delegations Register)**

- 7.1 Community Committees are provided with an allocation for defined small local works. This grant is known as the Small Projects Grant Scheme and is funded through rates on a \$1 per rateable property basis. Committees are given an annual allocation and can carry-over up to 100% of that year's allocation to the following year, but no more than that.
- 7.2 The objective of the Scheme is to allow Community Committees to fund purchases of small items or additional services which are not included in Council's operating budgets and which will benefit the local community. Examples would be signage, park furniture, plants, paint, a leaflet or other publication or an event.
- 7.3 Proposed expenditure must be approved –
- by resolution at a publicly notified meeting (and at a time when the public is not excluded from proceedings)
- 7.4 The delegation does not extend to proposed expenditure which –
- provides training or conference attendance for one or more members, or
  - constitutes an additional payment to an individual or organisation for goods or services subject to a contract with the Council, or
  - exceeds the annual allocation (including any carry-forward amount).
- Any such proposal must be referred to Council for decision.
- 7.5 A proposal for any forward-funding of works (using funding from the next financial year) would require approval from Council

**8. Standing Orders for 2025/28 Triennium**

- 8.1 Standing Orders are attached under separate cover for the committee's information.

**Attachments:**

1. **Terms of Reference - Bulls Community Committee** [↓](#)
2. **Rangitikei District Council Standing Orders 2025-28 (under separate cover)**

**Recommendation**

That the report Guidance and Draft Terms of Reference – Bulls Community Committee be received.

## Bulls Community Committee

Terms of Reference

As at November 2025

<b>Elected Members</b>	One councillor determined by Council. His Worship the Mayor as ex officio
<b>External Members</b>	Minimum of four and maximum of ten people with an interest in the Bulls Community (excluding the councillor) RNZAF Base Ōhakea representative (optional)
<b>Chair</b>	To be elected by the members of the committee
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Every two months
<b>Reports to</b>	Council

### Purpose

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the Bulls community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation of \$1,300 (Plus inflation from 2025/26 financial year) for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines.
- To help to ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure in the appropriate manner through promoting the use of the Request for Service procedure and advising community members on how to use the Request for Service procedure.
- To work collaboratively with the Bulls and District Community Trust in achieving positive outcomes for the Bulls community.

### Terms of Reference (delegations)

- Authority to approve expenditure of the Small Projects Fund.
- Provide recommendations to Council on matters of relevance to the Bulls community.

## **Process for appointment of external members**

RNZAF Base Ohakea will be asked if they want to provide a representative to be on the committee.

The Council will call nominations to the Bulls Community Committee following committee re-establishment after the triennial election.

The nomination period will be a minimum of 20 working days.

Where fewer than four nominations are received by the closing date, the Council will issue a further public notice to seek additional nominations for a period of a minimum of 10 working days. If there are insufficient nominations after the further public notice, the Bulls Community Committee will be deemed as unformed until the time there is enough interest.

Where more than ten nominations are received, Council will conduct an election at a public meeting by secret ballot.

A minimum of ten eligible voters are required to be present at any public meeting called to elect members to form the Bulls Community Committee. Those eligible to vote must be enrolled on the most recent electoral roll and live the Bulls Community Committee area.

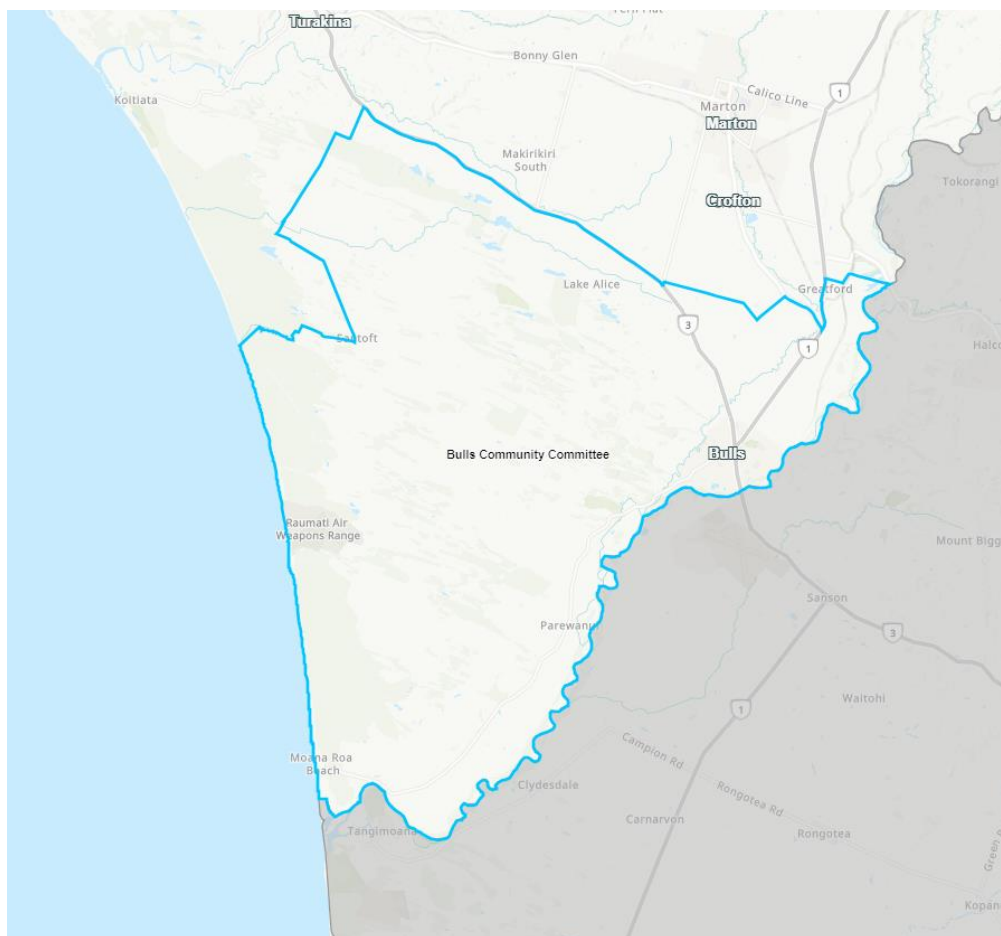
Nominators (and voters, should that prove necessary) for the Committee should reside within the Bulls Community Committee Area.

Members are not required to reside within the Bulls Community Committee area, but should have an interest in the area.

The membership will be notified on Council's website.

The Bulls Community Committee will have power to co-opt other members, either from the public generally or representatives of specific community interest groups provide the maximum number of members is not exceeded.

In accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 30(7) of the Local Government Act 2002, the Committee will be discharged at the end of the triennium.



### Small Projects Fund

The Committee holds delegated authority to allocate the annual Small Projects Fund. Eligible uses may include minor improvements such as:

- Small beautification works.
- Minor repairs or enhancements to public spaces.
- Supporting community groups with events or projects

All decisions to allocate funds must be made through a formal Committee resolution, with a record of the purpose and amount allocated included in the minutes.

It is noted that while the majority of grants may be provided within the Committee's area, if there are projects of interest outside the Bulls Community Committee area (but within the Rangitikei District boundaries), the Committee has discretion to approve funding.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Committee Members**

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings and participate constructively.
- Represent the interests of the whole Bulls community.
- Declare any conflicts of interest.
- Support and uphold the Committee's decisions.

### **Chair**

The Chair is responsible for:

- Chairing the Committee meeting in accordance with Standing Orders.
- Representing the Committee to a high standard.
- Promoting and supporting good governance of the Committee.
- Ensuring all members have the opportunity to contribute to the meeting.
- Providing leadership to the Committee in helping to form consensus that is representative of the Bulls community.
- Acting as the primary point of contact for the Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer.

## **Reporting and Accountability**

In July each year, the Committee will provide Council with a short summary outlining:

- Highlights and achievements.
- Support provided for Council consultations and communication of local issues.
- Funding allocations for small works.
- Recommendations or priorities for the coming year.

The Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer will provide support to the Bulls Community Committee to complete the accountability reporting.

## **Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest**

Members must act in accordance with the Community Committee Code of Conduct

Any conflict of interest must be declared and recorded.

Members with a conflict must abstain from related decisions unless otherwise agreed by the Committee.

**Secretariat support**

Council will produce and distribute the Committee Order Paper. The Order Papers are uploaded to the Council website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) and are available for the public to read at all Council offices and libraries.

The Order Paper will be sent to each committee member by electronic means at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting (in accordance with standing orders).

If requested, Council will consider providing staff for secretarial support on the basis that frequency of meetings being normally not more than every second month, and that the meetings start time are negotiated with Council and finish formally within two hours.

## 7.2 Mayor's Report - February 2026

**Author:** Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good morning

With the Government introducing new legislation just prior to Christmas with submissions due now, the focus by Council staff has been to provide Councillors with draft submissions to consider. I thank staff for their time and the way they have worked with other councils to collaboratively prepare option reports. Council considered submissions at the Policy/Planning Committee working group session recently and they will be available through the Council website once lodged.

Council is also progressing work on its urban growth plan change, which will come to council at the end of February to adopt for public notification. The public notification process will mean everyone that has an interest can put in a submission on the proposal. This has been a huge volume of work for our Strategy Manager and I thank her for her outstanding work to date. The plan change sets the district up to future proof residential land supply to provide for long term growth in the south of the district. The process hasn't been without its challenges, with the project halted midway through the year due to the Government's plan stop, and then exempted to continue in December that year. This is just the beginning of the formal plan change process, with significant work to come with uncertainty around how many submissions we might receive and the ongoing challenge of RMA reform.

1. **The RMA (Resource Management Act)** is proposed to be replaced by two separate Acts – The Planning Act and The Natural Environment Act. The most telling is the Planning Act which will result over time in –
  - i) Fewer plans and regional spatial planning
  - ii) Standardised consents in many cases
  - iii) Limitations on appeals and Iwi involvement

Along with the proposal to Simplify Local Government, these Acts set the pathway for aggregation of councils, removing regional councils and a potential timeline for regional spatial planning, regional roading decisions and the loss of local voice for the Rangitikei.

So why would the Government progress this? There are several drivers for these changes -

- The existing RMA is flawed - decisions take too long and are too expensive to process.
  - The national crown debt of around \$180b is sitting now in excess of 40% of our GDP, so productivity and efficiency gains must be made.
2. Our submissions also cover the impending **Rates Capping legislation** and the relevant points are –
    - i) Government will impose a maximum rate increase based on the use of a formula of economic indicators. At this stage the Government is suggesting this range could be of between 2 and 4%, starting in 2027 with full implementation in 2029. The range would be reviewed every three years.

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- ii) There will be several exemptions to the proposal so parts of the rates covering new housing and three waters can be in excess of 4% and there is a variation process if your district is hit by dramatic weather events.
- iii) The Government wants councils to work towards the lowering of costs now and our council is doing that work now for the coming Annual Plan and the future Long Term Plan.
- iv) Our submission to Government opposes the Bill, while we absolutely focus on cost savings and our submission is based on -

- Roading is 40% of our operational spend and roading cost increase are well over 4% per year.
- Government has asked us to take on a number of other tasks and new structures and are charging us to do so by way of levies.
- Our cost for things like electricity and insurance are increasing far faster than 4% a year.
- The council will comply with the legislation when it is put in place – it will be law. But to do so there will be pressure to –
  - a) Charge higher fees
  - b) Reduce some services
  - c) Search council systems to reduce costs.

3. As has been reported earlier, Council has formed a new three waters entity called Central Districts Water (CDW) in collaboration with Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council. This new entity will provide drinking water, wastewater services and stormwater control starting 2027, replacing our council's function.

- Our council control will be having 3 representatives - 2 councillors (proposed to be Mayor and Deputy Mayor plus Councillor Dalgety as the alternate) and 1 Iwi representative (plus alternate) on the Shareholders Committee, a process mirrored by Palmerston North and Horowhenua.
- The role of the Shareholders Committee will be to –
  - a) Appoint directors of the new company
  - b) Have input into strategy/costings
  - c) Have an appraisal function.
- The transition to CDW is on track with appointments due soon and Council will work on our Long Term Plans to implement the changes needed.

I urge you to look at our full Council submissions to understand the changes and challenges we face.



4. As always the new year for Council is about events. We've recently hosted the Shearing Sports in Taihape, the Turakina Highland Games, Kiwiburn and the Marton Country Music Festival.

Upcoming events include -

- Taihape Show Jumping - 7-8 February
- Marton Shearing Sports - 7 February at Memorial Hall
- Fest a Bull at Te Matapihi/Bulls - 28 February

Over the weekend Suze Redmayne, MP for the Rangitikei, and I both attended the Highland Games in Turakina and the opening of the third bridge in the Hautapu River Park Project in Taihape (now completed courtesy of JBS Dudding Trust funding). I look forward to the completion of the last two bridges in the project and the chance to celebrate the achievements of the full team in Taihape.

Funding of these events and community initiatives is assisted by Council. The next round of future funding closes on 31 March and details are available on Council's website.

5. I would like to take this time to congratulate Helen Cooper, who received a King's Service Medal in the New Year Honours for her service to the Bulls community. Helen has called Bulls home for 43 years, and her belief that if you live in a community, you support it, is a wonderful example to us all. I also congratulate John Eaden on receiving a King's Service Medal for services to Art, particularly his more than 45 years of contribution to Creative Communities, along with his mentoring of young and emerging artists and people with disabilities. John has recently relocated to the Rangitikei and we look forward to getting to know him and his work more.
6. Negotiations over the Christmas break have seen the extension of the log train contract where up to 1000 tonne of logs per day will be transported by rail to the Ports of Napier. The saving of damage to our roads, particularly the "Gentle Annie" is immense and I thank the parties for this approach. The challenge will be to work with KiwiRail and NZTA to best understand the cost to NZ Inc with regards rail versus road. This discussion is not unique to us, regional rail is important and the costs are, in my opinion, poorly understood.

While on all things rail, the vandalism to the Marton Railway Station and elsewhere in our district is sad. Council cannot justify contributing to a rebuild of the Marton Railway Station and to be honest the decision by KiwiRail to demolish the building is justified. At present it is and has been a poor gateway to our district and an embarrassment and without a future need at any scale a rebuild would only continue to attract further graffiti. We can only hope that Marton can re-find its place as the Lower North Island Central Rail Hub for both passenger and freight.

7. Council has a Standing Committee called the Risk/Assurance Committee, a committee that has the ability to challenge Council on both practices and risk. As such there is the need for independent oversight by way of an Independent Chair. The Council went to market seeking applications for this role and the application process is now closed, resulting in 8 applications which will be reviewed, shortlisted and interviewed by myself the Group Manager of Council Corporate Services, with a goal to appoint at the next Council meeting.

This triennium Council has also established the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee. I have used by delegation as Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act

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to appoint members of this committee as Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Cr John Hainsworth and Cr Fi Dalgety and myself as Mayor.

8. This year the JBS Dudding Trust has granted in excess of \$1m to recipients that either provide services to, or are based solely within the Rangitikei. Without the Dudding Trust the Rangitikei would be a much, much poorer place. These grants literally enable things to happen. Major recipients this year have been the Taihape Papakai Bridges Project, enabling the completion of the last 3 bridges, the Santoft Domain Committee, the Te Araroa Trail Walkway and the B&C Dam Restoration Projects in Marton. These effectively provide a great geographic spread of funding throughout the Rangitikei. There were literally hundreds of other smaller grants made enabling services to continue to be provided throughout our district. I thank John Dudding for his foresight and the perpetual gift that he keeps on giving and the Public Trust for the administration of the service.
9. I want to express Council's sincere condolences to the whānau and loved ones of the road worker who was tragically killed on the Taihape-Napier Road last month. Any loss of life on our roads is felt deeply across our communities. Rangitikei has some of the most challenging roads in the country and the safety of people working on and around them must always remain paramount.
10. Last month I was honoured to attend the Rātana celebrations at Rātana Pā. It was a privilege to stand on the paepae, to listen and to acknowledge the shared whakapapa and values that shape both our district and our country. I include a copy of my speech -

*"Matua, Tama,  
Wairua tapu  
me ngā  
Anahera pono  
me ta Māngai hei  
tautoko mai,  
aianei,  
ake nei,  
ae.*

*I acknowledge our CE Carol Gordon and Councillors with me today, we have five new Councillors, most of whom will not have been aware of the significance of the birthday of TW Ratana and the incredible deeds and legacy that he left. For them it is a learning experience and a journey that I started on many years ago. We will work with you to guide that journey.*

*Often our Church Ministers make reference "that we live in uncertain times". We surely do. Last year I thanked the paepae and Morehu for the respect and friendship I have been accorded at Ratana, believing it may have been my last opportunity to do so. That changed in October, so sorry you're stuck with me for another 3 years!*

*Equally with the Three Water reforms by Government, we were to be in marriage with Whanganui and Ruapehu as water buddies in a new entity. That changed and we now sit in the new entity of Central Districts Water with Palmerston North and Horowhenua. However we will continue to work closely with Whanganui in the future.*

*As part of the water reforms Government has lowered the environmental thresholds for waste water disposal allowing an easier pathway in consenting which may return waste to our waterways. Yes, potentially those reforms will save the country millions but as decision-makers we must realise that disposal of waste to land was a decision to make because it was the right thing to do. Lake Waipu needs to be clean.*

*However, I congratulate the Government ministers Shayne Jones and Tama Potaka who have granted \$10m to do the urgent building work required on the Manuao. I understand the consents have been lodged and council will work with Ratana to make it happen.*

*At the last election we lost Māori Wards for the Rangitikei referendum. In my naivete I expected them to be retained – the value that Councillors Coral Raukawa and Piki Te Ora Hiroa bring to our Council is incredible. I feel that I have let them and you down. While I stated that I publicly supported Māori Wards I should have done more to outline why and push for their retention.*

*Ratana is an remarkable community and is continuing to grow - the Wharekura now has a roll of 60 students, primary and secondary and I look further to working further with Whaea Candace Hemi Mason.*

*Council appreciates the support and conversations we have with the Community Board chaired by Charlie Mete.*

*My associations and friendships with Ratana are extremely important to me and it is a privilege to serve here*

*Tēna koutou katoa”*

## Mayor's Engagements

Due to the new configuration of Council meetings that now fall in the middle of each month, the Mayor's Engagements will be listed following this cycle.

### January 2026

6	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
15	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Taihape ratepayer
16	Attended monthly Economic Development meeting with staff Attended monthly meeting with Police Attended Change of Command Ceremony at NZDF Base Ohakea
20	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended site visit to Kiwiburn

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	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
21	Attended monthly comms team meeting with staff
22	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
23	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
24	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
25	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	Attended Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Community Volunteer Awards Panel Meeting Attended January BA5 Event in Bulls
29	Attended Council Workshop
30	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group online meeting Attended CDW CCO online meeting regarding directorship Attended Project Oversight Group Central Districts Water online meeting
31	Attended the Turakina Caledonian Games

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2	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff Attended meeting with Scotts Ferry Community members Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
3	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Co-Chair meeting Attended Manfeild Park Trust Special General Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
5	Attended Zone 3 Online Hui Attended meeting with Mokai Patea iwi re landlocked land CDW Independent Chair interviews
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee meeting Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting

10	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
11	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
12	Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop

**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – February 2026 be received.

**ITEM 8.3****7.3 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026**

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**1. Allocation**

- 1.1 The total 2025/26 allocation to the Committee's Small Projects Fund is \$1,363.47 this includes the carry forward of \$63.47 from 2024/25 and \$200 for minor repairs.

**Recommendation**

That the report Small Projects Fund Update –February 2026 be received.

**7.4 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026****Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Overview**

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
- Community Initiatives Fund
  - Events Sponsorship Scheme
  - Creative Communities Scheme
  - Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

**2. Community Initiatives Fund**

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Scotts Ferry Community Committee
  - Marton Returned Services Association (Incorporated)
  - Alzheimer's Whanganui
  - Scout Association of New Zealand
  - The Parkinson's New Zealand Charitable trust
  - Itty bitty kitty committee
  - Cancer Society of NZ Whanganui Rangitikei Waimarino Centre Inc
  - Taihape Art Club (Society)
  - Manawatu Multiple Sclerosis Society Incorporated
  - Marton & Surrounds ICT Hub Charitable Trust Board
  - Marton & District Historical Society Incorporated
- 2.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

**3. Events Support Scheme**

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Hunterville Huntaway Festival
  - Hunterville Squash Racquets Club Inc
  - Bulls & District Community Trust
  - Marton Country Music Festival
  - Marton Arts & Crafts Centre
  - Opaea Marae

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- Rangitikei Shearing Sports Inc
- Taihape Dressage
- Taihape Area Show Jumping

3.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

#### **4. Creative Communities Scheme**

4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

4.2 Creative NZ has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 12 November 25 and below are the successful groups.

- RuapehuREAP - He Taonga Tuku Iho - Korowai Wānanga
- Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls 148th Annual Rose Show
- Art4Arts Sake 2026
- Flynn's Celtic Strings
- Beautify Bulls - Bulls Rugby Club Mural
- Turakina Caledonian Society Incorporated

4.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 30 April with the decision date the 20 May 26.

#### **5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund**

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

5.3 The round will be opened 11 August 25 and will close 29 March 2026. Decision will be made by the Sport NZ Travel Committee in April 2026.

#### **6. Further Information**

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>



**Recommendation**

That the Funding Schemes Update – February 2026 be received.

ITEM 8.4

## **8 Meeting Closed.**