



RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Governance Statement
2025~~2~~-2028~~5~~

**RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Reviewed March 2026~~3~~

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1. Introducing the Local Governance Statement

1.1 What is the Purpose of the Local Governance Statement?

A Local Governance Statement is a collection of information about how Council operates, how it makes decisions, and how members of the community can influence these processes. It supports the purpose of local government by promoting democracy and provides you with information on how to influence local democratic processes.

1.2 The Legal Requirement to Have a Local Governance Statement

Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) requires Council to have a Local Governance Statement.

1.3 What Information Does the Statement Contain?

To meet the purposes, this Local Governance Statement includes the following broad categories of information or identifies where this information can be found:

- Functions, responsibilities and activities of the Rangitikei District Council¹;
- Electoral arrangements²;
- The way elected members' make decisions and relate to each other and to the management of the Rangitikei District Council³;
- Governance structures and processes⁴; and
- The key policies of the Rangitikei District Council⁵.

1.4 Where do I get further information?

The documents mentioned in this Local Governance Statement (including plans, reports, policies and memorandum of understanding agreements) are available from the Rangitikei District Council's website www.rangitikei.govt.nz. Hard copies are available on request (and are in some cases subject to a charge or fee) and are available for viewing at the Council's Office in Marton or at any of the District's libraries.

2. Functions, Responsibilities and Activities of the Council

2.1 Functions

Under the LGA 2002, the purpose of local government has been defined as being:

- *"To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and;*

¹ LGA 2002 s.40(1)(a)

² LGA 2002 s.40(1)(c)

³ LGA 2002 s.40(1)(g)

⁴ LGA 2002 s.40(1)(f)

⁵ LGA 2002 s. 40(1)(l)

- *to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.*⁶

2.2 Principles

The LGA 2002 sets out a number of principles which the Council must act in accordance with⁷:

- Conduct business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner.
- Implement priorities and outcomes as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- Have regard to the views of the community.
- Take account of; the diversity of the community, community interests, interests of both current and future communities, when making a decision.
- Provide opportunities for Māori in decision making processes.
- Collaborate with other local authorities.
- Undertake commercial transactions in accordance with sound business practices.
- Periodically assess expected returns from commercial activities and ensure the returns are likely to outweigh the risks.
- Ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of resources.
- Take a sustainable development approach considering; the social, economic, and cultural interests of people and communities; the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and the needs of future generations.

2.3 Delivery of Services

Council is required to review the cost-effectiveness of current arrangements for meeting the needs of communities within the district for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions⁸. The review must consider options for governance, funding, and delivery of infrastructure services and regulatory services and are commonly referred to as 'section 17Aa' reviews.

Such reviews are normally undertaken at six-yearly intervals or when a contract expires. The Council may elect not to undertake such a review when a change is not feasible until two years have elapsed or where costs of the review outweigh the potential benefits.

Note: The Local Government (System Improvement) Amendment Bill proposes to remove the requirement for Council to undertake mandatory reviews. This Bill is expected to be enacted in early 2026.

⁶ LGA 2002 s.10(1)

⁷ LGA 2002 s. 14

⁸ LGA 2002 s. 17A(1) and s. 17A(2)

2.4 Responsibilities

The Rangitīkei District Council ~~has determined that it~~ has the overall responsibility and accountability for the proper direction and guidance of the activities under its direct control. This responsibility and accountability includes:

- Providing a leadership focus for the District.
- Formulating the District's strategic direction.
- Ensuring activities are carried out in accordance with the Long Term Plan.
- Managing the principal risks to Council assets, services, infrastructure and investments.
- Administering all relevant legislation and regulations, and upholding the law.
- Encouraging economic and social development within the District.
- Representing local and community interests as appropriate.
- Providing and maintaining recreational and leisure facilities and facilitating the provision of community services.
- Reporting to ratepayers on the above.

2.5 General and Local Legislation

In addition to the legislation that applies to all local authorities, and such further legislation and amendments that Government from time to time may impose, the Rangitīkei District Council is also bound by the following local legislation (Acts or sections of Acts) that apply specifically to it. These Acts are:

- Reserves and Other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act 1906. (Section 22 and schedule 6. Site for volunteer drill-shed Marton).
- Reserves and Other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act 1907. (Section 55 and Schedule 20 - Vesting land to Bulls Town Board for the purpose of town hall).
- Reserves and Other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act 1910. (Section 35 Exchange of certain lands in Bulls for recreation and rifle range purposes).
- Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act and Public Bodies Empowering Act 1917. (Section 59 Authorising the erection of seaside cottage on Koitiata Domain).
- Maori Purposes Act 1954. (Section 5 Ratana Settlement administration).
- Local Legislation Act 1961. (Section 17 Validating deed of covenant between Marton Borough Council and Marton RSA).
- Water Conservation (Rangitīkei River) Order 1993.

2.6 Local Bylaws

The Rangitīkei District Council has the following bylaws:

| Name of bylaw | Description | Date of review | Date bylaw was made |
|---|--|--|--|
| Animal Control Bylaw | Sets regulations on the keeping of animals (excluding d Dogs) within the District so that they do not cause nuisance or endanger health. | 31 January 2019 <u>12 July 2018</u> | Adopted 31 January 2019 7 October 2013 Amended 29 October 2015 Amended 17 December 2015 |
| <u>Signs and Public Spaces Bylaw</u> | <u>The general purpose of this bylaw is to; protect the public from nuisance and maintain the safety of public places; regulate trading in public places; regulate signs in public places.</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>Adopted 29 August 2024</u> |
| Control of Advertising Signage Bylaw | To ensure health and safety, reduce hazards and to maintain aesthetic standards. | 31 January 2013 | Adopted 15 October 2017 |
| Control of Dogs Bylaw | Requires owners to suitably confine, house and otherwise control their dogs. | 17 May 2016 | Adopted 27 November 2014 <u>Adopted 17 May 2016</u> |
| Food Business Grading Bylaw | Sets out a food grading scheme. | 1 November 2021 <u>28 October 2026</u> | Adopted 27 November 2014 <u>28 October 2021</u> |
| Liquor Control Bylaw | To minimise the potential for offensive alcohol related behaviour in public places. Adopted 1 September 2010. | 30 November 13 <u>September</u> 2018 | Adopted 30 June 2010 <u>30 November 2018</u> |
| Mokai Bridge Bungy Jumping Bylaw | To ensure sufficient authority for an operator to use Mokai Bridge. Adopted 3 October 2013. | 3 October 2013 | Adopted 29 May 2008 |
| Public Places Bylaw | To maintain standards of safety, amenity and civic values and address damage that may be caused to public places through use of facilities. Adopted 31 January 2013. | 1 January 2013 | Adopted 15 October 2007 |
| Speed Limit Bylaw | Sets speed limits for the district. Note: Superseded by legislation and due to be revoked. | N/A | N/A |
| Stock Droving and Grazing Bylaw | Presents permitted standards on droving and grazing to protect road surfaces, improve road safety and avoid nuisance. | Amended 26 September 2019 | Adopted 7 October 2013 <u>Amended 26 September 2019</u> |

| Name of bylaw | Description | Date of review | Date bylaw was made |
|---|--|--|--|
| Trading in Public Places Bylaw | To regulate the conduct of persons selling goods to the public on footpaths, roads or from vehicles. Adopted 31 January 2013. Public Places Bylaw 2013: | 1 January 2013 | Adopted 15 October 2007 |
| Traffic and Parking Bylaw | To set requirements for parking and the control of vehicles, and other roading related issues on any public road or public place. | 15 March 2023 ^{N/A} | Adopted 26 October 2017 ^{24 May 2023} |
| Water Related Services Bylaw | Manages and regulates the water supply, wastewater, stormwater and land drainage systems | 10 April 2025 30 April 2020 | Adopted 2 May 2013 ⁹ Adopted 30 April 2020 |

3. Electoral System and Representation Arrangements

3.1 Electoral System

The Rangitikei District Council currently operates its elections under the first-past-the-post electoral system. Electors vote by indicating their preferred candidate(s), and the candidate(s) that receives the most votes is declared the winner. The other option permitted under the Local Electoral Act 2001 is the single transferable vote system (STV).

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 the Council can resolve to change the electoral system to be used at the next two elections or conduct a binding poll, or electors can demand a binding poll. A poll can be initiated by at least 5 percent of electors signing a petition demanding that a poll be held. Once changed, an electoral system must be used for at least the next two triennial general elections, i.e. ~~we~~Council cannot change our electoral system for one election and then change back for the next election.

The Council's last review of electoral systems was completed in 2019, and applied to the 2019 and 2022 elections. The next review of the electoral system is scheduled for 2026.

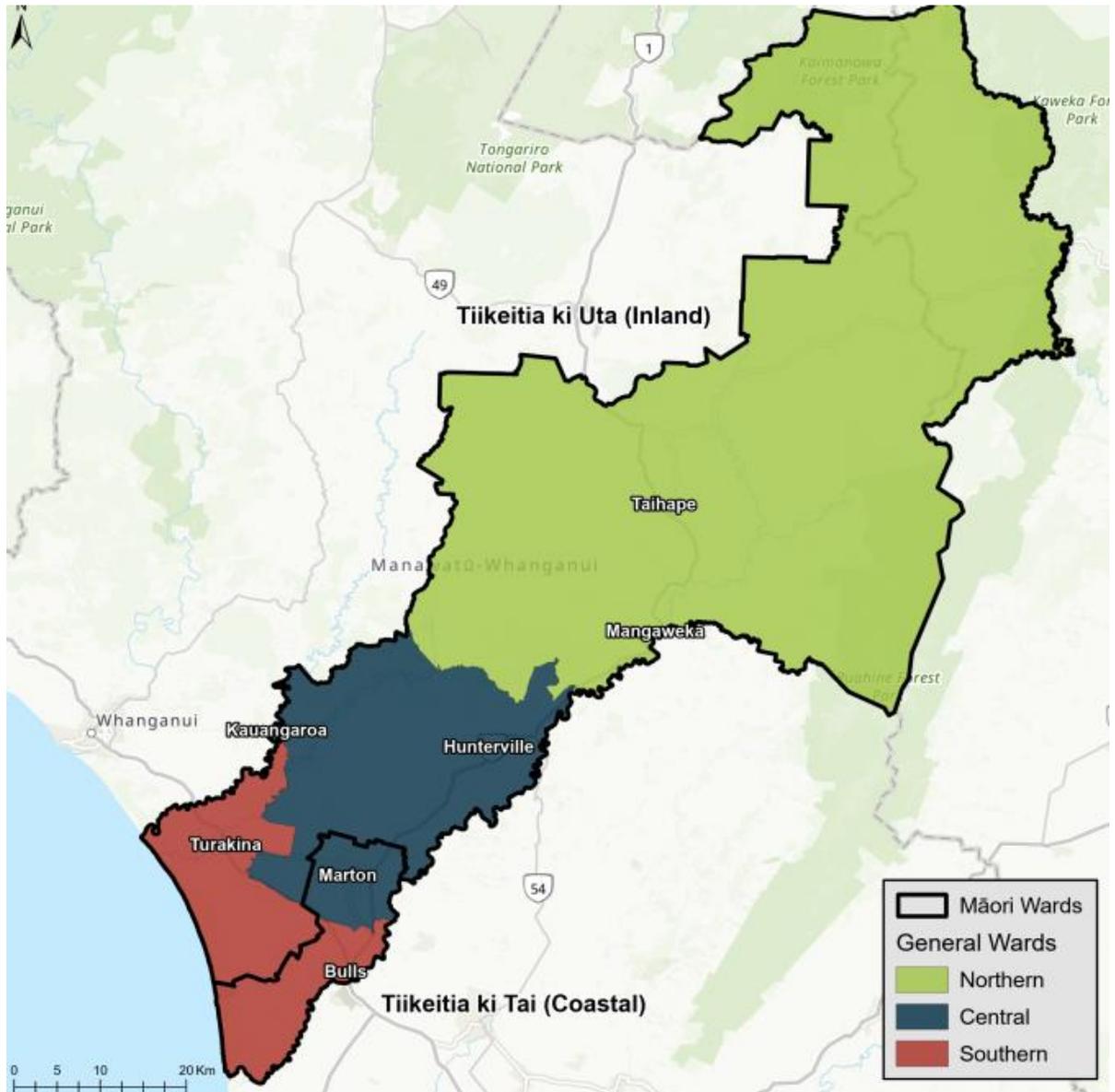
3.2 Wards and Constituencies

The Rangitikei District Council has one Mayor and eleven Councillors. The Mayor is elected at large while Councillors are elected from five wards.

~~The ward boundaries are illustrated on the next page.~~

⁹ ~~However, Part 2 and Part 3 are not yet in effect. They introduce provisions for public and private stormwater drainage. Before these parts are put into effect, a series of maps clarifying the status of public and private drains will be released for consultation. Consultation has taken place on an amended bylaw, which will be proposed for adoption at Council's meeting on 23 April 2020.~~

| Ward | Number of Councillors |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Northern General Ward | 2 |
| Central General Ward | 5 |
| Southern General Ward | 2 |
| Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) | 1 |
| Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) | 1 |



3.3 Representation Options

3.3.1 Māori Wards

~~The Local Electoral Act 2001 also gives the Council the ability to establish separate Wards for Māori electors. As part of the 2022 Representation Review, In April 2021 Council decided on the establishment of created two Māori wards for the Rangitikei District. These wards were in place for the 2022 and 2025 triennium.~~

In accordance with the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, Council conducted a binding poll on Māori wards at the 2025 local body election. The result was that the Māori wards would be removed for the 2028 and 2031 elections. Reconsideration of Māori wards would only be available for the representation review that will commence in 2032 for the 2034 election.

3.3.2 Community Boards¹⁰

The Rangitikei District Council has two Community Boards – the Taihape Community Board and the Rātana Community Board, both part of the initial arrangements for the District when established in 1989. These boards are currently constituted under s.49 of the LGA 2002 to¹¹:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interests of their community.
- Consider and report on any matter referred to it by the Council and any issues of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- Make an annual submission to Council on expenditure in the community.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups in the community.
- Undertake any other responsibilities delegated by the Council ~~(currently the Council has not delegated any such responsibilities).~~

The Rātana Community Board comprises of five members. Electors in the Rātana Community elect four members and one councillor is appointed.

The Taihape Community Board comprises of six members. Electors in the Taihape Community elect four members Council appoints ~~the two Northern Ward c~~Councillors ~~as members of the Community Board.~~

Both cCommunity bBoards elect their own Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson at their first meeting after the triennial election.

3.4 Changing Representation Arrangements

The Council is required to review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. The Council completed its last review in 2022 and is required to review its

¹⁰ Council also has community committees for Bulls, Marton, Hunterville and Turakina. ~~More information on the community committees can be found on page 19.~~

¹¹ LGA 2002 s. 52

~~representation arrangements in 2026. It is not legally required to review representation again until 2026.~~

This review must include the following:

- The number of Elected Members (between six and 30 including the Mayor).
- Whether the Elected Members (other than the Mayor) shall be elected by the entire district; or continue to be elected by their Ward (or a mix of both systems).
- The boundaries and names of those wards and the number of members that will represent each ward (if election by wards is preferred).
- ~~• Whether or not to have separate Māori Wards.~~
- Whether to have Community Boards and if so how many, their boundaries and membership and whether to subdivide a community for electoral purposes.

The Council must follow the procedure set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001 when conducting this review and should also follow guidelines published by the Local Government Commission. The Act gives electors the right to make a written submission to the Council, and the right to be heard if they wish.

Electors also have the right to appeal some decisions to the Local Government Commission, which will make a binding decision on the appeal.

4. Reorganisation Process

Local government reorganisation, as set out by the LGA 2002 section 24, may provide for one or more of the following matters:

- the union of districts or regions,
- the constitution of a new district or region, including the constitution of a new local authority for that district or region,
- the abolition of a district or region, including the dissolution or abolition of the local authority for that district or region,
- the alteration of the boundaries of any district or region,
- the transfer from one local authority to another, of a responsibility, duty or power conferred by an enactment, or a discretionary function,
- the assumption by a territorial authority of the powers of a regional council as a unitary authority,
- the performance or exercise by a local authority of both responsibilities, duties and powers of a regional council or a territorial authority,
- the establishment of one or more joint committees and the delegation of powers,
- the establishment of a local board area.

The purpose of reorganisation¹² is to promote good local government by enabling and facilitating improvements to local governance.

¹² LGA 2002 s. 24AA

A reorganisation application may be made to the Local Government Commission by one or more affected local authority, a group of at least 10% of electors in the affected area, or the Minister.

It is noted that the Government released a proposal in 2025 called 'Simplifying Local Government'. That proposal sets out the creation of Combined Territories Boards made up of the region's mayors to replace regional councillors, and proposes the development of regional reorganisation plans by the Combined Territories Board.

5. Roles and Conduct

5.1 Mayor and Councillors' Role

The Mayor and the Councillors of the Rangitikei District Council have the following roles:

- Setting the policy direction of Council
- Monitoring the performance of the Council
- Representing the interests of the District
- Employing the Chief Executive

On election, all members must make a declaration that they will perform their duties faithfully and impartially, and according to their best skill and judgement in the best interests of the District.

5.2 Mayor's Role¹³

The Mayor is elected by the District as a whole. The Mayor shares the same responsibilities as other elected members of Council, and also has the following roles:

- Provide leadership to elected members and people in the Rangitikei District.
- Lead the development of the District's plans, including the LTP and Annual Plan, policies, and budgets for consideration of Council.

The Mayor has the powers to:

- Appoint the Deputy Mayor.
- Establish committees and appoint the Chair. *The Mayor is an ex officio member of each committee. This means the Mayor is a full member with voting rights.*

The Mayor is also:

- Presiding member at Council meetings.¹⁴ The Mayor is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of business during meetings (as determined in Council's Standing Orders).
- Advocate on behalf of the District. This role may involve promoting the District and representing interests of the District's residents. Such advocacy will be

¹³ LGA 2002 s. 41A

¹⁴ LGA 2002 Sch 7 cl26(1)(5)(6)

most effective where it is carried out with the knowledge and support of the Council.

- Ceremonial head of Council.

5.3 Deputy Mayor's Role

The Mayor has the authority to elect the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor exercises the same roles as other elected members. In addition:

- If the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, or if the office of Mayor is vacant, then the Deputy Mayor must perform all of the responsibilities and duties of the Mayor and may exercise the powers of the Mayor.
- The Deputy Mayor may be removed from office by resolution of Council.

5.4 Committee Chairperson's Role

The Chairperson of a committee is responsible for:

- Presiding over meetings of the Committee.
- Ensuring that the Committee acts within the powers delegated by Council, and as set out in the Council's Delegations Register.
- A Committee Chair may be removed from office by resolution of Council.

5.5 Chief Executive's Role

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Council in accordance with section 42 and Clause 33 and 34 of Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002. Recruitment of any new Chief Executive will be through an open and transparent recruitment process, with the final decision being made by full Council.

The responsibilities of the Chief Executive are¹⁵:

- Implementing the decisions of the Council.
- Providing advice to the Council and Community Boards.
- Ensuring that all responsibilities, duties and powers delegated to the Chief Executive or to any person employed by the Chief Executive, or imposed or conferred by any Act, regulation or bylaw are properly performed or exercised.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient management of the activities of the local authority.
- Facilitating and fostering representative and substantial elector participation in elections and polls held under the Local Electoral Act 2001
- Maintaining systems to enable effective planning and accurate reporting of the financial and service performance of the Council.
- Providing leadership for the staff of the Council.
- Employing staff (including negotiation of the terms of employment for the staff).

¹⁵ LGA 2002 Section 42

The Chief Executive is the only employee of the Council, and the only person who may lawfully give instructions to other staff. Any complaint about individual staff members should therefore be directed to the Chief Executive and not elected members. Any complaints about the Chief Executive should be directed in the first instance to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

~~Council has a Chief Executive Performance and Employment Committee that has delegation to approve the performance plan and undertake performance reviews. The Chief Executive has an annual performance review, which all Councillors contribute to in a public excluded meeting. The Council will only monitor performance against criteria that have been identified and agreed with the Chief Executive in advance, and are focused on organisational operation and delivery of the core services.~~

5.6 Elected Members

Elected members have specific obligations as to their conduct in the following legislation:

- *Schedule 7 of the LGA 2002*, which includes obligations to act as a good employer and to abide by the current Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.
- *The Local Authorities (Members Interest) Act 1968* which regulates the conduct of Elected Members in situations where there is, or could be, a conflict of interest between their duties as an elected member and their financial interests (either direct or indirect).
- *The Secret Commissions Act 1910*, which prohibits Elected Members from accepting gifts or rewards which could be seen to sway them to perform their duties in a particular way.
- *The Crimes Act 1961* regarding the acceptance of gifts for acting in a certain way and the use of official information for private profit.
- *Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013* – in particular Section 122 provides that if a local authority is the issuer in a disclosure document, that document must contain a statement that the financial products being offered under the disclosure document are not guaranteed by the Crown.
- *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* - The main focus of LGOIMA is the retention and release of official information held by Council and the conduct of Council meetings; the latter being evidenced by Standing Orders.

5.7 Code of Conduct

All elected members are required to adhere to Council's Code of Conduct. ~~Council reviews its Code of Conduct after each triennial election.~~ The Code of Conduct may only be amended by a 75 percent or more vote of the Council.

The Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected from elected members in the exercise of their duties. Its purpose is to:

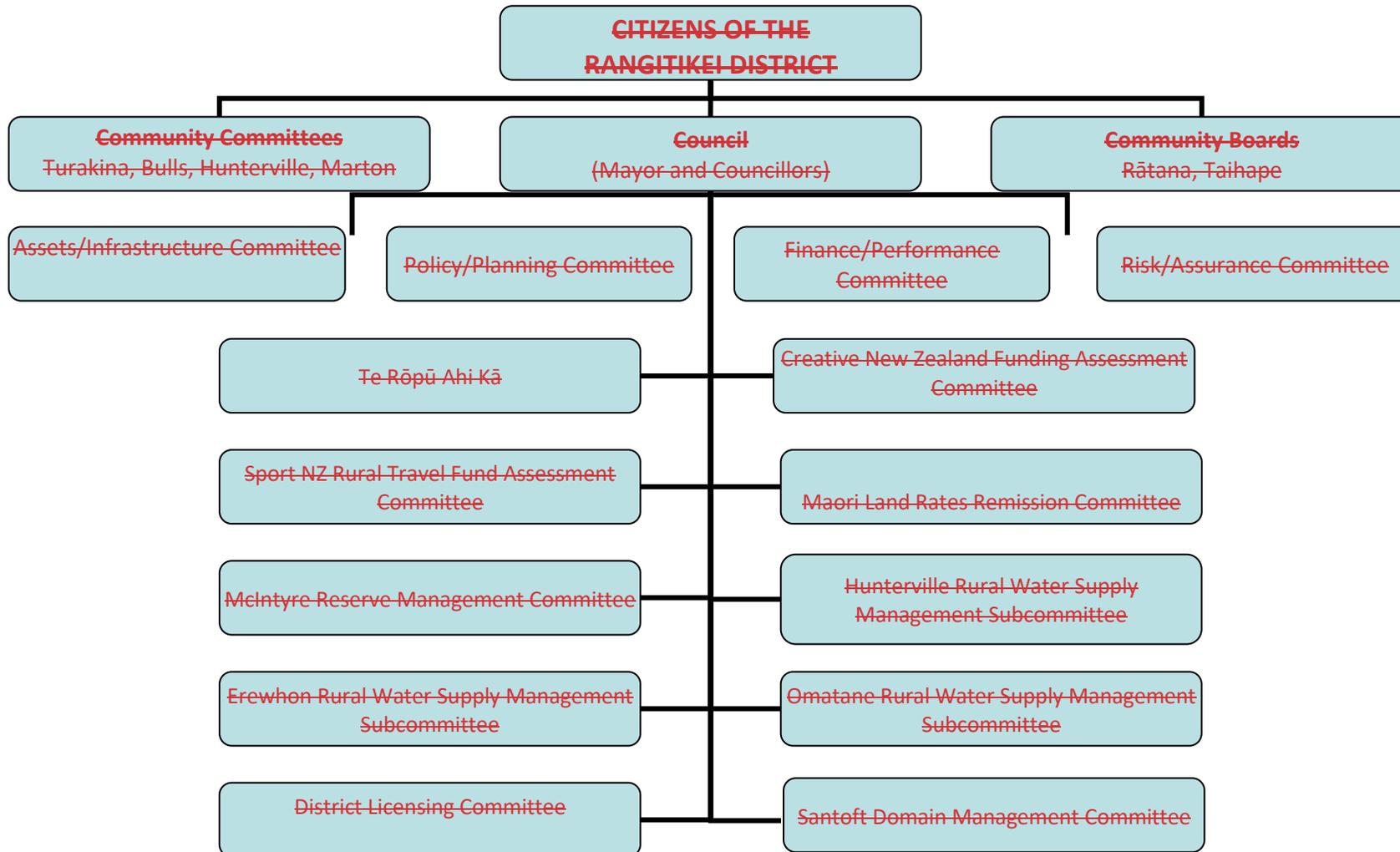
- enhance the effectiveness of Council and the provision of good local government of the district;
- promote effective decision-making and community engagement;
- enhance the credibility and accountability of Council to its communities;

- promote strong and collegial relationships between members when working together in the course of their various functions and duties; and
- develop a culture of mutual trust, respect and tolerance between members and executive management.

Note: The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill proposes the introduction of a standardised code of conduct. This standardised code of conduct is expected to be in effect by mid-2026.

6. Governance and Management Structure and Delegations

6.1 Governance Structure



Management Structure



6.2 Delegations

Council is assigned powers to act by a wide range of legislation, trust deeds and documents. In order to allow its Committees and the Chief Executive to carry out their functions, Council delegates some of these powers to act. The Chief Executive further delegates a number of these powers to allow Council staff to carry out their functions. Council delegates authority to enable decisions to be taken at the lowest possible competent level subject to the provisions the LGA 2002. Council's delegations ~~register to positions policy~~ outlines the delegations.

6.3 Council Committees

The Mayor reviews the committee structure after each triennial election. The Mayor appoints committees as necessary to achieve optimum efficiency and effectiveness in the execution of Council's functions having regard to the need to minimise administration and maximise the opportunity for thorough deliberation and consultation. For the ~~2025-20258~~ triennium Council has the following committees:

- Assets/Infrastructure Committee
- Policy/Planning Committee
- Risk ~~and~~ Assurance Committee
- ~~Finance/Performance Committee~~
- Chief Executive Performance and Employment Committee

The Mayor appoints the Chair of each committee and in some cases membership. ~~Membership of each committee is determined by full Council.~~ The Mayor is an ex officio member of each committee with full voting rights.

Council has ~~appointed~~ a District Licensing Committee (DLC), as required by section 186 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. A commissioner has been appointed (under section 193) who is the chair of the DLC. Continuous service by a DLC member (and the commissioner) is limited to ten years. ~~However, Council has limited the term to the end of the current triennium.~~¹⁶

The Council has a Māori Liaison Standing Committee called Te ~~Roopuu Rōpū~~ Ahi ~~KaaKā~~. It advises Council on issues that affect Māori and provide a Māori perspective for Council's policies, plans and bylaws. This committee is entitled to nominate one member to each of the Assets/Infrastructure, Finance/Performance Committee and Policy/Planning Committee. Such nominees are full voting members.

The Council has four community committees (Bulls, Turakina, Marton and Hunterville). The purpose of these committees is to provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community, and to provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes. Membership of these Committees is available on the Council's website.

¹⁶ ~~13/RDC/303 and 304.~~

Council has two domain/reserve committees (McIntyre Reserve Management Committee, Santoft Domain Management Committee). The Domain/Reserve Committees act as caregivers of these areas and progress their development through a range of projects.

Council has three rural water supply management committees (Erewhon, Hunterville and Omatane). The purpose of these committees is the management of the water schemes.

Council has three committees that distribute funds, the Community Grants Committee (sub committee of Finance/Performance), Creative New Zealand Funding Assessment Committee, and the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee.

Council has a Youth Council focused on providing and insight and advice to Council from a youth perspective.

6.4 Council Membership and Representation on other organisations

Council will maintain representation on other organisations for the purposes of collaboration with these key stakeholders, including for the following reasons¹⁷:

- To respond to statutory requirements or pre-requisites for additional funding from central government.
- To demonstrate a commitment to community well-being and progressing community outcomes.
- To influence the strategy and programmes of regional organisations which operate in the Rangitīkei as well as in neighbouring districts.
- To influence the distribution of funds into the Rangitīkei.

Representatives may be elected members or other persons appointed by Council.

~~A Councillor may be a Board member in his/her own right but such an appointment is not as Council's representative.~~

6.5 Management Structure

A key to the efficient running of local government is that there is a clear division between the role of Council and that of management. The Rangitīkei District Council elected members concentrate on setting policy, strategy, and determining the level of financial resources. The Council then reviews progress. The Executive Leadership Team is concerned with implementing Council policy and strategy.

¹⁷ 08/SPP /026

Management Structure

COUNCIL: Mayor and Councillors

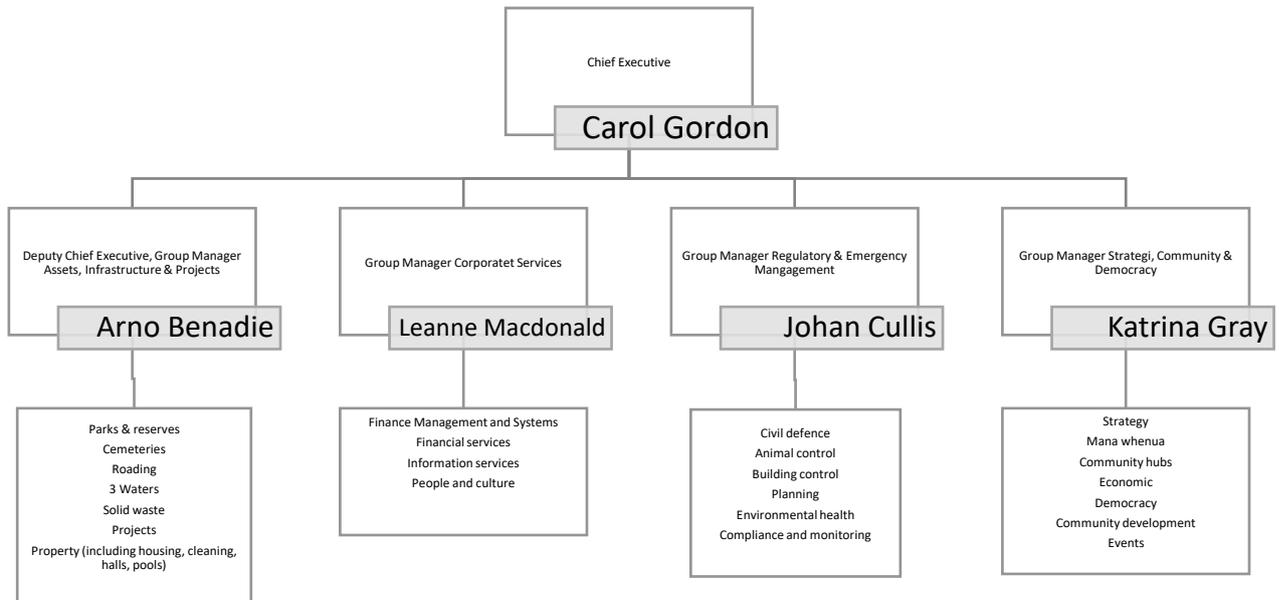


Management Structure

COUNCIL: Mayor and Councillors



Management Structure
COUNCIL: Mayor and Councillors



6.6 Triennial Agreements

Triennial agreements contain protocols for communication and co-ordination among the named local authorities covering the period until the next triennial election. Agreements must be entered into no later than 1 March after each election.

Section 15 of the LGA 2002 requires triennial agreements to include:

- Processes and protocols for identifying, delivering and funding facilities and services which are significant to more than one district¹⁸.
- May include commitments to establish or continue joint committees or other joint governance arrangements¹⁹.

¹⁸ LGA 2002 s. 15(2)(c)

¹⁹ LGA 2002 s. 15(3)(a)

- Terms of reference for committees or other arrangements, including delegations²⁰.
- That council must notify other local authorities when making decisions which are inconsistent with the triennial agreement²¹.

The Council enters into two triennial agreements; it is a principal signatory with the Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Region and a non-primary signatory with the Hawke’s Bay Region.

7. Meeting Processes

7.1 The Rules for Meetings and Standing Orders

The legal requirements for Council meetings are in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Meetings are run in accordance with Council’s adopted Standing Orders²².

All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public unless there is reason to consider some item ‘in committee’. Although meetings are open to the public, members of the public do not have speaking rights unless prior arrangements are made with the Council.

The scheduled monthly meetings of the Council provide a Public Forum which provides an opportunity for any person to address the Council on any matter which is relevant to the Council’s business and statutory obligations. (This opportunity is also available at the start of meetings of the Ratana Community Board, Taihape Community Board and Community Committees). For guidance on public forum – view details on the website - [Public Forums, Deputations and Petitions: Rangitikei District Council](#).

The LGOIMA contains a list of the circumstances where councils may consider items with the public excluded. These circumstances generally relate to protection of personal privacy, professionally privileged or commercially sensitive information and the maintenance of public health, safety and order. Any decision to have an agenda item considered in the public excluded portion of the meeting may be challenged through referral of the matter to the Ombudsman.

The Council agenda is a public document, although parts may be withheld if the above circumstances apply.

The Mayor or committee chair is responsible for maintaining order at meetings and may, at ~~his or her~~their discretion, order the removal of any member of the public for disorderly conduct, or remove any member of the Council who does not comply with Standing Orders (a set of procedures for conducting meetings).

Minutes of meetings are kept and made publicly available, subject to the provisions of the LGOIMA.

²⁰ LGA 2002 s. 15(3)(b)

²¹ LGA 2002 s. 15(7)

²² [Local Government is set to receive nationally standardised standing orders mid-2026 as a result of the Local Government \(system improvements\) Bill.](#)

For a meeting of the Council, at least 14 days' notice of the time and place of the meeting must be given. Extraordinary meetings can generally be called on three working days' notice. A monthly schedule of forthcoming meetings of the Council, its committees and the Community Boards is advertised in the local newspapers during the third week of every month.

~~In addition, the Council Code of Conduct sets out some expectations of the behaviour, which elected members expect of one another at meetings.~~

8. Community Engagement and Consultation

Local authorities must follow certain consultation principles and a procedure when making certain decisions. This is covered by sections 76 to 81 of the LGA 2002.

Under section 76AA of the LGA 2002, Council is required to have a Significance and Engagement Policy. This policy must set out:

- The Council's general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions in relation to issues, assets, and other matters; and
- Any criteria or procedures that are to be used by the local authority in assessing the extent to which issues, proposals, assets, decisions, or activities are significant or may have significant consequences; and
- How the Council will respond to community preferences about engagement on decisions relating to specific issues, assets, or other matters, including the form of consultation that may be desirable; and
- How the Council will engage with communities on other matters.

The Significance and Engagement Policy, which includes details of statutory consultation requirements, can be found in the Council's website.

Consultation must be undertaken in accordance with best practice consultation principles given in section 82 of the LGA 2002.

In some cases the use of the special consultative procedure is required (sections 83, 86 and 87 of the LGA 2002).

9. Liaison with Māori – Te Tangata Whenua O Rangitīkei

9.1 Memorandum of Understanding: Tutohinga

The Memorandum of Understanding: Tutohinga establishes the protocols between the Rangitīkei District Council, Te Tangata Whenua O Rangitīkei and the Māori community Rātana. Under these protocols Te ~~Reopuu~~ Rōpū Ahi ~~Kaa~~ Kā, as a Standing Committee of the Rangitīkei District Council, has a number of significant responsibilities to discharge on behalf of Te Tangata Whenua O Rangitīkei.

The Memorandum of Understanding Tūtuhinga was last reviewed in 2019-2024. ~~and should be reviewed in 2023.~~

The Memorandum of Understanding has been put together on the basis that:

- Both parties have entered into the Memorandum of Understanding: Tūtohunga in good faith and with a view to making the partnership work.
- Both parties recognise that there may be constraints from time to time in respect of resources.
- Both parties can see mutual benefits being derived from the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding: Tūtohunga.
- Both parties express the wish that their partnership will develop and become stronger over time.

Conversely, the Council also has significant responsibilities to both Te Rōopu Rōpū Ahi Kā Kā and Te Tangata Whenua O Rangitikei under the Memorandum.

10. Equal Employment Opportunities

10.1 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The Council is committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity for all its employees and will act in accordance with the following policy:

- People with the best skills and qualifications to do particular jobs are employed regardless of their gender, race, marital status, physical impairment, or sexual preference.
- All employees will have a fair and equitable chance to compete for appointment or promotion and to pursue their careers.
- The recruitment and promotion of employees is based on merit.
- All employees have equitable access to training and skills development.

11. Key Planning and Policy Documents

11.1 Long Term Plan (LTP)

The Long Term Plan (LTP) provides an overview of Council's direction, priorities and work programme for 10 years. It sets out the projects and services the Council intends to deliver for the community, the cost of undertaking that work, how it will be paid for, how finances will be managed and how performance will be monitored. The current LTP covers the period ~~2024-34~~²⁰²⁴⁻³⁴. To ensure it stays up-to-date, the LTP is reviewed every three years. The LTP is consulted on with the community as required in the LGA 2002 (section 93A). Council cannot significantly deviate from the LTP without re-engaging the community. The LTP is audited.

11.2 The Annual Plan

In the two years between the LTP, Council adopts an Annual Plan. This allows for any adjustments which need to be made to the LTP and provides an updated programme for the year ahead. Council may or may not consult on the Annual Plan depending on the extent of variation from the LTP. The Annual Plan is not subject to audit.

11.3 The Annual Report

The Annual Report is a key accountability document. It explains Council's performance for the year against what was set out in the Annual Plan. The Annual Report is audited.

11.5 The Rangitīkei District Plan

The District Plan sets out the rules that Council will apply to control the way land is used, subdivided and developed in the District. It identifies where activities can take place (e.g. zones), what land can be developed and what features (such as landscapes) should be protected. The District Plan is created and administered under the Resource Management Act 1991. The operative Rangitīkei District Plan was adopted on 3 October 2013. Changes to the Plan may be proposed by either the Council or any other person or organisation at any time following the processes outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991.

12. Request for Official Information

12.1 Request for Official Information

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) any person may request information from the Council. Any requests for information are a request made under LGOIMA. You do not have to state that you are making a request under LGOIMA.

Once a request is made the Council must supply the information unless reason exists for withholding it. The LGOIMA says that information may be withheld if the release of information would:

- Endanger the safety of any person²³.
- Prejudice maintenance of the law²⁴.
- Compromise the privacy of any person²⁵.
- Reveal confidential or commercially sensitive information²⁶.
- Cause offence to Tikanga Māori or would disclose the location of Waahi Tapu²⁷.
- Prejudice public health or safety²⁸.
- Compromise legal professional privilege²⁹.
- Disadvantage the local authority while carrying out negotiations or commercial activities³⁰.
- Allow information to be used for improper gain or advantage³¹.

The Council must answer requests within 20 working days (although there are certain circumstances where this timeframe may be extended). A charge shall be made to recover all

²³ LGOIMA s. 6

²⁴ LGOIMA s. 6

²⁵ LGOIMA s. 7

²⁶ LGOIOMA s. 7

²⁷ LGOIOMA s. 7

²⁸ LGOIMA s. 7

²⁹ LGOIMA s. 7

³⁰ LGOIMA s. 7

³¹ LGOIOMA s. 7

reasonable costs incurred by Council in providing the information. An estimation of cost prior to providing the information can be made available. Council has adopted the charging guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice.

When Council refuses to supply the requested information it must give reason and provide information concerning the applicant's right, by way of complaint under section 27(3) to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of the refusal.

The full LGOIMA Requests Policy is available on Council's website - [LGOIMA Request Policy: Rangitikei District Council](#)

In the first instance you should address requests for official information to:

~~The Group Manager — Democracy & Planning~~ [Official Information Request](#), Rangitikei District Council
Private Bag 1102 Marton 4741 or email info@rangitikei.govt.nz