

ORDER PAPER

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Tumuaki: Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa, (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

Tumuaki Tuarua: Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha)

Nga mema: Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti), Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake), Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri), Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina), Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangi), Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki), Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa), Ms Gaylene Nepia (Ngāti Kauae Ngā Tauira), Cr Coral Raukawa, Cr Alan Buckendahl, HWTM Andy Watson

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Notice is hereby given that a Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 13 October 2026 at 11.00am.

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AGENDA

1 Karakia / Prayer

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

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 11 August 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 11 August 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 11 August 2026 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED: TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Tumuaki: Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

Tumuaki Tuarua: Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha) (Zoom)

Nga mema: Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake),
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)
Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti) (Zoom)
Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina)
Cr Alan Buckendahl
HWTM Andy Watson

Manuhiri: Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
Mr Pā Rima Tamaiparea-Puki, Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua
Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor
Ms Kezia Spence, Policy Analyst

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1 Karakia / Prayer

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.01am.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/014

That the apologies from Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp, Ms Gaylene Nepia and Dr Heather Gifford (from 11.30am) be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Coral Raukawa raised her involvement in the upcoming General Election. It was noted that at the time there is an individual item come up in which this becomes a conflict, then Cr Raukawa would declare at that time.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The Chair returned to Item 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations at 11.08am.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

The Chair handed this item to Ms Gifford due to not being present at the meeting being confirmed.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/015

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 9 June 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Ms K Savage/Ms P Hiroa. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings

Ms Savage provided an update on the Southern Marae Tour, which is scheduled for 17 September 2026.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/016

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Ms M Raukawa. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui – August 2026

The Chair tabled a report.

Cr Raukawa arrived at 11.08am.

The Chair returned to Item 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/017

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui – August 2026 be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Updated Marae Development Fund Guidelines

Pā Rima Tamaiparea-Puki and Ms Gray highlighted that the proposed changes in the report are to confirm dates and guidelines and provide clarity for those applying to the fund.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/018

That the report Update Marae Development Fund Guidelines be received.

Ms M Raukawa/Dr H Gifford. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/019

That the Komiti approves the updated Marae Development Fund Guidelines.

Ms M Raukawa/Ms K Savage. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Report of the Strategic Advisor - Mana Whenua

The report was taken as read.

Ms Taiaroa left during this item at 11.20am and returned at 11.23am.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/020

That the report Report of the Strategic Advisor - Mana Whenua be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.2 Update on RMA Reform

Ms Gray provided a summary of the proposed resource management changes.

Members discussed their concerns that this reform is one of many reducing the influence of Te Ao Māori and iwi and hapū voices.

Ms Gifford left during this item at 11.30am.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/021

That the report Update on RMA Reform be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

10.3 Mayor's Report - July 2026

HWTM took the report as read and highlighted that regarding amalgamation, there is a lot of uncertainty.

HWTM also highlighted the progress made within Central Districts Water, with CEO Chris Dhyrberg being appointed. Ms Heeney shared that the approach to iwi representation within Ngā Tapuwae o Hau is based on whakapapa to waka.

Ms Heeney left during this item at 12.04pm and returned at 12.06pm.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/022

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

HWTM A Watson/Ms M Heeney. Carried

10.4 External Consultations Update

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/023

That the report 'External Consultations Update' be received.

.Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 13 October 2026.

.....
Chairperson

ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

UNCONFIRMED

ITEM 7.1
7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings**7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings****Author:** Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Te Rōpū Ahi Kā meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments:

1. Follow-up Actions Register [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
	7-Oct-25	Organise a northern and southern tour of Marae in the District for 2026. Piki Te Ora to coordinate to northern and Kim to coordinate with southern marae.	Katrina/Kim	Northern complete. Southern tour completed 17th September.	Complete

ITEM 8.1

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui – October 2026

Author: Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Chair may provide a tabled or verbal report.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui – October 2026 be received.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Report of the Strategic Advisor - Mana Whenua

Author: Pā Rima Tamaiparea-Puki, Strategic Advisor - Mana Whenua

Authoriser: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the key activities and engagement undertaken by the Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua during the reporting period. It highlights engagement with mana whenua; support provided across relevant kaupapa and significant events and milestones providing an overview of relationship development and ongoing collaboration.

2. Updates

Mana whenua partnerships and engagement

- 2.1 Attended a hui at Maungārongo Marae in Ōhakune for Ngā Wai Tōtā as staff support to His Worship the Mayor. Ngā Wai Tōtā is the governance group for Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika (the Whangaehu Awa catchment).
- 2.2 A meeting with Ngāti Whitikaupeka was held to discuss a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe with Council. This hui included the Mayor, Chief Executive, and Group Manager Strategy, Community & Democracy.
- 2.3 Provided guidance to Council's Project Team regarding the Hunterville Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent, current compliance matters, and next steps for iwi engagement.
- 2.4 Connections were made with Strategic Lead – Regional Growth at Whanganui District Council to collaborate on initiatives and Kaupapa taking place in the neighbouring district.
- 2.5 The Community Project Manager and the Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua met with representatives from the Department of Internal Affairs regarding funding within this region for iwi and hapū.

Te Reo Māori cultural capability development and support

- 2.6 Conducted the first staff induction with the new Manager for People and Culture. Staff inductions will be planned with new staff to give them an overview of iwi and marae in the District, the role of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, and Te Tiriti.
- 2.7 Councillors and Council Officers participated in a Southern Tour of local marae namely: Rātana Pā, Tini Waitara Marae, Parewānui Pā and Parewahawaha Marae. The visit was conducted under the guidance of a mana whenua representative, who shared cultural narratives and insights associated with each site. An internal newsletter was produced. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the area's cultural heritage. There is a strong interest in ongoing engagement.

ITEM 9.1

2.8 Checking Māori words on the council website that needs to be phonetically written for the Readspeak software so that pronunciation can be as close as possible to te reo Māori. Readspeak is an audio software used on the website that provides support (audio) to help those with accessibility difficulties.

2.9 Provided cultural support to the 'Kotahi Mano Ngā Poi (1000 poi challenge) in conjunction with Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. This included assisting staff with an understanding of the origin of poi.

Cultural support and civic ceremonies

2.10 A Citizenship Ceremony was held at Te Matapihi with the Deputy Mayor conducting the ceremony where new citizens received their citizenship certificates. It was an honour to participate and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of those who have formally joined our community. This support includes mihi whakatau, karakia and waiata tautoko.

2.11 Attended the tangihanga proceedings for the Right Honourable Adrian Paki Rurawhe at Whangaehu Marae, with the Chief Executive and Cr Alan Buckendahl.

2.12 Facilitated the ceremony of turning the sod for the Emergency Operations Centre. This is a significant moment where the soil was blessed and ground broken prior to construction.

2.13 Attended the opening of the Te Araroa Whangaehu walking bridge to support the Chief Executive.

Marae Development Fund

2.14 The Marae Development Fund opened for applications on 28 August 2026 and closes on **1 November 2026**. To date, no complete applications have been received. Members are encouraged to share the fund details with their marae.

Māori Responsiveness Framework

2.15 An update against the Māori Responsiveness Framework is attached.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. Impact on Strategic Risks

4.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks associated with this report. The topic has a number of strategic risks.

5. Strategic Alignment

5.1 A trusted partner with iwi is a community outcome in Council's strategic framework. This report has strong alignment with Council's strategic framework.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

6.1 Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information.

6.2 Mana Whenua implications are noted throughout this report.

7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

7.1 There are no climate change impacts or considerations relating to this item.

8. Statutory Implications

8.1 The activities and engagement outlined in this report are undertaken in accordance with section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002, which requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making process, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information.

9. Decision Making Process

9.1 There are no decisions required as a result of this report and the report is for information only.

Attachments:

1. Māori Responsiveness Framework [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua be received.

Governance & Relationships

Outcome Area Statement

Council will engage with Iwi/Hapū and the Rātana Community in the spirit of kotahitanga (togetherness) and establish strong relationships for mutual benefit

Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measure 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
1: Number of Hui held/attended	Facilitation of six Council hui annually with Te Roopū Ahi Kā.	Continuation of at least six Council hui annually with Te Roopū Ahi Kā.	Two TRAK hui held year to date (August, October). Additional hui held with TRAK in relation to CDW Transfer agreement. Three hui held with iwi in relation to Mana Whakahono a Rohe.
Measures engagement opportunities with Māori measured by the number of significant hui and other hui held.	Attendance of significant hui with Iwi/Hapū and the Rātana community on request of Te Roopū Ahi Kā or Council	Attendance of at least four significant hui with Iwi/Hapū and the Rātana community on request of marae/iwi/hapū of the district or Council	
Identify the purpose and outcomes from hui attended			
Measures effectiveness of hui and governance relationships as seen by Te Roopū Ahi Kā members and Elected Members.	One annual survey completed by Te Roopū Ahi Kā and Elected members measuring the effectiveness of hui and the governance relationships.		
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measure 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
2: Number of Marae Action/Activity Plans in progress per annum		Engagement with at least 3 marae to capture 12-24 month action/activity development plan.	No update.
Measure the success of capturing the future aspirations of Marae and the council's planned contribution.			
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measure 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
3: Number of formal relationships established with Māori entities.	Develop and build relationships with Māori entities.	Continue to develop and build relationships with Māori entities.	Hui have been held regarding the development of Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreements.
Measures progress in securing relationships for future prosperity.		Establish or refresh formal relationships (e.g., MoU, terms of references) with iwi/hapū and Māori entities aligned to this framework	No formal relationships refreshed so far this financial year.
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measure 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
4: Number of submissions to Council's Long Term and Annual Plan.	Measure the number of submissions to the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan by Māori entities.	Facilitate at least one submission workshop for Te Roopū Ahi Kā	The long term plan will be open for submissions in 2027. Officers will provide support to TRAK in 2027.
Measures increased engagement by Māori by way of submission to Long Term Plan and Annual Plan consultations.			
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measure 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
5: Number of Council and Te Roopū Ahi Kā meetings and workshops held on the marae		Hold at least 2 Council/Te Roopū Ahi Kā hui or workshops on Marae each year, with active participation from Elected Members.	No hui or workshops scheduled on a marae. Northern and southern marae tours and a tour with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa were held to increase elected member understanding of tikanga
Measures the number of council meetings/workshops held on the marae increasing the capability and understanding regarding tikanga (cultural practise) of Council Staff and Elected Members when visiting Marae			

Culture & Identity			
Outcome Area Statement Council will promote the culture and identity of iwi/hapū and the Rātana Community recognising the importance of heritage and whakapapa			
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
1: Number of Events/Programmes Supported Measures the visibility of Māori culture and participation in our district via events and programmes.	Identify and acknowledge significant Māori Cultural events to strengthen organisational awareness and participation.	Develop and maintain an annual calendar of key Māori cultural events to support planning and engagement. Support at least four Māori cultural events/programmes	Calendar to be developed. Kotahi mano nga poi - supported in September 2026
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
2: Number of employees and Councillors taking tikanga Māori cultural training. Measures the Council capacity to demonstrate appropriate cultural competence including correct pronunciation of te reo kupu (words)		Develop an induction programme for new staff and Elected Members that includes te reo Māori lessons, pronunciation, and tikanga based learning to strengthen cultural capability. Maintain and expand te reo Māori and tikanga learning programmes with current staff.	Induction programme for elected members included - waiata, tikanga, pronunciation as well as marae tours. New staff induction programme has recently been developed and launched. New te reo Māori learning plan being developed.
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
3: Number of Māori Art Placement Measures the increase in visibility of Māori culture in our district via art.		Review and register all Māori public art work within the district.	No update.
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
4: Iwi Narratives Measures the increase in visibility of Māori heritage and history in our district.		This work is on hold pending further feedback from marae/iwi/hapū, and will not proceed until the appropriate permissions are granted.	

Prosperity & Wellbeing			
Outcome Area Statement			
In the spirit of houkura (prosperity) Council will work with iwi/hapū and the Rātana community to enhance the capacity for Māori participation in the economy and further to enhance overall Māori wellbeing.			
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Update - October 2026
1: Support the Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold land policy	Determining and assisting parties who may qualify for remission.	Provide guidance and support on the rates remission process.	Training will be scheduled at the time Council receives a remission request.
Measures engagement vs Outcomes of Council in Remission for Māori Freehold Land Policy	New committee members elected on 10 August 2025 at a Te Roopū Ahi Kā hui.	Regular updates on matters relating to rates remission policy for Māori freehold land	Updates will be provided where relevant.
Performance Measures - Current Measure	Baseline Measures 2025	Year 1 Target 2026	Comments
2: Marae Emergency Response Plan		Complete a district wide review of all existing marae preparedness plans to identify which marae currently have plans, when they were last updated, and their own level of readiness.	Working jointly with the Manager Emergency Management. The following marae have
Measures Marae preparedness for an emergency			

Resource & Infrastructure			
Outcome Area Statement:			
Understanding the importance in caring and maintaining resources for future generations Council will work with iwi/hapū and the Rātana community and others to ensure:			
- Ongoing support is delivered by Council to assist iwi/hapū/marae and the Rātana Community to achieve their aspirations.			
- Appropriate infrastructure in place for service delivery at Marae and rural Māori communities.			
- Resources are taken care for the future generations.			
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year one target 2026	Update - October 2026
1: District Plan Papakāinga Provisions			
Measures the effectiveness of Council's District Plan provisions and the facilitation of Papakāinga housing.		Deliver papakāinga workshops that provide planning, building, whenua development, and regulatory advice, supported by input from external providers including Te Puni Kōkiri, Horizons, council planning and building teams, technical specialists, and funding partners.	A workshop can be arranged at the request of TRAK.
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year one target 2026	Update - October 2026
2: Oranga Marae			
Measures the success of the projects funded under the Marae Development policy to meet the needs and aspirations of iwi/hapū.		Offer guidance assistance to support Marae Development initiatives.	Marae Development Fund currently open for applications.
		Provide support for Oranga Marae applications	Staff support available where requested.
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year one target 2026	Update - October 2026
3. Inventory of Significant Sites			
Development of a district wide inventory that includes wāhi tapū, sites or areas of significance, taonga, historic heritage, and cultural heritage.		This work is on hold pending further feedback from marae/iwi/hapū, and will not proceed until the appropriate permission are granted.	
Performance Measures - Current Measures	Baseline Measures 2025	Year one target 2026	Update - October 2026
4: State of the Environment			
An assessment of environmental outcomes as it pertains to Tangata Whenua, particularly in respect of Māori customary environments values		Create, document, and register current environmental plans, and entities for the district's rivers, waterways and land.	No update.
Engage with iwi/hapū and the Rātana community on mana enhancing programmes for awa and other waterways working collaboratively with the Regional Council.			
Support priority marae affected by climate change impact.			

9.2 Mayor's Report - October 2026**Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

Good Morning

It is with deep sadness the Rangitikei District Council and I recognise the passing of Adrian Rurawhe last week. Adrian was an MP from 2014 to 2026 representing the Te Tai Hauāuru seat and was Speaker of the House of Government from 2022 to 2023. He was well respected and supported across party lines, such was the mana he held. Adrian was a direct descendant of the prophet TW Rātana of the Rātana faith and I know that he stood down from Parliament in 2023 to dedicate the next chapter of his life to Rātana, the Church and his wider whānau.

For me, Adrian was a colleague, a personal friend and an advisor that I could trust and turn to.

My and Council's thoughts are with his whānau.

For months now we have faced the deadline of amalgamation and councils around the country have literally spent millions crafting responses to demonstrate where they will unite. The pressure and blame Central Government has put on Local Government has been extreme. The result is that at the last possible moment Government have declined to name any Head Start positions. This is incredibly disappointing and I feel for those councils who had got to a Head Start position, formed relationships with other councils to amalgamate and then nothing happens. What we presume will happen now is that following the elections, whoever the Government is will pick this up and there will be wider reports on amalgamation in the future.

Appointment

I have used my delegation as Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act to appoint Cr Alan Buckendahl to the Finance/Performance Committee and the Community Grants Committee.

Due to my involvement with the tangi this week I will look to table a more substantial Mayor's Report at the meeting.

Mayor's Engagements

4 September – 8 October

4	Attended CDW Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting Attended memorial service in Taihape
5	Attended Hunterville Comedy Night Fundraiser
7	Attended Mayors & CE's MOU Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting
8	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended meeting with members of Samoan Methodist Church Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
9	Attended meeting with Friends of Taihape Attended Taihape Community Board workshop
10	Attended Business Rangitikei Breakfast Meeting Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs online meeting

	Attended Council Workshop Attended exhibition opening at Marton Arts & Crafts
11	Attended LGNZ online briefing on rates capping Attended meeting with MP Suze Redmayne Attended meeting with ratepayer in Bulls Attended test Zoom with Maori Land Court prior to 17 September hearing
13	Attended Battle of Britain commemorative service at Whanganui Collegiate
14	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mana Whakahono a Rohe hui with Ngati Whitikaupeka representatives Attended Defence Updates Relevant to the Manawatu meeting Attended LGNZ online briefing re infrastructure and RMA reforms
15	Attended meeting with ratepayer in Marton Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Marton Historical Society AGM
16	Attended LGNZ online briefing re Preparing for Head Start decision announcements Attended Arohanui Hospital Strategy Refresh hui
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Workshop – Southern Marae Tour with Elected Members & Staff Attended BA5 in Taihape
19	Attended Spring Fling in Taihape
20	Attended movie event at Te Matapihi with Rotary
21	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Christian Welfare AGM Attended LGNZ online briefing re mental health and rural healthcare
22	Attended Chief Executive Performance & Employment Committee Meeting Attended Rangitikei Technical Workshop Attended LGNZ online briefing from Minister of Local Government Attended Dinner with Minister of Local Government with MP Suze Redmayne
23	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Q&A with Mayors online meeting Attended monthly economic development meeting with staff
24	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Whanganui Community Foundation Annual Public Meeting Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting Attended LGNZ online briefing – lessons from Mauao tragedy
28	Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs meeting with staff Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff Attended Meet & Greet with Property Brokers staff
29	Attended CDW Board RDC site visits Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Business Rangitikei AGM
30	Attended meeting with constituents in Bulls

October 2026

1	Attended Manawatu Chamber Breakfast Meeting with Minister Mark Mitchell Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae Attended LGNZ online briefing: Role of Elected Members in the new Planning System
2	Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae
3	Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae/Rātana

ITEM 9.2

	Attended Hunterville Volunteer Fire Brigade Gold Star Awards
5	Attended LGNZ online briefing: Green Party/Infrastructure & RMA
6	Attended tri-weekly online meeting with CDW Shareholders Committee Chair Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs fortnightly online hui Attended Emergency Management Session: Function Managers & Governance Attended CDW Project Oversight Group Meeting Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
7	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Commerce Commission online workshop for infrastructure providers Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
8	To attend Election 2026 Transport Panel Meeting with Government

Attachments:

1. **Joint Shareholders Committee Minutes - CDW: 26 June 2026, 14 August 2026 and 04 September 2026 (under separate cover)**
2. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

Recommendation

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

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Baird	Buckendahl	Dalgety	Field	Hainsworth	Hiroa	O'Fee	Raukawa	Sharland	Wong
30-Jul-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
5-Aug-26	Hunterville CC	CB				PR							
10-Aug-26	Hunterville RWS	PR				PR							
11-Aug-26	TRAK meeting	PR			PR				PR		PR		
11-Aug-26	Rātana CB	PR							PR				
12-Aug-26	Taihape CB	CB		PR									PR
12-Aug-26	Marton CC	CB	PR					PR					
13-Aug-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR
13-Aug-26	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR
13-Aug-26	Turakina CC	PR					AP					AP	
19-Aug-26	Bulls CC	CB								PR		AP	
20-Aug-26	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR
24-Aug-26	Youth Council Workshop	CB					PR				AP		
27-Aug-26	Assets/Infrastructure Meeting	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR
27-Aug-26	Risk/Assurance Workshop	PR	PR		AT	PR	AT						PR
27-Aug-26	Risk/Assurance Meeting	PR	PR		AT	PR	AT						PR
27-Aug-26	Finance/Performance Meeting	PR	PR	AP	AT	PR	AT					AP	PR
1-Sept-26	Erewhon RWS	PR		PR									PR
3-Sept-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR
10-Sept-26	Council Workshop	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AB	PR	PR
17-Sept-26	Council Workshop - Induction	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR
22-Sept-26	Chief Executive Performance	PR	PR	PR		PR			PR				
24-Sept-26	Assets/Infrastructure Workshop	CB	PR	AT	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR
24-Sept-26	Finance/Performance Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AT	PR						PR	PR
24-Sept-26	Community Grants Committee	PR		AT	AT	PR						PR	PR
28-Sept-26	Youth Council Workshop	PR					PR				AP		
1-Oct-26	Council Workshop	CB	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR

Present (and is a member of the committee)

PR

Apology

AP

Absent - no apology received

AB

Not a member of the committee

Not a member of the committee (but still attended)

AT

Not present as on Council business

CB

Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]

ZM

9.3 External Consultations and Legislation Update**Author:** Janna Harris, Corporate Planner**Authoriser:** Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti on the opportunities currently available to submit on consultations run by external agencies and an update on significant changes to central government legislation.

2. ConsultationsConsultations Council has recently submitted on

- 2.1 Since the last Te Rōpū Ahi Kā hui, Council has submitted on the following consultations run by external agencies:

- Proposed changes to modernise services delivered by the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi,
- Feedback on the Manawatū-Whanganui region speed reviews run by the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and
- Feedback on the National Engineering Design Standards Framework by the Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai.

- 2.2 These submissions, along with the other submissions Council has previously made can be found on Council's [website](#).

Consultations Council proposes to submit on

- 2.3 The list of consultations run by external agencies that are currently open for submission is attached (Attachement 1). This attachment contains a brief summary of each consultation, along with the date submissions are due by, and links to the relevant agencies' websites.

- 2.4 Council intends to submit on the following consultations:

- Building Amendment Bill by Parliament Transport and Infrastructure Committee,
- Stormwater Engagement Paper by Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai,
- Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill by Parliament Finance and Expenditure Committee, and
- Central Districts Water is submitting on the Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards Tranche Two, which Council will contribute to.

- 2.5 There are currently a significant number of submissions currently open for consultation. Officers will continue to weigh up the benefit of submitting on each consultation with capacity to submit. A few of the consultations currently accepting submissions do not have a closing date or only have an indicative closing date. These consultations are expected to have a date post the central government election. It is anticipated that there will not be many new consultations running for the remainder of the year until the new government is stood up.

3. Legislation Changes

- 3.1 There have been significant changes in legislation over the recent months, with many more changes indicated by central government. Below is a summary of the acts that have recently received royal assent, along with updates on a couple that have been indicated by central government, that are anticipated to have significant impacts on Council.

Planning Act 2026 and Natural Environmental Act 2026

- 3.2 The Planning Act and Natural Environmental Act received royal assent on 30 September 2026. Implementation of these acts will be phased, with some sections taking effect from 30 October 2026, and other changes will not take full effect until 2030.
- 3.3 Both Acts work together to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The new system resulting from these pieces of legislation aims to reduce duplication, litigation, provide greater certainty on the outcomes before any consent is lodged, and reduce the need for consents.
- 3.4 From 30 October 2026 transitional consenting provisions apply. This means that consents will still be processed under the RMA, but the principles in the two new acts must be considered, and some effects will be considered out of scope. Officers are working to understand the implications of the transitional arrangements for consenting.
- 3.5 Council is preparing for working with the other councils within the Manawatū-Whanganui Region to develop the first generation Regional Spatial Plan (RSP). The RSP is required under the new planning system and will set the high-level strategic direction for how the region grows and changes over the next 30 years.

Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026

- 3.6 The Local Government Systems Improvements Amendment Act received royal assent on the 18 September 2026. This Act changed the purpose of Local Government to:

“(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities

(b) To meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local-

(i) Infrastructure; and

(ii) Public services; and

(iii) Performance of regulatory functions;

(c) To support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b)”

ITEM 9.3

- 3.7 This is a shift in approach from the previous purpose of local government which promoted the four well-beings; social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing. Councils' community outcomes are being reviewed as part of the development of the Long Term Plan 2027-37. Council has attempted to align its community outcomes with the new purpose of local government whilst still capturing the four wellbeings in a less explicit way.
- 3.8 The Act also identifies the core services that councils must have particular regard to as: network infrastructure, public transport, waste management, and libraries, museums, reserves, and other community and recreational facilities, noting that this is not an extensive list of all the activities council may do.
- 3.9 Cost-effective has also been defined within legislation as *“ensuring that the public receives value for money by –*
(a) using resources effectively, economically and without waste; and
(b) taking into account the total costs and benefits of any decision or action.”
- 3.10 Going forward, any consideration of budgets, service levels, new spending or competing priorities will need to reflect the new statutory connections between financial management, core services and value for money.

Emergency Management Act 2026

- 3.11 The Emergency Management Act received royal assent on 3 September, with a majority of this Act taking effect from 4 September 2026. This Act replaced the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. The Emergency Management Act 2026 improves the management of hazards and supports the safety and wellbeing of the public.
- 3.12 The functions, duties, and powers of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, now called Emergency Management Committees, are largely the same. The Emergency Management Act has changed a few powers including the ability to carry out works before a state of emergency is declared when there is an immediate threat of an emergency, to prevent loss of life and serious damage to property. Under the previous Act, while it was good practice to engage with representatives of iwi and Māori, it was not a requirement. The Emergency Management Act has made it a requirement for iwi and Māori representatives to be engaged and involved in the development of Regional Plans. The wider changes result in a move to ensuring readiness to respond across Council as a whole, rather than emergency management only being an operational function.

Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2026

- 3.13 The Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2026 received royal assent on 24th of September. This Amendment Act creates a more risk-based approach, moving focus to medium/high seismic zones and high-risk building types. This approach will mean that only buildings that are considered to be of greater risk to life will face requirements under this legislation. This Amendment Act mainly takes effect on 1 July 2027, although section 17 came into force the day after Royal Assent.

Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill 2026

- 3.14 The rates capping legislation is expected to be enacted early 2027. It is anticipated that councils will be required to have regard to the legislation from the 2027/28 financial year (Year one of the Long Term Plan 2027-37). The full rates cap will likely take effect from 1 July 2029. This is still a bill. This means that changes may still be made to what is proposed, and the implementation timeline. The Parliament Finance and Expenditure Committee are currently accepting submissions on this bill, with an indicated end date for accepting submissions of 1 December. The bill proposes that annual rates increases will be required to sit within an initial range of 2-4%.

Local Government Legislation (Head Start)

- 3.15 The Simplifying Local Government 'Head Start' process was paused in September 2026. The intention of the Head Start process is to change the structure of regional and local governance, with the aim of it becoming simplified and more effective over time. The Government intends to recommence this process early 2027, post the general election. Council did not submit a Head Start proposal, so at this stage it will be part of the 'backstop' process. Currently there is no change to Council's structure or day to day activity.
- 3.16 The government is currently committed to following the indicated timeline for this reform. Regional Councillors will not be elected during the 2028 local elections. The councils that are part of the Head Start process are anticipated to have changes in place prior to the 2028 elections. More information on the backstop process, including clarity on the timeframes is expected in 2027. In the meantime, Council will continue to hold conversations and collaborate with other councils across the region on what the future of local government within the region may look like.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Council submits on external consultations within existing budgets.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 Changes to Government legislation is transformational
- 5.1.1 Changes in legislation can result in significant changes for local government. Council mitigates this risk by keeping track of all potential changes and takes opportunities to submit on consultations that will affect Council and/or our community.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 Consultation topics have the potential to impact the types of services Council delivers, which could impact Council's ability to deliver our strategic priorities.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

- 7.1 The Komiti is invited to advise of any mana whenua implications associated with the topics available to submit on.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 8.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

9. Statutory Implications

9.1 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

10. Decision Making Process

10.1 There are no decision-making processes associated with this report. This report is for information purposes only.

Attachments:

1. **External Consultations - October 2026** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report External Consultations and Legislation Update be received.

Current Consultations run by External Agencies

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	Proposed RDC Action
Currently Open for Submission				
Review of the rules for homekill and recreational catch	Ministry for Primary Industries	5 October	The Ministry is looking for feedback on: retaining, reducing, or removing the requirement for animal owners to have cared for an animal for 28 days before slaughter by a listed service provider, retaining existing rules on who may consume homekill and recreational catch or removing restrictions, enabling broader access, and requiring listed service providers to label homekill and recreational catch products to provide more information to consumers.	None
Options to improve the efficiency of electricity distribution businesses	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment	7 October	MBIE is consulting on consulting on measures to lift electricity distribution businesses performance by: encouraging collaboration between electricity distribution businesses where this drives efficiencies and better prices for consumers, introducing a more tailored and targeted approach to economic regulation for electricity distribution businesses, and strengthening governance arrangements of the consumer-owned electricity distribution businesses.	None
Proposed changes to cost recovery settings: 2027 annual review	Ministry for Primary Industries	15 October	The Ministry is proposing to: increase the red meat processor export levy to offset declining slaughter volumes, revert the base hourly rate for approval services under the Animal Products Act 1999 (APA) to 2019 levels following the return of a surplus to industry, include in regulation the existing fee for trade certification services for the organics sectors so that cost recovery can continue at current rates when the sector transitions to the new regulatory regime, and confirm industry support for aligning bee product processor levies with actual volumes or value.	None

ITEM 9.3 ATTACHMENT 1

Illustrative National Policy Direction for the new planning system	Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport	16 October	The illustrative NPD has been developed to support discussion and testing of the proposed approach before formal statutory consultation on the proposed NPD occurs in 2027. It is organised around five themes that reflect the Government's priorities for the new planning system - housing and development, infrastructure, primary production, resources and public values. Feedback is being sought on whether the proposed thematic structure is easy to understand, whether the illustrative NPD provides a useful picture of how national direction could work in practice, and whether there are any important priorities, gaps or trade-offs that should be addressed.	None
Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards Tranche two	Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai	22 October	The proposed wastewater standard for discharge to air would set nationally consistent requirements for managing odour, scaled to the risk profile of each wastewater treatment plant. The proposed wastewater standard for the discharge of metals in treated wastewater to a water receiving environment (discharge of metals to water) would use a nationally consistent, risk-based approach to decide what monitoring or controls are needed. The intention is for regulations to come into force from 1 July 2027.	CDW to submit
Group standards for treated seed	Environmental Protection Authority Te Mana Rauhi Taiao	30 October	The revised proposal adopts a proportionate and risk-based approach that focuses on managing key risks while avoiding unnecessary regulatory requirements where the likely benefits do not justify the costs.	None
Building Amendment Bill	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	15 November	Changes proposed in the Bill include: introduction of proportionate liability, facilitating councils combining their BCA functions replacing the Building Research Levy with a contestable funding mechanism overseen by MBIE, and reduced processing time for PIMs.	Submit

Stormwater engagement paper	Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai	27 November	The paper outlines the challenges and opportunities facing the sector, explores approaches used internationally and sets out how the Authority plans to support improved stormwater network oversight and leadership. It tests three immediate priorities: improving national stormwater data, supporting stormwater risk management planning, and promoting infrastructure standardisation through National Engineering Design Standards.	Submit
Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill	Finance and Expenditure Committee	1 December	The bill aims to limit annual increases of council rates to promote local authority fiscal responsibility and provide predictability of costs to rate payers. It will do this by: introducing a minimum and maximum amount that non-water-related rates can be increased by. The first target range would be set at 2–4 percent. Future target ranges would be set by Order in Council, establishing a regulatory function within the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to ensure council compliance with the target range, and providing exemption mechanisms that would allow councils to operate outside the target range in specific circumstances.	Submit
References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (standardisation) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	TBC	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to implement a standardised drafting approach to descriptive Treaty provisions and references to the Treaty in legislation without substantively changing their legal effect.	None
References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (Strength of Legislative Obligations) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	TBC	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to amend the weighting of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi provisions in legislation to a single standard of "take into account".	None

ITEM 9.3

ATTACHMENT 1

References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (Repeals) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	TBC	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to repeal statutory references to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi in a number of Acts.	None
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9.4 Project Update Report - August 2026

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

1.1 This is a report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council officers for the period ending July 2026.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects

Wastewater Projects

3. Project: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Project Manager: Steve Carne

Budget: \$85.36M

Reporting Period: July 2026

3.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	No major hurdles envisaged
Scope	● Green	● Green	T+T scope up to lodgement to be defined
Schedule	● Green	● Green	On track as per latest HRC advisory in May
Budget	● Green	● Green	Within upper bound LTP- estimates expected to decrease
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Positive Iwi feedback about land passage/wetland discharge to Rangitikei River

3.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Significant progress of periphyton risk assessment required by the Wastewater NEPS regulations.
- Flows and loads refined and finalised based on latest industrial monitoring and sampling data
- Agreement with HRC to adjust the consenting timelines due to periphyton risk assessment processes.

In progress:

- Periphyton risk assessment as per WW NEPS Regulations.
- Land Passage/wetland concept designs being developed with Iwi

3.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Periphyton Risk Assessment Complete	End June 2026	
Preferred Option Identified	End August 2026	
Consent Lodgement	December 2026	

3.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$85.36M
Actual Spend	\$1.61M
Forecast Completion	\$85.36M

Variance: **within budget**

3.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Uncertainty related to Periphyton Risk assessment process	Medium	Early liaison with Taumata Arowai and HRC
Uncertainty re timing of cultural values assessment with iwi and hapu	Medium	On-going dialogue

3.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Verification of preferred Option selection will be presented to Council for consideration.

4. Project: Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land
Project Manager: Steve Carne
Budget: \$8M
Reporting Period: July 2026

4.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	● Amber	Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers for consideration
Scope	● Green	● Green	Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Ratana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata was investigated and identified as an option to be included for consideration.
Schedule	● Amber	● Amber	Program to be confirmed
Budget	● Green	● Green	Budget is dependent on consideration of newly identified options and project outcomes.
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Benefits that can be achieved will be dependent on final option selection.
Stakeholder Support	● Amber	● Amber	New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has considered Alternative Options Report

4.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers

In progress:

- Alternative options to be presented to Council for consideration.

4.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Koitiata Outfall Concept Strategy Investigation finalised	April 2026	●
Stakeholder Consultation Starts	June 2026	●

4.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$8M
Actual Spend	\$1.5M
Forecast Completion	\$9M

Variance: **Uncertain until alternative options are presented to Council for approval.**

4.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Community views and acceptance of alternative strategy	High	Early consultation re: alternatives and reasons why

4.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Consideration of alternative options available.

5. Project: Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects**Project Manager: Steve Carne****Budget: \$2.18M****Reporting Period: July 2026****5.1 Overall Project Health**

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	Process and Strategy clarified to move forward
Scope	● Green	● Green	Being confirmed, specifically regarding WWTP works
Schedule	● Red	● Amber	Schedule being developed and finalised and will be included in CDW budgets.
Budget	● Green	● Green	Within tolerance
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Lowest capex and compliance with consent conditions and WW NEPS Regulations
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Positive community feedback thus far re network investigations

5.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Further field I/I source detection works via CCTV
- Investigation of WWTP operational efficiencies and capital upgrades continues. We are working on finalising the potential upgrades by end of the year

In progress:

- Sampling of WWTP influent flows and quality to confirm small plants status in the WW NEPS Regulations continues.
- Remaining CCTV inspection works in network
- More detailed investigation at WWTP of short- and medium-term capital improvements
- Repair of on-property inflow defects and manholes

5.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Complete remaining field network investigations	Mid-June 2026	●
Complete WWTP investigations	July 2026	●
Confirm works strategy	August 2026	●

5.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2.18M
Actual Spend	\$1.03M
Forecast Completion	\$2.18M

Variance: **None**

5.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Effective Transfer of program to CCO	Medium	Develop clear strategy

5.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

Council decision regarding the funding of private property inflow defects and rectification works will be required.

6. Water Projects

Project: Marton Water Strategy
Project Manager: Gwilym van Hoffen
Budget: \$1.5M
Reporting Period: July 2026

ITEM 9.4

6.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	Following the Council decision in April, work is proceeding well with the interim operational improvement solutions proposed to be implemented before summer 2026
Scope	● Green	● Green	The scope going forwards is aligned with the April Council decision
Schedule	● Green	● Green	The project is currently on track to deliver better quality water in Marton for the summer peak of 2026
Budget	● Green	● Green	The rescoped project budget is currently on track
Benefits	● Green	● Green	The outcomes and benefits of the project are expected to be significant
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Stakeholder support is good, based on the April Council decision

6.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Preparation and site work for the Calico Line package treatment plant are well advanced. The site will be fully ready to receive the package plant when it is delivered at the end of August.
- The ultrasonic units have been installed in the Tutaenui Reservoir, and initial results are promising. Cyanobacterial cell counts and biovolume are well below the initial (benchmark) readings at all sites measured. The upper reservoir shoreline readings for cyanobacteria have reduced by nearly 80%. Geosmin readings are currently stable and are expected to fall in coming weeks as the ultrasonic units start to work longer hours on increasing daylight for solar power.
- A placeholder budget for a full new WTP has been developed for inclusion in the CDW capital works programme.

In progress:

- Concept design work and indicative costing is underway to develop a conveyance solution for the backwash water at the existing Marton WTP.

6.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Commissioning of the Calico Line package treatment plant	Nov/Dec 2026	●
Commissioning of the ultrasonic devices in the Tutaenui Reservoir	Sept/Oct 2026	●

6.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$1.5M
Actual Spend	\$0.5M
Forecast Completion	\$1.5M

Variance: **None**

6.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Public perceptions	Medium	Ongoing communication and regular engagement with Marton residents
New technology risks	High	Obtain high quality engineering review and technical advice

6.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Nothing anticipated at present

7. Community Facilities

Project: Marton Offices and Library
Project Manager: EswarPrasath Ganapathi
Budget: \$15.68M
Reporting Period: July 2026

ITEM 9.4

7.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● On hold	● Green	Major risks identified and planned for
Scope	● On hold	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● On hold	● Green	On hold
Budget	● On hold	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● On hold	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● On hold	● Green	Positive

7.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Preliminary Designs completed

In progress:

- Project put on hold until gaining clarity on Government’s Headstart pathway.

7.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Preliminary Design	May 2026	●
Developed Design	Jul 2026	●
Detail Design	Nov 2026	●
Resource Consent	Jul 2026	●
Building Consent	Nov 26	●
Construction Start	Jan 2027	●
Project Completion	Jul 2028	●

7.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$15.68M
Actual Spend	\$993K
Forecast Completion	

Variance: **None**

7.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unexpected findings during demolition	Medium	Contingency sums allowed in design and construction budgets
Construction & Design costs could increase if the project is halted for too long	High	Need direction around Council's intention for the project

7.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

None

8. **Project: Marton EOC**
 Project Manager: EswarPrasath Ganapathi
 Budget: \$3.2M
 Reporting Period: July 2026

8.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	Resource consent conditions obtained
Scope	● Green	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Green	● Green	Schedule has been finalised and approved
Budget	● Green	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Positive

8.2 Progress Since Last Report

- Completed:
- Resource consent conditions obtained
 - Building consent application issued
 - Contract signed with Maycroft Construction
- In progress:
- Project kick-off meeting done
 - Site mobilisation planning in progress
 - Cultural design discussions with Iwi representatives

8.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Detailed Design	Mar 2026	●
Resource Consent	May 2026	●
Building Consent	Aug 2026	●
Construction Start	Aug 2026	●
Project Completion	Apr 2027	●

8.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$3.2M
Actual Spend	\$177K
Forecast Completion	\$3.2M

Variance: **None**

8.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Contaminated soil	Low	Allow for soil to be utilised within site
Archaeological findings	Low	Keep Archaeological consultant appraised of the project, so we can turn around quickly, in the event we find something

8.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

None

9. **Project: Taihape Grandstand (Community Lead Project)**
Staff Support: Pio Rowe/Gaylene Prince
Reporting Period: July 2026

- 9.1 The Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) have committed to a Review and Project Reset that will allow for a more concise way-forward report and action plan. It would identify the viable project scope, the core risks and evidence gaps, the realistic funding position, and the key decisions required from Council and TGRC.
- 9.2 Council staff are committed to supporting TGRC.
- 9.3 TGRC were successful in receiving a grant toward the project from Four Regions Trust, for an amount of \$75,000.

10. **Project: Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment**
Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi
Budget: \$14M
Reporting Period: July 2026

10.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	On track
Scope	● Green	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Green	● Green	On track
Budget	● Green	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Positive community feedback

10.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Developed designs completed

In progress:

- Detailed designs

10.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Developed Design	May 2026	●
Detail Design	Sep 2026	●
Building Consent	Oct 26	●
Construction Start	Nov 2026	●
Project Completion	Jun 2028	●

10.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$14M
Actual Spend	\$1.1M
Forecast Completion	\$14M

Variance: **None**

10.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unexpected findings during demolition	Medium	Contingency sums allowed in design and construction budgets

10.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

None

11. Project: Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation
Project Manager: EswarPrasath Ganapathi
Budget: \$6M
Reporting Period: July 2026

11.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	● Green	Works in progress
Scope	● Green	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Amber	● Green	Potential delay on roof steel frames from China. To be confirmed
Budget	● Green	● Green	Budget approved by Council
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	● Green	Positive

11.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Contract signed
- Construction works started on 10 June 2026
- 70% of Column seismic works completed
- PowerCo contract signed

In progress:

- Seismic works on last 3 columns
- ETFE roof and structural steel fabrication
- HVAC designs and procurement
- 70% Roof structural steel members are ready for delivery while the supply of the remaining 30% have been notified as a potential delay from China for 4-6 weeks. Alaska is currently evaluating alternative options to mitigate the delay.

11.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Contractor selection	Feb 2026	●
Construction Start	Jun 2026	●
Project Completion	Mar 2027	●

11.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$6M

ITEM 9.4

Metric	Amount
Actual Spend	\$940K
Forecast Completion	\$6M

Variance: **None**

11.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Increased shipping costs due to current global market condition	High	Allow for cost contingencies
Potential delay in steel delivery from China that could result in delays.	Medium	Alaska are investigation all alternative solutions to limit the exposure to a delay.

11.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

- None

12. Small Capital Projects

Project: Taihape Watermain Renewal

Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

12.1 General Update

All pipelines installed and operational. Minor remediation works to be completed before final sign off.

13. Project: Hunterville Stormwater Upgrade

Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

13.1 General Update

Project has been completed within budget and timeframes.

14. Project: Calico Line Watermain (In conjunction with footpath)

Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

14.1 General Update

All pipe and lateral connections installed. Doing final quality assurance.

Shared pathway has been formed and sealed. Paint and traffic management devices to be installed in the next few weeks. Expected to be completed by end of September.

15. Project: Skerman Street Stormwater

Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

15.1 General Update

Project has been completed within budget. The breakdown of available AC plants in the region resulted in a 2-week delay in the completion of construction.

16. Project: Bredins Line Stormwater
Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

16.1 General Update

The pipeline construction has been completed and is now in service. Minor reinstatement being completed and practical completion will likely be achieved by the end of August. The project is on budget.

17. Project: Marton to Bulls Pipeline – Pipe Bridges
Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

17.1 General Update

All three pipe bridges and connecting pipework have been installed. Awaiting some fine weather to tidy up site 1. Project is on budget.

18. Financial Implications

18.1 This report does not identify any financial implications.

19. Impact on Strategic Risks

19.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks.

20. Strategic Alignment

20.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

21. Mana Whenua Implications

21.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

22. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

22.1 There is no climate change impact.

23. Statutory Implications

23.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

That the report Project Updates Report – August 2026 be received.

9.5 Central Districts Water Update – October 2026**Author: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the establishment of Central Districts Water and key work underway ahead of the organisation becoming responsible for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in Rangitikei from 1 July 2027.

2. Background

- 2.1 Central Districts Water is the new council-controlled organisation jointly owned by Horowhenua District Council, Palmerston North City Council and Rangitikei District Council.
- 2.2 From 1 July 2027, Central Districts Water will be responsible for delivering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across the three council areas. Until then, each Council remains responsible for delivering water services to its communities.
- 2.3 Work is continuing across the three Councils and Central Districts Water to prepare the organisation, its people, systems and assets for the transition.

3. Transfer of Assets

- 3.1 A current priority for the three Councils has been progressing draft transfer schedules. These schedules document the land, resource consents, infrastructure and other water-related assets that will transfer to Central Districts Water.
- 3.2 This is an important part of preparing for the transition, ensuring there is a clear and agreed record of the assets and responsibilities Central Districts Water will take over from each Council.
- 3.3 On Tuesday 29 September 2026, staff from Central Districts Water and Rangitikei District Council hosted Central Districts Water Board members on visits to key water sites across Rangitikei, including Taihape, Mangaweka, Marton and Bulls.
- 3.4 The visits gave Board members an opportunity to see the water infrastructure in Rangitikei first-hand, speak directly with the staff who operate and maintain it, and better understand the different challenges and complexities across our sites.
- 3.5 The visits were successful and provided useful local context as the Board continues preparing Central Districts Water for operation.

4. Significance and Engagement Policy

- 4.1 The Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders' Committee meets/met on Friday 9 October 2026 and will provide any final feedback on Central Districts Water's draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

- 4.2 The Significance and Engagement Policy sets out how Central Districts Water will decide when an issue, proposal or decision is significant, and how and when it will engage with the community. The Policy is important because it will provide clarity about when communities can expect to have a say on decisions that could have a significant impact on water services, infrastructure or the people who use and pay for those services. It will also help ensure engagement is considered from the beginning of significant decision-making processes.
- 4.3 The Policy is required under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. The Act also requires water organisations to engage with their shareholders, consumers and communities when preparing the Policy.
- 4.4 Following consideration by the Joint Shareholders' Committee, the draft Policy will be released for public engagement either in late October or early November. This will provide Rangitikei residents and other Central Districts Water communities with an opportunity to provide feedback. When the feedback period is live, the Board will be informed. Central Districts Water can also meet with the Board during November if desired.

5. Preparing for Change

- 5.1 Over the upcoming summer period, a Central Districts Water awareness campaign will begin to help residents and water customers understand the upcoming change.
- 5.2 The education will focus on explaining:
 - 5.2.1 who Central Districts Water is and why it has been established;
 - 5.2.2 what services will transfer to Central Districts Water;
 - 5.2.3 what the change means for Rangitikei residents and property owners; and
 - 5.2.4 how people will pay for water services once Central Districts Water begins operating.
 - 5.2.5 That in March 2027 there will be a consultation on pricing and projects.
- 5.3 Until 1 July 2027, customers will continue to pay for water services through Council rates. From 1 July 2027, Central Districts Water will charge Rangitikei customers directly for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services, and these charges will no longer appear on Council rates bills.
- 5.4 Communications will increase as the transition approaches so residents know what is changing, when it is changing and where they can go for information or support.
- 5.5 This will include coming to Board meetings for the consultation in March, and again closer to 1 July 2027.

6. Discussion and Options Considered

- 6.1 This is a report for information. No options requiring a decision by the Board are presented.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from receiving this report for information.

- 7.2 The establishment of Central Districts Water will result in a significant change to how water services are funded and charged in Rangitīkei. Until 1 July 2027, water services will continue to be funded through Council. From 1 July 2027, water charges will be billed directly by Central Districts Water rather than forming part of Rangitīkei District Council rates.
- 7.3 The detail of Central Districts Water's charging approach will be developed through its Water Services Strategy ahead of commencement of operations. Central Districts Water will consult on its draft Water Services Strategy in early 2027.

8. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 8.1 The transition of water services to Central Districts Water involves a number of risks including continuity of service, accurate transfer of assets and information, compliance and ensuring customers understand the changes that will occur.
- 8.2 The Central Districts Water establishment programme currently underway is intended to manage these risks ahead of 1 July 2027.
- 8.3 No additional strategic risks arise from receiving this report for information.

9. Strategic Alignment

- 9.1 The establishment of Central Districts Water gives effect to Council's decisions on the future delivery of water services and the approved Water Services Delivery Plan.
- 9.2 The transition also aligns with Council's focus on working collaboratively and maintaining strong relationships with regional partners, communities, and mana whenua.

10. Mana Whenua Implications

- 10.1 Ngā Tapuwae o Hau has been established as the mana whenua rōpū supporting iwi and hapū across the three council areas through the establishment and transition to Central Districts Water.
- 10.2 Ngā Tapuwae o Hau is represented within the Central Districts Water governance structure, providing a mechanism for mana whenua perspectives to inform the establishment of Central Districts Water.
- 10.3 The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 also requires Central Districts Water's Significance and Engagement Policy to consider arrangements for engaging with relevant communities, including iwi and hapū.

11. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 11.1 There are no direct climate change impacts arising from receiving this report.
- 11.2 Climate change and resilience are relevant to the long-term planning, investment and management of water services infrastructure. These matters will continue to be considered by Central Districts Water through the development of its Water Services Strategy, infrastructure planning and future investment decisions.

12. Statutory Implications

- 12.1 The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 establishes a number of requirements for water services such Central Districts Water.

- 12.2 The establishment and transfer work being undertaken by the three shareholder councils and Central Districts Water supports compliance with these statutory requirements.

13. Conclusion

- 13.1 Work to establish Central Districts Water and prepare for the transfer of water services on 1 July 2027 is continuing across the three shareholder councils and Central Districts Water.
- 13.2 Current priorities include confirming the assets and responsibilities that will transfer, developing Central Districts Water's Significance and Engagement Policy, preparing its Water Services Strategy and increasing community awareness of what the transition will mean for customers.
- 13.3 More information about Central Districts Water and the transition is available at www.centraldistrictswater.co.nz.

14. Decision Making Process

- 14.1 This is a report for information, no decision is required.

Recommendation

That the report Central Districts Water Update – October 2026 be received.

10 Meeting Closed.