Waimakariri District Council

Community and Recreation Committee

Agenda

Tuesday 24 November 2026
1pm

Council Chambers
215 High Street
Rangiora

Members:

Cr Shona Powell (Chairperson)
Cr Brent Ciarns
Cr Wendy Doody
Cr Bruce McLaren
Cr Niki Mealings
Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond
Mayor Dan Gordon (ex officio)

WAIMAKARIRI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The Chairman and Members
COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER AT 1PM

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by the Council

BUSINESS

Page No

1 APOLOGIES

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest (if any) to be reported for minuting.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 **Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 15 September 2026**

8 – 27

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 15 September 2026 as a true and accurate record.

3.2 **Matters arising (From Minutes)**

3.3 **Notes of the workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 15 September 2026**

28 – 30

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 15 September 2026.

4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group Terms of Reference Review – Mike Kwant (Senior Ranger Biodiversity)

31 – 43

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261028349263.

(b) **Approves** the recommended changes to the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group's Terms of Reference (Trim: 261028349219).

(c) **Notes** that the Community and Recreation Committee has delegation to approve the proposed changes of the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group.

(d) **Notes** that the revised Terms of Reference remains consistent with similar documents for the district's other advisory groups in its format, roles and responsibilities.

5.2 Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works – Bex Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)

44 – 52

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261029350113.

(b) **Approves** the Arohatia te Awa programme of works for the 2026-2027 year allowing the Arohatia te Awa Working Group to continue operations.

(c) **Notes** that the project currently has a budget of $470,069 in 2026/7 which is allocated to the sub projects with an annual budget of $110,000 (plus CPI) ongoing and is subject to Council approval as part of the Long Term Plan process.

(d) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Ruataniwha-Cam River sub project for 2026/7 is $108,000.

(e) **Notes** the budget allocated to the 46 Main North Road sub project for 2026/7 is $185,000.

(f) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Revells Road sub project for 2026/7 is $70,000.

(g) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Ohoka Esplanade Reserve sub project for 2026/7 is $105,000.

(h) **Notes** staff will report back to the Community and Recreation Committee during the first quarter of the next financial year to update on the status of the project and budget.

(i) **Notes** that any programme changes will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee. For example, this might be due to factors such as project engagement results, pricing or changes in direction.

(j) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.

5.3 **Community Team Year in Review Report 2025/2026 – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

53 – 115

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261109365499.

(b) **Receives** the Community Team Year in Review report 2025/26 (Trim: 261028348147).

(c) **Notes** that the attached Community Team Year in Review Report, details activity related to 2025/26 implementation plan toward achievement of the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri).

(d) **Notes** that activity detailed in the Year in Review Report is undertaken in accordance with community-identified need and/or aspirations.

(e) **Notes** that the Year in Review Report is shared with philanthropic and central government funders and key stakeholders as evidence of the best practice approach applied to local community development activity. This has a positive impact on the sustainability of local initiatives.

(f) **Notes** that all activity is evidence-based and developed and delivered in collaboration with partners from key agencies, organisations or groups operating in the Waimakariri District.

(g) **Notes** that this activity covers community development, community safety, youth development and Civil Defence welfare and aligns directly with the four goals of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri) ensuring that Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- Safe and healthy; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing.
- Welcome and included, as part of our local communities — geographic and 'of interest'.
- Informed and empowered to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations.
- Engaged and connected into the district's activities.

(h) **Notes** that projects detailed within this report are funded externally via a range of philanthropic and central government funders.

5.4 **Aquatics November Update – Matthew Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

116 – 126

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261105361974.

(b) **Notes** total customer attendance of 21,620 customers for the month of October 2026. This is down 1,494 (6.5%) in comparison to 23,114 customers recorded in October 2025.

(c) **Notes** robust treatment systems have ensured 100% compliance with NZ Standard 5826:2010 for public pool water quality.

(d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.5 **Libraries Update to November 2026 – Luke Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

127 – 134

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report 261111368543.

(b) **Notes** the Public Libraries New Zealand Community Impact Survey as a vehicle for receiving feedback from our communities and benchmarking our library performance nationally. The survey provides insights on the social and economic benefits of libraries, including return on investment.

(c) **Notes** the milestone 30th anniversary of Trevor Inch Memorial Library, a facility which has evolved to become a well utilised community hub.

(d) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

6 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

6.1 **Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Brent Cairns**

6.2 **Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Bruce McLaren**

6.3 **Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Shona Powell**

6.4 **Arts and Culture – Councillor Brent Cairns**

6.5 **Property – Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond**

6.6 **Housing – Councillor Wendy Doody**

7 QUESTIONS

8 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

9. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it is moved:

That the public is excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

9.1 Rangiora Airfield User Group – Appointment of Members 2026

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
REPORT			
9.1	Rangiora Airfield User Group – Appointment of Members 2026	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons. **LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a)**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 16 February 2027 at 1pm in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

Briefing

- *Rangiora A&P Association Funding – C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation)*

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER AT 1PM

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), W Doody (left 2:52pm), B McLaren, N Mealings, S Powell and Deputy Mayor Redmond.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Bartle (Audio Visual Link), T Fulton and J Ward.

C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy Engagement and Economic Development), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), S Docherty (Strategy and Business Manager), J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader), W Howe (Community Development Team Leader Vibrant Communities), J Meeker (Senior Advisor Strategy and Business), M Foster (Community Development Facilitator – Arts Strategy Implementation), L Mealings (Policy Analyst), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives and sustains** an apology for leave of absence from Mayor Gordon.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 18 August 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Councillor Powell

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 18 August 2026, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

Unconfirmed

5 REPORTS

5.1 **Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2027 – 2037 – Approval for Consultation** – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader) and C Taylor-Claude (Parks Officer)

G MacLeod took the report as read.

Councillor Mealings queried whether the draft strategy analysis had included engagement with retirement villages or organisations representing older residents, given the Waimakariri District's aging demographic. J Borland advised that while there had been no specific engagement with retirement villages, staff had received close to 600 responses from a broad range of age groups, particularly older residents. She noted that the consultation had been widely promoted to the public and staff were satisfied that the responses adequately captured the district's demographic profile.

Councillor Cairns enquired whether staff would undertake consultation within retirement villages. J Borland confirmed that staff could utilise the Older Adults Network to engage with residents of retirement villages as part of the consultation process.

Councillor Ward asked what consultation was planned for the next stage of the Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy. J Borland advised that staff would use the same channels used for the initial survey, including a database of approximately 500 groups previously contacted. She noted that staff would also use the Council's standard communications channels, including the Council website and social media platforms. J Borland observed that this approach would provide broad community reach through the memberships of the clubs and groups included in the database.

Councillor Fulton questioned whether there was a consistent approach to delivering play spaces across the Waimakariri District. G MacLeod advised that, in general, the Greenspace Team worked alongside the Council's Project Delivery Unit, Development Team, and developers to ensure there was a clear understanding of the Council's levels of service and the requirements for Playground Development Contributions. He noted that the Design and Planning Team led this process.

Councillor Cairns asked whether the Spaces and Places Implementation was being developed separately from the strategy. G MacLeod confirmed that the implementation work was being developed concurrently in the background alongside the strategy and would provide the framework for how staff implemented the strategy, existing budgets, and any future initiatives arising from it.

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260811236177.

(b) **Approves** the release of the Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Strategy 2027-2037 for public consultation as noted in Attachment I (260902264832).

(c) **Approves** the proposed consultation approach outlined in section 4.4 of this report, which includes targeted consultation with Mana Whenua, sports clubs, community organisations, schools, and recreation providers and will be available to the wider community.

Unconfirmed

(d) **Notes** that the Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Strategy 2027-2037 has been developed in response to population growth, demographic change and evolving participation trends, and has been informed by demographic analysis, participation data, research, and extensive engagement with stakeholders, sporting organisations, recreation providers, schools, community groups and communities of interest.

(e) **Notes** that the Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Strategy 2027-2037 recognises Council's role as a steward, provider, funder, partner, facilitator and regulator within the wider play, active recreation and sport system, and provides a framework to guide future planning, investment and partnership decisions.

(f) **Notes** that, following public consultation and consideration of submissions, a final Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Strategy 2027-2037 will be presented to the Community and Recreation Committee for recommendation to Council for adoption.

(g) **Notes** that a Spaces and Places Implementation Plan is being developed to support implementation of the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy and is informed by community engagement to understand community needs and aspirations.

(h) **Notes** that the Spaces and Places Implementation Plan will be presented to Council as part of the Draft 2027 Long-Term Plan process, with any associated projects, levels of service changes, and funding requirements to be considered alongside other Council priorities and budget constraints through that process.

(i) **Notes** that the social return on investment of every $1 invested sees $2.12 returned with an overall $4.9 billion contributed to New Zealand’s GDP through Play and Active Recreation and Sport.

(j) **Notes** that consultation on the Draft Waimakariri Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Strategy 2027-2037 does not commit Council to specific projects, programmes or expenditure. Rather, the strategy establishes a strategic direction and decision-making framework to guide future planning, investment, service delivery and partnership decisions. Public consultation will help ensure the final strategy reflects community aspirations and priorities before being considered for adoption.

CARRIED

Councillor McLaren commented that, as a member of the Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Project Steering Group, he found the process both fascinating and insightful, particularly in demonstrating the sector's complexity and the strategic thinking underpinning the document. He acknowledged the sophisticated calculations and guidelines used throughout the process and commended staff and subject matter experts for developing the strategy. Councillor McLaren expressed his support for the document and was pleased to move the motion.

Councillor Mealings acknowledged the significant amount of work that had gone into developing the strategy to its current stage and noted the importance of seeking community feedback through consultation. She observed that the Waimakariri District’s population was growing unevenly across different areas, demographics were changing, and recreation trends evolved over time, with some activities increasing in popularity while others declined. Councillor Mealings noted that both the Council and community organisations operated within a constrained funding environment, making it challenging to determine which initiatives could be supported. She emphasised the importance of having a robust framework to guide funding decisions and ensure fairness across the district, while supporting opportunities for residents to participate in active recreation. Councillor Mealings expressed interest in seeing the outcomes of the public consultation.

Unconfirmed

Councillor Cairns noted that, as a member of the PARS Project Steering Group, he had been impressed by the volume of information gathered and the extensive engagement staff undertook with community groups. He observed the significant pressure on the Council to provide facilities for a wide range of sporting codes, particularly in the context of limited funding support from Central Government. Councillor Cairns highlighted inequities across sports, including varying fee structures and facility requirements, which made it difficult for the Council to balance competing demands when it could not support every request. He noted that the strategy was a community-led project and would help inform decision-making for the next Long Term Plan.

Councillor Doody expressed appreciation for the progress reflected in the strategy and noted the significant developments since 2001, when the Council began working to strengthen relationships with the sporting sector. She reflected on the efforts made over the years to improve collaboration between the Council and sports organisations and to better support the development of playgrounds and sporting facilities across the district. Councillor Doody noted that she was impressed by the work undertaken and the outcomes achieved through this ongoing partnership approach.

5.2 **Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Update, Implementation Plan Progress and Results of the Beach User Survey 2026** – L Mealings (Policy Analyst) and M Kwant (Senior Rangiora Biodiversity)

L Mealings spoke to the report, noting that it provided information on three separate but interrelated topics. She advised that the report included the annual update on the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw, the associated implementation plan, and the results of the 2026 beach user survey. L Mealings noted that the survey findings provided an indication of how effectively the bylaw had been operating and contributed to the assessment of its overall implementation.

Councillor Cairns asked whether there had been any major camping-related issues during the whitebaiting season. G MacLeod advised that the Greenspace Team had worked alongside the Environmental Services Unit to address camping issues identified during the previous season. He noted that the Council, Environment Canterbury (ECan), the Department of Conservation, and Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust had installed additional signage and issued communications. G MacLeod reported that camping activity had been relatively limited, although staff had encountered a small number of people camping in prohibited areas and were in the process of moving them on. He further advised that there had been a few instances of inappropriate behaviour, which Police were addressing.

Councillor McLaren noted that, while the report identified no specific risks from implementing the recommendations, it was unlikely all stakeholders would be satisfied given the wide range of beach users and interests involved. He queried whether any residual risks would remain following implementation. G MacLeod acknowledged that this was an underlying risk inherent in managing public spaces but advised that the Council had established appropriate systems, processes, and staff training to manage and mitigate those risks as effectively as possible.

Councillor Fulton questioned whether staff were able to engage with ECan regarding its plans. G MacLeod advised that staff were already aware of ECan's plans and worked closely with the organisation on an ongoing basis. He further noted that the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group maintained an active role in collaborating with Environment Canterbury on matters relating to the area.

Moved: Councillor Powell Seconded: Deputy Mayor Redmond

Unconfirmed

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260615141505.

(b) **Receives** the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Beach User Survey 2026 Public Facing Document (Trim 260716171565).

(c) **Receives** the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Beach User Survey 2026 Infographic Poster (Trim 260623148771).

(d) **Notes** that the implementation of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Plan is designed to take place over a period of four years, from the adoption of the plan in May 2025, through to the next review of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2025, scheduled for 2029.

(e) **Notes** that the input received from beach users through the Beach User Survey 2026 will be used to help inform the next review of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2025, as well as play a key role in protecting and improving the coastal environment in the interim.

(f) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards and the Northern Pegasus Bay Advisory Group for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Powell thanked staff for the extensive work undertaken to engage with beach users and gather the information presented in the report, noting that the findings were highly valuable. She was pleased to see that awareness of the rules governing beach use had continued to improve, with only 18% of survey respondents reporting no awareness of the rules compared with 50% in 2019. Councillor Powell noted that a key purpose of the bylaw was to manage the coastal environment in a way that allowed all users to enjoy it while minimising conflicts between different user groups. She commented that it was encouraging to see evidence that the bylaw was achieving its intended outcomes and helping to reduce user conflicts. Councillor Powell therefore supported the motion.

Deputy Mayor Redmond also supported the motion and noted that the primary issues identified through the survey seemed to relate to dogs, motorbikes, and vehicles. He observed that horses had previously been a significant source of concern but were no longer highlighted, indicating that those issues had been effectively addressed through established working arrangements. Deputy Mayor Redmond noted that balancing the needs of different recreational users in a busy shared coastal environment meant it was unlikely all users would be satisfied at all times, and complaints would continue to arise. However, he considered the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw to be operating effectively and noted that the 2028 beach user survey would provide a valuable opportunity to compare results and assess the bylaw's ongoing effectiveness.

Councillor Mealings acknowledged that the Waimakariri District's beaches were used by a wide range of people for many different activities, some of which could create conflicts between users. She noted that the challenge was finding the best way to mitigate those conflicts so everyone could enjoy the beach environment. Councillor Mealings highlighted the significant work that went into developing the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw, including extensive pre-consultation, focus groups, and direct engagement with the community. She further noted that, since the bylaw was adopted, staff had continued to engage with beach users to promote understanding of the rules and encourage compliance. Councillor Mealings expressed her support for the motion and commended staff on the quality of the work undertaken.

Unconfirmed

Councillor Cairns commented that the report was extremely comprehensive and demonstrated that the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw was operating effectively to support safe, enjoyable, and accessible beaches for all users. He noted it was particularly encouraging to see that camping-related issues had reduced significantly compared with previous seasons. Councillor Cairns thanked staff for their ongoing work in implementing the bylaw, engaging with beach users, and monitoring compliance, and expressed his support for the report and its findings.

5.3 **Update of Management of Waimakariri District Art Collection** – M Foster (Community Development Facilitator – Arts Strategy Implementation)

M Foster spoke to the report, noting that several art trusts and organisations operated across the Waimakariri District. She explained that the Waimakariri Arts Community Council, an incorporated society, managed the Chamber Gallery, Art on the Quay, and Concert Programmes, and had recently assumed responsibility for the Council's Outdoor Art Collection through a newly established Subcommittee.

M Foster noted that the role of the Waimakariri Arts Community Council was sometimes confused with that of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust, a Council-controlled organisation focused on outdoor public artworks throughout the Waimakariri District. She advised that the art collection referenced in the report had originally been developed by the Art Collection Trust, established in 1995 through donations, Arts Council commission payments, and Council grants, resulting in a collection of more than 70 works. Although the collection was now a Council asset, she emphasised that it ultimately belonged to the Waimakariri District's residents. M Foster stated that the report was intended to provide assurance that appropriate processes were in place for the ongoing care, management, and stewardship of the artworks following their transfer to Council ownership and noted that the Arts Council had agreed in principle to the draft terms of reference and supporting process documents.

Councillor Cairns asked how many artworks were currently in storage and whether there were specific reasons they were not on display. M Foster advised that approximately six artworks were currently in storage. She noted that one artwork was particularly large and that there was currently no suitable location to display it. She further explained that some artworks were considered unsuitable for display within Council facilities, as their context was not considered consistent with Council values. M Foster advised that the Waimakariri Arts Community Council had discussed potential options for these works, including their sale or loan to another collection where they may be more appropriately displayed.

Deputy Mayor Redmond enquired as to what full curatorship of the art collection would involve. M Foster advised that full curatorship included responsibility for decisions relating to the acquisition of artworks, as well as determining the placement and display of artworks within the collection.

Deputy Mayor Redmond further questioned the meaning of *"owned by the district's residents",* asking whether this referred to ownership in a property sense or to the community having a sense of ownership of the asset. C Brown clarified that the artworks were assets owned by the Council; however, they were held and managed for the benefit of the Waimakariri District's residents.

Councillor Fulton asked whether staff foresaw any potential complications if the Council could not refer back to the original artist when the conditions of a donation changed. W Howe advised that, where artworks had been gifted to the Art Collection Trust, the Trust Deed provided that if the Trust were dissolved, its assets would be transferred to the Council. She indicated that this provision addressed the transfer of ownership and stewardship of the artworks in such circumstances.

Unconfirmed

Councillor Cairns queried whether the Waimakariri Arts Community Council could develop a formal process or application form for people wishing to donate artwork to the collection. M Foster advised that efforts had already been made to formalise the relevant processes and acknowledged that developing a Donation Form was an area that would require further work and consideration.

Responding to a question from Councillor Doody, C Brown confirmed that the Council's insurance covered the assets in the Art Collection.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Redmond Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260828257863.

(b) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Art Collection Trust has now been dissolved and all art and financial assets of the Trust have reverted to the Council's guardianship.

(c) **Notes** that over 70 pieces of art were accumulated over a period of years by the Trust through various means, including donations, Arts Council commission payments and Council grants. Therefore, while the Collection is a Council asset, it is also acknowledged as being managed on behalf of the Waimakariri District residents.

(d) **Notes** for context, the attached draft documents for the newly established Arts Collection Trust subcommittee of the Waimakariri Arts Council. Final drafts will be tabled at the meeting.

(e) **Notes** that Council has ring-fenced the financial assets of the Waimakariri Art Collection Trust for the purpose of ongoing art maintenance.

(f) **Notes** that new processes and projects are being developed to improve the acquisition, management and maintenance of the Collection.

(g) **Notes** that storage has been secured within the Rangiora Service Centre for items not on display.

(h) **Notes** that an updated valuation of the artworks will be undertaken and that all items in the Collection are covered by Council insurance.

(i) **Approves** that full curatorship and management of the Collection, including a regular rotational programme, be delegated to the newly established Waimakariri District Art Collection Sub-Committee of the Community Arts Council.

(j) **Circulates** this report to the Audit and Risk Committee for information.

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Redmond commented that the report formed part of the ongoing work to improve and clarify the management of the Waimakariri District's Art Collection. He noted that the recommendations did not formally adopt the terms of reference but indicated that he was satisfied with the proposed approach and supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings expressed her support for the motion and thanked staff for their ongoing work in caring for and managing the district's art collection. She acknowledged the importance of the artworks as valued community treasures and appreciated the efforts being made to ensure their preservation, stewardship, and accessibility for the benefit of residents.

Unconfirmed

Councillor McLaren expressed his support for the motion, noting that art formed an important part of the district's identity and how people connected with their community. He acknowledged the quality of the artworks displayed throughout Council facilities and highlighted the value they added to public spaces.

Councillor Fulton supported the motion and welcomed the shift away from viewing ownership solely in a legal sense, as it was important to recognise the creative and community connection to the artworks. He also noted that the motion acknowledged the collection's cultural significance beyond formal ownership arrangements.

Councillor Cairns expressed support for the motion, noting that he appreciated the display of artwork throughout Council facilities and preferred it to blank walls in public spaces. He commented that the collection represented a significant investment by the community and acknowledged the value it added to Council buildings, as well as its contribution to the cultural character and identity of the wider district.

In his right of reply, Deputy Mayor Redmond noted that it was valuable to have a clear understanding of the location and status of the Waimakariri District's Art Collection. He commented that he often took the opportunity to view the artworks displayed in Council buildings and was particularly fascinated by the Trojan horse artwork on display. Deputy Mayor Redmond expressed appreciation for the collection and the work underway to manage and preserve it for the benefit of the community.

5.4 **Inclusive Waimakariri – a Plan to Become a more Accessible District 2025 – 2028 – Year One Implementation Report** – M Pugh (Community Development Facilitator)

T Sturley spoke to the report, noting that it provided an update on progress during the first year of implementation of the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan 2025-2028. The current plan was the third iteration of a strategy originally established in 2011 as the Waimakariri Disability Strategy and was intended to guide the Council's response to ensuring all residents could access the places, spaces, services, and supports available throughout the district. She highlighted that creating inclusive and accessible communities delivered benefits beyond social equity, including positive economic outcomes by making it easier for people with physical or cognitive impairments and their families to access local businesses and services.

T Sturley reported that, despite being only one year into implementation, nearly half of the plan's priority actions had already been achieved. She also reflected that when the original strategy was developed in 2011, accessibility considerations were sometimes viewed as adding cost and inconvenience to projects. However, through the ongoing work of the Community Development Team and the support of the Waimakariri Access Group, understanding and support for accessibility initiatives had significantly increased across Council's units.

Councillor Cairns asked whether the highlights identified in the report had originated from the Waimakariri Access Group or through service requests. T Sturley advised that some of the achievements reflected an increased understanding of, and commitment to, accessibility needs and planning across the organisation, which had developed through the culture established since the introduction of the original 2011 strategy. She noted that other achievements resulted directly from the Waimakariri Access Group's work championing accessibility initiatives and promoting activities such as accessibility walkarounds across the district, which helped raise awareness of accessibility considerations and embed them into planning processes.

Unconfirmed

Councillor Fulton enquired whether areas identified for accessibility improvements should be referred to the Waimakariri Access Group or reported through the Council's Service Request System. T Sturley advised that both approaches were appropriate, depending on the nature of the issue. She explained that operational matters, such as accessibility concerns relating to Council property, could be logged through a service request, while matters involving planning, policy, or longer-term accessibility improvements were often best raised with the Waimakariri Access Group to enable broader discussion, advocacy, and coordinated action.

Councillor Mealings referred to the eight goals outlined in the report, which had been identified as either being "on track" or "in progress", and asked for clarification on the distinction between the two terms. T Sturley explained that actions categorised as "on track" referred to deliverables that were being completed as part of normal business operations and were progressing as expected. She noted that actions listed as "in progress" generally related to specific projects that were actively underway but had not yet been completed.

Moved: Councillor Powell Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260722177923.

(b) **Notes** that the implementation period for the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan is 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2028.

(c) **Notes** that this is the first of four annual progress reports on the implementation of the Plan.

(d) **Notes** that the next full review of the Plan will be in the second half of 2028.

(e) **Circulates** this report to Council and Community Boards and the Waimakariri Access Group for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Powell commented that the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan had progressed significantly within a relatively short timeframe. She noted that accessibility mattered to everyone and that improvements to support people with disabilities often benefited the wider community. Councillor Powell was pleased to see the Council's strong commitment to accessibility initiatives and remarked that she was frequently impressed by the feedback, ideas, and solutions put forward in this area. She expressed her support for the ongoing work and looked forward to seeing further progress and outcomes delivered through the implementation of the Plan.

Councillor Mealings was pleased and proud to live in a district that valued its residents and recognised that everyone had something to contribute to the community. She emphasised the importance of ensuring that all residents were able to access the opportunities, services, and facilities available throughout the district. While acknowledging that the Council did not always get everything right, she highlighted the importance of continual learning and improvement, noting that when better approaches were identified, the Council should strive to adopt them. Councillor Mealings considered that the report demonstrated the Council's commitment to ongoing improvement in accessibility and inclusion and indicated her support for the motion.

Unconfirmed

Councillor McLaren supported the motion, noting that accessibility was intrinsically linked to the Council's strategic commitments to inclusion and being a Welcoming Community. He commented that the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan was ambitious, with 40 priority actions designed to translate the Council's aspirations into tangible outcomes. Councillor McLaren acknowledged the challenges organisations often face in bringing together different business units because of operational silos, and commended the collaborative approach taken to develop and implement the plan. He specifically recognised the contribution of the 11 Council units represented on the project control group and thanked staff for their commitment to advancing accessibility and inclusion across the district.

Councillor Cairns expressed his support for the motion and acknowledged the efforts of Council staff who had not only incorporated accessibility considerations into their work but had also helped foster a welcoming and inclusive community. He recognised the Waimakariri Access Group's significant contribution, noting the strong leadership it had received from Councillor Powell over a number of years. Councillor Cairns stated that the Access Group's work had been instrumental in driving positive change within the Council, helping ensure facilities and townships became more accessible and that decision-making increasingly reflected the needs of all residents across the district, rather than only some members of the community.

5.5 **Aquatics August Update** – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood took the report as read. He confirmed attendance numbers had largely stayed consistent, although they were slightly down from the previous year. He noted the great event with Aqualand at Dudley Pool, which saw 760 people through the facility.

Councillor Cairns asked whether staff measured the number of new visitors to the facility. M Greenwood advised that a significant proportion of transactions were paid in cash, making it difficult to determine whether visitors were new or returning patrons.

Councillor Cairns further enquired whether staff intended to relocate the Aqualand inflatables from Dudley Pool to other swimming pool facilities throughout the district. M Greenwood explained that Aqualand was a specific event involving the hire and installation of large inflatables, which could only be accommodated at Dudley Pool due to the facility's depth and size requirements. However, he noted that the Council owned several inflatables which were regularly used at Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre and Dudley Pool on weekends, and at Oxford Pool throughout the swimming season.

Councillor Powell asked whether there were any plans to hold events similar to Aqualand during the next school holidays. M Greenwood advised that the pools would continue to offer the Council-owned inflatables; however, the larger Aqualand inflatables would not be returning during that period. He explained that market demand and avoiding oversaturation were factors, noting that many aquatic centres ran similar inflatable events as annual attractions rather than more frequent offerings.

Councillor Powell questioned whether the tail end of the winter sickness had a major impact on the attendance numbers. M Greenwood noted it had hit the pools very hard from both a customer and staff perspective.

Deputy Mayor Redmond noted that overall attendance figures for August were down 5% and enquired whether this decrease was consistent across both Kaiapoi and Rangiora facilities. M Greenwood advised that attendance trends were relatively consistent between the two locations.

Unconfirmed

Deputy Mayor Redmond further asked whether pool usage had returned to pre-COVID levels. M Greenwood advised that there had been a noticeable decline in attendance following the COVID-19 pandemic, with increased public awareness around illness and attendance at public venues continuing to influence participation. He noted that usage levels had not yet fully returned to pre-COVID levels; however, staff were continuing to work towards achieving that recovery.

Councillor Fulton noted that the pricing structure appeared very specific and asked whether a complex formula determined the fees. M Greenwood advised that fees and charges were reviewed annually as part of the Annual Plan process. She explained that staff undertook a fees and charges assessment, considered pricing at comparable facilities, and then proposed a percentage increase or adjustment for Council consideration. M Greenwood noted that the prices appeared so specific because of the cumulative effect of percentage-based increases applied over successive years and approved by the Council.

Councillor Cairns asked what the Oxford opening dates were. M Greenwood noted it opened on 28 November 2026 and ran for 15 weeks through to 14 March 2027.

Councillor Ward questioned whether having a café at the swimming pools would be beneficial. M Greenwood advised that the stadium provided a good example of a facility where a café had operated successfully. He noted that staff had previously trialled a coffee machine at pool reception; however, this had been challenging due to limited staffing resources. M Greenwood also observed that the presence of numerous cafés on High Street could mean that a pool-based café might compete with existing local businesses. He also noted that cafés at swimming pool facilities generally struggled to remain viable because they lacked a consistent flow of customers throughout the day.

Moved: Councillor Mealings Seconded: Councillor Powell

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260903265947.

(b) **Notes** total customer attendance of 22,705 customers for the month of August 2026. This is down 1,193 (4.9%) from 23,898 customers recorded in August 2025.

(c) **Notes** the Aqualand event in the school holidays was well attended, with 760 tickets sold.

(d) **Notes** the successful implementation of BioTime, a time and attendance software package as part of the Council Enterprise System upgrade.

(e) **Circulates** this report to the community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings thanked staff for the report and remarked that they were often overly modest in their performance assessments. She noted that the reporting period had presented a range of significant challenges, including what was likely one of the most severe influenza seasons in recent years, together with ongoing fuel price and cost-of-living pressures. Despite these factors, participation declined by only 4.9%, while financial performance exceeded budget expectations. Councillor Mealings commended staff for their efforts, stating that the results demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement. She expressed her appreciation for the work undertaken and acknowledged the positive outcomes achieved during a challenging period.

Unconfirmed

Councillor Powell observed the report was excellent and echoed Councillor Mealings' remarks. She noted that the district's swimming pools were an important community asset for many residents and commended staff for their ongoing efforts to improve services and introduce new initiatives to keep the facilities appealing and relevant. Councillor Powell acknowledged that staff faced the challenge of balancing innovation with the expectations of regular users who valued consistency and familiar programmes. She noted that staff managed this balance effectively and thanked them for their continued commitment to meeting the community's needs.

Councillor Cairns noted staff did deliver best practice aquatic programmes. Staff provided exceptionally good programmes for the community.

5.6 **Libraries Update to September 2026** – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)

L Sole took the report as read.

Councillor Cairns noted there was no street signage for the iSITE in Kaiapoi; he asked what staff would do to rectify that. L Sole noted there was some budget for moving the Isite to the libraries that could be used for external signage.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked about the trial mobile library service. L Sole noted that it wrapped up in April prior to winter. Staff had some great engagement through that.

Moved: Councillor Mealings Seconded: Deputy Mayor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report 260902265249.

(b) **Notes** increasing demand for library services in the district, which is evident in 2025/2026 preliminary performance results demonstrating a 4.1% increase in visitation across the sites and a 5.3% increase in memberships.

(c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings thanked staff for the report and commented that she always looked forward to receiving the Library Services report. She noted that L Sole and his team's work was exceptional, generating significant interest and engagement throughout the community. She highlighted the success of the Rangiora Town Hall centenary celebrations and acknowledged the valuable contribution made by library staff to the event. Councillor Mealings stated that the continued growth in library visitation was unsurprising given the team's ability to deliver services and programmes that resonated with residents. She encouraged staff to continue their excellent work and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to the community.

Deputy Mayor Redmond congratulated staff on the strong visitor numbers achieved by the district's libraries and acknowledged this as a significant accomplishment. He noted that he had attended the Rangiora Town Hall event featuring Fuego, which coincided with National Poetry Day, and had appreciated the contribution made by library staff to the occasion. Deputy Mayor Redmond thanked staff for the report and commended them for the valuable work they continued to undertake on behalf of the community.

Councillor Powell acknowledged the wide range of successful events delivered by library staff and commended them not only for these larger initiatives but also for the many smaller contributions they made within the community. She noted that library staff engaged closely with local residents and highlighted their work with students from the Rangiora Lighthouse Programme in the Tinker Zone, where they supported craft activities and other creative

Unconfirmed

projects. Councillor Powell also recognised the role libraries played in fostering welcoming communities, noting their involvement in the recent National Welcoming Week. She explained that libraries served as collection points for Welcome to Waimakariri bags and encouraged Tamariki to help decorate them, contributing to a welcoming and inclusive environment for new residents.

Councillor Cairns commented that the libraries team were exceptional and consistently went above and beyond in the work they delivered for the community. He noted that staff regularly contributed significant effort to enhance library services and community engagement initiatives. Councillor Cairns referred to the walk at Huna Forest, which he attended, and described it as an extraordinary experience. He congratulated staff on their achievements and thanked them for their ongoing dedication and the wide range of programmes and activities they provided across the district.

6 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

6.1 **Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds)** – Councillor Brent Cairns

- El Niño Planning – Staff were meeting weekly to discuss and plan for the wind events that accompany the El Niño weather pattern. This resulted in an action plan that staff followed to pre-empt works in known problem areas. Much of this focus was on areas with tree issues over the past few wind events, particularly west of the district and in some of the coastal natural zone.
- Mandeville Sports Park – Consultation was opened on 11 September 2026 with results forecast to be delivered at the November Community and Recreation Committee meeting.
- Pegasus Youth – Consultation on the designs had closed, and staff had analysed, and a report was presented to the Woodend-Sefton Community Board's September 2026 meeting. This last engagement created some frustration and concern among residents (mainly around Maungatere Reserve) about the process and generated emails to elected representatives and staff, plus approximately 60 pages of feedback to analyse. The report presented the options to the Board and discussed the feedback results to confirm final locations for implementation. If approved, construction would happen over the summer period.
- Tree Management – Tree maintenance works continue across the Waimakariri District. At Victoria Park, hazardous branch pruning and routine maintenance pruning were underway. On Queen Street, Rangiora, residents had been notified of planned works to the London Plane trees, including crown reduction and removal of deadwood. These works are scheduled to commence in mid-September 2026 and would require staged road closures to safely manage traffic and pedestrian movements. At Elm Tree Reserve, the removal of identified hazardous trees was underway to address public safety risks. In Pegasus, scheduled tree maintenance works were nearing completion, while at Silverstream, hazardous branch removal on poplar trees had now been completed.
- Welcome to Woodend Beach Sign – the sign was included in the Woodend Beach Project so that there was a strong link in aesthetic between the sign and the new development. Staff hoped to provide a design of the proposed sign to the Woodend-Sefton Community Board for initial feedback and approval at their October meeting.
- Woodend Beach – The Council's Project Delivery Unit were working through the tender documentation phase, including a resource consent application which was currently being processed, as well as an Archaeological Authority (AA). The Consent was almost completely through the process, with the final drafting of consent conditions underway. Staff were working to get the tender out within the next two weeks, with the car park and play space currently programmed to open before Christmas. The toilets would be put in a separate tender to go out in September also, but with a programmed start date following the high-use summer period.

Unconfirmed

- Sefton Domain – Staff had undertaken a site visit to the Sefton Domain to clarify site considerations, amenity and pavilion need to support project planning. Consideration needed to be given to the cost of supporting infrastructure such as electricity, water and parking. Consultants were undertaking a re-validation of the new facility design assumptions. This was due for completion mid-September.
- Murphy Park – Staff continued to work with the Northern Bulldogs to support them around consenting matters on their existing building. A report would be presented to the Community and Recreation Committee outlining their proposal to develop new amenities on their site and to understand the Committee's position, given the site's location relative to the stop banks and the associated risks. Staff had a lease in final review to provide tenure certainty for the club at Murphy Park.
- Sparks Reserve Naming – Progress was being made on installing a naming sign in Sparks Reserve following approval of this name at the July Rangiora-Ashley Community Board meeting. Staff were awaiting pricing quotes to move ahead.
- Play Research Five- to Twelve-year-olds – Work had commenced to enable research with five to twelve-year-olds to understand their local play needs and local barriers to play to inform future play opportunity provision planning and partnerships. This work was aligned with the PARS strategy and funded by Sport NZ through the Councils Play Advocacy contract.
- Elm Green – this play space has been approved by the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board, and the tender was now out for contractors. This project was still on track for completion by Christmas.
- StoryWalk Kaiapoi –the new StoryWalk in Kaiapoi had an opening event on 13 September 2026. The new storywalk signs would be installed at Rangiora, and the current panels on display there would be relocated as part of this process to the Te Korotuaheka Wetlands (Honda Forest). Over time, as each new storywalk comes online, these would circulate through the network.
- Rangiora Town Hall's 100-year celebration weekend was a tremendous success. The two commemorative shows sold out, and the guided tours on Sunday were also very well attended. The event showcased the depth of talent, diversity, and creativity within the community and was widely regarded as an enjoyable, memorable occasion for all involved.
- Attended the Food Secure North Canterbury meeting; they were setting up a charitable trust, focusing on food education and had assisted with the supply of edible trees and plants for community food forests.

6.2 **Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums)** – Councillor Bruce McLaren

- The Rangiora Town Hall 100th Anniversary Celebrations were a notable success. The Council's Communications Team designed all promotional material in-house, producing a series of highly professional posters and marketing assets that effectively showcased the significance of the occasion.
- The cinema seating within the Rangiora Town Hall had become worn through extensive use. The operator proposed a practical partnership arrangement in which the business would fund the replacement of the seats, with the Council contributing by waiving the royalty fee until the cost of the new seating was recovered. This was considered a positive example of collaboration between the Council and a facility operator.
- The Pegasus Community Centre project was substantially completed on schedule and under budget, with only final finishing touches remaining. Most existing user groups were expected to transition into the small function room with minimal disruption. The official opening was scheduled for 9 October 2026.

Unconfirmed

- The Rangiora Museum continued to host monthly public speaker events, which featured consistently interesting and engaging topics and remained well received by attendees.
- At the Rangiora War Memorial Hall, a long-standing tenant, Rangiora Budget Services, had ceased operations. However, the Salvation Army ensured a seamless transition by assuming responsibility for delivering the same service from the same location, ensuring continuity of support for the community.
- Planning for the Sefton Domain Pavilion was underway, with the project continuing to progress as anticipated.
- The Southbrook Community Sports Club lease was being reviewed to ensure it adequately provided for current activities until the proposed new hub facility was developed.
- To celebrate Father's Day, fathers were offered free entry to the Council's aquatic facilities.
- Staff and patron illness continued to impact operations at the district's aquatic facilities during the reporting period.
- Recent recruitment activities for the aquatic facilities attracted 74 applicants, a result that was supported by staff attendance at the Youth Futures Expo.
- Appreciation was expressed for the Te Reo Māori programme delivered through the district's libraries and the positive contribution it made to the community.
- The Trevor Inch Memorial was approaching its 30th anniversary, with a number of commemorative events planned to mark the occasion.
- Reference was made to a feature article in the North Canterbury News profiling Noel Gullery, aged 81, who had been attending library sessions to learn sewing skills. He had been creating handmade items as gifts for his wife and family, providing a positive example of lifelong learning and community engagement facilitated through library programmes.

Councillor Fulton recalled that, following work undertaken by a consultant in collaboration with the Rangiora Museum Committee, a number of recommendations had been adopted while others had not. He queried whether any progress had been made in implementing the direction outlined in the Museum's business plan, noting that the Museum now had a new Chairperson. Councillor McLaren advised that the Rangiora Museum was an independent incorporated society and, as such, was responsible for determining its own future direction, notwithstanding that it operated from a Council-owned facility. He noted that the Council's role was to continue providing the facility, while the Museum Committee made decisions about the Museum's strategic direction.

Councillor McLaren further noted longstanding discussions about extending the Trevor Inch Memorial Library to create a co-located model similar to the Kaiapoi Museum within the Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre. However, he understood that the current Museum Committee was satisfied with its existing focus and core functions. While the Committee would welcome additional display space, similar to that available through the Chamber Gallery, it was not currently seeking significant changes to its operational direction.

6.3 **Community Development and Wellbeing** – Councillor Shona Powell

- The Youth Action Plan (YAP) Launch Event was scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2026, from 7pm to 9pm in the Prosser Quirke Room at MainPower Stadium. The event would feature a showcase of the Youth Action Plan, the premiere screening of the Youth Action Plan video, and opportunities for attendees to connect with young people, community organisations, schools, and other stakeholders.

Unconfirmed

- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ):
  - Since 1 July 2026, eight new full-time placements have been secured, along with a number of part-time and casual employment opportunities.
  - The weekly Job Opportunities Hub continued to attract regular attendance. Training opportunities available through the hub included Site Safe, Forklift Licensing, and Traffic Management training. A driving simulator, made available through Youthtown, also continued to be offered to participants.
- The Council's response to homelessness:
  - Plans were underway for a working group to visit the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust (OCHT) in Christchurch.
  - The Council's homelessness response webpage was now available online, providing information and resources for those seeking assistance and support.
- Welcoming Communities:
  - National Welcoming Week was 4 September to 13 September.
  - The Welcoming Community Facilitator set up at some events to help draw and celebrate National Welcoming Week and included:
    - The Rangiora Cultural Festival was held on 4 September 2026 at St Joseph's School, which hosted the event for the second consecutive year. The Festival was well attended, and Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW), the district's multicultural social group, staffed the Welcoming Communities information table and engaged with attendees.
    - The Mobile Community Hub was deployed in Ravenswood and Silverstream in collaboration with North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support. The initiative promoted the message that connected communities are safer communities and encouraged residents to build local networks and neighbourhood connections.
    - The Welcoming the Birds at Waikuku Beach event again proved popular with the community. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of migratory bird species, while also recognising the migrants who now call the Waimakariri District home.
    - The Welcome Bag initiative continued to receive positive support within the community. Originally established after the Canterbury earthquakes, the programme has been maintained as a way to welcome new residents to the district. As part of Welcoming Week, residents were encouraged to collect a Council Welcome Bag and present it to a new neighbour. Library staff also helped decorate the bags with local children.
    - Approximately 40 Council staff members responded to a questionnaire identifying the languages they were able to speak and had agreed to be included on a staff language register. The register would help the Council respond to welfare situations where language support may be required.
- Kaiapoi Community Hub - Kaiapoi Menz Shed new build was now well underway.
- Community Resilience
  - An update was provided on community resilience planning, with preliminary discussions having taken place regarding potential support requirements for rural communities in response to the anticipated Super El Niño conditions.
  - It was noted that the initial response was likely to focus on promoting and supporting communication, preparedness, and community education initiatives. This would be undertaken in collaboration with agencies including Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), the Rural Support Trust, and Civil Defence, all of which were involved in regional planning activities to help communities prepare for and respond to potential impacts.

Unconfirmed

- The emphasis of this work was on ensuring rural communities were well informed, connected to available support networks, and equipped with the information needed to build resilience ahead of any significant weather-related events.

- Accessibility
  - North Canterbury Disability Expo held on 29 August 2026 at the Rangiora High School Hall attracted over 200 attendees and 40 displays. It was anticipated that this would become an annual event.
  - The expo was preceded by an evening presentation for the local Disability Community by Jeremy Faumuina, coach and mentor for the NZ Special Olympics Basketball Team and New Zealand Police Social Worker; 60 people attended.
  - A progress report on implementation of the Inclusive Waimakariri Accessibility Plan was presented to today's meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee.

6.4 **Arts and Culture** – Councillor Brent Cairns

- Regional Representation - Christchurch City Council had been in touch with Waimakariri, Hurunui and Selwyn, suggesting a Teams catch-up to discuss the current state of play.
- Art installations
  - MainPower Stadium sculpture - Artwork creation delayed due to illness. Planned visit to artist in Amberley to view progress and take video reels/photos for Facebook update. Engineering report still to be done.
  - Howard Kippenberger Sculpture - Ongoing meetings/discussion with artist and Waimakariri Public Arts Trust. Family communication in progress. Information board to be developed.
- A number of different projects being considered by Waimakariri Public Arts Trust including:
  - Potential sculpture benefactor for Kaiapoi – report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board via Greenspace on balustrade option.
  - Mural offer for skatepark.
  - Donation of a large Oamaru stone lizard sculpture to be placed at Kaiapoi Lakes. Information gathering for report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board.
  - Painting of transformer boxes (possible project with MainPower).
- Public Art Asset Register still needed to be completed – Intention to focus on this once other significant projects and documentation were completed.
- Supporting Arts Organisations
  - Waimakariri Public Arts Trust - Successful Strategy Session held.
  - Waimakariri Community Arts Council - Working through feedback on a Memorandum of Understanding.
  - Art Collection Trust - Memo to Audit and Risk and Community and Recreation Committees prepared. Inaugural meeting of the Art Collection Sub-committee took place. The Subcommittee was working through archives to gather information about each artwork.
  - Arts Strategy Activation Plan - Working on redraft after input from Strategy team
- Public Arts Framework - Workshop pilot Programme to be prepared and dates set for a series of short community evening workshops.

Unconfirmed

- Proposed Youth Arts Week 2027
- Video creation of community groups - Spoken to some community groups who were happy to participate. Visits to be booked
- Survey/database - Survey to be drafted to arts community to reconnect/create database
- E-newsletter/ Council website Content Management Plans on list to be created.
- Arts Incorporated Society - Further exploration required
- Arts Strategy Update report to the Council to be submitted for November 2026 meeting.
- Waimakariri Wearable Arts event was held, a great showcase of young and adult fashion talent. The student fashion element was very good.
- Oxford Gallery new exhibition from Michael Southern – Lost Mythologies on 10 September 2026, official opening Saturday 12 September 2026.
- Art on the Quay latest exhibition was All Together by students and Victoria Bennett – The Our Studio Artists
- Chamber Gallery hosted Chamber Music NZ playing Brahms and, in the gallery, the Down to Earth retrospective by Celia Wilson.

6.5 **Property** – Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond

- All 20 units at the Courtenay Drive Elder Persons Housing complex were tenanted, and there were no operational or tenancy issues to report.
- The Durham Street development continued to progress well, with staff targeting Council approval in November to enable construction works to commence.
- The Tyler Court redevelopment remained a significant capital works project and would continue to affect occupancy levels, as a number of units were unavailable for occupation while works were planned and undertaken. Tenders were expected to be considered in November, with construction anticipated to take approximately 12 months to complete.
- Overall occupancy across the housing portfolio had increased to 90.15%, reflecting successful tenanting activity by staff. It was noted that approximately 60% of vacant units were unavailable due to planned maintenance works or issues requiring remediation, rather than a lack of demand for housing.
- Vacancy rates were expected to improve as several units were returned to service. The housing waiting list also continued to trend downward, which was viewed as a positive indicator.
- Structural engineering works at the former Subway building in Kaiapoi were nearing completion. The property was expected to move into the marketing phase later in September, with the aim of securing a new tenant.
- Staff advised that a number of strategic property transactions were currently progressing.

6.6 **Housing – Councillor Wendy Doody**

Councillor Doody was not present to provide an update.

Unconfirmed

7 QUESTIONS

Nil.

8 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

9. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act it was moved:

Moved: Deputy Mayor Redmond Seconded: Councillor Powell

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

9.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 18 August 2026

9.2 Briefing Notes Community and Recreation Committee 18 August 2026

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
MINUTES			
9.1	Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 18 August 2026	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons and enable the local authority to carry out negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) without prejudice or disadvantage, and to maintain legal professional privilege. **LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a), (g) and (i)**
BRIEFING NOTES			
9.2	Briefing Notes Community and Recreation Committee 18 August 2026	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons and enable the local authority to carry out negotiations (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage, and to maintain legal professional privilege. **LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a), (g) and (i)**

CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 24 November 2026 at 1pm in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:13PM.

Unconfirmed

Workshops

- *Waimakariri Events Plan: Emerging Direction*

CONFIRMED

_____
Chairperson

_____
Date

Unconfirmed

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTES OF A WORKSHOP OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 3:30PM.

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), W Doody (left 2:52pm), B McLaren, N Mealings, S Powell and Deputy Mayor Redmond.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Bartle (Audio Visual Link), T Fulton and J Ward.

C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy Engagement and Economic Development), S Docherty (Strategy and Business Manager), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), H Downie (Strategy and Centres Team Leader), J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and partnerships Team leader), J Meeker (Senior Advisor Strategy and Business), H Leslie (Greenspace Coordinator), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1. WAIMAKARIRI EVENTS PLAN: EMERGING DIRECTION – J Meeker (Senior Advisor Strategy and Business)

Trim: 260915279190

Key Issues:

- The Events Plan was being developed to provide strategic direction for the Council's role in events, clarify expectations, guide future funding decisions, streamline event processes, and support a healthy events sector.
- Current Council roles include funder, host, regulator, administrator, and promoter of events across the Waimakariri District.
- The project was re-initiated in February 2026, with stakeholder engagement and workshops undertaken throughout the year.
- A stakeholder workshop held on 5 June 2026 involved 35 attendees, including event organisers, venue operators, community organisations, elected members, and Community Board representatives.
- Current Events Landscape
  - Analysis identified 166 events across the district.
  - Community events (25%), arts and music events (24%), and sports events (20%) made up the largest categories.
  - Approximately 75% of events were free or cost less than $20 to attend.
  - Around half of all events attracted visitors from outside North Canterbury.
  - Mainpower Stadium was identified as an important emerging venue, while Town Hall capacity was noted as a limitation.
  - The district had access to an audience catchment of approximately 310,000 people within a 30-minute travel radius.
- Stakeholder Feedback
  - Support distinctive events that attract regional and national visitors.
  - Continue supporting community events that build local identity, pride, and social connections.
  - Showcase Waimakariri's towns, rural character, local talent, and authentic experiences.
  - Balance economic outcomes with social and cultural benefits.
  - Ensure events were inclusive, accessible, environmentally sustainable, and involve local businesses.

- Position Christchurch as complementary rather than competitive to Waimakariri's event offering.

- Emerging Vision
  - Create inclusive community events and recognised visitor experiences that celebrate Waimakariri and North Canterbury's identity while contributing to community wellbeing and economic prosperity.

- Proposed Objectives
  - Primary Objective
    - Develop a balanced events portfolio with clear event categories and funding outcomes.
  - Proposed Event Tiers
    - Signature Events: Distinctive events attracting regional and national visitors.
    - Community Events: Events that build community connections and celebrate local identity.
    - Town Centre Activations: Promotion Association-led activities supporting local vibrancy and business activity.
    - Christmas Parades: Retained as a specific funding category.
  - Supporting Objectives
    - Encourage a Healthy Events Ecosystem
      - Establish an Events Forum.
      - Share information, coordinate calendars, support training, and improve collaboration.
    - Make Events Easier
      - Simplify processes and online resources.
      - Improve guidance around funding, bookings, compliance, and health and safety.
      - Provide event coordination support.
    - Provide Event-Ready Venues
      - Identify primary event venues.
      - Invest in infrastructure and equipment.
      - Explore venue consenting and low-cost equipment hire options.

- Next Steps
  - Continue stakeholder testing and draft refinement through September and October 2026.
  - Present the draft Events Plan to the Council on 3 November 2026, seeking approval for consultation.
  - Undertake formal consultation and review submissions.
  - Final adoption of the Events Plan is scheduled for February 2027.

Questions/Issues Raised:

- A member commented positively on the concept of coordinating complementary events, citing the example of the Musical Society's production of Les Misérables being followed by the French Film Festival. It was noted that this approach could be expanded to include dining experiences and other performances. In addition, there was a desire for a central point of contact to assist with coordination. Clarification was sought as to whether staff were proposing a single named individual or a more systematic coordination function.

  Staff advised that the proposal intended to combine a dedicated individual with a coordinated system. The role would focus on coordination rather than direct event delivery. The position would not assess all event applications; however, if processes were delayed, the coordinator could follow up with the relevant parties. This could include liaising with event organisers to ensure requirements, such as health and safety plans, had been completed. Staff noted that, at present, event organisers largely operated independently, with limited coordination across activities. The proposed role was therefore envisaged as a support function to improve communication, coordination, and oversight across the district's event sector.

- Concern was expressed that staff had referred only to the three town centres (Oxford, Rangiora, and Kaiapoi), given that facilities capable of hosting large events were also located within the Woodend–Pegasus–Ravenswood area.

  Staff advised that the plan did not constrain or exclude events from any area of the district. At present, Rangiora and Kaiapoi had reserves and indoor venues that were either event-ready or close to being event-ready, subject to additional investment. Staff noted that significant change was anticipated within the Woodend–Pegasus–Ravenswood area as future urban development progressed. They also advised that investment was already underway in new reserves, which could create additional future event opportunities. It was also noted that the proposed funding categories would be open to applications from both private event organisers and community groups and were not intended to limit eligibility based on location.

- What happened to review promotions association funding?

  Staff advised that the review was being incorporated into this work programme and that preliminary discussions had been held about its future direction. It was noted that draft changes were being considered to better support the objectives outlined in the plan. Staff advised that they would report the proposed changes back to Councillors before public consultation. The purpose of the current discussion was to obtain initial feedback and test the proposed approach before it was finalised and incorporated into the plan.

- A question was raised on what a “Waimakariri weekend” experience might look like. Given the district's relatively compact nature, visitors could potentially attend events in Rangiora, Oxford, and Kaiapoi over a single weekend, amplifying the economic and social benefits to the district. The importance of avoiding an over-concentration of events in any one location or around a single event at a particular time was emphasised.

  It was noted that the most important thing that came out of the workshop was that the opportunity to coordinate the calendar better meant that if you had large events such as Hedge Fest, which was at the start of March, once organisers were much clearer that it was going to be on a date, other smaller activities and venues could perhaps partner into that.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE WORKSHOP CLOSED AT 4:13PM

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

FILE NO and TRIM NO:	CPR-04-30-10/261028349263
REPORT TO:	Community and Recreation Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2026
AUTHOR(S):	Mike Kwant, Senior Ranger Biodiversity
SUBJECT:	Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group Terms of Reference Review
ENDORSED BY: (for Reports to Council, Committees or Boards)	General Manager / Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Community and Recreation Committee's approval of the revised Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group's (SRAG) Terms of Reference (ToR – attachment i).

1.2. The current ToR was last reviewed in 2014 and whilst predominantly fit for purpose requires minor updates to reflect the current aspirations of the group and Council naming of departments and staff roles. The ToR remains consistent with the format, roles, responsibilities and delegations of the District's various advisory groups.

1.3. The Terms of Reference is a key foundational document which provides the group (established in 2006) with clear direction in terms of its composition, delegated responsibilities and partnership with Council. The updates are required to reflect the current situation at the reserve following at least 12 years of volunteer effort. They also reflect the current roles and responsibilities in Council and for the community members involved. This includes the addition of new, enthusiastic members to fill positions vacant due to residents moving from the area (attachment i).

Attachments:

i. Draft Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group Terms of Reference (TRIM 261028349219).

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261028349263.

(b) **Approves** the recommended changes to the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group's Terms of Reference (Attachment i : Trim: 261028349219).

(c) **Notes** that the Community and Recreation Committee has delegation to approve the proposed changes of the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group.

(d) **Notes** that the revised Terms of Reference remains consistent with similar documents for the district's other advisory groups in its format, roles and responsibilities.

3. BACKGROUND

Silverstream Reserve

3.1. Silverstream Reserve is located in a rural setting near the settlement of Clarkville, in the Waimakariri District, North Canterbury. It is four kilometres north from the boundary of Christchurch City and seven kilometres to the south-west of the township of Kaiapoi.

3.2. The reserve is classified as a Natural Reserve in the Council's Greenspace Activity Management Plan; a classification applied to reserves left in their natural state, or restored due to their scientific, historic, botanic, wildlife or scenic values.

3.3. Silverstream Reserve is split into two similar sized areas covering a total of 52 hectares and is characterised by large pastoral landscapes and the clear, spring-fed Silverstream running through both the East and West portions of the reserve. Such features make it a community asset that is rare in the Waimakariri District and Canterbury Plains.

3.4. The Management Plan for the Reserve was adopted by Council in April 2009 and it provides for the protection and restoration of the reserve's natural qualities, establishes types of uses compatible with its settings and policies to guide ongoing management.

Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

3.5. The Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group was established 2006 and held their first meeting in November of that year. The group works within the framework of the Silverstream Reserve Management Plan which provides guidelines for the management of the reserve which is undertaken by both contractors and the dedicated group of volunteers who meet twice weekly.

3.6. With the support of both the volunteers and the Advisory Group significant reserve enhancements have been achieved and many are ongoing. These include:

- Annual planting programme – whilst peaking at 10,000 seedlings, the annual planting programme averages 2,500 seedling per year many of which are donated by Trees That Count. These are also maintained by the volunteers.



- *Figure 1: Community Planting Day 2026*

- Clearance of west end weed infested area – west end clearance of under canopy weed infested areas has enabled natural regeneration and the under-canopy planting of native seedlings.
- Additional trails – through weed clearance and contractor tree maintenance the volunteers, supported by community and corporate groups, have established new shingled walking trails including David's Way and the "in progress" Kahikatea Trail.
- Additional bridges – two new bridges have been installed at the west end providing additional walking opportunities. One bridge being donated by Fulton Hogan.

- Predator control – traps are positioned throughout the reserve and regularly monitored by a well-established team of trappers with numbers of pests destroyed now approaching 4,000.
- Successional plantings – clearance of understory weeds in early reserve planting areas enabling the planting of shade tolerant canopy species.
- Boulder Copper Sounds – outdoor music event and family picnic.

3.7. Community enjoyment and interest in the reserve continues to grow, this being especially true of the past 6 years when there was a drive to increase support after the COVID lockdown. At this time there was renewed community interest to utilise the reserve in an effort to maintain well-being during times of lockdown.

3.8. The volunteer base has strengthened and provided support in various ways including the twice weekly planting and maintenance days, predator trapping, and project work including new walking trails. Most recent projects underway include:

(i) Silverstream Volunteers' Recipe Book - the publishing of a recipe book which includes not only recipes but the story behind the reserve and its people by way of anecdotal history and human-interest stories.

(ii) Cubby House - the recently relocated ECAN building is to provide an indoor shared space for morning teas, meetings and the display of educational resources (currently undergoing planning consent and works to adhere to the building code).

(iii) East West Reserve connection – the establishment of a walking route across DOC land that will provide a walking linkage between the eastern and western portions of Silverstream Reserve.



Figure 2: Silverstream Volunteers and cubby house 2026

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1. The current ToR was compiled in 2014 and reflects the goals of the Advisory Group at a time when consideration was being given to establishing a Charitable Trust. This is no longer supported by the Advisory Group and hence the document requires amending to reflect this change.

4.2. The key functions, responsibilities and processes within the ToR remain the same, however, details in relation to Council department and staff role names have changed and need updating. This is the same for community member involvement as membership has progressively reduced in number as members have shifted out of the area which has led to the frequency of meetings also declining. However, relationships and communication have been maintained through these meetings along with direct communications between Council staff and members as well as the well-attended annual Christmas celebrations hosted by former Councillor and current Advisory Group member, Al Blackie.

4.3. Whilst the Advisory Group membership has declined in number, recently there has been significant interest and motivation from a number of volunteers and neighbours who wish to join the group. The mix of neighbours and wider community members on the Advisory Group will provide additional impetus, expertise, energy and enthusiasm which will visibly translate into the reserve's enhancement as they aspire to develop the reserve for the benefit of the community.

4.4. The Terms of Reference that provides for the delegation of roles and responsibilities of this group and the processes, policies and legislation under which it operates. These are out of date and require revision. The following amendments are suggested along with minor wording updates (tracked changes in attachment i):

- Remove Conservation Park status and replace with Natural Reserve (1.2) in line with the current status.
- Remove references to Silverstream Reserve Trust (2.2).
- The implementation of the management plan needs to be reworded to reflect the current status (3.1).
- Change of Manager role to General Manager Community & Recreation Manager and staff members from the Greenspace department (4.2, 5.2, 5.3).
- Quorum change to 50% current membership (4.3) to allow for flexibility of member numbers for residents and wider community members.
- Removal of Secretary appointment (4.4) as this function will be undertaken by the Greenspace staff member.
- Chairperson role to be 3 yearly (4.4 and 4.6) in alignment with other committees.
- Update the delegations table (6.1).
- Update H & S legislation (8.2).

5. OPTIONS

5.1. The committee have the following options:

(i) O**PTION 1: Approve the updated Terms of Reference.** This is recommended by staff. The current document is outdated and does not reflect the current situation either in the reserve or in Council. The Advisory Group needs to fill positions within the group and new members bring new passion, enthusiasm and experience with recent initiatives being successfully completed and/or underway.

(ii) **OPTION 2: Decline the updated Terms of Reference**. This is not recommended by staff. The current ToR does not reflect the needs of the group, the reserve or Council.

(iii) **OPTION 3: Approve the updated Terms of Reference with changes to those proposed**. This is not recommended by staff. Greenspace staff have been working with the group since its inception and understand the needs and aspirations of the group. The recommendations out lined here reflect those wishes and ensure the group is aligned with the current situation at the reserve, with the volunteers and those changes that have occurred within Council over the last 12 years.

5.2. The Management Team have reviewed this report and support the recommendation.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

6.1. The Terms of Reference review and recommendations contained within this report are not likely to be of interest to mana whenua with representation on the group providing for neighbours, wider community, Community Board, external agencies and staff.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

6.2. The Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group has been overseeing the planning and operations for reserve enhancements since 2009 and has maintained the critical link between Council and community in sharing this role. The revised ToR will ensure that this successful partnership will continue in the years ahead.

6.3. The current membership ensures the mix of both neighbours and wider community with a range of skills, strengths and interests thus providing a great support to the reserve, its management and development.

6.4. Biodiversity focussed groups such as Pest Free Waimakariri, the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust and other conservation focussed groups may have an interest in this report along with the members of the community who frequently recreate in the reserve.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

6.5. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. The Council provides Recreation Reserves and their corresponding facilities to meet the recreational needs of the community and recognises the important relationship between the community and its' reserves. The successful enhancements achieved in the Silverstream Reserve are a tribute to the ongoing efforts of the Advisory Group and volunteers. The Advisory Group members and volunteers with support of Council staff bring passion, enthusiasm and experience to the group and the recent completion of many projects, with more at planning stage, will see the reserve continue to enhance its reputation as one of the most highly valued recreational spaces in the District.



Figure 3: Clarkville School reserve visit 2022

6.6. Furthermore, the works undertaken by the Advisory Group and volunteers increase community wellbeing through providing ecosystems services relating to cultural and supporting values, offering mental and physical health enhancement opportunities through connection with nature.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

6.7. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report particularly relating to:

(i) Social Wellbeing – A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging: The efforts of the SRAG and volunteer group supports social wellbeing by providing a respectful and inclusive space within the reserve where family, friends and members of the wider community recreate and unwind. The SRAG ensure the ongoing community interest and involvement as well as their sense of belonging in these special spaces.

(ii) Cultural - where our people are enabled to thrive & give creative expression to identity and heritage: The Advisory Group assists with the planting of taonga species.

(iii) Environmental - that values and restores our environment: The work of the Advisory Group enables public participation in restoration activities which are appropriate for the area and can enhance climate change mitigation / adaptation. The Reserve is also open to the public to enjoy the natural setting.

(iv) Economic - and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy: The Advisory Group supports and celebrates the unpaid work of the volunteers.

6.8. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment.
- Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications for the decisions sought by this report. Existing budgets combined with external funding continue to support the maintenance and development of the reserve and ongoing applications for external funding supported by the Advisory Group will also benefit the reserve financially.

7.2. Funding is currently provided within the Annual / Long Term Plan.

Community Resilience and Sustainability

7.3. The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

7.4. The enhancement of the Reserve through the work of the Advisory Group delivers a range of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and climate regulation from native plantings, water purification using riparian buffers and increasing the supporting service of biodiversity.

7.5. The decision sought in this report are consistent with the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Framework. The ongoing support of the Advisory Group, volunteers and continued connection to nature events and restoration are all important actions within the Strategy.

Risk Management

7.6. There are no risks arising from the adoption of the recommendation of this report. However, by not adopting the recommendations there is a risk to the Advisory Group and the volunteer operations. Without a clear Terms of Reference which addresses fundamental aspects to the functioning and review of the Group its' continued effective operation cannot be assured. Hence, this report which seeks the approval of the revision of the Terms of Reference will help to ensure the ongoing successful management partnership between Council and the local community.

Health and Safety

7.7. There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/ implementation of the recommendations in this report. Staff will continue to work with the Advisory Group members in accordance with health and safety legislation and ensure that new members have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The Silverstream Reserve Management Plan (2009) provides policy in relation to community input via the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group:

Policy 8 – Community Involvement

8.1 Encourage community involvement in the protection and enhancement of the reserve, through work with the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group and other interested parties.

8.2. The decision sought in this report is consistent with the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Framework. Ensuring safe access to our natural environment and connection to nature are key themes of the strategy.

Authorising Legislation

8.3. Reserves Act 1977

8.4. Local Government Act 2002

Authorising Delegations

8.5. The Community and Recreation Committee of Council have the delegated authority to approve the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group Terms of Reference.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Date: Nov 2026

Page: 1 of 6

TERMS OF REFERENCE
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Silverstream Reserve is located in a rural setting near the settlement of Clarkville, in the Waimakariri District, North Canterbury. It is four kilometres north from the boundary of Christchurch City and seven kilometres to the south-west of the township of Kaiapoi.

1.2 The reserve is classified as a Natural Reserve~~Conservation Park~~ in the Greenspace~~Council's Parks and Recreation~~ Activity Management Plan; a classification applied to reserves left in their natural state, or restored due to their scientific, historic, botanic, wildlife or scenic values.

1.3 Silverstream Reserve is split into two similar sized areas covering a total of 52 hectares and is characterised by large pastoral landscapes and the clear, spring-fed Silverstream running through both the East and West portions of the reserve. Such features make it a community asset that is rare in the Waimakariri District and Canterbury Plains.

1.4 The Management Plan for the Reserve was adopted by Council in April 2009 and it provides for the protection and restoration of the reserve's natural qualities, establishes types of uses compatible with its settings and policies to guide ongoing management.

2. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

2.1 Silverstream Reserve is administered by the Council on behalf of the Community of Waimakariri in partnership with the Community.

2.2 This partnership with the community is given effect to by the Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group~~ and the Silverstream Reserve Trust~~.

2.3 This document formalises the relationship between the Council and the Silverstream Advisory Group (the Group) and in particular clarifies the respective roles of the Council and the Group in working together to achieve the implementation of the Silverstream Reserve Management Plan.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 The implementation of the Silverstream Reserve Management Plan needs some careful consideration and ~~both the Silverstream Reserve Trust and~~ the Group will take a lead role in the implementation. As it is such a large area the~~re will need to be the~~ following documents may be developed to assist in planning process.

Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

Document	Advisory Group	Council Approval Required
Development Plan (10 year time frame) ***	√	√
Implementation Plan (3 year timeframe) ***	√	√
Planting plan ***	√	
Weed Management Plan ***	√	√
Annual Budget	√	√ if Council funding being sought

*** Revised annually 1 July

4. COMPOSITION OF THE SILVERSTREAM ADVISORY GROUP

4.1 The Silverstream Advisory Group shall have a minimum of six members and a maximum of fourteen members.

4.2 Membership will consist of:

- A representative of the Kaiapoi Tuahiwi Community Board - Appointed by the Kaiapoi Tuahiwi Community Board.
- A GreenspaceParks and Recreation Staff Member – Appointed by the Community GreenspaceParks and Recreation Manager
- Up to six representatives from adjoining property owners - Appointed by the Community Greenspace Manager Community and Recreation.
- Up to four members from the wider Community – Appointed by the Community Greenspace Manager Community and Recreation on the basis of the expertise that each would bring to the Group
- A representative from the Department of Conservation – Appointed by the Department.
- A representative from the Fish and Game Council of NZ – Appointed by Fish and Game Council.

4.3 A quorum will be 50% of the current membership number. seven members

4.4 A Chair and Secretary will be appointed by the members of the Group (by a simple majority). The Chair and Secretary will be appointed for a period of three yearslyannually at a meeting to be held in July each year.from the date of their appointment.

4.5 Note that the Community Greenspace Manager Community and Recreation is an ex officio member of the Advisory Board but has no voting rights.

Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

4.6 Members will be appointed for a three year ~~term~~period, and on completion of their term they can be re-appointed through the process as set out by this document. ~~but can be reappointed.~~

4.7 Note that the Group can appoint working parties or other groups, including schools, to undertake specified areas of work in accordance with the development plan and in line with the groups Terms of Reference. No financial decisions can be made by such parties or groups. .

5. DECISION MAKING

5.1 Decisions will, in so far as it is possible, be reached by consensus. Where this is not achievable decisions will be made by voting with a simple majority being required.

5.2 The Group will have the option of referring any matter to the ~~Parks and~~Community ~~Recreation~~ Greenspace Manager or the Community and Recreation Committee of Council for a decision.

5.3 All financial work orders and purchase orders can only be issued through the ~~Council Parks and Recreation Staff.~~Greenspace Unit of Council for existing budgets, noting that certain delegations still sit with Council and normal processes will apply for any such decision.

~~5.3~~

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 The following table summarises the key delegations of the Group in relation to the development of the Silverstream Reserve

Task	Advisory Group	Council Approval required
Development Plan	√	√
Implementation Plan	√	√
Planting plan	√	
Annual Budget	√	√
Tree Planting	√	
Weeding	√	
Fencing	√	√
Walkways/cycleways/horse trails etc	√	
Landscape features	√	
Coordination of other Community groups who may be involved in working on the Reserve	√	

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Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

Task	Advisory Group	Council Approval required
Research and Monitoring	√	
Signage	√	√
Events	√	√
Financial Expenditure (purchasing)		√
Entering into contracts for supply or work to be carried out		√ **
Leases or licences for part of the reserve		√ **

** After discussion with the Group

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

7.1 The Council will be responsible for issuing all works orders and purchase orders, but the Group can advise the Council of the work that it wishes to be carried out and the timeframe.

7.2 The Silverstream Advisory Group has no delegated authority to approve works or partnerships that would tie Council into ongoing financial commitments. The Group must obtain Council approval prior to any such works commencing.
~~7.1~~

7.27.3 The Council has financial accountability for the reserve and manages all income and expenditure relating to the reserve's operation and maintenance. ~~(Note that this may be amended if a Silverstream Trust is formed.)~~

7.37.4 The Council's financial year is from 1 July to 30 June.

7.47.5 Accounts are closed off at the end of each year, and any unspent maintenance budget is not carried forward unless there is a specific request to Council. This does not apply to group funds raised for developments either through Council development channels and/or community initiatives.

7.57.6 Carrying forward of unspent funds is possible where they relate to capital works which were not completed for a specific reason. These funds must be approved by the Council during the budget process.

7.67.7 An option does exist to hold a special facility fund within the account, the balance of which will carry forward from year to year. This is typically for funds earned independently by the group through fundraising or other means.

8. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 The Council is responsible for all legal obligations relating to the reserve under various Acts and these cannot be delegated to an Advisory Group.

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Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

8.2 These include, but are not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work ~~in Employment~~ Act 2015 (HSWA). This is particularly important in relation to the employment of contractors/staff to ensure the Council meets its obligations under the Act, and to protect individuals outside the Council organisation from possible prosecution or litigation.
    - Local Government Act 2002
    - Reserves Act 1977
    - Building Act ~~1991 and~~ 2004
- Any developments or physical improvements to the reserve including structures
- Public access in and through the reserve
- Leasing part of the reserve or licences to occupy part of the reserve.

9. MEETINGS

9.1 The Group shall normally meet in person (please describe frequency and how they meet).
9.2 Other meetings can be arranged as required.
9.3 Agendas will be emailed to members one week prior to the meeting, this will be circulated by the Greenspace Biodiversity team in consultation with the Chairperson (once they are elected).
9.4 The Chairperson my cancel the meeting if, in consultation with the Greenspace Biodiversity Team, they consider this necessary for reasons that include lack of business, lack of quorum or clash with another event.
9.5 The Group is to elect a member to record minutes. The minutes are to be confirmed with both the Chairperson and the Greenspace Biodiversity Team prior to their circulation to the group.
9.6 Minutes should be circulated no later than one week prior to the next meeting as part of the agenda or within three weeks of the previous meeting being declared closed.
9.7 The Chairperson has the final decision on accepting last minute or late developing items that are required to be added to the agenda, otherwise they may be deferred to the next available meeting agenda.
9.8 Meeting duration shall not exceed more than 2 hours from the start of the meeting unless all members present agree to continue until the meeting agenda is concluded.
9.9 If the Chairperson is absent from the meeting it will be chaired by the Greenspace Biodiversity Team member present or from another voting member if the Chair messages the group ahead of time and has recorded their apology.
9.10 Members are expected to come to the meetings prepared, having read any pre-circulated materials if distributed.

Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group

9.11 If any member misses more than three scheduled meetings in a row, the group has the delegation to consider removing the member from the group. It can do this at the third meeting that is missed even if apologies have been submitted.

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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

FILE NO and TRIM NO:	RES-34 / 261029350113
REPORT TO:	Community and Recreation Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2026
AUTHOR(S):	Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader
SUBJECT:	Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works
ENDORSED BY: (for Reports to Council, Committees or Boards)	General Manager / Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Community and Recreation Committee for the proposed programme of works for the Arohatia te Awa (a name not gifted by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga but with an English name of Cherish the River) project for 2026/7. This project is dedicated to enhancing water quality, biodiversity and recreational access across the District, initiated in 2021.

1.2. A ten-year work programme was outlined in 2024 detailing the main four sub projects that would be the focus of the programme of works. Four projects were chosen due to the stall of works on the main Ruataniwha-Cam River project in previous years and a requirement to progress works in other locations within the District that could also achieve the objectives of the project. The wider project base allowed for pivoting between projects should one be delayed.

1.3. The four projects with allocated funding from the $470,069 Arohatia te Awa budget for this financial year are:

1.3.1. Ruataniwha-Cam River with $108,000 which includes restoration works and minor projects within the programme such as the installation of the signage in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri;

1.3.2. 46 Main North Road with $185,000 for restoration and infrastructure construction;

1.3.3. Revells Road Reserve with $70,000 for fencing, planting works and design; and

1.3.4. Ohoka Esplanade Reserve with $105,000 for restoration works and infrastructure to enable safe access to the walkway.

1.4. This report outlines the progress made on each sub project, the planned works for 2026/7 and the forecasted budget requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261029350113.

(b) **Approves** the Arohatia te Awa programme of works for the 2026-2027 year allowing the Arohatia te Awa Working Group to continue operations.

(c) **Notes** that the project currently has a budget of $470,069 in 2026/7 which is allocated to the sub projects with an annual budget of $110,000 (plus CPI) ongoing and is subject to Council approval as part of the Long Term Plan process.

(d) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Ruataniwha-Cam River sub project for 2026/7 is $108,000.

(e) **Notes** the budget allocated to the 46 Main North Road sub project for 2026/7 is $185,000.

(f) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Revells Road sub project for 2026/7 is $70,000.

(g) **Notes** the budget allocated to the Ohoka Esplanade Reserve sub project for 2026/7 is $105,000.

(h) **Notes** staff will report back to the Community and Recreation Committee during the first quarter of the next financial year to update on the status of the project and budget.

(i) **Notes** that any programme changes will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee. For example, this might be due to factors such as project engagement results, pricing or changes in direction.

(j) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The Arohatia te Awa project was established prior to the 2021 Long-term Plan, gaining funding through the adoption of the plan. The project proposed to "*to link up and provide access to publicly-owned land along waterways in the District, while also carrying out restoration work, with community input and ownership to enhance biodiversity*". The main aims were to improve water quality through riparian planting, enhance cultural values and create ecological corridors for biodiversity. It was also noted that there would be the potential to increase recreation and amenities throughout the District.

3.2. The proposals were linked to initiatives, such as Environment Canterbury's project, "Clean Green Silverstream", that aimed to link Kaiapoi to the Waimakariri River Reserve and the trails which have been created within the back dunes of land maintained by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara and the cycle trails which were being developed (and are now completed) by the council.

3.3. To achieve effective governance of the project, the Arohatia te Awa Working Group was formed in 2020 including elected members, managers and technical staff from Greenspace and 3 Waters with Terms of Reference (updated in 2025) citing the vision:

> "*To improve instream rehabilitation, ecological and recreational networks along our district waterways to create healthy ecosystems and a community of guardians."*

3.4. The main project for the group was work along the Ruataniwha-Cam River. However, this project experienced some logical difficulties regarding land ownership, access and recreational buy-in which caused significant delays for the project. Therefore, in 2024 a programme of works was devised that included four sub-projects (including the Ruataniwha-Cam River work) to enable to working group to pivot between projects should delays occur.

3.5. The Terms of Reference for the Arohatia te Awa Working Group state that they have delegation to create and recommend the work plans for the project to the Community and Recreation Committee. As such, the forecasted 10-year work plan was devised with associated budget and agreed by the committee in 2024 (attachment i).

3.6. The 10-year programme recognised that extended future planning cannot predict changes, challenges and opportunities that may arise and require the group to shift focus Therefore, annual reports to the Community and Recreation Committee are required. This report outlines the progress on the four sub-projects in 2025-2026 noting any successes, delays and budgeting amendments for the 2026-2027 financial year.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1. The four sub-projects will be the main focus of the work for the Arohatia te Awa project and include works on the Ruitaniwha-Cam River and tributaries (including support for other sub-projects including the North Brook Trail and signage for the Kaiapoi River - Whakahume signage); restoration of land at 46 Main North Road; Revells Road Reserve development project; and the Ohoka Esplanade enhancements. Having multiple projects removes the risk of the wider project halting when challenges arise and allows for some flexibility for the on-the-ground operations.

Silverstream Reserve walking tracks, access connections and ecological restoration are also discussed by the group but the works are not financed by the Arohatia te Awa budget (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Approximate locations of the main Arohatia te Awa projects in 2026/7.

Sub-Project: Ruataniwha-Cam River Catchment

4.2. The works along the Ruataniwha-Cam River were reduced in the 2025/6 financial year due to stop bank works being undertaken by Environment Canterbury (Ecan). The works were to enable the proper functioning the stop banks for the surrounding community whilst removing weedy species. There was infill native planting at a cost to Environment Canterbury with Waimakariri District Council being responsible for the maintenance of plantings in future years. In addition, the pause on works meant that there were no legal fees required to establish land boundaries, mediate any disputes or qualify any agreements.

4.3. Council staff worked with Ecan to protect previous planting where this was feasible, engage on the new plantings and continue weed control in those planted areas. As such the forecasted planting works in this area could not be completed but pest management, ecology surveys and maintenance continued where possible (Figure 2).

4.4. ***Future Works***: In 2026/7, work will focus on maintaining the plantings installed, continued pest control, ecological data gathering (to assess changes in condition) and identifying areas for planting to extend the riparian benefits. It is anticipated that staff will engage with adjacent landowners to establish further riparian planting along the Ruataniwha-Cam River and the installation of the signage in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri. The tasks to be undertaken include a continuation of works already outlined plus support funding for the signage amounting to **$108,000**.



Figure 2. Ecan stop bank works along the Ruataniwha-Cam River which have opened up a wetland area undergoing natural regeneration.

Sub-Project: 46 Main North Road

4.5. The land at Main North Road was surveyed and found to be almost entirely classed as a natural inland wetland. As such, a carpark was designed to be created outside of this area, adjacent to the road.

4.6. The removal of woody weeds in the area began and will require ongoing attention for a number of years due to the level of infestation. In addition, native planting was installed along the roadside and stream, pest work continued and ecological data collated (Figure 3).

4.7. ***Future Works***: It is anticipated that detailed designs to enhance the wetland will be completed in 2026/7. This will include engineering designs to enable stable paths for recreation and maintenance of the Courtenay Stream, hydrological works to naturalise the drains that traverse the area and assist in the natural regeneration of the site along with continued weed control, riparian planting, pest control and ecological data gathering to monitor change in condition. The works in this area are anticipated to be **$185,000** with hydrological interventions and infrastructure construction in 2026/7.



Figure 3. Willow removal and native planting along the roadside at Main North Road

Sub Project: Revells Road Reserve Development

4.8. This area is in the design phase which includes data gathering and planning work. A hydrology assessment of the land was undertaken in 2025/6 to establish the on-site conditions and identify gaps in knowledge. Informed by this assessment, work began on the concept plan and Reserve Management Plan.

4.9. Plantings and weeds were managed and maintained, and pest control and ecological data was gathered to inform condition change over time (Figure 4).

4.10. ***Future Works***: The concept plan is likely to be completed in 2026/7. This, along with further hydrological assessment (both from consultants and Council staff), will assist with the master plan design. To gain historical context, investigation of eDNA and pollen analysis is being undertaken in a collaboration with Lincoln University and Bioeconomy Science Institute. Other work includes removal of dying, dead or diseased trees at the boundary, installation of fencing at 10 m set back from the Lineside Road drain and low stature riparian plantings plus pest control, ecological monitoring and maintenance. The cost of these works to the Arohatia te Awa budget are anticipated to be **$70,000**.



Figure 4. Location of Revells Road Reserve with some ecological monitoring methods displayed (right)

Sub Project: Ohoka Esplanade Reserve

4.11. The ecological enhancement design for the area was approved by the Oxford Ohoka Community Board and the first community planting day was undertaken (in rather inclement weather conditions). Plantings included infill native installation along the fenceline from Butchers Road and fenceline plantings around the areas adjacent to the roads (Figure 5). Pest control, ecological data gathering and maintenance of the track were all continued in 2025/6.

4.12. The requirement for the Water Services Unit to assess the hydraulic capacity of the Ohoka Stream paused work in the stream-side area until 2027/8. This meant that an amount of funding that was allocated was unspent.

4.13. ***Future Works***: In 2026/7 planting outside of the stream-side area will be completed. Designs for safe access (including assessment of road crossing) is being undertaken and a carpark installed if required. Pest control, ecological data gathering and maintenance of plantings will continue. The cost for these works is anticipated to be **$105,000**.



Figure 5. Planting day at the Ohoka Esplanade Reserve in June 2026.

Financial Information

4.14. For the 2025-2026 financial year, there was a budget available of $329,544 and the spend during that period was reported to be $166,239. There was an underspend of $163,305 which has been carried over to the 2026-2027 period. This underspend was due to a number of reasons across all projects, detailed above.

	Planned 25/26 Budget	Actual 25/26 Spend	Planned 26/27 Budget
Budget	$329,544	$329,544	$470,069
Spend	$217,500	$166,239	$468,000
Underspend/ Carryover	$112,044	$163,305	$2,069

5. OPTIONS

5.1. The options available to the Community and Recreation Committee are:

5.1.1. **Option 1: Approve the planned works for the Arohatia te Awa programme**. This is recommended by staff. The sub projects have been considered by the Arohatia te Awa Working Group as the priorities for the programme and continue the work to achieve the agreed objectives in each area. The updated programme also accounts for the revised budget for 2026/7 and the items of work which have been delayed or deferred to this financial year.

5.1.2. **Option 2: Decline the planned works for the Arohatia te Awa programme**. This is not recommended by staff. A do-nothing approach which adopts the actions that were devised in 2024 would not be achievable. As noted above, the work programme has been deliberately updated and revised to account for budget alterations and unforeseen challenges in work programme.

5.1.3. **Option 3: Approve part of the work programme and/or ask for alterations**. This is not recommended by staff. The programme has been devised to achieve the goals set out in the enhancement plans that have been agreed or enable data gathering and works to inform those which are currently being devised (Revells Road Reserve and 46 Main North Road). Should the programme be changed, certain objectives will not be achieved within the timeframe agreed by the Working Group.

5.2. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

6.1. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga are likely to have interest in the subject matter of this report, particularly as the project is directly related to enhancing indigenous biodiversity values using mahinga kai and taonga species which are aligned to Te Ao Māori. The Revells Road Reserve project also borders the MR873 land and therefore will have direct and indirect impacts on MR873 with regard to biodiversity, water quality, safe food and fibre gathering and other ecosystems services.

6.2. As such, the Arohatia te Awa Working Group includes Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representation and the group continues to ensure updates are provided to the Rūnanga when requested and at meetings with representatives from Whitiora Centre Limited.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

6.3. There are groups and organisations likely to have an interest in the Arohatia te Awa project and work plan such as the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust who currently attend the meetings. In addition, the wider community is likely to have an interest in the subject matter of this report and community members also attend meetings on occasion. For the local community, the Working Group will ensure community members are included in the consultation regarding projects through mechanisms such as public consultation, targeted meetings, Community Board meetings where appropriate.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

6.4. There are positive implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. The works proposed by the project will increase community wellbeing through providing ecosystems services relating to cultural and educational values, offering mental and physical health enhancement opportunities through connection with nature and additional recreational areas in the District.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

6.5. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report (Table 1).

Table 1. Relevant Community Outcome Values for the Arohatia te Awa project.

Relevant Community Outcome Values	Arohatia te Awa
Social - *A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging..*	
• Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation. • Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities. • Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.	• The projects provide public open space. • The open spaces will offer ecosystem services around physical and mental health and wellbeing. • The areas will be accessible to the community or be visible from public land.
Cultural - where our people are enabled to thrive & give creative expression to identity & heritage..	
• Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society and the distinctive character of our takiwā / district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.	• The projects aim to include mahinga kai and taonga species working in partnership with mana whenua.
Environmental - that values and restores our environment…	
• People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment. • Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored. • Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district. • The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe. • Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.	• Public participation in the restoration of the areas will be offered and encouraged • Concept plans will be/have been designed with appropriate ecological input. • Enhancements provide for climate change mitigation / adaptation • The areas will be either open to the public or visible to the public
Economic - and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.	
• Our district recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work.	• Acknowledgement of volunteers in the district.

6.6. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment.
- Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.
- Advance an integrated and accessible transport network
- Embrace partnership with Ngāi Tūāhuriri

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial Implications

7.1. There are financial implications for the decisions sought by this report.

7.2. Funding is currently provided within the Annual / Long Term Plan and subject to approval by Council through the Long term Plan process. The following table provides a summary of the funding and costs associated with the recommended option in this report (Table 2).

7.3. The forecasted funding for the next 5 years (awaiting approval through the LTP process) is in Table 3.

Table 2. Financial Implications for the Arohatia te Awa project.

Budget/Project Name	**Arohatia te Awa**
PJ/GL Number	PJ101554
Total Budget	$470,069
Spend to Date	$58,568
Recommended Tender/Quote/Expenditure	Multiple work streams: plant installation and maintenance; hydrological and ecological survey; pest and weed control; environmental interpretation; capital works.
Other projected Commitments	None
Remaining Budget	$2,069
Further Budget Sought	None
Rating Implication	None

Table 3. Budget information for the Arohatia te Awa project from 2025 – 2030.

Year	**25/26**	**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**	**29/30**
Approved Budget	$329,544	$470,069	$257,504	$146,384	$119,264
Total (All Works)	$166,239	$468,000	$250, 000	$145, 000	$119,000
Remaining Budget	$163,305	$2,069	$7,504	$1,384	$264

Community Resilience and Sustainability

7.4. The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

7.5. The programme of works proposed through the Arohatia te Awa project is aligned with the work commissioned by the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership which has charged the Waimakariri District Council with developing a "*blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation*". The work programme includes the creation of ecological corridors as part of the wider blue-green network which will also consider land under council ownership which can be repurposed to achieve this goal.

7.6. The outcomes from the wider project and sub-projects will deliver significant positive benefits for both sustainability and climate change. The project will enhance and create resilient ecosystems with associated ecosystem services allowing for the showcasing of these areas to our local communities and offer educational opportunities.

7.7. The decision sought in this report are consistent with the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Framework. The four projects outlined collectively achieve actions in every pillar of the strategy.

Risk Management

7.8. There may be risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. Arohatia te Awa contains high profile sub projects for the Council and the District with the potential to offer many benefits to the community. As such, programme alterations with regards to financing, momentum and engagement need to be transparently communicated to Council to achieve proper management and governance.

Health and Safety

7.9. There are not health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, the wider project and sub-projects will require careful consideration of health, and safety during construction and operational phases. Any contractors undertaking physical works contracts will be required to be SiteWise registered and meet minimum score requirements appropriate for the risk of the work being undertaken.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, the report has relevance for:

8.1.1. ***Waimakariri Partially Operative District Plan*** (2023);

8.1.2. ***Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy*** (2009);

8.1.3. Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (2011);

8.1.4. Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy (2020).

Authorising Legislation

8.2. Allocations are made under the ***Local Government Act 2002***.

8.3. ***National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity*** (2023) - "Policy 13: Restoration of indigenous biodiversity is promoted and provided for"; "Policy 14: Increased indigenous vegetation cover is promoted in both urban and nonurban environments".

8.4. ***Resource Management Act*** (1991) – 6(d) provide for the following "the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers".

Authorising Delegations

8.5. The Community and Recreation Committee has the delegation to approve and accept the recommendations in this report.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

FILE NO and TRIM NO:	GOV-01-04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 261109365499
REPORT TO:	Community and Recreation Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2026
AUTHOR(S):	Tessa Sturley, Community Team Manager
SUBJECT:	Community Team Year in Review Report 2025/2026
ENDORSED BY: (for Reports to Council, Committees or Boards)	General Manager / Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the attached Community Team Year in Review report 2025/2026, which details activity related to implementation of the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri) , over the 2025/26 financial year.

1.2. This activity covers community development, community safety, youth development and Civil Defence welfare to ensure that Waimakariri is a District where people are

- Safe and healthy; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing.
- Welcome and included, as part of our local communities — geographic and 'of interest'.
- Informed and empowered to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations.
- Engaged and connected into the district's activities.

1.3. The activities detailed in the Year in Review report align with Council's 2024 -2034 Long Term Plan, ""Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness."

1.4. Nine key successes are detailed, covering the broad scope of work across the various portfolios held my community team staff.

1.5. In line with best practice for community-led development each of the activities detailed is undertaken in accordance with community-identified need and/or aspirations. Responses are evidence based and their development and delivery are in collaboration with partners from key agencies, organisations or groups operating in the Waimakariri District, who contribute their skills, knowledge, resources.

1.6. Project costs are acquired through a range of philanthropic and central government funders, including:

- Rata Foundation
- Department of Internal Affairs, Community, Office of Ethnic Communities and COGS
- Ministry of Social Development, including Office for Seniors
- Creative New Zealand
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Youthtown
- MCERT (Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) - Formerly MHUD.

Attachments:

i. Community Team Year in Review report 2025/26. (Trim # 261028348147)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261109365499.

(b) **Receives** the Community Team Year in Review report 2025/26 (Trim: 261028348147).

(c) **Notes** that the attached Community Team Year in Review Report, details activity related to 2025/26 implementation plan toward achievement of the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri).

(d) **Notes** that activity detailed in the Year in Review Report is undertaken in accordance with community-identified need and/or aspirations.

(e) **Notes** that the Year in Review Report is shared with philanthropic and central government funders and key stakeholders as evidence of the best practice approach applied to local community development activity. This has a positive impact on the sustainability of local initiatives.

(f) **Notes** that all activity is evidence-based and developed and delivered in collaboration with partners from key agencies, organisations or groups operating in the Waimakariri District.

(g) **Notes** that this activity covers community development, community safety, youth development and Civil Defence welfare and aligns directly with the four goals of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri) ensuring that Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- Safe and healthy; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing.
- Welcome and included, as part of our local communities — geographic and 'of interest'.
- Informed and empowered to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations.
- Engaged and connected into the district's activities.

(h) **Notes** that projects detailed within this report are funded externally via a range of philanthropic and central government funders.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. Through its various working parties, project coalitions and steering groups, the Waimakariri District Council's Community Team has established and maintains in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of its residents.

With well over 300 community partners from the business, education, government and non-government sectors, the Community Team facilitates collaborations that address issues and opportunities for local residents, groups, services and organisations. This work is framed by Council's Community Development Strategy, one of 10 high-level Strategic Plans that the achievement of Council's Community Outcomes and Strategic priorities.

3.2. The the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (The Community Development Strategy) directly aligns with one of five strategic priorities outlined in the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan 2024–2034: "Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness." The value of this priority is stated as follows: "Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. "*We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected."*

3.3. The Community Development Strategy was informed by extensive evidence via a range of data sources and extensive community engagement. This engagement aligned with local data, clearly identifying community priorities related to the social determinants of health, wellbeing, safety and security for the district's residents and for the capacity, capability and sustainability of the agencies, organisations and groups that support, nurture and empower them to live well.

Those priorities included:

- Support for community groups and originations to operate effectively and sustainably
- Early intervention and prevention-based responses to issues addressing the safety of local residents, including family violence, alcohol and drug harm, the impact of social media and pornography on young people, suicide, significant neurodiversity and mental health.
- Youth unemployment and opportunity
- Accessibility, support and opportunity for our older and/or more vulnerable residents
- Homelessness
- Welcoming and culturally inclusive communities
- Food security

3.4. The Council's community development response is framed in the Strategy under four strategic goals: That Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- Safe and healthy; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing.
- Welcome and included, as part of our local communities — geographic and 'of interest'.
- Informed and empowered to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations.
- Engaged and connected into the district's activities.

3.5. The resulting activities need someone to pull the strings, make the connections and facilitate action. Such functions sit outside the capacity (and often capability) of already stretched service providers, so the role of the Council's Community Team is:

- To scope the issues and opportunities
- To work with the experts and research proven models, and then apply local knowledge to ensure locally relevant and effective initiatives
- To identify and work with the right partners
- To ensure appropriate reach for resources, education and community supports
- To facilitate evaluation of initiatives, so that we are making a difference, rather than just being well intentioned.

3.6. The attached Community Team Year in Review report 2025/2026 details that activity

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1. The attached Community Team Year in Review report 2025/2026 (The Report) details activity related to implementation of the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri), over the 2025/26 financial year.

4.2. The Report also summarises alignment between key outputs and achievements for the Community Team and proposed Long Term Plan Levels of Service for Community Development

4.3. A summary highlights seven key successes. These were:

4.3.1. Facilitation of local Homelessness Response, resulting in the development of a local pilot, including a referral pathway website $480,000 in funding and 2.5FTE in Homelessness Response Navigation and Pastoral Support provision

4.3.2. Adoption of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026 –2029, with objectives incorporating the expressed needs and aspirations over 1,100 local young people who contributed to its development

4.3.3. Achievement of Stage One accreditation as Welcoming Community, alongside the adoption of the Welcoming Waimakariri Action Plan, which will support, connect and empower migrants to live happy, healthy and productive lives in our District

4.3.4. Capability building support that helped over 20 local groups, trusts and organisations in the local community, recreation, arts and social sectors to operated more effectively and sustainably.

4.3.5. Facilitation of the achievement of 45% of the objectives of Council's 4-year plan for a more accessible and inclusive District; and associated facilitator support for the Waimakariri Access Group, the Inclusive Sport Festival, Chris Ruth Centre and Accessibility Expo, providing tangible means for people impacted by physical, cognitive or sensory impairment to have better access to the district's places, spaces supports and services.

4.3.6. Facilitation of professional development support to increase the capability and resilience of over 90 local social community and faith sector volunteers or workers

4.3.7. Support to get 50 local young people into employment and over 60 into driver licensing and/or other work-readiness training.

4.3.8. Facilitation of more streamlined governance and structure, and better documented and defined process to guide local Arts Trusts and Committees and the work they undertake.

4.3.9. Continued support for Civil Defence preparedness and response, linking staff into training, and regional planning, and linking Civil Defence staff into Social Services Waimakariri who now attend regularly.

4.4. Staff would like to highlight that project costs for the activities detailed the Year in Review report are acquired through a range of philanthropic and central government funders, including:

- Rata Foundation
- Department of Internal Affairs, Community, Office of Ethnic Communities and COGS
- Ministry of Social Development, including Office for Seniors
- Creative New Zealand
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Youthtown

4.5. The body of the Year in Review Report details partner agencies or networks and qualitative and quantitative outcomes from this activity in line with the internationally recognised Results Based Accountability model for community-led development: "What did we do?," "How well did we do it?" and "Is anyone better off?"

5. OPTIONS

5.1. Staff propose the following options for consideration:

5.1.1. OPTION 1– Receive the Community Team Year in Review report as documented representation of the work of the Community Team over the 2025/26 financial year.

This is the preferred option. The report accurately details the extent of staff involvement in informing, planning, developing and delivering local initiatives that address community-identified need.

5.1.2. OPTION 2: Receive the Community Team Year in Review report as documented, but with suggested minor edits.

While a less preferred option, this option leaves room for minor changes that may not have been picked up in staff editing of the document attached to this report. E.g. Edits related to grammar or spelling.

5.1.3. OPTION 3: Decline receipt of the Community Team Year in Review report, as documented.

This is not the preferred option. The Year in Review report reflects, not only the work of the Community team, but also the collective achievement of the various partners engaged in that work. As detailed in its introduction, the Year in Review report documents and celebrates the collaboration of many toward achieving the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025-2035. Furthermore, The Community Team Year in Review report is a commitment to funders and community partners, evidencing the social value of this work. This is important in terms of the sustainability of funding for community initiatives that contribute to positive social outcomes for local residents and the sustainability of the services and supports that contribute to their safety, health, resilience and wellbeing.

5.2. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

6.1. The subject matter and/or recommendations contained within this report are of interest to mana whenua. As such, Council staff have engaged with Whitiora Centre Limited, as key advisors to Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Runanga, who have provided the following feedback and/or advice:

6.1.1. Whitiora was approached for mana whenua involvement in the consultation for the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri)and in the development of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy 2025-2028 (Ngā toi of Waimakariri –. However, while expressing a desire to be kept informed, they did not wish to be actively involved in the development of either Strategy.

6.1.2. Whitiora were engaged in relation to development of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2028, the Waimakariri Homelessness Response Pilot development and Welcoming Communities Plan. While involvement was approved and invitations were extended, there has been no further directly mandated involvement.

6.1.3. The Rūnanga were invited to the Welcoming Community Plan launch via Whitora but were unable to attend.

6.1.4. The Māori Disability Action Plan was referenced as a formative document in the development of Inclusive Waimakariri - A plan to become a more accessible District 2025–2028

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

6.2. There are groups, organisations, or members of the wider community likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the subject matter of this report.

With well over 300 community partners from the business, education, government and non-government sectors, the Community Team facilitates around 20 collaborations that address issues and opportunities for local residents, groups, services and organisations. This report will be circulated to those partners as evidence of the value of these collaborations.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

6.3. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

6.4. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

6.4.1. **Social**: (That the Waimakariri District is) a place where everyone can have a sense of belonging

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

6.4.2. **Environmental:** A place that values and restores our environment

- Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

6.4.3. **Economic:** A place that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

6.4.4. **Cultural:** A place where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage.

- The distinctive character of our takiwā/district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.

6.5. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

The activity detailed in this report gives effect to one of five strategic goals in the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024–2034: **"Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness."** The value of this priority is stated in the LTP document as follows: *"Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected."*

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications for the decisions sought by this report.

7.1.1. Operations Funding is currently provided within the Annual / Long Term Plan and funding related to projects, programmes and other initiatives detailed in the report has been acquired via philanthropic or central government funding and therefore has no impact on rates.

7.1.2. Community Team staff were directly involved in acquiring over $800,000 in philanthropic and/or central government funding to support a range of local projects over the 2025/26 financial year, as follows:

- $400,000 for homelessness response.
- $80,000 for Food Secure North Canterbury.
- $19,500 for English Language classes and activities to support new migrants to access local supports, services and opportunities to contribute to the local economy.
- $26,000 for youth projects.
- $280,000 for youth employment, via the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme.

Community Resilience and Sustainability

7.2. The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

Risk Management

7.3. There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

A misalignment between central government funding priorities and local community priorities may impact on local service delivery. In this instance community development staff would work with providers to review alignment and confirm evidence for local priorities. They would then assist with the acquisition of funding to ensure continuity of service.

Health and Safety

7.4. There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/ implementation of the recommendations in this report.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Authorising Legislation

8.2. Local Government Act 2002: 14 (1): (b, c, d, e and h))

8.3. **Authorising Delegations**

N/A

WAIMAKARIRI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Team
Year in Review 2025/2026

30 June 2026





Access Group Training Day



Inclusive Sports Festival



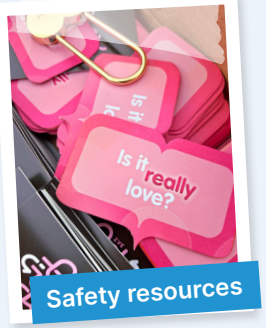
Welcoming Week with Mayor and GLOW team



Chinese Language Week



Quiz Night prizes



Safety resources



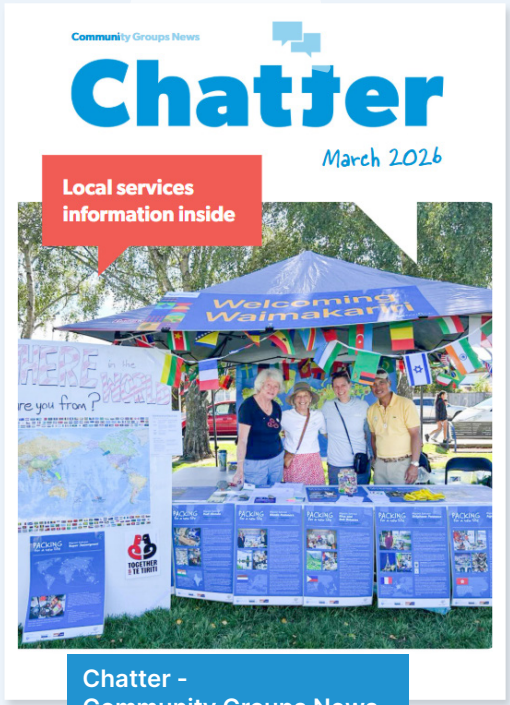
North Canterbury Youth Services Mental Health First Aid training



Disability Forum and Speaker Event



Older Persons Expo



Chatter - Community Groups News



Race Unity Poster Competition entries



Silverstream Reserve Volunteering Planting



Welcome bags



Douce Amniance Concert

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Introduction



Tessa Sturley, Community Team Manager

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai

Many hands make light work — Unity is strength.

We are delighted to present this first report on activity toward the achievement of the objectives of Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri, the Waimakariri District Council Community Development strategy 2025–2035, which was officially adopted by Council at its June 2025 meeting.

While this report documents the work of the Waimakariri District Council Community Team, it also celebrates the incredible contribution of the various geographic and 'of interest' communities that make up the Waimakariri District. The "Waimakariri Way" of doing things exemplifies the value of collective wisdom, ability and talent. Ours are great communities in which to bring like-minded people together, sharing their skills, knowledge, resources and contacts in sometimes unlikely alliances, to make things happen. This approach results in an incredible array of community-led initiatives that make the Waimakariri District a safer, happier, healthier and more resilient place to live work and play.

As a team of Council-based facilitators, the Community Team's role is not so much to "do stuff", but more to work with the people from these communities to "make stuff happen". We are open eyes, listening ears and willing hands to support the community. We can then step back to acknowledge and celebrate, with our community, the great work that they have done.

This report is part of that celebration. We hope that you enjoy seeing all that 'you' as a community have achieved, over the 12-month period ending 30 June 2026...with support from us.

He maha ngā manaakitanga
Many blessings

Tessa

Mayor and Chief Executive's Message



Message from the Mayor

At Waimakariri District Council, we know that the wellbeing of our communities is at the heart of a thriving district. Our Community Team plays an important part in making this happen, working alongside more than 300 community partners.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes, through ongoing conversations, shared ideas, and a commitment to making a difference.

This first full Year in Review is an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved over the past year and I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved through these partnerships.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part.

I look forward to seeing this work continue to grow over the years ahead.

Dan Gordon
Mayor



Message from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to endorse this 'Year in Review' report. Its content details the results of the community-led, collaborative work of the Community Team in conjunction with a variety of local and national stakeholders in community safety, community development and youth development.

The documented results show the value of this approach and the outcomes that are possible when community workers, community volunteers, government and non-government agencies and Council staff all work together on projects that enhance the social and economic wellbeing of the district and its residents.

Jeff Millward
Chief Executive

Overview:

Creating and maintaining communities that are safe, caring, inclusive and empower all to thrive.

Community development is the backbone of strong communities. Councils with strong community development have the people that they serve at the heart of decision making. The positive impact on the wellbeing of the district cannot be understated.

The Waimakariri District Council Community Team facilitate an evidence-based, community-led approach to foster safe, connected, inclusive and resilient communities so that

"Waimakariri is a District where people are thriving."

Through its various working parties, project coalitions and steering groups, the Waimakariri District Council's Community Team has established and maintains in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of its residents. Collaborating with well over 300 community partners from the business, education, government and non-government sectors, the Community Team facilitates community development and community safety collaborations that address issues and opportunities for local residents, groups, services and organisations.

These activities need someone to pull the strings, make the connections and facilitate action. Such functions sit outside the capacity of already stretched service providers, so the role of the Council's Community Team is:

- To scope the issues and opportunities
- To work with the experts and research-proven models, and then apply local knowledge to ensure locally relevant and effective initiatives
- To identify and work with the right partners
- To ensure appropriate reach for resources, education and community supports
- To facilitate evaluation of initiatives, so that we are making a difference, rather than just being well intentioned.



New Coreboard in Victoria Park



Bon Suter sculpture, Victoria Park

Community Development Strategy

The activities detailed in this report give effect to the Goals and Objectives detailed in the Waimakariri District's Community Development Strategy, a high-level strategic framework for community development in the district over the next ten years. The aim of this strategy is to provide clear direction for the role that Waimakariri District Council plays in addressing identified community priorities. This collaborative, community-led approach is evidenced as being highly effective in addressing the determinants of community wellbeing.

The Community Development Strategy aligns with one of five strategic priorities outlined in the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan 2024–2034: “Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.” The value of this priority is stated as follows: “Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected.”

The objectives of the Community Development Strategy centre on facilitating activity that ensures that the Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- **Safe and healthy**; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing
- **Welcome and included**, as part of our local communities — geographic and ‘of interest’
- **Informed and empowered** to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations
- **Engaged and connected** into the District’s activities.



Violence Free North Canterbury Event


Waimakariri Bike Project

Alignment with Council Community Outcomes

The work of Council's Community Team is an active mechanism for delivery of each of Council's four Community Outcomes for the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan.

Social:

(That the Waimakariri District is) a place where everyone can have a sense of belonging.

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

Environmental:

A place that values and restores our environment.

- Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

Economic:

A place that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

Cultural:

A place where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage.

- The distinctive character of our takiwā/district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.

Key Highlights for 2025/2026

- Facilitation of local Homelessness Response, resulting in the development of a local pilot, including a referral pathway website, over $400,000 in funding and 2.5FTE in Homelessness Response Navigation and Pastoral Support provision.
- Adoption of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026–2029, with objectives incorporating the expressed needs and aspirations over 1,100 local young people who contributed to its development.
- Achievement of Stage One accreditation as Welcoming Community, alongside the adoption of the Welcoming Waimakariri Action Plan, which will support, connect and empower migrants to live happy, healthy and productive lives in our District.
- Capability building support that helped over 20 groups, trusts and organisations in the local community, recreation, arts and social sectors to operate more effectively and sustainably.
- Facilitation of the achievement of 45% of the objectives of Council's 4-year plan for a more accessible and inclusive District; and associated facilitator support for the Waimakariri Access Group, the Inclusive Sport Festival, and Accessibility Expo. These provided tangible means for people impacted by physical, cognitive or sensory impairment to have better access to the District's places, spaces supports and services.
- Facilitation of professional development support to increase the capability and resilience of over 90 local social, community and faith sector volunteers or workers.
- 50 local young people were supported into employment and over 60 into driver licensing and/or other work-readiness training.
- Facilitation of more streamlined governance and structure; and better documented and defined process to guide local Arts Trusts and Committees and the work they undertake.
- Continued support for Civil Defence preparedness and response, linking staff into training, and regional planning, and linking Civil Defence staff into Social Services Waimakariri, where they now have regular attendance.



Welcoming Communities Accreditation signing event

Summary 2025/2026 Year Results Against Council Performance Measures for Community Development

The following report details a summary of results against Waimakariri Community Development Strategy Performance Measures, along with an overview of key outputs and achievements for the Team over the 2024/2025 financial year against the four strategic goals for the strategy.

WHAT COUNCIL PROVIDES *Proposed major levels of service*	**MEASURE**	**TARGET (Minimum)**	**RESULTS 2025-2026**
SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES			
Community organisations, agencies and stakeholders work collaboratively to support and improve the health, safety and wellbeing of local residents.	Number of collaborative networks that Council facilitates, or is actively involved, in that address the determinants of health, safety and wellbeing.	Five per year	Involvement in and/or facilitation of the meetings and activities of the following seven networks that support the health, safety and wellbeing of local residents: • Social Services Waimakariri • Waimakariri Health Advisory Group • Violence Free North Canterbury • WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group • Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group • Homelessness Response Collaborative Advisory Group • Food Secure North Canterbury Steering Group.
WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES			
Residents have opportunities to participate in and contribute to welcoming and inclusive communities.	Number of collaborative initiatives Council facilitates, or is actively involved in, that identify and address barriers to community participation.	Six per year	Involvement in and/or facilitation of the meetings and activities of the following seven networks that address barriers to participation: • Waimakariri Access Group • Age-friendly Steering Group • Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group • Waimakariri Migrant Agency Steering Group • GLOW (Global Locals of Waimakariri) • Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs.
INFORMED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES			
Young people are supported to participate in activities and opportunities that enhance their wellbeing, development and connection to the community.	Number of youth development local initiatives and/or networks that Council facilitates or is actively involved in.	Five per year	Involvement in and/or facilitation of the meetings and activities of the following five youth development networks: • Waimakariri Youth Council • WaiYouth Action Groups • Waimakariri Youth Services network • North Canterbury Youth Futures, Youth Opportunities project.

WHAT COUNCIL PROVIDES *Proposed major levels of service*	MEASURE	TARGET (Minimum)	RESULTS 2025-2026
Community groups and organisations have access to support that strengthens their capability, resilience and long-term sustainability.	Number of local organisations or community groups receiving Council support with governance, planning, funding, leadership, organisational development or community connections.	Six per year	Support provided to local organisations to increase their capacity and capability, as follows: • Governance, process and funding support for three arts-related trusts/committees • On Track workshop on running successful meetings delivered to eight local organisations • Six organisations given direct support to review Incorporated Society status, given changes to the Act • Two given direct support around strategic planning • One given direct support around meeting process. Direct support given for the acquisition of over $525,000 in funding for community-led responses to homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, and social and cultural exclusion. Facilitated the 'Stronger Communities Conference', which offered affordable, locally delivered professional development to 90 social sector volunteers and workers.
ENGAGED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES			
Community organisations, agencies and residents are supported to build connections and collaborate on activities that strengthen community.	Number of activities that Council facilitates or actively supports, that build community connection.	Six per year	10 community service provider networking forums held across the District, covering Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Oxford, Woodend and Pegasus. Facilitated meetings and activities of the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group, in line with the Welcoming Waimakariri Action Plan. Facilitated seven Youth-led events. 40 'Bike Project' workshops held. 13 Global Locals of Waimakariri multicultural get-togethers held. 40 key stakeholders engaged in the Homelessness Response Project establishment forum. Over 1100 local youth engaged in development of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2036. 20 stakeholders engaged in the development of the Welcoming Communities Plan.

What did we do?

Delivery of the Community Development Strategy Implementation Plan 2025/2026

Communities where people are Safe and Healthy

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 1.1 Facilitate collaborative responses to address the determinants of health and wellbeing			
1.1.1: Address gaps in local healthy, affordable and fit for purpose housing provision. **Collaborative Partners** The Salvation Army North Canterbury Social Services Waimakariri Ministry of Social Development MCERT (formerly MHUD) Methodist Mission	Maintain active involvement in Waimakariri Community Housing Response working group and its activities. Maintain active involvement in Council Property and Acquisitions Working Group meeting.	Through the Waimakariri Community Housing Response Working Group: • Identified and framed a potential pathway and Pilot model for homelessness response • Facilitated a Homelessness Forum to present and test the proposed model with over 40 stakeholders • Acquired funding to support 2.5FTE Homelessness Response workers, through The Salvation Army and in collaboration with Council and Methodist Mission (Housing First) • Acquired a Methodist Mission contract for provision of 10 Income-related rental accommodation spaces. • Established a Homelessness Response Collaboration/Advisory Group to progress a 12-month pilot, with the aim to making local homelessness response sustainable beyond the funding period • An evaluation is underway to measure the success of the Pilot, based on a social outcomes framework and Social Return on Investment (SROI). Attended meetings of Council's Property and Acquisitions Working group to update them on progress in the Community-led Homelessness Response Programme and gain their support.	People have broader alternatives for low-cost rentals and social housing. Pathways have been identified to support, triage and house rough sleepers. A formal, broad scope evaluation will support sustainable funding for the project beyond the 12-month contracted period.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.2: Facilitate health and wellbeing promotion. **Collaborative Partners** WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Migrants Agency Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network	Ensure that issues and opportunities are identified and addressed through appropriate networks. Gather and disseminate formative data and research through appropriate networks. Facilitate local implementation of regional and national campaigns. Share wellbeing-related resources with networks. Facilitate a collaborative approach to wellbeing-centred arts projects.	WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group is a collaboration of local and regional agencies that met six times to identify and coordinate opportunities for workforce development and collaborate on local initiatives. • 127 people attended mental health and suicide prevention training organised by the group 'Supporting People with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder', 'Innovative Approaches to Suicide Prevention', and 'Safety Planning'. Many more participated in online and in-person training opportunities offered by national and regional providers such as LeVa and the Mental Health Education Resource Centre. These were promoted by the Steering Group through their networks and social media. • The 'Read, Remove and Return' regional campaign for the safe storage and disposal of unused medicines was promoted locally for its value as an initiative that contributes to reducing access to means. • Local resource "Looking after your mental wellbeing" was updated and distributed at community events and to front line services in our community.	More people can identify and respond to suicide risk in our community. More people access help and support services. Services work together for more coordinated care for people experiencing mental distress.
		90 people attended the 'Stronger Communities Conference', which offered affordable professional development for social services staff and volunteers over two days. Topics covered connection and engagement, suicide prevention, self-care and preventing burn out, insights into relationship harm, family violence services panel discussion and primary mental health services.	Social, community, education and faith sector workforce capabilities are increased.
		Hosted quarterly Migrant Agency Group meetings which include whānau ora representatives from Tangata Atumotu Trust and North Canterbury, Nationwide Health and Disability Advocacy Service. These connections facilitate joint initiatives, such as partnering with Council English Language Classes to help migrants understand and exercise their health rights.	Local migrants have improved access to information, services and supports through stronger collaboration between agencies serving diverse communities.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.2: continued		The North Canterbury Youth Services Network hosted a free two-day 'Mental Health First Aid' course in partnership with Stepping Stone to support the financial cost of running this course. 19 Youth service providers attended the course.	Youth service providers are trained and better equipped to support young people if they experience a mental health related issue/challenge while in their service.
1.1.3: Facilitate initiatives that remove barriers to education, training and employment. **Collaborative Partners** Mayors Taskforce for Jobs North Canterbury Youth Futures Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury Noaia and Comcol The Salvation Army North Canterbury District Libraries	Continue to facilitate the Youth Futures Project and its initiatives. Continue to deliver the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme. Continue to facilitate, promote and support local provision of English Language Classes. Continue to support Driver Mentoring Programmes for young people, migrants and others with barriers to accessing mainstream driver education and licencing provision.	North Canterbury Youth Futures Careers Expo hosted at MainPower Stadium, with 50 stallholders ranging from tertiary providers, local employers and Trade providers. There were over 1200 attendees from across North Canterbury. 90% response surveys rated the expo three or four stars out of four. The NC Youth Futures social media pages, Facebook and Instagram, have a combined 630 followers, and had over 20,000 views.	Over 1200 more young people and their whānau are aware of the various career opportunities and pathways available in North Canterbury but in Waitaha as well. Local businesses and education services benefited from being able to connect with more young people about their industry and pathways, contributing to a more sustainable future.
		Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) MTFJ is externally funded through partnership with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). The vision is to have all 16 to 24-year-olds engaged in employment or education within their local communities. Activities include training and support in work readiness, driving licences, pastoral care and financial support to local young people and the employers who have given them opportunities. We aim to provide a holistic service tailored to the needs of each job seeker who engages with us.	In the year 1 July 2025–30 June 2026 we were contracted to deliver 35 outcomes. We exceeded this achieving: • 40 Full-time Placements • 10 Casual/Part-time Employment Placements. Sustainable outcomes are measured as maintaining employment for 6 months. Final figures will be available 30 December 2026 but we have already exceeded our contracted number (24) with 25 young people maintaining their employment over 6 months as of 30 September.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.3: continued		A weekly meeting with our job seekers called the MTFJ Opportunities Hub focussed on: • Work readiness aspects from CV's, cover letters, interview skills, personal presentation, and communication skills. • Employer talks: We are well supported with local employers coming in to share their knowledge of the recruitment process and how to succeed as a new employee. • Other training included budgeting, kiwisaver advice, tax information, breathwork to manage stressful times, learner licence workshops. To raise the profile of the programme, staff: • Participated in the North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo, promoting what MTFJ can offer local young people looking for employment. • Regularly attend the North Canterbury Business Networking Meetings and Enterprise North Canterbury events. Relationships with employers are continuously worked on so that when we have a suitable young person they can be matched to an employment opening.	A key barrier to employment is transport so Driver Licence Training is a focus. The programme achieved: • 15 Learner Licences • 17 Restricted Licences • 10 Full Licences • 2 Forklift Licences. Eight Young people attended Defensive Driving Courses. Job Opportunities Hub clients were connected into work experience and volunteering opportunities in our community. Referral numbers indicate increased awareness among of the MTFJ programme by young people, families, other social agencies and employers. MSD funding via LGNZ has been confirmed out to 30 June 2027 and we look forward to continuing to support local young people and employers.
		MTFJ Business Breakfast: Over 50 local business people and elected members attended to hear from the keynote speaker, Infometrics Financial Economist – Brad Olsen, about the economic environment, current trends of employment and specific details about the Waimakariri District. We also presented alongside MSD about the onboarding support and funding available to employers when they take on a young person.	Over 50 local business leaders are better informed about the MTFJ programme, the supports it offers and the value that young employees can bring to their business. This increases the likelihood that they will employ a young person from the MTFJ programme.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.3: continued		Free adult English Language classes run during school term times. New Beginner classes have grown from two students to an average weekly attendance of eight. Intermediate classes have an average attendance of 11. There are on average 14 different nationalities represented each term.	English Language classes offer a space to learn and practice English but also to socially connect. Often the students have a degree of proficiency, but the classes are an opportunity to build the confidence. Attendees have been supported with IELTS, connected to Citizen's Advice Bureau for employment clinics and linked into volunteering. Newcomers experience greater social inclusion, confidence and independence through improved English language skills and stronger community networks.
		No activity for Migrant Driver Mentoring programme, which is still under development.	

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.4: Facilitate increased local transport provision. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Age-friendly Steering Group Waimakariri Access Group Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Environment Canterbury Christchurch City Council Roading Team Strategy and Business Team District Planning Unit Waimakariri Youth Council	Ensure adequate research and engagement to capture the transport needs of local residents. Highlight local transport needs with decision makers via appropriate networks. Ensure that local community-based transport provision is well promoted.	An ECan representative attended the June Youth Council (WYC) meeting where members provided feedback and challenges they face with local and regional Public Transport. They then made a formal submission via the Metro Network Review Survey "To bus or not to bus".	ECan was able to collate and interpret the information from the WYC meeting and submission and apply the necessary recommendations to future decision making.
		Hosted a Community Transport Hui with community partner organisations who provide local transport options, as well as those who work with a range of residents with restricted access to public and private transport. Information on transport options was updated and collated into the Transport flyer which is available on-line and in paper form at libraries and other sites in the community.	People can more easily access the places, services, and opportunities they need, regardless of their transport situation.
		Supported a community response to expand the shoppers Bus programme into Kaiapoi – this is still a work in progress.	

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.5: Facilitate local provision of parenting support. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust Rangiora Youth Community Trust Presbyterian Support Family First Services North Canterbury Youth Services Network Violence Free North Canterbury North Canterbury Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group	Promote and, where appropriate, facilitate local provision of cross-cultural parenting workshops. Utilise local networks to ensure advocacy to address gaps in local parenting support provision. Utilise online and printed media, including Next Steps website and Chatter magazine to promote local parenting support services, supports and information.	Parenting Neurodivergent Children and Youth: workshops were delivered in partnership with local parenting support services and involved a subject matter expert followed by an introduction to local support services. Collaborated with Violence Free North Canterbury, Oxford Community Trust, and Oxford Area School to deliver 'Taima Korero – Time 2 Talk' presentation for parents at Oxford Community Hall. Presenter Brett Harvey offered valuable insights into the online environment children and young people are being exposed to. These were promoted to parents via school newsletters and to youth services via the North Canterbury Youth Services Newsletter.	Parents, caregivers and youth workers gained an understanding of the resources and services available to support them and peer support from other parents experiencing similar challenges. Parents and caregivers left with an understanding of the importance of initiating conversations before harmful online exposure happens.
		Cross-cultural Parenting Workshops The community partners who were to facilitate cross-cultural parenting workshops chose not to progress at this time, however this may be an opportunity in the future.	The desire expressed to consider a cross-cultural workshop and public engagement around the realities of multicultural families led to an action around addressing challenges being included in the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026-2029.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.1.6: Encourage and support local food security initiatives. **Collaborative Partners** Food Secure North Canterbury Steering Group North Canterbury Food and Budgeting Network Greenspace Team	Continue to support Food Secure North Canterbury to ensure its effective and sustainable operation. Support Food Secure North Canterbury, as appropriate, with food security initiatives in local spaces and places. Support local food-support collaborations. E.g. Food and Budgeting network.	Food Secure North Canterbury continues to deliver a range of initiatives within the community such as 'Grow and Tell' garden visits, Food Citizen programmes, cooking videos and informative forums. Community Development staff participated as a partner in the FSNC Collaboration, including preparation of funding applications and reporting.	Community food security has been strengthened through increased food awareness, local connections and access to practical food initiatives.
		The North Canterbury Food and Budgeting Network is facilitated by Social Services Waimakariri and are a valued link in Civil Defence response.	There is an established local mechanism to address food poverty and support Civil Defence Response and Recovery related to the equitable availability of food.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 1.2: Facilitate collaboration for a strong local Health and Social Service Sector			
1.2.1: Support local health service provision. **Collaborative Partners** Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Elected members Local MP	Maintain active involvement and/or facilitation of Waimakariri Health Advisory Group (WHAG) and its activities. Ensure local representation on regional and national networks, as appropriate. E.g. • Waka Toa Ora (Healthy Greater Christchurch) • Hauora Whenua (Rural Health Alliance)	Waimakariri Health Advisory Group (WHAG) continued to meet bimonthly to discuss local health-related challenges and identify gaps in local health service provision. Health NZ representation provides a platform for local issues to be heard, and potential pathways identified to have those issues addressed. Staff contributed to a WHAG working party for Mental Health and Addiction service mapping to identify local gaps.	There was increased promotion and attendance at community workshops around the future of rural health provision. Local awareness of pharmacy-delivered health care has been increased. A clearer picture has been developed of local Mental Health and Addiction Service provision.
1.2.2: Support local social service provision **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri	Maintain active involvement in Social Services Waimakariri (SSW) and its activities.	WDC Community Team leadership continue to actively support and collaborate with Social Services Waimakariri (SSW), including representation on its Management Group. Social Services Waimakariri is a collaboration of over 40 social, community, education, faith and justice service providers who meet to share current and emerging social issues and identify appropriate responses. Council support SSW by providing venue and minute-taker for meetings. Staff contribute to information sharing, identifying developing needs and gaps and seeking collaborative solutions in social service delivery.	A mechanism is in place to ensure that local issues can be addressed collaboratively by the appropriate agencies. E.g. Homelessness. Council can add its voice to addressing lack of service provision. E.g. Advocacy around budgeting service provision or funding for local services. The collective knowledge and voice of the local social sector was applied to Council decision-making.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.2.2: continued	Facilitate community networking forums to enable connection across local and itinerant services.	10 Community Networking Forums were held across the District, covering Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Oxford, Woodend and Pegasus and typically engaging and connecting around 20 local social and community service providers to share 'what's on top' and identify opportunities for cross-referral and mutual support.	People can access connected, support services that are better able to meet local needs and improve community wellbeing. Social and community service providers have increased local profile and increased likelihood of cross referral for positive social outcomes for local residents.
Action 1.3: Facilitate a collaborative response to addressing key issues affecting the personal safety of local residents.			
1.3.1: Facilitate collaborative responses to Relationship Violence/ Family Harm. **Collaborative Partners** Violence Free North Canterbury Elected members Local MP Oxford Community Trust Oxford Area School	Facilitate Violence Free North Canterbury and related collaborative initiatives.	**From Curiosity to Concern Workshop (3 September 2025)** Collaborated with Violence Free North Canterbury, STOP, and Taima Korero to facilitate a professional development workshop for support organisations across North Canterbury. Attendance was 45 people.	45 individuals learned how to engage tamariki and rangatahi in conversations about sexual harm, while also gaining a better understanding of the part advancement of tech is playing in harm for young people, to see an end to sexual harm.
		Healthy Relationships events at Oxford Area School (12-13 February 2026). Collaborated with Violence Free North Canterbury, Oxford Area School (OAS), Oxford Community Trust, and Police to deliver the Loves Me Not programme and a student-led Healthy Relationships Pop-up Event that was held the following day. The programme was delivered to all senior students, with three facilitators in each class - a teacher, a police representative, and a family violence NGO.	Senior students (year 12 & 13) at Oxford Area School have increased knowledge about consent, recognising relationship abuse, and how to be an upstander to prevent intimate partner violence.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.3.1: continued		The annual Violence Free Quiz Night Fundraiser was held on 5 June 2026 in collaboration with Violence Free North Canterbury (VFNC) and Oxford Community Trust. The event was well supported with raffle prizes donated by local businesses. 127 people (23 teams) took part. Attendees enjoyed a fun quiz and learnt about Violence Free North Canterbury through presentations made by Lesley Williams (SHE) and Oxford Area School.	$3,300 was raised to support community-led Violence Free initiatives. 127 people from a range of local contexts have increased their knowledge and understanding of relationship violence, including pathways for support and/or referral.
1.3.2: Facilitate collaborative responses to Alcohol and Drug Harm. **Collaborative Partners** North Canterbury Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group Environmental Services Unit North Canterbury Youth Services Network	Facilitate the Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm steering group and related collaborative initiatives, including a review of the Community Action Plan.	**AOD Community Conversations: Understanding Substance Use, Stigma & Support for Older Adults (10 September 2025).** Collaborated with Odyssey House Trust and 65Alive to deliver our first session in a series to explore the experiences of older adults affected by substance use, trends being observed in this space, and the diverse factors that can influence access to support.	The session gave an opportunity for a diverse audience of Council staff, food bank volunteers, family violence support organisations, Police, and healthcare practitioners to explore pathways for collaborative, compassionate, and age-responsive approaches to reducing alcohol and other substance-related harm in our community.
		Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Training at North Canterbury Youth Services Network (6 May 2026). Collaborated with NCYSN and Tania Henderson to deliver this introductory training.	Attendees of the North Canterbury Youth Services Network learnt about the history of FASD and why diagnosis/recognition is important.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.3.3: Facilitate collaborative responses to suicide prevention and the building of community resilience.	Facilitate WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group and related collaborative initiatives.	The WaiLife Suicide Preventing Steering Group are supporting the planning and delivery of the local Fenceline Korero suicide prevention project funded for 12 months by the Mental Health Foundation.	Local suicide prevention initiatives are collaboratively developed and delivered ensuring a best practice approach and the sharing of resources.
Collaborative Partners WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group Health Safety and Wellbeing Team		Council's community development staff worked in partnership with Waghorn Builders to deliver a men's targeted Resilience Breakfast. 700 local tradesmen attended to listen to key speakers talk about the importance of mental health, asking for help and looking out for your mates. Goodie bags were given to all attendees which contained important information about where to go to get help locally. Staff also arranged for local services attended the event to provide support for attendees if needed.	700 local tradesmen are better equipped to deal with life's challenges and can acknowledge their struggles.
		Youth Council's social media platforms have shared wellbeing resources during events such as Youth Week 2026 where Youth Council were involved in a Libraries Podcast that spoke about teenage challenges.	The young people involved in the podcast benefited from being able to talk freely to each other whilst giving the wider youth population a platform to listen to the podcast and feel heard.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.3.4: Facilitate collaborative responses to addressing injury in rural contexts. **Collaborative Partners** Down the Back Paddock Working Group Rural Support Trust Federated Farmers Dairy NZ Rural Women, ACC, Young Farmers Community Team Aquatics Team Civil Defence	Continue to coordinate delivery of the schools-bases 'Down the Back Paddock' rural injury programme. Review local injury data to determine the extent and nature of injury in rural contexts. Plan or support any necessary new responses to rural injury.	The 'Down the Back Paddock' early intervention rural safety programme was delivered in four schools (Cust, Fernside, Oxford and Kaiapoi North).	1,600 children were educated about how to stay safe around a range of rural hazards from large animals to quad bikes. Quote from Lesley Ottey, *"We don't know what seeds of rethinking we sow when we do Down the Back paddock. Today at x school I had a great conversation with x and his friends who told me all they had learnt at Down the Back paddock from 2 years ago, not just what they learnt about poisonous plants but all the other tutors too, and better yet they chatted about how they had shared the messages at home, Woo Hoo".*
		Additionally, staff are supporting the Fenceline Korero programme, detailed in 1.3.3, above.	

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 1.4: Facilitate effective welfare responses to local crisis.			
1.4.1: Fill the Civil Defence Welfare function. **Collaborative Partners** Local Welfare Committee	Fill all SIMS functions related to Emergency Operations Centre Welfare. Ensure adequate staffing cover in filling Civil Defence Welfare functions during an event. Alert Social Services Waimakariri and other key partners in the local Welfare Committee Function regarding potential input into response and recovery.	Staff continue to fill these roles, including attending appropriate training and engaging the appropriate social services at the time of an event via Social Services Waimakariri, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other key contacts.	EOC Welfare staff are appropriately trained and experienced. Civil Defence welfare response and recovery is timely, appropriate and effective.

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
1.4.2: Facilitation of wider welfare response and recovery for Civil Defence Emergency and other local crises. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Local Welfare Committee Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri	Utilise the mobile Community Hub resource for communities in crisis. Bring together Social Services Waimakariri and other key partners in the local Welfare Committee Function to: • inform them of development • plan appropriate stakeholder responses • consider key recovery needs • plan potential recovery responses, including resourcing. Develop and deliver social recovery plans for local events.	The Mobile Community Hub vehicle is maintained ready for use as may be required. Civil Defence have used it to support promotion and establishment of Civil Defence 'Hubs' across rural communities. Staff continue to engage social, health and community services in Civil Defence Welfare Planning and response, facilitating Social Services Waimakariri (SSW) to have a key role in collaborations on homelessness and Civil Defence response and recovery, where key agencies are activated to plan and deliver response.	Civil Defence welfare response and recovery is timely, appropriate and effective.

Communities where people are **Welcome and Included**

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 2.1 Facilitate collaboration for a more welcoming community.			
2.1.1: Develop and facilitate the implementation of a Welcoming Communities Plan. **Collaborative Partners**	Establish a working group to progress the finalisation and launch of the Welcoming Communities Plan. Establish a Welcoming Waimakariri Group to review progress and ensure delivery of the Plan.	The Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026-2029 was completed and adopted in March 2026 and celebrated at a launch in June as a step towards accreditation. Waimakariri received accreditation level 1–A "Committed Community". The Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group was established to help develop and advise on the plan. The Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group brings the voices of different sectors and cultural groups. At this stage of plan implementation, the focus is on connecting with the public and the combination of the WWWG and GLOW provides more scope to be present at different events.	The Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026–2029 has guided existing and new activities to be aligned with broader strategic outcomes. It has increased local motivation for supporting events and collaborations across Council and with external partners. Receiving accreditation has created an acknowledgement of the Council's commitment to the programme. A sustainable Welcoming Community is one of the outcomes of the plan.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
2.1.2: Facilitate increased support and inclusion for local migrant communities. **Collaborative Partners** Global Locals of Waimakariri Local Primary Schools	Support the Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) group and its activities, as appropriate, including: • monthly social connection event, as necessary, to ensure its sustainability • delivery and wider roll-out of the annual Multicultural Cooking Classes • linking new migrant residents into the group • representation at Citizenship Ceremonies. Encourage and facilitate culturally centred arts initiatives.	The Cultural Inclusion facilitator is present at Citizenship Ceremonies to share information and connect with migrants.	Migrants and Newcomers are empowered with information and connections that will help them to integrate successfully into our communities and enjoy the supports, services and opportunities that are no offer in the District.
		Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) Coordinated and promoted monthly GLOW Socials. Attendance ranges between 8 and 20 people. Coordinated GLOW Multicultural Cooking Classes. Six cuisines were represented: French, Malaysian, Filipino, Indian, Persian and Chinese. Tickets are for 20 attendees and both the Malaysian and Filipino classes were sold out 19 tickets sold for the Chinese class.	Through both GLOW activities and presence at Citizenship Ceremonies the local community are shown that migrants and newcomers are supported by Council. The Multicultural Cooking Classes were rated highly by participants. The programme provides much more than cooking instruction; it creates opportunities for cultural exchange, social connection, community building and learning. Participants praised the quality of instruction, welcoming atmosphere, and opportunity to experience cultures through food.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
2.1.2: continued		Coordinated the midwinter Celebration of Cultures potluck dinner. 40 attendees included newcomers and new long-time locals. Supported the coordination of the Celebration of Cultures end of year potluck Approximately 50 people attended from a range of countries including from New Zealand. Coordinated the trial of a parents meet up. The best engagement with migrant newcomers is achieved at public events. Therefore, GLOW had a presence at: • Market in the Park Spring Market in Victoria Square • Being the Welcome Table at the Welcome to the Birds event with Greenspace • Waitangi Day celebrations in Kaiapoi • Welcome table at the Volunteer Expo 2026 • The Oxford A&P Show • Welcome table and support of World on a Plate: A Taste of The Philippines. At the Waitangi Day celebration GLOW partnered with Network Waitangi Ōtautahi and supported sharing multilingual copies of te Titriti o Waitangi. At both the Oxford A&P show and the Rangiora Cultural festival, GLOW ran an activity to share information about local knowledge, place names and bi-cultural history. At each event GLOW shared Welcome Bags, local social service resources and encouraged sign-ups to the group.	Migrants and Newcomers are empowered with information and connections that will help them to integrate successfully into our communities and enjoy the supports, services and opportunities that are on offer in the District.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
2.1.3: Support the aspirations of local residents' groups. **Collaborative Partners** Residents Groups North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support	Meet with residents' groups to identify and present opportunities to add value to their endeavours. E.g. Welcome Bags, 'On Track' Capability Building Programme, funding advice.	Provided general information and support, where needed, to residents' groups at Silverstream, Pines Beach, Kairaki, Ravenswood, Pegasus and Woodend.	Residents' groups and residents have access to information about local support services and programmes.
2.1.4: Support the facilitation of increased neighbourhood connection. **Collaborative Partners** North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Council Greenspace Team	Collaborate with appropriate stakeholders to plan and deliver social connection initiatives in local social housing communities. Support North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support in their aspirations to facilitate neighbourhood connection. Encourage and support Neighbourhood-led connection activities. E.g. through the promotion of Council's Community BBQ Trailer. Develop, promote and deliver initiatives that encourage increased use of neighbourhood parks.	Worked with North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support (NCNS), helping them to transition from an Incorporated Society to a Charitable Trust. NCNS supports street groups across the district to foster connection and create safer neighbourhoods. The Community Events Trailer was used 17 times by a combination of neighbourhood and community groups, and Council departments. New initiative: Two new 'Coreboards' contribute to encouraging more use of parks by families impacted by neurodiversity, non-verbal and/or intellectual disability.	By maintaining legal entity status NCNS are in a better position to access funding opportunities and develop a strong reputation within the community. Neighbourhood Park use was encouraged and communities connected. Two local parks are now more accessible for enjoyment by families impacted by neurodiversity, non-verbal and/or intellectual disability.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 2.2 Facilitate local initiatives that address unconscious bias and racism.			
2.2.1: Tell the stories of local people, that highlight the diversity and commonality of experiences across varying demographics. **Collaborative Partners** Waimakariri Public Arts Trust Waimakariri District Art Collection Sub-Committee	Explore the potential for projects that tell the stories of particular demographics via a range of mediums.	Staff worked alongside Waimakariri Public Arts Trust and Waimakariri District Art Collection Sub-Committee towards gathering information and stories behind the local artists and artworks in the WDC public art collections.	Artwork stories are celebrated and shared with Waimakariri residents through an established public arts trail, QR codes and on-line.
2.2.1: Promote national inclusion-centred campaigns. **Collaborative Partners** Waimakariri Access Group District Libraries	Continue to promote national inclusion-centred campaigns, like Sign Language week, Te Wiki o Māori, etc.	Sign Language week was promoted through two public events. These events led to the delivery of a monthly New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) beginner class for community members.	NZSL national campaign promoted and a monthly inclusion based NZSL class continues to connect and upskill community members.
		Māori Language week - Te Wiki o Māori was promoted extensively through District Libraries.	Te Reo Māori and NZSL were highlighted, alongside English, as one of New Zealand's three official languages.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 2.3 Facilitate the activities of collaborations that remove barriers to community participation.			
2.3.1: Facilitate, support and champion the Waimakariri Access Group.	Support the Waimakariri Access Group and its activities. Oversee the implementation of the Inclusive Waimakariri plan, for a more accessible District.	Supported and attended eight Waimakariri Access Group (WAG) meetings, including AGM. Accessibility Training was delivered to 25 Council staff and elected members. Access Group guidance was sought by a wider number of Council departments than previous years. This was comprised of eight requests over five Council Departments—Greenspace, Libraries, Project Development Unit, Roading and Community. A Project Control Group was established to drive progress toward the priority actions and goals of the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan. Broad representation from across Council includes Libraries, Greenspaces, Aquatics, Comms, Roading, Planning, PDU, Strategy/Policy, Community and an elected member.	Staff and elected members are upskilled in ensuring our services and infrastructure are designed in an accessible way. Accessibility is built into planning for more Council projects, making the district's places and spaces more accessible to residents and families impacted by disability. This affects not only those impacted, but also the local economy. Accessible places and spaces are frequented by more people, who add their spending power to the local economy. Progress is made toward the goals and priority actions in the Inclusive Waimakariri plan.
2.3.2: Facilitate the Age-friendly Waimakariri Advisory Group.	Support the Age-friendly Waimakariri Group and its activities.	Supported and attended eight Age Friendly Waimakariri meetings. Further support included booking meeting venues, taking minutes, keeping records and supporting the group to transition to a new chairperson. Also supported the Group to develop and present a progress report to Council Community and Recreation Committee.	Community groups and public services for older persons collaborate and share information. Matters of the older person are elevated and advocated for with Council.

Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
2.3.3: Facilitate the Migrant Agency Steering Group.	Support the Waimakariri Migrant Agency Group and its activities.	Facilitated quarterly meetings of the Migrant Agency Group, including setting agendas and disseminating minutes. Meetings include whanau ora representatives from Tangata Atumotu Trust and North Canterbury, Nationwide Health and Disability Advocacy Service, Ministry of Pacific Peoples, Department of Internal Affairs, Citizens Advice Bureau, Ministry of social development, English Language Facilitator and Justice of the Peace.	Quarterly meetings are opportunities to hear trends from those who support migrants but also to network and problem solve to address gaps in support and opportunity for local migrants.
2.3.4: Facilitate the North Canterbury Youth Services Network.	Facilitate the North Canterbury Youth Services Network and its activities.	Coordinated the creation and distribution of the North Canterbury Youth Services Network's monthly newsletter. 11 editions over the year were sent to 135 subscribers. These included information on upcoming training opportunities through the network as well as what was happening across the sector for youth or youth workers to get involved with. There was also the inclusion of new funding streams and some promotion of online training from various providers that would be useful training for members of the network.	Local Youth Services are informed and empowered with information that will enhance local youth service provision.
		Coordinated the delivery of three training opportunities for the network. One training however was cancelled due to low registrations. • Mental Health First Aid 19 attendees • Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – 18 attendees • Neurodiversity workshop – Cancelled.	North Canterbury Youth Services Network members have increased knowledge and confidence in Mental Health First Aid and knowing the signs and related behaviours of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Their practice and engagement with young people and their whānau is enriched from their learnings of the training they attended.

Communities where people are **Informed and Empowered**

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 3.1 Support community groups and organisations to be well resourced and sustainable.			
3.1.1: Facilitate local delivery of Capability Building opportunities. **Collaborative Partners** Local community groups and organisations Community Law Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Enterprise North Canterbury Philanthropic and government funders	Continue to deliver and develop the 'On Track' capability-building series, in response to the needs of local community organisations. Explore opportunities for local delivery of Cultural Competency workshops for community groups and organisations. Explore opportunities for local delivery of wellbeing-centred workshops for community groups organisations. Respond to direct requests from community groups for support. (See 3.1.2, below.)	Coordinated and delivered an 'On Track' workshop on successful Meetings with. with eight attendees representing seven organisations in attendance. In the second half of 2025 the focus was on supporting groups to prepare for changes to the Incorporated Societies Act and updates to the Charities Act. Staff ran a campaign "Inc Soctober Road Show" in October 2025 to share information and answer questions about changes to the Incorporated Societies Act and updating constitutions. The campaign resulted in follow up meetings to support 6 organisations to update their constitutions. With development, adoption and implementation planning for the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan taking priority, there was no progress on Cultural Competency workshops for this period.	'For purpose' organisations have access to the support and training that they need to operate successfully and sustainably. By maintaining legal entity status, organisations are in a better position to access funding opportunities and develop a strong reputation within the community.
		The Stronger Communities conference, detailed in 1.1.2, above, included sessions on self-care and preventing burnout, providing local social, community, education and faith sector workers and volunteers with tools and information to support physical and mental health and resilience.	Social, community, education and faith sector workforce capabilities are more resilient, ensuring consistent, quality local service to support vulnerable residents.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.1.2: Provide direct funding acquisition and governance support, as requested.	Continue to provide direct funding acquisition and governance support, as requested.	Through their extensive knowledge and connections across the funding sector, community development staff provide advice and support to assist numerous local groups and organisations with the acquisition of funding. This is by way of identifying potential funding streams, linking with funding advisors, assistance with applications, developing plans, or simply providing letters of support.	Local groups and organisations can access support to fund their operation and activities.
Collaborative Partners All local community groups and organisations Philanthropic and government funders		In terms of funding directly acquired or supported by community development staff for key activities: • Staff coordinated the acquisition of $400,000 in funding for local homelessness response service provision. • Waimakariri Bike Project were supported to access, manage and report on funding. • Food Secure North Canterbury were supported to access, manage and report on funding. ($80,000 in the 2025/26 year). • $14,000 was successfully granted to enable the provision of Adult English Language classes, race unity education and supporting the multicultural social group Global Locals of Waimakariri to raise their profile. • In addition, to ensure the sustainability of cultural inclusion programmes, a multi-year grant of $5,500 for three years was secured to support migrants. • Staff acquired $26,000 in funding for the ongoing development of the Dudley Park Skate Park.	There are now tangible pathways and appropriately targeted service provision to support people to transition out of homelessness and address the associated root causes, including, addiction, trauma and mental health issues. Waimakariri Bike Project continues to function and support our community. Food Secure expanded its staff numbers and the impact of their public events and programs. Staff supported the acquisition of $80,000 in funding to support this mahi.
		Responded to nine requests for one-on-one support with governance or operational process, as follows: • Individual support for six organisations to update their constitutions. • Strategic planning support for two organisations/groups. • Advice and support for running successful meetings given individually to one local group. • One group advised on the role of Chairperson.	Nine local 'for purpose' organisations' were given individual support to increase their capacity and capability to operate effectively and sustainably.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.1.2: continued		**Support for the Arts Sector** Supported Waimakariri Public Arts Trust with project management and governance support. Staff worked with Waimakariri Community Arts Council (WCAC) Music Committee to strengthen governance, improve processes and introduce new initiatives to encourage increased audience participation. An MOU was developed with WCAC towards building and strengthening a collaborative framework.	New processes have allowed the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust to concentrate on project initiation and strategic thinking. More Waimakariri residents are aware of and/or are attending WCAC concerts. The Committee has been strengthened to continue to deliver a sustainable programme. Supportive relationship and good communication network is established between the Waimakariri Community Arts Council and WDC.
3.1.3: Promote and encourage volunteering to increase capacity in the local volunteer involving sector. **Collaborative Partners** Volunteer Canterbury Local volunteer involving organisations District Libraries	Continue to facilitate and support the volunteer coordinators Groups. Continue to promote local volunteering opportunities.	Staff Facilitated Volunteer Coordinator meetings and co-hosted a table with Volunteer Canterbury at the 2025 Youth Futures event, promoting volunteering with local organisations. Organised the Volunteer Expo in March. This year one event at Rangiora Library. There were 31 community groups represented and 97 potential volunteers attended. Each group tallied at least one “highly engaged” person. Continue to manage and update the Waimakariri Volunteer Directory.	Local volunteer involving groups and organisations can connect with potential volunteers. The community is made aware of the benefits of volunteering. Volunteer Coordinators can share their experiences and support one another.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 3.2 Ensure a community voice in local, regional and national decision making.			
3.2.1: Encourage and undertake regular stakeholder engagement in relation to key priorities/trends and emerging issues.	Undertake appropriate formative engagement to inform local responses to the issues and aspirations of residents. Engage potentially impacted communities to plan local responses to the impact of Climate Change.	Staff worked with Council's Communications and Engagement and Strategy and Business Teams, Youth Council, and Youth Council to undertake a significant engagement that captured the voices of over 1200 local youth in the development of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026 – 2029.	The voices of over 1200 local young people and representatives from the agencies and community groups that support them will inform priorities for youth development over the coming three years.
Collaborative Partners All of community Communications and Engagement Team		A Homelessness Forum held in March 2026 engaged 30 representatives from across the social, justice, community faith and funding sectors, as well as elected members and Council staff from the Community Team, Greenspace, Libraries, Environmental Services and Policy and Planning. Their collective wisdom and experience helped to frame the Homelessness Response, which now sees 2 FTE of Navigator provision to support people to transition out of homelessness and address the factors that have led them there. Engagement was undertaken with a broad range of around 20 stakeholders to inform the Waimakariri Welcoming Communities Plan. These included Members of Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) and social, community, health and education sectors to inform developing of the Waimakariri Welcoming Communities Plan. These engagements are specific to community development team staff and sit alongside various Community Team engagements	The local homelessness response Pilot has been informed by a broad range of appropriately skilled and experienced stakeholders. A collaborative, community-led approach was applied to the development of the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.2.2: Facilitate Youth Council increasing youth representation in local, regional and national consultations. **Collaborative Partners** All of community Communications and Engagement Team	Encourage and facilitate opportunities for youth to provide feedback or input into Council activities. Identify and share opportunities to engage in regional and national consultations.	**Youth Action Plan Development** Facilitated the collection of responses from the Community through attending various events, schools and programmes, such as, the Inclusive Sports Festival, Rangiora High School Lighthouse programme, and the Ohoka Farmers' Market. Coordinated the presentation of the Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Survey results to key external stakeholders in 2025. This project's development continued to focus on youth engagement, with the Advisory Group's participation in the development of the draft Plan with staff. Once the Plan was ready for public consultation, it was live for 4 weeks in February – March for further comment from young people and the wider community. The Plan was approved for adoption at the June 2026 Council meeting and launched to the community in September. **Public Transport Submission** Supported the completion of two submissions to regional consultations from the Waimakariri Youth Council, including the Metro Network Review Survey Submission "To bus or not to bus' and the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass tolling consultation in 2025. They also supported the annual Youth Voice Canterbury Takeover survey to provide another opportunity for young people to have a voice in the development of Youth Council activities and programmes across Canterbury. There were 348 responses from across Canterbury.	The voices of 1100 local youth and a broad range of associated groups and organisations was applied to the development of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan. Data from the Youth Action Plan formative engagement has been utilised by internal and external stakeholders to assist with planning and the potential acquisition of funding to support their endeavours. Through their submissions Youth Council aimed to provide support, information and relative insights to help decision makers understand the needs and wants of Waimakariri young people.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.2.3: Promote and encourage participation in Annual Plan and other Council community consultations. **Collaborative Partners** All Community Team contacts Communications and Engagement Team Strategy & Business Team	Promote Communications and Engagement Team-led promotions of Annual Plan. Support the development of submissions to the Annual Plan.	Staff supported the Annual Plan Submissions from the Waimakariri Access Group, two individual members of the disability community and Food Secure North Canterbury.	Voices of older persons and persons with disability represented in local decision-making process. Food Secure supported to ensure their voices are represented in local decision making.
3.2.4: Facilitate advocacy at local, regional and central governance level in relation to key issues. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network Waimakariri Access Group Age-friendly Advisory group Governance Team Creative NZ	Encourage and facilitate opportunities for people and organisations to provide feedback or input into consultations around Council activities. Identify and share opportunities to engage in regional and national consultations.	Attended meetings with Creative NZ and Christchurch City Council representatives to discuss the future of a possible new regional arts entity.	Waimakariri can have a key place around the table in any discussions towards a new regional entity in the Canterbury district.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.2.5: Maintain relationships in regional and national networks to add value to local community development. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network Waimakariri Access Group Age-friendly Advisory group Waimakariri Youth Council Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs	E.g. Maintain involvement in regional and national networks to enhance community development practise and connections. E.g. Welcoming communities, Inspiring Communities, Waka Toa Ora, Hauora Tai Whenua.	Attended three meetings and participated in discussion in the Age Friendly National network. Attended Christchurch City Council workshops for creatives to gather information and ideas for potential delivery in Waimakariri. Attended monthly regional and national Welcoming Communities meetings, as well as the annual National Welcoming Communities Hui. Attended 'InCommon' Workplace quarterly meeting and Interagency Network for Refugees and Migrants (INFoRM) meetings in Christchurch. Attended monthly coordinator meetings for Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, as well as the national hui/conference.	Waimakariri residents benefit from the presence of regional and national groups at local expo's and huis. A programme of workshops for creatives is being established. Attending Welcoming Communities huis and local migrant support networks is a chance to share what Waimakariri is doing but also to gain resources and support from a broader context. These national networks provide insights into national trends and examples of initiatives that may be useful in our district.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 3.3 Encourage, facilitate and support local skill development and skill sharing initiatives.			
3.3.1: Continue to promote and support the Waimakariri Bike Project. **Collaborative Partners** Strategic and Special Projects Unit	Continue to actively engage in the Kaiapoi Community Hub Project Control Group and its endeavours to secure anchor tenants to relocate onto the Hub site.	Support continued, as needed for Kaiapoi Menz Shed to assist with their transition to the Kaiapoi Community Hub site. This largely entailed links with appropriate Council departments, advice in line with Design Guides for the project and endorsement and support for the acquisition of funding.	Kaiapoi Menz shed are now on site and looking toward their second permanent building.
3.3.2: Support the growth and development of the Kaiapoi Community Hub and its activities. **Collaborative Partners** Bike Project Steering Group North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust	Continue to promote and support the Waimakariri Bike Project, as appropriate, to ensure its reach and sustainability.	Waimakariri Bike Project were supported with new marketing material, funding assistance, governance support and workshop venue bookings. 40 Wednesday evening workshops were delivered by the project coordinator and volunteers. Staff facilitated networking with other community bike fixing projects, such as the RAD Bike project to share expertise and knowledge.	The project supports people and has marketing material that reflects its purpose. The project has sufficient financial and operational resource to continue servicing the community. The community are now well aware of the value of the project. Consequently, over the past year: • 200 unwanted bikes were donated. • 145 bikes were rehomed—rescuing them from potential landfill. • 123 people were supported to learn or share skills, while connecting socially.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.3.3: Continue to promote and support the activities of Food Secure North Canterbury. **Collaborative Partners** Food Secure North Canterbury Waimakariri Timebank Steering Group District Libraries Greenspace Team	Continue active involvement in the Food Secure North Canterbury Steering Group to support its endeavours and ensure its sustainability.	Supported Food Secure North Canterbury with fund acquisition, management and reporting. Provided room bookings for meetings, and operational support for public events.	Food Secure North Canterbury continues to positively impact food insecure communities.
3.3.4: Encourage and promote accessible recreation. **Collaborative Partners** North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust Waimakariri Access Group Waimakariri Youth Council District Aquatics Greenspace Team	Work with appropriate stakeholders to encourage and support provision of a varied range of accessible recreational activities across the District.	Worked with the WAG group, North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust and Boccia New Zealand on the installation of Boccia court markings at MainPower Stadium and the provision of Boccia balls available for public use. Collaborated with 'BeeHeard' Speech Therapy, Mana whenua, Rangiora Lighthouse Programme and Greenspace to design and install Coreboards in two playgrounds.	People with disabilities have better access to, and can better enjoy local recreation opportunities and green spaces.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 3.4 Facilitate the provision of up to date, easily accessible local information.			
3.4.1: Support the promotion, maintenance and sustainability of the Next Steps website. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network Waimakariri Access Group	Actively support Social Services and Together Hurunui facilitators to ensure that the Next Steps website is kept up to date. Facilitate opportunities to promote the Next Steps website as an easily accessible data source of information about supports and services.	Continued promotion for Next Steps community service information website, via North Canterbury Youth Services Network monthly newsletter. Next Steps user data shows just under over 14,000 users over the 12-month period, an average of 1,200 per month. Next Steps website is widely promoted in online, social and printed media. Supported updating information and links on the Newcomer Tab, updated links and formatting information to be accessible for newcomers to Waimakariri.	Newcomers to the district and country have better access to useful information and supports. Good user numbers and an average engagement time of 1m14s, indicates a good level of engagement.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.4.2: Ensure adequate and appropriate promotion of community issues, opportunities and activities on Council website pages and social media content. **Collaborative Partners** Social Services Waimakariri All local community and social sector Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries Greenspace Team	Ensure a mechanism to review and promote appropriate community information on Council website pages and social media. Monitor engagement with posts on relevant Council web and social media pages.	There were 67,907 interactions with Community Team related pages on the Council website. • Waimakariri Community Team Facebook page has a following of 4,664. • Waimakariri Community Team Facebook social media reach of 10,571. • WaiYouth and Youth Council has a following of 2,357 and a views of 13,715 from Facebook and Instagram. • Global Locals of Waimakariri - GLOW has a following of 518. • Global Locals of Waimakariri - GLOW Facebook social media reach of 1,673. The most popular posts related to events, professional development, community information, youth services and opportunities.	High usage and engagement with community information indicates community interest.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.4.3: Facilitate wider mechanisms for people to access Council information. **Collaborative Partners** Waimakariri Access Group Age-friendly Steering Group Waimakariri Migrants Steering Group Blind Low Vision NZ Deaf Aotearoa Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury District Libraries Grey Power North Canterbury Ara, Hagley Community College ACE programme Community Team Communications and Engagement Team Customer Services Team District Libraries	In line with the Objectives and Actions of the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan, explore appropriate options for Council to provide information in a variety of formats.	Staff have supported the Access Group to bring to the attention of Council Communication and Engagement Team, examples of Council documents that aren't easily readable or consumable for people with disabilities. Councils Communications and Engagement Team were supported to identify examples where text in Council documents is difficult to read for people with visual challenges. E.g. where there is insufficient contrast.	While this is still a 'work in progress', there is increased awareness of the equal importance of accessibility of information. Alongside accessibility of places and spaces.

Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
3.4.4: Continue to disseminate community information via the preparation of paper-based and online newsletters and resources. **Collaborative Partners** All community and social sector Community Team Communications and Engagement District Libraries Greenspace Team	Maintain production, promotion and distribution of Chatter Magazine. Ensure that information resources are kept up to date and relevant to the desired audience. Review paper-based resources in collaboration with appropriate Council Teams.	11 editions of Chatter Community Information magazine are produced each year, attracting 4,152 online views and a total of 2,950 printed hardcopies acquired by local residents and service providers.	Groups and organisations have access to free, high audience promotion for their activities. Local residents and community support agencies have easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.
		Printed resources including the Staying Socially Connected brochure and Transport Services flyer are regularly updated with accurate information throughout the year. Electronic copies are provided to community partners and, to ensure that the information is accessible to older people and others who do not have online access, printed copies are provided to libraries, Council service centres, Citizens' Advice Bureau and GP practices. Printed copies provided to: • Libraries, Council service centres. • Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury and community hubs. • Some medical and GP practices. • Electronic copies are emailed to community partners. • Waimakariri Community Networking Forum meetings.	Targeted community information is available and accessible to the people who need it most.
		A draft Public Arts Framework document has been produced to guide submissions for the acquisition and placement of art in the public realm.	The public art acquisition process is clear and transparent to Waimakariri District artists and residents.

Communities where people are **Engaged and Connected**

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 4.1 Facilitate a strategic approach to local Arts.			
4.1.1: Facilitate the implementation of Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Arts Strategy Implementation. **Collaborative Partners** Network to be established Community Team Greenspace Team District Libraries Artwork community	Explore the best mechanism to facilitate collaboration across the local arts sector. Prioritise key projects.	Held three feedback sessions with a variety of Arts community and Council stakeholders to review the draft Arts Activation Plan. Key priorities have been defined and are in progress.	The Arts Activation Plan has been developed in alignment with the knowledge and aspirations of the sector that it serves.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 4.2 Facilitate the provision of local activities that engage and connect people.			
4.2.1: Facilitate the planning and delivery of activities that increase youth participation and connection. **Collaborative Partners** Waimakariri Youth Council WaiYouth North Canterbury Youth Services Network North Canterbury Youth Futures Strategy & Business Team Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries Greenspace District Aquatics	Complete existing commitments in line with Youth Strategy 2018. Facilitate a review of Youth Strategy.	With the objectives of the 2018 Youth Strategy largely addressed and priorities shifting following the COVID-19 pandemic, a timely review was undertaken in 2025. The voices of more than 1,100 young people contributed to the development of a Youth Action Plan through surveys, workshops and other engagement activities. The process identified priorities including mental health and wellbeing, employment, recreation, environmental action, belonging, safe spaces, transport, cultural identity and having a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their lives. The Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026–2029 was formally adopted at Council's June meeting.	The Youth Action Plan provides a framework for Council, community organisations, schools, employers, service providers and young people to work together across eight key themes identified through community engagement. The Plan will guide Council and its community partners in supporting young people across the district over the next three years.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
4.2.2: Continue to encourage and support the planning and delivery of multicultural activities. **Collaborative Partners** Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri Community Team District Libraries	Continue to facilitate Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) and support its activities (see 2.1.2, above). Identify and support the activities of other local multicultural Groups. Continue to facilitate the Annual Race Unity Poster Competition.	See 2.1.2, detailing activities related to multicultural activities undertaken by Global Locals of Waimakariri. Additional activities included: **Welcoming Waimakariri Activities** The Welcoming Waimakariri Plan has guided activities and events that promote social connection and cultural understanding. These included: • Collaborating with Libraries and the Chinese Language group to host event for Lunar New Year in February. • Supporting a member of the WWWG to run "World on a Plate, A Taste of the Philippines" pop up event in collaboration with Satisfy Food Rescue. 50 tickets sold out in 11 days. People came from across the district and feedback cited the importance of food as a cultural learning gateway. Partnering with Satisfy Food Rescue meant the ingredient costs were kept low and tickets could be offered at an affordable price, increasing accessibility. Support from Libraries staff helped produce take away information about history, language and the cuisine.	Local people have increased exposure and understanding of cultures that are not their own, creating a mechanism to break down barriers and foster increased community cohesion.
		Race Unity Project In collaboration with the Baha'i Community, staff coordinated the Race Unity Poster Competition. The competition is open to Waimakariri children aged 5 to 15, with the objective of starting conversation about inclusion, belonging and race relations in a creative way. 236 posters were submitted from 8 schools in the district. North Loburn School had a submission rate of 97%.	School age children are given race relations and cultural inclusion education in a creative way.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
4.2.3: Continue to offer a range of accessible activities. **Collaborative Partners** North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust Halberg Trust Waimakariri Access Group District Libraries District Aquatics	Support the aspirations of the Access Group and the implementation of the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan. Encourage and support organisations and individuals wishing to establish local provision of accessible sport and recreation initiatives. Include accessibility as a consideration in planning arts-centred activities. E.g. Storytelling, sensory, exhibitions, specialist arts groups, related to mental or physical impairment.	Collaborated on the delivery of the Disability Expo event and an Evening with Jeremy Faumuinā, coach and mentor to the Canterbury Special Olympics Basketball team. Supported The Halberg Foundation with the Disability Play Partnership event, providing sporting options to local school kids with disabilities. Improvements made in providing accessibility information within booking platforms, across several Council units events and programmes. The work of the Inclusive Waimakariri PCG continues to ensure that better access is built into asset design and build phases in Council projects.	A wider variety of events, sport and recreation are provided for our community with disabilities.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
4.2.4: Facilitate activities that engage local people with local places and spaces. **Collaborative Partners** Greenspace District Libraries Waimakariri Public Arts Trust	Support Council's Greenspace Team in the development and promotion of Placemaking and play-centred activities. Facilitate the development, promotion and delivery of arts centred activities in public spaces and places.	**Support for Greenspace Projects** Worked with Greenspace team staff to develop plans for the Pegasus Youth Greenspace project, which is likely to be completed in the 2026/2027 financial year. Community development staff were involved in a Project Control Group that guided development of the draft Play and Active Recreation Strategy (PARS).	Community knowledge is applied to planning for local places and spaces.
		Youth Council Dudley Park Project Funding was secured by Youth Council from Rata Foundation and Sports Canterbury to add value to Dudley Park by installing a family size wooden picnic table and mounded seating, creating an area to relax in that was accessible to a community.	Dudley Skate Park is now more user friendly and appealing for a wider audience. Additionally, it has provided a platform for wider youth recreation, including performance events and table tennis.
		Arts Staff supported project management of sculpture and mural installations throughout Waimakariri district. Bon Suter sculpture in Victoria Park was successfully installed, and various other projects were progressed.	Sculpture and mural installations are professionally managed and there is more public art for residents to enjoy and interact with in the district.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
4.2.5: Continue to promote and support community-led events across the district. **Collaborative Partners** Visit Waimakariri Rangiora Promotions Kaiapoi Promotions Oxford Promotions Developers North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries District Aquatics Greenspace Team	Continue to facilitate and promote local delivery of Kia Rite Hoea – Event Planning Workshops. Support a review of events planning and grants. Support the development, promotion and delivery of Arts-related events, as part of the implementation of Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy. Support the work of Council's Youth Action Groups in planning, promoting and delivering youth-led events.	Included support and promotion of arts-related events in the Activation Plan for Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy Community Arts events are promoted in Chatter Magazine and on Community Team and Council Facebook pages.	Arts-related events are well attended and supported with increased attendance.
		Youth Activities Staff supported High School youth to host a Music and Food night at Dudley Park in November 2025. Over 20 young people and community attendee night with seven acts performed at the event. Promotion was delivered through Youth Council's social media platforms and Council channels. WaiYouth planned a Centre Stage (Talent quest) event for October but unfortunately due to low registrations the event was cancelled.	Local young people gained a better sense of belonging with other musically minded youth. This event provided a platform for budding performers to showcase live in front of their local community. This enabled them to build confidence and empowerment within their personal performance.
		In September, 55 young people and community members gathered in Loburn on the Ashley-Rakahuri River to complete the annual Youth Council-led River Clean Up for World Rivers Day. The group were able to collect enough rubbish to almost fill a skip bin.	This intergenerational event meant that young people were able to build their social connection and sense of belonging to make a positive impact on the local environment.
		In collaboration with Silverstream Reserve, Youth Council supported a planting day in November to encourage youth participation with the Reserve.	The young people who attended gained a better understanding of giving back to their community, keeping the environment clean and tidy for an entire community to enjoy. This was through not only planting but also the conversations with the Silverstream Reserve volunteers.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
4.2.5: continued		WaiYouth were supported to deliver a Halloween Movie Night on 31 October. Activities included face painting and costume contest, attendees were treated to lollies and popcorn and youth in costume were gifted a coffee cart voucher. 55 attendees spanned all generations. Feedback on the event was positive, with some saying that they would like to see more of these types of community social events in the future.	Attendees were able to connect with others at Victoria Park through the pre-movie activities to develop their sense of community and connection.
		Supported by Rangiora High School, WaiYouth planned and delivered a Master the Meal Night. Attendees received quality instruction and support to help create mean that they could produce at home.	Young people were provided the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills e.g. cook, clean and create meals within a budget and to connect with other young people who wanted to learn more.
		Youth Week – May 2026 activities focussed on personal development for local youth including an "Own the Room' workshop aimed at increasing the ability of local young people to network successfully and make an impression. This complemented the Youth Council Planning Day event, which featured guest speakers leading workshops on Strengths Finder, goal setting and addressing barriers to progress.	Local young leaders were empowered with increased self-awareness and self confidence. This will contribute positively to their future prospects in both career and community.

Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected			
Implementation Plan Actions	**ACTIVITY** 2025/26 Commitments	**OUTPUTS** How well did we deliver? (Activities, Attendance, quality-related feedback)	**OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY** Is anyone better off? (Who benefited and how?)
Action 4.3 Facilitate the development of geographic community-based plans.			
4.3.1: Develop community plans with geographic communities across the District. **Collaborative Partners** Led by Strategy and Business Team, partners include: • Community Boards • Residents' groups • Developers • Local business • Sports and recreation groups • Greenspace • Communications & Engagement Team	Support Policy and Strategy as appropriate.	This work is led by Council's Policy and Strategy Team, with support from Community Team staff, providing a community lens. Over this period that Team led the development of the North Eastern Waimakariri Plan, currently out for community consultation.	A community lens has been applied to the development of emerging communities.



Older Persons Expo



Capacity Building



Inclusive Sports Festival

Acknowledgements

This is the first full Year in Review report on the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025–2035, Whakawhanake Hapori o Waimakariri. To view the 2025-2035 strategy, visit: waimakariri.govt.nz

Without the support of the many individuals, businesses and organisations that have generously given their skills, talents, time and resources, none of the initiatives detailed in this report would have been possible. We are most grateful to be working with such a passionate and motivated community.

We would particularly like to acknowledge our principle funders, who not only provided financial resourcing for our work, but also lent their advice and expertise as needed:

- Rātā Foundation
- Department of Internal Affairs, Community, Office of Ethnic Communities and COGS
- Ministry of Social Development, including Office for Seniors
- Creative New Zealand
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Youthtown

We look forward to continuing our partnerships across the various sectors that represent and support local residents, so that, together, we can achieve the objectives of the new document.

Again, thank you for the part that each of you has played in working with us toward safer, more connected, inclusive and empowered communities across the Waimakariri District.

Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.

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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

FILE NO and TRIM NO:	GOV-01-04 / AQU-02-09 / 261105361974
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2026
AUTHOR(S):	Matthew Greenwood, Aquatics Manager
SUBJECT:	Aquatics November Update
ENDORSED BY: (for Reports to Council, Committees or Boards)	General Manager / Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Recreation Committee with a summary of the Aquatic Facilities year to date progress, as measured against the unit's most significant Key Performance Indicators.

1.2. Customer attendance for the previous 12 months remains relatively consistent. Population growth and growing interest in Aquarobics and Learn to Swim programming have been balanced by a stronger cold and flu season, growing pressures on household budgets and a programmed maintenance closure resulted in a relatively neutral outcome.

1.3. The report also contains updates on pool water treatment systems and summer pool activities.

Attachments:

i. Nil

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 261105361974.

(b) **Notes** total customer attendance of 21,620 customers for the month of October 2026. This is down 1,494 (6.5%) in comparison to 23,114 customers recorded in October 2025.

(c) **Notes** robust treatment systems have ensured 100% compliance with NZ Standard 5826:2010 for public pool water quality.

(d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The Waimakariri District Council's Aquatic Facilities team deliver best practice aquatic programmes and enjoyable recreation opportunities for the ongoing wellbeing of our community and visitors. We do so from four sites: two indoor, year-round facilities and two seasonal summer pools, which operate over the summer period.

3.2. The Aquatic Facilities team work closely with partner organisations, clubs, trusts and interest groups to support water safety programmes, grow and develop swimming and Aquatic exercise initiatives, and works with the Council to ensure our facilities are inclusive places, accessible to all members of the community.

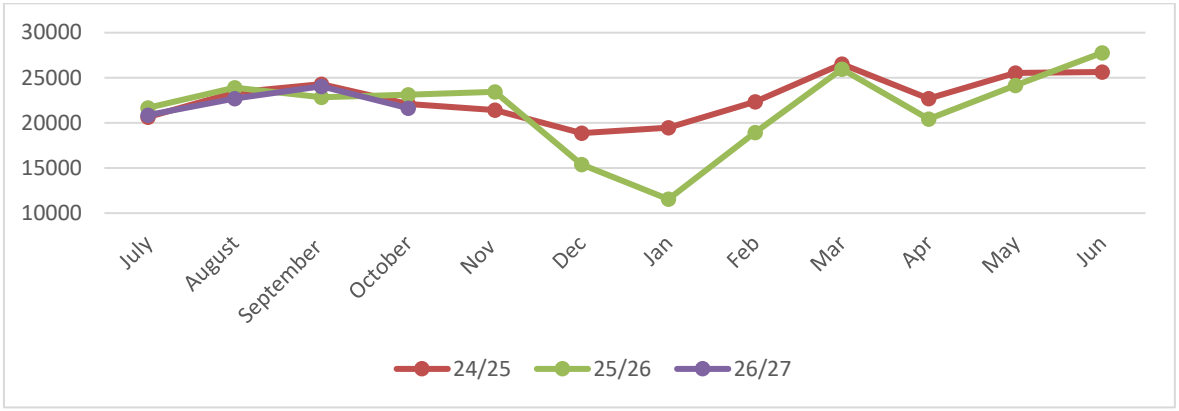
3.3. While the Aquatic Facilities operate with the support of Council and rates funding, they do so in a busy and competitive market. It is important that the facilities continue to utilise all tools available to attract and retain customers, growing attendance and ensuring income targets are met.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1. Customer Attendance

The following tables provide a summary of attendance across the facilities as at 31 October 2026. This period includes a three-week closure of Dudley pool in January 2026 which impacted attendance as shown.

4.2.



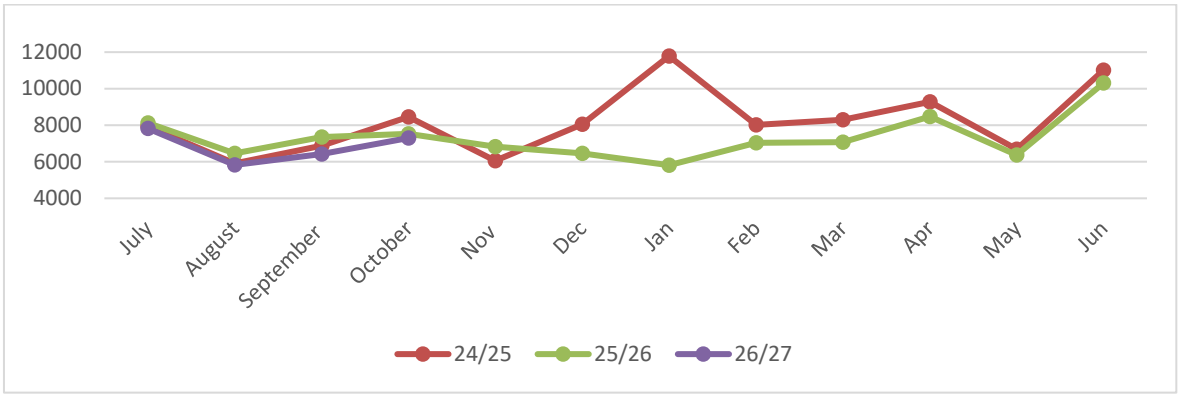
Attendance at the facilities is tracking closely in line with previous years, with just over 21,620 total visits recorded in October. This tracks closely with the 24/25 results but represents a slight decrease of approximately 1,500 visits compared with the same period last year.

4.3. Sickness colds and community wellness continues to have an impact with customers following public health advice to stay home until they are well and not go to busy public places. Equally fuel pricing and other economic factors continue to place pressure on already tight household budgets limiting discretionary spending.

The following tables provide a breakdown of the three core activity areas: Recreation, including casual swimming, leisure use, and lane swimming; Programmes, including Learn to Swim, school bookings, and aquarobics; and Prepaid Entries, including concessions and memberships, across the three facilities.

4.4. Recreation totals and summary

4.5.

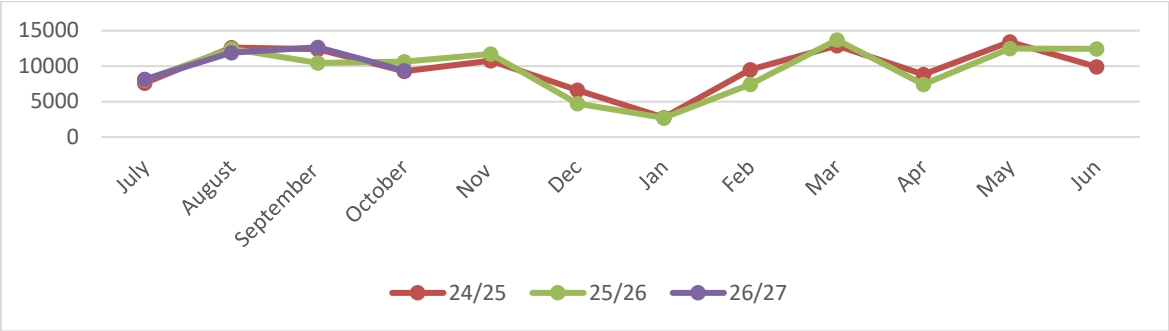


Recreation figures are down slightly at 7,293, around 240 fewer visits recorded in October compared with the same period last year. Volatility in fuel prices has likely contributed to a modest decline in attendance over the past few months, with some families needing to reassess discretionary travel and activity costs.

Christchurch City Council opened its flagship Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre recently. The facility includes a 50 metre competition pool, dive pool, five hydroslides, a large aquatic leisure area, and a sensory aqua space designed to support inclusive participation. It also incorporates nine indoor courts, a three court show court with retractable seating, fitness and movement studios, and a High Performance Sport New Zealand training base.

As is typical with the introduction of a new recreation facility, there is likely to be an initial impact on attendance as customers seek out a new experience and adapt to other options in the market.

4.6. Programmes total and summary



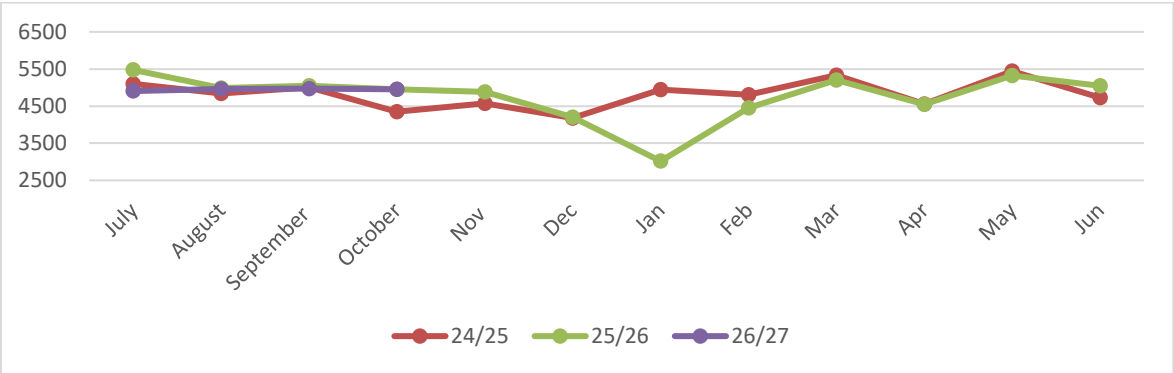
4.7. Programme attendance continues to track closely with the 24/25 results, and is slightly lower than last year at 9,371 visits.

The variance between 25/26 and this years results are largely down to schools choosing to come for lessons at different times in the year, with afterschool's lessons and Aquarobics remaining fairly consistent.

The schools programme is structured seasonally. During the summer period, schools located closer to the facilities are prioritised, as weather conditions allow for walking access. In winter, programming shifts to include schools that are located further away and require transport. In response to increased transport costs, and in collaboration with Water Safety New Zealand, North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust, and participating schools, the programme has been adjusted to eight sessions rather than the usual ten. This approach has helped us reduce transport cost to ensure the programme remains a viable option for schools.

Attendance within the schools programme can fluctuate, reflecting the need for schools to balance swimming within their curriculum alongside other activities. Variations in October, December to January, and April align with school holiday periods, while the main Learn to Swim programme operates on a term-based schedule

4.8. Prepaid totals and summary



4.9. Prepaid attendance remains stable, with 4,956 visits recorded in October, 1 more than last month.

At $4.40 for a child and $7.80 for an adult, swimming continues to represent an affordable recreational option for most families in what can be a volatile and crowded market. When compared with other leisure activities, such as cinema attendance, it provides strong value for money while supporting physical activity, social connection, and overall wellbeing. This accessibility contributes to its ongoing appeal as a family focused recreation option.

This appeal is further reinforced by current economic conditions. Ongoing cost of living pressures and global financial uncertainty are influencing discretionary spending, with households seeking affordable options to stay active and connected. In this context, swimming remains a practical and cost effective choice that supports both physical health and social engagement.

4.10. **Pool treatment and Water quality management**

Beyond the safety of our customers, providing safe, clean, and enjoyable aquatic facilities is a core responsibility of the team. Water quality management is one of the most important aspects of operating a public swimming pool, ensuring that customers can enjoy the facility with confidence while minimising health risks associated with recreational water use.

Maintaining high water quality requires a combination of physical filtration, advanced treatment technologies, chemical balancing, automated monitoring and dosing systems, and rigorous testing regimes. Together, these systems work continuously to ensure pool water remains clear, hygienic, and comfortable for all users.

4.11. The aquatic facilities operate a multi-barrier water treatment system designed to remove contaminants, destroy harmful microorganisms, and maintain optimal water conditions.

The first stage of treatment is mechanical filtration. Pool water is continuously circulated through pressure sand filters, which remove suspended particles such as dirt, skin cells, body oils, and other debris introduced by bathers. This process significantly improves water clarity and reduces the organic matter that can impact water quality.

4.12. Following filtration, water passes through ultraviolet (UV) disinfection systems. UV treatment is considered a tertiary treatment process and provides an additional layer of protection beyond traditional chlorination. As water passes through the UV reactor, microorganisms are exposed to high-intensity ultraviolet light, which damages their DNA and prevents them from reproducing. This process is particularly effective against chlorine-resistant pathogens and assists in reducing chloramine compounds that can contribute to eye irritation and odour, often attributed to the old “pool smell”

While UV treatment provides significant benefits, it does not leave a residual disinfectant in the water. For this reason, chlorine remains the primary sanitiser used within the pools.

4.13. Achieving safe pool water requires more than simply maintaining chlorine levels. Several key water chemistry parameters must be carefully balanced to ensure effective disinfection, bather comfort, and protection of pool infrastructure.

4.14. Chlorine provides continuous disinfection throughout the pool, rapidly neutralising bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants introduced by patrons. Maintaining chlorine within prescribed operating limits ensures water remains safe while avoiding excessive concentrations that can cause discomfort.

4.15. The pH level influences both swimmer comfort and chlorine effectiveness. If pH levels become too high or too low, chlorine becomes less efficient, and users may experience eye or skin irritation. Maintaining pH within the recommended range ensures optimal sanitisation and bather comfort.



4.16. Alkalinity acts as a buffer that stabilises pH and prevents sudden fluctuations. Without adequate alkalinity, pH levels can become difficult to control, resulting in increased chemical consumption and reduced water quality stability.

4.17. Calcium hardness is important for protecting pool surfaces, pipework, and plant equipment. Water that is too soft can become corrosive and damage infrastructure, while excessively hard water can result in scale formation and reduced equipment efficiency.

These parameters are carefully managed to work together as a balanced system. Maintaining the correct chemical balance not only supports effective disinfection but also protects Council's investment in pool infrastructure and improves the customer experience.

4.18. Each pool is equipped with automated chemical control systems that continuously monitor water quality throughout the day. These systems regularly sample the water and automatically dose chlorine and pH-correcting chemicals as required to maintain target operating ranges. The monitoring systems are connected to alarms that notify staff and lock out dosing systems if parameters move outside acceptable limits.



Automation provides continuous oversight; however, it does not replace staff involvement. Staff remain responsible for verifying plant system operation and water quality, performing regular tests and system checks throughout the day.

4.19. To verify the performance of automated systems, operational staff undertake manual water testing before the facility opens and at regular intervals throughout the day. These tests provide an independent confirmation that treatment systems are operating correctly and allow staff to identify any changes resulting from factors such as high bather loads, environmental conditions, or equipment performance.

In addition to onsite testing, monthly water samples are submitted to an accredited independent laboratory for analysis. This external verification provides assurance that water quality consistently meets required New Zealand Standard 5826:2010 and supports the facility's ongoing PoolSafe compliance. In the year to date our facilities have maintained 100% compliance with all independent testing results within ideal limits and the range as set out in NZS 5826:2010.

4.20. Council's aquatic facilities operate in accordance with the New Zealand Pool Water Quality Standard and are independently assessed through the annual PoolSafe accreditation programme. These frameworks establish strict requirements for water treatment, testing, record keeping, and operational management.



While the current standards continue to provide a robust foundation for public pool operation, the aquatic industry has experienced significant advances in treatment technology since the standards were last comprehensively updated. Technologies such as UV disinfection, improved automation, enhanced monitoring systems, and more efficient treatment processes have become increasingly common across modern aquatic facilities.

The aquatic sector continues to work collaboratively with industry bodies and Standards New Zealand to support future reviews of the standards, ensuring they remain current, practical, and reflective of modern treatment practices.

4.21. Water quality management is a continuous process requiring specialised equipment, skilled staff, and rigorous monitoring. Through the combination of filtration, UV treatment, chemical balancing, automated monitoring, regular testing, and independent verification, Council's aquatic facilities maintain a high standard of water quality that supports public health, enhances the customer experience, and protects critical aquatic infrastructure.

This integrated approach ensures that the community can continue to enjoy safe, clean, and welcoming aquatic facilities with confidence.

4.22. **Supporting healthy, connected communities through summer pools**

The opening of Council's summer pools are just around the corner and they play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing, and social connection of our communities. The Waikuku Beach Paddling Pool and Oxford Pool provide affordable and accessible opportunities for recreation, physical activity, and water confidence during the warmer months, while also contributing to the vibrancy and attractiveness of the wider areas they serve.

4.23. Outdoor pools provide opportunities for people of all ages to remain active and engaged in their local communities. Swimming is a low-impact form of exercise suitable for a wide range of abilities and is recognised as an important activity for promoting physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection.

For many families, the summer pool season is a much-anticipated part of the year, providing a safe and supervised environment where children can play, develop confidence in and around water, and participate in healthy outdoor activities. These facilities offer an affordable recreational option at a time when many households continue to face increasing financial pressures.

4.24. As a nation surrounded by water, developing confidence and competence in aquatic environments remains an important community outcome. Public pools provide opportunities for children and adults to practise swimming and water safety skills in a safe environment, helping to build confidence that can contribute to safer participation in rivers, beaches, and other natural waterways.

This is particularly relevant in a district that enjoys close proximity to rivers, coastal environments, and popular recreational water locations. Providing accessible community pools supports the development and retention of essential life skills that can contribute to improved water safety outcomes over time.

4.25. The benefits of the summer pools extend beyond those who directly use the facilities. Attractive recreational amenities contribute to the overall appeal of local communities and can influence how residents and visitors choose to spend their time during the summer months.

The Waikuku Beach Paddling Pool complements the wider Waikuku Beach recreational environment, encouraging families to spend time in the area and supporting visitation to nearby parks, reserves, businesses, and community spaces. Similarly, the Oxford Pool enhances Oxford's recreational offering and contributes to the attractiveness of the township as a destination for residents and visitors alike.

4.26. Operating seasonal facilities enables Council to provide aquatic opportunities that align with peak summer demand while managing operational costs responsibly. This approach allows communities to enjoy the benefits of public aquatic facilities during the periods when they are most valued and most heavily utilised.

The continued operation of the Waikuku Beach Paddling Pool and Oxford Pool reflects Council's commitment to providing accessible recreation opportunities, supporting community wellbeing, promoting water confidence, and enhancing the liveability of the district.

4.27. The district's summer pools provide benefits that extend well beyond swimming alone. They support healthy and active lifestyles, contribute to water safety education, strengthen community connections, and enhance the attractiveness of local communities. Through the operation of these facilities, Council continues to invest in recreational opportunities that deliver meaningful social, health, and community outcomes for residents and visitors alike.



4.28. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations

5. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

5.1. The subject matter and/or recommendations contained within this report are not likely to be of interest to mana whenua.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

5.2. There are a number of groups, organisations, or members of the wider community likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the subject matter of this report. Aquatics staff continue to work closely with key community partners and wider industry organisations, including North Canterbury Swim Club, Water Skills for Life, Waimakariri Access Group, Recreation Aotearoa, Swimming NZ and the North Canterbury Sports and Recreation Trust, to name a few.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

5.3. The successful operation of the Aquatic facilities is fundamentally tied to the wellbeing of our community and customers. Beyond the obvious physical benefits, our facilities promote the mental, and social wellbeing of residents. As a hub for recreation, education, and connection, the pool provides far-reaching benefits that extend well beyond its walls.

5.4. Through Leisure, Lane swimming and Aquarobics programmes we encourage regular physical activity across all age groups, contributing to improved health, strength, and mobility. They also serve as a platform for water safety education, equipping children and adults with essential life-saving skills. Programmes such as learn-to-swim classes and survival skills training are instrumental in reducing drowning risks.

5.5. The pool fosters social cohesion by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. We offer a welcoming environment for families, youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Community events, school programmes, and recreational activities hosted at the pool such as the Kane Shield, strengthen local ties and promote a sense of belonging.

5.6. By hosting school programmes, holiday lessons, and training courses, the pool supports local education initiatives and employment opportunities, contributing to the local economy and reinforcing the pool's role as a valued community asset.

5.7. Ensuring the pool remains accessible is key to its continued impact. Working to ensure we meet community needs, efficient operation and inclusive programming help remove barriers to participation, ensuring that all members of the community can benefit from our facilities.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

5.8. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.
- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.
- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment.
- Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district.
- The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe.
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.
- Enterprises are supported and enabled to succeed.
- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable.

- Our district readily adapts to innovation and emerging technologies that support its transition to a circular economy.

5.9. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness - Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected.
- Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment - Respond to the challenges posed by climate change by building resilient infrastructure, managing adaptation, and minimising council's carbon emissions.
-

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications for the decisions sought by this report.

6.2. Funding is currently provided within the Long Term Plan.

6.3. The following table summarises the Aquatics operational financial position as at 30 September 2026.

	September Actual	*September Budget*	*YTD Actual*	*YTD Budget*		*Full year Budget*
Revenue						
Revenue	209,598	146,022	530,354	438,066	↑	1,785,620
Rates	391,450	396,040	1,174,349	1,188,120	→	4,752,486
	601,048	542,062	1,704,703	1,626,186	→	6,538,106
Operating Expenses	338,423	374,829	1,142,764	1,124,487	→	4,689,073
Maintenance	3,383	12,116	41,820	36,348	↓	169,380
Overheads	75,839	76,363	227,517	229,089	→	916,340
Internal Interest	20,596	22,304	61,788	66,912	↑	267,648
Depreciation	83,270	78,927	249,811	236,781	↓	947,120
	521,511	564,539	1,723,700	1,693,617	→	6,989,561
Surplus/ (Deficit)	79,537	(22,477)	(18,997)	(67,431)	↑	(451,455)

Arrow Key:

Green: Expenditure is tracking better than budget. Revenue is better than budget.
Yellow: Expenditure is tracking within 5% over budget. Revenue is within 5% less than budget.
Red: Expenditure is tracking greater than 5% of budget. Revenue is greater than 5% less of budget.

6.4. Overall income remains ahead of budget, driven by growth across aquatic programmes. Strong Term 4 Learn to Swim enrolments have contributed to the recent increase in revenue. Ongoing refinement of the Learn to Swim programme has prioritised group lessons over individual lessons, providing better value and a more efficient delivery model, while recognising that this format is not suitable for all participants. Increased demand has enabled higher class occupancy rates, resulting in revenue exceeding forecast levels.

6.5. Operating expenses are currently tracking above budget due to higher winter electricity consumption, as lower ambient temperatures increased plant heating requirements. This variance is expected to be offset by lower energy usage during the summer months.

6.6. The overspend in the Maintenance budget is due to a number of maintenance activities which have already been completed this year, with the remaining works on track to remain within budget.

Community Resilience and Sustainability

6.7. While the recommendations in this report do not have a direct sustainability or climate change impact, the impact our operation has on the community and environment are key drivers for the delivery of services and our planning processes.

While ticket sales account for around 40% of the Aquatics income budget, to ensure the continued sustainability of the business, it is important that the aquatics team are able to utilise the same promotional and marketing tools available to other similar businesses in what is a dynamic and competitive market.

As explored in the District Aquatic Strategy, ensuring the efficiency of our operation is key to managing the sustainability of current and future offerings. This ensures that facilities will be well utilised and continue to be good value for money for future generations.

Aquatic staff continue to investigate more sustainable and climate conscious alternatives with examples including switching to LED lighting, closely monitoring our water quality to reduce the need for additional chemical balancing and switching products to prioritise less impactful chemicals for cleaning and filtration.

To minimise its environmental impact, our pool plant utilises systems to recirculate water and recover heat, which decrease the overall resources required to operate. However, with changes underway within the Three Waters sector, there is an increasing likelihood of water usage charging for Council facilities, including Aquatics. While the details are yet to be finalised, this potential change will have implications for budgets and long-term planning. Staff will continue to monitor developments, engage with the three waters team and refine our water quality and efficiency processes to minimise impact.

Risk Management

6.8. There are no risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Changing attitudes around the risks from winter colds and communicable diseases continue to impact on both our staffing ability but also on customers attendance for recreation and programmed activities especially as we move through the colder winter months.

The cost and availability of fuel impacts both staffing availability and also the cost of supplies and consumables. Where possible we are looking to work with staff to minimise travel and promote carpooling and other fuel saving initiatives.

Treatment systems and processes around the ongoing monitoring of water quality are designed to minimise risk to customers from water borne illness and communicable disease. Staff will continue to work closely with Te Whatu Ora to address situations as we are made aware of them and take the appropriate steps.

Staff will continue to monitor revenue and expenses closely, identifying new initiatives such as visiting attractions and partnership opportunities, refining the business model to identify efficiencies, retain customers attract new business and meet the community demand for low cost, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities.

Health and Safety

6.9. There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/ implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Customer and staff safety is key to the ongoing success of the facilities with leadership staff working closely with Council's Health and Safety team, Police, Poolsafe, and other key groups to ensure we provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our customers.

Staff take the safety our customers as their highest priority with any unusual behaviour addressed or escalated to the proper authorities.

With staff working in close proximity to customers, community spread from colds, viruses and notifiable diseases can impact our availability to safely operate facilities. The Aquatics Standard Operating Procedures and Pool Water Quality Risk Management Plan outline the steps taken around effective treatment of pool water to ensure we provide a safe environment for our customers. Our Aquatics BCP outlines how we will manage staffing pressures to ensure we continue to operate a safe and secure environment for our customers at all times.

Poolsafe accreditation requires robust practices around reporting, investigation, trending and management of both staff and public accidents. This is on top of the Council's Health and Safety requirements and ensures a comprehensive overview.

7. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

7.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Authorising Legislation

7.2. Poolsafe - Though not currently a legislative requirement, Poolsafe accreditation is recognised as industry best practice, representing a base safe standard for operating a public aquatic facility following a coronial enquiry delivered in October 2006.

Authorising Delegations

7.3. The Community and Recreation Committee has delegated authority for the governance of the Aquatic Facilities.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

FILE NO and TRIM NO:	LIB-04-01/261111368543
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2026
AUTHOR(S):	Luke Sole – District Libraries Manager
SUBJECT:	Libraries Update to November 2026
ENDORSED BY: (for Reports to Council, Committees or Boards)	General Manager / Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. This report provides an update on notable services, programmes and experiences offered to our community | hapori by Waimakariri Libraries from September to November 2026. This includes the annual Community Impact Survey, Summer Challenge, celebrations planned for the 30th anniversary of Trevor Inch Memorial Library, and recent robotics club achievements.

1.2. The initiatives detailed in this update report represent just a small part of the many ways libraries contribute to the achievement of community outcomes. They sit within a broader context of continued growth in library visitation, participation, and community engagement, demonstrating the increasingly important role libraries play in supporting learning, wellbeing, connection, and inclusion across the district.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee

(a) **Receives** Report 261111368543.

(b) **Notes** the Public Libraries New Zealand Community Impact Survey as a vehicle for receiving feedback from our communities and benchmarking our library performance nationally. The survey provides insights on the social and economic benefits of libraries, including return on investment.

(c) **Notes** the milestone 30th anniversary of Trevor Inch Memorial Library, a facility which has evolved to become a well utilised community hub.

(d) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. Waimakariri Libraries promote literacy and lifelong learning to support healthier and more resilient communities, support pathways to learning, contribute to economic and social wellbeing, and deliver excellence in public service.

3.2. Our District's libraries are vibrant and increasingly busy spaces, with visitation equating to 400,000 unique in-person visits and 730,000 items (physical and digital) issued.

3.3. Since the last update report there have been several initiatives which have been undertaken which are described in more detail below.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1. PLNZ Community Impact Survey Open For 2026



4.1.1. Waimakariri Libraries are participating in the 2026 Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) Community Impact Survey, which is now open to our community. The national survey provides consistent data on how libraries contribute to literacy, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, wellbeing and social connection.

4.1.2. The recently released 2025 PLNZ Community Impact Survey results demonstrated the growing importance of public libraries across Aotearoa New Zealand, with more than 14,000 responses received from 65 public library services and over 300 library locations nationwide. Key findings included 86.8% of respondents reporting that libraries encouraged a love of reading, 85.6% identifying positive impacts on happiness and wellbeing, and a significant increase in users reporting improved confidence and independence. These results reinforce the role of libraries as essential community hubs that support lifelong learning, literacy and social connection.

4.1.3. Waimakariri Libraries are experiencing similar growth and increasing community engagement across our services, programmes and facilities. Participation in the 2026 survey will provide valuable local data on community outcomes, service usage and emerging needs. Following the survey, Waimakariri Libraries will receive a dedicated Waimakariri report, enabling comparison against national trends and providing insights to inform future service planning, investment and advocacy.

4.1.4. Waimakariri Libraries also have a direct role in shaping public libraries nationally through the involvement of Luke Sole, District Libraries Manager, who serves as the Upper South Island Regional Representative on the Public Libraries of New Zealand Executive Committee. This involvement provides direct access to emerging sector trends, best practice and innovative service models being developed across New Zealand libraries, bringing valuable sector knowledge back into the organisation. It also enables Waimakariri's successes and innovations to be shared with the wider library sector, ensuring that smaller councils and library services can benefit from ideas that have been successfully developed and tested in Waimakariri.

4.2. Waimakariri Summer Challenge Brings Together Community & Recreation Facilities and Spaces



4.2.1. Following the success of previous summer reading challenges delivered by Waimakariri Libraries, the programme has been expanded this year through a collaboration across Libraries, Aquatics and Greenspace to create the Waimakariri Summer Challenge.

4.2.2. The summer reading challenge has traditionally been one of Waimakariri Libraries' most successful engagement programmes, attracting hundreds of children and young people each year. Building on this strong foundation, the new district-wide challenge aims to activate Council spaces, promote the breadth of Community & Recreation facilities and services, and encourage residents to engage with local recreational opportunities across the district.

4.2.3. Alongside the traditional reading component, delivered this year through a library bingo challenge, participants will be encouraged to explore parks, reserves, beaches and aquatic facilities through a series of family-friendly activities and challenges. Examples include swimming laps of the lazy river at Dudley Pool, creating a sand sculpture at Pegasus Beach, and visiting local green spaces throughout the district.

4.2.4. The programme also seeks to address the well-recognised "summer slide", where school-aged children can experience a decline in reading skills over the summer break, while supporting whānau to discover affordable and accessible activities close to home.

4.2.5. The Waimakariri Summer Challenge will run from 1 December to 31 January and is open to participants of all ages. Challenge sheets will be available from all Waimakariri Libraries and Aquatic Facilities, as well as online. Participants who complete a combination of reading and place-based challenges will be eligible to enter a prize draw at the conclusion of the programme.

4.3. Robotics Club Success for Waimakariri Libraries Teams



4.3.1. The Robotics Club recently attended the FIRST LEGO League Regional Competition held at the Rolleston Community Centre. This season's theme, *BIOGLOW*, focuses on biodiversity and challenges participants to apply science, technology and creative problem-solving to real-world environmental issues.

4.3.2. The club achieved outstanding results, with both teams qualifying for the National Competition in Auckland. *Crazy Coo Coo Coding Crew* (C*5) received the Innovation Project Award, recognising the strength of their solution design and presentation, while *The Werewolves* received the Motivation Award for their positive attitude, perseverance and teamwork. This marks C*5's third qualification for the National Competition since Waimakariri Libraries first entered FIRST LEGO League in 2024, demonstrating the ongoing success and growth of the programme.

4.3.3. The programme is led by Laiza Abellanosa, Libraries Discovery and Digital Coordinator, whose commitment to digital literacy and emerging technologies has been instrumental in building a strong robotics offering within Waimakariri Libraries. Through the Robotics Club, participants gain practical experience in coding, robotics, engineering design and project-based learning, helping them develop valuable skills that support future education, training and career pathways in the technology sector.

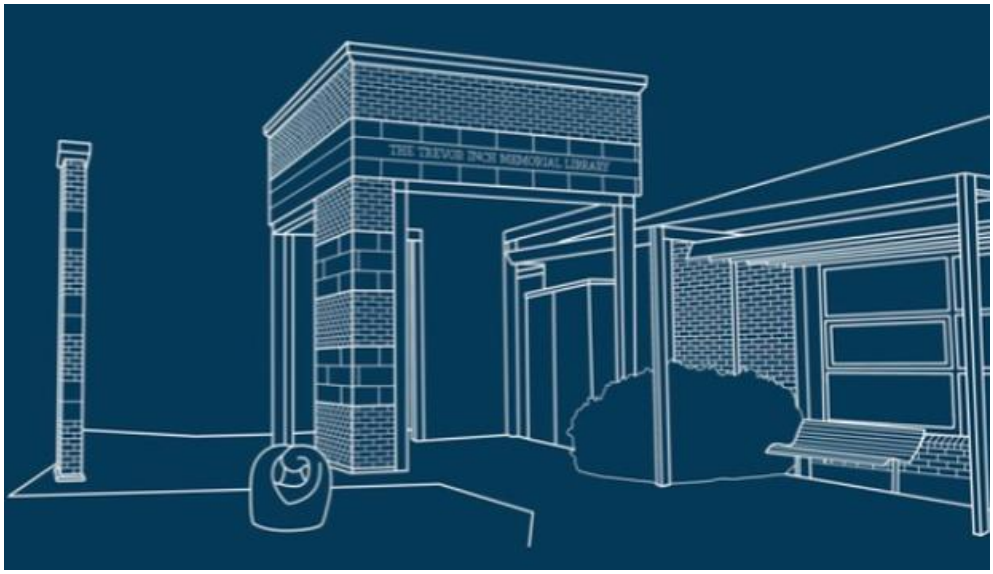
4.3.4. Beyond the technical learning, the club provides important social and personal development opportunities. Participants work alongside children from across the district and wider region rather than solely within their own school communities, enabling them to build confidence, communication skills and new friendships through shared interests. These experiences help young people learn how to collaborate with diverse groups, support their peers and work effectively as part of a team.

4.3.5. This was the first year the club entered two teams, with both displaying exceptional teamwork and resilience throughout the competition. Participants continuously refined their coding and robot performance between rounds while encouraging not only their teammates but also other North Canterbury teams.

4.3.6. As part of the competition, teams were required to develop and present an innovative technological solution to assist scientists and rangers working with animals in the field. Both teams designed enhanced microchip concepts and presented their projects to a judging panel of biodiversity professionals. The quality of these presentations, combined

with the teams' technical performance and teamwork, contributed to their strong competition results and qualification for the national finals.

4.4. Trevor Inch Memorial Library Celebrates 30th Anniversary



4.4.1. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Trevor Inch Memorial Library, a milestone being celebrated through the exhibition *From "Shhh" to Community Hub*, running from 15-26 November at Rangiora's Chamber Gallery. The exhibition showcases the library's story through photographs, artefacts, oral histories and interactive displays, highlighting the important role the library has played in the lives of Waimakariri residents over the past three decades.

4.4.2. The exhibition will officially open on 15 November, with current and former library staff, elected members, community partners and supporters coming together to celebrate the library's contribution to the district. The opening will provide an opportunity to reconnect with those who have helped shape the library's journey and reflect on how it has grown alongside the community.

4.4.3. Named after Trevor Milton Inch, the first elected Mayor of the Waimakariri District, the library was established as a place of lifelong learning and community enrichment. Over the past 30 years, thousands of residents have been inspired, supported and connected through its collections, programmes and services. Generations of children have discovered a love of reading, adults have accessed learning opportunities and information, and community groups have found a welcoming place to gather and connect.

4.4.4. The anniversary is also an opportunity to reflect on how much libraries have changed since the facility opened in 1996. While books and reading remain at the heart of the service, Trevor Inch Memorial Library now offers opportunities that would have been difficult to imagine when the building first opened. From digital literacy and technology support through to coding, robotics, creative programmes, events and community learning, the library continues to evolve to meet the changing needs and interests of our communities.

4.4.5. What was once primarily a place to borrow books has grown into a vibrant community space that supports learning, creativity, wellbeing and connection for people of all ages. The library has continually adapted over the past three decades, remaining responsive, relevant and accessible to the communities it serves.

4.4.6. Thirty years on, Trevor Inch Memorial Library remains one of the district's most valued community spaces. It continues to support residents to learn, grow and reach their

potential, while providing a welcoming place where people can connect, discover new opportunities and participate in community life. The anniversary celebrations recognise not only the library's history and achievements, but also its ongoing role at the heart of the Waimakariri community.

5. OPTIONS

5.1. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

6.1. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are likely to be affected by, or have an interest in, the subject matter of this report. Waimakariri Libraries provide access to important historical resources, promoting cultural preservation and fostering educational opportunities. Our libraries hold collections relating to Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, including art, photographs, maps, and books, which are vital for preserving and promoting mātauranga māori (Māori knowledge). Our libraries regularly connect with mana whenua through programmes and events, including Matariki and Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, also known as Māori Language Week.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

While there are no specific groups or organisations affected as a result of the recommendations in this report, the Waimakariri Libraries service provides events and programmes for a number of groups and organisations. The events and programmes vary, however, all initiatives provide significant benefit for the groups and individuals involved. Waimakariri Libraries has growing visitor numbers, attendance at events and programmes, and borrowing across physical and digital collections.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

6.2. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

6.3. The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- People and Communities
- Economy, Enterprise and Innovation

6.4. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness: Support a growing, diverse population with safe, welcoming, and inclusive community spaces.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications for the decisions sought by this report.

Library

Summary Report September 2026

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Full Year Budget	
Revenue						
Revenue	4,820	4,128	25,753	12,384	49,530	
Rates	495,981	501,993	1,487,944	1,505,979	6,023,917	→
Grants		-	-	-		
Development Contributions	3,786	33,442	69,643	100,326	401,300	↓
	504,587	539,563	1,583,339	1,618,689	6,474,747	
Operating Expenses	308,230	319,797	959,330	959,391	3,837,580	→
Maintenance	7,333	10,730	35,626	32,190	128,760	↓
Overheads	104,432	105,036	313,296	315,108	1,260,431	→
Internal Interest	833	899	2,499	2,697	10,791	↑
Depreciation	90,813	92,313	288,180	276,939	1,107,750	→
	511,641	528,775	1,598,932	1,586,325	6,345,312	→
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(7,054)	10,788	(15,593)	32,364	129,435	↓

Arrow explanation:

Green: Expenditure is tracking better than budget. Revenue is better than budget
Yellow: Expenditure is tracking within 5% over budget. Revenue is within 5% less than budget
Red: Expenditure is tracking greater than 5% of budget. Revenue is greater than 5% less of budget

Development contributions are lower than budgeted due to a number of developments that are still in progress, but are yet to be issued 224(c) Subdivision Certificate.

Revenue is mostly derived from the sale of withdrawn books, the replacement of lost books where this is recovered from members, and consumables relating to printing, 3D printing and craft materials. Libraries operate to a cost recovery model for consumables where possible.

Community Resilience and Sustainability

7.2. The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

7.3. Libraries promote sustainability by providing wide-ranging collections and resources that are borrowed extensively, including digital resources that carry a reduced carbon footprint. In addition, public libraries are providers of information and play a role in teaching environmental literacy by educating communities to learn about climate issues. The availability of emergent technologies and equipment such as sewing machines in a library setting reduce the need for community members to purchase their own technology and enable the community to repair and repurpose their own items.

Risk Management

7.4. There are no risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Health and Safety

7.5. There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Authorising Delegations

8.2. The Community and Recreation Committee have the delegation to receive this report.