



Council

Meeting of 02 September 2026

Business Unit: Community

Date Created: 20 May 2026

Sport Manawātū 12-Month Report

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present the Sport Manawātū 12-Month Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, as required under the contract between Sport Manawātū and Manawātū District Council.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That Council:

1. Receives the Sport Manawātū 12-Month Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
2. Accepts that Sport Manawātū has satisfactorily met its service delivery outcomes and reporting obligations specified for 2025/26.

Report prepared by:

Adie Johansen

Community Services Manager

Approved for submission by:

Lyn Daly

General Manager - Community

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Manawatū District Council entered into a contract with Sport Manawatū Charitable Trust for the provision of “Manawatū District Sport Services”. The term of the contract was from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2021 with the total value of the contract over that term being \$450,000 excluding GST. The contract was extended for a further three-year period until 30 June 2025.
- 1.2 Council have further extended the contract for a year from 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026. The annual value of Council’s contract with Sport Manawatū is \$110,000 excluding GST.
- 1.3 Under the terms of the contract, Sport Manawatū is required to provide six-monthly and annual reports within six weeks of the end of each reporting period. This report covers the full 12-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and represents the final report under the current contract extension.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The contract between Sport Manawatū and Manawatū District Council contributes to all of Council’s priorities:
- 2.2 A place to belong and grow: Sport Manawatū supports community wellbeing by enabling inclusive, accessible opportunities for play, active recreation, and sport. Programmes delivered during the reporting period focused on rangatahi, tamariki, whānau, people with disabilities, and priority communities, supporting social connection, confidence, and participation.
- 2.3 A future planned together: Through programme delivery, sector engagement, and data-informed insights, Sport Manawatū provides Council with locally relevant information on participation trends, emerging needs, and system pressures. This supports informed decision-making for future investment in programmes, partnerships, and facilities.
- 2.4 An environment to be proud of: The partnership supports active lifestyles through initiatives that encourage everyday movement, use of public spaces, and active transport. This includes play activations, walking and cycling initiatives, and support for informal, low-cost activity opportunities in local communities.
- 2.5 Infrastructure fit for the future: Sport Manawatū plays an active role in regional facility planning and sector coordination, supporting Council to understand demand, identify gaps, and plan for equitable access to fit-for-purpose sport and recreation spaces.
- 2.6 Value for money and excellence in local government: The contract provides Council with access to Sport Manawatū’s specialist expertise, established relationships across the sport and recreation sector, and ability to attract and administer external funding. This extends the reach of Council’s investment and supports delivery of programmes, events and initiatives that would otherwise require additional Council resource or investment.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

3.1 In accordance with the contract, Sport Manawatū has provided a six-month report outlining delivery against agreed outcomes. A summary of performance for the period is outlined below. Full detail is contained in the attached reports.

3.2 Outcome 1: The Manawatū district develops a strong foundation for community wellbeing through play, active recreation, and sport.

Throughout the year, Sport Manawatū worked with schools, clubs, community organisations and Council to increase opportunities for people to participate in play, active recreation and sport. Delivery included targeted programmes for children and young people, support to remove cost and equipment barriers, initiatives for people with disabilities and other groups who may face barriers to participation, and support to strengthen the capability of local organisations to provide ongoing opportunities.

3.3 At Hato Pāora College, Sport Manawatū worked directly with students to identify activities they wanted to try outside traditional school sport. This resulted in opportunities to participate in boxing, indoor bowls, paintball and golf with local providers. Sport Manawatū also continued its partnership with REPLAY NZ, connecting donated sports equipment with schools, community organisations and individuals where cost was a barrier to participation. This included more than 60 items redistributed directly to the community through the Play, Pass it On, Replay event, alongside equipment provided to Sanson School, the Halcombe community play bin and individuals identified through local community connections.

3.4 Sport Manawatū also provided targeted support through programmes such as Green Prescription and its work with Saint Dominic's. At Saint Dominic's, activities were developed around participant interests including darts, basketball, biking, table tennis and volleyball, while staff were supported to build the confidence and capability to continue delivering activities independently. The programme is featured on pages 6–7 of the magazine ([Harikoa magazine - Pathways](#)).

A significant contribution of the partnership is Sport Manawatū's ability to connect local organisations with external funding. During 2025/26, **\$152,989 of Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding** was allocated to organisations delivering opportunities for children and young people in the Manawatū District, particularly where barriers to participation exist. Sport Manawatū also administered the **\$100,000 NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund**, providing another source of funding for local initiatives that increase participation in play, active recreation and sport.

3.5 Outcome 2: People have the skills to safely and confidently ride a bike on our roads, shared paths, and cycleways.

Sport Manawatū continued to deliver cycle skills training across the district, with a particular focus on rural schools and the home-school community. In December, the programme was delivered to the home-school community for the first time, with 26 students of varying ages and abilities participating in practical cycle skills training, including on-road riding for more experienced participants.

During the second half of the year, the programme was extended to rural schools, with 209 students across six school settings participating in cycle skills training. Of the 11 students who were unable to ride a bike at the beginning of the programme, five learned to ride, and there was a 16.5% increase in students identifying themselves as very confident riders following the training.

- 3.6 Outcome 3: Sport and Recreation facilities (Places and Spaces) across the District meet community requirements.
- 3.7 Sport Manawatū continued to support Council and the wider region with planning for sport and recreation facilities through the implementation of He Rā Ki Tua, the Horizons Regional Spaces and Places Plan. This included bringing councils from across the Horizons region together in Feilding and supporting a consistent, evidence-based approach to future sport and recreation facility planning.
- 3.8 During the first six months, Sport Manawatū supported Manfeild Park by facilitating engagement with regional sporting organisations and potential users to identify existing capacity constraints, with feedback sought from sports including volleyball, basketball, netball, futsal, tennis, pickleball, badminton and bowls.
- 3.9 Sport Manawatū also worked alongside Council officers and Sport New Zealand to support the Makino Aquatic Centre feasibility study. Through He Rā Ki Tua, Sport Manawatū connected the project with regional facility planning, provided access to Sport New Zealand guidance and resources, and secured a \$15,000 contribution towards the engagement of consultants to undertake the feasibility study. Council officers have also used the He Rā Ki Tua network to learn from other councils, collaborate with regional facility practitioners, access local and national insights from Sport New Zealand and industry experts, and share approaches to common facility challenges. This has helped inform and align Council's thinking on facility planning with work occurring across the wider region.
- 3.10 Outcome 4: Sports and community sport events create social and participation opportunities as well as economic benefits and contribute to hauora. Minimum of ten events per year.
- 3.11 Sport Manawatū exceeded the contractual requirement to deliver or support a minimum of ten events during the year. Events ranged from neighbourhood and school-based activities through to district, regional and national sporting events. Some of these activities are also referenced under the outcomes above and are not additional to that delivery.
- 3.12 Across the year, Sport Manawatū delivered or supported community events and activations including Feilding Farmers Market pop-up play; Play, Pass it On, Replay; the school holiday Basketball Pop-Up; Rural Day Relay; the Disability Sports Festival; four Feilding Blue Light Street Parties; two January school holiday pop-up play sessions; Play Along the Way; Have a Go Day; Family Fun Day; Tamariki Toa; Mt Biggs Tough Kids Challenge; the Lytton Street School 125th Jubilee Gala Day; the Falls Prevention Workshop; Tangimoana Rippa Rugby Tournament; Dash and Splash; and the International Day of Play sensory play session.
- 3.13 Sport Manawatū's role varied depending on the event. In some cases, it led or co-delivered the activity, while in others it provided staff, equipment, promotion,

connections to sporting organisations or event delivery support. For example, at Council's Family Fun Day, Sport Manawatū activated the Community Hub Libraries Play Trailer and provided sports equipment for children and young people. For Splash and Dash at Makino Aquatic Centre, Sport Manawatū provided promotion, staff and equipment, with the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund enabling the event to be provided free of charge. At the Tangimoana Rippa Rugby Tournament, Sport Manawatū coordinated officials through Manawatū Rugby and provided first aid, timekeeping and scoring support for more than 100 children from eight rural schools.

- 3.14 The year also included larger events with significant reach. Have a Go Day attracted 1,122 people and 21 clubs and organisations, providing residents with free opportunities to try different sports while giving local clubs direct access to potential new participants. Tamariki Toa involved more than 800 children from six schools, while the Mt Biggs Tough Kids Challenge attracted more than 850 children from surrounding schools.
- 3.15 Sport Manawatū also supported regional and national sporting events during the year, including the National School Road Cycling Championships, NZ Road Relay Championships, Manawatū Inter Secondary School Athletics and Manawatū Secondary School Cross Country. The NZ Road Relay Championships alone brought approximately 1,000 runners and walkers across 145 teams from Auckland to Dunedin to roads around Feilding and Halcombe. The Secondary School Cross Country at Timona Park attracted 225 students from 15 schools, a 32% increase in participation from the previous year. This support included practical event delivery, for example assisting with course set-up and delivery for the Manawatū Secondary School Cross Country and working alongside the organising committee to support delivery of the event across Rongotea, Halcombe and Manfeild for the National School Road Cycling Championships.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 There are no risks associated with the recommendation to receive this report. Sport Manawatū has fulfilled its reporting obligations under the contract, and no decision is being sought that would alter service delivery or create new risk.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 No additional community engagement is required. The report reflects delivery of services already agreed through the existing contract.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 The report summarises delivery of outcomes under an existing service contract. There are no new operational impacts for Council.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 The annual value of Council's contract with Sport Manawatū is \$110,000 excluding GST. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 In addition to the services, programmes, events and specialist advice provided through the contract, the partnership provides access to external funding and resources that support sport, recreation and community participation within the Manawatū District.
- 7.3 During 2025/26, Sport Manawatū administered **\$152,989 of Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding** to organisations delivering play, active recreation and sport opportunities within the Manawatū District. This funding is targeted particularly towards children and young people where barriers to participation exist.
- 7.4 Sport Manawatū also secured and administered the **\$100,000 NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund** for the district. This fund supports local initiatives that increase participation in play, active recreation and sport. During the year the fund supported local activities, including enabling Dash and Splash at Makino Aquatic Centre to be delivered free of charge to participants.
- 7.5 Through the He Rā Ki Tua Spaces and Places programme, Sport Manawatū also provided a **\$15,000 contribution towards the engagement of consultants for the Makino Aquatic Centre feasibility study**, alongside providing Council with access to Sport New Zealand guidance and resources.
- 7.6 Together, these funding streams represent **\$267,989 of funding and financial support** directed into the Manawatū District during 2025/26 from sources outside Council's \$110,000 contract. This is in addition to the services delivered through the contract, including community programmes and events, support for clubs and community organisations, facility planning expertise, sector connections and advice to Council.
- 7.7 The wider programme of work delivered by Sport Manawatū in the district is not funded solely through Council's contract. Sport Manawatū accesses funding and resources from across the sport, health and education sectors for activities that align with those sectors' priorities and responsibilities, extending what can be delivered locally alongside Council's investment.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 Council has extended the current contract with Sport Manawatū for a further 12 months, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

- 9.2 Council officers will continue to work closely with Sport Manawatū over the coming year and look forward to discussions regarding the future partnership and its contribution to play, active recreation and sport across the Manawatū District beyond 30 June 2027.
- 9.3 These discussions will provide an opportunity to review the current contract outcomes and consider future service priorities, taking into account the value delivered through the partnership and the needs of the Manawatū District community.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- 10.1 Sport Manawatū: January - June 2026 report
- 10.2 Sport Manawatū: July - Dec 2025 six-month report