

Council

Meeting of 16 September 2026

Business Unit: Corporate

Date Created: 01 September 2026

Proposed Changes to the District Development Committee

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To seek Council approval to amend the terms of reference for the District Development Committee and Finance and Performance Committee, strengthening the District Development Committee's oversight of community development and transferring responsibility for Council's community grant funding to it.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council:

1. Adopt the amended District Development Committee terms of reference (attachment 1), specifically to:
 - a. Provide broader governance oversight of community development.
 - b. Add responsibility for Council's community grant funding oversight.
 - c. Add two additional elected members to the membership list, being Cr Rob Duindam and Cr James McKelvie, in recognition of the expanded governance oversight.
2. Adopt the amended Finance & Performance Committee terms of reference (attachment 2), specifically to:
 - a. Remove responsibility for Council's community grant funding oversight.

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Approved for submission by:

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1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Council established the District Development Committee to provide focused governance oversight of matters contributing to the future development of the Manawātū District.
- 1.2 The Committee's current Terms of Reference bring together:
- Resource Management Act (RMA) reforms and implications
 - District Growth Framework and associated village plans
 - Housing Capacity Model and related planning tools
 - District Plan programme progress and escalation of strategic risks
 - Feilding Town Centre Refresh initiatives within LTP-approved scope
 - Economic development opportunities (outside CEDA / FDP scope)
 - Community development opportunities outside existing levels of service.
- 1.3 Community development is currently included within the Committee's responsibilities, however this is limited to opportunities outside Council's existing levels of service or Council grant-funded services.
- 1.4 Responsibility for Council's community grants currently sits with the Finance and Performance Committee. This includes consideration and approval of Priority Services contracts, consideration of grant applications exceeding \$20,000, noting grant approvals made under staff delegation, and oversight of alignment with the Grants Policy, strategic priorities and approved budgets.
- 1.5 The current arrangements separate Council's community development activity from governance oversight of much of the investment Council makes to support community outcomes.
- 1.6 It is proposed that these responsibilities are brought together within the District Development Committee.
- 1.7 This would provide clearer governance oversight for community development alongside the Committee's existing responsibilities for district and economic development, while allowing the Finance and Performance Committee to retain its primary focus on financial and organisational performance, risk, audit and assurance.
- 1.8 The current members of the District Development Committee are Cr Dyer (Chair), Cr Loader (Deputy), Cr Bell, Cr Hill, Cr Short and Mayor Ford.
- 1.9 If the change is approved, it is proposed that two additional elected members, Cr Duindam and Cr McKelvie, be appointed to the District Development Committee in recognition of the expanded governance oversight.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The proposed changes support the Long-term Plan outcome of "A place to belong and grow", through Council's role in supporting community activities and social and cultural wellbeing.

- 2.2 They also support “A future planned together”, by providing a governance forum where community development, community needs, partnerships and investment can be considered alongside the wider development of the district.
- 2.3 Bringing these functions together will provide greater visibility of how Council’s community investment contributes to its strategic priorities and community outcomes.

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

- 3.1 The District Development Committee currently considers district growth, planning, the Feilding Town Centre Refresh, economic development opportunities and community development opportunities.
- 3.2 It is proposed to strengthen the community development component of the Committee’s responsibilities so that it can consider community development more broadly, including community needs, partnerships, opportunities and initiatives that contribute to community wellbeing and Council’s strategic outcomes.
- 3.3 It is also proposed to transfer the grants responsibilities currently delegated to the Finance and Performance Committee to the District Development Committee.
- 3.4 This would include:
- Consideration and approval of Priority Services contracts.
 - Receipt of performance reporting from Priority Services contract holders.
 - Consideration of grant applications exceeding \$20,000 and approval of allocations where applicable.
 - Oversight of grant approvals made under delegated authority.
 - Ensuring grant decisions align with Council’s Grants Policy, strategic priorities and approved budgets.
- 3.5 Council has a small number of direct strategic relationships with organisations that are broader than the community grants function. Performance reporting relating to these would therefore continue to be presented directly to Council rather than the District Development Committee. Examples include Central Economic Development Agency, Feilding and District Promotions, Manfeild Park, and Sport Manawatū.
- 3.6 This recognises the strategic nature and broader Council interest in these relationships while providing District Development Committee with oversight of the wider community grants programme.

4 Risk Assessment **Te Arotake Tūraru**

- 4.1 The proposed changes are governance and administrative in nature and do not change Council’s Grants Policy, existing funding budgets or staff delegations. There are no risks relevant to this item.

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.
- 5.2 The decision discussed in this report is considered to be of low significance, in accordance with schedule 1 of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The Special Consultative Procedure (s83, LGA 2002) is not required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.3 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

- 5.4 No community engagement is required as the proposed changes relate to Council's governance arrangements and do not alter the availability of community grant funding or existing funding criteria.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are minor operational implications associated with redirecting reports and work programmes to the appropriate governance forum.
- 6.2 Community Development and Grants staff will coordinate relevant grant decisions, Priority Services contract reporting and wider community development matters through the District Development Committee.
- 6.3 Performance reporting relating to Council's direct strategic relationships with CEDA, Feilding and District Promotions, Manfeild and Sport Manawātū will continue to be scheduled directly with Council.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the proposed changes. The proposal changes governance responsibility only and does not alter existing grant budgets, contractual commitments or financial delegations.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 The LGA 2002 (clause 32, schedule 7) gives Council the authority to make delegations to committees, subcommittees, subordinate decision-making bodies and officers.
- 8.2 The Delegations Manual is the formal record of these delegations, and committee terms of references are recorded here. Council's adoption of the amended terms of reference would give officers the authority to update the Delegations Manual accordingly.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 If approved, the District Development Committee and Finance and Performance Committee terms of references will be updated within the Delegations Manual.
- 9.2 Future community grant decisions, Priority Services contracts and associated performance reporting will be scheduled through the District Development Committee.
- 9.3 Performance reporting relating to Council's direct strategic relationships will continue to be scheduled directly with Council.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Proposed amended District Development Committee Terms of Reference.
- Proposed amended Finance and Performance Committee Terms of Reference.