Council

Meeting of 04 March 2026

Business Unit: Community
Date Created: 20 January 2026

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust Statement of Expectations 2026/2027

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To approve the Statement of Expectations for the 2026 to 2027 year for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That Council Approve the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust Statement of Expectations for the 2026 to 2027 year.

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Approved for submission by:
Jason Rosenbrock
Acting General Manager - Community

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

1.1 Statements of Expectations are set for the Manawatū District Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) which do not have exempt status, excluding Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA).

The statements detail:

- What Council expects the focus areas to be for the CCO over the financial year
- How we will work together; and
- Makes suggestions for the trust to prepare their Statement of Intent (SOI).

1.2 Councils can choose to provide a Statement of Expectations, they are not a legal requirement of the Local Government Act. To provide clear guidance for our CCOs, Council elected to introduce Statements of Expectations for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust for the 2024 to 2025 year. Given this is still a relatively new process, a one year period for the Statement of Expectations has been set to allow for timely changes to be made as required. This could be reviewed to a longer period in the future once a cadence is developed.

1.3 In response to the Statement of Expectations, each Trust must provide an annual Statement of Intent. The content of the Statement of Intent must include in respect of the financial year to which it relates and each of the immediately following two financial years:

- The objectives of the group
- A statement of the board's approach to the governance of the group
- The nature and scope of the activities to be undertaken by the group
- The non-financial performance targets and other measures by which the performance of the group may be judged in relation to its objectives; and
- Any additional information that is required to be included in the statement of intent.

1.4 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust provided a Statement of Intent (SOI) in response to the Statement of Expectations (SOE) for the 2025 to 2026 year, which Council approved.

1.5 The draft Statement of Expectations was presented to Council for input and feedback on 4 February 2026. All feedback has been included in the final draft.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

2.1 The Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust assists in the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land contributing to an environment to be proud of. This relates to the Council's third strategic priority as laid out in the Long-Term Plan of *An environment to be proud of – We protect and care for Manawatū District's natural and physical resources.*

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

3.1 The first Statement of Expectations for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust (AFKPT) was introduced for the 2024 to 2025 year, and the Trust responded with a Statement of Intent which Council approved. This cadence was repeated for the 2025 to 2026 year and reporting on the Statement of Intent in relation to the expectations has been presented to Council six monthly since April 2025.

3.2 As this is the third iteration of this process for the Trust a more comprehensive review of the existing Statement of Expectations is reflected in the Statement of Expectations for the 2026 to 2027 year (ref: Appendix 1).

3.3 The key changes to the expectations are re-wording of existing expectations to further refine the intent; the inclusion of a fixed time-frame for the implementation of a health and safety policy, to be in place by 31 December 2026; and the addition of an expectation relating to the practice of good governance principles and sound financial performance.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 As a Council Controlled Organisation, Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park presents governance, financial, health and safety, and reputational risks to Council. These risks are managed through Council's governance oversight, trustee appointments, Statements of Expectations and Intent, regular reporting, audited accounts, and health and safety requirements. The risks are considered to be within Council's risk appetite with these controls in place.

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.

Community Engagement

5.3 There is no community engagement associated with this report.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 The draft Statement of Expectations was discussed with the Trust and relevant feedback has been considered and included as appropriate. The finalised Statement of Expectations will be shared with the Trust to respond to the expectations in their Statements of Intent.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 The Local Government Act 2002 details Councils may prepare a Statement of Expectations:

64B Statement of expectations

(1) The shareholders in a council-controlled organisation may prepare a statement of expectations that—

(a) specifies how the organisation is to conduct its relationships with—

(i) shareholding local authorities; and

(ii) the communities of those local authorities, including any specified stakeholders within those communities; and

(iii) iwi, hapū, and other Māori organisations; and

(b) requires the organisation to act consistently with—

(i) the statutory obligations of the shareholding local authorities; and

(ii) the shareholders' obligations pursuant to agreements with third parties (including with iwi, hapū, or other Māori organisations).

(2) A statement of expectations may include other shareholder expectations, such as expectations in relation to community engagement and collaboration with shareholders and others in the delivery of services.

(3) A statement of expectations must be published on an Internet site maintained by or on behalf of each local authority that is a shareholder of the organisation.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 The feedback from Council at the Workshop on 4 February 2026 has been included in the final Statement of Expectations 2026 to 2027 for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust. The Statement is now presented to Council for approval.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Appendix 1 – Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust Statement of Expectations 2026 to 2027