



Council

Meeting of 18 March 2026

Business Unit: Community
Date Created: 02 December 2025

Sport Manawatu 6 Monthly Report

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present for acknowledgement the Sport Manawātū 6-Month Report for the period 1 July – 31 December 2025 as required under the contract between Sport Manawātū and Manawātū District Council.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council acknowledge receipt of the Sport Manawātū 6-Month Report for the period 1 July – 31 December 2025 and to note that Sport Manawātū has met its reporting obligations under the current contract.

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Approved for submission by:
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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.
- 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 represents the first six-month report under the current contract extension and covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2025. Sport Manawatū submitted their 6-month report on 23 January 2026.

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 contracted service delivers measurable outcomes aligned with Council priorities while leveraging external funding and partnerships to extend reach and impact. Reporting provides transparency and assurance that the service continues to deliver value for money.

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 report.

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

During the reporting period, Sport Manawatū delivered a wide range of local programmes and activities that aimed to support better participation, connection, and wellbeing across the district.

Key initiatives included:

3.3 Youth-focused activations at Hato Pāora College, following a co-design session with students to identify physical activities of interest beyond traditional school sport. The resulting activation was delivered during a teacher-only day and included boxing, indoor bowls, paintball, and golf, delivered by local providers and clubs. The session enabled students to try activities they had not previously accessed, with several identifying new interests and clubs able to connect directly with students about future participation opportunities. One provider, Arena Paintball, has since progressed toward incorporation and is exploring funding options to support ongoing youth access. This initiative was enabled through connections established by Council's Youth Connector.

- support was also provided to schools through initiatives such as Replay NZ, enabling children to access equipment and reduce participation barriers.
- play-based activities including Play Week Aotearoa activities, pop-up play sessions at the Feilding Farmers Market, and a *Play, Pass it On* Replay event at the Manawatū Community Hub Library, which redistributed play and sports equipment directly back into the community. These initiatives supported immediate participation and addressed cost barriers for families.

3.4 Delivery and/or support of a range of inclusive and community events, including school holiday basketball pop-ups, Disability Sports Festival activities, and Feilding Blue Light Street Parties. These events aimed to create safe, welcoming environments for participation and provided opportunities to gather community insights to inform future delivery. For example, insights from the Feilding Farmers Market pop-up play session and the Blue Light Street Parties identified strong demand for organised games, obstacle-based activities, and repeat opportunities for children and youth, which are being used to inform the design and scheduling of future community activations.

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 support Council's active transport goals through cycle skills initiatives, with a focus on rural and home-school learner groups instead of the traditional delivery through schools.

The A plan was developed to deliver the cycle skills programmes in rural schools during Term 2, 2026. In addition, the first cycle skills session was delivered to the home-school community by Sports Manawatū where 26 students across a range of ages and abilities had the chance to learn new skills. The cycle skills programme includes on-road and court-based learning.

3.6 *Outcome 3: Sport and Recreation facilities (Places and Spaces) across the District meet community requirements.*

Sport Manawatū contributed to regional and district-wide facility planning and sector leadership throughout the reporting period. This included hosting a Regional Steering Group meeting at Te Āhuru Mōwai, providing visiting councils with an overview of Manawatū's redeveloped library, aquatic, and park facilities.

Sport Manawatū also supported Council-led and regional initiatives through participation in the Manawatū Funding Forum and by administering and promoting funding opportunities such as Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa and the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund. During the period, more than \$22,500 of Tū Manawa funding was distributed within the district, supporting locally led projects and approximately 530 young people.

In addition, Sport Manawatū supported the Manfeild Park Trust Chief Executive to develop a needs assessment for a proposed indoor arena facility. This included facilitating an information-gathering session on 2 December to identify capacity constraints across Regional Sports Organisations and potential user groups. The session included codes such as volleyball, basketball, netball, futsal, tennis, pickleball, badminton, and bowls. Surveys were also distributed to potential users to gather wider feedback. Sport Manawatū continues to support Manfeild Park Trust through this process to inform future planning and development.

A number of regional and national sporting events were delivered or supported during the period. Sport Manawatū delivered the Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards and supported the hosting of national events such as the National School Road Cycling Championships and the NZ Road Relay Championships by working alongside event organisers and national bodies. This support helped enable participation opportunities, celebrate local achievement, and attract visitors to the district, contributing to community pride and positive economic impact.

3.7 *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.*

During the reporting period, Sport Manawatū delivered or supported 11 sports and community sport events, indicating the service is tracking well towards meeting the minimum annual requirement of ten events. These events include those referenced across Outcomes 1–3 of this report and are not additional to that delivery.

The events delivered or supported during the period included the Feilding Farmers Market pop-up play session; Play, Pass it On, Replay; a school holiday Basketball Pop-Up session; the Rural Day Relay; the Disability Sports Festival held at the Feilding Civic Centre; two Feilding Blue Light Street Parties; the Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards; the RSO / Sport Codes Dinner; the National School Road Cycling Championships; and the NZ Road Relay Championships.

Collectively, these events were free or low-cost and designed to encourage participation across a wide range of ages and abilities. They provided accessible opportunities for community participation, supported positive sporting experiences, and contributed to social connection and community wellbeing across the district.

3.8 The six-month report also highlights several sector-wide trends and emerging risks relevant to sport and active recreation delivery. Active NZ data shows that most physical activity occurs outside formal sport, with walking the most common activity. Participation decreases with age and during secondary school years, and cost and time are identified as key barriers to participation.

3.9 The report also highlights the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, which requires all incorporated societies to re-register and adopt compliant constitutions by April 2026. As at January 2026, approximately 60 percent of organisations across the region had completed re-registration. The report notes that while Regional Sports Organisations are generally well advanced, some smaller volunteer-led clubs face challenges in meeting the new requirements. Sport Manawatū is supporting organisations through workshops, guidance, and direct assistance.

3.10 Representatives from Sport Manawatū will be in attendance at the Council meeting to speak to their annual report.

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 value of the contract for the 2025/26 financial year is \$110,000 excluding GST. This is provided for within existing operational budgets. No additional funding is required in relation to this report.

Budget has been allocated during Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-34 to continue a contract with Sport Manawatū.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 No further action is required from Council at this time. Sport Manawatū will continue service delivery under the existing contract and provide the next report in mid-2026.

10 Attachments Ngā ĀpitiHanga

- 2025-26 Sport Manawatu - MDC six month report