

MEETING MINUTES	
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	TIME
WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2026	1.00 PM

Minutes of a meeting of the District Development Committee held on Wednesday 09 September 2026, which commenced at 1.00 pm at the Manawātū District Council, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Councillor Colin Dyer	Chairperson
	Councillor Bridget Bell	Via zoom
	Councillor Sam Hill	
	Councillor Raewyn Loader	
	Councillor Alison Short	
	Mayor Michael Ford	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Lyn Daly	General Manager - Community
	Steph Skinner	Governance and Strategy Officer
	Richard Hills	Senior Policy Planner
	Matthew Mackay	Principal Policy Planner
	Councillor Rob Duindam	
	Councillor Grant Hadfield	
	Councillor James McKelvie	

DDC 25-28/014

MEETING OPENING

DDC 25-28/015

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

DDC 25-28/016

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the District Development Committee meeting held 11 February 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Raewyn Loader

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (6-0)

DDC 25-28/017

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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DDC 25-28/018

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

DDC 25-28/019

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

DDC 25-28/020

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

DDC 25-28/021

OFFICER PRESENTATION – PLANNING REFORMS – PLANNING ACT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACT UPDATE

Richard Hills and Matthew Mackay provided an update to the Committee.

- The discussion focused on the upcoming Planning Act and Natural Environment Act, and changes to them, especially if opposition parties form government after the November general election. Key changes proposed by opposition parties included reinserting a Treaty Clause, adding climate change and blue-green principles, and requiring national instruments such as environmental limits to go through an independent expert board of inquiry panel process rather than being set by the Minister.
- The group also discussed the new National Policy Direction document with 104 directives across various themes including housing, infrastructure, primary production, mining, and public values, though participants noted the wording is quite vague and requires significant interpretation. Council needs to decide by 16 October whether to make a submission on the National Policy Direction through their submissions panel.

DDC 25-28/022

OFFICER PRESENTATION – SPATIAL PLANNING INTERIM SECRETARIAT ROLE UPDATE

Richard Hills and Matthew Mackay provided an update to the Committee.

- The meeting discussed the establishment of a secretariat for a regional planning initiative. Richard Hills explained that the current interim arrangements include a Project Director (Nick Peet), a Regional Policy and Planning Group, GIS, and legal support, with Rebecca Maplesdon serving as interim MCERT representative.

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- It was acknowledged that while some components are in place, substantial work remains to be done, with estimated costs around \$5 million plus for the preparing the spatial plan (shared across councils in the region), being part of overall estimated Planning Act transition cost which exceed \$860 million across New Zealand. MDC Chief Executive's leadership of the sponsors group was noted as positive, though concerns were raised about the lack of government resources for these unfunded mandates.

DDC 25-28/023

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

DDC 25-28/024

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. Summary Report – Proposed Plan Change E update

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
11.1 Summary Report - Proposed Plan Change E Update	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations s7(2)(g) – maintain legal privilege <i>Maintaining legal professional privilege, and enabling MDC to continue with negotiations</i>	s48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

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Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (6-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 2.36 pm.

For items DDC 25-28/025 and DDC 25-28/026 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 2.53 pm.

DDC 25-28/027

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 2.53 pm.

Meeting Video

<https://www.DDC.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>