



Community Grants and Funding Committee

Te Komiti Motuhake o te Tohatoha Pūtea me ngā Whakawhiwhinga Rangatahi

Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Wenerei, 18 Poutūterangi 2026

Tōtara Room, Whakatāne District Council
14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
Commencing at 9:00 am



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 12 March 2026

whakatane.govt.nz



A Membership - *Mematanga*

A Membership - *Mematanga*

Councillor Gavin Dennis - Chairperson

Councillor Tu O'Brien

Councillor Wilson James

Reorua panel members:

Mike Panapa

Ripeka Hawkins

B Delegations to the Community Grants and Funding Committee - *Tuku Mahi ki te Komiti*

1. Specific functions and delegations

- a. To consider applications for grants and funds that are part of Council's Grants and Funding Portfolio and to make allocations within approved budgets in accordance with the Community Grants and Funding Policy 2023.
- b. To provide advice to Council and applicants on funding application requirements, strategic alignment, and best practice approaches.
- c. To maintain awareness of the broader grants and funding environment, including trends, opportunities, and risks, and share relevant insights with Council and community stakeholders.
- d. To provide oversight and monitoring of Council's external funding and financing sources.

2. Reporting

The minutes of this Committee are to be forwarded to Council.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Apologies - <i>Te hunga kāore i tae</i>	5
2	Acknowledgements / Tributes - <i>Ngā Mihimihi</i>	5
3	Conflicts of Interest - <i>Ngākau kōnatunatu</i>	5
4	Public Participation- <i>Wānanga Tūmatanui</i>	6
4.1	Public Forum - <i>Wānanga Tūmatanui</i>	6
4.2	Deputations - <i>Nga Whakapuaki Whaitake</i>	6
5	Reports - <i>Ngā Pūrongo</i>	7
5.1	Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026	7
5.2	Rural Travel Fund – March 2026	11

1 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae***1 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae***

No apologies were recorded at the time of compiling the agenda.

2 Acknowledgements / Tributes - *Ngā Mihimihi*

An opportunity for members to recognise achievements, to notify of events, or to pay tribute to an occasion of importance.

3 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

The Elected Member Register of Interest is available on the Whakatāne District Council website. If you wish to view the information, please click this [Register link](#)

Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have. Elected Members are also reminded to update their register of interests when changes occur.

1. Financial Conflict

- Members present must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- Members cannot take part in the discussion, nor can they vote on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, unless with an approved exception.
- Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table. If the meeting is public excluded, members should leave the room.

2. Non-Financial Conflict

- If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.
- Members with a non-financial interest must leave the table when the matter is considered but are not required to leave the room.

4 Public Participation- *Wānanga Tūmatanui***4 Public Participation- *Wānanga Tūmatanui*****4.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui***

The Committee has set aside 30 minutes for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

- Nika Rua
- People First New Zealand Inc - Yi Liang Small
- Sandy Hiakita
- Raroa Marae

4.2 Deputations - *Nga Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Committee on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longer timeframe may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

5 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

5 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

5.1 Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026



To: **Community Grants and Funding Committee**

Date: **Wednesday, 18 March 2026**

Author: **E Parsons Rossiter / Community Funding Advisor**

Authoriser: **E Hatch / GM People and Partnerships**

Reference: **A3074508**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

That the Committee considers the applications received, for the first round of the Reorua Contestable Fund in 2026 and allocates funding to the recipients accordingly.

Applications opened on 9 February 2026 and closed on 1 March 2026. There is \$13,291.00 available for this round of the Reorua Contestable Fund. A total of 13 valid applications were received requesting a combined \$55,073.23.

Four applicants have indicated they would like to address the Funding Committee about their application.

A summary of the valid applications is appended to the report.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **receives** the report 'Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026'; and
2. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **receives** the applications to the Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026; and
3. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **considers** the applications to the Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026 and **allocates** the funding to recipients accordingly.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

The Reorua Contestable Fund champions the use of te reo Māori in the Whakatāne District. This fund is for events, projects, and activities that encourage and uplift te reo Māori.

This fund, now in its fifth funding round, was developed in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa and Whakatāne District Council, as part of a broader initiative to create opportunities for te reo Māori to be seen, heard and celebrated in the Whakatāne District.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa, and Whakatāne District Council leadership teams, with the support of the Department of Internal Affairs collaboratively established Whakatāne as a Reorua township in 2023 and Murupara as a Reorua township in 2024.

5.1 Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026(Cont.)

Together, these organisations recognise Reorua as a powerful platform for advancing te reo Māori revitalisation efforts within the towns and encompassing the whole rohe (boundaries) of the district. This initiative is supported by Aotearoa Reorua, a national movement that assists towns and cities across New Zealand to become bilingual centres.

4. Discussion – *Kōrerorero*

All applications are assessed according to the merit of the project, based on guidelines developed through consultation between Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Whakatāne District Council. Applications are also assessed according to the requirements set out in Council's Community Grants and Funding Policy.

All applications, whether they are from organisations or individuals, are asked to identify the benefits of the proposed project to the community. To be considered eligible for funding, an application must align with the goals for the Reorua Contestable Fund:

- To improve understanding and use of te reo Māori in our communities
- To make te reo Māori seen, heard, felt, spoken and valued throughout the Whakatāne District
- To develop resources and programmes that revitalise, and encourage, the use of te reo Māori all around the Whakatāne District
- To increase opportunities for people to engage with and learn te reo Māori.

5. Options Analysis - *Ngā Kōwhiringa*

No options have been identified relating to the matters of this report.

6. Significance and Engagement Assessment - *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko***6.1. Assessment of Significance**

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed to be of low significance, in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

6.2. Engagement and Community Views

The Reorua Contestable Fund is now into its fifth funding round, and as such, is now established as an ongoing source of funding managed as part of Whakatāne District Council's funding portfolio.

The fund was discussed as part of the development of the updated Community Grants and Funding Policy in 2023 and the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, both of which processes were engaged on extensively.

The latest Reorua fund was advertised externally, through various outlets, including local newspaper, community news, social media, and direct emails to over 550 Council contacts and networks.

Engagement on this matter is not being undertaken in accordance with Section 6.1 of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, subsections (b) and (e):

5.1 Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026(Cont.)

- Council will not consult when there is already a sound understanding of the views and preferences of the persons likely to be affected or interested in the matter.
- The matter has already been addressed by the Council's policies or plans, which have previously been consulted on.

7. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro***7.1. Strategic Alignment**

No inconsistencies with any of the Council's policies or plans have been identified in relation to this report.

7.2. Legal

No outstanding legislative requirements or obligations have been identified in relation to this report. The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) mandates councils to uphold the Crown's responsibilities by considering Treaty of Waitangi principles and facilitating Māori participation in local decision-making.

7.3. Financial/Budget Considerations

There are no outstanding budget considerations associated with the recommendations of this report. There is an administrative cost to Council (largely staff time) from members of the Māori Strategic Partnerships team, the Governance team, the Finance team, the Community Partnerships team, and also from external funding panel members.

7.4. Climate Change Assessment

There are no significant or notable impacts associated with the matters of this report. However, the very nature of the Reorua Contestable Fund is to encourage communication within key communities within our district. This is likely over time to enhance Goal 1 of the Climate Change Strategy: *We all understand and can act on climate change and its impacts.*

It is expected projects and activities supported through the Reorua Contestable Fund could have a positive impact on this goal in the medium to long term. However, the significance of this is likely to be low.

7.5. Risks

There are no significant or notable risks associated with the matters of this report.

8. Next Steps – *E whai ake nei*

Once decisions have been made, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the decisions, and funding will be distributed accordingly.

Community Grants and Funding Committee - AGENDA

5.1 Reorua Contestable Fund – March 2026(Cont.)

Provided below is a summary of the applications.

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Requested
Galatea School	Galatea School Bike/Scooter Track Project	\$5,000.00
Whakarae Marae	Whakatipu Waiata	\$2,150.00
S Hiakita	I need the funding to have my next Te Reo bilingual children's book printed.	\$5,000.00
People First New Zealand Inc. - Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi	Kōrero Tahī – Growing Te Reo in Our Community	\$3,700.00
N Rua	Kawhe Kōrero	\$5,000.00
HRKA Charitable Trust	Te Reo Rau o Rangitukia	\$2,200.00
R Keepa-Ratahi	Ōruakōrau Kapa Haka Waiata/Haka Wānanga	\$4,889.39
Te Kura o Te Paroa	Whakamaharatanga Tiriti	\$5,000.00
Waimana School	Kura Hauora Revitalisation- porting Equipment & WBOP Participation Proposal	\$4,667.92
Raroa Marae	Nga Oro o Tamaruarangi Hapu	\$5,000.00
Tawera bilingual School	Smart Panels for Smart Kids	\$5,000.00
Waimana Sports and Cultural Club Inc	Rural Rugby Development: Equipment and Resources Project	\$4,986.00
Mataatua Sports Trust	Kura Tuatahi Ki O Rahi	\$2,479.92
	Total Amount Requested	\$55,073.23

5.2 Rural Travel Fund – March 2026

5.2 Rural Travel Fund – March 2026



To: **Community Grants and Funding Committee**
Date: **Wednesday, 18 March 2026**
Author: **E Parsons Rossiter / Community Funding Advisor**
Authoriser: **E Hatch / GM People and Partnerships**
Reference: **A3074508**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

That the Committee considers the applications received for the Rural Travel Fund for 2026 and allocates funding to the recipients accordingly.

Applications opened on 9 February 2026 and closed on 1 March 2026. There is \$16,100.00 available to be distributed. A total of 20 valid applications were received requesting a combined \$71,836.40. This is the only funding round for the Rural Travel Fund for the 2025-26 financial year and the 2026 calendar year.

A summary of the valid applications is included in the report.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **receives** the report 'Rural Travel Fund – March 2026'; and
2. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **receives** the applications to the Rural Travel Fund – March 2026; and
3. THAT the Community Grants and Funding Committee **considers** the applications to the Rural Travel Fund – March 2026 and **allocates** the funding to recipients accordingly.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

The Rural Travel Fund was established in 2003 to provide support with travel costs to sporting activities in rural areas. The Rural Travel Fund is administered on behalf of Sport New Zealand by 35 territorial authorities across Aotearoa New Zealand, including Whakatāne District Council. The aim is to remove the barrier of travel costs and increase sport participation for tamariki (children aged 5-11) and rangatahi (young people aged 12-18) in rural areas.

4. Discussion – *Kōrerorero*

All applications are assessed according to the merit of the application, based on the fund guidelines.

The main funding criteria, as set out by Sport New Zealand, are:

5.2 Rural Travel Fund – March 2026(Cont.)

- Rural Travel funding is expected to be used for travel to local (and regular) competitions, practises and events
- Rural Travel funding cannot be used for one-off events, regional competitions, or national competitions
- Funding cannot be used for activities and events that take place during school hours
- Only schools or sports clubs are eligible to apply for funding.

One of Sport New Zealand's aims with the Rural Travel Fund is to encourage participation in sports from demographic groups that have not traditionally had the best access to sporting opportunities. To help encourage participation, Sport New Zealand requires that application forms have a section on the demographics of the participants that funding would go to, which includes age, gender, and disability. Sport NZ expects funding be prioritised for organisations that have a large number of female and disabled sports participants, in line with their aims for the Rural Travel Fund.

5. Options Analysis - *Ngā Kōwhiringa*

No options have been identified relating to the matters of this report.

6. Significance and Engagement Assessment- *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko***6.1. Assessment of Significance**

The decisions and matters of this specific report are assessed to be of low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

6.2. Engagement and Community Views

The Rural Travel Fund has been managed by Whakatāne District Council on behalf of Sport NZ for many years and is a well-established part of Council's funding portfolio.

Engagement on this matter is not being undertaken in accordance with Section 6.1 of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, subsections (b) and (e):

(b) Council will not consult when there is already a sound understanding of the views and preferences of the persons likely to be affected or interested in the matter.

(e) The matter has already been addressed by Council's policies or plans, which have previously been consulted on. The Rural Travel Fund was advertised externally through various media outlets including the local newspaper, community newsletters, social media, radio and emails to more than 550 Council contacts and networks.

7. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro***7.1. Strategic Alignment**

No inconsistencies with any of Council's policies or plans have been identified in relation to this report.

5.2 Rural Travel Fund – March 2026(Cont.)**7.2. Legal**

No outstanding legislative requirements or obligations have been identified in relation to this report.

7.3. Financial/Budget Considerations

The budget allocation for the Rural Travel Fund is supplied by Sport NZ and managed by Whakatāne District Council on their behalf. There are no outstanding budget considerations associated with the recommendations of this report.

There is an administrative cost to Council (largely staff time) from members of the Governance, Communications, Finance and Community Partnerships teams.

7.4. Climate Change Assessment

There are no significant or notable impacts associated with the matters of this report.

7.5. Risks

There are no significant or notable risks associated with the matters of this report.

8. Next Steps – *E whai ake nei*

Once decisions have been made, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the decisions, and funding will be distributed accordingly.

Provided below is a summary of the applications.

Applicant	Amount Requested
Matatā Public School	\$2,500.00
Whakatāne Town AFC	\$2,217.53
Te Kura o Te Paroa	\$2,000.00
Ruatoki Sports and Cultural Club	\$5,000.00
Tauranga City Basketball Association Inc.	\$1,152.87
Tawera Bilingual School	\$5,000.00
Tāneatua School	\$5,000.00
Taoroa Sports & Cultural Club Incorporated	\$960.00
The Mahi Kai Trust	\$3,000.00
Trident High School	\$4,990.00
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Huiarau	\$5,000.00
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Orini ki Ngāti Awa	\$1,000.00
Poroporo Rugby and sports club	\$5,000.00
Rangitaiki College	\$1,616.00
Eastern Bay of Plenty Cricket Club	\$5,000.00
Waimana Sports and Cultural Club Inc	\$5,000.00
Edgecumbe Junior Hockey Club	\$2,400.00
Whakatāne High School	\$5,000.00
Te Teko JAB Rugby	\$5,000.00
Te Teko Rugby and Sports Club	\$5,000.00
Total Amount Requested	\$71,836.40