

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON  
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Steve Cretney, Deputy Mayor Grace Ayling, Cr Brian Deller, Cr Lou Newman, Cr Steve Laurence, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Jane Burns, Cr Simon Casey, Cr Rachel Round

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Staff

Solitaire Robertson (Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), Marc Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Geri Brooking (Group Manager People and Corporate), Glenda Seville (Group Manager Community and Facilities), Marcus Anselm (Communications and Engagement Manager) Via Video conference, Katrina King (Democratic Services Officer)

Others

Grant Sidaway (CCDT), Dan Crocker (DC Design), Joel Ngātūere (Ngāti Kahukuraawhitia)

## **1 REPORTS**

### **1.1 CARTERTON DISTRICT TRAILS TRUST WORKSHOP**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

For the Carterton District Trails Trust to provide an update on activity with Councillors on the Waiohine cycle bridge.

### **Key Topics Discussed**

**Bridge design and specifications** A 158 metre suspension bridge over the Wāiohine River was presented, designed to connect Carterton and Greytown for walkers and cyclists. The structure features a 1.2-metre-wide deck with 100-year design life, incorporating low-maintenance materials including galvanised steel components and FRP decking systems.

**Economic development potential** Trail usage statistics were discussed, highlighting \$964 average spend per visitor and \$1.28 billion annual boost to regional New Zealand economies. The bridge was positioned as fundamental infrastructure to extend existing trail networks and capture economic benefits from cycling tourism.

**Project costs and funding approach** Total project costs were estimated at \$2.7-3 million including GST and contingency, with \$190,000 already spent on design and feasibility work. Philanthropic funding was identified as the primary funding source, with professional construction supervision and peer review processes included.

**Bridge ownership considerations** Long-term ownership options were explored, with council ownership presented as the preferred option due to the structure's 100-year lifespan and asset value. Depreciation requirements and maintenance responsibilities were discussed as factors affecting ownership decisions.

**Community engagement and approvals** Resource consent processes through Greater Wellington Regional Council were outlined, alongside requirements for community consultation and ongoing discussions with local hapū regarding cultural elements and storytelling opportunities.

