

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI ITI AHUMONI I TŪRARU | AUDIT AND RISK SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,
Lower Hutt on

Tuesday 23 September 2025 commencing at 2:00 pm

To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click here: [Audit and Risk Subcommittee 23 September 2025](#)

PRESENT:

S Tindal (Independent Chair)	Mayor C Barry (Deputy Chair) (via audio-visual link from 2.25pm)
Cr J Briggs	Cr S Edwards (via audio-visual link)
Cr K Morgan	Cr T Stallinger (via audio-visual link)

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Mayor Lewis
Cr Dyer (via audio-visual link)
Cr Parkin
J Miller, Chief Executive
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities
J Griffiths, Director of Strategy and Engagement
A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability (via audio-visual link)
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer
D Newth, Financial Accounting Manager
D Cowan, Corporate Planning Advisor
R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy
D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance
J Young, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. **OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora

Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a
sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a
glorious day.

2. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

4. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

5. HUTT CITY COUNCIL GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Report No. ARSC2025/4/271 by the Corporate Planning Advisor

Debbie Bradfield, Associate Director, and Sachi Delpachithra, Senior Auditor, from Audit New Zealand (via audio-visual link), were in attendance for the item.

The Corporate Planning Advisor elaborated on the report. He noted that 47 performance measures were achieved, 28 were not, and three were set as baseline targets for the following year. He added that some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were still being finalised with Audit New Zealand, and further information was needed from Wellington Water Limited (WWL).

The Financial Accounting Manager reported minor changes to the Annual Report's financial statements, including an additional \$0.5M in water meter revenue, which were new disclosures for Local Water Done Well (Note 31) and Fixed Assets (Note 14). He said the figures included audited results for Seaview Marina Limited and unaudited results for Urban Plus Limited (UPL) and WWL. He added that the UPL audit was expected by October 2025 and the WWL audit by September 2025.

The Associate Director, Audit New Zealand, reported that the audit was on track to be completed by the end of the week. She noted that Audit New Zealand had been working closely with officers, who had been cooperative and responsive. She said outstanding items related primarily to Service Performance Statements, especially the key measures. She confirmed there were no concerns and that all relevant matters had been discussed with the officers.

In response to a question from a member, the Chair advised that officers would review two issues: the discrepancy in reported water pipe renewals and the description of the Daly Street activation, which failed to mention it was a resource consent condition.

The Chief Executive stated that the Annual Report struck a balance between Audit New Zealand's standards and accessibility, and should be viewed as a record of the outgoing Council's achievements. She explained that highlights included funding for Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi, progress with the new Metro Water organisation, and managing the six-year renewal cycle while maintaining affordable costs. She noted that Council's debt was below the planned levels due to project delays and that its credit rating improved to A+. She mentioned that the report also showcased new facilities, reflecting progress over the triennium. She concluded by acknowledging the contributions of staff and elected members.

In response to questions from members, the Corporate Planning Advisor stated that they had received information from WWL that day, which was being verified due to delays from WWL's audit process. He noted that officers had worked closely with WWL and that confirming data accuracy was the only outstanding issue. He mentioned a slight delay in finalising new water KPIs linked to the Department of Internal Affairs, which Audit New Zealand was addressing, describing these as minor setbacks with a resolution expected soon.

The Group Chief Financial Officer highlighted improvements in WWL's performance.

The Chair reported on the Auditor-General's review, which highlighted significant challenges for local government. She explained that rising costs and increased borrowing had added financial pressure, with finance costs up 70% since 2019/20, and 47 councils failing to meet the balanced budget benchmark in 2023/24. She mentioned that capital expenditure had exceeded \$8B, the highest in 12 years, and debt levels had doubled since 2017.

The Chair highlighted concerns regarding performance reporting, noting that 23 councils received qualified audit opinions last year, with limited improvement anticipated. However, she emphasised that this Council was not among those affected and acknowledged the progress made in governance and reporting since 2020.

The Chair informed members that the Auditor-General's report had been distributed and included valuable insights. She encouraged all members, especially new councillors who will join after 11 October 2025, to participate in the Auditor-General's induction sessions. She concluded by highlighting that insurance remained a significant challenge across the public sector.

Mayor Barry joined the meeting at 2.25pm.

Cr Briggs and the Chief Executive recognised the Chair's valuable contributions to the subcommittee and Council over the past six years. They emphasised her role in guiding meetings, upskilling officers, and strengthening processes.

Mayor Barry noted that the Chair had also improved the governance skills of the councillors, which played a significant part in Council achieving strong national recognition.

The Chair thanked the Mayor, Chief Executive, and members for their support, stating it had been a privilege to serve. She highlighted her background as a banker and CFO, noting her commitment to detail, integrity, and high standards. Due to increased commitments with KiwiRail, she would step aside from her role. She urged members to maintain the high standards achieved and acknowledged the improvements in reports and governance practices. She encouraged continued dedication and balance, reaffirming her commitment to professionalism and integrity.

RESOLVED: (S Tindal/Cr Briggs)

Minute No. ARSC 25401 (2)

"That the Subcommittee endorses the adoption of the Group Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), subject to satisfactory resolution of the following outstanding items:

- (a) completion of the final design and minor editorial changes;*
- (b) completion of the external audit and any adjustments required; and*
- (c) receipt of final clearance from Audit New Zealand."*

6. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

7. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	Release us from the supreme
Unuhia!	sacredness of our tasks
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	To be clear and free
Kia wātea, kia mā mā	in heart, body and soul in our
Te ngākau, te tinana,	continuing journey
te wairua i te ara takatū	Oh Rongo, raise these words up high
Koia rā e Rongo	so that we be cleansed and be free,
whakairihia ake ki runga	Yes indeed, we are free!
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	Good and peaceful
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

S Tindal
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 7th day of October 2025