

HUTT CITY COUNCILTE KOMITI ĀPITI MŌ NGĀ TAIPAKEKE ME TE ĀHEINGA
AGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Te Kakano O Te Aroha Marae,
136 Randwick Road Moera, Lower Hutt on:

Tuesday 24 February 2026 commencing at 11:45 am

PRESENT: Cr G Barratt (Chair) Cr C Parkin Deputy Chair)
Cr TA Puketapu Cr N Shaw

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Fauono K Laban (part meeting)
Deputy Mayor K Brown (part meeting)
Cr K Yung
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development
A Moor, Head of Connected Communities
Y Friedlander, Senior Community Facilitator
V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor
H Clegg, Minute Taker

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Tuia te mana akiaki	<i>Sow the seeds of courage</i>
Rarangahia te mana rangatira	<i>Weave the power of unity</i>
Kia tipu, kia puāwai	<i>To grow and prosper</i>
E ripo ngā wai	<i>There are ripples in</i>
O Te Awa Kairangi	<i>Te Awa Kairangi</i>
He Kaitiaki ki te whenua	<i>There are Kaitiaki on the land</i>
He oranga taiao	<i>Protected environment</i>
He oranga tangata	<i>Thriving people</i>
	<i>Connected, united, affirmed!</i>

Haumi e, hui e Taiki e!

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 conflict of interest declarations.

5. **RECOMMENDATION TO TE KOMITI ORANGA HAPORI, ORANGA TAIAO
| CONNECTED COMMUNITIES, CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
- 3 March 2026**

Implementation of the Age and Accessibility Subcommittee and establishment of the Age and Accessibility Advisory Group

Speaking under public comment, **Pip McLean representing Foundation for Equity and Research New Zealand (FERNZ) Hutt Valley Community Action Group (the Group)** requested all references to the Group in the papers be corrected to 'Action Group' and not 'Advisory Group'. She said the Group supported, in principle, the establishment of an Age and Accessibility Advisory Group (Advisory Group), but raised concerns. She requested that the following be considered when selecting the Advisory Group: that there be strong leadership to ensure equitable representation; that members be compensated rather than serve voluntarily, with no member being financially disadvantaged; that membership be increased beyond eight to better reflect the community; that members be Hutt City residents; that authentic disabled community members be included; that the Group not become a "tick box" exercise but instead form a genuine partnership with Council; that accessibility be modelled through transport support, sign language interpretation, easy-read papers, and plain language; and that the Group operate transparently and accessibly.

The Chair advised that many of these matters had been discussed prior to establishing the Subcommittee. She explained that Council was genuine in its commitment to engaging with and responding to the aged and accessibility sectors.

Speaking under public comment, **Grant Rutherford representing Wheels and Canes NZ** expressed support for establishing the Advisory Group and endorsed Ms McLean's comments. He encouraged the Mayor to attend the Wheel and Canes NZ community meetings and suggested experiencing central city accessibility challenges firsthand in a wheelchair. He noted the high cost of taxi transport for disabled people and requested that the phasing of pedestrian crossing lights outside Queensgate be reviewed, as the 'cross now' period was too short. He emphasised that meetings must be held in fully accessible venues and noted that neither Queensgate Mall nor Council were evacuation accessible for wheelchair users.

Speaking under public comment, **Helen Thomas representing Grey Power** advised that the recent weather event had highlighted low digital literacy among older residents, who struggled to access reliable emergency information. She raised concerns about inadequate in-home care, the high cost of retirement villages and increasing instances of aged neglect.

The Chair thanked the public speakers and acknowledged the need for improved engagement with older residents. She noted that phone-tree networks had proven effective communication tools and reiterated that the Advisory Group was intended to ensure concerns were heard and acted upon.

Mayor Fauono Laban expressed strong support for the Subcommittee and confidence in the Chair. He stated that leadership must ensure

policies, programmes and strategies were affordable, relevant and realistic for all communities.

Deputy Mayor Brown supported the Subcommittee, stating that new approaches were needed to ensure all voices were heard equally, and that the Advisory Group's purpose was to actively obtain diverse input across the aged and accessibility sectors.

The Head of Connected Communities elaborated on the report.

The Chair advised that officers were collating contact details of relevant community groups for the Advisory Group and would distribute the list to Subcommittee members.

The Director Economy and Development advised that officers would review the pedestrian crossing phasing at Queensgate. He noted increasing congestion due to the Riverlink project and the need to balance pedestrian and vehicular requirements. He agreed that a less abled person and/or wheelchair user would accompany officers at the intersection assessment.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Barratt/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. AAS 26101

"That the Subcommittee recommends that the Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience Committee:

- (1) notes and receives the report;*
- (2) notes the current progress on the 2017-2027 Plan and possible next steps set out in Appendix 4 attached to the report;*
- (3) agrees with the establishment of an Advisory Group and the proposed process to appoint members to the group as outlined in paragraphs 19-21 of the officer's report;*
- (4) notes that Age and Accessibility Subcommittee will consider applications and select up to eight members to be invited to be part of the Advisory Group for this triennium; and*
- (5) asks officers to report back at the next meeting on the development of an updated draft Age and Accessibility Plan, for consultation with the Advisory Group."*

For the reasons that Council supports focus on older and senior communities as identified communities of interest, to ensure Council's policies, programmes and investments continue to support an age-friendly and accessible City.

6. **INFORMATION ITEM**

Age and Accessibility Subcommittee Forward Programme 2026

Report No. AAS2026/1/8 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Cr Barratt/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. AAS 26102

"That the Subcommittee receives and notes the Forward Programme for 2026 attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."

7. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

8. **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 māmā	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 12.31pm.

G Barratt
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 24th day of March 2026