

HUTT CITY COUNCILTE KOMITI ĀPITI RAUTAKI, MAHERE TEKAU TAU ME TE MAHERE Ā-TAU
STRATEGY, LONG TERM AND ANNUAL PLAN

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Wednesday 13 May 2026 commencing at 9:35 am

To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click the link here:

[13 May 2026 Strategy, Long Term Plan and Annual Plan Subcommittee followed by
Additional Council](#)

PRESENT:

Mayor Fauono K Laban (Chair)	Deputy Mayor K Brown (Deputy Chair)
Cr G Barratt	Cr T Lewis
Cr B Dyer	Cr P Ravi
Cr S Edwards	Cr N Shaw
Cr A Mitchell	Cr T Stallinger
Cr C Parkin	Cr M Tonga-Grant (via audio- visual link)
Cr TA Puketapu	Cr K Yung

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Miller, Chief Executive
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities
J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement
J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development
J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer
B Cato, Chief Legal Officer
D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance
R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy
A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager
N Twilton, Strategic Financial Advisor
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor
H Clegg, Minute Taker

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. **OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA KAUNIHHERA**

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>
Haumi e, hui e Taiki e!	<i>Connected, united, affirmed!</i>

2. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

4. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO TE KAUNIHHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI
COUNCIL - 13 May 2026**

- a) Progressing decisions on the final Annual Plan 2026-27 (including engagement analysis)
Report No. SLTAP2026/2/12 by the Manager Financial Planning & Performance

The Manager Financial Planning and Performance spoke to a presentation that can be viewed here: [Progressing decisions on the final Annual Plan 2026-27 presentation](#)

The Manager Financial Planning and Performance also spoke to a tabled memorandum outlining corrections to paragraphs 52, 53 and 54 of the report, attached as page 6 to the minutes.

Members considered Table 3: Carryover and phasing changes of budgets requiring review and/or decision outlined in the officer's report.

Cr Dyer asked that Annual Plan communications around budget deferrals for next year be reviewed to distinguish between projects deferred as part of rates saving measures and timing related project deferrals.

Cr Edwards noted that the Annual Plan sought to balance the maintenance of services with the progression of key projects, while recognising community concerns regarding affordability. He further noted that more difficult decisions may be required in the following year, particularly in light of potential local government amalgamation considerations.

Cr Stallinger expressed support for the recommendations, noting that a conservative approach was preferable and that the Target Operating Model (TOM) was expected to deliver savings over the coming years. He thanked officers for their work on the Annual Plan to date.

Cr Shaw endorsed the comments made by previous speakers.

Deputy Mayor Brown expressed support for the recommendations and thanked members for their engagement throughout the process and public consultation. She noted the level of anxiety within the community, which extended beyond rates concerns to include wider global and regional legislative changes.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Fauono Laban/Cr Edwards) **Minute No. SLTAP 26201**

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) *notes that engagement on the draft Annual Plan 2026–27 was undertaken between 30 March and 1 May 2026;*
- (2) *notes the summary of engagement feedback set out in Section C of the report, which provides the results and analysis of the public engagement process, and further details in Appendix 1 attached to the report;*
- (3) *notes the feedback provided to officers to finalise the Annual Plan 2026-27 in June 2026;*
- (4) *agrees to the carryover and phasing changes of budgets detailed in Table 3 of the report;*
- (5) *notes the projected debt levels associated with the capital investment programme, set out in Section H of the report;*
- (6) *notes the balanced operating budget projections as defined in Council's Financial Strategy and the prudent balanced budget benchmark per the legislative requirements of the Local*

Government Act and Financial Reporting and Prudence Regulations 2014, as outlined in Section H of the report;

- (7) *notes that cost savings and budget reprioritisations approved to date to help manage rising costs are reflected in the 2026–27 rates revenue settings;*
- (8) *approves the latest projected rates revenue increase of 8.8% for 2026/27, including a 0.9% growth assumption, and the increases for later years set out in the table below and Section I of the officer's report;*

<i>Rates revenue increase (after growth of 0.9%)</i>	<i>2027</i>	<i>2028</i>	<i>2029</i>	<i>2030</i>	<i>2031</i>	<i>2032</i>	<i>2033</i>	<i>2034</i>
<i>Final Annual Plan 2026-27</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>

- (9) *approves the targeted rates for Refuse, Recycling and Green Waste presented in Section I of the report to be included in the final Annual Plan 2026-27;*
- (10) *approves the proposed fees and charges schedule for inclusion in the final Annual Plan, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report;*
- (11) *delegates authority to the Annual Plan Working Group (the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairs) to progress decisions ahead of final recommendations being considered by Council on 3 June 2026; and*
- (12) *notes the further direction provided to officers ahead of preparing the final Annual Plan 2026–27 reports and advice for the Strategy, Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee on 3 June 2026. “*

b) Revenue and Financing Policy Update

Report No. SLTAP2026/2/125 by the Manager Financial Planning & Performance

The Manager Financial Planning and Performance elaborated on the report.

Cr Edwards noted that Councillors had attended a number of detailed briefings on the matter and were therefore well informed. He considered that no further discussion was required before a decision was made.

RECOMMENDED: (Mayor Fauono Laban/Cr Yung) **Minute No. SLTAP 26202**

“That the Subcommittee recommends that Council:

- (1) *notes that the consultation on the draft Revenue and Financing Policy took place from 30 March to 1 May 2026;*
- (2) *notes the consultation feedback as summarised in paragraphs 9 and 10 in the report, with full details in Appendix 1 attached to the report; and*
- (3) *agrees to adopt the Revenue and Financing Policy (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) with no changes; and*
- (4) *delegates the power to the Annual Plan Working Group (the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairs) to progress decisions ahead of final recommendations for Council consideration on 3 June 2026.”*

6. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

7. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

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

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.13 am.

K Laban
MAYOR FAUONO

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 26th day of May 2026

TO: Chair and Members

Council

FROM: Deepu Nunnian

DATE: 12 May 2026

SUBJECT: Corrections to content in the report, "*Progressing decisions on the final Annual Plan 2026-27 (including engagement analysis)*"

Purpose of Memorandum

1. To provide Council with corrections to the following paragraphs in the report.

Corrections

2. Page 22 – paragraph 52 to be replaced as follows:

A range of cost pressures have been managed in the draft AP27 through efforts made to reprioritise spending, increases to fees and charges and inclusion of a savings target each year of \$0.5M. Key drivers of increases, which remain unchanged in the final AP27, include cost pressures and market driven revenue reductions in the landfill and aquatics activities with offsets from savings and reduced interest costs from debt (due to delays in capex). There has been further capital rephasing proposed in the final AP27 to help offset cost pressures and reduce the proposed rates revenue increase.

3. Page 23– paragraph 53 to be replaced as follows:

Tables 5 below provides comparisons of the final AP27 to the LTP and draft AP27 for the Financial Strategy debt limits, balanced budget, and rates impact. Debt headroom has increased largely due to the decrease in the capital programme. The balanced operating budget position has improved largely due to the transfer of Water services to Tiaki Wai.

4. Page 24– paragraph 54 to be replaced as follows:

The change in the capital programme results in a corresponding adjustment in the level of borrowings required. Borrowing levels are maintained within the limits set in our financial strategy. Net debt is projected to peak at 160% against the limit in the final AP27 at \$423M in 2028-29 compared to the AP26 projection of just over \$1B. This is largely due to the transition of water services to Tiaki Wai and changes to the Cross Valley Connections capital programme.