

Te Pūrongo i mua i ngā pōti

Pre-Election report

July 2025



Te pūtake o tēnei pūrongo

Purpose of this report

This report has been prepared to meet the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. The Chief Executive of each council must prepare a pre-election report independently of elected members.

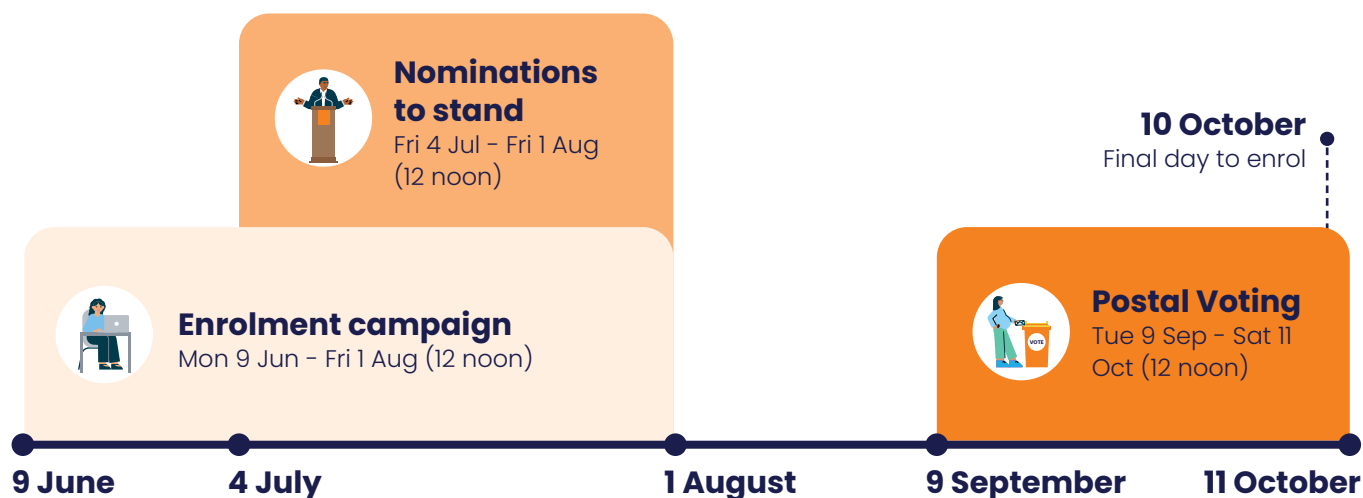
Beyond this legislative requirement, a pre-election report is also an opportunity to have a kōrero about the role of Council in our community, the challenges we are facing, and the key projects we have got planned for the next three years.

This report outlines Council's financial performance, including progress toward a balanced budget, our current position, and key spending priorities. It also includes comparative data from the past three years and projected budgets for the next three, supporting transparency and long-term planning.

Council's 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 outlines its priorities, projects, and budget for the next 10 years. We have now published our Annual Plan 2025–2026 for year two of the 10 Year Plan. You can find this plan in Part 7 Further reading.

This report has been prepared with our community in mind. Whether you are thinking of standing for Council, looking for information to inform your vote in 2025, or are interested in understanding local challenges better, this report is for you.

2025 election timeline



For more information about this year's elections, see Part 6 of this report, check out our website at hutt.city/elections, or get in touch with our electoral officer at elections2025@huttcity.govt.nz.

Ngā hua o roto

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Audit of information

While this pre-election report has not been audited, most of the financial information in it has been reviewed by independent auditors either as part of previous Annual Reports or the 10 Year Plan 2024-2034 (which forms the foundation of the Annual 2025-2026 forecasts). Information from the current financial year (2024-25) will be audited and available when the Annual Report 2024-25 is published later this year.

He mihi nā te Tumu Whakarae

Welcome from our Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to my pre-election report ahead of the local body elections this year. Whether you are considering putting your name forward to stand as a candidate in the elections or want to be more informed about our city, Council's work, priorities, and financial performance, I hope you find this report useful.

Much has changed for local government and our council since the last elections in 2022. Many of the challenges I wrote about in my 2022 pre-election report have continued to grow in size, scale, and complexity. Our challenge grappling with infrastructure requirements and their cost continues to impact the entire local government sector.

An area of change that impacts all councils is water services reform. "Local Water Done Well" sets out the government's legislation for new water services arrangements that ensure a resilient and reliable water network with funding arrangements that enable investment in water that meets growing demand. The five councils in the Wellington region have agreed to establish and co-own a new asset owning water services organisation. Implementation of this prior to the start date in July 2026 is an area of critical work for our new Council.

Council's current Long Term Plan has approved \$2.8B investment in infrastructure over the 10 Year Plan 2024-2034, and our focus is on delivering this. Water and transport make up 81% of this investment. The new Council will have the opportunity to review priorities into the future and to consider the significant challenges of rates affordability.

As water reform and changes to the planning system via reform of the Resource Management Act arrive, discussion is starting to occur around the amalgamation options for councils in our region. Like many others, I am of the view that the current form of local government with all the financial challenges faced across the country is not sustainable beyond the short to medium term.

With significant cost pressures across infrastructure, financing, inflation, and our workforce, maintaining affordability of rates charges, achieving a balanced operating budget, and maintaining our record of strong financial management are challenges that must be addressed. We have a financial strategy in place to help manage this and the new council will need to review this.

Careful decision-making and priority setting will continue to be critical to our success in the next triennium with more demands for services and limited ability to generate revenue (aside from rates). Elected members will need to work through priorities and service levels that the community will be willing to pay for in the future, with the need for difficult trade-offs to be considered in the context of rates affordability.

While the challenges are numerous, there are also exciting opportunities on the horizon for the incoming Council to seize on.

The Coalition Government has signalled significant roading upgrades in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, including the Cross Valley Connections and Petone to Grenada projects.

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) is getting underway. At \$1.5B, this is the largest multi-agency infrastructure project in our city's history and will be in construction from 2026 to 2031. Disruption is inevitable and we are planning for this when works gear up later this year.

We can be confident in our ability to deliver major projects given the successes we are building on. Major milestones have been achieved with the opening of Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness. More than half of Tupua Horo Nuku has been completed contributing to the resilience of this shared walking and cycling pathway. A new community hub in Mōera has opened its doors.

Our city is diverse with a vibrant spirit that embraces inclusivity and innovation. We are lucky to have a thriving business sector, with more than 11,000 businesses in our city. We are seeing the green shoots of economic recovery with new businesses, and our Chamber of Commerce has set out a bold vision for business growth.

We have many opportunities to improve the lives of everyone who lives and works here. We do this by investing in what matters most to our people and through the partnerships we have with Iwi, and the business, health, housing and education sectors to name a few. We want to ensure that whatever we do and wherever we invest, we are doing all we can to make our city a place where everyone can thrive.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report which includes lots of statistics about our people and place which I hope are of interest. We have also included a list of further reading at the end of the report if you want to find out more.

Ngā mihi nui,



Jo Miller
Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive



Wāhanga 1 Part 1

Tō tātou taone a Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai

Who calls Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt home?

Our city, Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, is the seventh most populous city in New Zealand. We sit on the most densely populated floodplain in New Zealand with rivers, streams, and tributaries that flow from the Tararua and Remutaka mountain ranges.

Our council is part of the greater Wellington group of councils covering the region, which has a total population of around 550,000².

Who lives here?

Current Population:

As of 2023
approximately

42,300
households¹

As of 2024
approximately

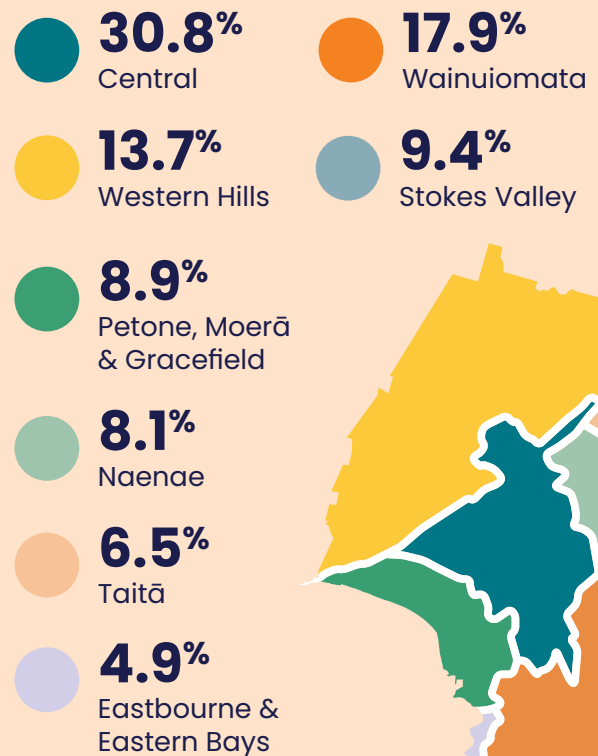
115,500
residents²



Projected population

150,900
by 2054³

This is where people live in our city⁴:





Diversity

Ethnic composition ⁵ :		National average:
European	64% ↓	68%
Māori	20% ↑	18%
Asian	19% ↑	17%
Pacific Peoples	12% ↑	9%
MELAA	2% ↑	2%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African		

↑ ↓ Increase/decrease compared to 2018

Māori Population by Ward

Percentage of ward population⁵

10%	Western General
24.6%	Northern General
14.1%	Central General
14.7%	Harbour General
30.2%	Wainuiomata General

Population Growth Factors

Natural increase⁵
(births minus deaths)

590	723
2024	2018

Net international migration

1,500	335
2024	2018

Ageing Population

Median Age

37.5	36.9
2023	2018

Disability

Residents who reported having a disability⁵

8%
Lower Hutt

7.5%
New Zealand



Broad Age Group⁵

Under 15 years

19%	21%
2023	2018

15 - 64 years

66%	66%
2023	2018

65 years +

15%	13%
2023	2018



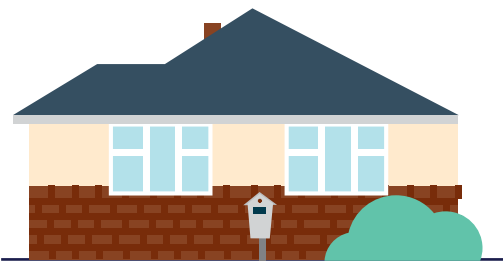
5. Infometrics, 2024 (Census, 2023)

What challenges are facing our people?

New Zealand’s index of socioeconomic deprivation measures the level of deprivation in different areas based on factors like income, employment, education, and housing.

It ranks areas on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the least deprived and 10 being the most deprived.

The score reflects a city with generally good access to education, employment, healthcare and public services, while some areas of the city experience socioeconomic challenges.



1 in 5

people live in the least deprived areas (1 & 2)⁷

1 in 5

people live in the most deprived areas (9 & 10)⁷



Deprivation Decile Comparison⁷:

	Lower Hutt %	New Zealand %
Least Deprived 1	11.1	9.7
2	11.9	10
3	9.4	9.8
4	8.8	9.9
5	8.8	9.9
6	10.6	9.9
7	8.1	10.1
8	9.9	10
9	11.2	10.3
Most Deprived 10	10.1	10.5

Household Crowding⁷:

7.1%

2023

6.4%

2018

The percentage of households in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt that experience household crowding.

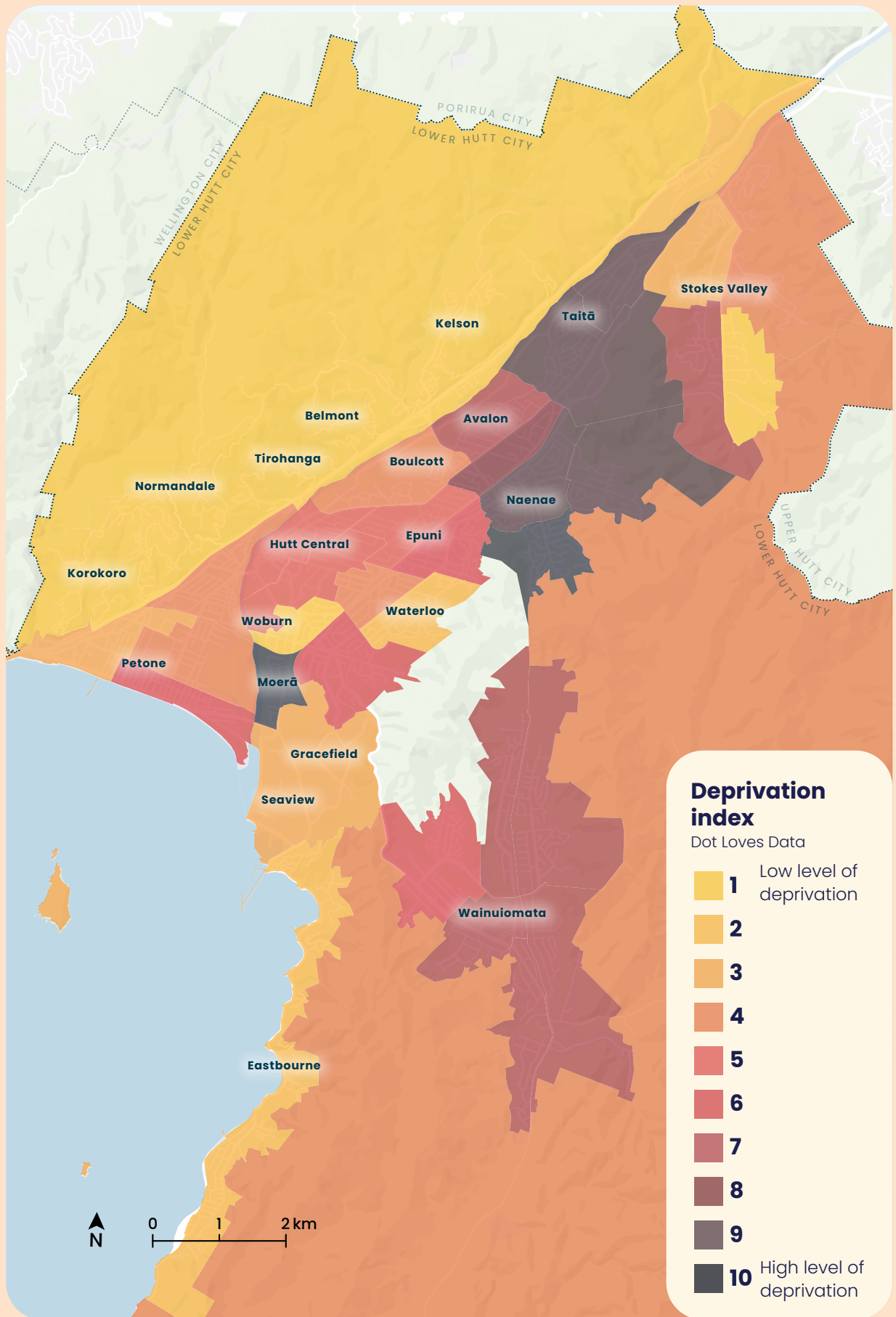
Crime rate⁶:

Incidents per 10,000 people:

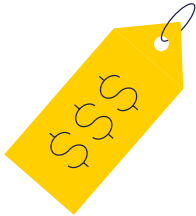
746.2 ↓

decrease of 3.96% since December 2024





What drives our economy?



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Lower Hutt 2024⁹

\$8.2B

When compared to the previous year:

-0.9%  **1.4%** 
 Lower Hutt New Zealand



Total Employment⁹:

54,578 people

Unemployment:

4.6%

March 2025

4.9%

National Average



Top industries by jobs⁹

7,114

Construction

6,824

Healthcare and Social Assistance

5,218

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

5,152

Retail Trade

4,713

Manufacturing

4,660

Education and Training

Top industries by GDP⁹

\$889M

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

\$731M

Manufacturing

\$700M

Healthcare and Social Assistance

\$664M

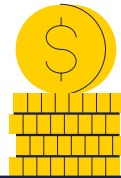
Construction

\$543M

Rental, hiring and real estate service

\$490M

Wholesale trade



Median personal income⁹

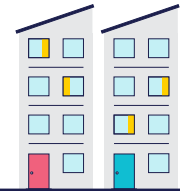
\$47,800 

2023

This has increased from **\$34,700** in 2018

\$41,500

National Average 2023



Median household income⁹

\$110,100 

2023

This has increased from **\$82,200** in 2018

\$97,000

National Average 2023



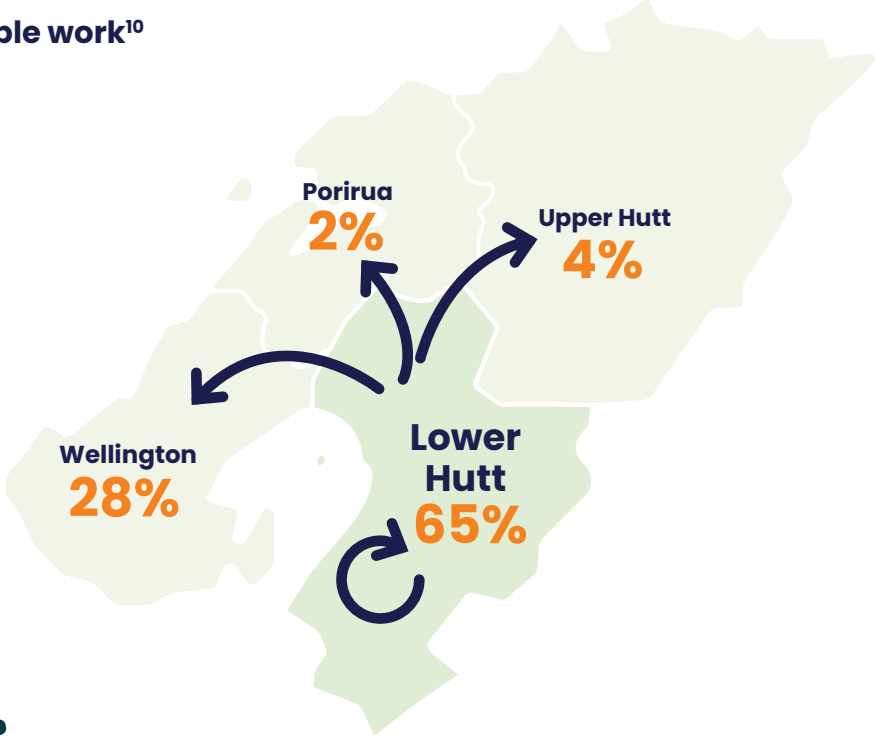
Businesses in Lower Hutt⁹

11,163 Business units

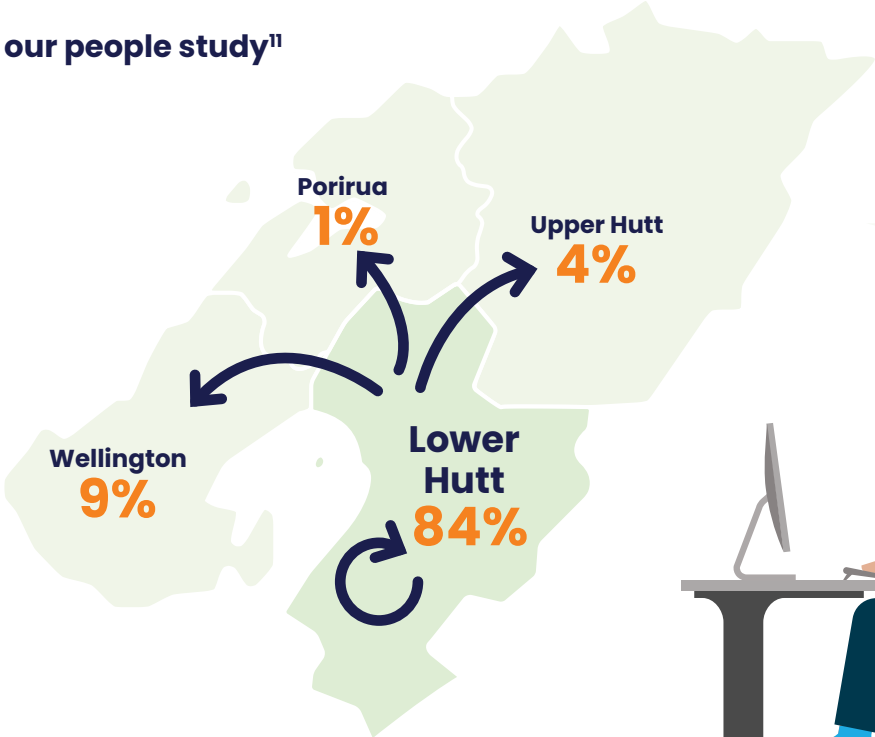
March 2024

9. Infometrics, 2024 (Census, 2023)

Where our people work¹⁰



Where our people study¹¹



10. Census, 2023, remaining 1% work outside these regions 11. Census, 2023, remaining 2% study outside these regions

Where and how are we learning?

Early childhood services¹²

4,144
children
enrolled

98
early childhood
services

Enrolments are at¹²:

58%
Education and
care services

24%
Free
Kindergartens

9%
Playcentres

8%
Te Kōhanga
Reo

The first Kōhanga Reo opened in Pukeatua, Wainuiomata 1982. We now have 12 Kōhanga Reo in our city. Nearly 30% of tamariki Māori are enrolled in Kōhanga Reo (from total tamariki Māori enrolled in early childhood services).



Schools¹²

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt has:

32
state primary schools

8
integrated primary schools

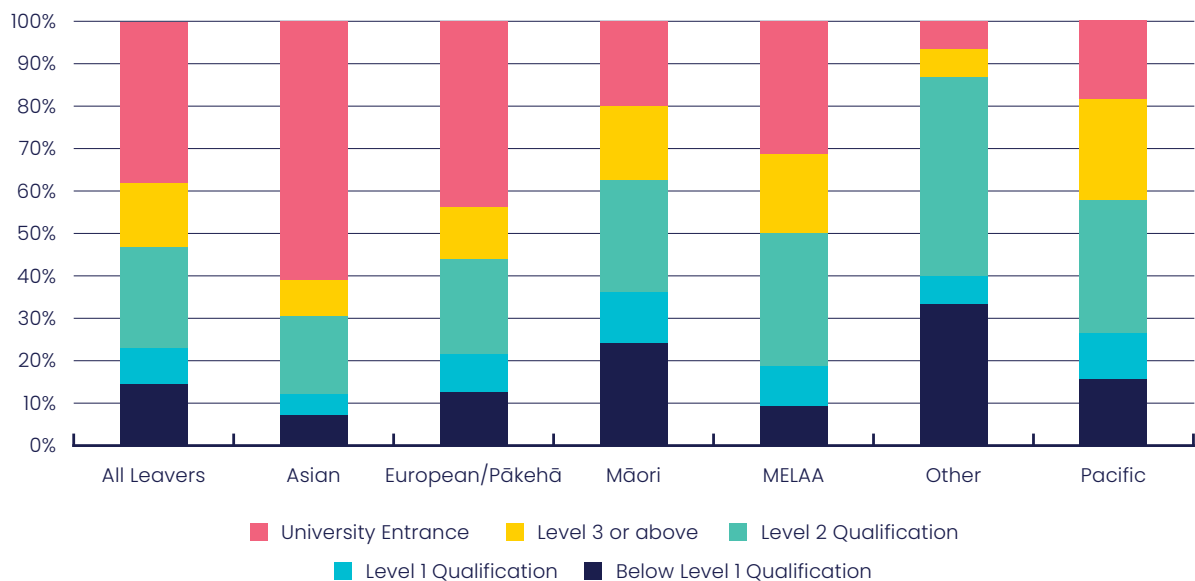
3
intermediate schools

4
state secondary schools

3
integrated secondary schools

2
state integrated composite schools

Lower Hutt School Leavers: Highest Attainment (by ethnicity)¹²



12. Education Counts, 2025



School attendance¹³

Referrals to school attendance services for unjustified absences have more than

Tripled

in 2024 (approximately 23 per 1,000 students) compared to 2021 (approximately 7 per 1,000 students).

Highest qualification¹⁴

Of the population (aged 15 and above):

15.2%

No qualifications

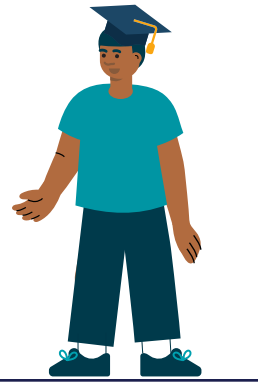
16.4%

Bachelor Degrees or Level 7 qualifications

6.4%

Post-Graduate and Honours degrees

From 2013 to 2023, there has been a clear trend of increasing higher education attainment and a decline in the proportion of people with no formal qualifications.



Stand-down rate¹⁵

Stand-down means removal of a student from school for a specified period.

29.8

per 1000
Lower Hutt,
2023

28.6

per 1000
Wellington
Region, 2023

NEET Rate¹⁴

11.5%

in 2024

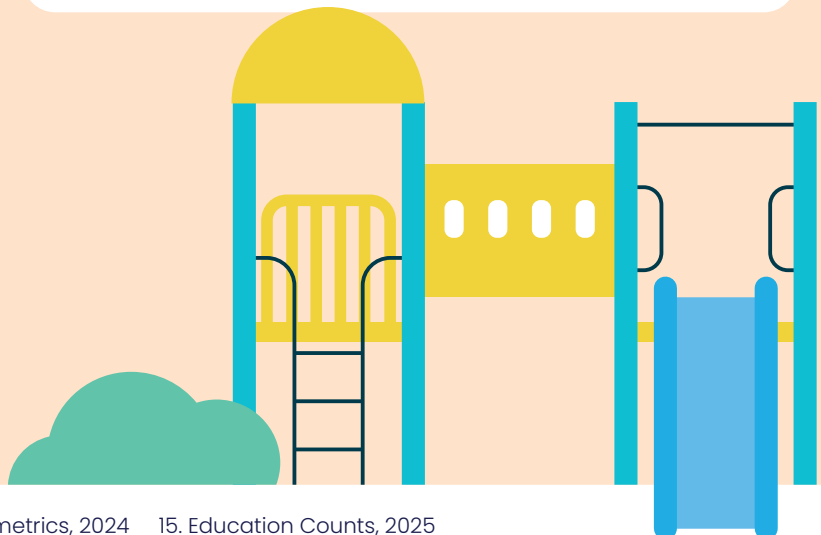
9.3%

in 2023

12.1%

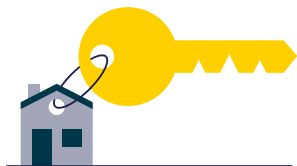
National average

The NEET rate measures the proportion of people aged 15–24 years who are ‘Not Employed or engaged in Education or Training’.



13. Social Investment Agency, 2025 14. Infometrics, 2024 15. Education Counts, 2025

Where and how do we live?

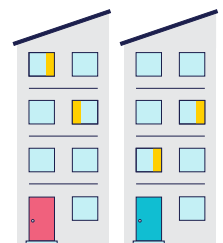


Home Ownership¹⁶

Households that own their own home (2023)

66.8% Lower Hutt	66.3% Wellington Region	66% National Average
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Household tenure by ward¹⁶



	Dwelling owned or partly owned	Dwelling not owned
Wainuiomata General Ward	75.1%	24.9%
Western General Ward	82.4%	17.6%
Northern General Ward	58.9%	41.1%
Central General Ward	63.1%	36.9%
Harbour General Ward	65.7%	34.3%



Weekly rent¹⁷

\$580

Median rent per week 2025

\$430

Median rent per week 2018



Rentals priced under \$400 per week¹⁶

41.9%

2023

71%

2018

This shows a significant shift toward higher rents.

Housing affordability¹⁶



(Average house value to average household income)

5.5

2024

7.2

2022

Housing is commonly defined as affordable if the median multiple is 3 or below. A 5.5 rating gives the housing market an affordability rating of 'Severely Unaffordable'.

At the peak of the market in 2022 it was a 7.2 rating.

16. Infometrics, 2024 (Census, 2023) 17. Tenancy Services, 2025

How healthy are we?

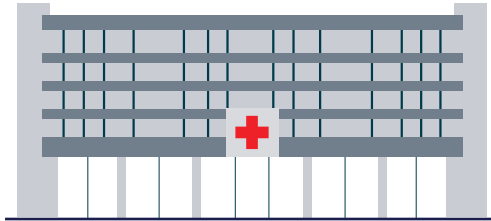
General¹⁸

1

public general
hospital

20

GP practices



Average age at death (2022)¹⁸

82 years

Hutt Valley

84 years

National Average

78 years

Hutt Valley - Pacific
Peoples

77 years

Hutt Valley - Māori

Child mortality rate¹⁸

Deaths per 100,000 aged under 5
years (2022):

72

Hutt Valley

116

National Average

Cancer¹⁸

People with new cancer
registrations per 100,000 people (2022):

683

Hutt Valley

546

National Average

Deaths of people with cancer
per 100,000 people (2022):

183

Hutt Valley

192

National
Average



Diabetes¹⁸

People with
diabetes per 1000
people (2023):

4.5%

Hutt Valley

4.4%

National Average



Current smokers¹⁸

Percentage of people that smoke and/or
use e-cigarettes/vapes daily (2024):

19%

Hutt Valley

16.8%

National Average



Wāhanga 2 Part 2

Me pēhea e oti ai ngā mahi? What does Council do? And how do we do it?

Hutt City Council's governance structure in 2025

Hutt City Council, like all councils in Aotearoa New Zealand, exists to enable democratic decision-making and support community wellbeing.

The Mayor and elected members set the direction of the city, approve budgets that fund the city's services and facilities, and adopt bylaws, policies and plans to meet the needs of our diverse communities.

Each incoming Council determines the governance structure which includes the number and role of committees that will work best for its term.

Hutt City Council's governance framework works well. We have established strong mechanisms to support good governance, including essential checks and balances such as an independently chaired Audit and Risk Subcommittee and, oversight provided by external auditors. Other assurance specialists are engaged when necessary and after Subcommittee.

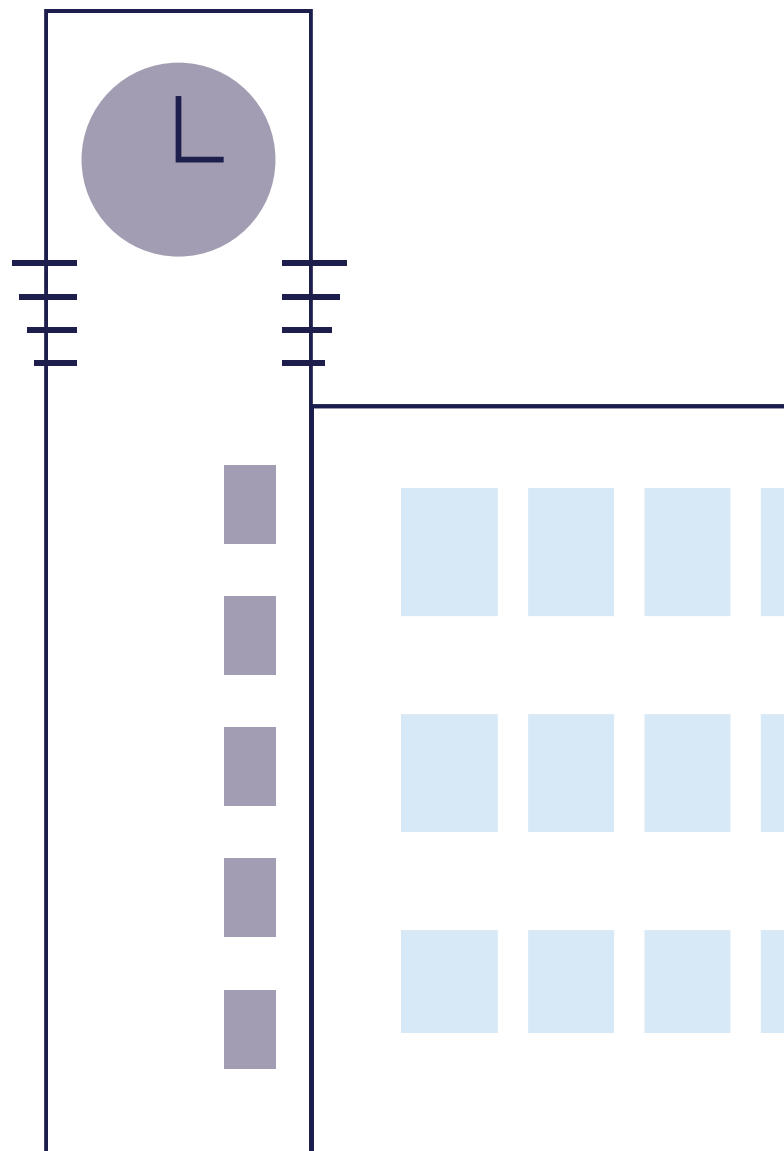
What are Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs)?

A CCO is a company or trust in which Council is at least a 50% shareholder that independently manages facilities, delivers services, and undertakes developments on behalf of the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt community. CCOs are set up to operate efficiently and, in many cases, generate their own revenue streams, thereby minimising the financial burden on ratepayers.

Council has two 100% CCO shareholdings in Urban Plus Limited Group and Seaview Marina Limited.

Community Board representation

Two Community Boards remain in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt for this triennium. These are the Eastbourne Community Board and Wainuiomata Community Board. Find out more about Community Boards at hutt.city/communityboards



Our Council Governance

Currently consists of the Mayor and 12 Councillors

The 2025 - 2028 triennium will be the first time Council has an elected member in the newly established Mana Kairangi ki Tai Māori Ward increasing the total number of Councillors to 13.

Community Boards

Eastbourne

Petone (disestablished for the 2025-2028 triennium)

Wainuiomata

Implement decisions

Reporting, support and advice

Accountability

Our Council Management

The Chief Executive is responsible for employing all Council staff, leading the organisation, and working with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) to implement Council's decisions.

The Chief Executive and CLT are accountable for the following functions:

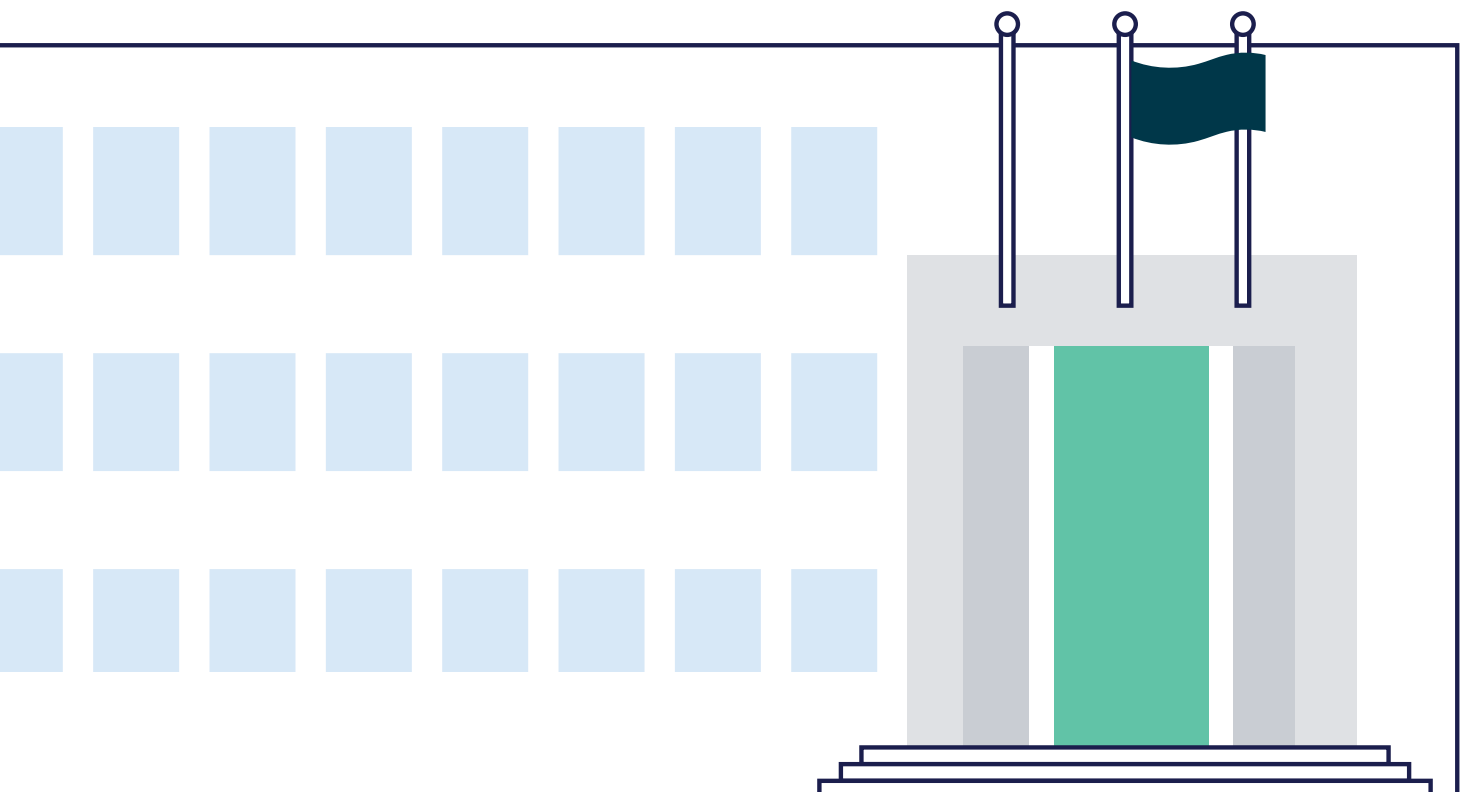
- Economy and Development
- Environment and Sustainability
- Neighbourhoods and Communities
- Strategy and Engagement
- Finance, Information services, Legal, People and Capability, and Te Tira Māori

Council Controlled Organisations

Urban Plus Limited (100% owned)

Seaview Marina Limited (100% owned)

Wellington Water Limited is jointly owned by six Councils from the Wellington region



What does the Mayor do?

The Mayor is the civic leader of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. This is a role with high expectations and wide reach. It is also a role that can deliver real and lasting impact.

The Mayor works with Councillors to guide decision-making and focus on priorities. This leadership role involves chairing meetings, shaping strategies and budgets, and bringing people together to get results, requiring judgement, vision, and steady leadership.

The Mayor and Chief Executive each have distinct roles, and a strong, trust-based relationship between them is key to Council's success. Elected members set the direction, while the Chief Executive and staff focus on delivering it.

The Mayor speaks for the city in the media, with Ministers, and in the community. Whether opening a new space, speaking at events, or advocating for regional investment, you will be a visible and trusted voice for the people you serve.

The Mayor will receive regular briefings from Council staff and support from a professional team. The fast pace requires clear leadership, especially when tough decisions arise. They lead discussions and navigate challenges, whether it is a major weather event, funding issue, or public debate.

The work is challenging yet meaningful. The Mayor will help shape the city's future and support the well-being of its residents, playing a key role in decisions impacting growth, the environment, the economy, and neighbourhoods.

To be Mayor of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is to serve with purpose, build trust, and help to make a city where everyone thrives.

What does a Councillor do?

Being a Councillor means taking on a leadership role to influence decisions that impact our city and its residents, including investment priorities and future planning.

Councillors are elected to represent the people of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. They help set Council's direction, approve budgets, develop policies and plans that impact the daily lives of thousands of residents. At its heart is listening to your community, balancing differing views, and making informed, balanced decisions.

It is a role that is both challenging and rewarding. The work is varied and wide-ranging. One day, Councillors will be considering reports on infrastructure investment or planning policy. Next, they may be speaking at a community event, attending a pōwhiri, or meeting with residents about a local issue. Councillors will need to read widely, ask good questions, and collaborate with others at the Council table.

Councillors will also be part of the celebrations, participating in citizenship ceremonies and enjoying upgraded playgrounds and skateparks. They will witness significant milestones in major city-shaping projects like Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink). Councillors have a front-row seat to the things that help to make a city where everyone thrives.

There will be pressure, but Councillors will have support from a strong governance framework and a professional organisation dedicated to the success of our city.

If you are passionate about your community, willing to put in the mahi, and ready to be part of a team that is focused on impact, this could be the role for you.

What does a Community Board member do?

Serving as a Community Board member is a community-focused role. Community Board members connect diverse groups and ensure Council hears their voices. Unlike Councillors, who focus on broader governance, Community Board members spend more time on advocacy and representation, engaging directly with neighbourhoods and acting as trusted leaders. They are the heart of local democracy in their area, bridging the gap between the people and the decisions that affect their lives.

Council decides which powers to delegate to Community Boards, who currently hold a limited number of formal responsibilities.



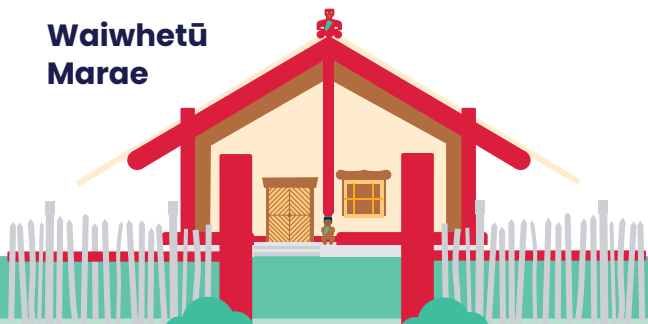
Our relationship with Mana Whenua is one of partnership

Iwi have historic and territorial rights in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

Te Tatau o Te Pō



Waiwhetū Marae



Iwi organisations

- Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement) Trust
- Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc
- Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust
- Wellington Tenths Trust
- Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Inc

Marae

- Waiwhetū Marae
- Te Tatau o Te Pō
- Kōranui Marae
- Te Kākano o Te Aroha Marae
- Te Mangungu Marae Inc
- Wainuiomata Marae Trust
- Kōkiri Marae

Council has one Iwi representative who is appointed as a member of the District Plan Review Subcommittee.

Hutt City Council has Tākai Here with Iwi. These partnerships set out the nature of our partnership and how we work together for the good of our people and place. These can be found on our website at hutt.city/mana-whenua

Quarterly Mana Whenua hui are held with Iwi, governors, Chief Executives and senior leaders. Discussions focus on strategic matters of mutual interest. To supplement this, a Kāhui Mana Whenua grouping meets regularly to discuss operational matters and engagement on city development policy and projects across Council's work programme.

Ward Structure for the 2025 elections

Representation arrangements for the local elections of the Hutt City Council, 11 October 2025

A Mayor and 13 Councillors, with Councillors elected under a mixed system of representation:

- Five Councillors elected at-large across the city
- Seven Councillors elected from five general wards
- One Councillor elected from one Māori ward

The First Past the Post voting process will be used to determine which candidates are elected. Voters on the general roll will get to vote for their Ward Councillors plus five at large Councillors. Those on the Māori roll will vote for the Māori Ward Councillor plus the five at large Councillors.

Representation Review

Every six years, a representation review is done to ensure the Council structures we have in place are fairly and effectively representing the communities in our city.

Hutt City Council reviewed its representation in 2024. After an appeal, the Local Government Commission released its final direction for representation in the city earlier this year.

We now have a Māori Ward

Council voted to establish the Mana Kairangi ki Tai Māori Ward. One councillor will be required to provide effective representation for a Māori electoral population dispersed throughout the city. At these elections, voting papers will include a referendum on whether to keep the Mana Kairangi ki Tai Māori Ward in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt for the future.

Which Wards have changed?

The Local Government Commission confirmed Ward boundary changes which mean that the Eastern Ward has been removed, and the Northern and Central Wards have been expanded.

There have also been some minor boundary changes to the Harbour Ward. To balance representation in the larger Northern and Central Wards, two councillors will be elected in these wards (Harbour, Wainuiomata and Western wards will each elect only one councillor).



Our assets and work

We are working to create a connected, resilient city where people and communities thrive. We provide services and facilities that support our people every day. This includes public spaces i.e. hubs/libraries, swimming pools, and parks as well as providing services that include kerbside rubbish and recycling collections, public safety, emergency responses and more.

The Mayor and elected members set the direction of the city, approve budgets that fund the city's services and facilities, and adopt bylaws, policies and plans to meet the needs of our diverse communities.

We invest in infrastructure and services that support resilience, growth, and climate adaptation, including building and maintaining roads, and managing drinking water, stormwater and wastewater networks through our CCO Wellington Water.

Council also develops strategies and plans to guide the long-term direction of our city. These help us manage growth, protect our environment, and invest in the things that matter most to our community. You can find a list of these in Part 7 | Further reading.

To learn more about our work, check out our website at huttcity.govt.nz.

6

Pools

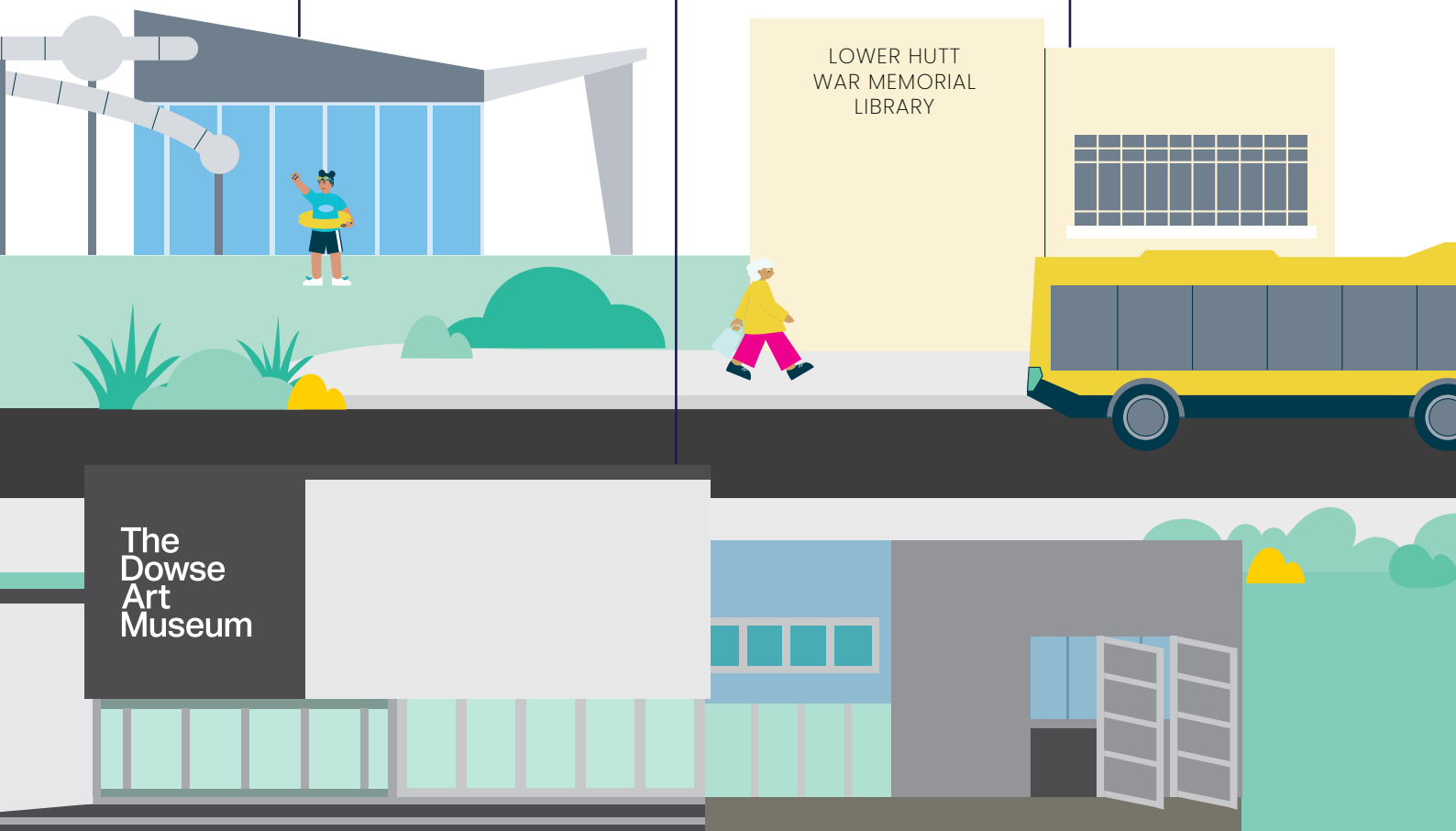
- 3 Pool and Fitness Centres
- 3 Summer Pools

2

Museums

8

Neighbourhood Hubs and Libraries



693km

Water supply pipes

666km

Wastewater pipes

463km

Stormwater pipes

349

Reserves

2,781

Hectares

These include parks, reserves, sports grounds, playgrounds, gardens, and cemeteries.

486km

Roads

683km

Footpaths

12

Community Halls



Wāhanga 3 Part 3

Ngā kaupapa e aronui ana e tō tātou kaunihera

What our council is focussing on and how it is performing

In 2024, the current Council adopted its Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (also known as a 10-year plan and updated every three years), setting out Council's priorities, major initiatives and services we plan to fund over the following ten years, with a focus on investing in major capital investment projects.

Below, we have included results from our 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey, which show how residents feel we are performing as a council.

While many services are performing well, the results also show we need to continue building trust and strengthening how we engage with our community.

Listening to our community and delivering services that meet their needs is at the heart of what we do.

Resident Satisfaction (2025)*

↑ ↓ Increase/decrease when compared to the previous survey



*Hutt City Council - Resident Satisfaction Survey

Our strategic framework

Below are the priorities of the current Council, which may differ from those of the incoming Council, after the 2025 election. To learn more about certain plans and strategies our Council has prepared please see Part 7 | Further Reading.

We are working towards

Priority 1

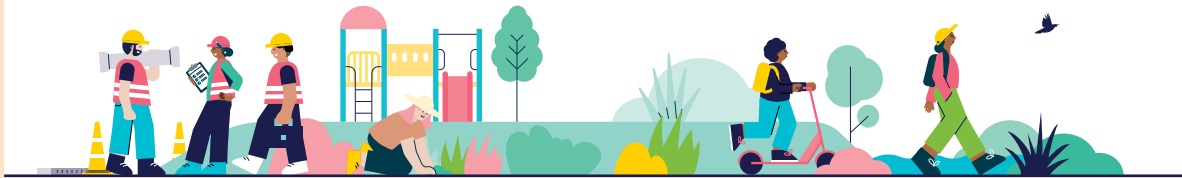
Providing future-fit infrastructure

Priority 2

Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods

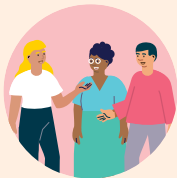
Priority 3

Supporting and enhancing the environment

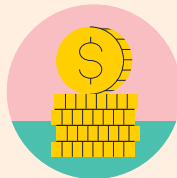


We are taking the next steps

1 In partnership with our communities



2 In a way that is financially sustainable



3 Taking climate change into account



All while promoting the wellbeing of all people.

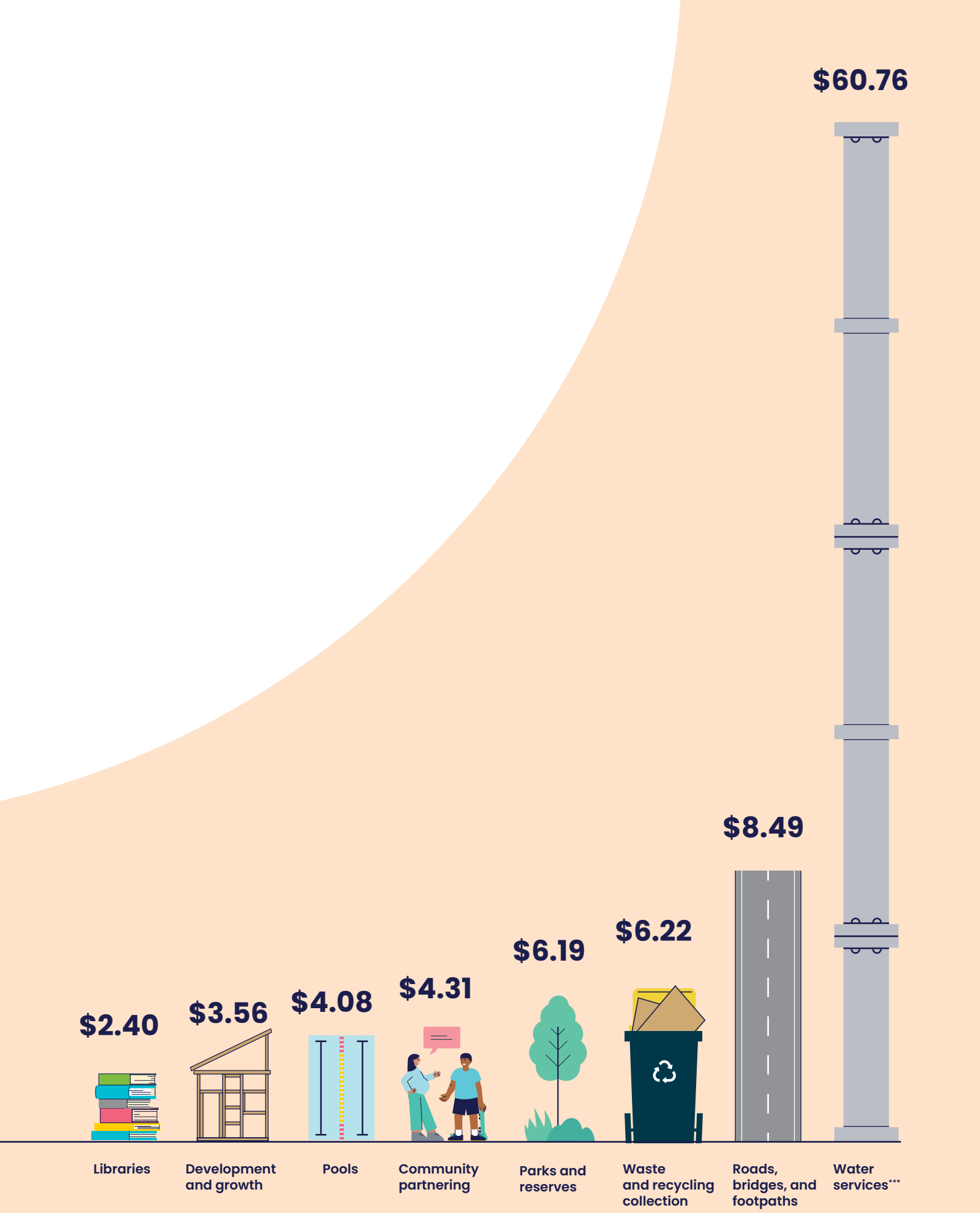


This is how we plan to spend every \$100 of rates over the next nine years*

With financial sustainability and affordability front of mind, Council has recently agreed on an increase of 12.6% (after growth) in the total amount of rates revenue we collect for 2025-26.



* We expect to receive \$5.58 of credit from the landfill. This will help to offset costs and is reflected in the figures for all these other services shown on these pages.



**Sustainability engagement represents spending on community activities, along with facilitation of projects across council activities, including investment in decarbonisation of council facilities, healthy urban waterways, etc.

*** Water services is made up of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater investment.

Investing in infrastructure

Our total assets are worth \$3.6B as at 30 June 2024. We are investing in the core infrastructure that keeps our city running and prepares us for the future. For the last two LTPs Council has massively increased investment in water infrastructure to help address decades of underinvestment resulting in a backlog of pipe repairs.

We used to replace an average of four kms of pipes annually. With more investment this increased to 14.5kms in 2022-23, but we need to renew 30kms a year to address the backlog. These major projects support growth, increase resilience and improve quality of life in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

\$1.7B Water services total spend

\$47.2M

Wainuiomata reservoir

Securing a reliable water supply for our growing community with a new reservoir.

\$90.5M

Petone collecting sewer

Enhancing wastewater management to support current needs and future growth.

\$81.5M

Water meter implementation

Introducing universal water meters to promote conservation and efficient water use.

\$240.2M

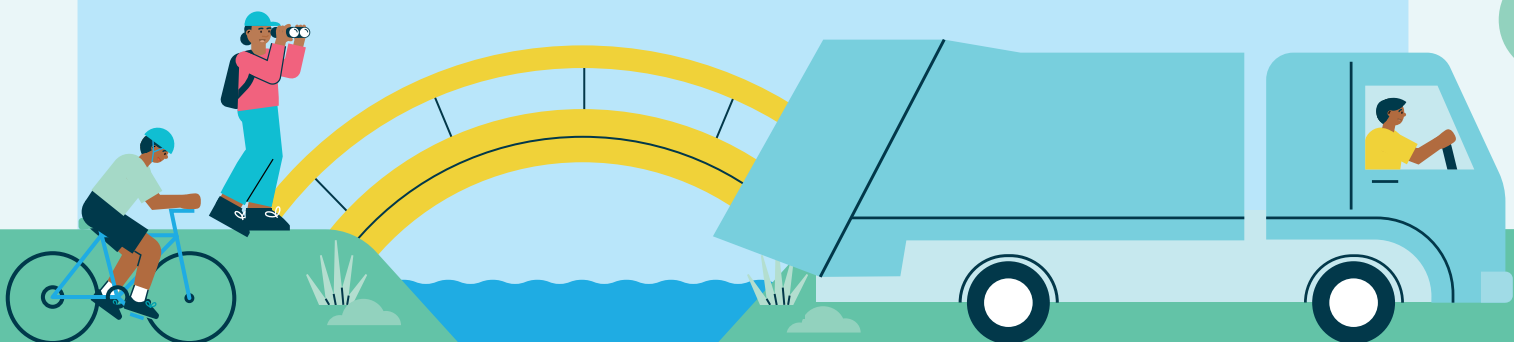
Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant

Upgrading facilities to reduce odour and improve wastewater treatment for environmental protection.

\$448M

Water services network renewals

Modernising our water infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable services for all residents.



\$546.5M Transport total spend

\$40.5M*

Eastern Hutt Road

Strengthening a vital transport corridor to ensure resilience against future slips and natural events.

*Funding source - Debt.

\$5.4M*

Ava pedestrian bridge

Repairing an important community walkway across Te Awa Kairangi.

*Funding source - \$2.4M grant funding and balance debt.

\$46M*

Tupua Horo Nuku

Creating a 4.4km shared path along Marine Drive that will improve the resilience of the road and essential water services underneath it while connecting communities and promoting active transport.

*\$80M total project cost with around 30% debt funded and the rest provided by New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and Crown Infrastructure Partners.



We are also:

Taking steps to respond to challenges identified in the 2022 Integrated Transport Strategy that will lift the overall performance of the transport network.

Reprioritising work in response to funding constraints in the 2024 National Land Transport Programme.

Planning for priority projects that the Government has signalled will impact our city in the coming years, including Cross Valley Connections and Petone to Grenada Link Road.



\$175.2M*

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink)

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi is a once-in-a-generation project that is set to reshape the way people live, move, and connect in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

At its heart, this is about reconnecting the city by turning it towards the river. For too long, the awa has been treated as a boundary, something we have worked around rather than with. This project is about changing that, bringing the river back into the centre of city life and creating a place that feels safer, more connected, and more welcoming for our people.

This is not just a single piece of infrastructure, it is a suite of coordinated investments that will reshape the heart of our city and better prepare us for the future. It brings together flood protection, better transport links, urban renewal, and river restoration. It is a major partnership between NZTA, Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council and our Iwi. At \$1.5B, it is the Wellington region's largest infrastructure investment since Transmission Gully.

Flood protection is a critical part of this work. Te Awa Kairangi is a taonga, but it also poses a real risk, especially as the climate changes and we experience more extreme weather events. Protecting our communities, our homes, and our businesses is fundamental. This project includes strengthening stopbanks, reshaping the river channel, and expanding river berms to safely carry more water. At the same time, we are restoring natural habitats, planting native species, and improving water quality so the river can support life and wellbeing for generations to come.

A new City Link Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists will connect the relocated Melling train station with the city centre. It will make it easier for people to walk, bike, catch the train, or simply cross the river safely and easily. More than just a bridge, it is a new connection to the awa and a key part of opening up and revitalising our city centre.

*Funding source - Around 90% debt with some funding provided by Central Government.



There are also major improvements to roads with a new interchange on SH2 and the new Melling Bridge, along with upgrades to local roads, which will ease congestion, reduce travel times, and improve safety for all road users. Relocating the train station, and building better park-and-ride options will make it easier for people to access public transport.

New space will be unlocked to enable housing and business investment in the city centre. The riverfront will become a destination, a place where people can meet, relax, and enjoy being close to nature. This includes upgraded streetscapes, new walking and cycling routes and new riverside areas.

Together, these changes will help reshape the way people experience the city, with the river at its centre.

Other investment

\$69M

Silverstream landfill

Investing in sustainable waste management solutions for our city's future.

\$105.4M

Parks and reserves

Expanding and improving green spaces to enhance community well-being and biodiversity.



Our future thriving city – key strategies

Our Council has focused on shaping and investing in the long-term future of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. We have worked alongside our communities and partners to develop a range of strategies and plans that respond to growth, climate change, resilience and what people value most about our city.

These are just some of the key strategies our Council has been working on. For a full list and more detail, see Part 7 | Further Reading.

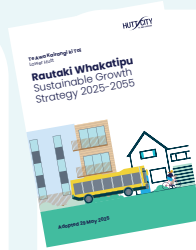


District Plan

Our rulebook for land use and development

The District Plan helps us manage infrastructure constraints and natural hazards, respond to climate change, and protect the environment and our historic and cultural taonga. It sets out what is permitted and where, and what needs resource consent.

Following thorough public input, the proposed District Plan will be progressing through 2025–26.

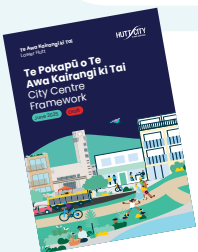


Sustainable Growth Strategy

Planning for a growing population

We expect 40,000 more people to call Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt home over the next 30 years. This strategy guides decisions on housing, transport, water, businesses, climate resilience, open spaces, cultural identity, and community facilities.

This strategy helps direct investment by the council, government, and private sector to deliver more housing and employment opportunities while maintaining a great environment for everyone in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.



City Centre Framework

Transforming the heart of our city

To guide future changes in our city centre and integrate Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) works with our local streets and public spaces, we recently updated our vision for the city centre, replacing the 2019 Central City Transformation Plan. This strategy promotes a more vibrant retail core with a mix of residential and office accommodation on upper floors, more accessible streets and a stronger connection between the city centre and the river.



Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 – Our City 2055

A shared long term vision for our city

Developed by a City Leadership Group (CLG) that includes Iwi, businesses, government and community leaders, and more, this strategy provides a shared vision for the city's future.

The strategy will be presented to the new Council and the CLG for endorsement after the election. The CLG will then implement the priorities, with progress monitored and reviewed over time.

A focus on innovation

We need to ensure our Council is future-fit and can respond to the expectations of a modern community, workforce and economy. To help achieve this, Council has progressed a structured and ambitious approach to innovation, which will dramatically improve the way in which we deliver services and enhance our performance.

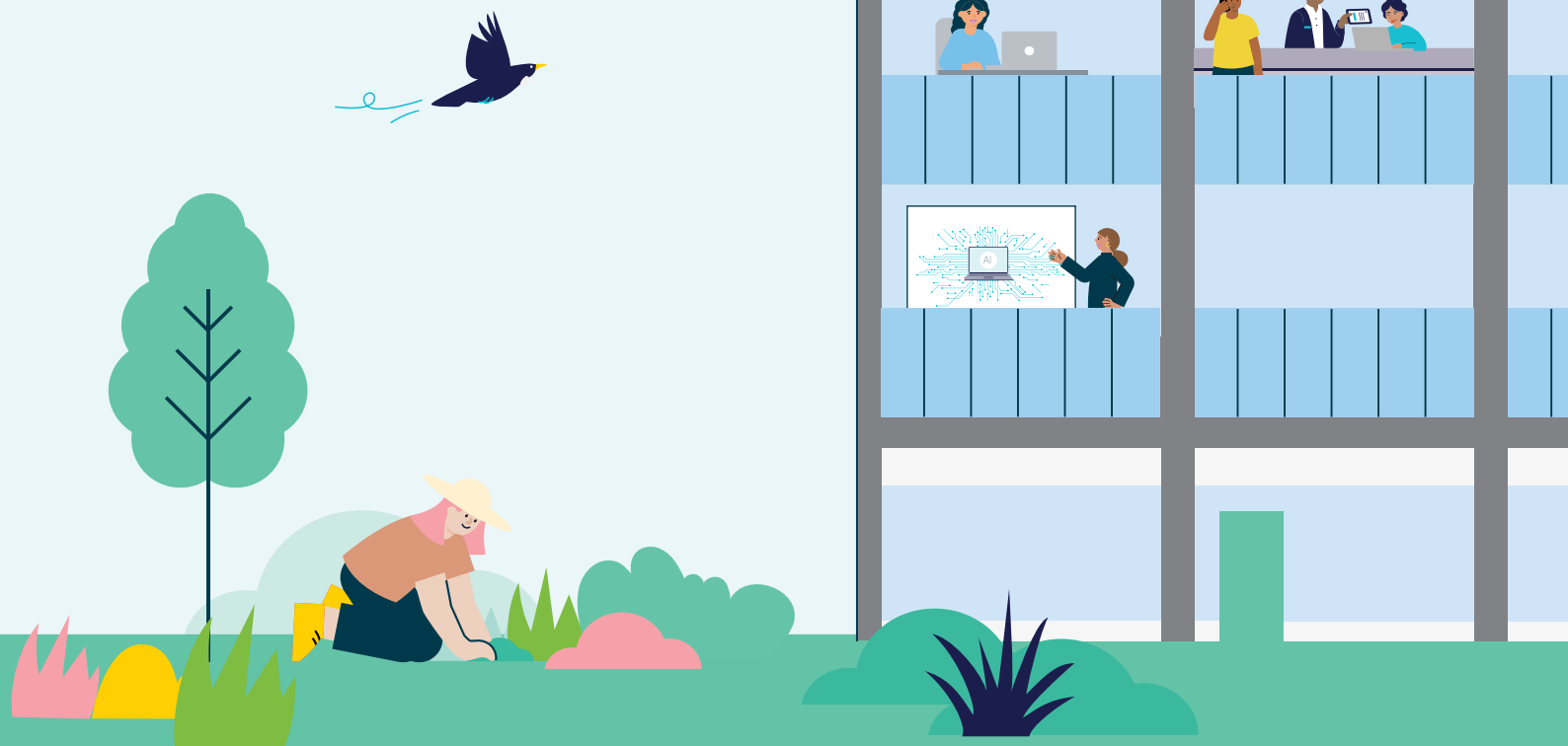
In 2024 we adopted Generative AI as a tool within Council, with the intention of being leaders in Australasia in ambitious and ethical AI use. Generative AI is a set of artificial intelligence tools, which help us create new content such as text, images, documents and plans. Examples of Generative AI tools include ChatGPT, Claude, and Microsoft CoPilot.

The benefits we are already experiencing with Generative AI have been significant, saving tens of thousands of hours of staff time, allowing us to be increasingly effective and better deliver public services, all without imposing more cost on ratepayers.

We have also taken an active part in the Harvard Bloomberg City Leadership Initiative, following Mayor Barry's successful admission to the programme in mid-2024. Throughout 2025 Council has been participating in the Innovation Track part of the Harvard Bloomberg programme, which has seen staff receive world-leading innovation training, with the potential for long-term positive impact for our city.

Innovation highlights:

- Rolled out 300 Generative AI licences to staff.
- Developed a suite of custom-built AI Assistants.
- Automating the process to request and receive Land Information Memorandums (LIMs)
- Recognised as a national leader in Generative AI adoption, providing advice to other councils.
- Selected as a finalist in the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge, securing \$50,000 to develop an AI tool for emergency management – with the potential to secure \$1,000,000 in funding.



Our places and spaces

Over the past three years, we have taken significant steps to renew and optimise the spaces our community uses every day.

New facilities opened recently including Te Ngaengae Pool & Fitness, Moerā Neighbourhood Hub and Te Mako Community Centre, while work continues on refreshing some of our parks, playgrounds and open spaces including Walter Mildenhall and Hugh Sinclair parks.

In response to ageing infrastructure, underinvestment, and growing demand for community space, Council has reviewed its asset base through the 10 Year Plan 2024-2034. This has led to a new approach that focuses on:

- Optimising and renewing existing facilities
- Improving cost recovery
- Divesting underused assets in a small number of cases

We have also committed funding to key local projects, including a \$12M partial refurbishment of Petone Wharf, a \$5M repair of the Petone Library, a \$10M programme of sportsfield and drainage improvements, as part of a \$25M reinvestment into our reserves network via land sales and financial contributions.

At the same time, we are shifting how our facilities operate by supporting community-led use after hours, improving sustainability, and preparing hubs to serve as Emergency Assistance Centres when needed.

Our workforce

It is important Council has both the capability and capacity to deliver on our strategic priorities, and ambitious investment programme. We are delivering large-scale infrastructure projects and wherever possible, employing people directly to do this to manage costs (rather than more expensive contractors and consultants).

Since 2018, we have increased our FTE count by around 50 roles. This increase, together with our overall staff numbers, compare favourably with similar Councils. Most of the additional employee roles reflect the increases in our work programme, which includes higher resourcing required for areas where there is offsetting income such as regulatory services, opening of Te Ngaengae pool (which had been closed for several years due to seismic issues), Council decisions to increase service levels, and resourcing to deliver our capital investment programme.

Operating costs, of which staffing is a component, have always gone up reflecting any annual pay adjustments, market conditions and increases to costs like the Government's recent announcements on KiwiSaver. Council continues to manage staffing costs closely within the broader context of rates affordability and a tight labour market. While operational scope and service levels have expanded, we have reduced our reliance on consultants by bringing functions in-house and we have developed self-service systems for our community, such as online booking for our facilities. These initiatives ensure we achieve better value for money.

Hutt City Council is a Living Wage accredited employer, and this is one way we demonstrate how we value our most important asset - our incredibly talented and hard-working people.

As the incoming Council sets out its priorities and takes a view on service levels and rates affordability, alongside the inevitable changes that new technology brings, we will need to revisit our resourcing model. It will be important for us to consider what we do and how we are organised to do it to maintain a focus on value for money.

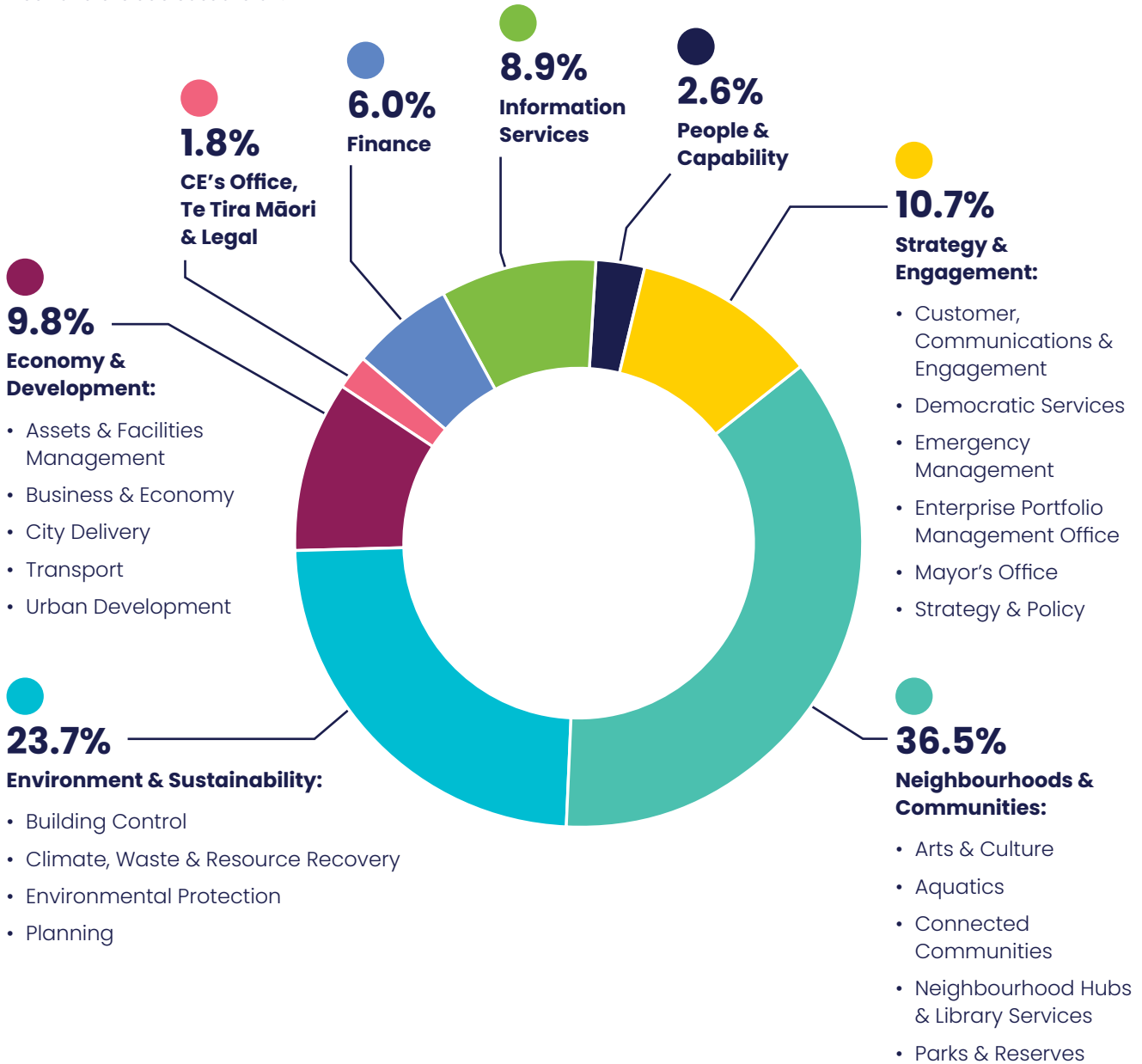
Hutt City Council's workforce Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff numbers

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FTE	488	471	483	440	491	520	538

The FTE numbers are from published Annual Reports.

How our people are organised:

Note: % are based on May 2025 staffing Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) data using a 40-hour working week and exclude casual staff.



Ngā whakaarotau ki mua

Key Issues Ahead

Like other Councils, we are facing a number of challenges. These are in part due to the reform of key areas like water services and changes to the Resource Management Act which will be significant, the need to deliver against Government priorities which are sometimes unfunded, and financial constraints due to limited avenues to generate revenue outside of rates.

City resilience

Lower Hutt faces challenges and risks arising from our unique geography and changing climate. With much of our city's population living on a large floodplain we are susceptible to the risk of flooding and landslides. Our coastal communities face the prospect of rising sea levels and inundation in storm events. The Government has signalled that climate adaptation work is in the pipeline.

In response to this we are tightening planning rules in high-risk areas, cutting emissions from our facilities, and investing in resilience projects like Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink), Tupua Horo Nuku and Eastern Hutt Road. Our Proposed District Plan and Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025–55 underpin this work, guiding integrated city development.

Crown investment

Investment in transport projects with Cross Valley Connections and Petone to Grenada announced as Roads of National Significance are significant. Council also received record Crown investment through several funds. This is welcomed and will improve the infrastructure and resilience of our city. It requires us to deliver and set aside equivalent funding where Council contributions are needed.

New government policy directions that need to be delivered by local government such as the reversal of school speed limits, have a significant financial impact. The challenge of meeting the expectations of government alongside our elected members means that we are continually being asked to do more.

Assets

Years of under-investment mean many assets need significant work, while demand for community spaces grows. Some assets have been forced to close due to disrepair. Some are also not achieving the cost recovery required in Council's policy.

In response, we completed an Assets Review and adopted a new approach focused on better use of existing facilities, improving cost recovery, and, in a small number of cases, transferring assets to the community. This should ensure we can meet the needs of our communities while not increasing the burden on ratepayers.

Council structure and services

The future shape of local government, what it does, and how it is organised to do it, is an inevitable question in the wake of water and planning reform.

We will include a question on the voting paper for the elections, gauging support for Councils in the Wellington region joining together to deliver services more efficiently. The poll question won't require Council to do anything specifically, but it will help the new Council decide if they should look into the options.

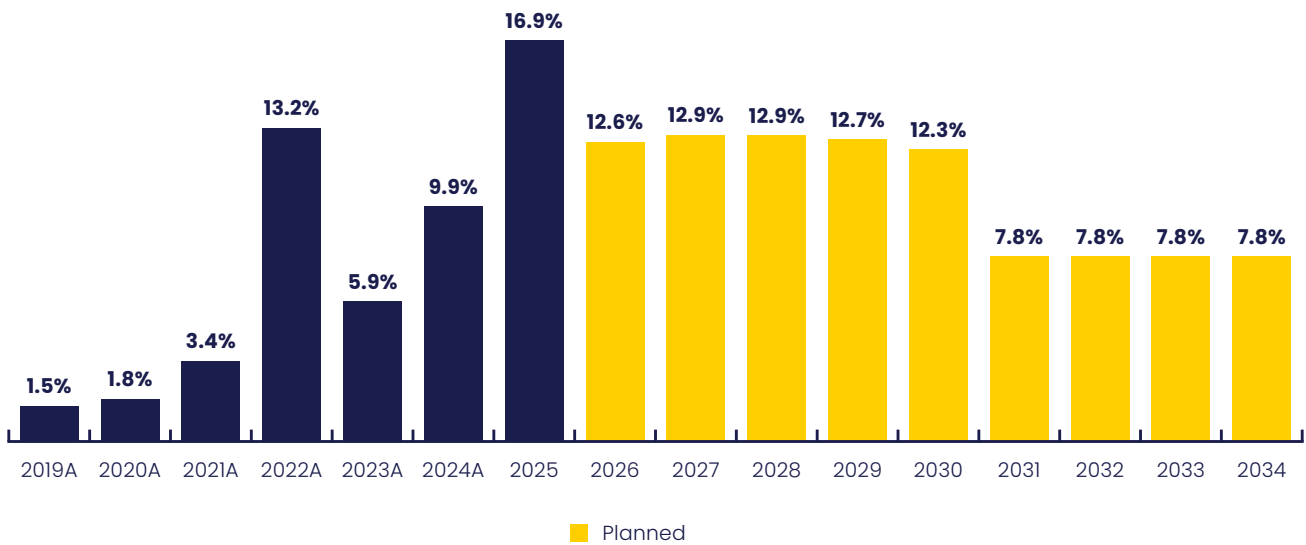
Affordability of Rates

Councils are limited in how they can generate revenue to cover their costs. Rates revenue is our main source of revenue. Fixing our ageing water services has been a top priority and has been driving much of the rates increase over the years. This has been exacerbated by broader inflationary cost pressures. For example, a 2024 Infometrics report found roads and water supply systems were 27% more expensive to build over the last three year.

Double digit rates increases, despite the savings made, create an affordability challenge. The new Council will set strategic priorities in the context of a constrained budget, little debt headroom, and ongoing cost of living pressures for people who live and do business in our city. There will be some tough calls to make about levels of service to be delivered into the future if we are to achieve a balanced budget in a timely way and reduce rates rises.

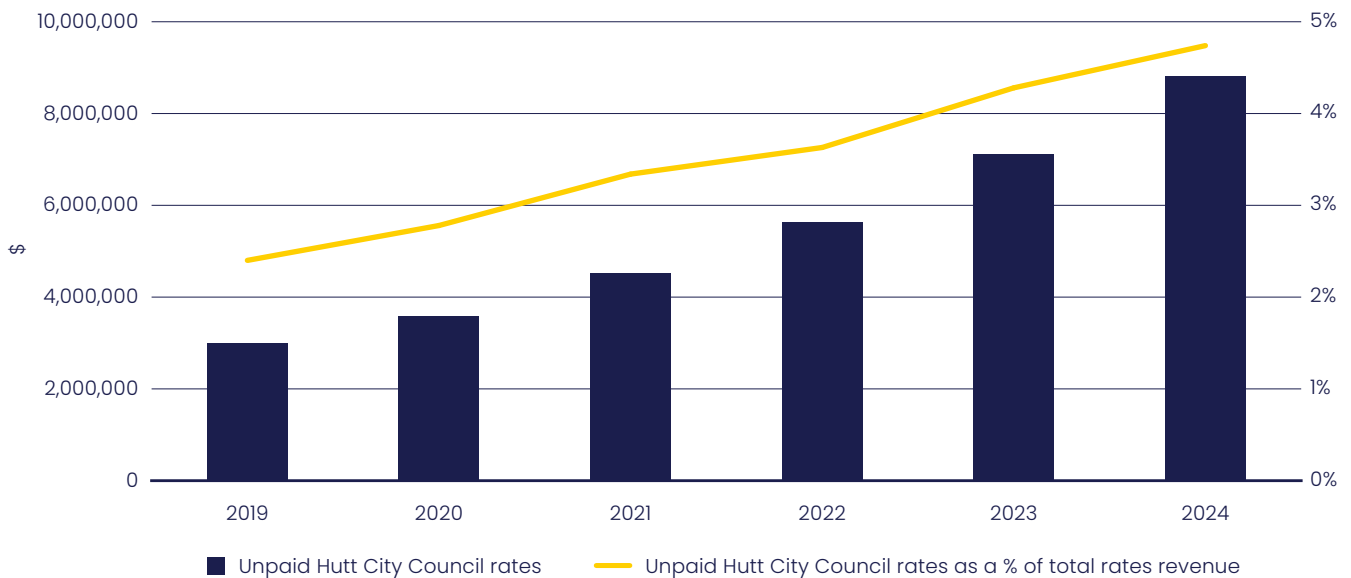
Graph 1 shows the rates increases since 2019 together with the projected increases for the remaining years of the 10 Year Plan.

Graph 1 - Rates revenue increase (after growth) 2019 to 2034



Unpaid rates arrears have been trending upward over recent years. In 2019, rates arrears accounted for just 2% of total rates revenue; by 2024, this had increased to 5%. This growing trend reflects these broader cost of living pressures and increasing rates requirements over the period. Graph 2 illustrates this trend.

Graph 2 - Unpaid rates as a percentage of total rates revenue



When the 10 Year Plan 2024-2034 was developed, we completed a comprehensive savings exercise to ease the burden on our ratepayers. Elected members chose to dial up some activities (like investment in water infrastructure) and dial down others that were not considered core priorities at this time. We continue to implement efficiencies and look for different ways to increase our income, which can reduce the rates burden, however, a more significant reset of priorities is needed to improve rates affordability.

Financial challenges for the new council are outlined in Part 5 Our finances.

Water Reform

Significant water sector reform is underway nationwide through Local Water Done Well, changing how water services will be delivered and ensuring these are safe, reliable, environmentally resilient, customer-responsive, and cost-effective.

In the Wellington region five councils, including Hutt City Council, are proposing a new regional water organisation to manage these services. Public consultation took place from March to April 2025. In June 2025, Council decisions were made in support of a new entity. A detailed Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) is required to be submitted to the Government in September 2025.

Hutt City Council water services assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses will transfer to the new entity. The planned transfer date is 1 July 2026. The new organisation will be required to set water services revenue requirements and maintain a financial sustainability plan.

While these reforms are taking shape, our existing ageing water infrastructure still requires significant ongoing investment. It is important to note that the cost of this is not going away. Our investment in Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant is a top priority. It is vital that we maintain focus on this and get it right.

About 34kms of pipes have been renewed in three years. This is significant progress compared to historical underinvestment in our pipes. As of last year's Long Term Plan a backlog of 233kms remains.

Our investment in water is less than the OECD average and even though our level of investment has increased in recent years we are not keeping pace with the renewals required.

Water costs have had a significant impact on recent rates increases, leading to affordability concerns. Around half of the rates increases over recent years have been driven by water services related cost pressures. Whichever way water is delivered in the future, it is going to cost more.

Establishing a new entity to manage water services will be less costly over time for ratepayers than councils individually managing water services.

The set up of the new entity will mean a significant reset opportunity for the next Council to review strategic priorities, investment choices and service levels. There will be a need to carefully consider balancing community needs with long term financial sustainability. This will be actioned through a Long Term Plan amendment process, which includes a full review of the Financial Strategy and rating policy.

Recent Value for Money reports highlighted our region's comparatively high renewal costs particularly for drinking water and wastewater assets. These higher costs were viewed by Wellington Water Limited (WWL) as likely to be a symptom of their contractual arrangements with suppliers and a lack of oversight, assurance and financial controls and processes.

Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) is now making progress to address these issues and implement improvements through the development of a Culture and Value for Money Improvement Plan, overseen by its Board. Several actions have already been taken. Procurement and other operating processes have been improved with more prudent financial management and better oversight of costs. A new performance framework is in place with early signs of improvement. Progress is monitored by the joint regional Water Committee through regular monthly reporting updates and through Hutt City Council's Audit and Risk Subcommittee.



Finding efficiencies

Our current Council agreed that our work on efficiency should continue and has asked that we prepare budget review options for the new Council to consider. This includes a focus on service priorities, affordability and value for money to help relieve the pressure of any future rates rises on our community.

Savings opportunities, while delivering the current level of services, have largely been exhausted. Tough decisions will need to be made by the new Council to balance service expectations with financial reality.

To meet our ambitious and large-scale investment programme we require resourcing to deliver strategic priorities. We have scaled up with new expertise in key areas to support this programme of work. In addition, we have previously undertaken a realignment of resources to meet Council's priorities, and it will be timely to look at this again with the election of a new Mayor and Council. Given the broader context of rates affordability, we expect that there will need to be changes to the operating model with a focus on form and function, service levels and achieving financial savings and reducing the rates burden to ratepayers. This work will extend to preparing budget review options for the new Council to consider, which includes a focus on service prioritisation, affordability, and value for money.

If we are to achieve a single digit rates rise then savings in the region of \$30M will be needed over the next three years. This figure includes unfunded stranded overheads of \$2M when water services transfer to the new entity. Further investment in technology is needed which will create efficiencies over time.

A new targeted operating model will get us in the right shape for the future and go some way to assist us to achieve further savings over the longer term, reducing the call on ratepayers.



Ō mātou pūtea

Our strategy and finances

Financial strategy

We reviewed our financial strategy to ensure that it enabled long-term sustainability and applied these principles to drive prudent, sustainable financial management:

- affordability of rates
- achieving intergenerational equity by spreading the costs between both present and future ratepayers
- maintaining prudent borrowing levels
- achieving a balanced operating budget over time and ensuring that everyday costs are paid for by everyday income
- delivering services effectively and efficiently
- strengthening Council's financial position in the long term
- maintaining the principle of "growth pays for growth"

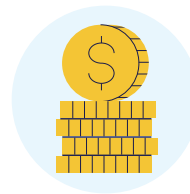


Capital Investment and Borrowing

Over the next ten years we have major infrastructure investment planned. Many of these have been planned for some time and others address the significant backlog of deferred works and investment in our facilities and services. To fund these our debt is expected to rise from \$0.4B to over \$1.1B. While this remains within our borrowing limits, in some years we will be close to the maximum we can borrow. The new council will need to carefully prioritise spending and funding to maintain financial sustainability.

The Financial Strategy focuses on strong fiscal management while addressing growing demands for increased capital investment. Key current cost pressures are:

- increased costs for key infrastructure projects
- revenue decreases largely due to lower than expected users for services
- government subsidy reductions
- higher borrowings compared with the 10 Year Plan 2024-34



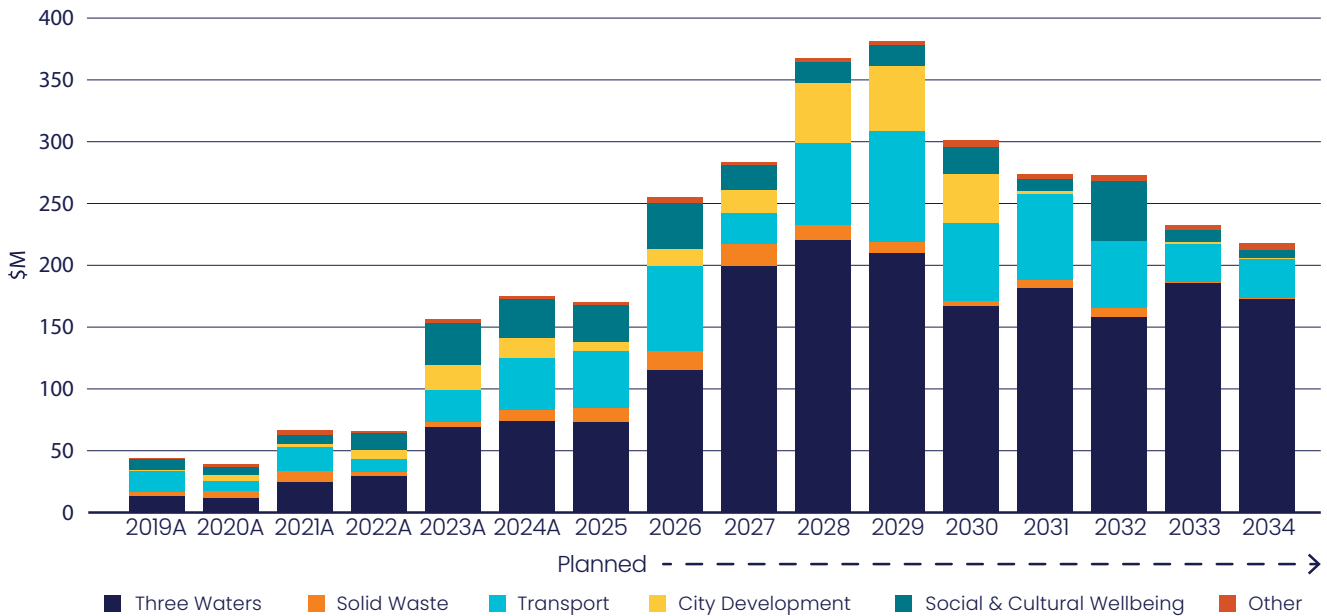
Managing Our Budget and Debt

We have worked to manage rising costs by making savings and shifting spending priorities within our existing budgets. Our original plan was to balance our operating budget by 2028-29, but due to higher depreciation costs from asset revaluation in June 2024, we now expect to achieve this by 2031-32 as reflected in the latest Annual Plan. This means we will have more operating deficits than planned, but future increases in rates revenue will help manage this in the long term.

Impact of Interest Rates and Credit Rating

The Official Cash Rate increases by the Reserve Bank over recent years raised the cost of borrowing. While interest rates are now declining, the debt we took on at higher interest rates still adds pressure to our budget. A lower Standard & Poor's credit rating means we will pay higher interest costs in the future.

Figure 1: Actual and planned capital expenditure by activity



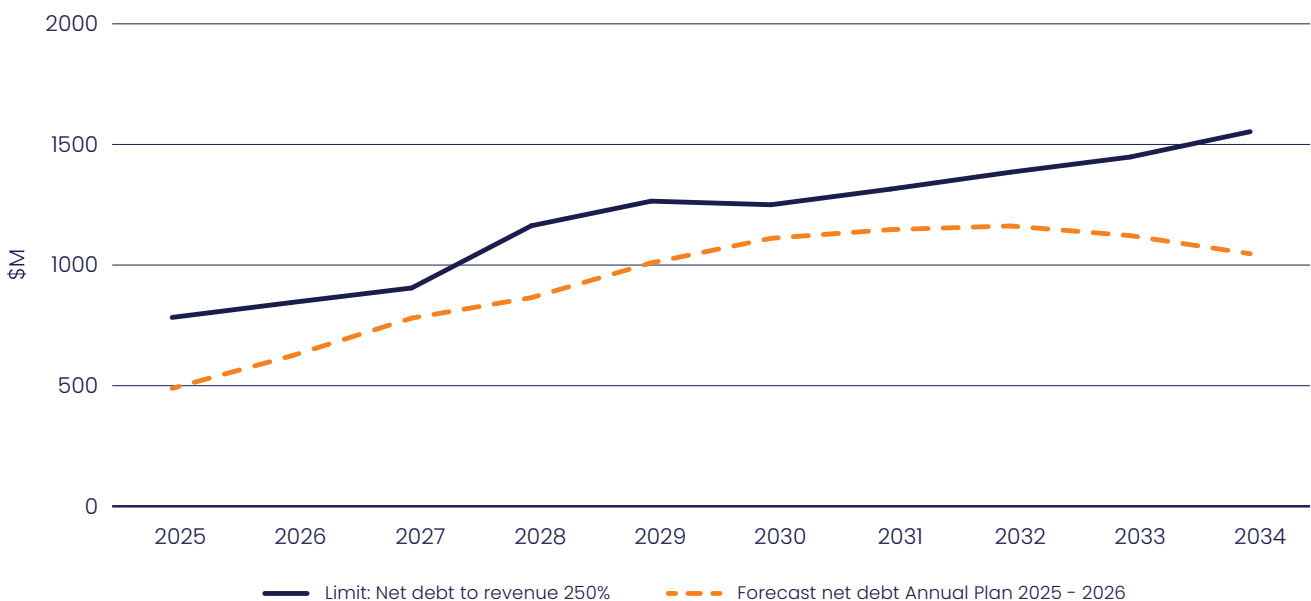
Return on investments

Council has investments in CCOs Urban Plus Ltd and Group, Seaview Marina, Civic Financial Services Ltd, the Local Government Funding Agency, property and cash. Our projections assume that there will be no material return on investment from the CCOs in the near future.

Financial Strategy and Sustainability

We have financial limits in place to ensure responsible borrowing while continuing to invest in essential services. A key metric is keeping our debt within 250% of our revenue.

Figure 2: Planned borrowings compared to financial strategy limit of 250% of revenue



In March 2025 S&P lowered our credit rating to A+ with a stable outlook. This was part of a broader review across the local government sector which saw 18 other Councils also downgraded.

Summary financial statements

The following pages summarise some key financial information for Hutt City Council. Information has been drawn from the relevant audited Annual Reports, audited 10 Year Plan 2024–2034, and Annual Plan 2025–2026.

A range of assumptions have been made in the preparation of the budgeted financial information. The eventuation of these assumptions reflects risk factors that will influence actual amounts compared to the projections. Full assumption details can be found in the Annual Plan 2025–2026.

The Annual Plan financial statements have the potential to be significantly impacted by the progression of water services reform. For an initial analysis of the financial impacts of water reform on Council, you can refer to information used to support our community consultation on our website at hutt.city/futurewater

		Actual	Actual	Forecast	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Rate increases	Rates increase	5.9%	9.9%	16.9%	12.6%	12.9%	10.9%	12.7%
	Assumed growth ¹	1.3%	1.7%	1.1%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%
	Proposed new Food and green organics waste collection service ²						2.00%	
	Total Limit per LTP	7.0%	11.0%	18.0%	14.3%	13.5%	13.5%	13.3%
	Actual ³	7.2%	11.6%	18.0%	13.50%	13.8%	13.8%	13.6%
Borrowings	Limit	250%	250%	250%	250%	250%	250%	250%
	Actual	128%	157%	156%	185%	215%	186%	199%
Net debt to revenue ratio	Net debt forecast (\$'000) per LTP	600,000	711,000	539,000	677,000	810,000	891,000	995,000
	Actual(\$'000)	307,000	433,000	489,000	624,000	780,000	865,000	1,009,000
Interest expense to total revenue	Limit per LTP	10%	10%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
	Actual	4.7%	7.7%	8.50%	8.70%	10.00%	9.30%	9.90%
Interest expense to rates revenue	Limit per LTP	20%	20%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
	Actual	7.68%	13.51%	14.50%	14.20%	15.30%	16.00%	16.40%

1. Rates revenue increases include the impact of assumed growth.
2. Targeted rates for the potential introduction of the new food and organic waste collection service will be consulted on through future Annual Plans. This service is proposed to meet longer term waste minimisation goals.
3. Additional actual rates revenue above the limit is due to a range of reasons, including greater than expected growth in the rating base and the impacts of remissions compared to budget. Rates are struck each year based on the limit in place, using the rates database information available at the time.

Basis of preparation (including assumptions)

Financials for 2022–23 and 2023–24 are taken from the audited financial statements included in the Hutt City Council's annual reports. Audited financial statements for the 2024–25 year were not available at the time of preparing this report. Officers have therefore prepared forecast figures based on the results to 31 May 2025. Financial information for the following financial year (2025–26) and the three years following election are taken from the Annual Plan 2025–2026. The Annual Plan updates the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 for the latest project information and Council decisions. The audited 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 and Annual Plan 2025–2026 including the underlying assumptions applied in their preparation can be found online.

Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Revenue							
Rates	140,258	156,488	183,622	208,411	237,172	269,902	306,608
Other revenue	108,627	132,079	138,085	141,863	139,334	210,116	215,011
Gains on revaluation of financial instruments	3,613	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	252,500	288,566	321,707	350,274	376,506	480,018	521,619
Expenditure							
Employee costs	45,615	49,499	53,687	56,225	56,971	58,276	59,752
Operating costs	135,677	147,968	167,201	175,979	176,140	183,836	189,128
Finance costs	11,197	21,663	26,694	29,516	36,312	43,342	50,345
Depreciation	47,716	54,607	92,441	106,110	117,264	134,452	146,395
Losses on revaluation of financial instruments	-	1,586	-	-	-	-	-
Loss on disposal of assets	436	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	240,641	275,323	340,023	367,830	386,687	419,906	445,620
Surplus/deficit after tax	11,859	13,243	(18,316)	(17,556)	(10,181)	60,112	75,999
Tax expense	68	97	95	-	-	-	-
Surplus/deficit after tax	11,791	13,146	(18,221)	(17,556)	(10,181)	60,112	75,999
Gain/(Loss) on asset revaluation	-	1,421,624	-	-	504,823	-	-
Total other comprehensive income	-	1,421,624	-	-	504,823	-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	11,791	1,434,770	(18,221)	(17,556)	494,642	60,112	75,999

Summary balance sheet

	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Assets							
Current assets							
Financial assets	54,672	77,775	39,697	39,047	34,069	38,886	33,471
Other current assets	7,038	10,292	11,816	11,595	16,803	16,581	16,814
Total current assets	61,710	88,067	51,513	50,642	50,872	55,467	50,285
Non-current assets							
Property, plant and equipment & intangibles	1,914,341	3,455,666	3,501,234	3,622,262	4,271,057	4,417,725	4,640,936
Other non-current assets	65,557	68,084	78,084	81,484	82,484	82,484	82,484
Total non-current assets	1,979,898	3,523,750	3,579,318	3,703,746	4,353,541	4,500,209	4,723,420
Total assets	2,041,608	3,611,817	3,630,831	3,754,388	4,404,413	4,555,676	4,773,705
Liabilities							
Current liabilities							
Borrowings - current	69,998	40,000	56,503	70,571	86,043	95,093	109,236
Other current liabilities	55,237	50,673	36,010	36,268	36,654	37,029	37,380
Total current liabilities	125,235	90,673	92,513	106,839	122,697	132,122	146,616
Non-current liabilities							
Borrowings	300,680	470,700	508,532	635,134	774,383	855,840	983,123
Other non-current liabilities	10,915	10,916	8,479	8,664	8,940	9,209	9,462
Total non-current liabilities	311,595	481,616	517,011	643,798	783,323	865,049	992,585
Total liabilities	436,830	572,289	609,524	750,637	906,020	997,171	1,139,201
Net assets (assets minus liabilities)	1,604,778	3,039,528	3,021,307	3,003,751	3,498,393	3,558,505	3,634,504

Funding impact statement

	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan	Annual Plan
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Sources of operating funding							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	85,994	95,014	111,715	122,875	137,465	148,971	166,833
Targeted rates	54,265	61,474	71,907	85,537	99,706	120,931	139,776
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	8,739	10,298	10,585	11,325	11,654	14,234	14,707
Fees, charges	53,222	60,300	68,519	73,205	78,609	82,394	84,924
Interest and dividends from investments	1,496	6,603	4,304	3,134	3,454	3,220	3,275
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	17,837	11,103	9,398	8,088	11,202	11,556	12,130
Total operating funding (A)	221,552	244,793	276,428	304,164	342,090	381,306	421,645
Applications of operating funding							
Payments to staff and suppliers	181,288	197,453	220,888	232,204	233,111	242,112	248,880
Finance costs	11,196	21,663	26,694	29,516	36,314	43,343	50,346
Internal charges and overheads applied	-	-	25,291	20,001	3,519	(8,086)	(16,717)
Other operating funding applications	442	325	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of operating funding (B)	192,927	219,441	272,873	281,721	272,944	277,369	282,509
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	28,626	25,352	3,555	22,443	69,146	103,937	139,136
Sources of capital funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	30,814	38,775	44,246	53,594	51,612	100,880	93,945
Development and financial contributions	8,640	8,798	7,918	10,976	13,767	14,214	14,718
Increase (decrease) in debt	88,193	101,588	112,843	167,256	141,981	142,565	127,032
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	1,524	1,303	6,511	6,289	6,522
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding (C)	127,648	149,160	166,531	233,129	213,871	263,948	242,217
Application of capital funding							
Capital expenditure							
- to meet additional demand	5,524	7,707	8,967	25,242	50,737	109,566	123,787
- to improve level of service	82,655	91,066	78,187	111,917	98,191	161,460	177,697
- to replace existing assets	68,093	75,739	82,932	118,413	134,089	96,859	79,869
Increase (decrease) in reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of capital funding (D)	156,273	174,512	170,086	255,572	283,017	367,885	381,353
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C-D)	(28,626)	(25,352)	(3,555)	(22,443)	(69,146)	(103,937)	(139,136)
Funding balance ((A-B) + (C-D))	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wāhanga 6 Part 6

Pōtitanga 2025 – Hei mōhiotanga māu 2025 elections – what you need to know

At the 2022 elections, voters decided which electoral system will be used for Hutt City Council elections in 2025 and 2028. The choices were first-past-the-post (FPP) or single transferable voting (STV), with FPP being decided.

Hutt City Councillors have voted to create a Māori Ward for the 2025 local government elections.

The Māori Electoral Option is a choice for Māori about which electoral roll to be on: the Māori roll or the general roll.

The intent of Māori Wards is to ensure Māori are represented and can participate in local government decision-making. Electors enrolled on the Māori electoral roll will vote for candidates standing for the Māori Ward.

A Māori Ward councillor would have a particular responsibility to represent people of Māori descent alongside Mana Whenua and also to act in the best interests of the city as a whole.



Final day to enrol is Friday, October 10, 2025

You will receive your voting papers from 9 September, and you need to make sure we receive your vote by midday on 11 October 2025. Email elections2025@huttcity.govt.nz

Enrol

You are eligible to enrol & vote in Hutt City Council's election if you:

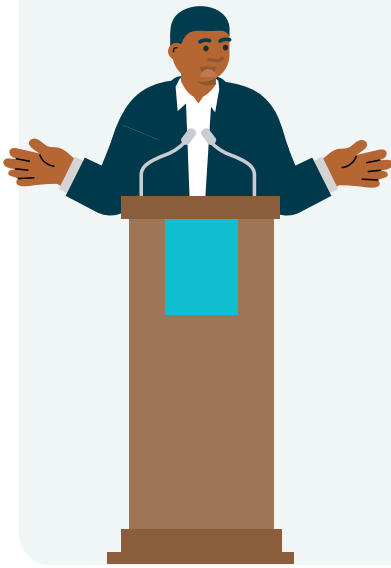
-  Are 18 years old or older on election day (11 October)
-  Are a NZ citizen or permanent resident
-  Have lived in NZ for at least one year continuously, at some point in your life
-  Live in or own property within the Hutt City Council boundaries

To enrol to vote or update your details, go to [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) or call 0800 36 76 56. After 1 August 2025, you will need to complete a special vote.

If you own property but live outside the Hutt City Council boundaries, you can apply to go on the ratepayer roll so you can vote where you live as well as where you own property. To apply, get in touch with our electoral officer.



Stand



You can stand for Hutt City Council if you are:



A NZ citizen



Enrolled to vote



Nominated by two people who are enrolled to vote in the Hutt City Council elections area for which you are standing

Our community deserves to have an elected Council that represents them and cares about their wellbeing. All types of people can be Councillors, and Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is a diverse place – so it makes sense that we have a diverse range of candidates standing for election.

To stand for election, you need to submit a completed nomination form and provide a \$200 deposit. Nomination forms will be available on our website from 4 July to 1 August 2025.

Vote

Now you are enrolled, the important part is still to come – voting. Having your say is important, and this opportunity rolls around just once every three years.

Local elections are run by postal voting. If you are enrolled you will receive your voting papers in the mail. Once you have completed them you can return them by mail or drop them into one of our orange voting bins. These will be located at community hubs, libraries, and other key locations including some supermarkets. See a map of where these are at hutt.city/votenow

In the lead up to voting we will be sharing lots of helpful information and reminders, but here are the basics:

- You will vote for a Mayor and contribute to electing 13 Councillors city-wide. If you are on the Māori roll you will be voting for a councillor in the Mana Kairangi ki Tai Māori Ward instead of your geographic ward.
- Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is divided into five wards for the election: Central, Harbour, Northern, Wainuiomata, and Western. You will be asked to vote for a Ward Councillor and up to five City-wide Councillors.

- If your area is covered by a Community Board, you will also be asked to vote for Community Board representatives.
- You will also vote for three councillors for Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- In 2025, you will be voting on a government-mandated referendum on whether to keep the Māori ward for both the 2028 and 2031 elections.
- A non-binding referendum is being held on changes that could be made to the way Councils in the Wellington region could join together to deliver services more efficiently. The result of the referendum won't require our Council to do anything, but will help the new Council decide if it should look into the options more.
- We will continue to update the 2025 local government elections page on our website with more information as we get closer to election day.

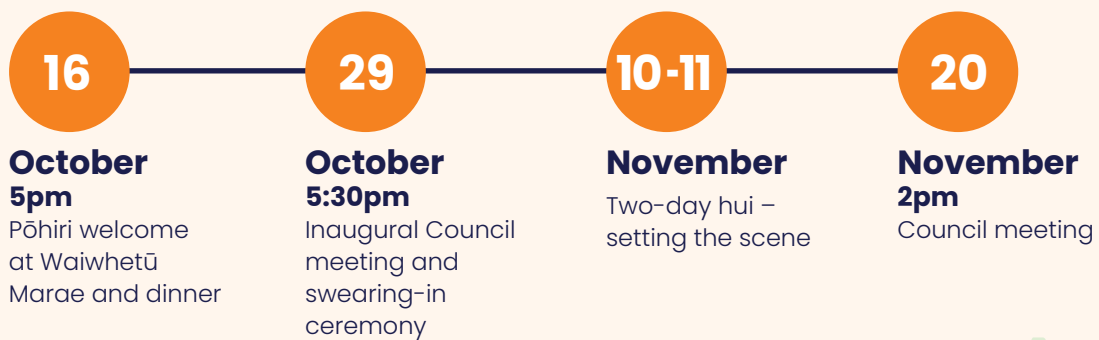


Elected Member Induction Programme

A comprehensive induction programme for elected members will commence in mid-October 2025 and will run over a three-month period. Ongoing training and development opportunities will continue throughout the triennium.

The purpose of the induction programme is to ensure that elected members are well-informed, effective, and confident in their roles as governors and strategic partners in the city's development. Key objectives of the programme include fostering a constructive governance culture, promoting evidence-based decision-making, strengthening understanding of the governance role, and equipping members with practical governance tools.

The key dates for the induction programme follow:



The Democratic Services team is here to help, email: democraticservicesteam@huttcity.govt.nz

Wards:



Pānui atu

Further reading

City Centre Framework (formerly Central City Transformation Plan)

Originally adopted in 2019, the Central City Transformation Plan was the result of three decades of formal planning and community consultation that sought to re-energise our city centre and turn it towards Te Awa Kairangi. In 2025, it was refreshed and updated to become the City Centre Framework.

Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy

This Strategy provides a shared vision and goals that can guide Council, Mana Whenua, and the community on ways of working together to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.

Integrated Transport Strategy

Outlines our vision, and strategic direction for responding to Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt's growing transport challenges. It lays out an integrated approach to delivering land use planning, transport planning, investment and encouraging behaviour change within the city.

Investing in our water services

On this webpage you will find reporting for how we are tracking on pipe renewals and leak repairs, as well as information on key projects like upgrading the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway

Webpage outlining our climate change plans.

Mahere Tekau Tau 10 Year Plan 2024–2034

The Long Term Plan (also known as our 10 Year Plan) sets out our priorities and plans for the city over the next decade.

Mahere ā-Tau Annual Plan 2025–2026

Outlines our key projects, budgets, and service levels for the year ahead.

Office of the Auditor General (OAG) integrity framework

This guide from the Office of the Auditor General outlines what integrity means in the public sector and why it matters, how it contributes to public trust, and aims to support leaders to deliver on their stewardship responsibilities.

Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan

Sets out what can be built, what limitations apply, and what hazards and other considerations need to inform new development in our city.

Pūrongo ā-Tau Annual Report 2023–2024

Reports back on how we did against the Annual Plan for that year. Our next Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 will be available later in the year.

Rautaki hanganga | Infrastructure strategy

Our infrastructure supports Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt to be a liveable city where all our people thrive: the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of our community is sustained, and the health and safety of people, property, and the environment is protected.

Rautaki pūtea | Financial strategy

Our Financial Strategy is part of the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 and explains how our services and investment will be funded and balanced with revenue and borrowings in a financially sustainable way.

Reserves Investment Strategy

Outlines plans to improve green spaces as the city grows, with a 10-year project list funded by reserve financial contributions under the Resource Management Act and District Plan. Budgets are estimates and may change with community feedback and design updates.

Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025–2055

Sets out how we will manage population and urban growth over 30 years, focusing on safe, accessible areas like the central city and valley floor. Guides future investment in water, Council services, government, and private development.

Te Herenga Kairangi Māori Strategy

A rautaki (strategy) consolidating all council work aimed at improving outcomes for Māori.

Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 | Our City 2055

This strategy, provided by a City Leadership Group that includes Iwi, business, government and community leaders, and more, on the future of our city will be released later in the year.

Whakapā mai

Contact details

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Facebook: facebook.com/huttcitycouncil

Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive: Jo Miller

Email: jo.miller@huttcity.govt.nz

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