
Economic Development Committee

Komiti Oohanga Whakatupu

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Economic Development Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Maria Huata
Heamana Tuarua

Members

- Cr Anna Casey-Cox
- Cr Maxine van Oosten (Via Audio-Visual)
- Cr Moko Tauariki
- Cr Louise Hutt (Via Audio-Visual)
- Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
- Cr Andrew Bydder
- Cr Geoff Taylor
- Cr Sarah Thomson
- Cr Emma Pike
- Cr Tim Macindoe

External Presenters in Attendance Barry Harris, Mark Morgan and Scott Kendall – Waikato Regional Airport Limited
Nicola Greenwell – Hamilton Waikato Tourism

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

1. Apologies – Tono aroha

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)

That the Economic Development Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Mayor Southgate (Council Business) and Deputy Mayor O’Leary and for lateness from Cr Tauariki.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Economic Development Committee confirms the agenda noting that the late attachments for Item 7 (External Agencies and CCO Reporting) is accepted. These were circulated to Members prior to the meeting under separate cover.

3. Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipaaanga

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum – Aatea koorero

No members of the public wished to speak in the Public Forum.

5. Confirmation of the Economic and Development Committee Open Minutes - 22 May 2025

Resolved: (Cr Pike/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Economic Development Committee confirms the Open Minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2025 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted good economic news regarding the confirmation of the University of Waikato's medical school, international airport flights and the ongoing work for the new hotel developments.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Taylor)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

7. External Agencies and CCO Reporting

Waikato Regional Airport Limited

Representatives from Waikato Regional Airport Limited spoke to their presentation highlighting future developments, financial performance, Pyper Vision, outlook on economic risks, Jetstar and an Air New Zealand update. They responded to questions from Members concerning flight demands, investment in property, strategic review, improving commercial land value, maximising economic benefits, runway designation, customer experience, property strategy and future acquisitions.

Hamilton and Waikato Tourism

A representative from Hamilton Waikato Tourism spoke to their presentation in particular the growth in market share, the increase in online views and the Get Lost marketing campaign. They responded to questions from Members concerning customer feedback, Te Huia advertising collaboration, Australian activation, collaboration with Waikato-Tainui and public perceptions of safety.

Resolved: (Cr Macindoe/Cr Huata)

That the Economic Development Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) receives the Waikato Regional Airport Limited year-end report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; and
- c) receives the Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Limited year-end report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (**Attachment 3**).

Cr Tauariki joined the meeting (9.50am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting was adjourned from 10.57am to 11.10am.

8. General Manager's Report

The General Manager Strategy, Growth and Planning spoke to the report and highlighted the economic benefit of the new medical school and the cost benefit. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the proposed increased number of meetings with businesses and the potential to increase parking around the hospital.

Resolved: (Cr Bydder/Cr Macindoe)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

9. Strategic and General Update

The Unit Director Commercial & Analytics spoke to the report in particular the expansion and retention of particular businesses, the recently published Hamilton Economic Report 2024, economy resilience and unemployment rates. The Business Growth Advisor and the Business Relationship Advisor spoke to the report in particular the Make it here project, the economic insights, a multidimensional view of the economy and business engagement. The General Manager Destinations spoke to the report in particular the destinations summary on how they are tracking for the year, visitation numbers, paid admission into the Gardens and the work Hamilton Waikato Tourism is doing. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the benefits of the Economic Report's in depth analysis, Hamilton consenting activity, collaboration with different teams, Techweek25, impact of migration, funding, interest from health technology businesses, labour shortfall, the business events pipeline, flight and visitor destinations packages, visitor numbers growth and future marketing plans.

Resolved: (Cr Huata/Cr Tauariki)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

10. Strategic Property Update - July 2025

The Strategic Property Manager provided an update on the result of the Municipal Endowment Fund return, Bridge Housing, Templeton and Area Q. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the proposed additional rooms for Area Q and public notification of consenting.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

11. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Taylor)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|--|--|--|
| C1. Confirmation of the Economic and Development Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 22 May 2025 |) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987 | Section 48(1)(a) |
| C2. Strategic Property Update - July 2025 | | |
| C3. Strategic Issues Update (Public Excluded Matters) | | |

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of

the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

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| Item C1. | to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage | Section 7 (2) (j) |
| Item C2. | to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage | Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i) |
| Item C3. | to enable Council to carry out negotiations to avoid the unreasonably, likely prejudice to the commercial position of a person who supplied or is the subject of the information | Section 7 (2) (b) (ii) |

The meeting moved in the Public Excluded session at 12.20pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 1.48pm.