



2024/25 Annual Report Summary

Koorero Whakaraapopoto

Contents

Raarangi upoko

Introduction Koorero whakataki	4	Delivering on our Priorities	30
From the Mayor and Chief Executive	6	Summary of our delivery	31
Highlights	8	Community outcome measures	32
What is the Annual Report?	14	Service performance measures	36
Our vision for Hamilton	16		
Maaori contribution to the decision-making process	18	Financial matters	42
Climate change reporting	20	Summary financial statements	43
Our Financial Strategy	22	Notes	46
Overview of our 2024/25 finances	26		
Capital projects delivery	28	Audit Opinion	50

Introduction

Koorero whakataki



Welcome

Nau mai

This summary is an abridged version of the full Hamilton City Council Annual Report 2024/25, which was prepared in accordance with accounting standards applicable to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Public sector public benefit entities. It does not include all the disclosures provided in the full annual report. The specific disclosures have been extracted from the full annual report adopted by Hamilton City Council on 2 October 2025. The summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements. All amounts are in NZD.

The full audited Annual Report is available at **www.hamilton.govt.nz/your-city/data-and-statistics/understanding-your-council/annual-reports/**



From the Mayor and Chief Executive

Foreword

Kia ora koutou,

Fast-paced change has continued to be a key driver in the 2024/25 financial year for Hamilton Kirikiriroa. The Council, and our city, have navigated a difficult economic environment, financial pressures and continued Government-led reform. These challenges have tested us, delayed some of our planned work, and required Council to demonstrate resilience and adaptability.

Despite this, we have remained focused on delivering essential services and progressing the city's core priorities. This includes meeting the pressures of growth by investing carefully in our city's future. The outcomes we have achieved reflect careful planning, disciplined financial management, and a commitment to working in partnership with mana whenua, businesses, key stakeholders and the wider community.

We proudly completed delivery of Year One of our Long-Term Plan capital programme, investing \$237.9 million into critical projects across the city. Acknowledging the pressures on our community, we also drove \$13.6 million in savings for the year, despite absorbing a \$18.5 million reduction in expected revenue from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

In response to central government direction, we also established IAWAI – Flowing Waters in partnership with Waikato District Council, futureproofing water services for our two high-growth

councils. We are proud to be the first joint water service delivery entity approved by the Government.

Hamilton's high growth continues to set us apart from other centres in New Zealand. While it can be considered a sign of success with people wanting to live and invest in our city, it also brings challenges, with high demand for infrastructure and services. Currently, this outstrips our ability to fund and deliver them to meet both government and community expectations in a timely way.

Unprecedented reform of the local government sector has required constant advocacy to central government on many topics of significance to Hamilton, the wider Waikato and councils nationally. This has required direct engagement with Government, participation in sector meetings and 50 formal submissions on various legislative changes and proposals that affect how we work for our city and people. We have also provided submissions to neighbouring councils on services that impact the way our city functions. We continue to advocate for fair funding and financing tools to meet the realities of a fast-growing city. At the same time, we have focused on what makes Hamilton a vibrant and attractive place to live and invest. Places of connection and recreation, such as our libraries, green spaces, playgrounds, and public venues, continue to enrich Hamiltonians' everyday life. Investments in our central city, Hamilton Gardens, Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum & Gallery, and Hamilton Zoo at Te Kaaroro Nature Precinct, have

contributed to record-breaking visitation, lifting our city's profile and reputation, while contributing to our local economy.

Our international partnerships remind us that Hamilton is globally connected, continuing to provide economic, cultural, and educational opportunities. The year has been marked by inbound and outbound visits from and to two of our sister-cities: Saitama, Japan, and Chengdu, China. We acknowledged the tenth anniversary of our sister-city relationship with Chengdu with the announcement of a joint student travel scholarship with WINTEC and an exchange of symbolic gifts.

From the CEO

As Chief Executive, I am immensely proud of what has been achieved in 2024/25. This has been a year of clear strategy, disciplined delivery, and unwavering commitment from our staff and partners. Despite a continued tough economic climate, we have laid strong foundations to position Hamilton for continued growth and success. Council remains focused on ensuring Hamilton not only adapts but thrives within the changing environment.

Ngaa mihi nui,



Lance Vervoort
Chief Executive

From the Mayor

Hamilton stands at an important crossroads, with sweeping reforms and national funding frameworks significantly reshaping local government. The creation of our joint water services CCO with Waikato District Council will mark a fundamental shift in the way we operate.

I believe this provides us with an opportunity to think differently and creatively about the way we do business, drive efficiencies and fund the activities our residents need and want for a thriving city.

Meanwhile, our city continues to evolve with new hotels, developments, and the Waikato Regional Theatre opening in 2026. This will enrich our culture, strengthen our economy and connect us more deeply to our beautiful river, Te Awa o Waikato.

As I prepare to step down, after two terms as Mayor, my heart is full of gratitude. We haven't got everything right. However, we should be proud of the progress we have made together; the infrastructure we've built, the communities we've supported, the culture we've celebrated, and the opportunities we've created. Hamilton is truly a great place to live, work and play. So, thank you to my colleagues, staff, and our wonderful community partners. I look forward to seeing further progress over upcoming years to create an even stronger and more prosperous city, where all people thrive.

Ngaa mihi nui,



Paula Southgate
Mayor of Hamilton

He kupu naa te Koromatua me te Tumu Whakarae

Kupu whakataki

Kia ora koutou,

E noho tonu ana ngaa panoni wawe hei kaikookiri matua o te tau puutea 2024/2025 moo Kirikiriroa. Kua aata urungi haere te Kaunihera, me too taatou taaone i teetehi taiao oohanga uaua, ngaa peehanga ahumoni me ngaa whakahoutanga e kookiritia tonutia ana e te Kaawanatanga. He nui te whakamaatautau a ngeenei wero i a maatou, kua whakapooturitia ngeetehi o ngaa mahi i whakaritea, aa, i whaaia e te Kaunihera te huarahi manawaroa, urutau hoki.

Ahako teenei, e aro puu ana maatou ki te kawhe i ngaa ratonga waiwai me te kookiri i ngaa whakaarotau matua o te taaone. Ka uru ki teenei ko te whakatau i ngaa peehanga tupuranga maa te aata haumi ake ki te anamata o too taatou taaone. E whakaatu ana ngaa putanga kua tutuki i ngaa whakaritenga maarire, ngaa whakahaerenga moni urupuu, me te puumau ki te mahi ngaatahi ki te mana whenua, ngaa pakihi, ngaa kiripaanga matua, me te hapori whaanui.

I poho taniwha taa maatou kawhe i te Tau Tuatahi o too maatou Mahere Tauroa o te hootaka puurawa, otiraa i haumitia te \$237.9 miriona ki ngaa kaupapa waiwai puta noa i te taaone. Ka tuutou

maatou ki ngaa peehanga nui kei runga i too taatou hapori, i penapenatia hoki te \$13.6 miriona moo te tau, ahako i heke ngaa whiwhinga moni maa te \$18.5 miriona i a Waka Kotahi.

Hei urupare ki te tohutohu a te kaawanatanga, i whakatuuria e maatou a IAWAI - Flowing Waters, i te taha o te Kaunihera aa-Rohe o Waikato, araa he whakapakari i ngaa ratonga wai o ngaa kaunihera whanake-nui. E whakahii ana maatou ki te noho hei hinonga ratonga kawhe wai tuuhono tuatahi i whakaaetia e te Kaawanatanga

Naa te tupuranga nui o Kirikiriroa, e tuu taarake ana a taatou i ngeetahi atu taaone i Aotearoa. Ahako ka kiia pea he tohu angitu te hiahia o te tangata ki te noho me te haumi ki too taatou taaone, araa hoki oona wero, me te popono nui ki ngaa tuuaahanga me ngaa ratonga. I teenei waa, he hohoro rawa teenei i too maatou aahei ki te utu me te kawhe i aua ratonga e tutuki ai ngaa kawatau a te kaawanatanga me te hapori.

Naa ngaa whakahoutanga ture haraki ki te raangai kaunihera, he nui ngaa mahi kookiri ki te kaawanatanga moo ngaa take whaitake nui ki a Kirikiriroa, te rohe whaanui o Waikato me ngaa kaunihera o te motu. Ko te here o teenei ko te whiriwhiri koorero haangai ki te Kaawanatanga, te whai waahi ki ngaa hui raangai me te tuku i ngaa taapaetanga ookawa 50 e paa ana ki ngaa ture

me ngaa marohitanga ka whai paanga ki aa maatou mahi moo te taaone me te iwi. Kua tukua hoki e maatou ngeetehi taapaetanga ki ngaa kaunihera tuutata moo ngaa ratonga ka whai paanga ki te aahua o ngaa mahi a too taatou taaone. Ka kookiri tonu maatou moo ngaa puutea tookeke me ngaa utauta ahumoni e tutuki ai ngaa aahuatanga tuuturu o teetehi taaone tipu-wawe. I taua waa hoki, e arotahi ana maatou ki ngaa mea e noho hihiri, he noho manea nei a Kirikiriroa kia noho hei waahi noohanga pai, hei haumitanga pai hoki. Ko te mea e whakaora ana i ngaa ao o te iwi noho ki Kirikiriroa, ko ngaa waahi whakakotahi i te tangata me ngaa mahi reehia, peenei i ngaa whare pukapuka, ngaa papa whenua kaakaariki, ngaa papa taakaro me ngaa waahi tuumatanui hoki. Naa ngaa haumitanga ki too taatou pokapuu taaone, a Hamilton Gardens, Te Whare Taonga o Waikato, me Hamilton Zoo kei Te Kaaroro Nature Precinct, i eke ai te tatauranga maha o ngaa manuhiri, i hau ai te rongo o te taaone, me te whai waahi anoo hoki ki too taatou oohanga tuutata.

Ko taa ngaa rangapuu aa-ao he whakamahara i a taatou ki ngaa tuuhonotanga aa-ao o Kirikiriroa, e tuku tonu nei i ngaa arawaatea oohanga, ahurea, me te maatauranga hoki. I teenei tau i kitea te taenga mai, me te toronga atu ki ngeetehi o ngoo taatou taaone piringa e rua: Saitama i Haapana, me Chengdu i

Haina. I whakanuia e maatou te tekau tau o te piringa taaone ki a Chengdu maa te whakaatu i teetahi karahipi haerenga tauira tūhono me WINTEC, otiraa i tauutuutua ngeetehi taonga hei tohu whakanui.

Naa te Tumu Whakarae

Hei Tumu Whakarae, e poho kereruu ana ahau ki ngaa mahi i tutuki i te 2024/25. He tau teenei o te rautaki maarama, ngaa kawenga urupuu, me te manawa uu a ngaa kaimahi me ngaa hoa rangapuu. Ahakoa te uaua tonu o te taiao oohanga, kua tau i a maatou te tuuaapapa pakari e rite ai a Kirikiriroa ki te tupu, aa, kia angitu hoki. E mau tonu ana te arotahi o te kaunihera, kia urutau tonu te aahua o ngaa mahi a Kirikiriroa, otiraa kia puaawai i roto i te taiao hurihuri.

Ngaa mihi nui,



Lance Vervoort
Tumu Whakarae

Naa te Koromatua

Kua tae a Kirikiriroa ki teetehi puutahi hirahira, araa ko ngaa whakahoutanga whaarahi me ngaa anga tuku puutea aa-motu e hoahoa hou ana i ngaa kaunihera. Ko te hanganga o ngoo maatou CCO ratonga wai tuuhono i te taha o Te Kaunihera aa-Rohe o Waikato, he tohu i te nukuhanga taketake o aa maatou tikanga whakahaere.

E whakapono ana ahau ka tuku teenei i te arawaatea kia rerekee oo maatou whakaaro, kia auaha hoki ngaa mahi pakihi, te kookiri i ngaa whaaomotanga me te tuku puutea ki ngaa mahi e hiahia ana ngaa kainoho moo teetehi taaone taurikura.

Wheoi, e kukune tonu ana too taatou taaone, me ngaa hooteera hou, ngaa whanaketanga whenua me te whakatuwheratanga o te Waikato Regional Theatre aa te 2026. Maa teenei e kiinaki i too taatou ahurea, te whakapakari i too taatou oohanga me te tuuhono hoohonu i a taatou ki too taatou awa huatau, Te Awa o Waikato.

I ahau e takatuu ana ki te whakawaatea i taku tuuranga, i muri i te rua huringa hei Kahika, e koorengarenga ana taku ngaakau i te aroha. Kaaore i tika i a maatou ngaa mea katoa. Engari me whakahiihii taatou ka tika o ngaa mahi kua tutuki naa te mahi

tahi; ngaa tuuaahanga kua tuu, ngaa hapori kua taunakihia, te ahurea kua whakanuia, me ngaa arawaatea kua hangaia. Tuuturu he waahi kaiaora a Kirikiriroa, hei waahi noho, waahi mahi, waahi ngahau hoki. Naa reira ka mihi au ki aku hoa mahi, ngaa kaimahi me ngaa hoa rangapuu o te hapori. Ko te tuumanako ka kookiri whakamua tonu hei ngaa tau e tuu mai nei ki te opeope i teetehi taaone pakari ake, haumako ake hoki, e puaawai ai te tangata.

Ngaa mihi nui,



Kahika Paula Southgate

Highlights


Council's strategy continues to be guided by five key priorities set by Hamiltonians. These direct our investment, shape our advocacy, and define the outcomes we seek for our people and city. We have selected some highlights from the year to showcase.

A city that's easy to live in

He taaone e ngaawari noa iho ana te noho

This year saw major infrastructure milestones completed, which unlock thousands of new homes and jobs. The Te Ara Pekapeka bridge, for example, will provide a vital connection into the city from the south and enable housing for around 20,000 people.

The Borman Road extension and Rototuna underground water upgrades were completed to provide the north-Hamilton community with safe and accessible travel connections.



The Hamilton Transport Centre upgrade was completed in late 2024, designed to improve both user experience and the safety of the Centre.

District Plan work has also advanced, with Plan Change 5: Peacocke becoming operative, Plan Change 9 nearing completion, and Plan Change 12: Housing Intensification already enabling much-needed capacity.

We also became the first council in New Zealand to implement Payble; a new digital rates payment platform offering residents greater control and visibility.

A city where our people thrive

He taaone e tipu matomato ai te tangata

This year, we refreshed the Age Friendly and Rangatahi Action Plans, ensuring a range of voices continue to shape Hamilton's future. Home to more than 170 ethnicities, Hamilton sought accreditation and became an Established Welcoming City.

We continued robust collaboration with mana whenua, who reviewed over 100 consent applications, provided intermediary support on hapuu concerns, and offered design input on several Council projects, including the Transport Centre redesign, Te Ara Pekapeka Bridge, Te Kete Aronui Rototuna Library, city-wide water storage projects and the Hamilton Gardens precinct.

Grants worth \$1,356,630 were distributed to 56 community groups, and nine events received funding, including the Cambridge to Hamilton Paddle Race 2024, Balloons over Waikato, Hamilton Arts Festival Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa and Matariki ki Waikato Festival.

We also worked closely with Police and social agencies to address antisocial behaviour and improve community wellbeing.

Other critical water projects were completed, such as the



Peacocke Wastewater Transfer Station and the associated Plateau Wastewater Pumpstation, which have expanded the city's water capacity significantly. Planning also began for two new 25-million-litre reservoirs to safeguard water supply and firefighting capacity for our growing city.

A central city where people love to be

He pokapuu taane e ngaakautia ana e te marea

This year, Council invested in CBD cleaning and maintenance, alongside refreshed gardens, lighting, and street furniture.

A major focus was the extensive reform of the building consent system to reflect the needs of our fast-growing city, positioning Hamilton as a solutions-focused partner and strengthening our relationships with key stakeholders.

Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum & Gallery was refurbished with long-awaited building upgrades, including improved accessibility and watertightness, and fantastic new exhibitions. This redevelopment reconnects the heart of our city to the mighty Waikato River/awa, honouring original sightlines and linking with the new Waikato Regional Theatre and Victoria on the River. Excite, our award-winning interactive science centre

at Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum & Gallery, reopened to acclaim, engaging our tamariki in the magic of science and making it accessible and fun for everyone.

A fun city with lots to do

He taane kua kikii ki nga tini kaupapa

Hamilton continues to punch above its weight in sport, culture, and events. Our major venues have received numerous awards, hosting over 500,000 people in the past financial year, from international rugby, pool, darts and netball to concerts and theatre shows.

The Hamilton Arts Festival Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa is now New Zealand's largest regional arts festival, with nearly a third of attendees travelling from outside Waikato. It was recently supported in kind by





Air NZ through its Regional Event Sponsorship programme.

Libraries remain a key part of community life, with nearly one million visits across the seven facilities in the past year. A true showcase of community-led design, the Te Kete Aronui library is now the city's most-used, attracting more than 400,000 visitors since its opening in July 2024.

Waterworld was renewed and seven playground renewals completed, with a new timber play garden put in Garden Place, in time for the busy summer holiday period.

We opened the new award-winning visitor precinct at Hamilton Gardens and introduced paid entry, contributing to 389,218 visitors in the 2024-25 year; almost a quarter ahead of target with 33,000 residents registering for MyGardens Pass, for free entry to the Enclosed Gardens.

A green city

He taaone tiaki taiao

This year, we invested heavily in biodiversity, restoration, and climate initiatives. Our first climate change disclosure report was approved, with our emissions decreasing by 5% from 2022/23 and 20% from our 2018/19 baseline.

The Nature in the City and Kids in Nature programmes engaged over 12,000 volunteers, 25 schools and 5503 tamariki. It was also recognised nationally, becoming a finalist for the Environmental Leadership category at the Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards.

Across the year, 39 one-off restoration events were held, planting 30,855 trees with help from 2448 volunteers. This included Arbor Day, which returned to Minogue Park, engaging 1000 volunteers to plant over 10,000 natives. Meanwhile at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park, 9,000 native saplings were planted in a single week, contributing to regional ecological restoration.

Waste minimisation and emissions reduction programmes gained momentum through strong partnerships with mana whenua, community groups, and central government.



What is the Annual Report?

He aha te Puurongo-aa-Tau?

The annual report is a key document in Council's planning and reporting process. It provides essential information to our community for assessment of our performance. The annual report's content is directed by the Local Government Act 2002.

Our planning cycle starts with extensive community engagement with the people of Hamilton Kirikiriroa to understand the aspirations they have for their city. Feedback from our community is captured and used to create our vision and priorities and provide the focus for what Council will work on for the next decade.

Then Council prepares a long-term plan. This sets out the work programmes, budgets and rates needed to deliver the vision and priorities. Each long-term plan covers the next decade, with a focus on the first three years.

Our current plan is the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

When we aren't producing a long-term plan, we produce an annual plan. This provides the Council with an opportunity to review the work programme set out in the long-term plan and consider where any changes are necessary. An annual plan identifies any differences between what we said we would do in the long-term plan, and what we are doing.

This annual report

This report, the 2024-25 Annual Report, is reporting against year one of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. It identifies any differences between what we said we would do, and what we have delivered. The report considers:

- did we deliver the level of service we said we would?
- did we deliver on the capital projects we said we would?
- did we deliver to the operating budget we set?

Audit

Council's external auditor, Audit New Zealand, is required to audit the Annual Report. The annual report is then adopted by Council on the recommendation of staff and the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee. This ensures that both the management and governance functions across Council share responsibility for the report's accuracy and accountability.

Intended audience

This report is intended to provide important information to our community as well as a range of stakeholders that include local businesses, Council partners, non-government organisations, and government departments and agencies. It is also an opportunity to look back on the year, and highlight works and services that have been effectively delivered to the community of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Piecing it all together:

1 July 2024:

Council's 2024-34
Long-Term Plan commenced

1 July 2025:

Council's 2025/26
Annual Plan is adopted (we are here)

By 31 October 2025:

Council's Annual Report (reporting on the
2024/25 financial year) is adopted

1 July 2026

Council's 2026/27
Annual Plan commences

By 31 October 2026:

Council's Annual Report (reporting on the
2025/26 financial year) is adopted

1 July 2027

Council's 2027-37 Long-Term Plan
commences

By 31 October 2027:

Council's Annual Report (reporting on the
2026/27 financial year) is adopted



Our vision for Hamilton

Kirikiroa ka hua. Ka puaawai. Ka ora.

Everything we do is aimed at improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians.

Our priorities

Our priorities* describe what we aim to achieve for our community and what you can expect us to work towards. These outcomes were used to shape the development of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. All our activities contribute to the overall achievement of our priorities and reflect our purpose and mission – to improve the wellbeing of Hamiltonians and to help build a more vibrant, attractive, and more prosperous city.

During the development of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, we used your feedback to create five long-term priorities for Hamilton Kirikiroa over the next decade. These priorities reflect what you said is important to you, your family, and your neighbourhood.

The five priorities for our city are:

- A city that's easy to live in | Ahuahungia teetahi taaone e tau ai te noho ki roto
- A city where our people thrive | Ahuahungia teetahi taaone e puaawai ai ngaa taangata katoa
- A central city where people love to be | Ahuahungia te pokapuu o teetahi taaone e arohaina ai e te taangata
- A fun city with lots to do | Ahuahungia teetahi taaone ngahau e tini ai ngaa kaupapa papai hei whai
- A green city | Ahuahungia teetahi taaone tiaki taiao

All the activities we carry out contribute to the achievement of our community outcomes. If we achieve all the expectations that we have set for our service delivery, we will be making progress on achieving all five priorities.

* These priorities are our Community Outcomes as defined under the Local Government Act 2002



Maaori contribution to the decision-making process

Te waahi o te Maaori ki te whakatakotoranga whakatau

We are committed to meeting our Treaty and legislative responsibilities.

We acknowledge the role and contribution that iwi, hapuu and maataawaka make towards our great city of Hamilton Kirikiriroa as Treaty partners. Valued support and advice is received from our iwi, hapuu and maataawaka partners and we are committed to working together on the social, cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability and wellbeing of the city and its residents.

He Pou Manawa Ora – Pillars of Wellbeing

This strategy, adopted in August 2021, outlines Council's vision for a city that celebrates its whole history, including its unique Maaori heritage, and ensures everyone has a voice in developing its future.

Maaori Wards

In 2022 Hamilton Kirikiriroa introduced two Maaori ward seats representative of the Maaori Electoral Population and wider communities and residents of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Maangai Maaori

Maangai Maaori, meaning the voice of Maaori, were first appointed to Council committees with full voting rights in 2018.

Council Kaumatua

Hamilton City Council's Kaumatua is appointed by the Office of the Maaori King to give support and advice to Hamilton's Mayor and its elected members. The kaumatua gives spiritual guidance to council in line with Tainui tikanga and protocols.

Amorangi Maaori

Amorangi means to lead, or to provide leadership. Amorangi Maaori provides leadership and advice across Council on matters related to Maaori. Amorangi Maaori leads:

- Maaori relationship guidance and enhancement
- Maaori engagement and consultation advice and support
- cultural capacity building and development
- strategy development
- policy and bylaw planning, review, development, and advice
- project and contract management.

Partnerships with Maaori

Waikato-Tainui

Te Whakakitenga o Waikato-Tainui is the local iwi (tribe) focused on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of its 75,000 tribal members. Council and Waikato-Tainui have a strong and mutually beneficial partnership to promote better wellbeing outcomes through agreed projects and meet obligations to restore and protect the Waikato River. This

partnership is governed through the Waikato-Tainui/Hamilton City Council Co-Governance Forum.

Mana Whenua o Kirikiriroa

Traditionally there were a number of hapuu (sub-tribes) that occupied the landscape of Kirikiriroa. Many of those traditional hapuu are no longer active, but are represented today by existing hapuu Ngaati Maahanga, Ngaati Tamainupoo, Ngaati Wairere, Ngaati Korokii Kahukura, and Ngaati Hauaa. We work with these hapuu to ensure their role as kaitiaki and mana whenua is reflected in decision-making relating to the management of the natural and physical resources of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa (TeROK)

Formally established in 1988 and under the direction of the late Maaori Queen, Te Atairangikaahu, and the Mayor of the time, the late Sir Ross Jansen, TeROK represents maataawaka and Pasifika peoples living in Hamilton Kirikiriroa. TeROK provides information and advice and represents the views of Maataawaka in the development of Council strategies, policies, and plans.

Climate change reporting

Te Puurongo i te Huringa o te Aahuarangi

Delivering Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa

Over the last year we have made some progress in delivering against the outcomes of Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa. A key priority has been building climate change awareness across Council and growing our understanding of how climate change will impact our services and operations. To build this knowledge within Council we have delivered a series of Climate Fresk, climate change education workshops, aimed at helping staff from all areas to assess potential risks and opportunities for their services and operations.

In February 2025, Hamilton experienced a significant heatwave with many days over 27°C, an example of one of the changes we will see more of in the future. We have established Resilience Explorer, a platform that enables us to understand the risk different natural hazard events pose to assets, infrastructure and the city. We will use Resilience Explorer to better understand and assess Council's climate change risks and to prioritise our resilience and adaptation planning.

Our Climate Statement 2024/2025 is published alongside this Annual Report. It provides an update on how we are managing climate change risk as an organisation and improvements we have made over the last year.

Our emissions targets

In Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa we set targets to reduce our own operational emissions. Our first target is a 50% gross reduction in emissions by 2030 and to be net zero by 2050. These targets are against our baseline set in 2018/19. 'Net zero' refers to reducing emissions as much as possible, with any remaining unavoidable emissions being sequestered through planting and maintaining trees. 'Net zero' therefore does not mean there are no emissions produced – just that these are balanced by capturing them from the atmosphere.

Our operational emissions include:

- energy used in our buildings and operations (LPG, natural gas, electricity),
- fuels used in the Council-owned fleet, from car share or rental vehicles,

- biosolids from our wastewater treatment process,
- waste from Council operations,
- travel for our staff and livestock, and
- fertiliser used on our land.

At this stage, we do not include other emissions related to our activities within this target, such as carbon embodied in the goods we purchase (e.g. roading material) or other emissions from our upstream and downstream supply chains. This is a Council-only measure and does not include emissions generated from the wider group of entities.

This year, Council's operational emissions were 10,430 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent which is an 8% reduction on our baseline year (2018/19) but is a 15% increase on our 2023/24 emissions.

Emissions have increased in electricity by 1190 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent; this is driven predominantly by a decrease in the proportion of renewable electricity making up the national electricity supply. Natural gas use has decreased resulting in

a reduction of 204 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Key actions that have achieved this result are changes to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems at the Museum and Municipal Offices, and significant reductions in natural gas use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

To achieve our 2030 target of 50% reduction in our gross operational emissions, we need to keep focused on delivering actions that will reduce our emissions through the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

Our Financial Strategy

Too Maatou Rautaki Puutea

Our 2024-34 Long-Term Plan includes a financial strategy that aims to enable us to respond sustainably to growth in a way that is cost-effective for existing ratepayers. The Financial Strategy's guiding principles are:

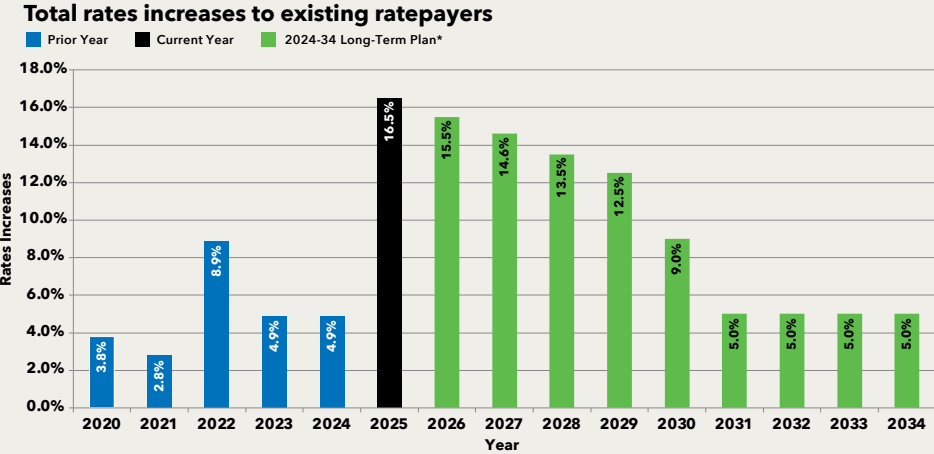
- Everyday expenses are funded from everyday revenues.
- Service levels and assets are maintained.
- Surpluses are generated to repay debt.
- Investment in community, infrastructure and growth initiatives is supported.
- Debt is used to fund intergenerational investment in capital projects.

The Financial Strategy can be read in full in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan or on our website. It sets limits on the amount of debt we can take on compared to revenue (debt to revenue), forecasts net debt (the money we owe lenders, less cash) and forecasts when we will balance the books. The Council books are balanced when everyday revenue pays for everyday expenses.

Against the strategy, Council's balancing the books deficit was favourable to the 2024-25 budget by \$35 million and ended the financial year with a net debt balance \$240 million lower than budgeted.

Rates

The Long-Term Plan sets the limit on average rate increases to existing ratepayers. Under the plan, rates increases were limited to 16.5% in 2024/25, 15.5% in 2025/26, 14.6% in 2026/27, 13.5% in 2027/28, 12.5% in 2028/29, 9.0% in 2029/30 and 5.0% from 2030/31 to 2033/34. We have stayed within these limits, the actual average rate increase for 2024/25 was 16.5%.



Balancing the books

The balancing the books measure is a way of assessing our operating performance. You can see how our balancing the books measure is calculated on page 215 of the full 2024/25 Annual Report. There are other ways to measure operating performance, including the Government's balanced budget measure, which we report against in the Disclosure Statement section of this report on page 317 of the full 2024/25 Annual Report.

The main differences between the two measures are:

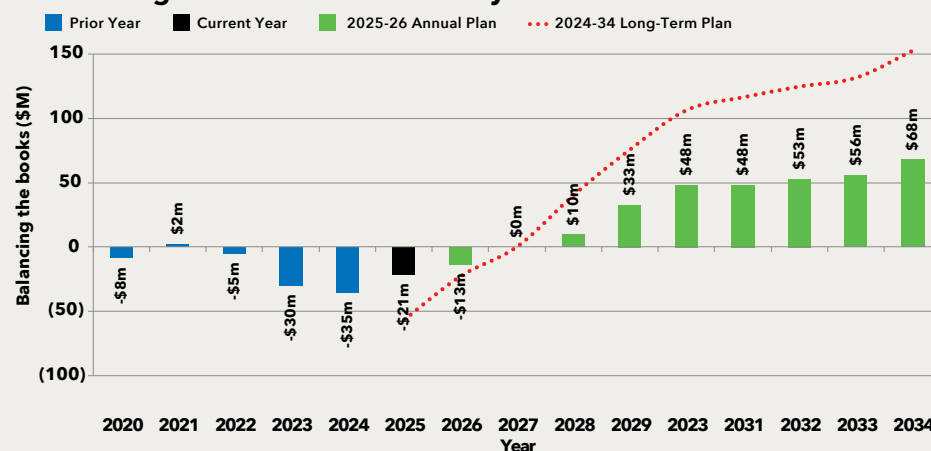
- Our measure removes capital revenue (NZ Transport Agency subsidies for capital expenditure and other capital contributions). These revenue items are included in the Government measure. We exclude this revenue as it funds specific capital items and is therefore not available to fund everyday costs.
- The Government measure removes all revenue from development contributions (fees charged for new developments). Our measure only removes a portion of development contributions revenue (the portion retained is to cover interest costs on development contributions-funded growth assets).
- Our measure removes certain revenue not considered everyday (such as the fair value benefit on the Housing Infrastructure Fund loan from Central Government). It also removes certain expenditure not considered everyday (such as grants for the Waikato Regional Theatre and the discount unwind on the Housing Infrastructure Fund loan). These are not adjusted for in the Government measure.

Council was favourable against the balancing the books budgeted deficit in 2024/25, with an adjusted operating deficit of (\$21.2 million) against a budgeted deficit of (\$56.3 million). Using the Government's balanced budget measure, we are reporting a surplus of \$3.9 million against a budgeted deficit of \$15.3 million.

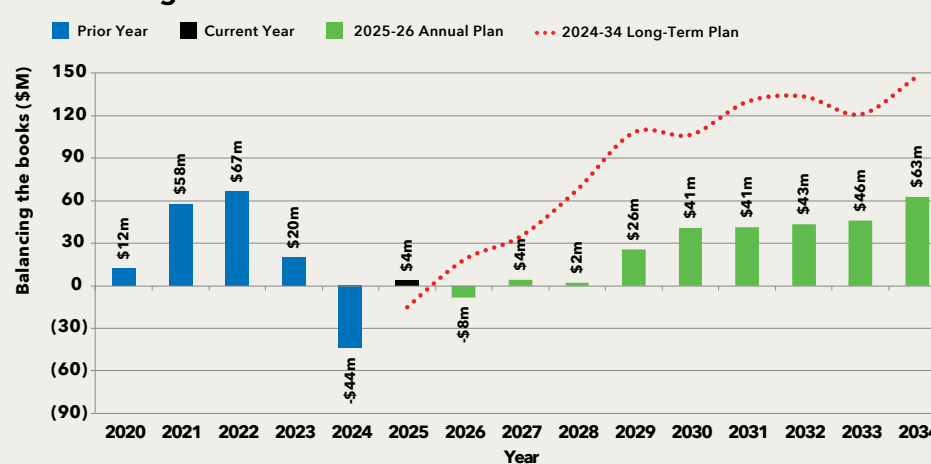
The significant revenue and expenditure variances that contributed to our balancing the books result include:

- Fees and charges were favourable to budget as there was higher event activity at H3 venues and stronger than expected admissions and retail sales at the Gardens and Zoo. Additional revenue came from planning related fees and recoveries from private plan changes. Review and application of revenue recognition standards and reconciliation of agency balances also contributed.
- Subsidies and grants were \$7.6m favourable to budget. An additional \$3m of subsidies for maintenance were allocated out of the NZTA three year funding pool, enabling additional maintenance work to be undertaken. Additional waste minimisation levies were received due to increased tonnage rates set by Central Government.

Balancing the Books - Hamilton City Council Measure



Balancing the Books - Government Measure



Debt

The definition we use for debt is money we owe the bank, less cash. We refer to this as a net debt. To see the details of how this figure is calculated, see note 30 to the financial statements on page 286 of the full 2024/25 Annual Report.

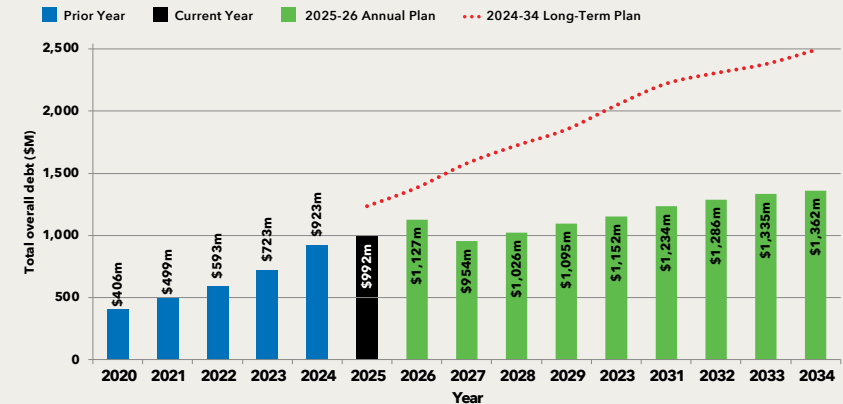
We ended the financial year with a net debt balance of \$992 million, which was lower than the budgeted target of \$1.236 billion. Our debt is now 213% of revenue against a budgeted 276%.

The main reasons for this favourable result are:

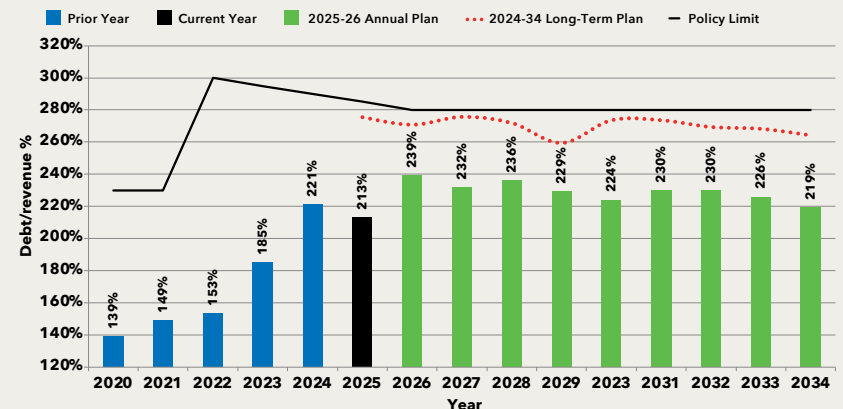
- Higher than expected cash opening balances following lower than budgeted capital spend in 2023-24.
- Lower than budgeted capital spend.
- Favourable movements in operating revenue.

To keep debt at manageable levels, the financial strategy capped debt to 285% of annual revenue in 2024-25. This ratio will taper back to 280% by 2025-26.

Total net debt



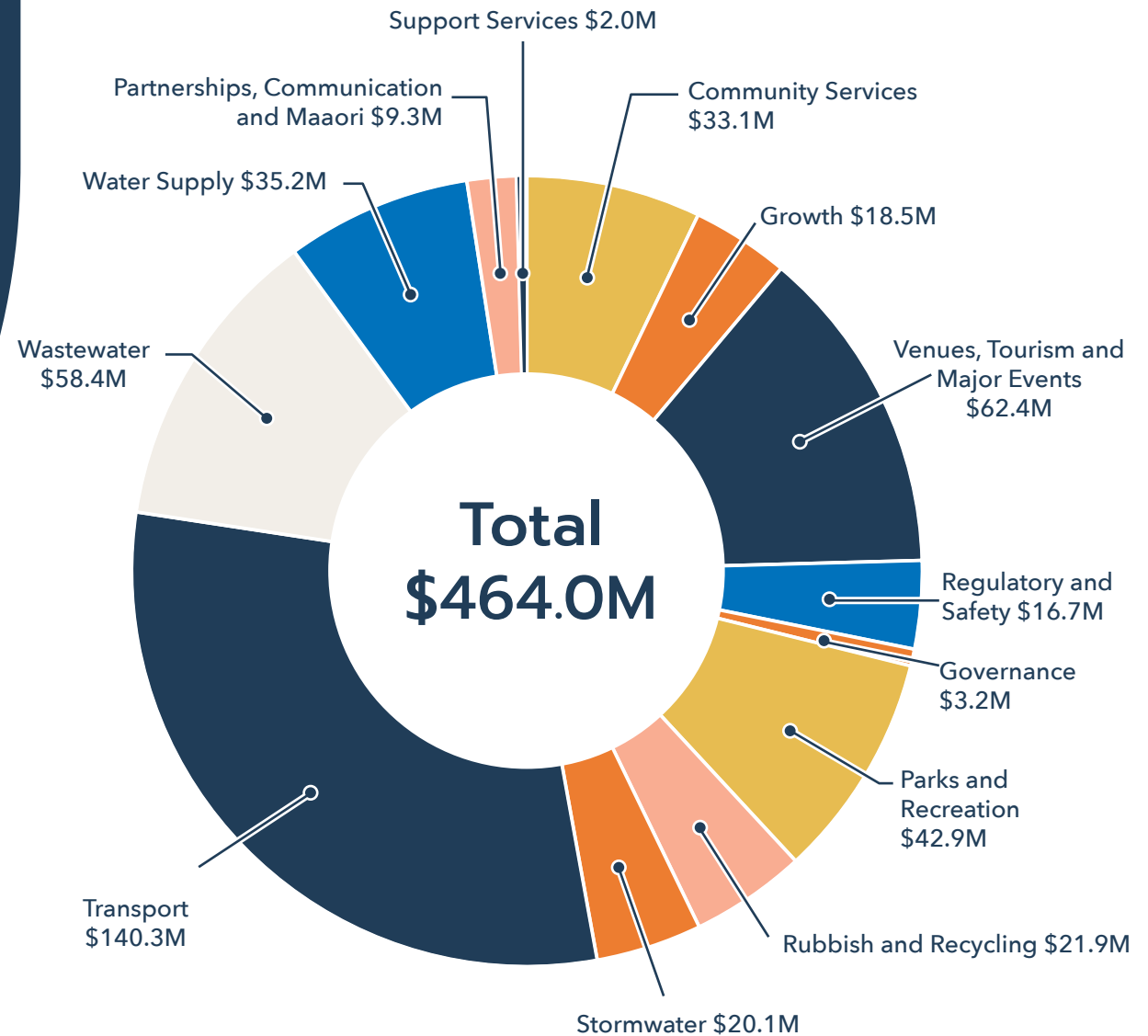
Debt-to-revenue ratio



Overview of our 2024/25 finances

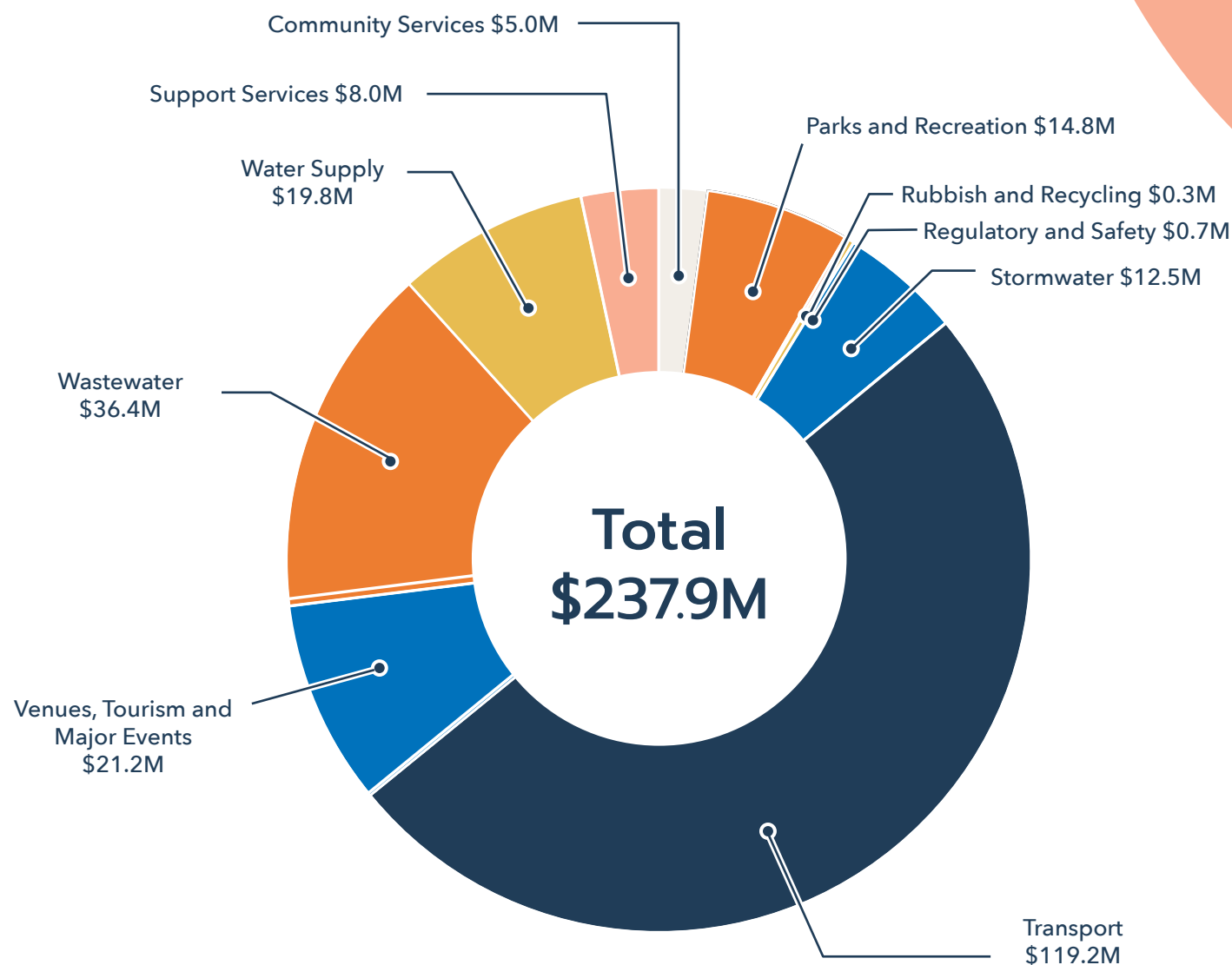
Tirowhaanui moo
Nga Putea 2024-25

Total operating
expenditure by
Activity 2024-25



***These costs exclude revenue derived of \$15.4m

Total capital expenditure by activity 2024-25



*Information for the graph is taken from the group of activities Funding Impact Statements. Overhead and support unit capital expenditure have been allocated to each of the activities.

Capital projects delivery

Kaupapa haupuu rawa whakatinanatanga

The 2024/25 year saw the delivery of \$237.9 million worth of capital projects to support our growing city, and maintain the agreed level of service for our residents. These projects play an important part in making our city a great place to live, work, and raise families. Our capital projects portfolio is shaped by Council's five priorities. Our regular capital reporting tracks how we're delivering on these.

Key projects completed in 2024/25

The completion of **Te Ara Pekapeka Bridge** in August 2024 and the surrounding transport network marked a major milestone in the development of Peacocke. This new infrastructure provides a vital connection from Hillcrest and the eastern suburbs into Peacocke, supporting the integration of this growing community into the wider city. With up to 20,000 future residents expected in Peacocke, strong transport links are essential. The new bridge and road network were designed to support walking, cycling, and public transport, ensuring safe, accessible, and sustainable travel options.

The newly completed **Visitor Entry Precinct** at Hamilton Gardens opened in September 2024, creating a welcoming and defined sense of arrival for guests. Designed to accommodate high visitor volumes during peak summer periods, the precinct now enables paid entry for non-residents into the world-class Enclosed Gardens. The function spaces have also undergone a refresh, now featuring modern audio-visual facilities. These upgrades support a broader range of events and enhance the overall visitor experience.

Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum & Gallery underwent a significant environmental upgrade. This long-planned work ensures the Museum meets industry standards for the care, storage, and display of more than 30,000 collection objects, taonga, and artworks. The upgrade focused on protecting taonga, enhancing watertightness and increasing accessibility.

Parts of our infrastructure networks are ageing, and an increasing number of assets are reaching the end of their service life. Council continues to invest in the renewal of assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. This work is essential to keeping our city in good shape.

In 2024/25 we received a significantly reduced subsidy from NZTA Waka Kotahi, substantially impacting our transport capital programme. Council took a prudent approach and paused the transport improvement programme and slowed the organisational renewal programme. Revised plans for 2025/26 were included in the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Upcoming projects

We have some amazing mahi that we look forward to progressing in 2025/26. Some key projects to look out for include:

- Completion of the Pukete Neighbourhood House;
- Ranfurly Gully wastewater pipeline replacement;
- Morrinsville Road fit for purpose upgrades;
- Celebrating Age Centre renovation; and
- Waterworld upgrade programme.

Group of Activities	Total capital spend \$ million
Community Services	\$5.0
Transport	\$119.2
Support Services	\$8.0
Regulatory and Safety	\$0.7
Venues Tourism and Events	\$21.2
Parks and Recreation	\$14.8
Water Supply	\$19.8
Wastewater	\$36.4
Stormwater	\$12.5
Rubbish and Recycling	\$0.3
Total	\$237.9



Delivering on our priorities

Te whai kia tutukihia aa
maatou kawatau

Summary of our delivery

Whakaraapopoto o te whakatinanatanga

Our 2024-34 Long -Term Plan set out the vision for our city for the next decade, and the services that Council planned to deliver to the community in order to achieve it.

It detailed what the community could expect from us, and the ways in which we planned to measure the performance of our service delivery for key aspects of Council's activities. This section provides a summary of how Council performed delivering on what we said we would do in 2024/25, year one of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

Our vision for our city

Our five priorities for our city are creating:

- a city that's easy to live in
- a city where our people thrive
- a central city where people love to be
- a fun city with lots to do
- a green city

To measure our delivery against these priorities, we have four community outcome measures and 77 service performance measures.

A summary of results for our community outcome measures and service performance measures can be found on the following pages. The 2024-34 Long-Term Plan can be found on our website at hamilton.govt.nz/long-term-plan/

Community outcome measures

Te inenga hua o taatou haapori

We have four measures for our community outcomes. Of these, two achieved target and two did not achieve target.

Measures which achieved target

- **The percentage of residents who are proud of how Hamilton looks and feels.**

We ask our communities these questions in our two-yearly Quality of Life Survey: a survey of metro councils to gain an understanding of communities' perceptions of their quality of life. Data for the Quality of Life Survey was last collected in mid-2024.

As perceptions can change within the two-year cycle, Council commissioned research company Versus to run a Pulse Survey in March/April 2025 to gain the most up-to-date perceptions of our community's quality of life.

While the methodology and sampling procedure was the same for both surveys, we sampled a higher number of people from our Hamilton population to provide more accurate insights into community perceptions going into our next long-term plan cycle. Over 800 people across the city responded to the survey.

** The 2024 Quality of Life survey changed the question to "How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel really happy with the way [city / local area] looks and feels". The Pulse Survey question remains as stated above.*

41% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they are proud of how Hamilton looks and feels, a decrease from last year's result.

- Those who neither agree nor disagree increased from 28% in the 2024 Quality of Life survey to 39% in the 2025 Pulse Survey.
- Those who disagree or strongly disagree made up 20% of respondents (down from 21% in the 2024 Quality of Life Survey).

Note that these results align with the 2023 Pulse Survey (38% felt pride), therefore the change in question phrasing and in methodology may have influenced results.

Those who have pride in Hamilton noted:

- Facilities (38%)
- Environmental features (38%)
- Generally enjoy living here (19%)

Those who do not have pride in Hamilton mentioned:

- Infrastructure maintenance (34%)
- Central city look and feel (29%)
- Roothing (13%)
- The presence of homeless people (13%)
- **The percentage of residents who believe we make decisions that are in the best interest of the city.**

30% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Council makes decisions that are in the best interest of the city, representing no change from last year's result.

- Those who neither agree nor disagree increased from 27% in the 2024 Quality of Life Survey* to 45% in the 2025 Pulse Survey.
- Those who disagree or strongly disagree changed considerably from 40% in the 2024 Quality of Life Survey* to 26% in the 2025 Pulse Survey.

While the number who are confident in Council's decision-making appears unchanged, there has been a significant shift

from those in opposition to a more neutral position.

Those who have confidence in Council decision-making noted:

- Generally happy (41%)
- Improvements/growth around city evident (10%)
- It's their job/what they're elected for (9%)

Those who do not have confidence in Council decision-making mentioned:

- Wasteful spending (29%)
- Poor decision-making (24%)
- Roothing and transport concerns (14%)

Measures which did not achieve target

- **The percentage of residents who think Hamilton is a great place to live.**

We ask our communities these questions in our two-yearly Quality of Life Survey: a survey of metro councils to gain an understanding of communities' perceptions of their quality of life. Data for the Quality of Life Survey was last collected in mid-2024.

As perceptions can change within the two-year cycle, Council commissioned research company Versus to run a Pulse Survey in March/April 2025 to gain the most up-to-date perceptions of our community's quality of life.

While the methodology and sampling procedure was the same for both surveys, we sampled a higher number of people from our Hamilton population to provide more accurate insights into community perceptions going into our next long-term plan cycle. Over 800 people across the city responded to the survey.

74% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Hamilton is a great place to live, an increase from last year's result.

- Those who neither agree nor disagree decreased from the 2024 Quality of Life survey result by 5%
- Those who disagree or strongly disagree remained at 8%.

Those who believe Hamilton has become a better place to live noted:

- Improved roading (32%)
- Infrastructure around the city (20%)
- Amenities (14%)

Those who believe Hamilton has become a worse place to live mentioned:

- Crime (55%)
- Roothing (32%)
- The presence of homeless people (15%)

- **Reduction in greenhouse emissions footprint for Hamilton City Council.**

For the 2024/25 financial year, Council's greenhouse gas emissions were 10,430 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and the population used was 189,700. This equates to 0.055 tCO₂e per head of population. This equates to a 0.006 tonne per head of population increase from the 0.049 tonne per head of population in 2023/24. We have seen a significant increase in emissions from electricity and most other areas (e.g. travel and waste). A key reduction is in the emissions from natural gas. We will be developing an Emissions Reduction Plan over the next 12 months, which will look at how we can directly reduce emissions as well as the transition to an increase in renewable electricity.

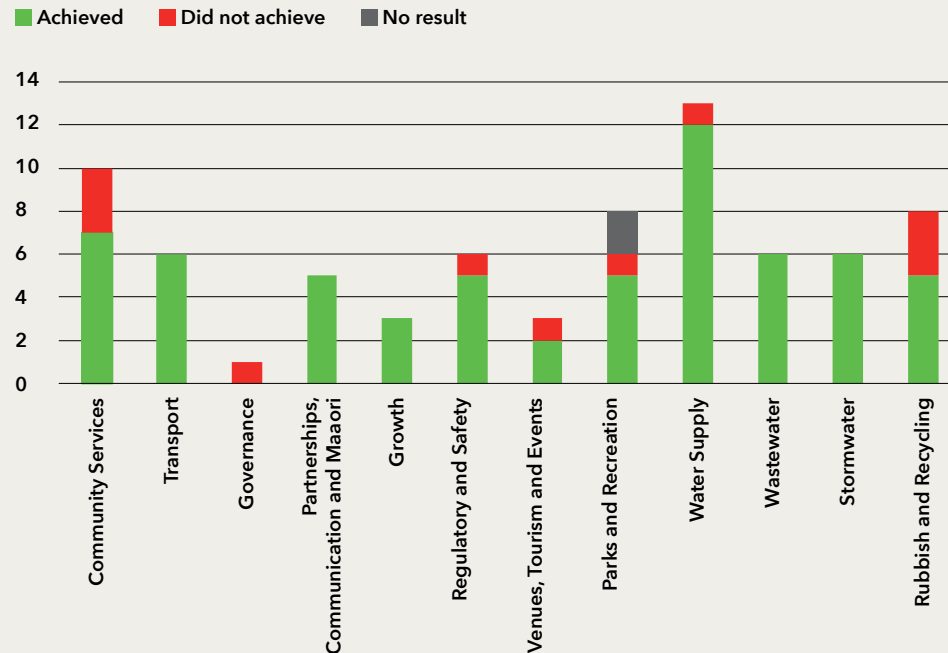
Service performance measures

Te taatari i te mahi ratonga

Service performance summary

There are 77 service performance measures. Of these, 64 achieved the target, 11 did not achieve the target and two had no result.

Service performance measures



Highlights from this year

- This year saw major infrastructure milestones completed, which unlock thousands of new homes and jobs. The Te Ara Pekapeka bridge, for example, will provide a vital connection into the city from the south and enable housing for around 20,000 people.
- The Hamilton Transport Centre upgrade was completed in late 2024, designed to improve both user experience and the safety of the centre.
- Critical water projects were completed, such as the Peacocke Wastewater Transfer Station and the associated Plateau Wastewater Pumpstation, which have expanded the city's water capacity significantly. Planning also began for two new 25-million-litre reservoirs to safeguard water supply and firefighting capacity for our growing city.
- The Hamilton Arts Festival Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa is now New Zealand's largest regional arts festival, with nearly a third of attendees travelling from outside the Waikato. It was recently supported in kind by Air New Zealand through its Regional Event Sponsorship programme.

- We opened the new award-winning visitor precinct at Hamilton Gardens and introduced paid entry, contributing to 389,218 visitors in the 2024-25 year: almost a quarter ahead of target with 33,000 residents registering for MyGardens Pass, for free entry to the Enclosed Gardens.
- This year, we invested heavily in biodiversity, restoration, and climate initiatives. Our first climate change disclosure report was published, with our emissions decreasing by 5% from 2022/23 and 20% from our 2018/19 baseline.
- Libraries remain a key part of community life, with nearly one million visits across the seven facilities in the past year. A true showcase of community-led design, Te Kete Aronui Rototuna Library is now the city's most-used, attracting more than 400,000 visitors since its opening in July 2024.
- Grants worth \$1,356,630 were distributed to 56 community groups and nine events received funding, including the Cambridge to Hamilton Paddle Race 2024, Balloons over Waikato, Hamilton Arts Festival Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa and Matariki ki Waikato Festival.
- The Borman Road extension and Rototuna underground water upgrades were completed to provide the

northHamilton community with safe and accessible travel connections.

- Across the year, 39 one-off restoration events were held, planting 30,855 trees with help from 2448 volunteers. This included Arbor Day, which returned to Minogue Park, engaging 1000 volunteers to plant over 10,000 natives. Meanwhile at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park, 9,000 native saplings were planted in a single week, contributing to regional ecological restoration.

Areas for improvement

Below is an explanation for the service performance measures that did not achieve their target or returned no result for 2024/25:

A city that's easy to live in

Community Services

The percentage of aquatic facility customers surveyed who are satisfied with their overall experience.

80% of aquatic facility customers who were surveyed were satisfied with their overall experience – below the target of 85%.

This lower result was partly due to only kiosk surveys, and not email surveys, being available in the first half of the year. Kiosk surveys tend to include less positive feedback overall, as those who had negative experiences are more likely to provide the immediate feedback than those who had positive or neutral feedback on their experiences.

Positive customer feedback mentioned friendly staff, clean facilities, good equipment, and enjoyable classes. Dissatisfaction was mainly about poor bathroom conditions, blocked drains, inconsistent water temperatures, and the lack of spa, sauna, and a steam room. In June 2025 a renewal programme commenced for the change rooms and later in 2025 renewal of the sauna, steam room and spa facilities will take place. We anticipate this increasing the customer satisfaction score in the new financial year, however, the renewals were too late to make an impact on this financial year.

The number of enrolments in aqua education and learn to swim programmes.

There were 54,390 enrolments in aqua education and learn to swim programmes this year, which is a notable (8.6%) increase on the previous year's result. However, the target (82,000) was set at a time when we were planning for year-round classes in partnership with a third party (whose operations have since changed) and the advertising did not return as many enrolments as expected. In addition, market supply changes (additional private offerings) may have had an impact on the result. In

the remaining years of the Long-Term Plan, the target is a 5% increase on the previous year's result. We are well positioned to achieve this target, working in partnership with Swimming Waikato under a revised model, and guided by feedback from school principals to ensure the Swim Safe programme is fit for purpose.

Promoting the Learn to Swim school remains a key priority, especially at the Gallagher Aquatic Centre (GAC), which offers the greatest potential for growth. Targeted promotional campaigns are planned to drive enrolment increases at this location. To address attendance challenges, an incentive programme has been introduced to boost participation in Learn to Swim and a dedicated promotional push for GAC has been scheduled for the 2025-26 year.

The number of physical issues by Hamilton City Libraries each year.

The total number of physical issues tracked steadily during the year but finished the year at 0.2% (1,987 issues) less than the previous year.

A city where our people thrive

Governance

The percentage of official information requests responded to within legislative timeframes.

Over the year, a total of 624 information requests were completed. The target of 100% of official information requests responded to within legislative timeframes was not achieved due to three responses missing the deadlines in the first half of the year while staff were implementing a new system. Staff implemented processes to prevent further delays in responses and in the end 99.52% requests over the year were completed within the timeframe.

Regulatory and Safety

The percentage of central city users surveyed who feel very safe or reasonably safe in the central city during daytime.

The 2025 pulse survey results show that 75% of respondents feel very safe or fairly safe in the central city during the daytime. City Safe continues to work collaboratively with partner organisations and the community to enhance safety and wellbeing in the central city. In response to increased nuisance behaviours and a rise in rough sleeping, the team intensified Safety

Officer presence and engaged with partner agencies and the Community Development Team to mitigate visible impacts and support coordinated outreach. We will continue to collaborate with partner agencies to consider a range of options that could be introduced to enhance the safety, including impacts around environmental and social change.

A central city where people love to be

Venues, Tourism and Events

The number of people attending events at the Stadia (FMG Stadium Waikato and Seddon Park) and Claudelands.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 502,965 people attended events at the Stadia and Claudelands. 319,815 people visited Claudelands and our Stadia welcomed 183,150 patrons. The slightly lower attendance numbers compared to last year and our target for this year related to attendance at exhibition and public events and also reflects natural fluctuations in the different types of events hosted, seasonal shifts, and the dynamic nature of the industry. By comparison, the number of events hosted across H3 venues included a record revenue year (normalised for 2023 FIFA activity) and ahead of budget.

A fun city with lots to do

Parks and Recreation

The percentage of graffiti removed within three working days.

There were a total of 5913 requests for graffiti removal this year. 92.96% of these requests (5497/5913) were completed within three working days. In the last quarter of 2024/25, a mixture of staff shortages, leave, training, wet weather, system issues, and a focus on Melville Park clean up resulted in a greater proportion of requests being completed outside three working days and the target being missed. Looking ahead, our Tagbusters team now have a full complement of staff and reviewed systems to ensure more efficient service for the 2025/26 year.

A green city

Water Supply

The extent to which Council's drinking water supply complies with 4.4 T1 Treatment Rules.

Based on an internal assessment, Hamilton City Council had no non-compliant days, achieving a compliance rate of 100% and a performance rating of 'All Met' under the T1 performance rules, for the 2024/25 reporting period.

Total number of days E.coli was detected in the Taitua Arboretum supply.

An E.coli count of 3MPN/100mL was detected in one routine sample taken from the public tap on 27 March 2025. The tap was immediately removed from service, the Water Services Authority were notified and a full investigation carried out. The cause was identified, and maintenance was carried out on the UV treatment system. No further E.coli were detected.

Rubbish and Recycling

The amount of waste received at Council-operated waste facilities that is diverted from landfill.

A total of 2906 tonnes of construction and demolition materials received at Council-owned facilities were diverted from landfill this financial year. This fell short of our 4000 tonne target due to the economic downturn, which reduced the amount of construction and demolition works taking place this year, but also in part due to wood materials not being able to be diverted. In addition, the third-party contractor conducted maintenance works, preventing them from accepting the wood materials, which was outside of Council control. This had a flow on effect to our results of total amount of waste received at Council-owned operations which was diverted from landfill, as the construction and demolition materials are included in this calculation. Although we missed the target, we were able to divert 12,733 tonnes of waste from landfill this financial year.

The amount of construction and demolition materials received at Council-operated waste facilities that is diverted from landfill.

A total of 2906 tonnes of construction and demolition materials received at Council-owned facilities were diverted from landfill this financial year. This fell short of our 4000 tonne target due to the economic downturn, which reduced the amount of construction and demolition works taking place this year, but also in part due to wood materials not being able to be diverted. In addition, the third-party contractor conducted maintenance works, preventing them from accepting the wood materials, which was outside of Council control.

The number of reported instances of illegal dumping.

There were 2739 instances of illegal dumping reported this financial year. This is higher than the result last year (2165) and exceeds the annual target of no more than 2400 instances. Media coverage focused on illegal dumping raised awareness around the reporting of illegal dumping and was a contributing factor to the higher number of reported instances following the Christmas season. In response to the higher numbers, there has been an increased number of investigations into illegal dumping instances, which has resulted in higher enforcement actions with the intention to deter repeat illegal dumpers. Also, in response, staff address illegal dumping in all education programmes and information sessions.

Measures with no result

A fun city with lots to do

Parks and Recreation

The percentage of native vegetation cover in the city.

There is no result for 2024/25. Staff are seeking advice on how best to capture this information to ensure accuracy and alignment with the Nature in the City (NITC) Ecological Inventory cycle, which occurs every five years. It is not expected that there will be any movement from 2023/24 NITC Ecological Inventory result of 2.5%.

The percentage of overall canopy cover in the city.

LiDAR stands for light detection and ranging – it's a technology that uses laser light to measure distances and create detailed maps of surfaces. It is commonly used to map terrain and forests. No LiDAR data was provided for the 2024/25 year. This will next be reported in the 2025/26 Annual Report.

Financial matters

Ko ngaa take puutea

Summary financial statements

Ngaa tauaakii aa-tahua

Guide to this section of the Annual Report:

This section shows in detail the financial reports and accounting policies of Council. The financial statements provide information about Council's assets, liabilities, income, and expenditure.

Council's financial year begins on 1 July and continues until 30 June.

The financial statements include four primary statements:

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

This summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. It also records other comprehensive income, such as changes in fair value of Council's infrastructure, property, plant, and equipment.

Statement of changes in net assets/equity

This is often known as the statement of changes in equity. It summarises the overall changes for the year in relation to Council's net wealth.

Statement of financial position

This is a '30 June' snapshot of Council's summarised financial position at the end of the relevant financial year, that indicates its assets, liabilities, and net wealth at that point.

Statement of cashflows

This statement summarises where Council's cash came from and where it was spent in the relevant financial year.

These four statements reflect Council's actual position to the budget. The 2024-25 budget was adopted by Council through the 2024-25 Annual Plan.

Notes to the financial statements

These 'notes' are to provide greater detail and more information on the four primary financial statements. The content of the four financial statements and their notes are prepared using Public Benefit Entity accounting standards.

Summary financial statements

Ngaa tauaakii aa-tahua

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense to 30 June	Council			
	Note	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Actual 2024
		\$000	\$000	\$000
Rates revenue	1	304,069	302,672	255,719
Other revenue	2	210,554	203,766	249,520
Total revenue		514,623	506,438	505,239
Personnel costs	3	127,872	132,753	122,704
Depreciation and amortisation		112,663	112,104	108,362
Finance costs		63,749	61,249	59,310
Other expenses	4	159,776	158,609	189,981
Total expenditure		464,060	464,715	480,357
Operating Surplus/(deficit)		50,563	41,723	24,882
Net gains/(loss)	5	(17,379)	915	13,587
Share of associates' surplus/(deficit)	6	14,806	-	(1,994)
Net surplus/(deficit) before tax		47,990	42,638	36,475
Income tax expense		-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) after tax		47,990	42,638	36,475
Other comprehensive revenue and expense				
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense		698	-	438
Gain/(loss) on property revaluations	7	164,867	320,951	48,941
Impairment of revalued property, plant and equipment		-	-	(269)
Other revaluation reserve movements		947	-	(7,318)
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense		214,502	363,589	78,267
Changes in equity to 30 June				
Equity at the beginning of the year		5,667,666	5,483,600	5,589,399
Total comprehensive revenue and expense attributable to Hamilton City Council		214,502	363,589	78,267
Equity at the end of the year		5,882,168	5,847,189	5,667,666

Financial position as at 30 June

	Note	Council		
		Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Actual 2024
		\$000	\$000	\$000
Current assets	8	258,081	240,853	241,539
Non-current assets	9	6,948,466	7,147,468	6,631,785
Total assets		7,206,547	7,388,321	6,873,324
Current liabilities	10	363,445	267,515	215,700
Non-current liabilities	11	960,934	1,273,617	989,958
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense	12	2,492,726	2,367,709	2,456,689
Revaluation reserves	13	3,337,492	3,431,578	3,163,807
Restricted reserves	14	45,774	43,613	43,980
Council created reserves	15	6,176	4,288	3,190
Total equity and liabilities		7,206,547	7,388,321	6,873,324

Cash flows to 30 June

Opening cash and cash equivalents balance at 1 July	16	95,301	159,229	174,129
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from operating activities	17	156,498	125,365	127,817
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from investing activities	18	(223,910)	(337,612)	(411,651)
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from financing activities	19	69,168	212,246	205,006
Closing cash and cash equivalents balance at 30 June		97,056	159,228	95,301

Notes

Nooti

- 1 Rates were higher than budget due to additional industrial growth.
2. Other revenue was favourable to budget by \$6.8 million which was a combination of positive operating revenue performance offset by lower capital revenue.
 - \$7.5 million of Fees and charges mainly driven by higher event activity and strong admission and sales revenue at the zoo and gardens alongwith planning related fees and developer contributions and recoveries from private plan changes.
 - Additional \$3 million of NZTA maintenance funding from the three year funding pool.
 - Additional \$1.8 million of Waste Minimisation Levies due to increased tonnage rates set by Central Government.
 - \$2.9 million of additional interest revenue due to interest earnt on swaps.
 - Insurance claims resolved for \$1 million and higher rental income than budget of \$0.7 million.

This favourability was offset by unfavourable movements in capital revenue sources including Development Contributions (\$2.2 million), Vested Assets (\$7 million) and Capital Revenue (\$3.9 million). The capital revenue was the net effect of (\$11.1 million) less revenue from NZTA Year 1 allocations and \$7.2 million additional revenue in relation to other projects, the most significant being Ruakura Road West Realignment.

3. Personnel costs are favourable by \$4.9 million as a result of higher staff vacancies at the beginning of the year as restructuring changes were confirmed and embedded.
4. Other expenses were (\$1.2 million) unfavourable to budget. This was due to:

Professional costs were \$3.8 million favourable to budget. The favourability reflects a focus on critical outcomes and strategic resource use, reducing non-essential consultancy while advancing key priorities.

Operating and maintenance costs were (\$8.2 million) unfavourable to budget. Of this (\$5 million) was due to a correction in accounting treatment for refuse bins and capital expenditure that has been reclassified as operating expenditure in the current year but was budgeted for during future years in the Long-Term Plan.

Administration costs were \$3.0 million favourable to budget mainly due to initiatives targeting efficiencies.

Property costs were \$0.3 million favourable to budget as a result of lower than expected insurance premiums.

5. Due to the unpredictable nature of these items, a budget is only set in instances where the amount could be reliably determined. There was a unfavourable variance to budget of (\$18.3 million).
 - The net decrease in the revaluation of interest rate swaps by (\$19.3 million) is due to a change in market interest rates.
 - The sale of investment properties resulted in a variance against budgeted of \$3.8 million.
 - Multiple assets have been disposed through replacement resulting in a total loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment amounted of (\$2.6 million).
 - There was a revaluation loss in investment properties of (\$0.6 million) against a budgeted gain of \$0.9 million resulting in a variance of \$1.5 million.
 - There were unrealised gains of \$0.7 million on Municipal Endowment Funds invested with Milford Investments.
6. Council is no longer a controlling entity and has therefore not presented

consolidated group financial statements. The investment in Waikato Regional Airport Limited has been equity accounted in the Council financial statements (previously at cost). This adjustment has resulted in a restatement of the prior period. Council's share of surplus was not included in budgets.

7. The gain on revaluation was (\$156.1 million) unfavourable to budget. This was due to the value of land being higher than predicted.
8. Current assets were higher than budget mainly due to an increase in term deposits held at year end and an increase in community loans, as well as short term investments in balanced funds with Milford.
9. Non-current assets were less than budget by (\$199.0 million) due to the revaluation of waters reticulation assets not being completed as budgeted combined with the underspend of the capital programme for the year.
10. Current liabilities were higher than budget by \$95.9 million mainly due to short term borrowings drawn down during the year due to uncertainty in relation to waters debt arrangements and favourable short term rates, whereas these had been budgeted as non-current borrowings.
11. Non-current liabilities were lower than budget by (\$312.7 million). This was largely driven by the reduced capital programme in 2025 and the higher current borrowings balance.
12. Accumulated revenue and expenses were favourable to budget by \$125.0 million. This was primarily due to the Council no longer being a controlling entity and therefore no longer presenting consolidated financial statements. This resulted in the transfer of the equity balance in the Waikato Regional Airport Limited from the group consolidation into the Council stand alone financial statements which had previously recognised the investment at cost.
13. Other reserves were lower to budget by (\$94.1 million) as a result of the revaluation of the three waters reticulation assets not being completed at 30 June 2025.
14. Restricted reserves were favourable to budget by \$2.2 million as a result of an increase in the Domain Endowment Fund and Municipal Endowment Fund due to higher interest rates and fund returns than budgeted.
15. Council created reserves was higher than budget by \$1.9 million as a result of higher waste minimisation, zoo conservation, and zoo sponsored improvement levies transferred into the reserve than budgeted.
16. Opening balance of cash and cash equivalents was lower than budget by (\$63.9 million) due to fewer short term deposits held at year end than budgeted. Term deposits that have been entered into with longer terms have been classified as other financial assets.
17. Cash inflows from operating activities were favourable to budget by \$31.1 million due to strong operational activities generating higher fees and charges, waste minimisation levies, interest and insurance. There was also a decrease in payments to employees and suppliers with some significant savings in software licencing and digital storage costs.
18. Cash outflows from investing activities were lower than budget by (\$113.7 million) due to the reduction in capital expenditure.
19. Cash inflows required from financing activities were lower than budget by (\$143.1 million) This was large due to the reduced capital programme in 2025.

Accounting policies

Hamilton City Council is a territorial authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002.

The summary financial statements of the Council are for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity as defined under the PBE International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS).

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE accounting statements and generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP). The full financial statements make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with PBE Standards for each period presented in this summary annual report.

Council's summary annual report complies with PBE Financial Reporting Standards 43 (FRS 43) Summary Financial Statements.

All amounts are shown in New Zealand dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).

Specific disclosures

Revaluations

Water, wastewater and stormwater reticulation assets were last revalued at 30 April 2022, costs and market indicators have shown that a significant increase in the value of these assets likely exists at 30 June 2025.

Initial valuation models and reports have produced results that Council does not consider sufficiently reliable for financial reporting purposes at balance date. As a result, the revaluation has not been reflected in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025. However, because it is likely that the valuation of the assets has moved materially, not recording this increase in the asset values has resulted in a likely non-compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Water Reform

In February 2024, the Government initiated a significant water reform programme by repealing previous legislation and introducing the Local Government Water Services Preliminary Arrangements Act 2024. This legislation required councils to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), which Hamilton City Council completed and had approved by Council on 25 June 2025 and accepted by the Department of Internal Affairs on 24 July 2025. In alignment with the WSDP, Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council have agreed to establish a joint Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) named IAWAI - Flowing Waters Limited, incorporated on 26 June 2025. The entity is expected to be accounted for as a jointly controlled entity.

To support the transition, both councils have agreed on a Statement of Expectations that outlines the transfer of assets, liabilities, debt, contracts, and obligations to IAWAI, enabling it to manage water, wastewater, and stormwater services from 1 July 2026. Key asset categories impacted include water and wastewater reticulation systems and treatment plants. While the exact timing and value of debt transfers remain undetermined, the net transfer is expected to reflect the Council's initial investment in IAWAI. Despite the change in legal ownership, the assets will continue to serve the same ratepayers, and therefore, they have not been reclassified as Held for Sale as of 30 June 2025.

Capital commitments

Council has capital contract commitments of \$208 million (2024: \$237 million).

Council is a 63% capital beneficiary of the WEL Energy Trust. The life of the Trust ends in 2073 unless terminated earlier if its purpose is completed. Given the uncertainties surrounding the life of the Trust, Council is unable to accurately establish the appropriate value of its 63 per cent share.

Contingent liabilities, which are dependent on future events, are \$17 million (2024: \$31 million).

Council has identified 4 unquantified contingent liabilities. This is in relation to a legal action on staff matters, Ranfurly Gully, Riskpool and Kodiak Consulting Limited.

Changes in accounting policy

In the year ending 30 June 2024 the Council disposed of its controlling interest in Waikato Innovation Growth Limited Ltd. As a result, the entity no longer meets the definition of a controlling entity under PBE IPSAS 35 and has ceased preparing consolidated financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared on a standalone basis in accordance with PBE IPSAS. This has resulted in adopting equity accounting for Waikato Regional Airport Limited into the Council where it was previously equity accounted only in the Group consolidation.

There have been no other changes in the Council's accounting policies since the date of the last audited financial statements.

Related parties

During the year Councillors and key management, as part of a normal customer relationship, were involved in minor transactions with Council (such as payment of rates, use of Council facilities, etc).

Events after balance date

On 20 August 2025, the property at 58 Masters Avenue, sustained damage due to a fire. The damage includes the Hillcrest Library and associated commercial tenancies, owned by Hamilton City Council's Municipal Endowment Fund.

The property is insured under Hamilton City Council's Material Damage and Business Interruption Policy, and a claim has been lodged. The applicable policy excess is \$25,000, and the total value of the loss is currently unknown.

The building is presently undergoing strip-out works to allow for a full assessment of the damage. The extent and value of the loss will be quantified once the assessment is completed.

Disclaimer

The specific disclosures included in this summary annual report have been extracted from the full annual report and were authorised for issue by the Chief Executive on 2 October 2025.

These summary financial statements do not include all of the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and can not be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full annual report.

This summary can not be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full annual report of the financial and service performance, financial position and cash flows of Hamilton City Council.

The summary has been examined for consistency with the full annual report and was audited by Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Office of the Auditor-General. The audit opinion was qualified only in respect to a limitation of scope in regards to the valuation of the three waters reticulation assets.

The full annual report can be obtained from our website <https://hamilton.govt.nz/your-city/data-and-statistics/understanding-your-council/annual-reports/> or from the Hamilton City Council main office.

Audit Opinion

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Hamilton City Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Hamilton City Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 31 to 47:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service performance.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

However, the summary financial statements include a limitation in scope to

the equivalent extent as the full audited financial statements. This limitation is explained below in The full annual report and our audit report thereon section

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements, and an unmodified opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 in our auditor's report dated 2 October 2025. the basis for our qualified opinion on the financial statements is explained below.

Financial statements: our work was limited over the carrying value of the Council's water system, wastewater system, and stormwater system assets.

The City Council measures water, wastewater and stormwater system assets (three waters systems assets) at fair value. PBE IPSAS 17 Property, Plant and Equipment requires entities that measure assets at fair value to carry out revaluations with sufficient regularity to ensure that revalued assets are not included at a value that is materially different to fair value.

There is evidence that there may have been a material change in the fair value of the three waters systems assets since the last revaluation in 2022.

The City Council has disclosed on page 266 of the financial statements in the full annual report that it engaged a valuer to perform a revaluation of the

three waters systems assets for the year ended 30 June 2025. However, due to concerns with the results of this revaluation, which could not be resolved prior to adoption of the full annual report, the City Council has not recognised the revaluation in the 2025 financial statements.

If the City Council had revalued the three waters systems assets to fair value as at 30 June 2025, and recognised the revaluation movement in the 2025 financial statements, the value of these assets in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, and the revaluation movement recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year ended 30 June 2025, may have been materially affected. It is impracticable for us to determine the amount of any adjustment required.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 46 of the summary annual report.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph on the future of water delivery, drawing attention to page 221 of the financial statements in the full annual report, which outlines that in response to the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, the Council decided to establish a jointly owned water organisation with Waikato District Council to deliver the water and wastewater assets and be responsible for delivering those services from 1 July 2026. The financial impact of this decision is unknown because details of the exact arrangements are still being considered.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 46 of the summary annual report.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report

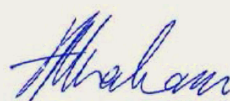
which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to the audit we have carried out engagement in the areas of a limited assurance engagement related to the Council's debenture trust deed and probity assurance engagements, which are compatible with the independence requirements. Other than the audit, our report on the disclosure requirements, and these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.




Athol Graham,
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Auckland, New Zealand
2 October 2025

Hamilton City Council
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

 /HamiltonCityCouncil

 @hamilton_city_nz

 07 838 6699

[hamilton.govt.nz](https://www.hamilton.govt.nz)