

Ashburton District Council AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Ashburton District Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 3 December 2025

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Hine Paaka Council Chamber

Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

Membership

Mayor Liz McMillan
Deputy Mayor Richard Wilson
Members Carolyn Cameron

Russell Ellis Phill Everest Deb Gilkison Jeanette Maxwell Julie Moffett Phill Hooper Tony Todd

	Meeting Timetable
Time	Item
1.00pm	Council meeting commences
2.30pm	Welcome to new and long-serving Staff

1 Apologies

2 Extraordinary Business

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Minutes

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4. Council Minutes −5 November 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Her Worship the Mayor, Liz McMillan; Councillors Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Deb Gilkison, Phill Hooper, Julie Moffett, Jeanette Maxwell, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Tania Paddock (General Counsel) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Gordon Cruickshank (Financial Performance Manager).

1 Apologies

Cr Phill Everest Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes - 29/10/25

That the minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting held on 29 October 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

5 Governance Structure for the 2025-28 Triennium

That Council adopts the 2025-28 governance structure and elected member appointments.

Wilson/Maxwell

Carried

6 Elected Members' Remuneration following the 2025 Triennial Elections

- 1. **That** Council receives the elected members' remuneration report.
- 2. **That** Council advises the Remuneration Authority that its governance arrangements for the nine councillors includes four (4) positions of additional responsibility.
- 3. That Council approves the allocation of the full remuneration pool on the following basis:

a) Executive Committee Members (x 4) \$57,420

b) Councillor base remuneration (x 5) \$52,149

- **4. That** Council provides a vehicle for the Mayor with full private use.
- **5. That** the Ashburton District Council governance pool proposal be submitted to the Remuneration Authority for approval and inclusion in the next amending determination.
- **6. That** Council notes that the proposed allocation of the remuneration pool is subject to a determination being issued by the Remuneration Authority, with additional payments (above the minimum Councillor base rate) being backdated once the determination has been issued.

Ellis/Hooper Carried

7 2026 Schedule of Council Meetings

Council supported the proposal to use Tuesdays as a reserve day for meetings and workshops and noted that the Methven Community Board have agreed to the dates proposed for Board meetings.

That Council adopts the 2026 schedule of Council and Methven Community Board meetings.

Todd/Moffett Carried

8 Service Provisions over Christmas and New Year 2025-26

That Council receives this report.

Hooper/Cameron Carried

9 Road Closure - Ashburton Car Club Standing 1/4 Mile Sprint

That Council permits the temporary closure of a portion of Somerton Road on Saturday 29 November 2025, from 9am to 4.30pm to allow the Quarter Mile Sprint to be held.

Ellis/Todd Carried

10 Financial Report

That Council receives the 30 September 2025 financial variance report.

Gilkison/Cameron Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded 1.39pm

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – 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 are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
11	Freeholding of Glasgow Lease	Section 7(2)(i)	Conduct of negotiations
12	Plains Museum Trust appointments	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons

Ellis/Hooper

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

Plains Museum Trust Appointments

1. **That** Council appoints Stefan van Vliet and Alden Thomas to the Plains Museum Trust as its community representatives until the 2028 Local Government elections.

Hooper/Todd

Carried



5. Extraordinary Council Minutes – 19/11/25

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025, commencing at 12.30pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Her Worship the Mayor, Liz McMillan; and Councillors Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Deb Gilkison, Phill Hooper, Julie Moffett, Jeanette Maxwell, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Community & Open Spaces), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Tania Paddock (GM Democracy & Engagement), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

1	Apologies	
	Cr Phill Everest	Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Review of Committee Terms of Reference

Audit, Risk & Finance Committee and Three Waters Committee

That Council adopts the 2025 Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and the Three Waters Committee.

Cameron/Ellis Carried

The meeting concluded at 12.32pm.		
Confirmed 3 December 2025		
MAYOR		



6. Audit, Risk & Finance Committee -19/11/25

Minutes of the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025, commencing at 3.15pm, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Liz McMillan, Councillors Carolyn Cameron (Chair), Russell Ellis, Jeanette Maxwell, Tony Todd, and Richard Wilson; and Murray Harrington.

Also present:

Councillors Phill Everest, Deb Gilkison, Phill Hooper and Julie Moffett.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (CE), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Community & Open Spaces), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development) Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Tania Paddock (GM Legal & Democracy) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Emily Reed (Corporate Planner), Lauretta Smith (Finance Business Partner), Katie Perry (People & Capability Manager) and Rebecca Lees (Safety & Wellness Lead).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be introduced as extraordinary business as item 8 (public excluded):

Audit review update
Section 7(2)(i) conduct of negotiations
Mayor/Ellis

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Annual Plan 2026/27 Process/Timetable

The Committee received the timetable and agreed to change the date of the January workshop from Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 January. Budget packs will be provided to Council mid-January. The narrative format will explain changes to what was previously signalled in year 3 of the LTP.

Post meeting note: the workshop has been moved to Tuesday 3 February.

That the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee receives the Annual Plan 2026/27 Process/Timetable.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

5 Management of Accounts Receivable

That the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee receives the report of accounts receivable.

Wilson/Ellis Carried

6 Bancorp Treasury Report - September 2025

Recommendation to Council

That Council receives the Bancorp Treasury report for the September 2025 quarte	r.
Ellis/Mayor	Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded - 3.46pm.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – 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 are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
7	Health and Safety Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons

Ellis/Maxwell Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.52pm.

Council

3 December 2025



7. Three Waters Committee –19 November 2025

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025, commencing at 1:00pm, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Phill Hooper, Carolyn Cameron, Deb Gilkison and Phill Everest.

Also present: Crs Richard Wilson, Tony Todd, Jeanette Maxwell, Julie Moffett.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure), Tania Paddock (GM Legal & Democracy) Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager) and Heather Stoddart (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Cr Phill Everest (lateness)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

Cr Everest arrived at 1:06pm

4 Three Waters Operations

Introduction of officers involved in Three Waters and a discussion on the structure of the team.

A slide showing the organisational structure of the In-House Business Unit (IBU) from the Water Services Delivery Plan was shown to provide a visual context of the Local Water Done Well framework, including external and internal partners and governance.

Matters arising

• It was noted that the lightning strike at the Methven water treatment plant was a strike into the ground (not the actual plant) which hit the cable underground, which feeds into the switchboard, causing damage. Officers are looking into resilience and minimising the risk of this happening again. Going forward, will ensure there are spare parts kept on-site.

5 Projects

Drinking water project commentary

Advanced water metering trial – officers have discussed the work being undertaken with Intellihub in sourcing and installing the water meters, which will provide real time water monitoring of water usage for operational benefits. There is currently no intention to use metering for charging purposes.

Wastewater project status

Wetland top channel improvements – Treated effluent gravity feeds from Wilkins Rd through to Ocean Farm. Improvements will allow a better understanding of routine and bypass flows. The wetland itself is going to be looked at as part of the Wastewater Strategy.

Continuous Nitrate Monitoring – (Ocean Farm currently not compliant) - installing a nitrate probe in top channel to better understand the nitrogen loading on the land.

• Stormwater project status

Assessment of higher risk properties discharging stormwater to Ashburton network. GIS tool will allow this assessment to be done without having to get an external service provider every time.

6 Drinking Water Compliance

• Montalto Water Supply Trial

Officers are waiting for the costing of the installation and hoping that it will be installed prior to Christmas. Main issue is the backflow prevention and ensuring contamination isn't drawn into the water supply scheme. Solution needs to be pragmatic.

7 RMA Consents Compliance

• It was confirmed that the non-compliance reported in Appendix B refers to wastewater irrigation at Ocean Farm, and the nitrogen loading rates being exceeded.

8 Financials

- There should be no difference between the WSDP and the Annual Plan and if there is, it would be work needed over and above the WSDP. The AP for water is considered as already done. The WSDP is the approved budget for the AP. Charges for 3 Waters Services shows a 12% increase already approved by previous Council. There will be differences between year 3 of the LTP against the updated AP. Urge all members of the committee and Councillors to become familiar with our WSDP which is on our website.
- Capital expenditure is 54% and capital income is \$0, which won't be picked up till the end of the year as they are through loans.
- The breakdown of debt levels by activity will be shown in the financial report to the Audit & Risk Committee.
- 3Waters must be clearly ring-fenced and separated from other Council spending. The focus will be on getting the independent business unit set up to ensure Council is delivering to the Commerce Commission's requirements.

The meeting concluded at 1:54pm.



8. Methven Community Board – 3 November 2025

Minutes of the Inaugural Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 3 November 2025, commencing at 9.00am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, Main Street, Methven.

Present

Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Deb Gilkison and Jeanette Maxwell; and Faye Barrand, Megan Fitzgerald, Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson and Simon Wareing.

In attendance

Toni Durham (GM Community & Open Spaces), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Dan Huismann (Acting Communications Manager), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Introduction and explanation of statutory requirements

Received for information purposes.

5 Election of Chair, Deputy Chair and Board Appointments

That System B is the method used to elect the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Fitzgerald/Owen

Carried

That Megan Fitzgerald is elected as Chairperson of the Methven Community Board.

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

That Richie Owen is elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Methven Community Board.

Jenkinson/Barrand

Carried

That Robin Jenkinson is elected as the Methven Community Board representative on the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board.

Owen/Wareing

Carried

That Simon Wareing is elected as the Methven Community Board representative on the Methven Reserve Board.

Jenkinson/Owen

Carried

That Richie Owen be appointed as Methven Community Board's representative on the Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust.

Jenkinson/Barrand

Carried

The Chair expressed thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the Board, to the Board's former Chair Kelvin Holmes and Board member Allan Lock for their contributions over the previous term.

Mayor Speaking Rights

That Mayor Liz McMillan be granted speaking rights at the Methven Community Board meetings.

Owen/Maxwell

Carried

6 Methven Community Board Recordings of Meetings

That investigations be undertaken into the costs involved with livestreaming of meetings and an update to be provided at the next meeting

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

7 Activity Reports

That the activity reports be received.

Owen/Wareing

Carried

7.1 Legal & Democracy

2026 meeting dates

That the Methven Community Board's meeting schedule retains the status quo of a six weekly cycle, with meetings commencing at 9am.

Wareing/Owen

Carried

Democracy

• 2025 Local Elections

The Chair extended congratulations to newly elected Mayor Liz McMillan and the new Western Ward Councillors Deb Gilkison and Jeanette Maxwell.

A bus trip around the Methven district for Community Board members is to be arranged.

Methven Reserve Board – Helipad

A joint letter from the Methven Community Board and the Methven Reserve Board has been sent to the Ministers of Transport and the South Island to see a review of the Civil Aviation Act, part 139: Subpart I – Operating requirements – non-certificated aerodromes.

No response has been received to date. A copy of the letter is to be forwarded to members.

7.2 Infrastructure

• Pedestrian crossing outside Methven Central

Council officers have been undertaking investigations on the possible layout of a loading zone, pedestrian crossing point and parking spaces on Methyen Chertsey Road outside Methyen Central.

The Board agreed that discussion should be deferred until Council officers and Board members have had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Methven Central. It was further agreed that this will be followed up with a workshop, to include representatives from Methven Primary and the Preschool on Methven Chertsey Road.

That the matter lies on the table pending a meeting with Methven Central and a workshop with the schools.

Fitzgerald/Owen

Carried

CRM Report

It was agreed that rather than providing a list of individual CRM requests, future reports will include a summary of each category and the status of the request to be provided.

• Solid Waste Management and Collection

The high number of gross contaminations in kerbside collection bins was noted. An education advertising campaign is to be undertaken.

7.3 Community & Open Spaces

Methven CBD Lighting Project

Members requested specific details on the status of the Methven CBD lighting project – when are the suppliers expected to correct the quality and brightness issues?

7.5 Business Support

Discretionary Grant

Council officers are currently investigating the options of establishing a system that will call for grant applications on a quarterly basis. This will be discussed at the upcoming budget workshop.

7.6 Birdsong Trust Report - Garden of Harmony project

The naming ceremony formally accepting the Arowhenua gifted named for the site (Ka koroti a te manu 'the chattering of the birds') has been undertaken. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Community.

It was noted that the Trust have undertaken some extensive pruning to tidy up the area.

8 Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board/Methven Reserve Board

That the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board and Methven Reserve board representatives be requested to provide a report on a quarterly basis to update the Methven Community Board on the activities of their respective Boards.

	Owen/Barrand	Carried
The meeting closed at 9.46am		
Chairperson		

Council

3 December 2025



9. 2024/25 Annual Report Adoption

Author Emily Reed; Corporate Planner
Activity Manager Erin Register; Finance Manager

Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Executive Team Member Helen Barnes, GM Business Support

Toni Durham, GM Community and Open Spaces

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of the Annual Report for 2024/25.
- Audit New Zealand have audited this report and at the time of writing this report, it is anticipated that an unqualified Audit opinion will be issued. The opinion will be provided to Council as soon as it is received.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council adopts the 2024/25 Annual Report for the Ashburton District Council.
- 2. That Council authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor amendments or grammatical changes to the final Annual Report, including any identified as a result of Audit New Zealand's request, and report these changes to Council.

Attachment

Appendix 1 2024/25 Annual Report [Supplemental document]

Background

- 1. Every year Council prepares an Annual Report.
- 2. The 2024/25 draft Annual Report shows how Council performed (including both financial and non-financial information) against the targets outlined in Year 1 of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. This includes the projects Council has progressed during the year, highlights and issues.
- 3. The Council is required to adopt an Annual Report by 31 October 2025. However, due to audit timeframes not being met by both Council and Audit New Zealand, this has not been achieved.
- 4. Council's 2024/25 Annual Report has now been audited by Audit New Zealand and officers anticipate an unqualified audit opinion from Audit New Zealand.
- An unqualified Audit opinion means that Audit New Zealand are satisfied that the 2024/25 Annual Report and summary documents fairly represent the Council and Group's financial position as at 30 June 2025, and the results of its operations and cashflow.

Options analysis

Option 1 - Adopt the annual report (recommended option)

6. Council is required to adopt an Annual Report. Officers recommend that the Annual Report is adopted by the Council, otherwise Council will breach this statutory requirement.

Advantages:	Disadvantages:
 Annual Report adopted to meet statutory 	No disadvantages
requirements	
Risks: No foreseen risks.	

Option 2 - Do not adopt the draft Annual Report

7. Council could decide not to adopt the Annual Report, however, this would put Council in breach of its requirements under the Local Government Act 2002.

Advantages: • No advantages	Disadvantages: • Breach of statutory requirements	
Risks: Reputational risk of Council not appearing to have its house in order.		

Legal/policy implications

Legislation

8. Section 98 of the Local Government Act, 2002 requires Council to prepare and adopt an Annual Report within four months of the end of each financial year. Council's end of year is 30 June, therefore, the Council's Annual Report was required to be adopted by the end of October. As mentioned above, this deadline has not been achieved this year.

Strategic alignment

9. The Annual Report provides transparency with the community as to our achievement towards all four community outcomes and wellbeings.

Well-being		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	
Environmental	√	The Annual Report provides transparency with how each activity of Council contributes towards each of the wellbeings.
Cultural	√	Council contributes towards each of the wellbeings.
Social	√	

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	The cost of auditing the Annual Report is budgeted for in the LTP Year 1 at \$305,000 (excl GST). Currently we have charged \$311,977. We expect to receive a further invoice for the audit.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Up to budgeted \$305,000
Where is the funding coming from?	Within existing Treasury budget (132).
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Medium – not significant
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of engagement selected	Officers will inform the community of the adoption of the Annual Report by Council.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	There is no opportunity to consult on the Annual Report as it represents a report on Council's performance for the financial year 2024/25.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham: GM Community and Open Spaces

Council

3 December 2025



10. Reallocation of Economic Development Funds

Author Shelley Donnelly, Economic Development Manager

Executive Team Member Ian Hyde, Group Manager – Compliance and Development

Summary

- This report seeks Council's decision on reallocating funds within the 25/26 Annual Plan originally designated for a Learning Hub Feasibility Study, to a study aimed at increasing foot traffic in the CBD.
- The changing environment in education post the adoption of the Ashburton District Economic Development Strategy in 2023 has identified that funds budgeted through the Long Term Process for a learning hub physical campus may be more appropriately used to progress other objectives within the Strategy.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council reallocates the sum of \$50,000 currently allocated for a feasibility study for the creation of a Learning Hub budgeted within the 2025/26 financial year, to:

Scope and undertake a feasibility study of the opportunities available to increase foot traffic in the Ashburton CBD as described in Goal 3, Objective A.1: of the Ashburton District Economic Development Strategy

Background

- The Ashburton District Economic Development Strategy 2023-33 was approved by Council in July 2023 following 18 months of development. At the time, the post-COVID environment significantly influenced the Strategy's direction, including the proposal to establish a community Learning Hub campus.
- 2. In 2024, Council allocated \$50,000 for a feasibility study to explore the development of a Learning Hub, budgeted within the 2025/26 Financial year.
- 3. The Learning Hub project is at a very early stage with minimal public exposure and expectation. The project was largely conceptual and did not achieve wider industry buyin.

The current situation

- 4. Social distancing restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the classroom experience, prompting a widespread shift to online learning across all education levels. While this was a new approach in New Zealand, tertiary students in particular adapted quickly, and remote learning has since become a standard practice.
- 5. As a result, the original vision of a dedicated physical space for tertiary students and educators to engage in remote learning is now outdated. Learners have become highly flexible, with few limitations on what constitutes a classroom.
- 6. In parallel and organically within the community providers have emerged with programmes and opportunities to fill gaps and provide education and learning options to the community. These include Keep Learning Mid Canterbury, Salvation Army and YMCA among others.
- 7. The opening of Te Whare Whakatere in 2024 has further solidified these findings. The development of this new public resource has further addressed this need, offering modern, collaborative and connected spaces free for use by the community. These facilities have proven popular with community groups and both secondary and tertiary students, effectively fulfilling much of the original intent of the physical Learning Hub concept.
- 8. The current delivery of training in the district is limited by both numbers and range of options. Apprenticeships, upskilling programmes and foundational learning are currently on offer and are well serviced.
- 9. Several initial scoping meetings were held within the community in 2024 in relation to the creation of a Learning Hub and were attended by community stakeholders and both formal and informal local education providers.
- 10. An advisory group was also created and comprised of representatives from Ashburton College, Ara, University of Canterbury, Business Canterbury, Ashburton Learning Centre, YMCA, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development.

- 11. In addition to the stakeholder engagement a business survey completed by 200 local businesses was completed in December 2024. The survey determined that businesses primarily use online training, supplier-provided programmes, and on-the-job learning peer to peer. There appears to be little demand for new training services, as many businesses have built their own solutions and small businesses tend to struggle with time and budget constraints for staff development.
- 12. The development of Keep Learning Mid Canterbury (an initiative founded by Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust) already offers a number of free workshops in existing facilities including Te Whare Whakatere and Mount Hutt Memorial Hall. This further cements staff reservations about the need for a new physical building.
- 13. The Learning Network programme (named as Innovation Centre under the same objective as the Learning Hub in the Economic Development Strategy) will still proceed and is still to be fully mapped out and realised, but has a threefold ambition to: spread practical knowledge faster, grow confidence and competence, and to spark innovation. It aims to provide learning options and networking for residents and businesses at little or no cost.
- 14. Whilst the support for increasing the learning options available for locals was received from all stakeholder groups, there was doubt that a 'bricks and mortar' Learning Hub was required to achieve this. The concern arose from the funding that may be required and the possible duplication of learning that would then be offered.
- 15. The rapid adoption of online learning, coupled with the offerings of Keep Learning Mid Canterbury and other community providers suggests limited need for a further feasibility study and that the money budgeted for the feasibility study in Year 2 of the LTP, could be better redistributed to other actions within the Economic Development Strategy.
- 16. The continued development of a full learning network programme will be developed to facilitate training and workshops to the community and local businesses, ensuring there is no duplication with existing providers but instead, collaboration. Other than staff time, a modest budget would be required to secure appropriate speakers as required. At this time, costs can be accommodated within the existing Economic Development budget.
- 17. The \$50,000 budget allocation could then be directed towards another project within the Economic Development Strategy which currently has no available budget to move forward It is recommended that this be a feasibility study around opportunities to increase foot traffic in the CBD. This study would provide a current benchmark and economic assessment as well as pedestrian movement and behaviour analysis, identify anchor assets and opportunity sites, market assessment and commercial appetite for development. It is expected that, among other insights, opportunities are identified and recommended pathways will be suggested.
- 18. This objective has been recommended over two others that would also require additional budget. This is due to the expectation of delivery of tangible, visible, and actionable outcomes and should identify quick wins rather than producing the long-

- term theoretical planning documents that would be delivered by other objectives, that staff consider would provide less value to the District.
- 19. Alternative objectives are: 1)Undertake sector analysis of emerging risks and opportunities for the district economy; and 2)Undertake a gap analysis of informal industry capability development offered in the district. A feasibility study to increase foot traffic is considered more valuable because it delivers immediate, tangible economic benefits by identifying practical interventions that attract people to local businesses and town centres, directly boosting spending and vibrancy. Unlike sector analysis or gap analysis, which primarily provide long-term insights and require further investment before any impact is realized, a foot traffic study translates quickly into visible actions that strengthen the local economy, enhance community confidence, and align with strategic goals for place-making and economic growth.

Options analysis

Option One (Recommended) - That Council re-allocate the \$50,000, originally allocated in Year 2 of the Long Term Plan, for a Learning Hub Feasibility Study to:

Scope and undertake a feasibility study of the opportunities available to increase foot traffic in the Ashburton CBD as described in Goal 3, Objective A.1: of the Ashburton District Economic Development Strategy (recommended option).

- 20. The original objective that includes a feasibility study for a Learning Hub also includes an Innovation Centre development. The Innovation Centre has been renamed to Learning Network as it is more fitting for the market demand.
- 21. If the recommended option is approved, the Learning Hub will be removed from the objective, but the Learning Network will continue and be the only focus for that objective. The CBD feasibility study is a separate objective. Thus 2 separate objectives will continue (one now funded from reallocated funds) and the learning hub will cease.

Advantages:

- Funds would be used most effectively.
- Progression of the CBD feasibility study would be enabled and will form part of a wider strategic Group project in relation to the growth of the town centre.
- Consistent feedback received from key stakeholders and education providers would be acknowledged and heeded knowing the progression of a Learning Hub would be ceased.

Disadvantages:

 An approved and funded action within the Economic Development Strategy will not be progressed.

Risks:

 Redirecting funds may be perceived as abandoning the Learning Hub concept which could raise concerns about consistency and follow-through from the Council. Some stakeholders may have anticipated progress on the Learning Hub and could be disappointed or feel excluded from the decision-making process, especially if they were involved in early consultations.

Option 2 - That Council does not reallocate funds for a Learning Hub Feasibility Study allocated in year 2 of the Long Term Plan.

22. This option would see work proceed with Economic Development Strategy Goal 1, Objective A.3: which directs the undertaking of a feasibility study for the creation of a Learning Hub.

Advantages:

- A comprehensive answer will be provided as to the feasibility of progressing a district Learning Hub.
- A feasibility study could provide further insights into current and future educational infrastructure needs, even if the original concept evolves.

Disadvantages:

- The original rationale for a physical Learning Hub may no longer reflect current learning behaviours, particularly the widespread adoption of remote and hybrid learning models.
- The \$50,000 could be redirected to other objectives that better align with current community and economic development needs.
- The progression of a CBD feasibility study would be in danger as no funding is available to move this objective forward.
- May have limited buy in from stakeholders doubtful of the projects value.

Risks:

- If the study confirms that a Learning Hub is no longer viable, the investment may be seen as a sunk cost with no tangible outcome.
- Stakeholders may question the value of investing in a study for a concept that appears to have been overtaken by events and changing needs.
- Expenditure may harm relationships with stakeholders who have consistently provided feedback about the value in proceeding with the project.

Option 3 – That neither option is pursued and the \$50k allocation of funding is returned as surplus to reduce the 2026/27 rate requirement for Economic Development.

Advantages:

- Reduces the rate requirement for the next financial year, which can be seen positively by ratepayers.
- Demonstrates fiscal responsibility and responsiveness to community concerns about affordability.
- Frees staff capacity for other priorities.

Disadvantages:

- May weaken the council's ability to deliver on strategic economic development goals.
- Delaying investment might lead to higher costs later if economic conditions worsen or opportunities are missed.

Risks:

- Community or business groups may criticize the decision as short-sighted or reactive.
- Could undermine confidence in council's economic development strategy.
- Returning funds may conflict with long-term plans or KPIs set for economic growth.
- Risk of failing to meet targets in council's economic development framework.

Legal/policy implications

- 23. The Economic Development Strategy is focused on improving the quality of life to residents, through improving the economic well-being of the district. This strategy sets out the goals and objectives that will help us, together as a community, achieve a shared vision for our district. Economic Development is undertaken through many of the activities and services we deliver. This strategy is focused on three priority areas:
 - Living, working and learning here
 - Doing business here
 - Visiting and planning here
- 24. The current Economic Development Strategy will be impacted if the recommended option is chosen as the creation of a Learning Hub facility referred to in Goal 1, Objective A will not proceed. The progression of a Learning Network (previously referred to as an Innovation Centre) would however continue development under this Objective. The introduction of quarterly workshops managed by Ashburton District Council have already been established and are provided free to the community. These workshops are an alternative way to meet local learning and training needs as outlined in this objective and will form part of a full learning programme once further scoping is completed.
- 25. The Economic Development Strategy Update and Review will be presented in early 2026 and will reflect this change.

Climate change

- 26. The Learning Network will not impact climate change negatively but instead could make climate action visible and normal across communities.
- 27. People adopt sustainable habits more easily when they see peers doing the same.
- 28. Connecting diverse groups could spark new technology, pilot projects and funding partnerships.
- 29. Networks help climate solutions move quickly between farms, businesses and communities.

Review of legal / policy implic	ations				
Reviewed by In-house Counsel Jacqui Watson; Senior Legal Counsel					

Strategic alignment

30. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of a district of great spaces and places because potential opportunities identified by the CBD feasibility study should ensure our district is welcoming, safe, vibrant and caters for the range of generations within our community.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	√	 Increased foot traffic in the CBD/town centre supports retail, hospitality, and service providers, helping sustain and grow local employment. A vibrant CBD/town centre attracts new businesses and investors, contributing to long-term economic resilience. Increased patronage in the CBD/town centre could create demand for pop-ups, markets, and innovation in business models.
Environmental	✓	 Enhancing walkability and cycling infrastructure reduces car dependency and emissions. Encourages Green Urban Design: Streetscape improvements A thriving CBD/town centre discourages urban sprawl, preserving surrounding rural environments.
Cultural	√	 Activation of public spaces can include art, storytelling, and events that reflect Ashburton's heritage and diversity. Opportunities to incorporate te ao Māori design principles, signage, and cultural events in the CBD/town centre. A lively, attractive CBD/town centre fosters a sense of belonging and pride in place.
Social	√	 A more active CBD/town centre encourages social interaction, reducing isolation and strengthening community ties. Enhancements can make the CBD/town centre more inclusive for all ages and abilities. More people in public spaces can improve perceptions of safety and reduce antisocial behaviour.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	\$50,000.00
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Available in the current Annual Plan (2025/26) – Reallocation of specifically tasked funds
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes for Goal 3, Objective A.1 of the Economic Development Strategy: Scope and undertake a feasibility study of the opportunities available to increase foot traffic in the Ashburton CBD. If feasibility study proves positive, additional budget may be requested in subsequent years to develop a business case to move forward any lucrative projects that are identified in the feasibility study. If Option 3 is chosen, the \$50,000 unspent budget can be used to offset the 2026/27 rate requirement, reducing the general rate by approximately 0.1%.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of Engagement	1. – Inform – one-way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	If Council agrees with the recommendation, it will still be focused on projects within the bounds of the existing strategy, which has already been consulted on with the community. No wider engagement is required and the community will be informed of the outcome of Council's decision. Some stakeholders who have been previously engaged with may require direct contact. The Learning Hub project was at a very early stage with minimal public exposure and expectation. The project was largely conceptual and did not achieve wider industry buy-in.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Council

3 December 2025



11. Financial Report

Author Gordon Cruickshank, Financial Performance Manager

GM responsible Helen Barnes; GM Business Support

Attachments

Financial variance report – October 2025

Recommendation

That Council receives the 31 October 2025 financial variance report.

Ashburton District Council Financial Variance Report For the period ending 31 October 2025

This report now includes year-to-date reporting, providing a more comprehensive view of our financial performance. The inclusion of this data marks an important step in our iterative overhaul of the reporting framework, aimed at enhancing transparency, consistency, and decision-making support across council operations.

Variances greater than \$100,000 are highlighted in **red bold**. If the variance is permanent an explanation is provided.

F (favourable variance) means that either actual revenue is greater than the revised budget or actual expenditure is less than the revised budget.

U (unfavourable variance) is **when** actual revenue is less than the revised budget or actual expenditure is greater than the revised budget.

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Income and Expenditure – Overview

For period ending 31 October 2025

\$29.68 M Actual YTD Operating Income	\$31.05 M Revised Budget YTD Operating Income	(\$1.37) M Variance Operating Income	\$95.31 M Revised Budget Full Year Operating Income	(\$65.63) M Variance Operating Income	31% % of Revised Budget Operating Income
\$29.51 M Actual YTD Operating Expenditure	\$30.54 M Revised Budget YTD Operating Expenditure	(\$1.02) M Variance Operating Expenditure	\$90.02 M Revised Budget Full Year Operating Expenditure	(\$60.50) M Variance Operating Expenditure	33% % of Revised Budget Operating Expenditure
\$0.07 M Actual YTD Capital Income	\$8.74 M Revised Budget YTD Capital Income	(\$8.67) M Variance Capital Income	\$26.21 M Revised Budget Full Year Capital Income	(\$26.14) M Variance Capital Income	0% % of Revised Budget Capital Income
\$10.32 M Actual YTD Capital Expenditure	\$14.69 M Revised Budget YTD Capital Expenditure	(\$4.37) M Variance Capital Expenditure	\$47.90 M Revised Budget Full Year Capital Expenditure	(\$37.57) M Variance Capital Expenditure	22% % of Revised Budget Capital Expenditure

This report is for the first 4 months or 33% of the year.

Income and Expenditure – Summary

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%
Revenue						
Rates	18,922,052	18,767,762	154,290	56,303,285	(37,381,233)	34%
Fees and Charges	5,016,362	4,162,903	853,460	12,484,608	(7,468,246)	40%
Subsidies and Grants	2,539,571	3,039,137	(499,565)	9,117,410	(6,577,839)	28%
Finance Income	168,661	136,667	31,994	410,000	(241,339)	41%
Other Revenue	2,331,798	1,760,737	571,060	6,225,096	(3,893,299)	37%
Other Sales	336,915	488,857	(151,942)	1,564,509	(1,227,594)	22%
Development / Financial Contributions	368,810	307,500	61,310	922,500	(553,690)	40%
Gain on Sale of Assets	-	1,658,333	(1,658,333)	4,975,000	(4,975,000)	0%
Vested Assets	-	731,167	(731,167)	3,310,750	(3,310,750)	0%
Total Revenue	29,684,169	31,053,062	(1,368,893)	95,313,159	(65,628,991)	31%
Operating Expenditure						
Payments to Staff and Suppliers	20,509,215	21,466,014	(956, 799)	62,798,516	(42,289,302)	33%
Finance Costs	1,812,459	2,017,340	(204,881)	6,052,020	(4,239,560)	30%
Other Expenses	193,981	56,665	137,315	169,996	23,984	114%
Depreciation	6,998,841	6,998,841	-	20,996,524	(13,997,683)	33%
Total Expenditure	29,514,496	30,538,861	(1,024,365)	90,017,057	(60,502,561)	33%
Net operating surplus (deficit)	169,673	514,201	(344,528)	5,296,103	(5,126,430)	(3%)
Capital Income Loans Raised		0.701.404	(0.701.404)	20 104 402	(20. 104. 402)	0%
Other Asset Sales & Disposals	68,891	8,701,494 34,167	(8,701,494) 34,725	26,104,483 102,500	(26,104,483) (33,609)	67%
Total Capital Income	68,891	8,735,661	(8,666,770)	26,206,983		0%
- Total Capital Income	08,831	8,733,001	(8,000,170)	20,200,983	(20,138,092)	0 70
Capital Expenditure						
Infrastructural Assets	3,507,033	4,404,665	(897,632)	15,057,849	(11,550,816)	23%
Cyclic Renewals	5,009,829	7,132,859	(2,123,030)	21,505,177	(16,495,349)	23%
Plant	394,427	335,437	58,990	1,006,310	(611,884)	39%
Additions/Alterations	1,079,181	1,621,582	(542,401)	4,862,285	(3,783,104)	22%
Other Assets	332,629	1,199,346	(866,718)	5,466,102	(5,133,473)	6%
Total capital expenditure	10,323,098	14,693,889	(4,370,791)	47,897,723	(37,574,625)	22%

Transportation – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income Footpaths Roading	256,310 6,823,123	340,518 6,299,396	(84,208) 523,728	1,021,555 18 898 187	(765,245) (12,075,064)	25% 36%	No No
·	7,079,433	6,639,914	439,520	19,919,742	(12,840,308)	36%	,,,
Operating Expenditure							
Footpaths Roading	439,886 5,465,499	430,464 5,397,926	9,421 67,573	1,291,393 16,190,446	(851,507) (10,724,947)	34% 34%	No No
	5,905,384	5,828,390	76,994	17,481,839	(11,576,454)	34%	
Capital Income Roading	_	1,633,333	(1,633,333)	4,900,000	(4,900,000)	0%	No
	-	1,633,333	(1,633,333)	4,900,000	(4,900,000)	0%	740
Capital Expenditure							
Footpaths Roading	1,680 2,441,650	71,993 4,707,753	(70,313) (2,266,103)	215,978 14,123,259	(214,298) (11,681,608)	1% 17%	No No
	2,443,330	4,779,746	(2,336,415)	14,339,237	(11,895,906)	17%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	owing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include to Vested Assets	the following: -	519,333	(519,333)	1,558,000	(1,558,000)	0%	

Drinking Water – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Group Water Supplies	3,051,771	3,008,642	43,129	9,123,865	(6,072,094)	33%	No
Montalto Water Supply	133,824	134,387	(563)	403,161	(269,337)	33%	No
Lyndhurst Water Supply	5,712	5,878	(166)	17,633	(11,921)	32%	740
Barhill Water Supply	1,022	1,248	(227)	3,745	(2,723)	27%	
Burring Water Supply	1,022	1,210	(221)	3,143	(2,125)	21 /0	
	3,192,328	3,150,155	42,173	9,548,404	(6,356,076)	33%	
Operating Expenditure							
Group Water Supplies	3,049,491	2,942,780	106,711	8,789,644	(5,740,153)	35%	No
Montalto Water Supply	129,446	139,197	(9,751)	414,516	(285,070)	31%	No
Lyndhurst Water Supply	1,180	1,529	(349)	4,586	(3,406)	26%	710
Barhill Water Supply	381	455	(75)	1,366	(985)	28%	
zariik rratei cappi,	552	.55	()	2,000	(333)	2070	
	3,180,497	3,083,960	96,537	9,210,111	(6,029,614)	35%	
Capital Income Group Water Supplies	-	3,749,124	(3,749,124)	11,247,371	(11,247,371)	0%	No
		3,881,272	(3,881,272)	11,643,816	(11,643,816)	0%	
		3,001,212	(3,001,212)	11,045,610	(11,043,610)	070	
Capital Expenditure							
Group Water Supplies	5,246,124	4,279,945	966,179	12,839,836	(7,593,712)	41%	No
Montalto Water Supply	119	132,148	(132,029)	396,445	(396,326)	0%	No
	5,246,243	4,412,094	834,150	13,236,281	(7,990,037)	40%	
The above financials include the following:							
Development Contributions	169,507	143,017	26,490	429,052	(259,545)	40%	
The above financials do not include a Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	471,500	(471,500)	0%	

$Wastewater-Income\ \&\ Expenditure\ Report$

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance	
Operating Income								
Ashburton Wastewater	2,070,674	2,027,024	43,650	6,081,072	(4,010,397)	34%	No	
Methven Wastewater	263,181	183,891	79,289	551,674	(288,493)	48%	No	
Rakaia Wastewater	124,332	175,825	(51,493)	527,476	(403,144)	24%	No	
	2,458,187	2,386,740	71,446	7,160,221	(4,702,035)	34%		
Operating Expenditure								
Ashburton Wastewater	2,270,530	2,059,151	211,379	6,136,964	(3,866,435)	37%	No	
Methven Wastewater	174,756	199,568	(24,812)	598,190	(423,435)	29%	No	
Rakaia Wastewater	187,918	220,497	(32,579)	655,596	(467,678)	29%	No	
	2,633,203	2,479,215	153,988	7,390,750	(4,757,547)	36%		
Capital Income Ashburton Wastewater Methven Wastewater	-	771,059 615,877	(771,059) (615,877)	2,313,178 1,847,632	(2,313,178) (1,847,632)	0% 0%	No No	
=	-	1,386,937	(1,386,937)	4,160,810	(4,160,810)	0%		
Capital Expenditure								
Ashburton Wastewater	220,912	1,259,595	(1,038,683)	3,778,784	(3,557,873)	6%	No	
Methven Wastewater	780,956	691,254	89,702	2,073,762	(1,292,806)	38%	No	
Rakaia Wastewater	78,773	-	78,773	-	78,773	0%		
	1,080,641	1,950,849	(870,208)	5,852,546	(4,771,905)	18%		
The above financials include the following:								
Capital Services Contribution	134,035	118,018	16,017	354,053	(220,018)	38%		
The above financials do not include t Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	645,750	(645,750)	0%		

Stormwater – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Ashburton Stormwater	222,987	354,504	(131,518)	1,063,513	(840,526)	21%	No
Methven Stormwater	18,654	29,632	(10,978)	88,895	(70,242)	21%	
Rakaia Stormwater	4,240	6,735	(2,495)	20,206	(15,966)	21%	
Hinds Stormwater	2,420	2,369	51	7,107	(4,687)	34%	
Rural Stormwater	11,273	17,908	(6,635)	53,724	(42,451)	21%	
	259,574	411,148	(151,575)	1,233,445	(973,871)	21%	
Operating Expenditure							
Ashburton Stormwater	501,485	479,630	21,855	1,420,185	(918,699)	35%	No
Methven Stormwater	30,007	36,701	(6,694)	108,309	(78,302)	28%	
Rakaia Stormwater	8,591	9,503	(912)	27,740	(19,149)	31%	
Hinds Stormwater	1,906	2,364	(458)	7,092	(5,186)	27%	
Rural Stormwater	173	17,909	(17,736)	53,726	(53,553)	0%	
=	542,163	546,107	(3,944)	1,617,052	(1,074,889)	34%	
Capital Income							
Ashburton Stormwater	-	216,890	(216,890)	650,670	(650,670)	0%	No
-	-	216,890	(216,890)	650,670	(650,670)	0%	
- 1.1- 11.							
Capital Expenditure Ashburton Stormwater	-	(397,728)	397,728	650,670	(650,670)	0%	No
-	-	(397,728)	397,728	650,670	(650,670)	0%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	wing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include to Vested Assets	he following: -	-	-	635,500	(635,500)	0%	

 $The \ above \ financials \ do \ not \ include \ appropriations \ -to \ and \ from \ activities.$

Stockwater – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Stockwater	518,305	501,863	16,442	1,505,588	(987,283)	34%	No
	518,305	501,863	16,442	1,505,588	(987,283)	34%	
Operating Expenditure Stockwater	323,445	511,559	(188,114)	1,504,771	(1,181,326)	21%	No
	323,445	511,559	(188,114)	1,504,771	(1,181,326)	21%	
					0%		
The above financials do not include Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

Waste Reduction & Recycling – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income Refuse Collection Refuse Management	1,095,198 2,105,331	1,031,218 2,107,781	63,979 (2,450)	3,093,655 6,323,342	(1,998,458) (4,218,011)	35% 33%	No No
	3,200,528	3,138,999	61,529	9,416,998	(6,216,469)	34%	
Operating Expenditure	040 521	1 020 721	(00, 200)	2 000 102	(2.120.662)	210/	V
Refuse Collection Refuse Management	949,531 1,816,811	1,029,731 1,962,309	(80,200) (145,498)	3,089,193 5,884,108	(2,139,663) (4,067,297)	31% 31%	Yes Yes
	2,766,342	2,992,040	(225,698)	8,973,302	(6,206,960)	31%	
Capital Income Refuse Management	-	86,119	(86,119)	258,358	(258,358)	0%	No
	-	86,119	(86,119)	258,358	(258,358)	0%	
Capital Expenditure Refuse Management	104,878	354,433	(249,555)	1,063,300	(958,422)	10%	No
	104,878	354,433	(249,555)	1,063,300	(958,422)	10%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	owing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include to Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

 $The \ above \ financials \ do \ not \ include \ appropriations - to \ and \ from \ activities.$

Waste Reduction & Recycling – Operating Expenditure

Refuse Collection

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$2,139,663 Favourable	\$100,000 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent unfavourable** variance

The Refuse Collection budget has been impacted by cost inflation in recent years. We are actively monitoring cost fluctuations, which were at 2% as of the March 2025 indices. While this remains within the 2025/26 budget assumptions (2.5%), higher-than-expected costs were incurred in FY 2024/25, suggesting a potential overspend in FY 2025/26. As quarterly wash-ups are received from EnviroWaste and Transwaste, a full year updated picture will be provided.

Refuse Management

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$4,067,297 Favourable	\$100,000 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent unfavourable** variance

The Refuse Management budget has been impacted by cost inflation in recent years. We are actively monitoring cost fluctuations, which were at 2% as of the March 2025 indices. While this remains within the 2025/26 budget assumptions (2.5%), higher-than-expected costs were incurred in FY 2024/25, suggesting a potential overspend in FY 2025/26. As quarterly wash-ups are received from EnviroWaste and Transwaste, a full year updated picture will be provided.

Recreation Facilities – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	984,939	962,915	22,024	2,888,744	(1,903,805)	34%	No
Library	899,003	887,523	11,480	2,662,568	(1,763,565)	34%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	2,221,466	2,213,472	7,994	6,640,415	(4,418,949)	33%	No
- =	4,105,408	4,063,909	41,499	12,191,727	(8,086,319)	34%	
Operating Expenditure Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	885,099	998,442	(113,343)	2,953,744	(2,068,645)	30%	No
Library	958,665	894,626	64,039	2,639,942	(1,681,277)	36%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	2,309,977	2,323,143	(13,166)	6,855,116	(4,545,139)	34%	No
=	4,153,742	4,216,212	(62,470)	12,448,803	(8,295,061)	33%	
Capital Expenditure							
Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	3,780	25,693	(21,913)	77,080	(73,300)	5%	
Library	58,428	63,621	(5,193)	188,402	(129,974)	31%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	342,318	231,105	111,213	693,315	(350,997)	49%	No
=	404,526	320,419	84,107	958,797	(554,271)	42%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	wing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include t Vested Assets	he following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

Recreation & Community Services – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Public Conveniences	203,685	223,643	(19,958)	670,928	(467,243)	30%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	340,315	677,357	(337,042)	2,032,072	(1,691,756)	17%	Yes
Memorial Halls	149,708	170,140	(20,432)	510,420	(360,712)	29%	No
Reserves and Camping Grounds	411,603	301,538	110,064	1,046,005	(634,402)	39%	No
Reserve Boards	321,546	228,618	92,928	738,514	(416,968)	44%	No
Community Safety	33,192	32,805	387	98,414	(65,222)	34%	
	1,460,049	1,634,101	(174,052)	5,096,352	(3,636,303)	29%	
Operating Expenditure							
Public Conveniences	187,684	218,810	(31,126)	653,817	(466,133)	29%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	399,404	429,247	(29,844)	1,190,367	(790,963)	34%	No
Memorial Halls	286,555	270,154	16,401	808,054	(521,500)	35%	Yes
Reserves and Camping Grounds	281,388	381,853	(100,465)	1,045,825	(764,437)	27%	No
Reserve Boards	272,136	271,308	828	805,796	(533,659)	34%	No
Community Safety	44,436	32,805	11,631	98,414	(53,978)	45%	
	1,471,602	1,604,177	(132,575)	4,602,272	(3,130,670)	32%	
Capital Income Public Conveniences		133,110	(133,110)	399,329	(399,329)	0%	No
r ubite conveniences		133,110	(133,110)	399,329	(399,329)	070	740
	-	186,222	(186,222)	558,665	(558,665)	0%	
Capital Expenditure							
Public Conveniences	995	153,750	(152,755)	461,250	(460,255)	0%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	99,905	706,177	(606,273)	2,118,532	(2,018,628)	5%	Yes
Reserves and Camping Grounds	107	-	107	-	107	0%	
Reserve Boards	4,312	-	4,312	-	4,312	0%	
	105,319	859,927	(754,608)	2,579,782	(2,474,463)	4%	
The above financials include the followelopment Contributions	owing: 300.00	-	-	-	300.00	0%	
The above financials do not include Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

Recreation and Community Services – Operating Income

Elderly Persons Housing

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$1,691,756 Unfavourable	\$1,052,360 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent unfavourable** variance

Friendship Lane was undertaken in a single stage and was completed in 2024/25. All grant income was received in the previous financial year.

Recreation and Community Services – Operating Expenditure

Memorial Halls

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$521,500 Favourable	\$100,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Insurance premiums have come in lower than budgeted due to more favourable insurance prices driven by the market competition.

Recreation and Community Services – Capital Expenditure

Elderly Persons Housing

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$2,018,628 Favourable	\$1,881,548 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Friendship Lane was undertaken in a single stage and was completed in 2024/25. All capital works were undertaken in the previous financial year.

Economic Development – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Commercial Property	1,667,297	2,688,643	(1,021,346)	8,812,058	(7,144,761)	19%	Yes
Business & Economic Development	412,064	324,252	87,812	972,757	(560,693)	42%	No
District Promotion .	76,552	95,953	(19,401)	287,858	(211,306)	27%	No
Forestry	-	161,333	(161,333)	484,000	(484,000)	0%	Yes
	2,155,912	3,270,181	(1,114,268)	10,556,673	(8,400,760)	20%	
Operating Expenditure							
Commercial Property	2.266.827	2,550,094	(283,267)	7,505,731	(5,238,904)	30%	Yes
Business & Economic Development	376,901	403,298	(26,397)	1,192,756	(815,855)	32%	No
District Promotion	23,426	59,619	(36,193)	178,858	(155,432)	13%	No
Forestry	83,102	162,129	(79,028)	482,305	(399,203)	17%	No
	2,750,256	3,175,141	(424,885)	9,359,650	(6,609,395)	29%	
Capital Income Commercial Property	-	975,983	(975,983)	2,927,949	(2,927,949)	0%	No
:		975,983	(975,983)	2,927,949	(2,927,949)	0%	
Capital Expenditure Commercial Property	48,686	989,317	(940,630)	2,967,950	(2,919,263)	2%	No
	48,686	989,317	(940,630)	2,967,950	(2,919,263)	2%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	owing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

Economic Development – Operating Income

Commercial Property

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$7,144,761 Unfavourable	\$4,975,0000 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent unfavourable** variance

The number of potential sale of sections at Ashburton Business Estate are currently under review. It is expected that a significant number of these will not be realised in the current financial year.

Forestry

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$484,000 Unfavourable	\$484,000 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent unfavourable** variance

Council has decided against harvesting Pudding Hill, which means this will be a permanent unfavourable variance.

Economic Development – Operating Expenditure

Commercial Property

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$5,238,904 Favourable	\$180,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Insurance premiums have come in lower than budgeted due to more favourable insurance prices driven by the market competition.

Parks & Open Spaces – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Cemeteries	250,725	240,696	10,029	722,089	(471,364)	35%	No
Parks and Recreation	1,817,877	2,084,419	(266,542)	6,254,157	(4,436,280)	29%	No
	2,068,602	2,325,115	(256,513)	6,976,246	(4,907,644)	30%	
Operating Expenditure							
Cemeteries	240,646	228,661	11,985	685,984	(445,338)	35%	No
Parks and Recreation	1,906,467	2,054,853	(148,385)	6,162,765	(4,256,297)	31%	No
	2,147,114	2,283,514	(136,400)	6,848,749	(4,701,635)	31%	
Capital Income Parks and Recreation	-	235,169	(235,169)	705,508	(705,508)	0%	No
	-	235,169	(235,169)	705,508	(705,508)	0%	
Capital Expenditure			((
Cemeteries	-	12,006	(12,006)	36,018	(36,018)	0%	
Parks and Recreation	240,940	418,303	(177,363)	1,254,908	(1,013,968)	19%	No
	240,940	430,309	(189,369)	1,290,926	(1,049,986)	19%	
The above financials include the follo	owing:						
Development Contributions	300.00	-	300.00	-	300.00	0%	
The above financials do not include to Vested Assets	the following:				_	0%	
v Esieu Asseis	-	-	-	-	-	U70	

Community Governance & Decision Making – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income							
Council	1,488,705	1,500,672	(11,967)	4,502,015	(3,013,310)	33%	No
Methven Community Board	43,708	43,171	537	129,512	(85,805)	34%	
Community Grants Funding	890,263	743,667	146,597	2,231,000	(1,340,737)	40%	Yes
District Water Management	70,432	76,540	(6,108)	229,619	(159,187)	31%	No
=	2,493,108	2,364,049	129,059	7,092,146	(4,599,038)	35%	
Operating Expenditure							
Council	1,569,577	1,530,436	39,141	4,552,223	(2,982,646)	34%	No
Methven Community Board	47,738	43,548	4,190	129,836	(82,098)	37%	
Community Grants Funding	652,706	537,380	115,326	1,407,140	(754,434)	46%	No
District Water Management	46,138	136,947	(90,810)	409,439	(363,302)	11%	No
-	2,316,159	2,248,312	67,847	6,498,638	(4,182,479)	36%	
The above financials include the follo	owing:						
Development Contributions	397,605	257,953	139,652	773,859	(376,254)	51%	
The above financials do not include t	the following:						
Vested Assets	-	-	-	-	-	0%	

Community Governance & Decision Making – Operating Income

Community Grants Funding

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$1,340,737 Unfavourable	\$500,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Income from Development Contributions for Community Infrastructure are up 51% on budget as at the end on October. Due to higher than expected building activity this will be a favourable variance at year end.

Compliance and Development – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

On anothing to some	Actual YTD	Revised Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Revised Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income	00.776	05.000	(6,004)	206.070	(100.202)	210/	N/-
Environmental Health	88,776	95,660 970,009	(6,884)	286,979 2,910,026	(198,203)	31% 35%	No
Building Regulation	1,026,466 91,119	89,772	56,457 1,347	2,910,026	(1,883,560) (178,197)	34%	No No
Emergency Management Liquor Licensing	84,007	76,351	7,656	209,310	(145,046)	37%	No
Land Information Memorandum	130,175	74,947	55,228	224,841	(94,666)	58%	Yes
Parking	190,596	109,464	81,132	328,393	(137,797)	58%	Yes
Animal Control**	515,737	193,822	321,915	577,367	(61,630)	89%	No
Resource Consents	267,299	250,645	16,654	751,936	(484,637)	36%	No
Monitoring and Enforcement	90,835	90,937	(101)	272,810	(181,975)	33%	No
Planning	196,937	196,513	424	589,540	(392,603)	33%	No
-	2,681,949	2,148,121	533,828	6,440,263	(3,758,314)	42%	
Operating Expenditure							
Environmental Health	138,697	96,052	42,645	286,980	(148,282)	48%	No
Building Regulation	880,121	988,504	(108,383)	2,910,026	(2,029,906)	30%	No
Emergency Management	32,070	39,938	(7,868)	119,813	(87,743)	27%	
Liquor Licensing	70,644	77,841	(7,196)	229,054	(158,410)	31%	No
Land Information Memorandum	37,294	36,716	579	110,147	(72,852)	34%	
Parking	65,534	81,808	(16,274)	242,337	(176,803)	27%	No
Animal Control	216,293	202,505	13,788	602,992	(386,699)	36%	No
Resource Consents	323,014	256,017	66,997	751,937	(428,923)	43%	No
Monitoring and Enforcement	125,812	131,456	(5,645)	387,505	(261,693)	32%	No
Planning	83,889	151,172	(67,283)	445,238	(361,348)	19%	No
=	1,973,369	2,062,008	(88,639)	6,086,028	(4,112,659)	32%	
Capital Expenditure							
Emergency Management	-	13,508	(13,508)	40,523	(40,523)	0%	
-	-	13,508	(13,508)	40,523	(40,523)	0%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	owing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include t Vested Assets	he following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities.
**The majority of dog registration income is invoiced in July

Compliance & Development – Operating Income

Land Information Memorandum

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$94,666 Unfavourable	\$110,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

This is due to a high increase in the volume of LIMs being requested.

Parking

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$137,797 Unfavourable	\$130,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

This is due to higher ticket revenue as a result of infringement fee increases by the government in October 2024 and trends in behaviour.

Miscellaneous, Dividends & Internal Overheads – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 October 2025

		Revised		Revised			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance Full Year	%	Permanent Variance
Operating Income	לוו	עוז	לוו	rull teat	rull Year		variance
Dividends and Interest	168,661	485,000	(316,339)	1,455,000	(1,286,339)	12%	No
Te Whare Whakatere	484,931	410,544	74,387	1,231,631	(746,700)	39%	Yes
Executive Team	744,568	682,097	62,471	2,046,292	(1,301,723)	36%	No
People & Capability	343,538	367,913	(24,375)	1,103,740	(760,202)	31%	No
Information Systems	1,430,727	1,536,008	(105,281)	4,608,023	(3,177,297)	31%	No
Customer Services	296,080	287,369	8,711	862,107	(566,027)	34%	No
Treasury	561,037	666,684	(105,647)	2,000,051	(1,439,014)	28%	No
Rates	380,925	312,987	67,938	938,961	(558,036)	41%	No
Community Relations	381,130	391,090	(9,959)	1,173,269	(792,139)	32%	No
Communications	348,459	381,192	(32,733)	1,143,575	(795,116)	30%	No
Property Administration	481,920	540,782	(58,863)	1,622,347	(1,140,427)	30%	No
Service Delivery	1,687,695	1,597,576	90,119	4,792,729	(3,105,034)	35%	No
Parks Administration	1,381,816	1,466,653	(84,837)	4,401,762	(3,019,946)	31%	No
Plant Operations	318,620	337,390	(18,770)	1,012,169	(693,549)	31%	No
	9,010,107	9,463,284	(453,178)	28,391,656	(19,381,549)	32%	
Operating Expenditure	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
Dividends and Interest	293	17,777	(17,484)	53,331	(53,038)	1%	
Te Whare Whakatere	484,931	423,100	61,831	1,231,631	(746,700)	39%	Yes
Executive Team	744,568	703,523	41,045	2,046,292	(1,301,723)	36%	No
People & Capability	343,538	376,370	(32,832)	1,103,740	(760,202)	31%	No
Information Systems	1,430,727	1,610,660	(179,933)	4,783,724	(3,352,997)	30%	Yes
Customer Services	296,080	292,319	3,761	862,107	(566,027)	34%	No
Treasury	561,037	678,033	(116,996)	2,000,051	(1,439,014)	28%	No
Rates	451,022	315,049	135,973	938,961	(487,940)	48%	No
Community Relations	381,130	440,222	(59,092)	1,297,269	(916,139)	29%	No
Communications	348,459	388,021	(39,562)	1,143,575	(795,116)	30%	No
Property Administration	481,920	553,041	(71,121)	1,622,347	(1,140,427)	30%	No
Service Delivery	1,687,695	1,671,928	15,767	4,903,316	(3,215,621)	34%	No
Parks Administration	1,381,816	1,502,520	(120,703)	4,401,762	(3,019,946)	31%	No
Plant Operations	393,844	359,476	34,368	1,078,427	(684,583)	37%	No
	8,987,060	9,332,038	(344,978)	27,466,532	(18,479,472)	33%	
Capital Income							
Plant Operations	68,891	129,736	(60,844)	389,207	(320,316)	18%	No
- · · · - · · ·	68,891	129,736	(60,844)	389,207	(320,316)	18%	
Capital Expenditure	0.40.0.47	440 440		500 450	(004 000)	4007	.,
Information Systems	248,347	119,413	128,935	580,150	(331,803)	43%	No
Plant Operations	394,427	335,437	58,990	1,006,310	(611,884)	39%	No
:	648,533	454,849	191,145	1,586,460	(937,927)	41%	
The above financials include the follo Development Contributions	owing: -	-	-	-	-	0%	
The above financials do not include to Vested Assets	the following: -	-	-	-	-	0%	

Miscellaneous, Dividends & Internal Overheads – Operating Income

Te Whare Whakatere

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$746,700 Unfavourable	\$1,080,000 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

The recovery for the year will be higher than budgeted due to the recovery of depreciation expense. The LTP recorded the budget for depreciation expense for Te Whare Whakatere as gradually increasing each year. The correct treatment for recording depreciation should have been to record the full amount of depreciation required to be expensed for the financial year. An adjustment will be made to reflect the unfunded depreciation portion which will result in a reduction in revoveries and negate the impact on overhead expenditure across operational activities.

Miscellaneous, Dividends & Internal Overheads – Operating Expenditure

Te Whare Whakatere

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$746,700 Favourable	\$1,080,000 Unfavourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Depreciation expense is higher than budgeted. As noted above, the LTP recorded the budget for depreciation expense for Te Whare Whakatere as gradually increasing each year. The correct treatment for recording depreciation should have been to record the full amount of depreciation required to be expensed for the financial year. This will not impact on the overall rates requirement.

Information Systems

Actual YTD to Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast
\$179,933 Favourable	\$49,200 Favourable

Reason for **permanent favourable** variance

Staff vacancies since the beginning of the year are contributing to a favourable variance

Statement of Financial Position - DRAFT

As at 31 October 2025

	YTD Actual	30-Jun-25
Public Equity		
Ratepayers Equity	549,761,582	546,442,288
Revaluation Reserves	486,217,186	486,217,186
Funds and Reserves	59,637,994	59,637,994
	1,095,616,762	1,092,297,468
Non-Current Liabilities		
External Loans	143,600,000	143,600,000
Other Term Liabilities	1,181,885	1,181,885
	144,781,885	144,781,885
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	2,040,106	5,068,750
Deposits & Bonds	1,308,131	1,389,989
Other Current Liabilities	2,553,207	1,310,739
Accrued Liabilities	4,005,022	8,264,633
	9,906,466	16,034,111
Total Equity & Liabilities	1,250,305,112	1,253,113,464
Fixed Assets	208,366,831	209,989,986
Infrastructural Assets	979,665,018	985,040,704
Work in Progress	9,744,899	9,744,899
Advances	288,304	304,344
Shares	11,261,297	11,011,297
Current Assets		
Cash & Bank	8,317,470	10,900,631
Cash Investments	8,000,000	12,000,000
GST	(1,782,274)	1,428,177
Receivables	19,476,796	5,036,840
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(44,071)	(44,071)
Stock	91,583	91,583
Accruals	6,088,659	6,810,465
Other Current Assets	830,599	798,609
	40,978,763	37,022,234
Total Assets	1,250,305,112	1,253,113,464

Net Debt and Borrowings

As at 31 October 2025

Net Debt



External Borrowing

Local Government Funding	Amount	Rate		Maturity
LGFA 2025	5,000,000	3.0220%	Fixed	24-Nov-25
LGFA 2025	10,000,000	3.1700%	Fixed	24-Nov-25
LGFA 2024	5,000,000	2.9950%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	3.1450%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	2.9250%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2020	10,000,000	3.1750%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2025	5,000,000	3.2666%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2025	5,000,000	3.1350%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2024	5,000,000	2.9750%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2024	3,000,000	5.1900%	Fixed	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	3.2850%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	3.0950%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2020	5,000,000	0.9700%	Fixed	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2020	5,000,000	1.2300%	Fixed	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2025	7,000,000	3.9050%	Floating	15-May-28
LGFA 2025	5,000,000	3.9550%	Floating	15-May-28
LGFA 2024	7,000,000	3.9050%	Floating	15-May-28
LGFA 2021	16,600,000	2.0100%	Fixed	15-May-28
LGFA 2025	8,000,000	3.3700%	Floating	20-Apr-29
LGFA 2024	7,000,000	3.2650%	Floating	20-Apr-29
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	5.0800%	Fixed	20-Apr-29
LGFA 2022	10,000,000	3.1250%	Floating	20-Apr-29

Total External Funding

143,600,000

Council Investments

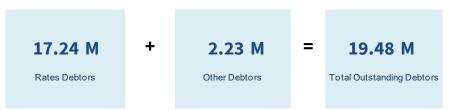
As at 31 October 2025

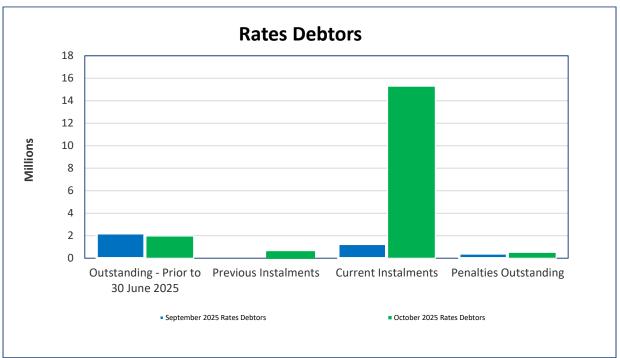
Listed below are the current significant investments held by Council.

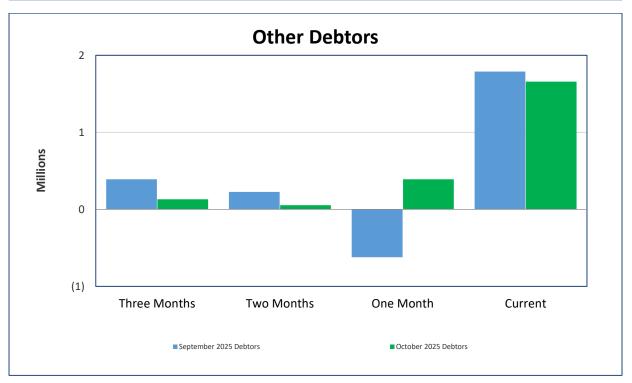
Term Deposit	Principal	Interest	Term	Maturity
Westpac	4,000,000	2.27%	1 month	30-Nov-25
	4,000,000			
Bonds	Principal	Interest		Maturity
ANZ	1,000,000	2.99%		17-Sep-26
Westpac	1,100,000	6.19%		16-Sep-27
Kiwibank	1,000,000	5.73%		19-Oct-27
Westpac	900,000	6.73%		14-Feb-28
·	4,000,000			
Advances				
Eastfield Investments	288,304			
	288,304			
Shares				
Ashburton Contracting Ltd	4,500,000			
Civic Financial Services Ltd	53,087			
RDR Management	30,000			
Transwaste Canterbury Ltd	946,410			
Ruralco	500			
Electricity Ashburton Rebates	1,300			
LGFA Equity	3,965,000			
Eastfield Investments	1,765,000			
	11,261,297			

Receivables Summary (Including Prior Month Comparative)

As at 31 October 2025







Receivables Summary continued

Outstanding Debtors over 90 days		
>\$100,000	0	
\$50,000 - \$100,000	1	
\$30,000 - \$50,000	1	
\$10,000 - \$30,000	9	

The above debtors are being actively managed or under a resolution process.