

PRE-ELECTION
REPORT
2025



Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Key dates Elections 2025



Candidate information evening - Ashburton



Candidate information evening – Methven



Candidate nominations open



Candidate nominations close (12 noon)



Delivery of voting documents/voting opens



Close of voting (12 noon)



Official declaration of results

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**Your place,
your voice,
your vote.**
***Tou waahi,
tou reo,
tou potitanga.***



Message from *the Chief Executive*

It is my pleasure to present to you the Ashburton District Council's 2025 Pre-Election Report.

Now is a great time to get involved with Ashburton District Council. The decisions made by the next council will shape the future of our district - most significantly as we transition our water services to the new stand-alone business unit to be set up through the Local Water Done Well legislation.

But Local Water Done Well is just one of many changes. Over the next few years our elected members will lead the Council and community through a suite of government reforms, including the Resource Management Act and Local Government Act reforms, Building Act changes, and the new Emergency Management Bill. These reforms will reshape how we operate and deliver services, and we must be ready to adapt.

Since 2023, we have delivered several large infrastructure projects – including the opening of Te Whare Whakare and the water treatment plants in Methven and Mt Somers. Looking forward, much of our focus is on the continued smooth running of core services like drinking water, wastewater, roads and rubbish collection. We have significant funds budgeted for renewing water and wastewater pipes, and getting our roads to the standard expected by our community will continue to be a focus. Next year, we'll start collecting green and organic waste at kerbside – something we know our community has been eagerly awaiting.

The second urban bridge across the Ashburton River will also be a key project delivered in the next few years. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi have agreed to manage this project; however, we still need to decide how to fund our portion of the project – the road connecting to the bridge, between Carters Terrace and Grahams Road. We expect physical works to begin early in 2026.

Balancing affordability with community expectations will be an ongoing issue. Rising costs for both Council and the community mean we can't do everything we want to do. Our elected members need to be strategic in their decision-making and find the delicate balance between progressing our district - towards being the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity - and what our community can afford.

This report brings together audited and forecast financial information, key projects, and the strategic direction of council. It is designed to inform both candidates and voters, ensuring that everyone has the knowledge they need to make confident, informed decisions.

Standing for Council is an opportunity to be a voice for the community and voting lets you elect people you believe in to deliver great outcomes for our future. I encourage you to read this report, reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead, and consider how you can be part of shaping our district's future. Whether that be by standing for council or casting your vote.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Riach'.

Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

Purpose of this report

Representing our district is a big job - and an important one. We want those putting their hands up to lead our community to really understand our district: *who we are and the challenges we'll be facing.*

We also want to help you, the voters, make confident and informed choices when it's time to make your vote. That's what this report is all about.

Inside, you'll find a snapshot of our district and the challenges and opportunities we're facing. It also highlights our key projects planned for the next three years and an overview of our finances so you've got the full picture when deciding who should represent us next.

Basis of preparation

The preparation and timing of this report is a statutory requirement for all councils in New Zealand under the Local Government Act 2002.

As is required by law, the Pre-Election Report is prepared by the Council's Chief Executive and not the current elected council members.

This Pre-Election Report brings together information previously published in other Council documents – including the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Annual Plans and Annual Reports including:

- historic information for the last three years (2022/23 – 2024/25)
- an overview of the current election year (2025/26)
- Council's planned performance and financial position for the next three years (2026/27 – 2028/29).

Audit information

While this report itself has not been audited, much of the information included has been audited by independent auditors, Audit NZ. In particular:

- the first two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) retrospective financial data have been audited as they have been taken directly from the relevant Annual Report
- the next three years' (2025/26-2027/28) prospective financial data is from the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and was audited when that document was prepared in 2024.

The financial information from the 2024/25 financial year has not been audited.

Where to find out more

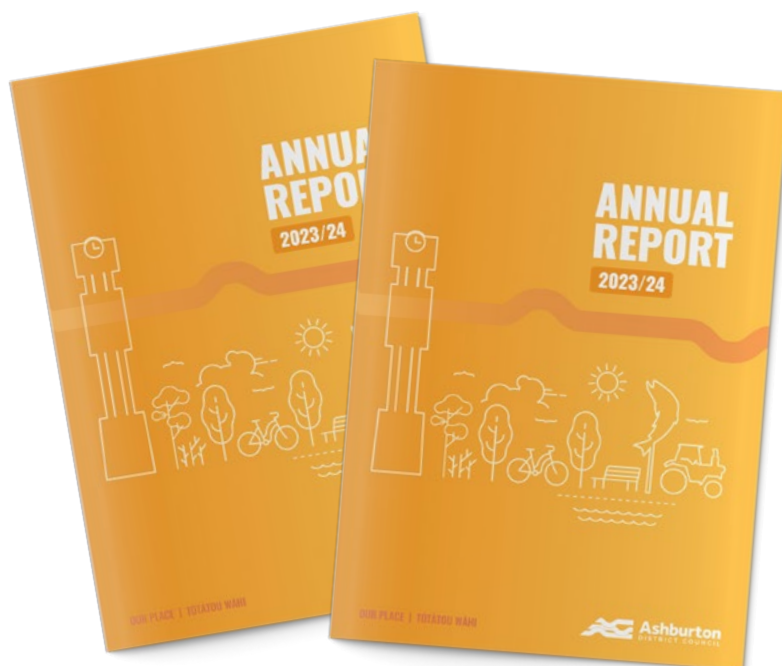
The following are documents which have informed the content contained within this report. These documents can be found on our website.

[ashburtondc.govt.nz < District < Plans, Reports and Strategies](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/District/Plans,ReportsandStrategies)

[Long Term Plan 2024-34 volume 1 and volume 2](#)

[Annual Reports 2022/23 and 2023/24](#)

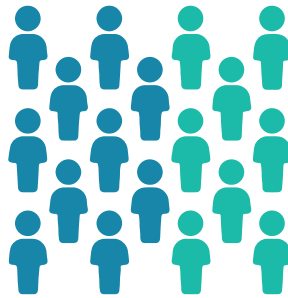
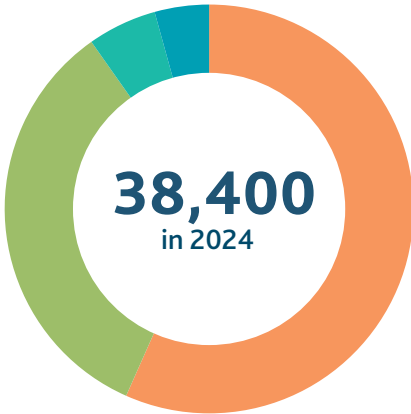
[Annual Plan 2025/26](#)



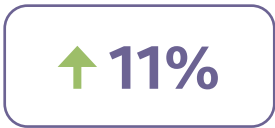
Our people, our district

Population

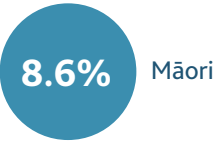
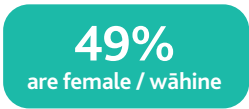
Our district's **population** is estimated to be



Between 2018 and 2024,
our **population grew** by



The **median age** in our
district is



District



people live in
ASHBURTON TOWNSHIP



people live in surrounding
RURAL AREAS



people live in
METHVEN



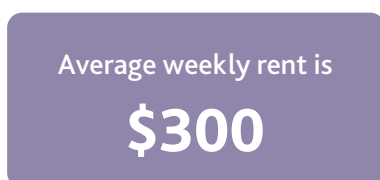
people live in
RAKAIA



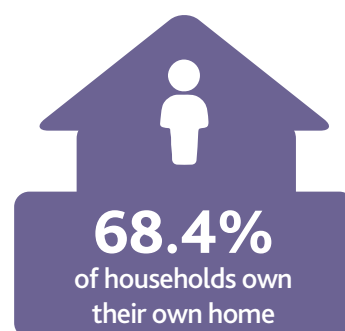
Household



(\$135,092 nationally)



(nationally \$450)



(nationally 66%)

Sources:

All data taken from Stats NZ and Infometrics Regional Economic Profile, 2024.

Ashburton District Council's governance structure

The role of our elected members is to set the direction of our district, approve the budgets which fund our Council-provided services and facilities, and adopt bylaws, policies and plans to meet the needs of our diverse communities.



In Ashburton District, nine councillors are elected by ward, and a mayor is elected to represent the whole district. Our three wards are called Ashburton, Eastern and Western.

There are five councillors representing the Ashburton Ward, two for Eastern and two for Western. We also have a community board, that provides additional representation to Methven.

These arrangements have been in place since 2019. You can view our current ward boundary maps below.

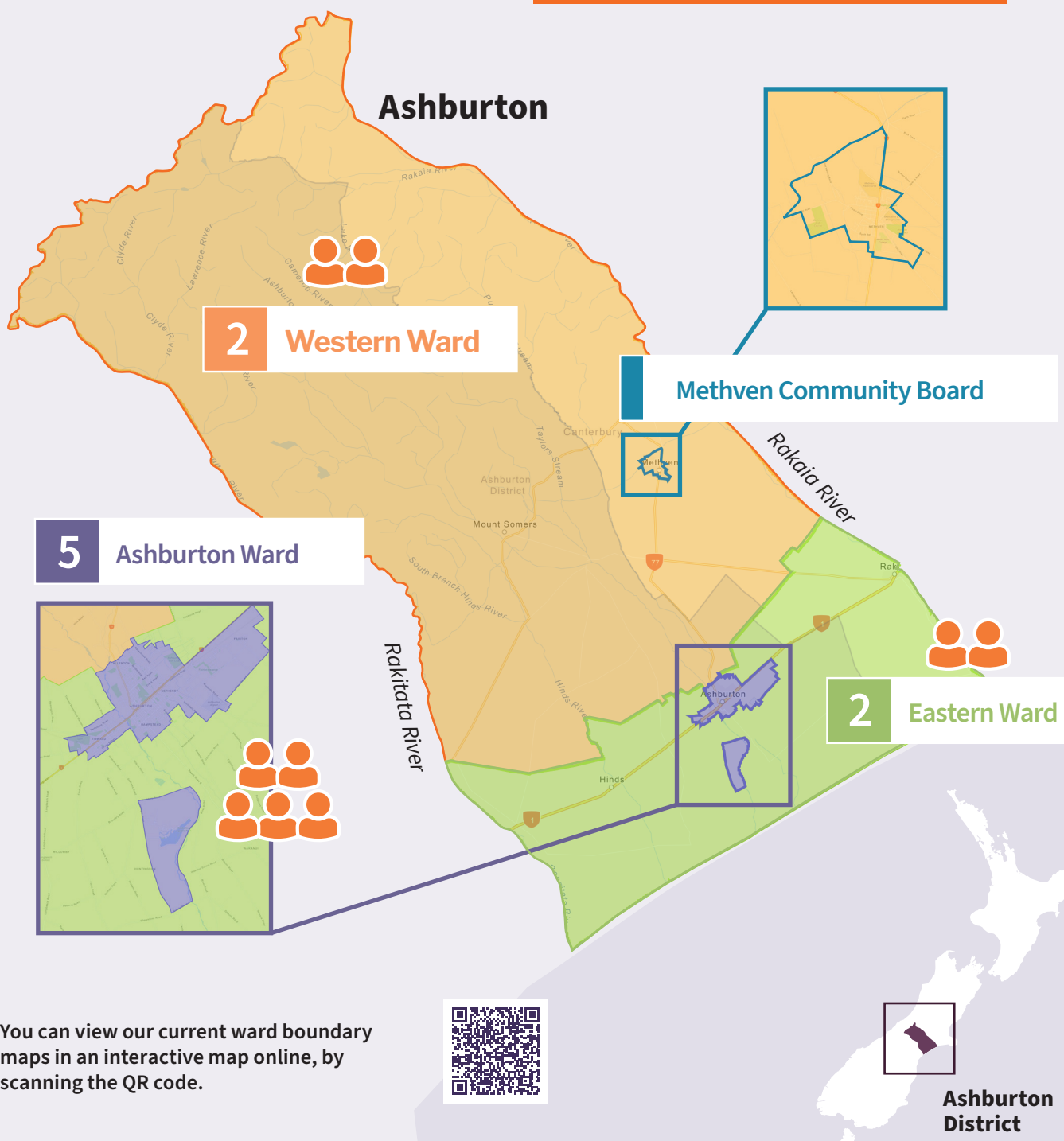
Number of councillors representing each ward

5 Ashburton Ward

2 Eastern Ward

2 Western Ward

9 Total elected councillors



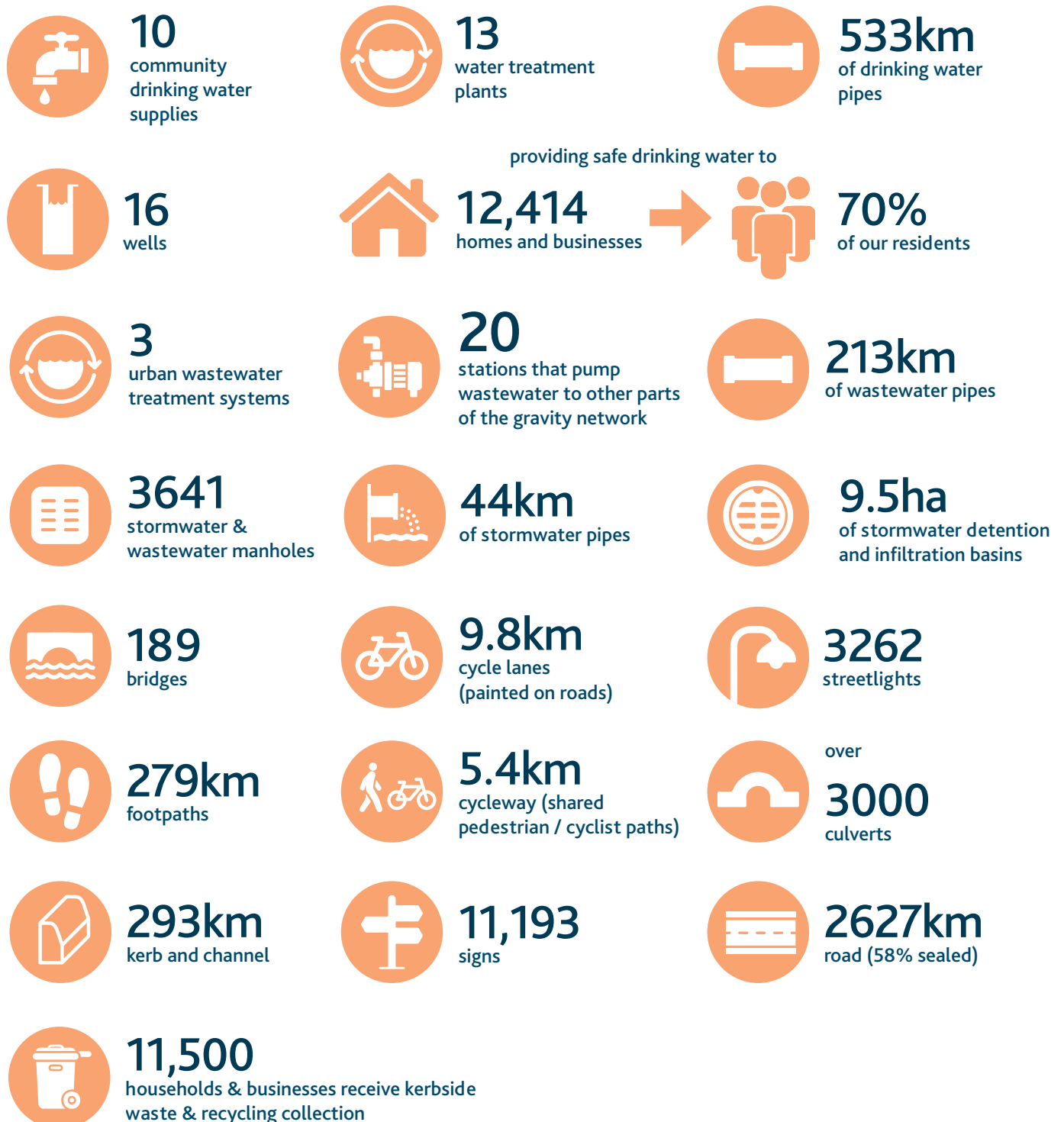
You can view our current ward boundary maps in an interactive map online, by scanning the QR code.



What Council does

Some of the infrastructure and services Council provides across the district.

Infrastructure Services



Public Services



16
cemeteries



31
neighbourhood
playgrounds



40
public toilet facilities



138ha
sports fields



20
reserve boards
& memorial hall
committees



over
490,000
people visited EA
Networks Centre*



102
elderly persons
houses



513ha
parks & open spaces



632
activities held at
the library*



25
exhibitions held
at the AAG&M*



over
\$1.2m
of community
grants given out



over
1400
properties
managed

Regulatory Services



502
building consents
issued*



187
resource
consents issued*



6935
dogs registered*

Customer Services



over
23,000
calls answered by our Customer Services staff

** data taken from 2023/24 due to 2024/25 financial year not being complete at time of writing*

What we're working towards

Everything we do contributes to our strategic direction.

Our vision is the overall, future focused goal towards which we are working. Community outcomes also look to the future and take a 'whole-of-community' view. They are focused on improving our district's social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being. Our guiding principles outline how we will function and deliver activities and services to our community.

Our Vision and Community Outcomes | *Tā mātau Matawhānui me kā Putaka ā-Hapori*



Guiding Principles | *Kā Mātāpono Ārahi*

Plan and provide fit-for-purpose services.

Kia whakamaheretia, kia whakarawea kā ratoka whaitake

Represent the district on regional/national issues and partner with others when needed.

Ka whakakonohi i te rohe i kā take ā-takiwā tae atu ki kā take ā-motu ā, ka matea ana, ka mahi tahi ki ētahi atu.

Work with the community and engage in meaningful conversations.

Ka mahi pakahiwi-tahi ki te hapori, ā ka whai wāhi atu ki kā kōrero whaitake.

Lead the community with clear and rational decision-making.

Ka ārahi atu i te hapori i kā tukaka whakatau kia mārāma, kia āta whakaarohia

Residents are well-represented, included and have a voice - *ka whai mana, ka whai wahi, à, ka whakaputa kōrero ka kainoho*

Our community feels a sense of belonging, inclusion and social connectedness. We celebrate our identity, heritage and cultural diversity. We cherish the contribution Mana whenua and other groups make to our community. We collaborate with our partners.

We engage with our communities to hear their views and influence our local decisions and direction. We advocate on important issues to our community such as health, housing and education.

How we'll measure our progress

- Residents feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood
- Residents feel they have opportunities to have their say on Council business
- Residents believe they can influence Council decision-making
- Numbers responding to consultations
- Numbers participating in local elections

A district of great spaces and places - *he tiriwa pai, he wahi pai i tēnei takiwa*

Our community feels a sense of pride in living in our district. We have a safe, vibrant and thriving community. We recognise and cater for the range of generations within our community. Our district is welcoming and well connected. Our social and recreational facilities enable people to enjoy positive healthy lifestyles. Our facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs.

How we'll measure our progress

- Residents' satisfaction with available local community facilities
- Resident satisfaction with the general lifestyle opportunities available in our district
- Resident view of their overall quality of life
- Satisfaction and usage levels of recreational facilities

A prosperous economy built on innovation opportunity and high quality infrastructure - *he ohaka whairawa i ruka i te aroka hou, i te whai aheika me te tūāhaka kouka*

We are a welcoming, enabling and business-friendly district. We encourage opportunities for people of all ages and life stages to enjoy a quality of living within our district that is economically sustainable and affordable. We manage the effects of population change. We actively promote the district as a destination of choice. We value the role our district's natural environment and cultural and social assets play in supporting economic wellbeing.

How we'll measure our progress

- Housing affordability index trends
- Rental affordability index trends
- District GDP trends
- Unemployment rate trends
- Tourism spend trends
- Building consents trends and dollar investment

A balanced and sustainable environment - *he taiao toitū*

We are proud of our natural and built environments.

We recognise the vital role our environment and natural resources play in sustaining our district and manage them to ensure they can be enjoyed by current and future generations. We actively support improving the health of our district's rivers, lakes and waterways. Our unique landscapes and indigenous biodiversity are valued and enhanced. We support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and actively look to reduce our carbon footprint. Reducing waste, recycling, energy and water conservation are a normal part of how we live.

How we'll measure our progress

- Resident satisfaction with the state of the district's environment and biodiversity
- Resident satisfaction with Council's activity to care for the district's environment and biodiversity
- Council meets its resource consent conditions for consents held (e.g. water abstraction, wastewater discharges)

We use these measures to monitor progress against our strategic direction, including our community outcomes. Where new or better information becomes available, we may also use this to help monitor our progress.

Our challenges

Like other councils in New Zealand, we are preparing for a range of issues in the future. The following provides a high-level review of the key issues for our district.

CHALLENGE

1

Implementing Local Water Done Well



Local Water Done Well

Significant changes are coming for how we deliver our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services. Under legislation, every council was required to consult with their community regarding how water services should be managed and delivered in the future. Councils presented two options, one being a stand-alone business unit (SABU). Our alternative option was the creation of a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation.

Across April 2025, we sought community feedback on these options, with 88% of the 234 submissions we received supporting the stand-alone business unit. Council considered this feedback and resolved to establish a SABU to manage our water services going forward.

The next step is to finalise a Water Services Delivery Plan, which will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs at the beginning of September. Over the

next couple of years, our focus will shift to ensuring a smooth transition to this new model of delivery.

Under either option, delivery of our water services must comply with increased standards set by the Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai. Delivery will also need to comply with investment and pricing regulations set by the Commerce Commission.



Upgrading infrastructure

We are continuing to upgrade our water services by replacing ageing pipes and improving both our drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment systems to meet the higher standards set by our regulator, the Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai. We plan to spend \$11.2 million this year, and a further \$12.8 million over the next three years on watermain renewals and renewing or relining sewer mains.

We anticipate standards will continue to lift, perhaps particularly for wastewater, and we will need to make further investments to meet those requirements. There is also a strong likelihood of increasing investment in our urban stormwater networks.

CHALLENGE

2

Delivering our roading programme



Roading remains a big focus for us as we continue to maintain and upgrade our network to work towards meeting our community's expectations. Roothing remains our largest annual activity or service by investment. We manage one of the largest road networks in New Zealand, stretching 2,622 km, with 1,522 km of sealed road and 1,100 km of unsealed roads. Our most recent residents' survey showed some improvement in community satisfaction, but there is still a long way to go. In 2023/24, 55% of respondents were satisfied with our unsealed roads (an improvement on 46% the previous year), while satisfaction with sealed roads rose to 32%, up from 26%.

Later this year, construction is expected to begin on the second urban bridge across the Ashburton River. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi has committed to leading and funding the majority of the project. Council is responsible for funding the connecting road on the Tinwald side, from Carters Terrace to Grahams Road.

The project is intended to go out for tender early in 2026, after which we will have a better idea of our costs. We then plan to discuss with the community how we will fund this.

CHALLENGE

3

Balancing affordability versus expectation



Running a district doesn't come cheap. Our costs have increased in the past few years, and we know our community continues to face ongoing cost pressures in their own homes and businesses as well. Our population is also ageing, meaning more of our residents are on fixed incomes, so we know there is a limit to what some in our community can afford.

On the other hand, our community has expectations of what and how we deliver our services. Our community often asks us to do more, but this all comes at a cost. An important role for our mayor and councillors is finding a middle ground to keep our district progressing, affordably.

Think about...of the things that need funding, what are your highest and lowest priorities?

CHALLENGE

4

Improving our resilience



The 2021 flooding events in our district is a prime example of why planning for emergencies is important. From Covid-19 to climate change and the possibility/probability of the Alpine Fault rupture, there are many reasons why we need to ensure we are in a strong financial position to weather these emergencies, and that the resilience of our infrastructure will allow the continued delivery of our services throughout an adverse event.

Think about...what do you consider to be the biggest issue facing our communities?

CHALLENGE

5

Improving water quality at Lake Hood



Lake Hood has experienced recurring cyanobacteria blooms since 2023, with the most recent public health warning issued in March 2025 still in effect. These blooms pose public health risks and significantly impact the lake's recreational use.

In response, Council funded the purchase of a weed harvester which removed 1100 tonnes of lake weed during the 2024/25 summer. This initiative aims to reduce nutrient levels and improve water quality over time. However, much more work and associated spend, is going to be required to meaningfully alter the lake's ecological trajectory. There is no single or simple solution available.

To gain a better understanding of the lake's ecosystem and the underlying causes of the blooms we are progressing an opportunity to collaborate with NIWA, Lincoln University and Environment Canterbury. Alongside this, we are exploring a range of technologies that may help to improve water quality. An independent expert has been engaged to assess the feasibility of these options and advise on what pilot trials should be undertaken.

Identifying an effective, affordable and long-term solution remains a complex challenge.

CHALLENGE

6

Adapting to Government changes



We are under growing pressure to meet rising environmental, health and regulatory standards. How we meet those standards, and the cost of doing so, is an ongoing challenge that we have to manage.

We're also adapting to changes to how the government wants local government to provide services. New government laws also mean that some of our services may need to be delivered differently or require additional funding.

Resource Management Act (RMA) reform – will be replaced with two new acts: a Planning Act, that

focuses on regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land, and a Natural Environment Act, focussed on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment. These changes will require us to review our planning resources and documents and align with the new national direction.

Building Act reform – is looking at the way Building Consent Authorities are structured, the scope of building work exempt from a building consent and the liability settings and role of private insurance in the consent system.

Emergency Management Bill (to replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002) – aims to strengthen community and iwi participation, clarify roles and accountability across all levels of government, and raise the minimum standards for emergency preparedness. It also looks to minimise disruption to essential services and ensure agencies have the right powers available when an emergency happens.

Regional Deals – these are long-term agreements between central and local government to promote economic growth, deliver infrastructure and improve the supply of quality housing. Ashburton District Council is part of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum conversation with central government.

Other changes being progressed – adding to the complex environment we work in, the Government is progressing further reforms, such as potential changes to the Local Government Act, but has yet to release full details.

Our next three years

Drinking Water



Across the next four years we plan to spend a total of \$18.8 million renewing our watermains. As part of this, we have some larger renewals coming up in our rural townships, including \$1.83 million in Hinds and \$5.6 million in Dromore. This level of renewal is very high in proportion to the total length on these schemes and is expected to be quite impactful in terms of reducing maintenance and associated leakage on the schemes.

We also have a number of capital projects planned, including \$983,000 for construction of a new reservoir in Rakaia, \$3.47 million budgeted for peri-urban water servicing in Ashburton, and \$5.0 million to construct a watermain pipeline from Wilkins Road to Grahams Road to coincide with the construction of the second urban bridge across the Ashburton River.

Wastewater



The main wastewater project over the next few years will be the desludging of the oxidation and maturation ponds at the Wilkins Road wastewater treatment plant. We have budgeted \$7.7 million for this project across 2026/27 and 2027/28, including a follow-up survey to refine the sludge volume estimates and make any necessary preparations for consent applications. We will also continue to explore improvements to irrigation systems for wastewater effluent at Ocean Farm.

In addition to this, we will continue our ongoing sewer replacement programme, renewing and relining sewer mains. We have budgeted \$3.6 million for this work this year, and another \$8.5 million across the next three.

Stormwater



We have an extensive 30+ year upgrade programme planned which involves new and upgraded pipework to provide flood alleviation, and stormwater attenuation and treatment facilities to manage and treat excess runoff to improve the quality of the water being discharged.

Over the next three years, we will construct stormwater attenuation and treatment facilities at West Street (\$1.8m), Chalmers Avenue (\$4.4m) and another on West Street (\$5.7m). This will significantly improve the quality of the water discharged into the Hakatere / Ashburton River.

Stockwater



In 2024, we consulted through the Long Term Plan on the future of our stockwater race network. Following this, Council resolved to exit the delivery by Council of stockwater by 30 June 2027. To oversee this transition, a dedicated stockwater working group has been established to monitor progress. The Stockwater Exit Transition Plan can be found on our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz > Services > Projects > Stockwater Exit Transition Plan](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/Services/Projects/Stockwater-Exit-Transition-Plan).

The approach to each water race involves a range of important considerations. Before deciding on the approach to be taken, Council undertakes extensive consultation with landowners and wider stakeholders. Ecological and cultural values are assessed, alongside Council's legal obligations and future land use and management of the decommissioned race land. The availability of alternative stockwater sources is also considered. For these reasons, the process is being carried out intake by intake, ensuring each decision is made with thorough analysis and stakeholder input. While the work programme is ambitious, we are currently working our way through the intakes as planned.

Roading maintenance, repairs and replacement programme



Over 20% of our total budget each year is put towards maintaining and upgrading our roading and footpath network. This year, we have a total budget of \$18.7 million planned (excluding the funds required for our contribution to the second urban Ashburton River bridge project). We will spend \$6.5 million on reseals and rehabilitation of our sealed road network, and \$1.2 million on re-metalling our gravel roads. We have also budgeted \$923,000 for structures maintenance and structures component renewals. This is to enable maintenance of bridges and includes maintenance and renewal of components of the Wills Street rail overbridge.

We have planned a \$77.5 million budget over the following three years; however, this may change based on the funding approved by New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi and Council through the next Long Term Plan.

Long Term Plan



Every three years we are required by legislation to review and update our plan for the next ten years – known as our Long Term Plan. Early in 2026 planning will begin, with consultation undertaken in 2027, and adoption of the updated plan later in June that year.

Kerbside food & green waste collection



From September next year, we will begin a weekly kerbside collection of food and green organic waste. This year we will construct the bunker for consolidation of the material before it is transported for processing. The total cost of the project is \$1.6 million; however, we have been approved a grant of \$800,000 from the Waste Minimisation Fund to partially offset this cost.

Balmoral Hall



As part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 consultation, we asked our community what they wanted to do with the Balmoral Hall and Polytech land on Cameron Street in Ashburton. Council decided to demolish or relocate the buildings currently on the Polytech site and develop the land as a carpark – this will happen this year. The Balmoral Hall was to be retained until 2026/27, at which point it will either be sold or demolished.

Public Conveniences



This year we intend to upgrade the toilet blocks at the Rakaia River mouth and Lake Heron, with a total budget of \$461,000. Over the next three years we have a number of other upgrades planned to toilet blocks across the district. We have included \$943,000 for this.

Parks & Open Spaces



We have several projects planned across our parks and open spaces over the next few years. Many of these involve enhancing what we already have, such as waterway enhancements – improving the water's edge experience, upgrades to lighting, additional pathways and improving signage.

We also have several playground upgrades planned over this timeframe. These are in response to health and safety concerns, with the work scheduled based on three priority levels.

Reserve Boards and Memorial Halls



We have 16 reserve boards and four memorial hall boards overseeing a number of important community facilities throughout the district. Over the next few years, we will be focussing on understanding the usage of these facilities and establishing a regular maintenance schedule.

Recreation Facilities



Our recreation facilities have taken a consolidation approach to the next few years, with no big capital expenditure planned in the next three years. There are several smaller renewal projects planned, the largest of which, is the renewal of our gym machines – such as treadmills, cross-trainers and weights machines – which will be replaced over the next few years, with \$483,000 budgeted up to 2028/29 for this work.

Looking further out, we have plans to extend the stadium at the EA Networks Centre with an additional three courts. We have included \$22.9 million across three years, from 2030/31. We will also be refreshing our museum displays, with planning beginning in 2028/29 and \$2.9 million budgeted across four years for this work.

Our financial position

Forecast for 30 June 2025



AA+

Fitch Credit Rating



\$1.18B

of total assets

Assets are items of economic value owned or controlled by the Council. The Council's total assets are worth \$1.18 billion, and include major assets such as:

- property, plant and equipment, including land, buildings and infrastructure assets
- other assets, including investment properties and the cost of investments in controlled entities and associates.

Further capital investment is spent each year on constructing and developing assets around our district which contribute to the balance of property, plant and equipment.



\$173M

of liabilities

Liabilities are amounts owed to lenders and suppliers. The Council's total liabilities are \$173 million. The major liabilities of the Council include:

- gross borrowings
- other liabilities which include trade and other payables.



Net worth of
\$1.01B

The Council's forecast of net worth on 30 June 2025 is \$1.01 billion. This is calculated as the difference between the total assets and the total liabilities of the Council. Net worth is represented in the financial statements as **equity**.



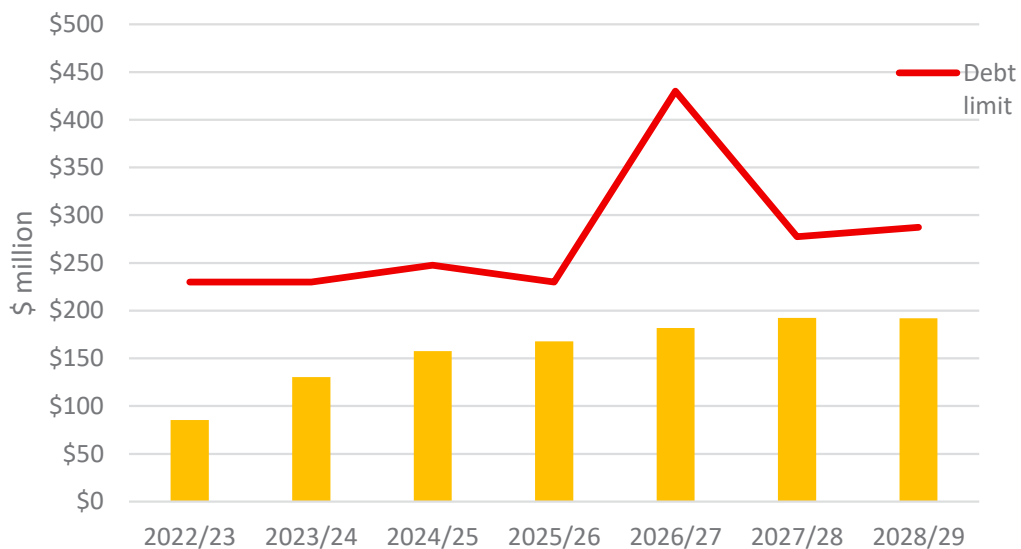
\$158M
of debt

We borrow to fund upgrades to our assets or to invest in new infrastructure. This allows us to spread the cost of funding this expenditure over the multiple generations that will benefit from the investment.

For 2024/25, net borrowings are forecast to be \$158 million at the end of the year, equating to 180% of total revenue (well below our Council-imposed cap of 250% debt to total revenue limit).

The following graph shows our debt over the past three years (2024/25 is forecasted), our planned debt for this year (2025/26) and our projected debt for the next three years as set out in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. It also shows the Council-imposed limit on net debt, which is set at 250% of total revenue.

Total external debt



Note: The peak in the debt limit in 2026/27 is due to the grant for the second bridge across the Ashburton River being included as revenue in the calculation. Due to New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi taking over this project and funding the majority, this grant funding won't be received by Council, and the actual debt limit will drop back to a similar level as the year's either side. This will be reflected in the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

Retrospective

Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position is the Council's balance sheet. Total assets minus total liabilities equals equity – Council's net worth.

As at 30 June	Actual 2022/23 \$000	Actual 2023/24 \$000	Forecast 2024/25 \$000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7,682	15,057	7,635
Trade and other receivables	14,489	13,305	13,305
Inventories	87	72	72
Property intended for sale	323	-	-
Property inventory	389	155	155
Total current assets	22,970	28,589	21,167
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	651	614	614
Deferred tax asset	77	-	-
Local Authority stocks and bonds	3,157	4,055	4,055
Investment in CCOs and similar entities	4,500	4,500	4,500
Investment in associate	1,795	1,795	1,795
Other financial assets	2,893	4,131	4,517
Property inventory	2,849	3,773	3,773
Investment properties	35,594	36,779	36,799
Biological assets – forestry	4,348	3,025	3,025
Intangible assets – software	390	253	253
Property, plant and equipment	908,576	1,024,140	1,076,110
Work in progress	67,254	12,503	27,503
Derivative financial instruments	851	386	-
Total non-current assets	1,032,935	1,095,974	1,162,944
TOTAL ASSETS	1,055,905	1,124,563	1,184,111

As at 30 June	Actual 2022/23 \$000	Actual 2023/24 \$000	Forecast 2024/25 \$000
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17,653	12,527	12,527
Employee benefit liabilities	2,019	2,308	2,308
Borrowings	24,000	32,000	48,277
Tax payable	-	17	-
Landfill closure liabilities	15	15	15
Total current liabilities	43,687	46,867	63,127
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	61,600	98,600	109,375
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-
Payables & deferred revenue	299	299	299
Employee benefit liabilities	216	246	246
Landfill closure liability	132	107	107
Total non-current liabilities	62,247	99,252	110,027
TOTAL LIABILITIES	105,934	146,119	173,154
Equity			
Ratepayers' equity	521,388	540,986	559,179
Other reserves	428,583	434,458	451,778
TOTAL EQUITY	949,971	978,444	1,010,957
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1,055,905	1,124,563	1,184,111

Prospective

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June	Annual Plan 2025/26 \$000	Prospective 2026/27 \$000	Prospective 2027/28 \$000	Prospective 2028/29 \$000
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,427	22,833	31,999	33,117
Trade and other receivables	15,671	28,450	18,490	19,113
Local Authority stocks and bonds	4,055	3,157	3,157	3,157
Inventories	72	92	92	92
Property intended for sale	-	323	323	323
Property inventory	650	539	313	191
Total current assets	21,875	55,394	54,374	55,993
Non-current assets				
Trade and other receivables	688	688	688	688
Investment in CCOs and similar entities	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Investment in associate	1,795	1,795	1,795	1,795
Other financial assets	4,517	2,042	2,042	5,614
Property inventory	7,973	6,007	5,805	2,042
Investment properties	37,719	38,480	39,326	40,191
Biological assets – forestry	3,131	4,700	4,804	4,910
Intangible assets – software	253	390	390	390
Property, plant and equipment	1,118,117	1,256,490	1,347,006	1,355,934
Total non-current assets	1,178,693	1,315,092	1,406,356	1,416,064
TOTAL ASSETS	1,200,568	1,370,486	1,460,730	1,472,057

As at 30 June	Annual Plan 2025/26 \$000	Prospective 2026/27 \$000	Prospective 2027/28 \$000	Prospective 2028/29 \$000
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	10,954	15,196	12,638	12,485
Employee benefit liabilities	2,418	2,454	2,524	2,588
Borrowings	8,267	11,908	12,371	13,463
Landfill closure liabilities	15	15	15	15
Total current liabilities	21,654	29,573	27,548	28,551
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	159,377	170,082	180,045	178,393
Payables & deferred revenue	299	299	299	299
Employee benefit liabilities	258	261	269	276
Landfill closure liability	87	87	72	57
Total non-current liabilities	160,021	170,729	180,685	179,025
TOTAL LIABILITIES	181,675	200,302	208,233	207,576
Equity				
Ratepayers' equity	569,803	770,089	782,019	792,398
Other reserves	449,090	400,095	470,478	472,083
TOTAL EQUITY	1,018,893	1,170,184	1,252,497	1,264,481
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	1,200,568	1,370,486	1,460,730	1,472,057

Our expenditure and how we fund it

There are two ways we pay for things: through operating expenditure and capital expenditure.

Operating expenditure pays for the Council's day-to-day operations and services, from collecting rubbish and providing street lighting to maintaining gardens and issuing building consents.

It is paid from general rates, targeted rates, fees and charges, and other income such as grants and subsidies and investment income.

Capital expenditure is used to renew or upgrade existing assets or to build new assets to provide a higher level of service or to account for growth.

It is mostly funded from depreciation, borrowing, development contributions, and income from third parties such as subsidies from Waka Kotahi for roading.

The following funding impact statements show how the Council funds its operating and capital expenditure.



Retrospective

Funding Impact Statement

The Funding Impact Statement shows how Council raises funds to cover its expenses.

For the year ended 30 June	Actual 2022/23 \$000	Actual 2023/24 \$000	Forecast 2024/25 \$000
Sources of operating funding			
General rate, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	17,932	18,084	18,906
Targeted rates	26,604	30,091	33,872
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	4,912	7,607	6,258
Fees and charges	9,405	9,933	10,654
Interest and dividends from investments	3,071	2,768	2,750
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	17,480	13,848	19,657
Total sources of operating funding	79,404	82,331	92,097
Applications of operating funding			
Payments to staff and suppliers	44,838	47,927	43,935
Finance costs	3,298	5,823	6,574
Other operating funding applications	14,209	15,350	26,499
Total applications of operating funding	62,345	69,100	77,008
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF OPERATING FUNDING	17,059	13,231	15,089
Sources of capital funding			
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	13,168	9,524	6,615
Development and financial contributions	4,543	2,120	3,395
Increase (decrease) in debt	17,949	22,459	29,155
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	11,047	6,246	2,000
Total sources of capital funding	46,707	40,349	41,165
Application of capital funding			
Capital expenditure			
- to meet additional demand	-	-	491
- to improve the level of service	39,270	38,987	37,206
- to replace existing assets	15,774	20,948	19,094
Increase (decrease) in reserves	8,723	(6,355)	(537)
Total applications of capital funding	63,767	53,580	56,254
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING	(17,059)	(13,231)	(15,089)
FUNDING BALANCE	-	-	-

The financial information for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is taken from the relevant Annual Report. The financial information for 2024/25 has not yet been finalised. The amounts shown are forecasts and unaudited and are subject to change due to movements in provisions and other judgements. The financial information for 2026/27 onwards is taken from the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Prospective

Funding Impact Statement

For the year ended 30 Junew	Annual Plan 2025/26 \$000	Prospective 2026/27 \$000	Prospective 2027/28 \$000	Prospective 2028/29 \$000
Sources of operating funding				
General rate, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	22,151	24,380	26,783	27,780
Targeted rates	34,490	40,040	42,419	43,914
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	4,269	7,463	7,477	7,629
Fees and charges	10,944	11,065	11,352	11,652
Interest and dividends from investments	1,455	2,200	2,248	2,298
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	14,112	13,981	14,598	16,011
Total sources of operating funding	87,421	99,129	104,877	109,284
Applications of operating funding				
Payments to staff and suppliers	40,635	46,209	46,962	48,173
Finance costs	5,891	7,845	8,352	8,972
Other operating funding applications	23,627	23,182	24,030	25,031
Total applications of operating funding	70,152	77,236	79,344	82,176
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF OPERATING FUNDING	17,269	21,893	25,533	27,108
Sources of capital funding				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	4,848	72,745	6,276	6,414
Development and financial contributions	2,479	2,404	2,457	2,511
Increase (decrease) in debt	9,992	758	10,403	(584)
Total sources of capital funding	17,230	75,907	19,136	8,341
Application of capital funding				
Capital expenditure				
- to meet additional demand	164	686	4,287	1,636
- to improve the level of service	14,551	79,849	13,352	9,949
- to replace existing assets	21,552	17,149	24,603	19,786
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(1,678)	116	2,427	4,078
Total applications of capital funding	35,589	97,800	44,669	35,449
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING	(17,269)	(21,893)	(25,533)	(27,108)
FUNDING BALANCE	-	-	-	-

The financial information for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is taken from the relevant Annual Report. The financial information for 2024/25 has not yet been finalised. The amounts shown are forecasts and unaudited and are subject to change due to movements in provisions and other judgements. The financial information for 2026/27 onwards is taken from the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Our financial performance

The Council continues to score well against Local Government benchmarks under the Financial Reporting and Prudence Regulations.

The purpose of these benchmarks is to assess whether the Council is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, and general financial dealings. For further information see the relevant Annual Report.

Category	Measure	2024/25 met? ¹	2023/24 met?	2022/23 met?	2021/22 met?
Rates (Income) Affordability	The total rates required in any one year are to be no greater than 1% of the total capital value of the district	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rates (Increase) Affordability	Total rates increase for 2022/23 and 2023/24 to be no greater than 5% (excluding LGCI) each year, and 2024/25 and 2025/26 to be no more than 10% (excluding the average of Infometrics and LGCI rates).	Y	Y	Y	Y
Debt Affordability	Net interest payments to service external debt must be less than 20% of total Council revenue.	Y	Y	Y	Y
Debt Affordability	Net interest payments to service external debt must be less than 25% of total rates for the year	Y	Y	Y	Y
Debt Affordability	Net debt shall not exceed 250% of total revenue for the year	Y	Y	Y	Y
Balanced budget	Operating revenue meets our operating expenses each year (a balanced budget) ²	Y	N ³	Y	Y
Essential services	Capital expenditure on infrastructure equals or exceeds its expenditure on depreciation ⁴	Y	Y	Y	Y
Debt servicing	Borrowing costs for the year are less than or equal to 10% of the Council's revenue	Y	Y	Y	Y
Debt Control	Actual net debt equals or is less than its planned net debt	Y	N ⁵	Y	Y
Operations Control	Actual net cash flow from operations equals or is greater than its planned net cash flow from operations	Y	N ⁶	Y	Y

Y = Yes, met benchmark; N= No, did not meet benchmark.

¹ The financial information for 2024/25 is a forecast, is unaudited, and is subject to change.

² Council revenue excludes development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant or equipment. Operating expenditure excludes losses on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant or equipment.

³ In 2023/24, our revenue was 98.3% of operating expenditure. Our expenses were higher than our revenue as we had to spend extra money on unexpected road repairs due to severe weather causing damage.

⁴ Infrastructure includes roading and footpaths, water supplies, wastewater and stormwater.

⁵ In 2023/24 our net debt was 101.6% of our planned net debt. This was due to water projects being brought forward, leading to higher than budgeted debt.

⁶ In 2023/24 our net cashflow from operations was 70.4% of our planned net cash flow from operations. Sales of subdivisions were lower than budgeted and increased costs were due to unbudgeted works on the roading network due to severe weather damage. Council also made an unbudgeted contribution to the Fairfield Freight Hub affecting this benchmark. The costs of our contribution were, however, 100% offset by funding received from Central Government.

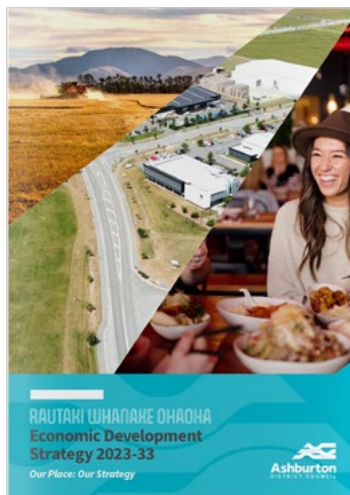
Supporting documents and further reading

We have a number of plans and strategies that guide our work plan.

These can be found on our 'Plans, Reports & Strategies' webpage, along with our annual residents' survey which collects the views and opinions of our community on the programmes and services we provide.



[Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy 2024](#)



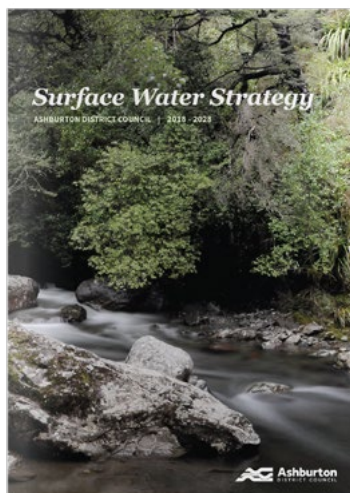
[Economic Development Strategy 2023-33](#)



[Open Spaces Strategy 2016 - 2026](#)



[Ashburton-District-Parking-Strategy 2021](#)



[Surface Water Strategy 2019](#)



[Climate Resilience Plan 2022](#)



Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy



Walking & Cycling Strategy 2020 - 2030



Ashburton Airport Development Plan 2022- 2052



EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land 30 Year Masterplan 2024



Reserve Management Plan

- Ashburton Domain-Development Plan 2020
- The Future of Lake Camp (Ōtautari) & Lake Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka) 30 Year Plan 2022 - 2052
- Waste Management and Minimisation 2022 Plan

PRE-ELECTION REPORT 2025

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