



Elections 2025 Candidate Briefing



Welcome & introductions

Hamish Riach

Chief Executive for ADC

- Introduction to Local Government
- Ashburton District Council
- Who we are & what we do
- Being an elected member
- Election Overview
- Nomination Process
- Campaigning
- Election Process & Results

Local Government Act 2022

The purpose of local government is:

- to enable democratic local decision-making and action for communities
- to promote thriving communities



What is Local Government all about?

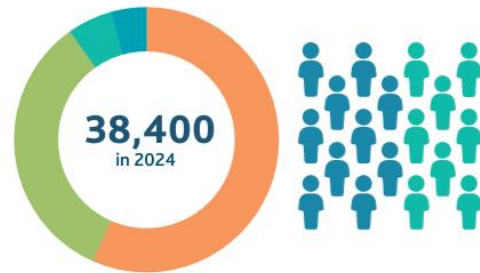
- Services and Activities
- Strategic Direction
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy
- Legislation, Regulations and Bylaws
- Environmental Management



Our people, our district

Population

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



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

↑ **11%**

The **median age** in our
district is

40.1
years

(nationally 38.1 years)



51%
are male / tāne



49%
are female / wāhine

20.8%

of our residents were born overseas

81.1% European (includes
New Zealander)

6% Pacific peoples

1.4% Middle Eastern / Latin
American / African

8.6% Māori

9.4% Asian

1.3% Other Ethnicity

District



Household



Sources:

All data taken from Stats NZ 2023 Census or Infometrics Regional Economic Profile, 2024.

Our Community

Population

Usual resident population

1,977



1,002



Male

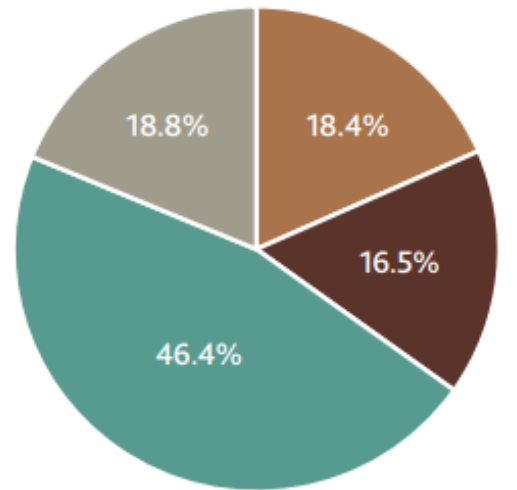
975



Female

Median age

39.6



Under 15 15-29 30-64 65 +

Methven's population is expected to grow to by at least 12.8% over the next 10 years

Birthplace

77%

of Methven's residents were born in New Zealand¹

9.8%

were born in the UK

3.4%

were born in Australia

2.4%

were born in the Pacific Islands

Ethnicity²

90.4%

of Methven's residents identify as European

10%

of Methven's residents identify as Māori

2.9%

of Methven's residents identify as Pacific Peoples

3.2%

of Methven's residents identify as Asian

Who is ADC

- Established in 1989, amalgamating Borough Council and County Council
- Large provincial council
- Employer of over 300 people (224 FTE)
- Provides a number of activities and services ranging from small (e.g. liquor licensing) to large (e.g. Roading)





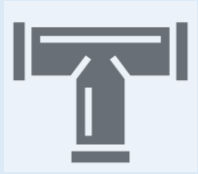
1. Infrastructure



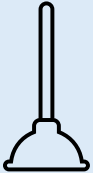
Water Services



Provide drinking water to nearly 12,000 households & businesses



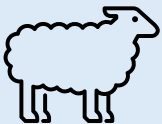
Maintain over 500km of water pipes



Maintain over 200km of wastewater pipes

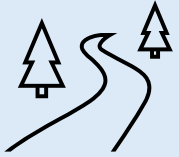


Maintain over 40km of stormwater pipes



Maintain over 1,400km network of stockwater races

Transportation



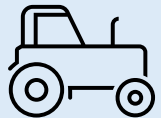
Manage over 2,600 KM of roads across the District



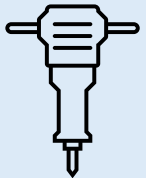
Manage 189 bridges



Manage 261km of footpaths & nearly 10km cycleways

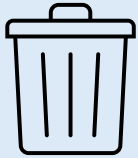


Resealed nearly 50km of road



Repaired over 6,200 potholes

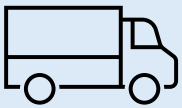
Waste Reduction & Recovery



Collect kerbside waste and recycling from over 11,500 households



Divert 20% of household waste from landfill to recycling



Collected 10,150 tonnes at resource recovery parks and rural drop off points

2. Public Services



Community Governance & Decision-Making



Received over 2,600 submissions from the community



Gave over \$935,000 in grants & funding



Prepared 15 submissions advocating for our District



Reviewed and developed 6 policies, 2 plans & 2 strategies

Community Services



Provide 41 public toilets throughout District



Provide over 100 elderly persons housing units

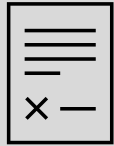


Support 20 reserve board and hall committees throughout the district

Economic Development



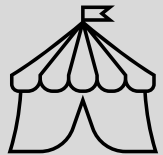
Sold 10.7 ha of rural land and 1.9 ha of commercial properties



Managed 900 leases / licenses



Deliver tourism promotion under Experience Mid Canterbury

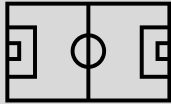


Host community events like Glow in the Park and Noodle Market

Parks & Open Spaces



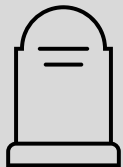
Manage over 440 ha of parks & open spaces



Maintain over 270 ha of sports fields



Provide 30 playgrounds



Manage 16 cemeteries

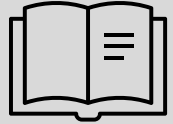
Recreation Facilities



Provide EANC (6 indoor courts, aquatic facility and gym)



Deliver quality art and museum exhibitions at AAGM



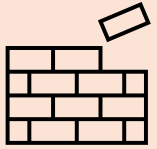
Modern library facilities at Te Whare Whakatare



3. Regulatory Services



Regulatory



Issue building consents & code of compliance certificates



Issue resource consents, subdivision plans, LIM & PIM

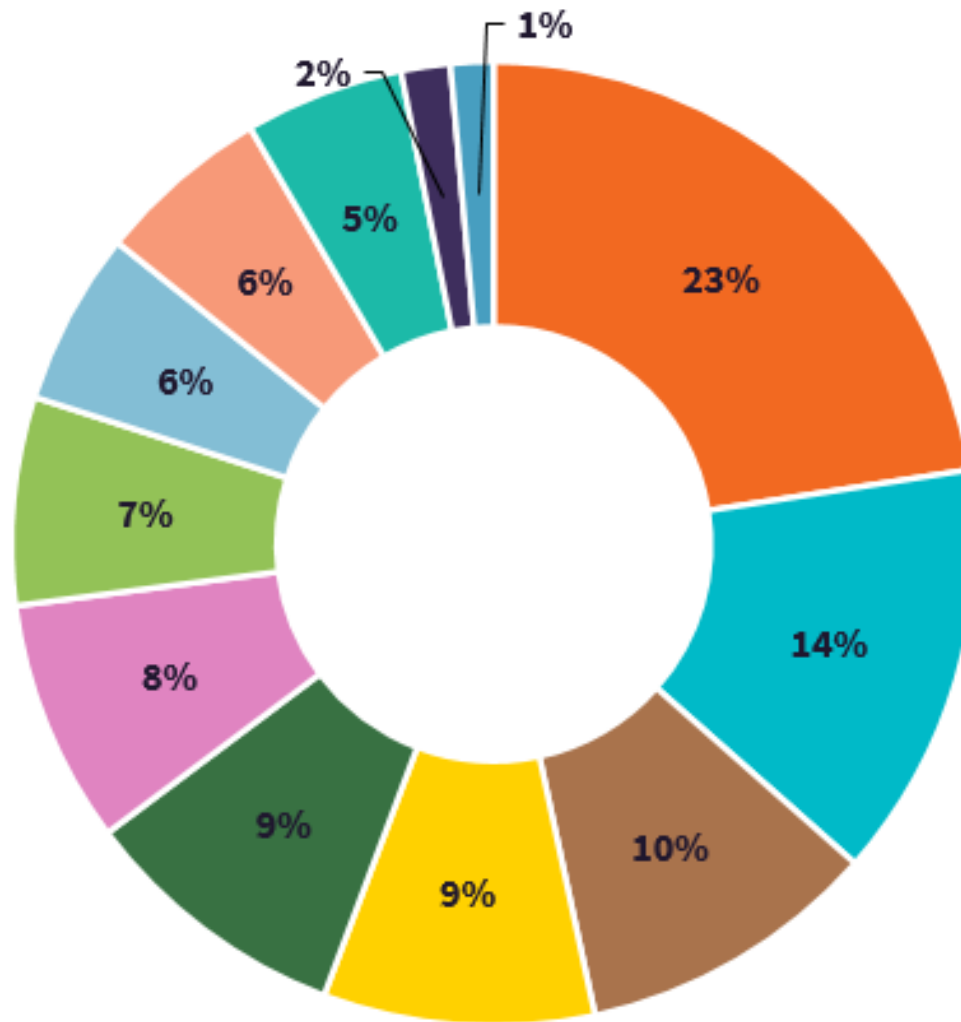


Register over 6,900 dogs and respond to animal control requests



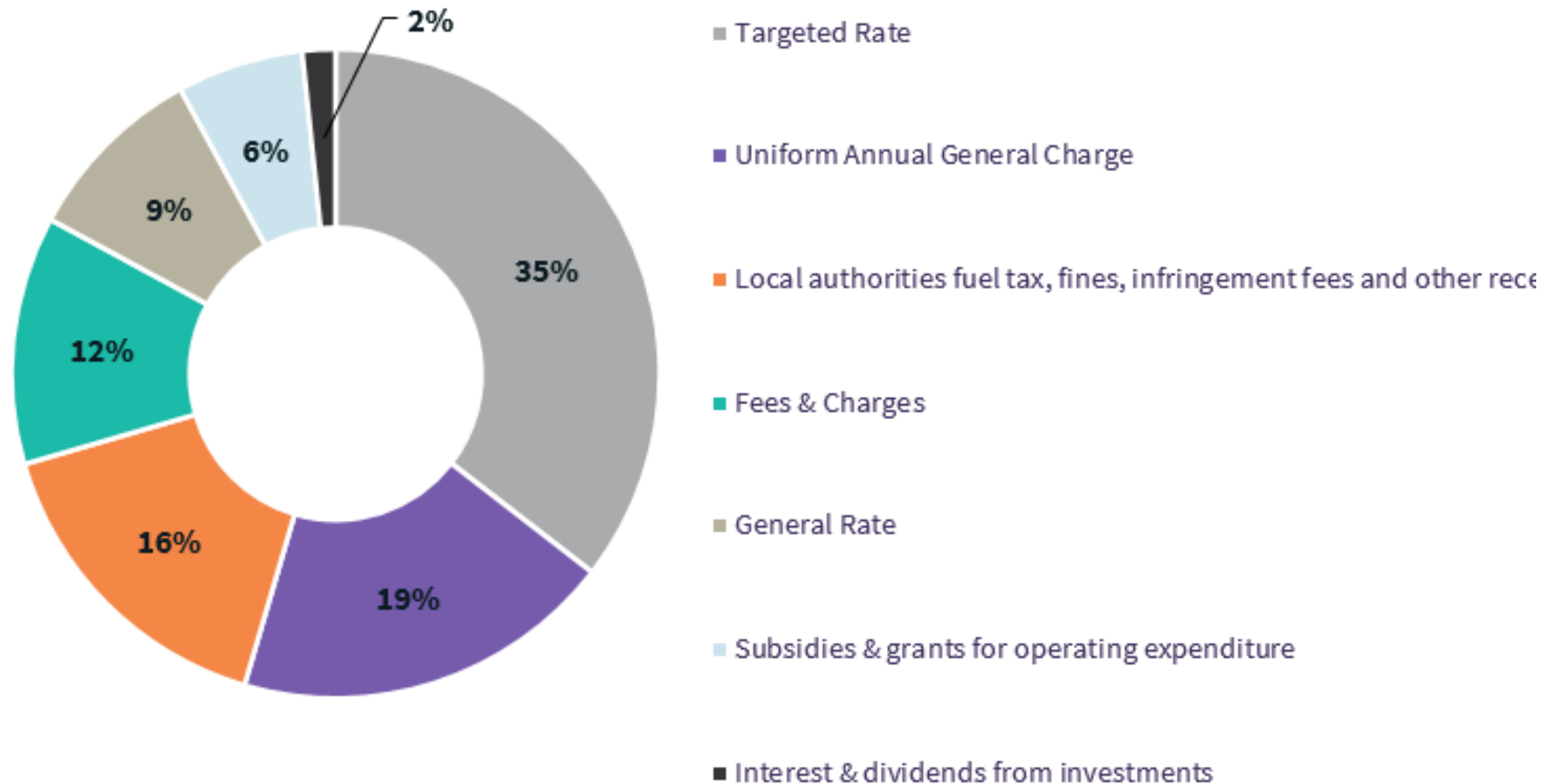
Respond and monitor noise control, public health & liquor licensing

Total budgeted expenditure by activity in 2025/26



- Transportation
- Drinking Water
- Recreation Facilities
- Wastewater
- Waste Reduction & Recovery
- Economic Development & Commercial Activities
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Regulatory Services
- Community Governance & Decision-Making
- Community Services
- Stormwater
- Stockwater

Our sources of income to fund our operating expenditure for 2025/26



Our financial position

AA+ Fitch
Credit Rating

\$1.18B total
assets

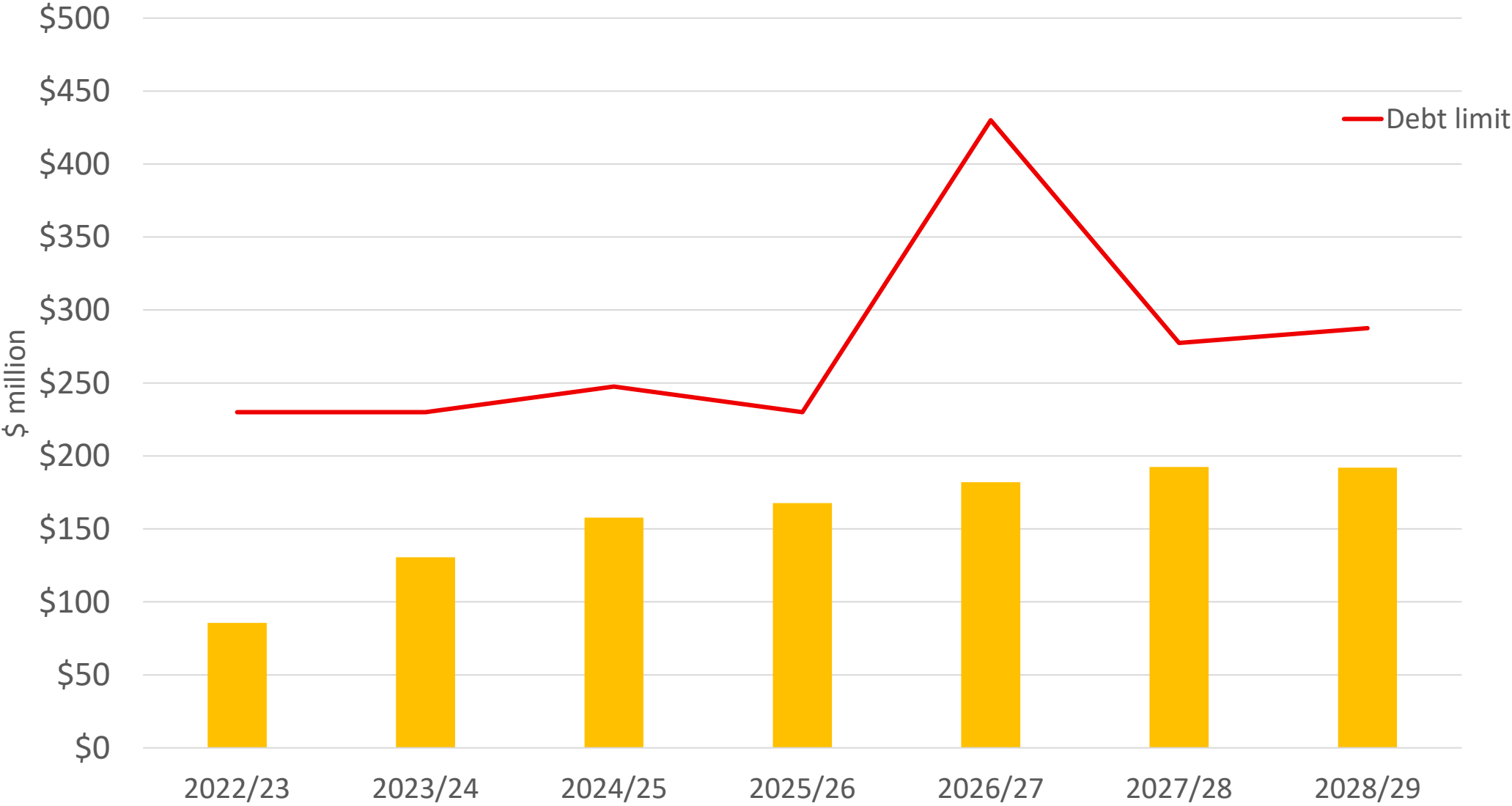
\$158M debt

\$1.01B net
worth

OPEX spend
\$70.2M

CAPEX spend
\$36.3M

Total external debt

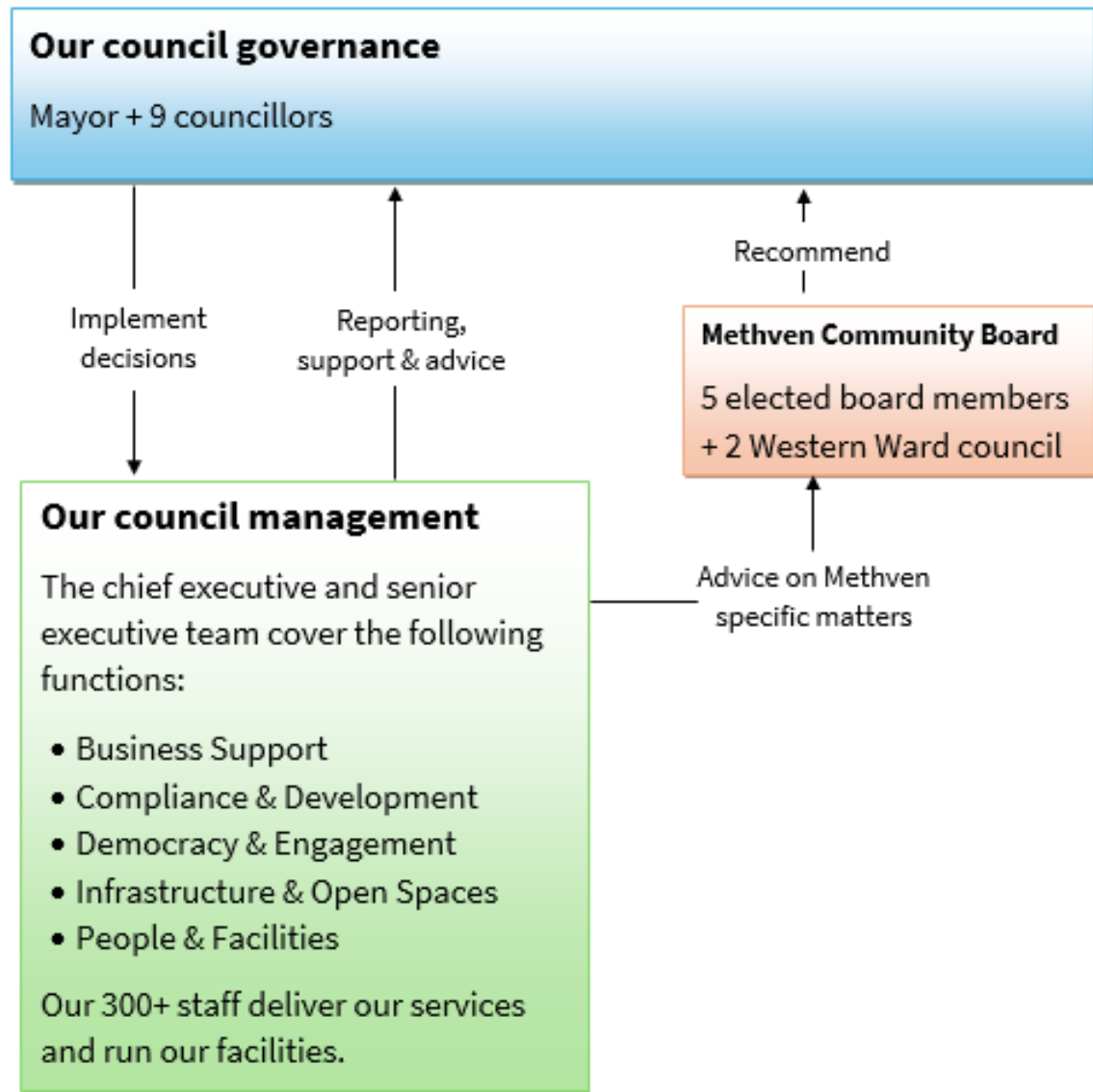


What challenges are we facing

- Local water done well
 - SABU
 - Upgrading infrastructure
- Delivering our roading programme
- Balancing affordability versus expectations
- Improving our resilience
- Adapting to Government changes
- Improving water quality at Lake Hood



What it means to govern ADC



What is being an elected member all about



Four major roles

Representation and accountability
Strategy and Policy making
Financial management
Advocacy



Rewards

Providing service to the community/district
A chance to learn new skills
The ability to use your expertise for the good of the community /district

What makes a good elected member

1. The ability to listen and absorb
2. Having an open mind to see all sides of the issue
3. Being willing to compromise and negotiate
4. The skill to take a long-term view and see the bigger picture
5. A clear vision – “know your why”
6. Being prepared to be public property
7. Some digital competency
8. Stamina – it’s a marathon not a sprint
9. Integrity to stand for what you believe in
10. A sense of humour seems to help!

A week in the life of an Elected Member



Mayor

Expect to have some Council work most days (including weekends and evenings)

Chairing meetings, meeting residents and responding to their concerns

Leading the Council team

Advocating on behalf of Mid Canterbury



Councillor

Generally spends 2-3 days per week on Council business

2 days per week for meetings / workshops

1 day for meeting / workshop prep and / or attending community meetings

Eyes and ears for the district , community advocate

What you can expect as a candidate



Candidate Video



Policy.nz



‘Meet the
Candidate’
sessions

Ashburton :
Mayor, Ashburton
Ward and Eastern
Ward

Methven : Mayor,
Western Ward,
MCB

Campaigning



Use campaign-specific
social media accounts



Set-up a separate email
and phone number

What you can expect if elected



Key dates circulated



Induction process



Training

Where to find out more



Pre-Election Report



Come along / watch Council meetings



Read agendas



LGNZ candidates guide



Talk to a current / former Councillor



Read our LTP / AP

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2025 Local Government Elections
PART 2

2025 Election details



Electoral Team

- electionz.com Ltd contracted by Ashburton District Council
- Anthony Morton – ADC Electoral Officer
0800 666 048 or ashburtondc@electionz.com
- Phillipa Clark – ADC Deputy Electoral Officer
(03) 307 7774 or elections@adc.govt.nz
- Warwick Lampp – Electoral Official
0800 666 048 or ashburtondc@electionz.com





Election Timetable



18 June (Wednesday) & **24 June** (Tuesday)

4 July (Friday)

11 July (Friday)

11 July (Friday)

1 August (Friday)

9 – 22 September (Tuesday to Monday)

9 September – 11 October

11 October (Saturday)

11 October (Saturday)

12 October (Sunday)

12 October (Sunday)

16 October (Thursday)

29 October (Wednesday)

by **11 December** (Thursday)

Candidate Briefings in Ashburton & Methven

Nominations open

Pre-election Period starts

Election signs can go up, 3 months prior

Nominations close at 12 noon

Delivery of voting papers

Special voting period

Close of voting at 12 noon

Progress results available by 3pm

Preliminary results announced

Removal of election signs by midnight

Final results announced, Official Declaration

Inaugural Meeting of Council

Candidate expenses deadline



Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

electionz.com
voting made easy



Nominations will be called for:

Mayor

Councillors - 9 councillors from 3 wards

Ashburton Ward	5 councillors
Eastern Ward	2 councillors
Western Ward	2 councillors

Environment Canterbury



Mid-Canterbury/Ōpakihi

2 councillors

Community Board members

Methven 5 members

Community Trust trustees



Braided River 6 trustees



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2025 Local Government Elections
PART 3

The nomination process



Candidate Eligibility

CANNOT:

- Be serving a prison sentence of three or more years
- Stand for Canterbury Regional Council and ADC
- Have interest in a contract over \$25K per year with council (or BRCT for BRCT candidates)
- Nominate yourself

CAN STAND:

- For both mayor and/or councillor and/or community board
- If you live outside area, but must state that on nom paper (not BRCT)
- If a council employee but must resign if elected as mayor or councillor

CANDIDATE MUST:

- Be a NZ citizen and enrolled on parliamentary electoral roll
- Be nominated by 2 electors who are enrolled for the electoral issue the candidate is standing for
- Provide all nomination documents together

CAN'T WITHDRAW AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Nomination Process

- Open Friday 4 July and close midday Friday 1 August (4 weeks)
- **Documents to submit:**
 - nomination form
 - evidence of \$200 deposit
 - evidence of NZ citizenship
 - profile statement (optional)
 - photo (optional)
 - evidence of bank a/c details (for deposit refund)
- Forms available from ADC office, Te Kete Tuhinga Ashburton Library or ADC website
- Can be lodged at ADC's main office or emailed to elections@adc.govt.nz
- Nomination deposit can be paid by cash, EFTPOS or online banking
- Candidates to be aware that contact details will be public info (available from website as nominations confirmed)



Example Profile Statement

Waitaki District Council

Electing the Mayor



Warwick LAMPP

Your Switched-on Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the
Waitaki District Council area. I am also standing
for Corridale Ward Councillor.

150 word candidate profile text.

Auto-populated text

Hard-coded text

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2025 Local Government Elections
PART 4

Campaigning



Campaigning



- Can commence any time
 - Can't use council resources for campaigning (logo, branding, colours, council FB or X feed, photos, council buildings etc)
 - No campaigning or electioneering in council chambers or on council premises
- Election expenses for campaigning must be recorded and declared in a return after the election
- **Any campaign material** (signs, posters, billboards, flyers, ads, cars, social media) **must have an authorisation** from the candidate or their agent, stating their name and contact details
 - Can be address, mobile, email, PO Box
 - Should be on the front of the sign or promotional material (not the back)
- Any content of signs is subject to ASA guidelines and complaints process – must be factual
- Usual rules of defamation apply but don't complain to the EO if you don't like what someone says about you!

Election Expenditure Limits

Total electoral expenses, including GST, must not exceed:

Ashburton District Council

- Mayor \$ 20,000
- Ashburton Ward \$ 20,000
- Eastern Ward \$ 7,000
- Western Ward \$ 7,000
- Methven Community Board \$ 3,500

Braided Rivers Community Trust

- Members (whole area) \$20,000


Canterbury Regional Council

- Mid-Canterbury/Ōpakihi \$55,000




If standing for more than one position, the higher limit applies, not both. Campaign expenses are the candidate's responsibility. Council doesn't refund you.

Example of Signs




VOTE

 **FRED DAGG**


**FOR THE
TOWN WARD**


**“OPEN GOVERNMENT
AT ALL HOURS”**


THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN
SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON




VOTE

 **FRED DAGG**
BLUE PARTY

 **JOHN SNOW**
RED PARTY

 **JANE DOE**
WHITE PARTY

 **BILL BOBB**
PURPLE PARTY

**FRED DAGG
FOR THE
TOWN WARD**

“OPEN GOVERNMENT AT ALL HOURS”

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON





Social Media

Beware of Social Media requirements during the three-month election period:

- Council's social media channels will unlike/unfollow all candidate social media channels
- Candidates must not link their own social media channels (if they are used for campaigning purposes) to the Council's social media channels, and must ensure that they have the appropriate authorisation
- **Council social media channels cannot be used for electioneering by candidates or members of the public – will be constantly monitored and strictly enforced**
- Any post - positive or negative - made by any individual specifically relating to their own or someone else's nomination, intention to run for Council or election campaign, will be removed
- Council's social media channels will remain neutral. Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates

Social Media continued

This means, when with the intention of campaigning/electioneering:

- No posting on Council pages/accounts
- No comments/replies on Council pages
- No mentions with a tag (e.g. @ AshburtonDistrictCouncil)
- No picture tagging
- No rating or reviewing Council pages or posts

e.g. you cannot electioneer on Council's channels, or piggyback on their audiences – see pages 26

Candidates should not post photos of their completed voting paper on any social media platform

Election Offences

See page 46 – Appendix 6

- Imitation Voting Paper
- Bribery
- Treating
 - Can't provide food, alcohol, drinks, entertainment as an inducement to vote (light refreshments after a meeting is ok)
 - **Can't give away a pen, note pad, fridge magnet or item of value**
- Undue Influence – can't stand over someone telling them how to vote
- Unauthorised advertisements
- Illegal nomination – e.g. candidate with a court order
- Any formal complaint passed straight to the Police

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2025 Local Government Elections
PART 5

Election process and results



Voting Process

- Postal voting only. No early voting option available.
- Voter packs lodged with NZ Post Monday 8 September.
- Deliveries from 9 September.
- Closes 12 noon on election day, 11 October 2025.
- Special voting available at the ADC Ashburton office, or can be posted out to applicants (if time allows).
- Applicants can come in or contact DEO by phone or email.
- Candidates should not collect voting documents on behalf of electors.



Election Results

Preliminary count occurs from 12 noon, Saturday 11 October 2025

Progress results: expected about 2pm – approx 90% of votes received (not special votes and votes in transit to processing centre).

Progress results:

- email to all candidates with email address
- candidates personally rung by Council staff
- will be available from Council's website

Preliminary results: expected late on Sunday 12 October, after all ordinary votes have been processed

Final results: expected by Thursday 16 October, after special votes have been processed

Coming into Office

- All members come into office on the day following the day on which the candidates are declared to be elected
- This is the day after the result declaration is posted on Council's website - expected to be Friday 17 October
- Successful candidates contacted by mayor/staff
- Council's inaugural meeting and the "swearing in" of elected members (elected candidates cannot act until this has occurred)

Last words

- Check that nominators are correctly enrolled
- Get your nomination documents in early
- Campaigning – stick to your own promotions
- Campaigning – if you don't have permission, don't use it
- Authorisation statements on all campaigning material
- Keep yourself safe
- Election results on websites/email from 2pm Saturday 11 October

Good Luck!

