

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 06 May 2026, commencing at 9.05am

- Members Present:** Grant Smith (The Mayor) (in the Chair) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.
- Apologies:** Councillor Orphée Mickalad (late arrival).

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb open the meeting with karakia.

51-26 Apologies

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the apologies.

Clause 51-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

52-26 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting of 25 March 2026 Part I Public and Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 52-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

COUNCIL - PART I - 06 MAY 2026

53-26 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting of 22 April 2026 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record, as amended.

Clause 53-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

Councillor Billy Meehan.

REPORTS

54-26 Fees and Charges - Confirmation following consultation

Memorandum, presented by Steve Paterson, Manager - Financial Strategy and Jeff Baker, Manager Planning Services.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad entered the meeting at 9.16am.

The Mayor moved an alternate motion 1 to capture feedback from the development sector presented through submissions.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the fees and charges for Planning & Miscellaneous Services, as scheduled in Attachment 2, effective from 1 July 2026 with the exception of those set out in pages 85-89 and 92 of the Agenda (including Flat Fees, Indicative Charges, Other Charges), which are to remain unchanged from 2025/26.

Clause 54-26 above was carried 11 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad and Kaydee Zabelin.

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Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

2. That Council approve the fees and charges for Trade Waste Services, as scheduled in Attachment 3, effective from 1 July 2026.

Clause 54-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

55-26

2026/27 Annual Budget - Deliberations

Memorandum, presented by Cameron McKay, General Manager Corporate Services.

Councillor Leonie Hapeta left the meeting at 10.57am.

CAPITAL GROWTH

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a draft Annual Budget 2026/27 for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 3 June 2026 and that it incorporates the following:
 - d. Capital growth programmes including carry forwards and amendments as outlined in Annual Budget 2026/27 – Schedule of Proposed Capital Growth Programmes (Attachment 7).

Clause 55.1-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 11.05am.

The meeting resumed at 11.25am.

Councillor Hapeta was present when the meeting resumed.

CAPITAL NEW

A

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$200,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 for fitout of city centre bus waiting lounge.

COUNCIL - PART I - 06 MAY 2026

E Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Rachel Bowen.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$15,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 for safety improvements to the Kairanga Bunnythorpe Road area near Bunnythorpe.

Clause 55.4-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

F Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

That Council prioritise Programme 1851 in Annual Budget 2026/27 to improve Takaro Park football surface.

Clause 55.5-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a draft Annual Budget 2026/27 for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 3 June 2026 and that it incorporates the following:
 - c. Capital new programmes including carry forwards and amendments as outlined in Annual Budget 2026/27 – Schedule of Proposed Capital New Programmes (Attachment 6), and any motions agreed above.

Clause 55.6-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 12.55pm..

The meeting resumed at 2.03pm.

COUNCIL - PART I - 06 MAY 2026

CAPITAL RENEWALS

G(a) Moved William Wood, seconded Grant Smith.

RESOLVED

- a. That Council reduce the operational professional services budget by \$500,000.

Clause 55.7-26 above was carried 14 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Brent Barrett and Lorna Johnson.

G(b) Moved William Wood, seconded Grant Smith.

RESOLVED

- b. That Council footpath renewals budget be increased by \$500,000 ongoing from the 2026/27 Annual Budget subject to annual budget reviews.

Clause 55.8-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Note:

Moved Karen Naylor, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

On an amendment: 'That Council reduce the operational professional services budget by ~~\$500,000~~ \$700,000 for the 2026/27 Annual Budget and the footpath renewals budget be increased by \$500,000 ongoing from the 2026/27 Annual Budget subject to annual budget reviews', the motion was lost 5 votes to 11, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan and Kaydee Zabelin.

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H Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

That Council prioritise \$100,000 in Programme 1827 for improvements at Farnham Park in Annual Budget 2026/27, in partnership with and recognition of Ora Konnect contribution of \$200,000 to the project.

Clause 55.9-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a draft Annual Budget 2026/27 for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 3 June 2026 and that it incorporates the following:
 - e. Capital renewal programmes including carry forwards and amendments as outlined in Annual Budget 2026/27 – Schedule of Proposed Capital Renewal Programmes (Attachment 8), and any motions agreed above.

Clause 55.10-26 above was carried 15 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Lew Findlay.

OPERATING BUDGETS

Moved Karen Naylor, seconded William Wood.

Note:

On a motion: 'That Council cap the remuneration budget at \$65.3m for the 2026/27 financial year', the motion was lost 7 votes to 9, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru and Kaydee Zabelin.

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K Moved Karen Naylor, seconded William Wood.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive identify options in order to reduce 1% of total overhead costs from the 2026/27 Annual Budget, and that this be reported to Council on 3 June 2026.

Clause 55.11-26 above was carried 11 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta and Lorna Johnson.

Moved William Wood, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

Note:

On a motion: 'That the Council does not renew its membership of Local Government New Zealand for the 2026/2027 year', the motion was lost 5 votes to 11, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and Kaydee Zabelin.

S Moved Grant Smith, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED

That International Relations & Education Unit have a 20% reduction of their controllable expenses \$98K (minus remuneration & overheads), reducing the budget by \$20K.

Clause 55.12-26 above was carried 13 votes to 3, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Leonie Hapeta and Lorna Johnson.

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Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a draft Annual Budget 2026/27 for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 3 June 2026 and that it incorporates the following:
 - a. Changes to the operating budgets as outlined (Attachment 3), and any motions agreed above.

Clause 55.13-26 above was carried 14 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Hayden Fitzgerald and Karen Naylor.

56-26

Extension of meeting time

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council resolve, as per Standing Order 2.1.7, to extend the meeting until 1.00pm on Thursday 7 May 2026.

Clause 56-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 4.21pm, Wednesday 6 May 2026

The meeting resumed at 9.04am, Thursday 7 May 2026

Members Present: Grant Smith (The Mayor) (in the Chair) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Apologies: Councillors Leonie Hapeta and Lew Findlay (late arrival).

57-26

Apologies

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

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RESOLVED

That Council receive the apologies.

Clause 57-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

55-26

CAPITAL NEW (continued)

REFERRED

Moved William Wood, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

That Council agree to purchase 182-226 Akers Rd, Linton (Esplanade Manawatū River) and add \$100K to programme 1846 for that purpose.

Clause 55.14-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

OPERATING PROGRAMMES

M

Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$46,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 for a soft plastics trial in 2026/27, noting expected revenue of \$15k.

Clause 55.15-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

N

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$82,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 for city centre bus waiting lounge, noting partial offset via partner co-funding.

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Clause 55.16-26 above was carried 11 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan and William Wood.

O

Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Grant Smith.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$15,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 to advance the City's Heritage Festival, with 50% to come from external funding.

Clause 55.17-26 above was carried 15 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Billy Meehan.

P

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED

That Council reduce Programme 2559 - Massey University Te Waimana o Turitea Botanical Gardens operational support to \$0.

Clause 55.18-26 above was carried 11 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Vaughan Dennison and Leonie Hapeta.

Note:

Moved Rachel Bowen, seconded Grant Smith.

On an amendment: That Council reduce Programme 2559 – Massey University Te Waimana o Turitea Botanical Gardens operational support to \$30k for 2026/27. The amendment was lost 7 votes to 9, the voting being as follows:

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For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta and Bonnie Kuru.

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Q

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Rachel Bowen.

RESOLVED

That Council add \$80,000 to Annual Budget 2026/27 for safety improvements to the Kairanga Bunnythorpe Road area near Bunnythorpe.

Clause 55.19-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

R

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Rachel Bowen.

RESOLVED

That, in recognition of increased demand, Council approve \$25,000 new funding in financial year 2026/27 to MASH Trust for LUCK Venue to support adequate service provision for vulnerable people.

Clause 55.20-26 above was carried 12 votes to 4, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Note:

Moved Karen Naylor, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

On a motion that: That Council defer Programme 2524: feasibility study for the 50m pool (\$104K) for consideration during the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan.. The motion was lost 4 votes to 12, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Hayden Fitzgerald, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Against:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

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U Moved Karen Naylor, seconded Brent Barrett.

RESOLVED

That Council cap the confirmed remuneration budget, and that if any additional budget is required throughout the year, that the Chief Executive brings a request to Council.

Clause 55- 21- 26 above was carried 13 votes to 3, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Lew Findlay and Leonie Hapeta.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a draft Annual Budget 2026/27 for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 3 June 2026 and that it incorporates the following:
 - b. Operating programmes (including carry forwards relating to Programme 1520 & Programme 2519 as outlined in Annual Budget 2026/27 – Schedule of Proposed Operating Programmes (Attachment 5), and any motions agreed above.

Clause 55.22-26 above was carried 14 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Hayden Fitzgerald and Karen Naylor.

Meeting adjourned at 10.29

Meeting resumed at 10.50

V Moved Grant Smith, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive present options and implications of a budget on 3 June 2026 that has no more than a 3.9% rate increase.

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Clause 55.23 -26 above was carried 10 votes to 6, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lorna Johnson, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Note:

Moved William Wood, seconded Rachel Bowen.

On an amendment: That the Chief Executive present **options and implications** of a budget on 3 June 2026 that has no more than a 3.9% rate increase.

The amendment was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

RATING ASSUMPTIONS

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Rachel Bowen.

RESOLVED

2. That the draft Annual Budget 2026/27 include the following rating assumptions:
 - b. Differential surcharges unchanged from those included in the draft for public consultation
 - c. Targeted rates for services adjusted as necessary to reflect changes to the budgets for the activities concerned.

Clause 55.24 -26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Orphée Mickalad.

RESOLVED

That the draft Annual Budget 2026/27 include the following rating assumptions:

- a. Uniform Annual General Charge of \$200

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Clause 55.25-26 above was carried 12 votes to 4, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Note:

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Rachel Bowen.

On recommendation 2(a) that: That the draft Annual Budget 2026/27 include the following rating assumptions:

- a. Uniform Annual General Charge of \$300

The recommendation was lost 6 votes to 10, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan and Orphée Mickalad.

Note:

Moved William Wood, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

On a motion (2d) that: That Council retain the Land Value to Capital value hybrid ratio for rating allocation at the 2025/26 rate of 33.33% Capital Value to 66.67% Land Value for the Annual Budget 2026/27, and that the question of continuing to a 50/50 split be referred to the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan. . The motion was tied 8 votes to 8. The chair declared the motion lost, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Orphée Mickalad and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillor Leonie Hapeta left the meeting at 12:09pm

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Moved William Wood, seconded Lorna Johnson.

RESOLVED

3. That the Chief Executive provide greater oversight of overhead allocation to Council as a part of the 2027-2037 LTP process by:
 1. Identifying overhead allocation as a dedicated expense line in each activity of Council, and,
 2. Bringing a paper to Council outlining activity areas and costs proposed to be included in the overhead allocation for approval by Council prior to the LTP budget being consulted on.

Clause 55.26 -26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Rachel Bowen.

RESOLVED

4. That the Chief Executive review governance and management policies with a view to restricting purchase of alcohol to providing one 'welcome' drink at Council-hosted events, removing reimbursement for the purchase of alcohol by staff or Elected Members and reviewing associated budgets as appropriate.

Clause 55.27-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb closed the meeting with karakia

The meeting finished at 12.24pm Thursday 7 May 2026

Confirmed 27 May 2026

Mayor