WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026, AT 9AM.

PRESENT

Councillors J Goldsworthy (Chairperson), T Bartle, W Doody, T Fulton, B McLaren, J Ward and Mayor D Gordon (arrived at 9.18am).

IN ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor P Redmond, Councillors B Cairns and S Powell (Audio Visual)

C Genet (General Manager Finance and Business Support), G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roading), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), P Christensen (Finance Manager), and T De Rooy (Governance Support Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on Tuesday 19 May 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on 19 May 2026.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. PRESENTATION/DEPUTATION

Nil.

5. REPORTS

5.1 **Enterprise North Canterbury (ENC) 2025/26 Approved Statement of Intent (SOI) and Associated Annual Business Plan** – S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development) and C Genet (General Manager Finance and Business Support)

The Chairperson of Enterprise North Canterbury's Board, C Griffard and the Chief Executive Officer, H Warwick, were present to present the 2025/26 Approved Statement of Intent and Associated Annual Business Plan.

S Hart presented the final Statement of Intent (SOI) for Enterprise North Canterbury (ENC), together with the confirmed Business Plan and Strategic Documents. He noted that the Committee had considered the draft SOI in March 2026, during which several Councillors requested further consideration of the retail sector, particularly within town centres. It was reported that this matter had now been incorporated into ENC's SOI and Business Plan. ENC would survey businesses to identify the challenges and barriers they face, with the findings informing the support that could be provided over the coming year.

S Hart confirmed that the Council's routine planning processes had included discussion and confirmation of the transfer of the i-SITE function to the Council's library service. However, i-SITE activities remained referenced in the planning documents, primarily due to the timing of document preparation, as Council had not yet formally adopted its 2026/27 Annual Plan. S Hart advised that a formal process involving ENC, the Waimakariri Libraries, and relevant staff was already underway. Work was progressing in the background between the organisations to manage the transition. It was confirmed that a formal report on the matter would be presented to Council at a future meeting.

H Warwick advised that the ENC Board and Management Team had undertaken a Strategic Planning Workshop on 8 April 2026, during which the strategic framework was reviewed. The review provided an opportunity to assess progress, identify what was working well, and consider any necessary refinements. It was reported that only minor changes had been made to the strategic framework. The ENC Board also confirmed that the organisation's vision, outcomes and strategic priorities remained largely unchanged, including the priority of developing and maintaining a strong regional identity. H Warwick elaborated on the following changes to the SOI:

- Business attraction activities were shifted from the regional branding focus area to a priority of supporting and growing new and existing businesses.
- A commitment to host an annual Business Summit had been added. The inaugural summit had been highly successful, and holding the event annually would help maintain momentum and encourage ongoing business engagement.
- Reference to a recently secured contract with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), which had commenced within the previous six months, had been included. Under this arrangement, ENC provided business vetting services for start-up businesses seeking MSD support.
- A commitment to evaluate the results of the retail business survey and use the findings to inform future support initiatives had also been included.
- Additional amendments would be required as part of the transfer of the i-SITE function, which would be managed through a separate process involving the Council.

Councillor Cairns sought clarification regarding ENC's involvement in vetting businesses from outside the Waimakariri District and asked how many of those businesses had subsequently relocated to the district. Ms Warwick advised that none of the businesses being vetted was North Canterbury businesses. She explained that businesses seeking to establish themselves in North Canterbury were provided with free advisory services, as the Council funded them. The MSD vetting service applied only to businesses outside the district and represented a separate revenue-generating activity for ENC.

Councillor Cairns observed that increasing social media followers was identified as a key measure and queried whether additional metrics, such as content engagement, interactions, views, and reach among both followers and non-followers, could also be monitored. Ms Warwick confirmed that ENC already monitored a range of social media performance measures beyond follower numbers. She advised that staff were well-versed in analysing social media insights and campaign performance. Ms Warwick emphasised that the organisation's focus was not solely on increasing likes or followers, but on measuring meaningful engagement and understanding how effectively content reached and connected with the intended audience. She advised that more detailed reporting on social media analytics and engagement metrics could be provided upon request.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked about the I-site and clarified earlier comments regarding the investigation into the relocation of libraries, noting that a report would come back to Council with a business case and data for a final decision. S Hart advised that, upon reviewing the recommendations adopted during the Council’s 2026/27 Annual Plan deliberations, the resolution was for the i-SITE functions to be transferred rather than merely investigated. Funding for the i-SITE function had already been removed from the current budget, in line with Council's decision. It was further noted that a report was currently being prepared in conjunction with ENC staff regarding the transition arrangements. S Hart noted that discussions were already underway; the transition planning process was therefore actively progressing.

Councillor Fulton raised concerns about relationships with organisations such as Food Secure North Canterbury and Satisfy Food Rescue. He observed that these organisations operated across a range of sectors, including social services and the broader food and agricultural economy. Councillor Fulton queried whether involvement in these partnerships aligned with ENC's core role as an economic development agency, noting that such activities appeared to extend into the social services sector. Ms Warwick emphasised that ENC remained focused on its core purpose and strategic objectives. However, collaboration with organisations such as Food Secure North Canterbury had highlighted opportunities to share information and resources. As an example, Food Secure North Canterbury had utilised ENC’s database and mapping of local food producers to assist with planning for emergency food supply in the event of a major disaster. She noted that the relationship was primarily about maintaining awareness of each organisation's activities, identifying areas of mutual benefit, and fostering collaboration where appropriate.

Responding to a further question from Councillor Fulton, Ms Warwick advised that ENC maintained a database containing approximately 5,500 contacts. She emphasised that the database was confidential, not for sale, and not shared with external organisations. ENC was not an advertising agency; rather, its role was to support businesses, and all information provided by businesses was kept secure and confidential. Ms Warwick noted that while the Made North Canterbury directory was publicly accessible and could be used by any organisation to identify local producers, external parties did not have the established relationships with those businesses that ENC had developed over time.

Councillor Fulton commented that recreation was an important driver of economic growth and referred to the value of recreational trails, including cycling, walking, and multi-use trails. He asked whether ENC had undertaken any assessment of the economic value generated by cyclists and other recreational users, including the extent to which they contributed to short- and long-term visitor stays within the district. In response, C Giffard acknowledged the significant value of recreation and active transport users to the Waimakariri District, both in terms of community wellbeing and economic benefit. It was noted that Waimakariri was increasingly gaining recognition for its walking and cycling trails, which were attracting more visitors to the region. C Giffard further advised that recreation trail users contributed positively to local businesses, particularly within the hospitality sector. It was observed that visitors frequently travelled to a destination for a day trip or an overnight stay to experience cycling and walking trails, generating expenditure within the local economy. It was noted that the popularity of cycling and recreational tourism continued to grow, and the benefits were being experienced across the wider region through increased visitation, support for local businesses, and enhanced community outcomes.

Councillor Powell noted that the Waimakariri Access Group was seeking to engage more actively with the business community to improve accessibility. She referred to the concept of the “Purple Pound” in the United Kingdom, which recognised the economic contribution of people with disabilities. She asked whether there had been any recognition or assessment of this market within the Waimakariri District. S Hart acknowledged the importance of accessibility and the economic opportunities associated with creating inclusive environments. He advised that ENC’s role was to encourage businesses to engage with accessibility initiatives and to help connect businesses with organisations such as the Access Group. This included providing advocacy and facilitating information flow to local businesses so they could better understand and meet the needs of people with disabilities. S Hart noted that accessible and inclusive facilities not only improved community outcomes but also enhanced the visitor and customer experience for a wider range of people. He commented that Council welcomed ongoing discussions with the Access Group and supported continued collaboration to improve accessibility outcomes across the district.

Councillor Doody raised the issue of opening the old railway line for cyclists from Cust, Oxford, to Rangiora and asked if ENC was aware of the proposed initiative. H Warwick observed that it would be a remarkable initiative; however, the ENC had not yet been approached by any community members regarding such a project.

Moved: Councillor Bartle Seconded: Councillor Ward

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Receives** report No 260525123304.

(b) **Approves** the Enterprise North Canterbury’s Statement of Intent 2026/27 (Trim 260604130549).

(c) **Approves** the Enterprise North Canterbury’s Annual Business Plan 2026/27 (Trim 60604130559).

(d) **Thanks,** Enterprise North Canterbury Trustees and staff**,** for their continued efforts in supporting businesses and economic development in the Waimakariri District.

(e) **Circulates** this report and attachments to the Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Bartle supported the motion, noting the detailed report and thanking staff for the work being undertaken.

Councillor Ward acknowledged the wide range of responsibilities being delivered by ENC and recognised the challenges of operating as a small team in difficult economic circumstances. She thanked ENC for their ongoing work in promoting the Waimakariri District, supporting local businesses, and pursuing opportunities for economic growth and development.

Councillor Fulton also thanked ENC for its work and acknowledged the challenges of delivering a broad range of services. He expressed appreciation for the organisation's ability to adapt its approach in response to changing circumstances. In particular, the decision was made to modify the delivery of workshops and training programmes where traditional formats were proving less effective, and to develop alternative initiatives, such as the Business Summit, to meet the needs of the business community better. Councillor Fulton commented that this demonstrated ENC’s responsiveness not only to Council but also to the businesses and stakeholders it served.

5.2 **<u>Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust - Statement of Intent for the Year ending 30 June 2027</u>** – C Genet (General Manager Finance and Business Support) and C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation)

C Brown conveyed the apologies received from Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, Chairperson J Hullen, and Manager K Patterson. They had participated in trust meetings relating to the progression of amendments to the Statement of Intent.

C Brown presented the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust's (the Trust) final Statement of Intent (SOI) for the year ending 30 June 2027. One amendment had been identified, relating to the management of sections within the Kaiapoi Regeneration Area. The objective had been expanded to provide greater clarity. He commented that the Trust intended to continue managing the sections while exploring opportunities for leasing arrangements involving temporary or relocatable structures, and the potential sale of sections, subject to special-purpose zoning provisions, the Waimakariri District Plan, natural hazard considerations, and other regulatory requirements. C Brown noted that a report on the removal of encumbrances from Trust- and Council-owned properties had been prepared and would be considered by the Council, providing additional context regarding the special-purpose zoning provisions, associated restrictions, and permissible activities within the area. He advised that the amendment signalled the Trust's interest in both leasing sections for temporary use and considering offers for their sale. It was noted that offers had been received from neighbouring property owners and negotiations were ongoing.

In response to a question from Councillor Doody regarding servicing infrastructure, C Brown advised that sewer, stormwater, and water services were already available within the area. The infrastructure had been installed following the earthquakes and had sufficient capacity to accommodate additional users if required. He further advised that Waimakariri District Plan provisions required occupants to be able to disconnect from services within a specified timeframe in the event of natural hazard risks, reflecting the temporary nature of permitted buildings. It was acknowledged, however, that any increase in occupancy would result in additional risk exposure in the area.

Councillor Fulton expressed concern about approving the SOI in the absence of trust governance representatives or management. He noted that consideration of an SOI was a significant governance responsibility and that it was unusual to undertake this process without representatives present to respond directly to members' questions. Councillor Fulton queried whether consideration of the item could be deferred to enable attendance by governance representatives or management and sought advice on the implications of such a course of action.

Councillor Goldsworthy suggested that an informal meet-and-greet session be arranged with the Trust representatives. C Brown advised that arrangements could be made for Trust representatives to attend a future Council or Community and Recreation Committee meeting to provide a deputation on the Trust's activities and operations. The Council also had discretion regarding when it formally accepted the SOI. While the SOI was generally required to be adopted in June for the following financial year, the Council could decide whether to request the Trust's attendance before making a final decision. C Brown reported that Councillor Powell had recently been appointed to the Trust and had attended only one meeting to date. While she had been present at the meeting at which the proposed amendment to the SOI of Intent was discussed, she was still becoming familiar with the Trust's activities and historical context.

J Millward advised that, as part of the induction process for a new Council, the Trust had extended a standing invitation for elected members to visit the Trust, observe its operations, and gain a better understanding of its activities. He suggested that this could provide a valuable opportunity for Councillors to build their understanding of the Trust, its governance arrangements, and the individuals involved. J Millward noted that there were statutory requirements relating to the approval of the SOI and that Council would need to ensure those obligations were met. Councillor Fulton agreed that the value of engaging with the Trust extended beyond understanding the organisation's formal mechanisms and structures. It was noted that such engagement would provide an opportunity to develop relationships with trustees and management, recognising the collaborative and ongoing relationship between Council and the Trust.

J Millward further advised that discussions had been held with the Chief Executive of Ngāi Tahu, who had indicated that funding for the area was expected to recommence. It was noted that preliminary funding of approximately $60,000 per annum was anticipated, reflecting an ongoing commitment to restoring the area to its natural state. C Brown reiterated that the key amendment in the SOI concerned the change from simply managing the sections to explicitly stating the Trust's intention to explore leasing opportunities, including temporary or relocatable structures permitted under the Waimakariri District Plan, as well as the potential sale of sections.

Mayor Gordon sought an update on the proposed review of the Trust's governance structure, including management functions, and whether consideration was being given to determining where those functions were best housed. C Brown advised that discussions had been held during the 2026/27 Annual Plan process regarding the level of funding allocated to the Trust and the organisation's ongoing operations. Discussions had also taken place with Ngāi Tahu and the Trust regarding governance and operational arrangements, including the Trust's reliance on Council support for matters such as health and safety, human resources, and other operational functions. C Brown further advised that work was underway to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Trust, which was last updated in 2008. The review would clarify the respective responsibilities of Council and Ngāi Tahu in relation to the Trust. Once completed, the revised Memorandum of Understanding would be presented to Council for consideration.

Responding to Mayor Gordon's question regarding approving the SOI of Intent, J Millward noted that the following was required:

- Further information on the long-term viability and financial sustainability of the Trust, including confirmation of ongoing support and funding arrangements from Ngāi Tahu, as well as insurance-related matters, was required. It was recommended that a further report be brought back to Council once written confirmation had been received.
- A review of the current governance and operational structure of the Trust, including consideration of the most appropriate structure to support the Trust's future effectiveness and sustainability.
- Clarification regarding health and safety responsibilities and staff management arrangements between the Trust and Council. It was noted that Council currently provides support services, including human resources, financial administration, and other operational functions. A more formal agreement should be developed to clearly define the services provided by Council and the respective responsibilities of both parties. It was further requested that this work be reported back to Council for consideration.

Councillor Bartle queried whether existing rules governing building sites would adequately address the known risks associated with the sections to be sold. Also, whether the existing drainage, sewer, and water infrastructure had sufficient capacity to support further development. He questioned whether additional infrastructure upgrades or assessments would be required before building consents could be issued. J Millward advised that there was nothing preventing landowners from developing the sections, provided development complied with the relevant planning and consenting requirements. He noted that the necessary infrastructure was already in place and that any future development would be subject to development contributions and the normal resource and building consent processes. J Millward further advised that additional discussions between Council and the Trustees would be required regarding the future development and management of the area.

Councillor Bartle acknowledged the Trust's desire to improve its financial position through the leasing or sale of sections but expressed concern about whether prospective purchasers would fully understand the restrictions, risks, and regulatory requirements associated with the land. He questioned whether the wider public was sufficiently informed about what they would be purchasing and the limitations that would apply. In response, C Brown advised that the Trust was currently working with prospective lessees and purchasers to ensure they understood the relevant requirements. He noted that the Trust was working closely with a real estate agent experienced in explaining the Waimakariri District Plan provisions, natural hazard risks, and the limitations on development in the area. Lease arrangements for sections included conditions that reflected District Plan requirements and, in some instances, imposed additional restrictions. He noted that these lease provisions enabled the Trust to exercise greater control over how the land was used. However, C Brown explained that where sections were sold, the Trust no longer had any control over the land's use. In those circumstances, landowners would be able to undertake any activity permitted under the District Plan and Special Purpose Zone provisions, subject to obtaining the necessary approvals through the relevant consenting processes.

Councillor Ward queried the level of natural hazard risk within Kairaki and asked whether the use of temporary structures would be an appropriate response to those risks. C Brown advised that Council's engineers and planners would provide further information regarding natural hazard risks. He noted that the Waimakariri District Plan had identified Kairaki as an area subject to natural hazard risk and, as a result, a Special Purpose Zone had been established to help manage those risks. The zone included provisions limiting the type and scale of development, with temporary structures as one mechanism for addressing and managing the identified risks.

Councillor Fulton questioned whether, as part of the review of the Trust's operations and governance arrangements identified through the SOI process, the Council could consider providing a broader range of management and support services to the Trust. He suggested that there may be a middle-ground approach whereby Council could provide additional oversight and support in areas such as human resources and financial management, helping to identify and mitigate risks while supporting the Trust in achieving its objectives. C Brown advised that all options would be considered during the review process to ensure the Trust remained independent, operated safely, achieved its intended outcomes, and maintained ongoing compliance with health and safety obligations. He noted that further discussions would be held with the Trustees and the Trust Manager regarding future governance and operational arrangements. The outcomes of those discussions would be reported back to Council, with opportunities for further consideration through briefings and workshops.

Deputy Mayor Redmond raised concerns regarding flood mitigation works and the relationship between the Trust's land and local drainage issues. He noted that Featherston Avenue was susceptible to significant flooding, which could restrict or render access to dwellings unavailable during flood events. Deputy Mayor Redmond queried whether the Trust had considered these issues in relation to any future occupation or development of the land. C Brown advised that the Trust was considering the implications of any proposed temporary structures on the land and that any such development would be required to comply with minimum floor level requirements and other relevant provisions of the Waimakariri District Plan. He confirmed that occupants of the Trust's land would receive the same level of service as other residents within the area. It was further noted that the Trust was undertaking work to enable the land to be leased and that additional investment would be required before this could occur.

Moved: Mayor Gordon Seconded: Councillor Fulton

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Receives** report No 260604130190.

(b) **Approves** the Statement of Intent for Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust for the year ending 30 June 2027 (Trim: 260604130675).

(c) **Thanks** Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trustees and staff for their continued efforts in governing and managing the Trust's activities.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon expressed support for the motion and acknowledged the significant effort undertaken over an extended period by both Council staff and Trust representatives to ensure that the Trust operated safely, that risks were appropriately managed, and that statutory obligations were met. He noted the importance of the Council's role as a settlor of the Trust and the value of the partnership with Ngāi Tahu. Mayor Gordon welcomed the positive progress being made through discussions involving the Chief Executive, Council staff, the Trust, and Ngāi Tahu. He expressed hope that the partnership would continue to strengthen from the perspectives of governance, joint-settlor, and financial sustainability. It was noted that the Council's financial contribution to the Trust was significant and that the Trust's assets also represented a substantial investment.

Mayor Gordon supported the ongoing review of the Trust's governance and operational structure and acknowledged the work being undertaken by staff to ensure it remained effective and fit for purpose. He commented that, where appropriate, Council should continue to provide support services such as human resources, health and safety, and property expertise to ensure the Trust was well supported. It was further noted that Trustees should have access to appropriate advice and processes to enable them to fulfil their governance responsibilities effectively.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the contributions of former Councillor A Blackie and former Chairperson N Atkinson for their long-standing commitment and support to the Trust. Councillor Powell was also acknowledged and thanked for her role as the Council's representative and liaison with the Trust. Mayor Gordon noted that the future sale of land could play an important role in supporting the Trust's long-term financial sustainability. He supported the suggestion that Councillors receive a briefing and undertake a site visit to meet with Trustees and gain a greater understanding of the Trust's work and future direction. The Trustees' efforts to support the community and achieve positive outcomes were acknowledged. The Mayor indicated strong support for both the Statement of Intent and the further review work being undertaken by staff.

Councillor Fulton commented that while governance structures and personnel may change over time, the key consideration was ensuring that the Trust continued to achieve its intended community outcomes and fulfil its purpose, particularly with respect to public spaces and the Trust's underlying objectives. He welcomed the governance review, noting that it had become apparent that the Trust had benefited from Council support in areas such as human resources and financial management and that such support may continue to be required regardless of the future governance model adopted.

Councillor Fulton also noted that improvements to the Trust's cash flow position, including the potential release of funds from land transactions, could help the Trust achieve its intended outcomes. It was acknowledged that a level of service had been maintained to enable people to continue living in the area and that work undertaken by Council staff and Environment Canterbury had provided residents with an appropriate level of security within the current environment. He noted the importance of balancing current needs with future considerations related to natural hazards and climate change, without encouraging inappropriate levels of development.

Councillor Fulton expressed support for accepting the SOI, considered that there were sound grounds for progressing the matter, and looked forward to the outcomes of the governance review. He also supported the opportunity for Councillors to visit the site and gain a better understanding of the work being undertaken by the Trust.

Deputy Mayor Redmond expressed pride in the Trust's work and acknowledged the strong community support for the park and surrounding area. However, he raised concerns regarding the potential sale of sections within the Kairaki area. He noted that Kairaki had been identified and zoned as a high natural hazard area, reflecting the risks associated with flooding and sea level rise. Deputy Mayor Redmond commented that while some residents had chosen to remain in the area, there were differing views on the extent of land subsidence and the potential impacts of future sea-level rise. He further noted that the area was already subject to significant flooding events.

Deputy Mayor Redmond expressed concern that encouraging further residential development through the sale of sections could create longer-term challenges for the Council, particularly if climate change and sea-level rise increased hazard risks and future requirements for managed retreat. He noted that some communities elsewhere were already considering managed retreat options and that future responses to natural hazards could impose high costs on ratepayers across the district. While acknowledging that the sale of sections could provide a short-term benefit to the Trust's cash flow and financial sustainability, Deputy Mayor Redmond emphasised the need to consider the long-term implications carefully. He noted that the District Plan currently provided for temporary uses within the area to manage the identified hazard risks associated with sea-level rise and considered this an appropriate approach.

Deputy Mayor Redmond cautioned against creating future problems or unrealistic expectations for new residents regarding the level of service or protection that could be provided should they purchase sections in the area. He advocated a cautious approach and preferred leasing arrangements to the sale of sections.

Councillor Powell endorsed the earlier comments and suggested that it would be beneficial for Councillors to visit the Trust. She noted that such a visit would provide an opportunity to meet with Trust representatives and the trustees to gain a greater understanding of the Trust's activities, strategic direction, and current priorities. Councillor Powell considered that this would provide valuable background information to assist Council in its future engagement with and oversight of the Trust.

In his right of reply, Mayor Gordon acknowledged that several matters remained to be resolved, including determining appropriate finished floor levels and assessing whether any future development proposals would be sustainable and capable of achieving the Trust's objectives. He noted that the SOI reflected the Trust's aspirations and direction of travel, and that a comprehensive process would still be required to assess whether those aspirations were achievable and financially viable. Mayor Gordon observed that the Trust had been seeking greater clarity and direction regarding the future use of the land for some time and that any proposals would require ongoing collaboration with the Council. Consideration would need to be given to matters such as infrastructure servicing, regulatory requirements, and the practicality of delivering the outcomes sought by the Trust.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the concerns raised by Deputy Mayor Redmond regarding natural hazard risks and the long-term implications of development within the area. He noted that the Trust's aspirations would need to be carefully tested through the appropriate planning and consenting processes to determine whether they could be achieved in practice. Mayor Gordon emphasised that the SOI did not override statutory requirements, including Waimakariri District Plan provisions, resource consent requirements, building consent processes, or other regulatory controls. He noted that further assessment would be required to determine whether the Trust's aspirations were appropriate, achievable, and supportable through the relevant approval processes.

5.3 **Unaudited Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31 December 2025 - Waimakariri Public Arts Trust** – P Christensen (Finance Manager) and M Garrod (Accountant)

P Christensen took the report as read, and there were no questions from elected members.

Moved: Councillor Ward Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260525123506.

(b) **Receives** the unaudited financial statement for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust for the period ended 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

Councillor Ward acknowledged the contributions of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust's trustees and volunteers, noting that they devoted considerable time and effort to supporting and overseeing the Trust's activities. She thanked the trustees and volunteers for their ongoing dedication and service to the community.

5.4 **Unaudited Financial Statements for the Period Ended 30 June 2025 for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust –** P Christensen (Finance Manager) and M Garrod (Accountant)

P Christensen took the report as read, and there were no questions from elected members.

Moved: Councillor Fulton Seconded: Councillor Bartle

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No.260526124674.

(b) **Receives** the unaudited financial statement for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust for the period ended 30 June 2025.

(c) **Approves** seeking exemption from a formal audit under Section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust due to the low turnover, noting that staff will be providing reporting to the Council on its unaudited financial and non-financial performance.

CARRIED

Councillor Fulton expressed support for the motion.

5.5 **Audited Financial Statements for the Period Ended 30 June 2025 – Waimakariri Art Collection Trust** – P Christensen (Finance Manager) and M Garrod (Accountant)

P Christensen spoke to the report, noting that this would be the final financial report presented under the Trust's current operational structure and status. The Trust's arrangements were anticipated, and accordingly, the report represented the conclusion of the current reporting framework.

Councillor Doody questioned what would happen to the 74 pieces of artwork in the Trust's collection following the Trust's disestablishment. J Millward advised that the collection of artworks would be transferred to the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust. He explained that ownership of the collection would vest in the Public Arts Trust, which operated as a separate Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO). J Millward noted that Council effectively exercised control over the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust and, through that relationship, would retain oversight of the collection and its ongoing management.

Councillor Fulton sought clarification on who would be responsible for managing the transition of the artwork collection and ensuring the artworks were appropriately transferred and preserved. Councillor Cairns advised that A Blackie had previously arranged for a comprehensive review and inventory of all artworks held by the Trust. He expressed confidence that appropriate measures had been taken to ensure none of the artworks would be lost or overlooked during the transition.

Mayor Gordon requested that a report be provided to Council confirming that the transfer of the collection was being appropriately managed and that suitable protections and controls were in place for the artwork collection, recognising its value as a community asset built over several years. J Millward advised that the collection had been fully catalogued and that operational responsibility for the artworks sat within the Council. He noted that governance and strategic oversight of public art within the district was provided by the Trustees of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust, who would be responsible for overseeing the collection following its transfer.

Councillor Doody sought clarification regarding responsibility for insuring the artwork collection and ensuring its ongoing security and protection. J Millward confirmed that the collection was covered under Council's insurance arrangements on behalf of the Trust and that appropriate insurance cover was in place.

Moved: Councillor Fulton Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260525123541.

(b) **Receives** the Audited annual report for the Waimakariri Art Collection Trust for the year ended 30 June 2025.

(c) **Notes** this is the final financial year of the Trust's operations, as the Trust is in the process of being disestablished before 30 June 2026.

CARRIED

Councillor Fulton queried whether the transfer of ownership of the art and heritage collections would result in any savings in insurance premiums or related costs. He further noted that there would likely be ongoing public interest in the artwork and heritage collections. He suggested that consideration be given to how the collections could be displayed and made accessible to the community. He raised the possibility of displaying artworks within central civic facilities and other public venues, while ensuring appropriate security, environmental controls, and safe storage arrangements were maintained. Councillor Fulton suggested that a future discussion be held regarding collection management, display opportunities, facilities, and the support required to protect and promote these community assets.

Councillor Doody expressed support for the recommendation. She noted the importance of ensuring that the artwork collection and associated assets remained appropriately managed, protected, and secured under a single governance and regulatory framework. Councillor Doody commented that bringing the collection under the oversight of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust would help clarify responsibility, ensure appropriate stewardship of the assets, and support their ongoing preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

6.1 Audit, Risk, Annual / Long Term Plans – Councillor J Ward

- 2026/27 Annual Plan
  - The 2026/27 Annual Plan adoption meeting was scheduled for 16 June 2026. It was noted that the Annual Plan included an average district-wide rates increase of 4.99%, consistent with the increase forecast in the Council's 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.
  - The Council received 59 submissions on the draft 2026/27 Annual Plan and considered them during deliberations on 26 May 2026. The key amendments arising from the deliberations had been incorporated and summarised within the final Annual Plan documentation.
  - The development of the 2026/27 Annual Plan budget had required a careful balance between maintaining affordability for ratepayers and sustaining the Council's agreed levels of service. Particular consideration had been given to ongoing cost pressures, including inflation and rising fuel prices. No additional budget increases were included in the final Annual Plan to account for higher fuel costs or inflationary pressures.
- 2027–2037 Long Term Plan
  - Work was continuing on the key foundational documents required to support the development of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.
  - The Management Team had recently provided input into the development of the Infrastructure Strategy. Feedback emphasised the importance of retaining the core fundamentals of the strategy while recognising that amendments would be required to reflect the implications of the Local Government (Water Services) Act, 2025. The Management Team also highlighted the need for a stronger focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and value for money in future infrastructure planning and delivery.
  - The Council workshop held on 11 June 2026 regarding the Revenue and Financing Policy provided clear direction on areas requiring further consideration and refinement. The workshop had also confirmed that several aspects of the existing policy remained fit for purpose and should continue to form part of the Council's future funding and financing framework.

6.2 Communications – Councillor S Powell

- Head Start Pathway Consultation
  - Consultation materials had begun arriving in residents' letterboxes.
  - As at 15 June 2026, a total of 414 submissions had been received. Early feedback indicated that many residents identified more strongly with North Canterbury and preferred a North Canterbury-based model over a Christchurch-based arrangement.
  - It was noted that Mayor Gordon's recent interview with Newstalk NZ had been widely circulated within the community. During the interview, the Mayor expressed his preference for a North Canterbury delivery model and discussed matters relating to the Pegasus Golf Course.
- Other Consultations
  - Consultation on the Stock Movement Bylaw was also underway.
  - Staff had been actively involved throughout the consultation period, including attending and facilitating two public drop-in sessions to support community engagement and gather feedback on the proposed bylaw.

- Social Media
  - The "Do You Know" video series continued to be popular with the community. However, it was noted that engagement with social media posts was influenced more by timing and subject matter than by format.
  - A future "Do You Know" video was proposed to explain how the Council considers and responds to public feedback and submissions, intending to improve public understanding of Council decision-making processes.
  - Recent high-performing content included updates regarding the Pegasus Golf Course sale, which reached approximately 77,000 people, a bedding plant giveaway post which reached approximately 37,000 people, wind warning updates which reached approximately 36,000 people, and a post relating to a particularly unusual-looking dog that had been picked up, which reached approximately 31,000 people.
  - It was also noted that the King's Birthday video, which had been reused from the previous year, generated a range of community responses. Some members of the public had queried the cost of producing the video, despite it being a repeat of an existing production.
- Media Queries
  - The team continued to manage a significant volume of enquiries from the public.
  - As at 15 June 2026, a total of 44 enquiries had been received during the month. This followed a particularly busy period in the previous month, during which more than 70 enquiries were recorded.
- Website
  - Work was underway to review the Council website and explore opportunities to utilise emerging artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to improve the search functionality and overall usefulness of website content.
  - It was noted that online search behaviours were changing, with many residents increasingly seeking information directly through AI-powered language models rather than traditional search engines or by navigating website pages. As a result, consideration was being given to how the Council content could be structured, presented, and maintained to ensure it remained accessible, discoverable, and useful across these evolving digital platforms.
  - The review would examine opportunities to enhance the user experience, improve content discoverability, and ensure residents could more easily access accurate and relevant Council information through both traditional website searches and AI-assisted tools.

6.3 **Customer Services – Councillor W Doody**

- The Customer Services Team continued to be heavily involved in the implementation of the Datascape system.
- Following the successful go-live of the Dog Registration Module on 25 May 2026, the annual dog registration process commenced in Datascape for the first time.
- Staff remained focused on system testing, validation, and ensuring operational readiness for the commencement of the new financial year.
- Reminder notices for multiple-dwelling rates remissions were issued during May to all ratepayers who had previously received the remission.
- The number of Land Information Memorandum (LIM) applications had reduced slightly as winter approached, which was noted as typical for this time of year. Despite the seasonal decline, LIM application numbers were expected to exceed those recorded in the previous year.

- Rating staff continued to support the ongoing rating review, including developing and assessing options for kerbside collection rates in collaboration with the Solid Waste Team.
- A final reminder regarding rates rebate applications was publicly advertised ahead of the 30 June 2026 closing date. It was noted that there was no discretion available to accept late applications after the closing date. Applications continued to be received, with a total of 273 applications, ahead of the previous year. The total value of rates rebates issued during the year exceeded $2.5 million.
- A review was being undertaken regarding the acceptance of large cash payments. Proposed changes included establishing limits on the amount of cash that could be accepted without managerial approval and introducing enhanced documentation requirements to record details of significant cash transactions.
- Quotable Value (QV) continued to process objections relating to the 2025 rating revaluation, with decisions having been issued on the majority of objections received.
- The team remained busy with year-end and new financial year processes, alongside the ongoing implementation of Datascape. A number of annual operational and compliance tasks were required both before and after the financial year rollover.
- Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) was consulting on proposed amendments to the Rating Valuations Regulations and Rating Valuations Rules. The proposed changes would provide the Office of the Valuer-General with greater oversight of the Notice of Property Sale process and introduce offences for non-compliance. The amendments were intended to improve the quality and accuracy of valuation data supplied to councils and support more accurate rating valuations.

6.4 Procurement (Efficiencies and Savings) – Councillor T Bartle

- The procurement portfolio continued to make steady progress, with an ongoing focus on providing procurement support, guidance, and education across the organisation to strengthen procurement practices and capability.
- The Council continued to adopt additional All-of-Government contracts where appropriate. The most recent contract entered into related to waste collection services at Council facilities and premises. Officers noted that this arrangement did not include kerbside waste collection services provided to residents.
- Work had commenced on preparing a Request for Information (RFI) for Council's future procurement platform. The purpose of the RFI was to test market capability and identify suitable options ahead of a proposed procurement process for a new contract commencing on 1 July 2027.
- There remained a strong organisational focus on identifying and achieving cost savings and efficiencies. Examples of recent savings initiatives had been presented to Council as part of the Annual Plan deliberations, with staff continuing to explore opportunities to deliver value for money while maintaining service levels.

7. QUESTIONS

Nil.

8. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

9. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it was moved:

Moved: Councillor McLaren   Seconded: Councillor Ward

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

Item 9.1 Approval of Rates Remission in Miscellaneous Circumstances

Item 9.2 Approval of Rates Remission in Miscellaneous Circumstances

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public was excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution were as follows:

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
REPORTS			
9.1	Approval of Rates Remission in Miscellaneous Circumstances	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons **LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (a).**
9.2	Approval of Rates Remission in Miscellaneous Circumstances	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons **LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (a).**

CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING

The public excluded portion of the meeting ran from 10.32am to 10.45am.

OPEN MEETING

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 9am, to be held in the Council Chamber at the Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10.48 AM.

CONFIRMED

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Chairperson

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Date