HEART OF THE CITY
Annual General Meeting

20 October 2025
Time: 5.30pm for a 5:45pm start
Venue: Great Barrier Room, Mövenpick Hotel Auckland
8 Customs Street, Auckland city centre

Minutes

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1. Chairman Martin Snedden declared the meeting open at 5:52 pm.

2. **Apologies**

The following apologies had been received prior to the meeting:

- Chand Sahrawat
- Callum Mallett

No further apologies were received at the meeting.

Confirmed that a quorum was present.

Moved: Richard Hanson
Seconded: Brett Sweetman
CARRIED

3. **Confirmation of the Chair's Report, Executive Summary and Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Resolved that: the minutes from the AGM held on 22 October 2024 and documents be approved.

Moved: Richard Hanson
Seconded: Brett Sweetman
CARRIED

4. **Chair's Report**

Martin Snedden opened the 2025 AGM by thanking attendees and announcing his resignation after nine years as Chair. He reflected on his tenure, noting many challenges faced by the city centre. Despite these challenges, Martin expressed optimism about the future, citing the upcoming City Rail Link (CRL) and NZ International Convention Centre (NZICC) as key developments.

He highlighted the year's focus on delivering value to members and acknowledged advocacy efforts led by Viv Beck, which have led to positive outcomes. Martin concluded by thanking the Chief Executive and team and the Executive Committee for their dedication.

5. Treasurer's Report

Joel Gauntlett spoke to the meeting regarding the Financial Statements for the year ending 30th June 2025.

Resolved that: the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 be approved.

Moved: Richard Hanson
Seconded: Brett Sweetman
CARRIED

6. Appointment of Auditor

RSMNZ now resides within Heart of the City's boundary, making them ineligible for reappointment in accordance with Requirement 14 in the Auckland Council BID policy. This has resulted in a casual vacancy, and due to recent notice and time constraints, no motion was passed to appoint or reappoint auditors.

In accordance with section 18.4 of the Constitution, the Executive Committee holds the authority to appoint an auditor in such circumstances. The Committee will therefore appoint an auditor at a later date to conduct an audit on the 2025/2026 financial accounts.

7. 2026/2027 Draft Business Plan

Viv Beck acknowledged a decade of disruption in Auckland's city centre and emphasised the importance of achieving a vibrant, safe and accessible international city with major developments like the NZICC and CRL set to open in 2026.

The draft 2026/2027 Plan assumes that significant progress has been made on key barriers to visiting the city centre in order to capitalise on opportunities so city centre businesses can grow and thrive. HOTC is advocating to central and local government to ensure this is the case, noting the release of a business survey which articulated key concerns.

Viv emphasised that business feedback has already driven positive changes and reaffirmed that 2026 must serve as a pivotal year for the city centre's transformation.

It is vital that all avenues for stimulus and growth are progressed and Viv outlined two key goals in the draft Plan for 2026/2027:

Facilitate Growth: attract more people and investment to the city centre.
Create a Vibrant Place: to do business and invest.

Members and the Executive Committee engaged in a discussion regarding safety, leveraging the NZICC and CRL opening, and action expected from the recent survey.

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Resolved that: the draft 2026/2027 business plan be approved.

Moved: Brett Sweetman
Seconded: Richard Hanson
CARRIED

8. Special Resolutions

8.1. Draft budget for the 2026/2027 financial year

BID Funding

Martin notified members that a Special Resolution is required to approve the 2026/2027 draft budget, because the BID Targeted Rate is being increased by more than 10% or $10,000.

Viv spoke to the proposed 2% increase to the 2025/2026 Heart of the City Targeted Rate for the purpose of delivering marketing initiatives to drive growth in the 2026/2027 year.

Resolved that: the following financial year **2026/2027** draft budget which includes a BID targeted rate grant amount of **$5,224,623** including a **2%** increase or **$102,443** to the BID targeted rate grant of the 2025/2026 financial year. Further, we ask that the **Waitemata Local Board** recommend to the Governing Body the amount of **$5,224,623** be included in the Auckland Council draft **2026/2027** annual budget consultation process.

Moved: Brett Sweetman
Seconded: Richard Hanson
CARRIED

8.2. Re-registration as an Incorporated Society

Martin noted that following the approval of the new Constitution at the 2024 AGM, Heart of the City will proceed with re-registering as an Incorporated Society ahead of the April 2026 deadline.

Resolved that: Heart of the City re-registers as an Incorporated Society, under the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act.

Moved: Brett Sweetman
Seconded: Richard Hanson
CARRIED

9. Retiring Executive Committee Members

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As contained in Rule 14.5 of HOTC's Constitution, the following Board Members will remain on the Heart of the City Executive Committee as their third anniversary date has not been reached:

- Brett Sweetman
- Chand Sahrawat
- Andrew Stringer

At each Annual General Meeting at least 3 of the Executive Committee members shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election at that meeting. The following Executive Committee members retired as they had reached the end of their three-year term:

- Paddy Stafford-Bush
- Chamanthie Sinhalage-Fonseka
- Richard Hanson

Resignations were also received from the following Executive Committee members:

- Martin Snedden
- Matthew Cockram
- Nirupa George

Martin extended sincere thanks to departing Executive Members Matthew Cockram, Nirupa George, and Paddy Stafford-Bush for their contributions to Heart of the City, noting Paddy's 14 years of dedicated service.

10. <u>Election of Executive Committee Members</u>

Richard Hanson and Chamanthie Sinhalage-Fonseka stood for re-election, and additional nominations were received by the due date from the following members.

- Callum Mallet
- Les Morgan
- Malcolm McCracken

As there were sufficient vacancies on the Executive Committee, these nominees were automatically elected.

Two nominations were received from the floor for the following members.

- Dr. John Peebles
- Joe Tattersfield

As there were two additional vacancies on the Executive Committee, these nominees were elected. Dr. John Peebles and Joe Tattersfield introduced themselves to members.

Resolved that: Richard Hanson and Chamanthie Sinhalage-Fonseka be re-elected, and that the nominees listed above be declared elected to the Executive Committee, for a three-year term ending at the conclusion of the 2028 AGM.

Moved: Andrew Stringer
Seconded: Brett Sweetman
CARRIED

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11. Chief Executive's Report

Viv Beck presented an overview of HOTC's work during the reporting year, the second in the three-year Strategic Plan (2023–2026).

She also gave an update on the current year (2025/2026), which is guided by two key goals:

1. **Facilitate Growth** – attract more people and investment to the city centre; and
2. **Create a Vibrant Place** – to do business, invest, work, visit, live and study

Viv highlighted progress in key areas, including marketing, events and the new giant Christmas Tree; increased police presence and commitment to a permanent police station; and ongoing advocacy across multiple topics to achieve strategic outcomes. With the completion of major developments approaching, she stressed urgency to ensure the city centre is ready.

Viv acknowledged the Chair and Executive Committee for their support, and thanked the HOTC team, businesses, and partners. Special recognition was given to Martin for his leadership through a challenging period, and to Paddy and Matthew for their contributions. Viv also welcomed a strong new lineup of people joining the Executive Committee and expressed optimism about the future.

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12. General Business

Martin opened the floor for general business and no general matters were raised.

13. Close

Meeting was declared closed at 7:10pm.