

Analysis of Qualitative Feedback

Purpose

The purpose of this analysis is to aid decision making by bringing comments on the same topic together so that the depth and breadth of sentiment can be more easily determined.

Data

| Feedback Received | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Type | Dates | Number |
| Online (Bang the Table) | 8 May -22 May 2020 | 154 of 164 respondents left at least one comment or upload a document |
| Email or post | 26 Feb – 22 May 2020 | 46 letters of feedback: 18 from individuals and 28 from organisations |

Method

Respondents' comments to each question have been grouped either by theme (topic) or by how they responded to the corresponding scale/tick box question.

Each bullet point represents one response – one individual or organisation

It is not possible to add comments about a topic up as one person may have added similar comment several times so this would add an unfair emphasis to an issue or topic

Spelling and grammar errors are corrected where they don't change the meaning of the comment – this is done as such errors can distract the reader from the content

A single respondents comment may be split across topics within that question's analysis – this allows us to accurately determine how many respondents mentioned x or y.

Words written entirely in caps or multiple punctuation marks in succession are removed. These are commonly known as 'shouting' and draw attention to a particular comment or response.

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Overall Approach

| Comments in response to the question why people agree or disagree with the overall approach taken by Council for the Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Overall Approach | | | | | | |
| Response | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Did not select an option |
| # of responses | 27 | 71 | 21 | 24 | 20 | |
| # of comments | 26 | 51 | 12 | 24 | 16 | 6 |

Strongly Disagree

- All the lower income suburbs are being hammered with a big increase, all the places that can least afford it with lower income families
- Because it's not clearly articulated what you are doing. You are running a deliberate deficit knowing that you will need to claw this back in the future. You're delaying the inevitable and at a higher cost.
- Budget includes operational costs for projects which have not performed as per optimistic forecasts e.g. Community Facilities. There are projects which are included which are not vital for the City given the current economic times e.g. Cycle trails. Budget includes items which the HCC is committing the ratepayer to up to \$100million in costs e.g. Riverlink. It also includes costs for social projects which are the responsibility of Central Government (and which the Central Government has recently committed substantial funds too). Also Local Government funding is very baffling which is why there is a low turnout at local elections-refer the legal opinion re rate increases.
- Council should be focused on reducing costs and matching rate increases to inflation. Are we really getting good value by having our 3 waters assets controlled by Wellington Water? Or are we just funding a huge ineffective bureaucracy?
- Do not agree with the rate increase for Naenae pool. Proper consultation of all rate payers needs to be done and everyone made aware of the full costs and options. Naenae pool is not an emergency project. I provided this in my feedback for the "consultation" that was done but councillors and council staff are ignoring or are only including feedback that supports the pool.
- Hutt City council has been invisible during the Covid 19 Lockdown excepting for a one page flyer in our Letterbox. A show of very poor leadership in such a time. Well now is the time to step up Council. My minimum expectation as a rate payer both on a residential property and a small business owner is a zero rates increase i.e. a rates freeze. After year on year larger and more expansive services being covered by the local council now is the time to settle down to core activities and service your community as you should with good Leadership. A zero rates increase is the minimum I will accept. The Hutt News article saying the council were doing well by halving what was originally proposed was some of the worst virtue signalling I have seen in a long time. Please remember Covid-19 is a once in a century event and act accordingly.
- In these times of uncertainty it is prudent to be fiscally responsible.
- Instead of deciding to pause 1-2 large project; you've cut all essential services that rate payers depend on and value. Why have you not considered pausing 1-2 of the big projects while we ascertain if we may want to change priorities as we respond and recover from Covid? This is very

unclear, and the daily services and projects that the Council has already committed too are now going to suffer.

- It is totally unacceptable to propose any increase in rates when it is estimated a 20% reduction in GDP for the year with corresponding reduction in incomes and employment
- It should be a zero rates increase.
- It's the wrong time to be doing this pre covid-19 it was still far-fetched and seems to be a mayor pushing ahead with his own agenda has cvl even been debated by the public recently.
- The 3.8 added to the increased RV's will have a negative effect on many households following Covid
- There has not been enough time for community consultation. Because of the current times re-Covid, I think that many people are in a lot of financial pressures with job losses & redundancies. Given that the Naenae Pool is not "shovel ready", if this were to be postponed for a year, then this will significantly reduce the rates increase and alleviate any extra financial burden. Also with the huge increase in CV's for Wainuiomata, this means that I as well as other residents in a lower socioeconomic area, will be hugely affected. I do not agree with the proposed 3.8% rates increase.
- This has been an extraordinary year. Unforeseen circumstances have absolutely devastated the social fabric and the economy. It is time to pull back on the nice to have projects, especially the river link project (which I have previously supported) for a year or two until the economy and life in general has returned to normal. Revert to the basic core services to reduce costs and the resultant impact on all residents.
- Too many job losses and a massive increase in people on the benefit any increase in rates increases the hardship and poverty we are going to face in the coming years
- Zero rates freeze Covid

Disagree

- All rates need to be frozen or reduced. Spending 1.5 million on Naenae pool prep work should be on hold. Everything else is as it needs to be, but really at the moment the council needs to be getting the infrastructure projects up to scratch without increasing residential rates. There needs to be cost savings made in other areas.
- Because it includes a rates increase.
- Business rates should be increased. The 9 million dollars for the Naenae Shopping centre should be redirected to the Naenae pool. No need for IT investment particularly 10 million dollars while the City is struggling; a nice to have. Yes to a Rates rise but should be spread over those suburbs than can afford it i.e. No residential rates increase for Stokes, Wainui and Naenae.
- Cancel major projects that are unaffordable. RiverLink and the Naenae pool for example. Stop any more drilling or tapping into the Waiwhetu aquifer as it is already damaged in some way.
- Due to Corona Virus, all businesses and residents suffer serious financial damage and worse daily life living. The council should put a stop in the rates increase and not adding additional financial burdens to all suffered people.
- Firstly I support the Property Council submission in its entirety. Secondly, I don't see a rational justification for a rating differential between residential and business at all. The basis of any differences in charging should be based solely upon the level of services received by each rating category. I have not seen a cost benefit analysis completed between these two categories. Now,

more than ever businesses are really struggling and this differential should continue to be reversed.

- Given the ongoing pain likely for ratepayers over the coming 12 months a 3.8% rates increase is still high.
- I believe rates increase should stay as proposed and get our city up and running the way it's planned, not cut the rates increase in half and have the tax payers suffer through a half pie city for the next few years.
- I believe we are putting off the inevitable pain that is going to happen.
- I find it problematic that the Naenae Pool is such a priority. There either needs to be real and genuine communications to the whole Hutt region as to how this pool adds value to our rates or a serious reconsideration. Or, I would be suggesting that instead of reducing community engagement, works on roads and parks (which are all regional and benefit all rate payers) and keep things going, that prep work for Naenae pool is on hold.
- I fully agree with proposals for network infrastructures to assist with our expanding community but I am dead set against money being wasted on climate change and homelessness which is a national government issue not a local authority and why are we wasting money on Naenae pool when all you have to do is knock the roof off to make it seismically safe (Wainui and Eastbourne seem to manage without roofs)
- I realise people are struggling however if we are only investing in the bare basics how is that going to stimulate growth in Lower Hutt.
- I think there should be not rates rise this year.
- I think you need to increase rates more to fund the sorts of upgrades the council needs. Also why are you still working on a homelessness strategy? It's been years you've been working on a strategy for that now what's gone wrong?
- I understand the need to get new projects underway including Naenae Pool and the Wainuiomata wastewater renewal; however I think further cost cutting needs to be done to prevent a rates increase. Further decreases in funding for staffing and operational costs could be used as they are elsewhere in the current pandemic. Perhaps council needs to consider the number of staff earning over say \$100k and how they can reduce those numbers/offer them reduced salaries for the year ahead to retain their roles. Your information shows almost 11% of our rates go to libraries and community hubs - I feel that is too high compared to other expenditure considering not all ratepayers use those facilities, and perhaps more sustainable user pays models could be used for those services. My partner and I purchased our first home in Wainuiomata last year. The average rates increase is misleading as our RV increased quite a lot when we bought the house - for us the increase is \$8.71 a week under option 1. We both work hard and earn average salaries, with enough to cover the bills and save a little, but due to COVID-19 our income has been reduced, the future is uncertain, and we have to stretch our income to cover bills and save every spare cent until the future of our jobs is known. Any increase in costs will be challenging for us and many other households right now, and I therefore feel there should be no rise in rates this year to help households get by. Cost savings need to be made elsewhere to get any truly critical projects underway.
- I would still like to see the recycling reforms progress. I also wonder whether there are any additional savings that could be found from an operational perspective which would allow the recycling initiatives to continue within the same funding envelope.

- It will just offset the cost to 'later on' when it could be much harder and more expensive.
- My concerns are the rate reduction, what we don't invest in now, we will lose in the future. With options from the council to assist those who may struggle with their rates we need to keep moving forward. What costs \$100 today will be \$200 next time it is looked at.
- Savings claimed are minimal. I note you are still spending on vanity projects like Riverlink. I agree with the need to spend on water infrastructure. 3.8% is still double CPI. The original proposed 7.X percent just shows that council have little regard for ratepayer's money. In any business where funding came from people with a choice these sort of increases would not be acceptable.
- Some of your allocation into what you are spending the money on, in my opinion is a bit off. Services which every resident uses should have the higher \$\$ allocated e.g. like water, sewage, rubbish removal and recycling - you have got some of this right, however, I can't believe that almost 10% of my rates are going to Parks - it is nice to have a pretty garden, but how essential is this in today's climate when we are all struggling.
- Still a rates increase and we should ways of no increase
- The council is favouring rebuilding Naenae pool.
- To grow the economy, the Council also needs to invest in its people, especially those paid the least, by paying them a pay increase and paying the 2020 Living Wage rate. If they do not they are asking their staff to accept the burden of the community.
- Under the current economic climate due to Covid 19, expenditure should be scaled back

Neutral

- Happy with the proposal
- I am primarily concerned with the quantum of rates we are paying - whilst a 3.8 % increase may seem small to council for us it is significant
- I appreciate rates not being raised, they are a lot as it is. I also appreciate the Naenae hub and pool getting some love.
- I just wanted to give feedback regarding the Eastbourne Shared Path but a cross valley road would be good as would all the infrastructure projects the government will pay for. Why should Auckland get all the funding?
- I like what I've read it was a bit to read. I found interesting reading of where the money goes. Agree with the spend on water infrastructure, RiverLink & wastewater. I'm still unsure about the Naenae Pool project, the Naenae Pool will bring people into Naenae. But the Naenae Shopping Centre has lost its spark from what it was many years ago. They had a New World, Banks, more than one butcher etc. it was a thriving shopping centre. Now it's 'Doom and Gloom', even when the Naenae Pool was operating. Put on hold reassess next financial year.
- Support the 3 Water investment - but would prefer more \$ to support a modern thriving city as described in the engagement document. I think the review of the rubbish and recycling should remain as it is a citywide issue that impacts on climate change outcomes. Not sure logic of including \$200k for 'climate change community engagement' but cutting the 'community engagement' budget. Although in saying that I agree generally with the reallocation of the engagement budget. Agree the Naenae Pool preparatory work is essential and am pleased to hear this is proposed to move forward as it supports a number of outcomes the Council seeks. And will contribute to a successful recovery plan.
- This plan is not reflecting the climate change emergency declaration. Yes, we have significant financial pressure, however we need to start making the changes now, not leaving them till the

next long-term plan. We need to be reducing our emissions by 50% by 2030 at the minimum, and this should be our underlying value behind any decisions that council is making including this annual plan. This plan doesn't appear to acknowledge the rapidly approaching and significantly more impactful effect of climate change. While the increase in the rates may seem like a fair compromise, it is still ignoring a much greater issue (as was the higher/original level of spending).

- We favour option 2.
- Whereas I agree on the whole I strongly disagree with cutting costs for library and engagement whilst providing a separate article for Climate Change engagement.
- While it is good the council is making savings where they can. Wainuiomata is going to face the biggest increase in rates and there doesn't seem to be any value for Wainuiomata. While the shared walkway has been awesome - there needs to be more investment in Wainui if rates are going to go up so much,
- While the reduction of the increase is welcome, there should be a zero increase in rates for the next year.
- Whilst looking to boost its own revenue, the Council MUST accept that the next 18-24 months will be financially hard for the majority of people within the city's boundaries. Any rates increase can't be justified when your city's people are struggling, whilst coping personally and financially.

Agree

- Agree that with covid19 many people are experiencing financial hardship so reduced rate increase is welcome but also recognise the need to maintain essential services, particularly the three waters.
- Agree, but feel it could further prioritise essential infrastructure spending until we can see what NZ looks like in the next few months.
- Appears to be a good balance in the current environment
- Cause we are in an emergency
- Given the circumstances, I think you've developed a solid plan. Obviously I'd love to see the Naenae pool progressed, but at least there's a budget for some prep work, and hopefully we get some central funding for it.
- Glad to see Naenae Pool remains on the list - crucial for restoring that community.
- Glad to see that Council has half its intended rate increase, and prioritised essential work.
- Good projects to continue on with
- I agree that in these difficult times there needs to be sensible and financial-sound reset of priorities. At the same time putting things on hold for Covid-19 is not something I fully agree with because: Having to deal with crisis is the new normal; be it Covid, housing crisis, climate crisis, traffic crisis, earthquake, regular 'one in a lifetime' weather events, or infrastructure challenges. We are in a sustainability crisis that will only get worse. The Council needs to be able to both focus on immediate actions including fixing things that are a safety issue, and in parallel do the longer term investments in a sustainable future. Financial and political decisions must be balanced with the greater good and the world that we leave for our tamariki. The council needs to be innovative rather than stay with its old conservative approach. More than ever before it now has the leadership and people to do it. Be smart, be innovative.
- I agree that the current circumstances warrant this cautious approach, but I am concerned about the deficit situation in the longer term.

- I agree with it but please do not let the wage freeze affect council workers on the lowest wages. The council must not go back on its commitment to pay their workers the living wage.
- I am concerned about the lack of investment in our basics over a number of years. I want to commend this council for them taking on these issues. Personally I don't think this budget goes far enough in that investment but completely understand the changing world with covid-19.
- I am happy the basics are being prioritised. My only issues are that due to Covid-19, central Govt. seems to be more committed to the homeless, therefore does the Council need to commit as much funding as previously required? Secondly I would like to see more money spent on organisations that provide grass roots engagement with our tamariki and rangatahi. The Billy Graham Youth Foundation; Naenae Boxing Academy's priorities are the same as Maslows Hierararchy of Needs: Safety, Friendship, Hope and Independence. At the bottom of Maslow's pyramid is air, water, shelter etc. If we are spending money on water and climate change priorities then great. The next priority for us is whether each young person is feeling safe, has friends, has hope and has every opportunity to be independent. Any community organisation that can provide these basics for our young people needs to have funding prioritised to them.
- I believe in the current circumstances it is a fiscally and socially balanced approach.
- I believe that all areas have been covered.
- I do think it is an option to go backwards and a zero rates increase would incur cuts to much needed work or services so whilst I know this plan will cause hardship, other than redirecting the money set aside for Naenae pool project, I would have to choose the 3.8% increase.
- I generally agree with the overall approach, however I stress that Council needs to stop spending money on new projects, and need to concentrate on maintenance and infrastructure. I disagree with the \$5.4M proposed for Riverlink project. I agree to the costs for Council for the Melling interchange and flood protection, but Council really needs to think about a pedestrian bridge and "boulevard". I accept that they may believe that a boulevard will rejuvenate the CBD, but this is not the case. The retail is struggling because of Queensgate and online shopping. Creating a "destination" alongside the river will not increase retail. If people actually do visit, then all it will do is bring cars when we are losing the riverbank carpark. If the economic consultants who have estimated increased economy from Riverlink, then they should pay for it when in 2 years' time it has not made a difference.
- I think the council could be a little more ambitious with some of its objectives and have the courage to use increased borrowing at this time of very low interest rates, to progress more of the projects that are required for building a vibrant city with modern infrastructure. Residents and businesses need the city to be able support a community that provides for everyone in the Hutt as we try to recover from the covid19 event.
- I think you're trying to do the best you can by ratepayers. I don't think the Naenae pool is as important as it's made to be in the plan.
- I would like rates to be lower but I don't agree with delaying the projects council wants to do. I can live with 4%
- Infrastructure, transport plan and housing
- Interest rates are low so borrowing to advance Hutt City should not be discounted. If we want to make Hutt City a better place to work, rest and play then we need to invest in initiatives to make it just that. Doing nothing or minimal isn't an option. We still need to get stuff done and move with the times.

- Is the right balance of addressing the three waters infrastructure. Problems have to be fixed. The 3.8% increase is the right move - you can't be forced into corner where there is no money for anything.
- It is appropriate to review and adjust planned spending based on certain events like Covid-19, natural disasters etc.
- It is entirely necessary and appropriate, given the current context.
- It is prudent to have a low rates revenue increase due to Covid19. It is essential though that the essential services are maintained. Moving forward on key work will need to have community input as to priority.
- It is vital that our people and businesses are spared any unnecessary expenditure and helped to cope as much as possible. However the "3 waters" is important and so is the flood protection work on the river. I am concerned that there doesn't seem to be protection for the lowest paid workers who may suffer from retrenchment or not get the rise to the Living Wage due on September 1
- It seems we are gaining more rates for the city with little extra cost to ratepayers, also addressing infrastructure needs
- It's a pragmatic response to the situation we find ourselves in. Without Covid-19, I would've supported a modified original proposal, but needs must.
- It's important that issues concerning the three waters repairs and renewals, homelessness and the Naenae pool are addressed
- Need to see what's going on.
- Overall the plan is understandable, however when the focus is on essentials the \$ value put aside just for preparation work for the Naenae pool makes no sense at all. There are other services that would better serve the greater community
- Please Naenae pool
- Pragmatic response to Covid-19.
- Recovery from Covid-19 is uncertain, as a household we can't over commit and nor can the Council
- Seems a practical approach
- Seems balanced and thoughtfully set out with regards to all services needed
- Seems practical, essentially limits rates increase, and addresses the most important areas.
- Seems sensible, good to have Naenae Pool progress. Concerned about wage freezes - ok for those on higher incomes but could put those on lower incomes below the living wage - we shouldn't go back to poverty wages.
- Sensible approach, well communicated
- The overall response council outlines makes sense to me to
- The rates increase reflects the house prices; we can't have both low rates and high house prices. Rates have not gone up in a long time so I guess it was a necessary evil.
- There seems to be a good balance of funding and priorities. Water and infrastructure are essential foundations of a healthy and functioning city.
- Times are uncertain - I agree this approach will be successful considering all that is occurring around us.
- We are in challenging times. HCC has to focus on the basic services - water, waste water, sewerage, roading, electricity, rubbish collection and recycling.

- We generally support the overall approach as outlined in 'Setting the scene'. We agree that the suggested increase in rates is an appropriate balance. We do have a concern however that projects which are needed to prevent further deterioration e.g. three waters infrastructure, and to cement in changes to transportation mode shift evident during lockdown e.g. cycleways and cycle lanes should be expedited, not deferred. For the latter we cite the example of the UK amendment to the Traffic Management Act 2004 requiring the immediate implementation of pedestrian and cycle friendly change at the expense of vehicular traffic. We consider an increase in financing level is appropriate in these circumstances noting the intergenerational benefits accruing.
- We need to keep moving forward with major projects
- Without sustained or increased investment, our sector and communities will suffer, and that will create significant consequences for New Zealanders into the future, resulting in much wider issues for us all to manage. We need to consider the impact to the physical activity (play, active recreation and sport) system as we work redefining strategy, re-evaluating priorities and grappling with funding pressures. We must be considerate of situations where 'belt-tightening' lowers the level or amount of service delivery and plan to mitigate against the impact of this. We must continue to prioritise the provision of well-maintained infrastructure, facilities and open spaces that provide equitable access for physical activity. Sport and recreation contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, with the sector employing more than 53,000 New Zealanders. The downstream benefits of sport and recreation on our society extend beyond the numbers, to explain who we are as a nation, our tenacity, our spirit and at times like this, our courage. Without sustained or increased investment, our sector and communities will suffer, and that will create significant consequences for New Zealanders into the future, resulting in much wider issues for us all to manage. We need to consider the impact to the physical activity (play, active recreation and sport) system as we work redefining strategy, re-evaluating priorities and grappling with funding pressures. We must be considerate of situations where 'belt-tightening' lowers the level or amount of service delivery and plan to mitigate against the impact of this. Sport and recreation contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, with the sector employing more than 53,000 New Zealanders. The downstream benefits of sport and recreation on our society extend beyond the numbers, to explain who we are as a nation, our tenacity, our spirit and at times like this, our courage. Failure to continue to invest in our city now will be felt further down the road. This budget is balanced and generally considerate.
- We endorse the proposed rates rise and approach taken by council at this time to get through this period of economic and social uncertainty.
- E tū supports the direction the Council has set out in its Draft Annual Plan with the exception of its publicly announced wage freeze, if it has the effect of punishing the lowest paid staff and halting the Council commitment to the living wage.
- Given the need for improving water infrastructure and continuing other services we agree that a 3.8% rates increase (as expected in the current Long Term Plan) is an appropriate way forward at the moment. A nil or lower rates increase would work against the city functioning in an ongoing necessary and useful way.

Strongly agree

- A lot of people are going to be struggling so it makes sense for Council to return to their core business of what being a council is about, rather than focusing on all the nice to haves.

- Best of difficult situation
- Council is doing the best they can given the current situation, fully support.
- Good idea
- Happy with what's happening
- Hutt City needs to rebalance our budget for future growth, and to provide the vital services we need
- I agree with prioritising the short term. I also strongly agree with progressing the essential work on preparing for a rebuild of Naenae pool.
- I am pleased that the Council is looking at how it can support the businesses and residents in this very difficult time as we recover from Covid-19. However, some things are priorities and need to continue and I agree with the council's ideas.
- I believe these short term measures will pave a path for economic recovery, and we must do all we can in these difficult times
- I can see the council is doing its best to find a good balance between rates and savings.
- I think council is doing an excellent job.
- It is a good plan for 12 months only.
- It is obviously necessary to adjust to the new situation due to the pandemic. Your approach seems sensible.
- We support the rates rise
- It's fair and logical across the board for Lower Hutt.
- Many ratepayers have been hard hit financially and are having to prune their own budgets and only spend on necessities. Council should do the same.
- Overall I am very pleased with the plan. The amount of remedial work necessary to be done to improve the quality and resilience of our community facilities and infrastructure is my main concern. My understanding is that water supply infrastructure is aged to the point of regular failure in the network. This must be remedied and investment is required. Having E.coli in the water supply, necessitating the addition of chlorine to our drinking water is a particular concern. Furthermore investment by ratepayers in the building of facilities like Naenae Pool will serve as a source of employment during the economic downturn following COVID19 and will help keep our community afloat in a tough time. I would add that it is incredibly important for the Council and the Mayor to bring the government of the day on board in partnership to deliver of projects worthy of investment. With a clear desire to work with Councils across the country on shovel ready projects it is critical that our City is at the top of the priority list for Central Government funding.
- Strikes a good balance between rate increase and ability to provide services
- The discussions the Trust has had with the Mayor and senior leadership team have provided us with the knowledge that the Council is responding as best it can given the implications of Covid19.
- Think it's important to continue with plans such as Naenae pool
- Very prudent given the new horizon that we are entering
- Very upfront with your communication and quick to act, brilliant
- Well done on changing so quickly to respond to Covid and taking a pragmatic approach to the coming year.

- You have found a good balance between investment needed & Covid-19 downturn in people's financial situation.
- The proposal retains essential services including urgent work on Three Waters. I agree that we must postpone until 2021 investment in infrastructure that will be needed long term.
- Covid-19 has played havoc with peoples livelihoods. Better to receive small rates from all than high from few.

Did not respond

- Essential services should always be the priority, get the basic infrastructure right and look after people's basic welfare, then flow on down like a hierarchy of needs. So I agree with a budget that prioritises things like Three Waters. It is difficult to comment on how much funding RiverLink Contract Documentation and Procurement should get at this time, it looks like a big stack of money, the work needs to be done well when it is done, but it looks like a big stack of money without justification or detail, particularly right now.
- Ratepayers are facing a very difficult time of unprecedented uncertainty due to the impact of COVID19 pandemic. During March 2020, we wrote to all local authorities within our membership region recommending councils minimise proposed rates increases to a financially prudent level. We commend the Council for reducing its proposed rates increase from 7.9% to 3.8% however we believe the Council could reduce the rates increase further by finding additional savings in the budget and taking on further debt. The Council will be in a better position to reassess rates and spending while developing the Long-term Plan 2021-31. Additionally, we recommend considering rates relief or rebate options, such as waving late payment fees and allowing delayed rates instalments. This will help ensure flexibility is provided during a time of uncertainty. Both Porirua City Council and Wellington City Council have proposed commercial rates deferrals to help boost recovery of the city's economy and local business sector.
- Reduce the rates increase further by finding additional reductions in the budget and taking on further debt. Consider rates relief or rebate options, such as waving late payment fees and allowing delayed rates instalments.
- While the original rates increase has been halved due to Covid 19, there is still likely to be considerable hardship for ratepayers when faced with increases aligned to increased property values (not a council responsibility) due to valuations carried out in 2019. And while Hutt City Council's rates increase is in line with those in many other areas, few of them have a large number of ratepayers facing a valuation increase that adds several hundred dollars to their rates bill. Our household's is \$300 per annum (not including regional council rates increases), but we are fortunate in that our house is freehold. Many ratepayers are also paying mortgages and have lost their livelihoods due to Covid 19. Homelessness has been a big issue in Lower Hutt. A large increase will push up the cost of rentals, a significant factor in the growth of homelessness over the past few years. To conclude this section, I urge councillors to consider the hardships ratepayers are facing and will further face with the substantial rates increases in generally lower income areas like Naenae, Taita, and Wainuiomata.
- The importance of the arts to mental health and connection between people was shown during lockdown, when families and other people used dance, music, art and creativity in innovative ways to thank essential workers, commemorate Anzac Day, keep busy and connect with neighbours and the country. In many ways it was an uplifting time, and proof that creativity is alive and well in New Zealand. The No 8 Wire approach was shown even by sportspeople, who

devised entertaining ways of improvising with no equipment and inventing new family games and challenges. We have not been able to take part in the Winter Festival this year, but perhaps we could somehow celebrate the creativity Hutt people showed during lockdown in another way. It would mark an important event in our history while celebrating local creativity. One potential idea is an event either in the Event Centre or in Dowse Square (in reliable weather) showcasing music, dancing and families participating in physical challenges and games generated through lockdown. Residents could be invited beforehand to offer their ideas via council communications. If we must go without the Winter Festival because of Covid 19 let's replace it with something to celebrate the positives that came out of it, and the resilience of Hutt residents. Regardless of Covid 19 and lockdown, I hope Hutt City Council will continue to recognise the importance of the arts to the wellbeing of the city and residents' pride in it, and actively work on opportunities for residents to participate and enjoy the creativity that exists in this city.

- Every triennium the Quotable Value (QV) reflects the capital value for Lower Hutt properties and businesses. Homes that have an increased value may be paying more in rates. In the September 2019 revaluation, the average increase of capital value of Lower Hutt homes is 31.8%. We appreciate that Council revised the original proposal of a 7.9% city-wide increase pre-Covid down to 3.8%. However, we would like to explain how this will impact Wainuiomata households. Wainuiomata has had the biggest increase on property values in Lower Hutt at an average of 55%. According to Draft Annual Plan this means many Lower Hutt ratepayers will be paying an average of \$2.35 per week. However Wainuiomata residents will be paying the highest amount in rates at an average of \$5.34 per week, which equates to a 14.6% increase. These increases do not include contributions to the Greater Wellington Regional Council or Goods and Services Tax (GST) which once added will create further hardship for our community. Many of our home owners are multi-generational occupants, including kaumātua, the elderly and families who are under immense financial pressure due to job loss and the ever increasing cost of living. Although \$5.34 may not seem like much for some, it can be the difference of being able to provide for a family. In comparison, a Wainuiomata household can purchase two loaves of bread and a carton of milk from our local supermarket for \$5.30. During a recent community consultation, some board members engaged with 55 people in person (practising social distancing and hygiene during Level 2). Overall, 29.5% of people agreed with the proposed 3.8% rates increase and 70.5% of people said they did not agree. A common thread of the comments made was that due to Covid-19 it would be the wrong time for an increase.

Priority Projects

Count of comments

| Priority Projects - 105 individuals & 8 organisations commented about priorities | |
|--|--|
| Priorities/projects | Number of comments |
| Naenae Pool | 26 comments - split between those want it made a priority, and those against or unsure |
| Basic infrastructure | 25 comments |
| Three waters | 22 comments agree with prioritizing three waters infrastructure |
| Rubbish & recycling | 18 comments wanting project continued |
| Environment | 8 comments (minimising environmental impact/sustainability) |
| Cycleways | 7 comments |
| Housing | 6 comments (social housing/homelessness) |
| RiverLink | 5 comments |
| Essential/core services | 4 comments |
| Facilities | 4 comments |
| Other | 22 suggestions |
| General | 13 comments |

Naenae Pool

- Naenae Pool
- Naenae hub & pool
- Expedite the Naenae Pool restoration as soon as possible.
- Naenae pool
- Naenae pool
- Naenae pool is high on my mind, but basics should be prioritised and done with long-term security in mind.
- I believe the Naenae pool and other similar nice to have projects should be placed on hold to ensure any rates increase is kept as low as possible.
- Things like the Naenae pool are a nice to have but safe water infrastructure is a need to have.
- Naenae Pool unfortunately is not a three waters (it is a fourth) and clear communications need to be made around priorities
- No, please get our key infrastructure sorted before we progress any nice to have projects. Sadly, I think this includes delaying the Naenae pool.
- The earthquake strengthening costs, I believe, are a knee jerk reaction. Naenae swimming pool should be reopened. The strength of the building is STRONGER than Queensgate. As we can see, residents are not afraid of a possible earthquake. If people are prepared to shop at Queensgate, they will swim at Naenae. Reopen the pool. Delay the strengthening.
- Both the Naenae pool development and the riverbank project should be reassessed. Naenae pool specifically needs to be underpinned by a comprehensive business case which takes the key objective (e.g. deliver similar community facilities as were in place), clear operational plans to ensure the facility can be operated efficiently and in line with budget expectations (e.g. how much will each visit be subsidised by? And is this acceptable?). This needs to be a transparent process that ensures the options are provided to the whole rate-paying community for input. Given the financial challenges and community need (e.g. a community swimming facility - not a

world class venue); transparent clarity needs to be provided as to what the options are (e.g. just replace the roof structure v gold plated option being touted).

- Not the cvl focus on getting one thing right at a time like the 3 waters project and putting the pool on the back burner.
- All work on the Naenae pool should be stopped, there are more important projects like water, roading, rubbish and recycling initiatives where the dollars spent can provide direct benefits to a majority of rate payers, rather than the relative few who might benefit from a new pool (and the million + set aside for this won't produce a new pool anyway, it's really a giant money pit), especially when there are already plenty pool facilities in the Hutt and greater Wellington region.
- I passionately believe the redevelopment of Naenae Pool needs to be done as effectively and as quickly as possible. We need a world class aquatic facility - not just a return to what we had. The economic benefits for the whole city and particularly for Naenae of a world-class facility would be immense. Investing in Pools can (and will!) polarise communities - but the end game here is worth the fight. Every single sporting event that could be held at Naenae would bring hundreds of thousands, and for a national event would bring millions into the local economy. A 3-day or 5-day national swimming, water-polo or other event attracts athletes, parents, their extended whanau, officials, media etc. cafes, restaurants, AirBnB, motels - and a lot more would benefit significantly from regular aquatic sporting events that could be held at Naenae. Building an 'adequate' pool won't be good enough though - we need an intelligent design process that focuses on the athletes and spectators needs. That class of facility could be the pride of our region.
- Naenae Pool replacement; this project is vital to the community cohesion of Naenae
- I think recycling is more important than Naenae pool.
- Naenae Pool – time to come clean and tell the ratepayers exactly what is the matter with the pool. Is it the pool or the changing rooms or is it a secret of what? I'm happy to be enlightened. Replacement \$50 plus million. Only reports it is earthquake prone – what does this mean? We seem to hear that a lot these days. Engineers don't like to announce their calculations in case someone queries them.
- I think Naenae pool needs to be important as it brings people to Naenae and helps the shops nearby.
- Naenae pool. Spend the 9 Million budgeted for the Hub now allocated to the spatial plan on the Naenae pool and pitch to Government as shovel ready. How can the city afford both?
- I am assuming the Naenae pool rebuild project will be progressed in 2020/21?
- Naenae Pool
- The state of Hutt City's finances does not permit the construction of a replacement pool at the early estimate of \$m60. Furthermore it is an extravagance given the beaches available, and the reasonable proximity of the excellent Huia Pool and the Hydro Pool at Upper Hutt. Spending \$1.5m on completing the groundwork for a future pool should not occur unless there is 100% certainty the work is going to proceed. The latter is years away and the groundwork will need to be repeated to reflect the legislation and design features pertaining at the time of actual construction. Be aware that cost overruns are a given with swimming pool complex construction. The Coastlands Aquatic Centre at Paraparaumu is an example, and that is a small pool. Experience shows that expert opinions vary greatly over the level of earthquake risk. Is the risk real bearing in mind the aim is not save the structure but that everyone can be evacuated safely.

Can diving platforms be removed and seating removed to mitigate risk? Can the present pool be reopened at minor cost but without refurbishment?

- Sport Wellington is supportive of the proposed work on the redevelopment of Naenae Pool, and the seismic strengthening of community facilities. The Regional Spaces and Places Plan provides a high-level strategic framework for future regional sports facility planning and optimisation of the current network. The plan emphasises a one-region approach to planning for international, national, regional and sub-regional facilities and provides context for local planning and decision making about local facilities. During the development of the Regional Spaces and Places plan a key finding was that the wider Wellington region has an ageing network of facilities across all facility types, particularly club facilities such as clubrooms and courts. Many of these are likely to become increasingly unsustainable as they age and face growing maintenance costs which may well be beyond the means of the codes and clubs that own and use them. Given that the region has several characteristics that make it susceptible to different types of natural disasters and, together with the age and location of many of our key assets this means the facility network has potential resilience challenges. In the regional plan there is a stream of work that is focused on addressing the resilience challenges of our network through a programme of upgrades and/or renewals where a proven need exists, and a cost-benefit analysis indicates this is warranted. As with most projects, the longer we wait to undertake this work, the more expensive it becomes to do the work. This would equally apply to the work required to redevelop Naenae Pool. Additionally, not only is Naenae Pool an important facility in the pool network, operating as an important back up to the Regional Aquatic Centre, it also serves as vital community facility in the heart of a local community and facilitates more than just the activities that take place inside.
- We also question whether the preparatory work on Naenae Pool could be deferred. We see this as non-essential spending at a time when it is closed to the public for an uncertain duration.
- I suggest at least deferring the expense of the \$1.5 million on planning for the new pool that will be an ongoing cost to ratepayers indefinitely in staffing and running the facility. Times are changing rapidly and resources could be unavailable by the time it is built. There is space for expansion of the Huia Pool if necessary, and further investment in this existing facility would be a better use of ratepayers' dollars. The city is very well catered for in its swimming pools. On a positive note this is an opportunity for replacing the pool with something that is innovative and requires very little in running costs and maintenance. Suggestions are a bouldering park, adventure playground, outdoor fitness equipment or outdoor art, or a combination of these. These are a very few ideas, but with community and city input many other creative possibilities could be offered. It could be a positive opportunity for the Naenae community to be innovative in working with Council to find alternative and less expensive ways to use this space while attracting visitors from other suburbs or even cities. In conclusion, in an attempt to limit the hardship already suffered by many residents, I recommend withdrawing the \$1.5 million allocated toward the Naenae Pool rebuild and find new and innovative ways of using the land to benefit Naenae and citywide residents.

(Basic) Infrastructure

- No, please get our key infrastructure sorted before we progress any nice to have projects. Sadly, I think this includes delaying the Naenae pool.
- Stop funding Hotels and focus on the basics; our roads, pipes, and community facilities.
- Roading, as this will be key in the future

- Traffic calming measures in streets such as Puriri St, Woburn
- All the infrastructure projects need to be prioritised.
- Rates dollars can go towards infrastructure, which is the Council's core business.
- I would like to see some much needed repair and maintenance work carried out on some Wainuiomata footpaths to make them safe for people with mobility issues
- At least some work on a second road out of Wainuiomata. Need to push the government hard for this as it should be a priority for Wainuiomata. The council is happy to collect the increased rates from the people of Wainui but they don't seem to be getting value for money.
- Rooding
- Infrastructure and traffic
- The roughly 4 percent rise is good if the council sticks to core infrastructure.
- We must continue to prioritise the provision of well-maintained infrastructure
- Get the basic infrastructure right
- More investment in stronger infrastructure. Future proof
- Maintenance of footpaths/shared areas as they've been allowed to deteriorate in previous years and are a safety hazard.
- More emphasis needs to be put on waste management. Our streets are beginning to look like slums.
- We strongly urge the adoption of (relatively) low cost tactical urbanism solutions to expand footpaths to allow for social distancing, and to create continuous separated cycle lanes throughout the city.
- Reseal the main roads with low noise pavements such as asphalt. Bring traffic light control management within the council - NZTA isn't providing an efficient service. The phasing is not optimised for the traffic flows and severely blocks up roads.
- We fully support council refocusing on our city's core infrastructure and the need to prioritise spending on Three Waters
- Hutt City can be an attractive place for locals to relax and enjoy and to draw in visitors. We can promote the outdoors where people can come relax and enjoy a nice peaceful walk or bike ride along the river bank and our roads. Attract people to do the same along the Petone foreshore and out to the likes of Pencarrow. Our wharves such as Petone wharf are a drawcards, they need to be restored and enhanced. We need to draw people in, and outside to enjoy the great outdoors we have to offer. Promote walking, and our walk tracks, encourage cycling by providing low noise pavements such as asphalt which is far nicer and easier to cycle on and quieter and safer than the noise subjected to from vehicular traffic on rough chip sealed pavements... One of the single biggest barriers to the above is our noisy chip sealed roads. Many I have talked to do not enjoy the outdoors; and the biggest reason is road noise detracts from the above and is an aggravating factor. Try walking alongside or cycling on Waiwhetu Road between Whites Line and Fairfield shops for example; if walking with someone it's hard to hear, you need to talk loudly to be heard over the chip sealed pavement noise produced from vehicular traffic. The walk is not relaxing, it's exhausting, and you return home feeling harassed and aggravated by the noise. Covid-19 levels four and three there was less vehicular traffic on these main chip sealed roads, and more people out and about walking and cycling on these roads. Make Hutt City a better and more enjoyable place to work rest and play; asphalt or put down another low noise pavement on at least Hutt Cities main chip sealed roads. Asphalt may cost more than chip seal but it may last

longer, and will reduce the harmful environmental effects including health and social costs of noise exposure from chip sealed pavements. The main road to Eastbourne and many Wellington Streets have quieter low noise pavements such as asphalt, and as a result these are areas people enjoy frequenting more as they are more relaxing and enjoyable for outdoor pursuits as these pavements are quieter and do not subject people to the same agonising decibel of road noise to that of Hutt City chip sealed roads.

- Rooding and access - why do we not have any measurement of CO2 emissions on the roads? Reduction in the emissions should also be a measurement of success.
- The core function of Council is to provide to a high standard the supply of water, and the disposal of wastewater, stormwater, solid waste and sewage. Rooding, paving and cycleways would also be considered core. The Plan lacks an engineering estimate of the quality of the infrastructure supporting these various activities. A simple 1-10 quality rating and a listing of the major new works, replacement and repair is required, pertinent to the Plan period. The full detail would of course reside in the Long Term Plan.
- Many of the residential streets have had speed humps installed to slow residential cars down to a safer speed. What is missing is traffic speed humps in industrial areas using residential streets as access. For example, Pirie Crescent and Tirangi Road in Moera are used by large commercial vehicles to access the industrial area at the north end of Pirie Crescent. There have been a number of reports of private vehicles being damaged by large commercial vehicles, including shunting parked cars out of the way in the narrow streets. These have been reported to Hutt City Council by residents concerned, but no action has been taken.
- We also commend the Council on much of its investment into rooding as this provides businesses with the necessary rooding network in any economic recovery.
- Focus on core infrastructure, such as upgrades to water services and roads, during the recovery period, and reassess spending on other projects as part of the LTP 2021-31.

Three Waters

- It is good to see that investment in water. I don't think it goes far enough and will still be leaving a burden for us to find in the future.
- I agree to the three waters money.
- Our water needs to be a priority on how to store it better.
- No infrastructure should be our primary concern, but we should be looking at leaving Wellington Water and bringing 3 water assets back under direct council control.
- We urgently need to be fixing the stormwater and sewer laterals that are all over the city to prevent sewerage flowing freely into the river and streams. Response time to fixing water leaks - from tobys etc. - also needs to be lessened considerable. Over the past 6 months since City Care lost the contract there has been millions of litres of water wasted from leaks that have not been addressed.
- Water is so important. Repair of leaks needs to be a priority to avoid wasting this valuable resource. We saw a substantial leak whilst on a walk from William's Park in Days Bay to Eastbourne; surely someone has reported this already.
- Further investment in 3 Waters and the rubbish and recycling review. Despite the current situation these are important projects for the city to progress as soon as possible.

- All the infrastructure projects need to be prioritised. The current state of the water network for example. As conveyed to the Mayor and senior leadership team, the Trust is supportive of the work on the Three Waters.
- Naenae Pool, Water infrastructure, roading and safety and security.
- The water infrastructure is crucial to the health and wellbeing of the city and our environment.
- Water infrastructure is important and should be prioritised.
- Water infrastructure
- Water infrastructure should be your chief focus. I am worried about the security of this vital infrastructure after a major earthquake.
- Definitely - three waters - although I would be expecting that the Council has applied for the tools ready fund from the Government here. We need serious work on the littering problem in our water ways - these are regional and attached to parks - Naenae Pool unfortunately is not a three waters (it is a fourth) and clear communications need to be made around priorities.
- Not the cvl focus on getting one thing right at a time like the 3 waters project and putting the pool on the back burner.
- Three waters infrastructure – top priority. Commence immediately please don't leave until it all becomes urgent and unaffordable like normal
- Essential services and infrastructure like water, sewage, and community facilities such as Libraries, parks and pools are the priority, forget the promenade at this time.
- Water -We should be encouraging a measuring the usage per/person and aiming for a reduction of treated water and subsequently less waste and storm water – also not measured. Making these savings now will help delay the need for more storage in the future. There is also a growing dissatisfaction with businesses not having to limit their water usage in summer.
- Water infrastructure is really important to us.
- We fully support council refocusing on our city's core infrastructure and the need to prioritise spending on Three Waters. The three waters are critical in our board area (Petone) as we are at the end of the line for stormwater from the whole of the Hutt Valley. The wastewater main connector along The Esplanade is reportedly beyond its useful life. We also have some significant local flooding where pipes need replacing urgently. Buick to William Street (along Jackson Street) is a case in point. We are keen to see funding for both of these matters progressed. More money for Wellington Water to better assess pipe life and stability is crucial to avoid such situations in the future.
- We support the Council's investment in water infrastructure as this is critical and cannot be deferred. Often Councils will look to defer investment in water infrastructure during an economic downturn however it is important that Hutt City invests in this given that around 60% of the city's water infrastructure needs to be renewed in the next 30 years.
- Focus on core infrastructure, such as upgrades to water services and roads, during the recovery period, and reassess spending on other projects as part of the LTP 2021-31.

Rubbish and Recycling

- The recycling reforms
- Also our recycling needs a huge overhaul. Where are the wheelie bins as campaigned for so strongly.
- Recycling improvements discussed a few months ago

- Further investment in 3 Waters and the rubbish and recycling review. Despite the current situation these are important projects for the city to progress as soon as possible.
- I would have liked to see the rubbish and recycling initiatives continue as these contribute to improved sustainability of our city.
- Rubbish and recycling needs improvement
- Review of rubbish and recycling systems across the Hutt
- The council should be moving in the areas the community response to global warming (transport), waste (composting) and recycling, flood and landslide mitigation.
- Agree that all those projects listed should continue, but also think the rubbish and recycling initiatives should still progress
- The rubbish situation needs to be sorted
- Rubbish and recycling services - if we don't act now and modernise our system, the environment will be worse off than what it always is now.
- I think recycling is more important than Naenae pool.
- More work to be done around recycling and rubbish collection.
- Issues that are important to me and my whanau are ways to address climate change, sustainability, bettering the rubbish and recycling system across the Hutt Valley and encouraging the use of public transport.
- More emphasis needs to be put on waste management. Our streets are beginning to look like slums
- Rubbish and recycling services - if we don't act now and modernise our system, the environment will be worse off than what it always is now.
- Solid waste -Why are we planning stage 2 for Silverstream Landfill and not reducing the amount of organic waste? If we can remove our organic waste from the current waste stream then the landfill could last 23% to 65% longer, i.e. had we already had this in place we wouldn't be looking at spending \$4,049,000. 23 percent to 65 percent
<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/waste-generation-and-disposal-new-zealand>. This could be could anything from community composting to regional organic waste and food waste composting. Cameras at the recycling centres to reduce the amount of dumping and there for things going to the landfill.
- The core function of Council is to provide to a high standard the supply of water, and the disposal of wastewater, stormwater, solid waste and sewage. Roothing, paving and cycleways would also be considered core. The Plan lacks an engineering estimate of the quality of the infrastructure supporting these various activities. A simple 1-10 quality rating and a listing of the major new works, replacement and repair is required, pertinent to the Plan period. The full detail would of course reside in the Long Term Plan.

Environment

- Please give focus to all areas that minimise our environmental impact
- HCC also has to continually consider planning for global warming which will be a much, much bigger challenge than Covid-19.
- Climate change mitigation
- Don't lose sight of the coming climate catastrophe.

- I want to be sure that we rebuild with the future in mind. Everything we do needs to be carefully designed to improve our ecological and environmental approach and not do a quick and dirty response that future generations will have to fix up.
- Issues that are important to me and my whanau are ways to address climate change, sustainability, bettering the rubbish and recycling system across the Hutt Valley and encouraging the use of public transport.
- The focus on climate change has reduced. 6 months ago, we were complaining about disposal cups and their effect on the environment, now we are encouraged to use them to reduce spread of viruses. Council needs to take a step back too.
- Council needs to develop leadership in taking the City as a whole into a low carbon future, as a more resilient, internally self-sufficient city, as swiftly as possible.

Cycleways

- Eastern Bays
- Cycleways
- Cycle ways
- Cycleways
- The government has set aside funds to improve cycle paths and walk ways for social distancing. In addition to this the government has asked to fund shovel ready projects. The funding is there at little or no cost to Lower Hutt rate payers and they are asking for authorities to request the funds. The Eastbourne Bays Shared Pathway is now needed more than ever to safely walk or cycle between Eastbourne and Days Bay and to Seaview. This includes for children and families who are now in the habit of cycling around the bays since the traffic was reduced during lockdown. This work would bring employment to local civil contractors, improve the environment by encouraging people to commute by bike / walking and improve safety for all road users.
- I would also suggest that COVID has caused many to rethink how they get to work. For some this has led to an increase in cycling. Improvements in the network of cycling paths in the valley, and through main centres of commerce and civic life are important to build a liveable, much less car-centric city.
- As noted above we consider that the post COVID19 world provides an ideal opportunity to invest in changes that make the city more liveable and people centred. We have cited the UK initiative and note the increased funding available from the NZTA Innovating Streets project. We strongly urge the adoption of (relatively) low cost tactical urbanism solutions to expand footpaths to allow for social distancing, and to create continuous separated cycle lanes throughout the city. As noted in the UK Act, we consider it imperative that these changes are put in place before the gains made during lockdown are lost.

Housing/Homelessness

- Social Housing
- Homelessness strategy
- Homelessness still needs addressing
- Homelessness strategy as this is an ongoing issue which is exacerbated further under current economic conditions
- Housing

- I do not think Council should be spending money on homelessness - the central government is doing this.

RiverLink

- It is time to pull back on the nice to have projects, especially the river link project (which I have previously supported) for a year or two until the economy and life in general has returned to normal.
- River Link needs to progress to position the city for better recovery options and address the stagnation of High Street and the CBD, Also to take best advantage of the flood control works and public transport to and from the city. This is a key stone many of the other goals for the city
- Both the Naenae pool development and the riverbank project should be reassessed... the riverbank project needs to be re-assessed, in line with the medium and long term forecasts for our region and New Zealand. Would it be better to ensure we still develop the riverbank resilience requirements while thinking more creatively about how we reshape how we live in Lower Hutt without undertaking a substantial project that may no longer be a priority or align with the future forecasts.
- Investment in the Riverlink promenade and urban improvements is key to revitalising the city centre to attract people and businesses.
- RiverLink – in such a heavily reduced budget pay tell me how you possibly can include a figure of \$5.4 million dollars for this scheme. That’s all it is – a scheme, and anything can only happen after flood protection and new bridge and roading is completed. To ask the rate payers to be providing these huge amounts of funding in our financial climate is quite ridiculous. This project needs to go away for 20 years.

Essential / Core services

- Revert to the basic core services to reduce costs and the resultant impact on all residents.
- Essential services should always be the priority, get the basic infrastructure right and look after people's basic welfare, then flow on down like a hierarchy of needs.
- Get back to core activities.
- Essential services and infrastructure like water, sewage, and community facilities such as Libraries, parks and pools are the priority, forget the promenade at this time

Facilities

- Most of Lower Hutt’s centres are very old and run down and not very enjoyable to spend time in, I wish more was being done to make Lower Hutt somewhere people want to spend time in, not just for the nature.
- Stop funding Hotels and focus on the basics; our roads, pipes, and community facilities.
- Essential services and infrastructure like water, sewage, and community facilities such as Libraries, parks and pools are the priority, forget the promenade at this time.
- We must continue to prioritise the provision of well-maintained infrastructure, facilities and open spaces that provide equitable access for physical activity. This includes significant backing for all current community facilities

Other

- Funding to support non council owned heritage (1 and 2) buildings to undertake earth quake strengthening.

- We need more quality cafes and eateries that sell good quality food where people can go to refuel and recharge before resuming their activities. We need to provide easy and attractive access to the river bank cycle / walk tracks. Plant big trees like the one in the Lower Hutt memorial library carpark along the riverbank cycle / walk tracks. Put seating under the trees so people come sit, relax, watch the river, listen to birds etc. Do the same along Petone beach. Provide a city that is peaceful, looks good and feels vibrant so attracts people who want to come and explore what we have. Plant trees and light them up at night.
- I would also like to see continued support for development in the city that supports the establishment and growth of businesses in the valley.
- Kerkwall Drive, Naenae: I want to flag a desire for Council to vest back the assets including the roads, footpaths and green spaces at the top of this drive currently categorised as private. This loop part is used regularly for Hutt City to access and maintain their water asset, along with recycling trucks collectors. I would be grateful if this would be considered as part of this review.
- You could even raise the seawall created by the (cycle) path to provide future resilience and protection for the Council's infrastructure such as the road and the utility services that run along it. The reduced water washing up on the road would reduce future contractor costs for clearing and delays caused by being cut off. It also makes the road safer for council contractors to use as it's reasonable to expect the road to be safe which I would argue, in its present condition, it is not. I have served as a fire fighter in Eastbourne and had to pull people out of the sea when they have rolled their cars over the edge of the road. It put our fire crew at increased risk to execute those rescues. Reducing risks to essential services (the fire crews) now seems to be mandatory. I like little blue penguins and have seen the whole of the coast road to Baring Head where there is plenty of space for them to nest, free of cars, dogs and cats. Besides, having surveyed the route to Seaview, due to rocky outcrops and beaches, there are only a couple of stretches of seawall where they would have to swim 150 metres in either direction to come ashore if that is their preferred nesting spot in the cliffs and bush on Marine Drive. It would be a sin to waste this opportunity to improve safety, resilience and help the environment in one fell swoop. Just out of interest what proportion of rates comes from the Eastbourne population as I am sure it is higher than the average yet we have to use a dangerous sub-standard road every day.
- Youth funding
- Living wage for directly employed and contracted workers for the council
- I am really concerned that the financial pressures faced by the Council will not weaken your resolve to continue to implement the Living Wage to employees and contract workers because they are the ones who need our support. Their financial security will have an enormous effect on our society both in terms of human values but also financially for our businesses need their custom, and we don't want anybody to be made homeless or not be able to care for their dependents
- Elderly programmes
- I would like to see more assistance to elderly folks
- We need serious work on the littering problem in our water ways - these are regional and attached to parks
- Venues with Covid-19 safer seating arrangements for exercise, meetings and so on should be developed.

- Beautify and clean up Lower Hutt CBD - remove graffiti, keep streets free of rubbish, plant more trees, etc.
- Cross valley link
- You don't mention the proposed IT infrastructure development spend above.
- We believe the Council could defer the \$3 million allocated for "other IT projects" in the city leadership budget
- I accept this is a difficult time but we do need to assist the disabled citizens at all times especially when they have been forced to stay inside for weeks. The amount of money we apply to assist with quality of access issues is only a fractional amount compared to massive routine spending amounts. There will always be pipes that need fixing. In particular I would request that: the Disability and Inclusiveness Subcommittee should continue to meet; the work started on the Blind Squares project should progress; the building of a "changing room" bathroom for the seriously disabled should proceed and; in light of the need to allow for queuing outside trading establishments we should review the footpath signage now further obstructing pedestrians. Also the metal pipes historically used to block the ends of alleyways prevents wheelchair users from taking the shortest route to many destinations - this is a cheap and easy fix and should be carried where appropriate. The use by the public of computers in libraries is now an essential service and during crisis times these are needed for: medical consultations; banking; Work and Income (phoning is pointless) and; food ordering. We urgently need a post-crisis review of services to build resilience so we do better next time.
- We propose that primarily because of the growing research being carried out in fluoridated countries showing harm to health, and the increased pressures on council finances that Council decide to stop fluoridation. Most councils in the country are not saddled with this extra cost and responsibility – only 21 councils out of 67 are currently fluoridating. In 2007 the Council agreed to place a warning on its website that parents should not use fluoridated water when making up infant formulae for their babies. The research conducted since then, shows the wisdom of that warning (which has been taken down repeatedly by council officers) (*see Flouride Free New Zealand submission for more details*)
- Personally, I am disgusted with the level of graphics in the Council documentation. The amount of money Council spends on non-essential items is truly sickening. Many residents are getting pay cuts due to COVIND or even job losses.
- My concerns with respect to your proposal to reduce funding to our group: A reduction in budget will prevent the organisation to maintain its current and planned operations. There is a lack of reference to the Economic Development Plan and how this plan intended to strengthen and grow the local economy, especially the high-valued manufacturing sector. As well as paying residential rates, living in Lower Hutt, we pay a substantial rates differential over residential rate payers to operate our business from Lower Hutt. Continuing to fund Technology Valley is one way to demonstrate your commitment to our business and our business ecosystem.
- Dsport proposes the fees for the Accessible Swim pass remain at \$34.00
- Petone premises and library – new roofing urgent. How long do you think you can leave this problem for? Forget any massive new structure, we don't need any proposals for this facility even in the distant future, Mayor Wallace saw to that. We only need the roof fixed. Petone Wharf – just another long winded don't bother doing. These repairs could possibly be done in stages. Why not give it a go – now.

General

- Although there would be some political risk with a larger increase, the Council cannot sacrifice our future substantially. However, given the substantial impact of COVID, and how it still may play out, we should be pausing, ensuring we're delivering on our key roles, and take the time to ascertain if the future plans are still applicable, how they may need to change, and what the alternative options are.
- Everyone has been hit hard by COVID. Residents and commercial. Council have repeatedly said that rates will be less than inflation but due to poor decision making the rates this year were always set to be higher. Further cuts need to be made
- Freeze rates
- You need to start charging people admission to the city's "frivolities", eg: Dowse Art Gallery. This would assist in covering the cost to run such a facility and rates dollars can go towards infrastructure, which is the Council's core business.
- I think there should be no rates increase at all.
- No progress is needed in 2020/21. All the world has stopped at the moment. We already face daily financial difficulty to feed the family. What point are the projects that increase the burden on us at this moment. I will support the projects during the good economic times.
- The priorities are to keep the increase as low as possible, with Covid 19 a lot of people are losing their jobs, and if they get slammed with a big increase in rate how the heck are they going to afford that.
- I think in the year where most people are struggling to make ends meet and losing jobs increasing rates is not the right thing to do.
- I think the all projects have value. Maybe a rating system placing them in order of preference would be a valuable exercise.
- I would reduce commitments rather than adding more
- As much as the Government is boosting the economy by investing in key projects that have long term value, the Council needs to be bold and look at progressing those projects on the long term plan that can help to revive our local economy and deliver early benefits to our people. Even it means increasing our rates and the Council's debt. I recommend seeking 'skin in the game' from the financially well off people and organisations in our community through investment bonds.
- We need to do what we can now for the younger generation coming through.
- At a time of economic crisis and uncertainty it is significantly important that the Council focuses on its core functions and operates as efficiently and effectively as possible. Therefore, we recommend reviewing expenditure for the 2020-21 to bolster economic resilience in the face of the current challenge. This would see a focus towards maintaining essential services such as core infrastructure upgrades to water services and roads during the lockdown. While we recommend rates minimisation, it is also critical for our economy that key infrastructure projects continue to progress. We also want to emphasise the importance of continuing with existing contracted capital projects and Council's procurement pipeline. It is particularly important to maintain the workforce that will be needed long after COVID-19 has left the headlines. Therefore, we recommend the Council balance the requirement to exercise fiscal responsibility with the need to continue to invest in key infrastructure projects as well as existing contracted capital projects to ensure continuity of work post lockdown.

- We support the vision and investments in infrastructure, city growth, wellbeing, sustainability, resilience and community partnerships with Mana Whenua and others. While the WCB fully appreciates that there needs to be an increase in rates in order for council to continue to retain core services and deliver crucial projects, we would like council to consider a lesser increase, if possible, without any cost to core services or jobs.

Proposed savings

Count of comments

| Areas where savings proposed – 73 respondents & 2 organisations left comments about savings | |
|---|--|
| Savings | Number and sentiment of comments |
| Libraries | 16 comments – almost all disagreed with savings being made |
| Staff costs | 13 comments - incl. need to keep living wage commitment |
| Community engagement | 11 comments |
| Roads | 11 comments |
| Pools | 10 comment |
| Parks | 6 comments |
| Amenities fund | 2 comments |
| Cooperating cities | 1 comment |
| Other | 28 comments mentioning other projects – most frequently mentioned areas where savings could be made are: Naenae Pool (7), climate change engagement (4), and RiverLink (3) |
| General | 16 general comments about savings |

Libraries

- I do not wish to see any reduction in library services
- I would be concerned if there was a significant reduction in community facility services like pools and libraries. They are going to be need now more than ever.
- Reduction to the climate change engagement in favour of community facilities and engagement funding.
- Reducing operational costs libraries what does that mean and what is the impact
- Reducing the operational costs of pools and libraries when these are the community's lifelines for enjoyment and recreation is detrimental to the area. Especially at a time when we have been unable to use them at all during Covid.
- Don't short change the libraries or pools, lower socio economic communities benefit greatly from these services and they are the ones who need the most support.
- For example, the budget impacts of the libraries have already been felt, with libraries unwilling to provide a click and collect community service during level 3 lockdown, which would have been hugely valued by all the families' home schooling and full time caring for their whanau - but apparently resource was unavailable (even though the technology currently exists). The Council doesn't appear to have a clear view on what is of priority to the community; instead promising shiny things without providing the full detail (e.g. how it is going to be paid for and what will be lost). Covid presents us with a unique opportunity to re-evaluate our properties and how the Council can deliver on this (within its scope of responsibility).
- I disagree with cutting funding from libraries and public engagement and separating and funding Climate change engagement separately.
- I regret the loss of the evening lectures at Hutt Memorial Library although the building also needs earthquake strengthening.
- I am concerned that operational costs of libraries, pools and reduced staff costs could be hurting individual people. I believe we can cope with things like a few more potholes in roads and no more cycle ways (I am a cyclist) but I don't want to see our people suffer employment hardship.

- Anything that could hurt the community i.e. reduced funding in community organisations; closure of community amenities or reduced service.
- I do not wish to see any reduction in library services
- I disagree with the operational costs of the pools and libraries. Libraries in particular closing the Memorial Library on Sundays. Access to free libraries is a key community service, particularly in a time of financial hardship. For many people Sunday is the only day they are free to access the library. The thousands who used the Hutt Libraries immediately they were open in level 2 should tell Council of the importance of keeping up access.
- I disagree with the cost cutting to parks, community engagement, libraries and staff.
- The library should not be cut. One has to be open on Sunday.
- The cost saving is small Parks, swimming pools, libraries, playgrounds etc. all contribute to the quality of living in Hutt City, but money allocated to these activities is secondary to the Council's core functions.
- As long as at least some of these such as the operational cost of pools and Libraries in the board area (Petone) can be reviewed again in the future we can agree with the savings as proposed

Staff costs

- It is short sighted to keep reducing operational costs for staff that are actually at the coal face. Start saving from the top down.
- I just hope that employees are being looked after - they're a crucial part of the economy too.
- I am concerned that operational costs of libraries, pools and reduced staff costs could be hurting individual people. I believe we can cope with things like a few more potholes in roads and no more cycle ways (I am a cyclist) but I don't want to see our people suffer employment hardship and councillors should all take a pay cut
- Reducing staff cost should not impact on lower paid staff
- Staff savings - staffing levels have to be maintained surely to keep services ticking over, hopefully savings not at the expense of the lowest paid
- I disagree with the cost cutting to parks, community engagement, libraries and staff
- Not paying your staff a pay increase is not a saving. It is not valuing your staff, inefficient investment in the community and creates a financial strain on them.
- Let's not go back on the Living Wage. I was really proud when my city committed to it. In general I feel my rates are well spent and am impressed with the services that I benefit from, and I would very happily pay more rates to ensure that all HCC workers receive a living wage.
- Savings are great, but you could save a bit more on parks, accommodation, etc.
- I am not aware of the detail of reducing staff costs, but I have seen other government agencies try to do this, unsuccessfully. For example Wellington Water try to keep staff numbers low, but employ consultants to do the work at increased cost. NZTA put a cap on their staff numbers, but now use contractors and consultants on secondment, again at huge increased cost, to "fool" the MPs.
- With staff costs; we would be very concerned if this implied a loss of in-house expertise, which we know from experience, is a false economy in the long term.
- The Chief Executive has come up with a Plan to achieve \$3m in cost savings this coming year and this deserves praise. Further savings can come by putting a sinking lid on staff numbers and not permitting staff numbers to increase by the planned 1%. Other cost savings are required.

- The E tū submission to the Hutt City Council Draft Annual Plan asks that the Hutt City Council does not go back in its previous commitment to the living wage and progress towards Hutt City Council joining Wellington the Dunedin City Councils in becoming an accredited living wage employer.

Community engagement

- Reduction to the climate change engagement in favour of community facilities and engagement funding.
- Don't take too much out of public engagement this is crucial to ongoing success for the city
- I disagree with cutting funding from libraries and public engagement and separating and funding Climate change engagement separately
- I'm concerned about the removal of money for community engagement - as I believe community engagement should be a priority not only always but especially at the moment. Could the climate change engagement money be reduced or split in half so there is money for other community engagement projects?
- I have serious concerns that operational costs of regional parks and community engagement will incur savings - they need to increase not decrease. I would be proud if Hutt had the highest turn out in voters next local body election - this won't happen if community engagement is even less.
- Public engagement is something you should spend more money on not less council has not been doing very well here and it shows with the way water restrictions were put in place and not advertised or the recycling fiasco as of late roads etc. and footpaths that Barry campaigned on getting more money to fix them up, drop the pool work.
- Reducing community engagement reduces the amount of quality ideas that could benefit our communities and gives council greater control with less resistance.
- I disagree with the cost cutting to parks, community engagement, libraries and staff.
- Reduced community engagement – believe residents still want to know what Council are doing.
- Any savings from community engagement are reinvested in community services as demand will increase to address the impacts of Covid-19 such as more people needing support due to job losses.
- It is very disappointing that one area where Council has made savings of \$250,000 is in community engagement

Roads

- Definitely disagree with minor works on roads being reduced - they will be really major for some!
- Minor work on roads - achieves very minimal savings and the roads need to be well maintained to stay safe and usable overtime. They will have to be maintained eventually anyway.
- Keeping to the key services such as water, roads and rubbish then allows the Council to scrap ridiculous vanity projects like rainbow pedestrian crossings or non-evident climate change.
- Minor Works on roads, as this could become a safety issue.
- I do not believe in reducing road costs either - minor maintenance now becomes major if not fixed. Look at Petone pool, the maintenance was cut and in the end a much higher cost was incurred when the pool "fell apart".
- I don't agree with the savings around roads.
- Public engagement is something you should spend more money on not less council has not been doing very well here and it shows with the way water restrictions were put in place and not

advertised or the recycling fiasco as of late roads etc. and footpaths that Barry campaigned on getting more money to fix them up, drop the pool work.

- Now is a good time to become more cost efficient and value focused. These suggested savings appear to make sense but I am worried that reducing work on roads and operational costs on parks will result in longer term higher costs
- Definitely disagree with minor works on roads being reduced - they will be really major for some!
- We cannot afford to let our road infrastructure fall into disrepair and they are beginning to look like patchwork quilts. Tighter controls need to be implemented with quality control and then we wouldn't need to waste money having the roads constantly resurfaced.
- We note that \$200,000 for minor road works has been removed. We support retaining this small budget for necessary works that support accessibility improvements like kerb drop downs and tactile pavers. Small works can include speed humps that provide important safety improvements on streets especially around schools. These small works provide high value to many pedestrians, including parents with baby buggies. We support school travel funding to be retained. Again this is a small budget that provides high value, particularly in supporting active travel to school. Living Streets support projects that open school streets to children walking to school at start and end school times, by restricting car travel to the school gate. This requires staff to make it work. Funding that supports walking or other active travel should be maintained as both an important climate change mitigation and Covid19 safe distancing response.

Pools

- I would be concerned if there was a significant reduction in community facility services like pools and libraries. They are going to be need now more than ever.
- Reduction to the climate change engagement in favour of community facilities and engagement funding.
- Reducing the operational costs of pools and libraries when these are the community's lifelines for enjoyment and recreation is detrimental to the area. Especially at a time when we have been unable to use them at all during Covid lockdowns and Naenae has been without the pool due to the earthquake damage.
- Reducing the operational costs of pools and libraries when these are the community's lifelines for enjoyment and recreation is detrimental to the area. Especially at a time when we have been unable to use them at all during Covid lockdowns and Naenae has been without the pool due to the earthquake damage.
- Don't short change the libraries or pools, lower socio economic communities benefit greatly from these services and they are the ones who need the most support.
- I am concerned that operational costs of libraries, pools and reduced staff costs could be hurting individual people. I believe we can cope with things like a few more potholes in roads and no more cycle ways (I am a cyclist) but I don't want to see our people suffer employment hardship. I don't want Naenae Pool to be delayed longer than necessary because of the hardship this causes to the Naenae community
- Anything that could hurt the community i.e. reduced funding in community organisations; closure of community amenities or reduced service.
- I disagree with the operational costs of the pools and libraries. It sounds good - but if pools are going to be closed or not open as late then it isn't good!

- Parks, swimming pools, libraries, playgrounds etc. all contribute to the quality of living in Hutt City, but money allocated to these activities is secondary to the Council's core functions.
- As long as at least some of these such as the operational cost of pools and Libraries in the board area (Petone) can be reviewed again in the future we can agree with the savings as proposed

Parks

- I have serious concerns that operational costs of regional parks and community engagement will incur savings - these need to increase not decrease
- Now is a good time to become more cost efficient and value focused. These suggested savings appear to make sense but I am worried that reducing work on roads and operational costs on parks will result in longer term higher costs
- Savings are great, but you could save a bit more on parks, accommodation, etc.
- Disagree with the reduction in spending towards parks and reserves.
- I disagree with the cost cutting to parks, community engagement, libraries and staff
- The cost saving is small Parks, swimming pools, libraries, playgrounds etc. all contribute to the quality of living in Hutt City, but money allocated to these activities is secondary to the Council's core functions.

Amenities Fund

- Anything that could hurt the community i.e. reduced funding in community organisations; closure of community amenities or reduced service.
- Cutting community funding by \$100,000 will impact the ability of community groups to support those impacted most by covid-19. Other funding sources have been seriously impacted by the lockdown. For example, Lotto sales and gaming trusts have lower or no revenue for many weeks. This is not the time for Council to cut community funding. Key groups will actually need more, not less support from Hutt City (*see Moera House feedback for more information*)

Cooperating cities

- International Co-operating Cities funding - \$40,000 - This is a "nice" thing to have and beneficial to some degree - but could really be dropped for a period of time as there will be no travelling internationally for a while.

Other

Naenae Pool

- Drop the pool work. How many businesses went under when the pool left vs how many are still thriving maybe they were the resilient business that we need give them some money to ease what the pool has lost them.
- I don't want Naenae Pool to be delayed longer than necessary because of the hardship this causes to the Naenae community
- To achieve savings, key big ticket items (\$1.5m for Naenae consideration) seem to have remained (which would have made more sense to pause completely; or provide very clear objectives of the spend - e.g. provide 3-4 options that examine key criteria including delivering for community need, operational efficiency, budget constraints etc.); and penny grabbing from critical and valued community services.
- Stop Naenae pool

- I don't feel that given the current climate, that Naenae pool should be pushed through at this point. I would like to know that if this project was paused for now, and the \$1.5 mil initial projected spend was saved, what impact this saving would have on the overall rates increase and if it would decrease the 3.8%.
- Naenae Pool if at all possible. The community there needs something to rejuvenate it and provide a hub for local business.
- Agree with Cr. Milne's suggestion of holding and reviewing Naenae Pool work. Don't agree that a regional facility approach would work there as we already have Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre. This needs a longer consultation on its own rather than with the LTP or annual plan.

Climate change engagement

- Reduction to the climate change engagement in favour of community facilities and engagement funding.
- Climate Change Community Engagement - save another \$200,000 until the economy is back on track.
- I disagree with cutting funding from libraries and public engagement and separating and funding Climate change engagement separately.
- Could the climate change engagement money be reduced or split in half so there is money for other community engagement projects?

Homeless Strategy

- The Homeless Strategy should not be a local Council issue - \$520,000.
- I am pleased to see the Homelessness strategy is unaffected as I hope because of the Covid-19 and its effects on employment I think this is an area that could suffer

RiverLink

- Get rid of the hotel that is being built, stop the River Link Contract Documentation and Procurement project until the economy is back on track - Save \$5.4 million.
- It is time to pull back on the nice to have projects, especially the river link project (which I have previously supported) for a year or two until the economy and life in general has returned to normal. Revert to the basic core services to reduce costs and the resultant impact on all residents."
- It is difficult to comment on how much funding RiverLink Contract Documentation and Procurement should get at this time, it looks like a big stack of money, the work needs to be done well when it is done, but it looks like a big stack of money without justification or detail, particularly right now.

Other

- Cost reductions should be urgently introduced in the "feel good" areas like diversity, climate change and political lobbying.
- Has any thought been put into ditching the contractors that preform council work to employing more workers to do this work, as was done in the past. This is what the Hutt Valley was built on. Look after people not huge profits to these companies that these services are contracted to.
- Seems to be the buzz word of the day but when recycling isn't even working like it should it seems like it's a complete waste of money. Maybe that should be sorted instead?

- I think a number of projects can be deferred in addition to that proposed eg Beltway Cycle-what evidence is there about usage?
- I am unsure if community exercise activities like bootcamp, Zumba and Pilates will continue. Because we (Naenae/Taita) have no gym I would like to see these classes continue.
- Hutt Tennis should get Zero funding from rates payers. Why should ratepayers contribute towards a sport where the majority of participants are well off financially? Same with Gym sports, Council's role is not to provide loans to sporting bodies. The biodiversity Assistance should be reduced to zero.
- Still unsure on the funding going to tennis and gymnastics, and how this fits into a wider strategy on community sport that is fair to all codes and all who participate. Ideally put on hold, and show community what the contribution from other funders for the projects are. Not against HCC being involved but it needs to be fair to all those in the city who participate in sport.
- Where are the savings from reducing the amount of red tape involved in house building and renovation?
- Consents and Regulatory - These are too high and in some cases just ends up being a rubber stamp so wasteful money and time.
- City Governance & City Leadership - A lot of money for what!
- \$9m Naenae shopping precinct \$10m for IT upgrade. That is questionable.
- The Disability Action Plan funding for accessible footpaths and improved pedestrian crossings should be retained. We understand this was a budgeted \$50,000 amount. This funding is essential to help with those cheaper, small projects that can deliver high value, high impact outcomes for many people. When there is no kerb drop down to get your baby buggy, walker or wheelchair across the road it may mean you don't travel to your local shops. When there are no tactile markers on a crossing to guide you easily it may mean you don't make that trip to the shops. These small sums for small works make a big difference. Please keep this fund.

General

- They look reasonable to me, but perhaps smaller than I'd expected.
- Seems appropriate.
- As above, I think this emergency savings plan is not a good idea and will set us back greatly in improving our City.
- The district is now suffering because of the lack of spending over the past 10 years.
- So you're saving costs by reducing services that is the way I read this; not from becoming more efficient.
- I agree with these savings, but there needs to be more.
- The Council doesn't appear to have a clear view on what is of priority to the community; instead promising shiny things without providing the full detail (e.g. how it is going to be paid for and what will be lost). COVID presents us with a unique opportunity to re-evaluate our properties and how the Council can deliver on this (within its scope of responsibility).
- Considering Wainuiomata is taking the biggest "hit" with the highest RV increase across the board, and is also a lower socioeconomic demographic, it seems unbalanced to add a further 3.8%.
- I think it's fair.

- Some of these decisions will be tough and will have a major impact. I am not qualified to make recommendations on these cuts.
- Please make more savings to avoid a rates increase.
- All of them
- These are all good savings. It is prioritising of the spending.
- I don't disagree but there is a very little detail given as to how exactly these savings in the areas shown will be achieved.
- The savings do not go far enough.
- Don't be too frugal that benefits to make Hutt city a better place to live work and play. Interest rates are low so Hutt City could borrow to advance the City.

Projects on hold

Count of comments

| Projects that are to be put on hold – 39 respondents made comments | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Projects | Number and sentiment of comments |
| Naenae Pool | 9 comments |
| Three waters | 5 comments |
| Cycleways | 4 comments |
| Other | 7 comments |
| General | 23 comments |

Naenae Pool

- Naenae Pool, which I don't consider as important, should still be progressed as the jobs alone from that project will help the current economy.
- I think further savings should be made by putting all work on the Naenae pool on hold.
- Please bid for the funding for infrastructure from the government as they have asked for requests for it. Chuck in Naenae pool as well as Naenae needs help.
- As I said above I am concerned over the ongoing harm to the Naenae community caused by not having the pool in action.
- Don't delay Naenae Pool
- I've expressed my view that I passionately believe the redevelopment of Naenae Pool needs to be done as effectively and as quickly as possible.
- Put all cvl and pool work on hold focus on getting businesses through focus on what council has and better utilize them.
- How about we put the 1.5m from Naenae Pool Preparation (put on hold till next financial year) and put towards the Three Waters.
- Ideally it would be good to see more movement on the Naenae pool but I can accept that it may not be financially possible, and preparatory work needs to happen anyway. At least the \$1.5 million for preparatory work will keep some progress going.

3 Waters

- We can't afford to delay more work on our water and transport infrastructure.
- I am wanting the city's infrastructure to be sound and 100% reliable - the flooding that continually occurs during winter needs to be corrected, and is long overdue. The same areas are always flooding and the Council needs to rectify this.
- Again it is about priorities for spending. I would take \$19 m invested in waste and water than Naenae shopping precinct and IT upgrade.
- How about we put the 1.5m from Naenae Pool Preparation (put on hold till next financial year) and put towards the Three Waters.
- We would include cycle and pedestrian infrastructure and the immediate establishment of coherent cycle routes throughout the city an immediate priority, long with addressing three waters infrastructure.

Cycleways

- We can't afford to delay more work on our water and transport infrastructure.

- I can also cope with cycleways on hold.
- In particular putting cycleways on hold is a wrong decision because COVID-19 has shown the demand for cycling and how safe cycle routes encourage more people of all ages and ability to bike more often. The COVID lock down has given license to also make simple changes that have a big benefit. In particular, people enjoyed and want to hang on to the safer and quieter streets that we experienced. Use this year to start changing our traffic landscape to better support essential transport and at the same time encourage active and sustainable transport. Identify essential transport routes and look at opportunities to minimise non-essential traffic for those. Follow other cities in introducing a 30km/hr speed limit for all CBD and neighbourhood streets, putting more pedestrian crossings in, and creating one-way streets. It doesn't take much to make our streets safe enough for 8 to 80 year olds to be on.
- We would include cycle and pedestrian infrastructure and the immediate establishment of coherent cycle routes throughout the city an immediate priority, long with addressing three waters infrastructure.

Other

- I read elsewhere in the plan that changes to recycling is now on hold - this is critical. The rubbish in our waterways is a real issue, our system is terrible. I am a strong supporter of the cross valley link but can live with it on hold.
- Rubbish and recycling - should continue this review and agree a solution now.
- New rubbish and recycling – still want that to go ahead when possible. Don't take out of future funding.
- Do not disagree, stay out of waste
- Revert to the basic core services to reduce costs and the resultant impact on all residents.
- Without additional information, I'm not sure that spending higher than budgeted costs on tennis and gymnastics initiatives is essential in current times.
- Look at the pure Council requirements, such as infrastructure, not "nice to have" such as hotels and convention centres.

General

- Please bid for the funding for infrastructure from the government as they have asked for requests for it.
- I agree with putting these projects on hold, but there needs to be more.
- No rates increase, people are hurting enough, salaries are being frozen
- Please freeze everything and wait for the end of Pandemic Crisis.
- I think a nil increase in rates is a real target-what the ratepayers want?
- Don't delay spending that will cost us more later.
- Putting any project on hold increases the cost of the project and means it's longer we have to wait to enjoy them.
- If we do not do these projects now they will be more expensive later on.
- If we keep the rates increase as per originally outlined, we wouldn't have to make such great sacrifices
- Rate payers are not as affected by COVID-19 so why reduce projects by delaying rates increases. While these projects are on hold, all you're doing is delaying expenditure and the cost to

ratepayers whereby you could be collecting higher rates now and investing into the local economy and creating jobs

- Council should not just be "putting projects on hold" but also looking at what projects are "not required".
- I Agree
- Again it has to happen. Things have to be prioritised. Covid was unexpected
- Kei te pai
- Agree
- All good
- Definitely. Many rate payers will have been impacted by Covid 19 and experienced a drop in income. Many also face an uncertain future employment wise. Council should defer all unnecessary projects for at least the next 2 or 3 years. Council should also take a leaf from Jacinda & her Ministers to even contemplate a pay cut.
- Hard to choose which ones are more worthy than others and again a rating system in order of preference would have provided valuable data to allow Councillors and their advisors to make some very tough decisions.
- More projects should be put on hold to eliminate the rates increase.
- It's responsible to have done so.
- There needs to be more information about what these cuts in cost relate too. \$100k isn't really a lot of money when dealing with multi-million budgets.
- We found the paragraphs relating to project postponement opaque to say the least. We recognise that in the context of the emergency one year plan, deferral of some projects is inevitable. However, as noted in response to the questions above, we consider that the long term societal costs of delay for some projects outweigh any short term financial considerations.
- Good not to burden the rate payer. But also look at borrowing as interest rates are low.

Rates split

(15 comments)

- How the rates a split between the different categories (e.g. residential, commercial) needs to be moved away from property valuations. If there is a desire to have 60% of the rates from residential and X% from business then set these as the starting point. Still use the rating valuations within each category to determine the relative allocation for individuals within each category.
- My comment on the rating differentials: the proportion paid by businesses should not be reducing, they benefit from facilities just as residences do, businesses should not be advantaged above residents.
- Feedback on the rates increase, as there is nowhere to give feedback on your options. We need to be looking after all our rate payers, especially at this time where there is a lot of uncertainty around employment etc. if you asked my which option would be best for Residential rate payers I would have said Option 1 (the council preferred). However, looking at the commercial Options, Option 1 there is really not good. Businesses are struggling, and if you put the commercial rates up, that will just filter down to the business owners, who own/rent premises, and therefore their products/services are going to increase, which means all the residents will be affected. So, that is why my preferred option is Option 3. Let's look after our small, local businesses by supporting them as much as we can, so that they can support us too, by keeping prices down. I would prefer to pay an extra 35c a week to keep local businesses operating, that them have if you close, or put their prices up.
- I am pleased that Council is reviewing the rates differential. I have made submissions over several years saying that the rates differential needs to stop. The hold is a start. Despite council trying to keep rates increases low, the change in property values has shown that commercial properties have had rate reductions over previous years while residents have faced increases of up to 12% per annum. Rather than just holding, the rates differential needs to stop. If anything it needs reversing so that commercial properties start paying a higher proportion. These properties can make money while residents only way on increasing income is by getting a pay rise, and many people have had significant pay cuts recently and even job losses.
- The Maungaraki Community Association proposes that there be a zero rates increase for both residential areas and businesses. We also propose keeping the Business Differential Rate at the current rate. These proposals are in response to the economic impact that has been, and will continue to be felt by Hutt City and New Zealand as a whole due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These proposals will demonstrate the Council's commitment to the community and businesses in their 'Getting Us Through' Annual Plan during this challenging time. When determining the share of rates to be borne by residential and business, the process needs to include, and the Plan reports the comparatives, on the average rates cost for residential and business compared with Wellington and another city of comparable size in New Zealand.
- Does the differential model take into account the cash cost to the respective rate payers of the two rating components? Residential rates are an after -tax cost whereas business rates are tax deductible where the allowable IRD deduction reduces the cost by 28%. The conclusion to this analysis recommends rates be increased and costs reduced to achieve a break even result. An option is to move back to the model's 60% share for residential in one step rather than two, which will partially offset the required rates increase for residential. Businesses are already receiving significant COVID 19 financial support from central government.

- A cost base reduction cannot happen overnight, so the only answer is to increase rates. The shift back to a residential differential of 60% in one step will soften some of the pain for residents. Central government is looking after businesses.
- Moera is a high deprivation area. Rates increases for home owners and the flow on to renters, risks financial stress especially at this time of job losses related to COVID-19. Option 1 has the least increase for residential home owners so is our preferred option. Even though business are struggling through the impact of COVID-19 and some may fold, for profit making business there has been a lot of support provided to SMEs to help them through COVID-19.
- A cost base reduction cannot happen overnight, so the only answer is to increase rates. The shift back to a residential differential of 60% in one step will soften some of the pain for residents. Central government is looking after businesses.
- The rates split matter has been an eye opener as we had not picked up that the original (2016) Council aim had already been achieved and that, as from last year, the balance has been out of kilter with what as a city was originally agreed to. Therefore, we agree that the current percentage splits are maintained and there is a major review of this financial policy in the 2021 Long Term Plan. The council preferred option (Option 1) means an almost identical increase for residential and business rates in the upcoming financial year and we support that.
- Under Option 1 of its Draft Annual Plan, Hutt City Council is proposing to separate Queensgate Shopping Centre into its own ratings unit, and effectively increase the business differential for the Centre from 2.72 to 3.73 ("Proposal"). Diversified and Stride strongly oppose the Proposal, which unfairly and unreasonably targets Queensgate Shopping Centre. *(More details in full 10 page submission)*
- We believe the Council should freeze the differential transition for a year (option 2), until the Council does a full review of the Revenue and Financing Policy as part of the LTP 2021-2031 which will include a review of the rating differentials. This will help to limit the rates burden on businesses without dramatically increasing the rates for residential ratepayers. *(see full submission from Business Central & the Wellington Chamber of Commerce for more details)*
- Freeze the business rates differential transition for a year (option 2), until the Council does a full review of the Revenue and Financing Policy as part of the LTP 2021-2031. Abolish the introduction of a separate rating differential for Queensgate Shopping Centre. *(see full submission from Property Council NZ for more details)*
- We support Option 2, where council is looking to freeze the differential transition for a year by using the 2019/2020 model. The rationale is that we hope that in the insuring time when preparations are being made to consult on the LTP that the officers would have had enough time to realise the impact of COVID 19 on the business community.
- A 3.8% rates increase is not legal without an LTP amendment. The 2018 – 2028 LTP provides for rates increases of no greater than LGCI increases plus 1% for growth. This Annual Plan is for a 3.8% rates increase plus 1% for growth. This is approximately 2.8% so that is what the rates increase should be plus an additional 1% income generated through growth in the rating base. Increasing the rates differential for businesses also requires an LTP amendment. The 2018 – 2028 LTP quite clearly signalled it is Council's intention to reduce the business rate differential. Increasing the business rates differential, even though you are disguising it by introducing % splits between residential and business ratepayers, is not something that was contemplated in the LTP. Introducing a separate rating differential for Queensgate also cannot be done without an LTP

amendment. The 2018 – 2028 LTP contains no differential for the Queensgate properties. It was never contemplated in the LTP to split out one CBD business and create a separate rating differential for them.

Other Finance comments

(8 comments)

- Defined Benefit Fund: Presumably this is a closed fund and the NPF is only managing investments pertaining to retired former employees of the Council (and other entities)? Overseas court cases have ruled the actuarial deficit (in respect of former Council employees) must be paid by the employer. It would be prudent to establish what actuarial liability the Council could face and the contingent liability reported in the Plan and end of year financial statements.
- Financial Prudence: Central government is required by legislation to be fiscally responsible and Budget for a surplus except in exceptional circumstances. Is local government not similarly required to live within its means? To plan for a deficit of \$9m reveals a lack of financial management by Council. There are some worrying signals in the draft annual plan: A deficit of \$9m is planned, although \$35m cash positive after depreciation is added back. This means \$9m not available for replacement capital works (Naenae Pool!) and causes further borrowings to be incurred. Borrowings increase by \$40m over the plan period (need 30 June 2020 forecast figures to present a more accurate position). Borrowing capacity is getting limited to \$37m or \$15m? by 30 June 2021 with a debt maxima of \$m264 and plan reported debt \$227m (\$37m borrowing capacity), but the reported debt is calculated above at \$249m (\$15m borrowing capacity). Debtors are planned to double to \$25m. Does this represent a growing number of ratepayers unable to pay their rates bill and have accepted a lien over their property which will be discharged with interest when they die? The Council needs cash inflow to operate and cannot afford to carry these debts. Can the debts be sold or securitised? The article published under your respective names is grossly misleading. It makes no mention that your proposed residential rates increase of 3.8% is achieved by increasing debt to finance a \$9m operating deficit. Please be reminded that your Vision states 'Our everyday costs must be paid for within our means and borrowing for these should never be an option.' Council's presentation of a Plan showing a \$9m deficit is not acceptable. Particularly since there is a planned deficit of \$13m for this coming year. So for a two year period Council has done nothing to achieve a break even result. It has lost the opportunity to recover \$22m of deficit from higher income or lower costs. Accordingly borrowings will increase.
- I don't support the rates increase this year and think under the current circumstances a 3.8% increase is definitely no acceptable. Why assume that an annual rates increase to householders is acceptable anyway. Why decrease year on year the rates of businesses and increase the rates of householders? I wonder where you think householders are finding this money? I also find your plan misleading as if one votes for option one or two then there is still a rise as option 3 is higher by far. So it's not status quo.
- We support the Council's decision to increase its debt levels as this provides rates relief to ratepayers during this difficult time. Given the planned debt to revenue ratio is 131%, we believe that the Council should consider taking on slightly higher borrowing rather than increase rates to support key capital expenditure and infrastructure projects can continue to progress. We also believe the Council will be in a better position to reassess debt levels during the LTP 2021-31.

- Investigate alternative funding mechanisms such as user charges, targeted rates, public-private partnerships and special purpose vehicles. Consider taking on more debt to reduce rates while ensuring key infrastructure projects can continue to progress. *(see full submission from Property Council NZ for more details)*
- We would like to record our dissatisfaction in that the Jackson Street Programme is put in with the Operating Budget with all the other programmes that the HCC supports. When there should be a footer that says we are not part of the general rates operating budget, but we are a special targeted rate which is paid by the business along Jackson Street. It is important that that distinction is made as what is written is a falsehood and not a true reflection of what happens and is misleading. Whilst it might be convenient for officer to write it this way it not convenient for the Jackson Street Programme and we request that going forward this is amended. We are hoping that in amongst the funding of \$5.10 there is the ability for small to medium businesses to have the opportunity to apply for funding support.
- We are asking if council could consider a more gradual rise in rates. For example, a 2% increase in rates is 47.36% less than the 3.8 increase, which means Wainuiomata ratepayers would be paying an average of \$2.52 as opposed to \$5.34 per week.
- Rates – a review is urgently needed for our rates structure. Asking residential rate payers to pay 65% of the rates for the city is ridiculous. Didn't anyone tell you that commercial and business rates are tax deductible? Residents do not enjoy that privilege. Many residents are really struggling with this system. QV valuations are a joke.

Other submissions and funding requests

| Organisation | Theme | Included in analysis | Funding request |
|---|---|--|-----------------|
| Flouride Free NZ | Remove fluoride from the water | Yes, priorities | No |
| Sports New Zealand | Asks for consideration of the importance of sport and recreation | No | No |
| Sport Wellington | Asks for consideration of the importance of sport and recreation and gives feedback on Naenae Pool proposal | Yes, priorities | No |
| Love Wainuiomata | Plan for Queen St rejuvenation and Covid19 recovery for community & businesses | No | Yes |
| Moera Community House | Recommendations on a number on: proposed savings, funding strategy, community hubs, rates split, infrastructure, stormwater and sustainable urban development. Funding request for playground and library extension | Yes, savings, priorities, rates differential | Yes |
| Te Rūnanganui o Te Atiawa ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui Inc | Support of approach and funding request to build Te Aroha Maturanga | Yes, priorities | Yes |
| E tu | Support for the Living wage. Includes petition with 47 signatories (there is one duplicate). | Yes, savings | No |
| Health Care Aotearoa | Support the Hutt Valley Living Wage Network and urge Council to continue commitment | No | No |
| Hutt Valley Living Wage Network | Support for the Living wage. Includes petition with 11 signatories (there are no matches with 47 on E tu petition). | No | No |
| Dsport | Encourage actively engaging disabled members of community in sport and not increasing the cost of the accessible swim pass | Yes, priorities | No |
| Callaghan Innovation | Reduction in funding allocated to the Technology Valley Forum (TVF) and lack of commitment to the Economic Development Plan | No | Yes |
| Technology Valley Forums | Reduction in allocation of funding, lack of commitment to the Economic Development Plan, and level of support given to the business community | No | Yes |
| Racetech | Reduction in funding allocated to the Technology Valley Forum | No | Yes |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| | (TVF) | | |
| Petronic | Reduction in funding allocated to the Technology Valley Forum (TVF) | No | Yes |
| Times-7 | Reduction in funding allocated to the Technology Valley Forum (TVF) and lack of commitment to the Economic Development Plan | No | Yes |
| Individual | Support for Technology Valley | No | Yes |
| Living Streets Aotearoa | Funding for minor roads retained and suggest trailing closed streets and traffic free streets projects | Yes, savings | No |
| Youth Inspire | Continuation of the grant received from the Mahia Atua Partnership Fund | No | Yes |
| Wainuiomata Sportsville | Progress and direction of the Wainuiomata Sportsville | No | Yes |
| Petone Community Board | Support for approach with some specific items priority and savings mentioned as well as commentary in general on other items in the Draft Annual Plan | Yes, priorities and savings | No |
| Tawhiri Festivals and Experiences | Outlines past events and planned future events | No | Yes |
| Wainuiomata Trails Trust | Proposed new trails | No | Yes |
| Stride Investment Management Limited and Diversified NZ Property Trust | Against the separating out of Queensgate Shopping Centre in the Rates Differential | Yes, rates differential | No |
| Business Central & Wellington Chamber of Commerce | Impact on businesses, the need to concentrate on core infrastructure | Yes, priorities, rates differential and finance | No |
| Property Council New Zealand | Feedback on rates, differential, debt and core infrastructure | Yes, priorities, rates differential and finance | |
| Jackson Street Programme | Rates differential, fees and charges and layout of operating budget section of Annual Plan | Yes, rates differential and finance | No |
| Maungaraki Community Association | Zero rates increase | Yes | No |
| Individual | Climate and sustainability | No | No |
| Individual | Naming of streets | No | No |
| Hutt Valley Tennis | Funding and funding plan request | No | Yes |
| Wainuiomata Community Board | Impact on the Wainuiomata community | No | No |
| New Zealand Chinese Language Week | New Zealand Chinese language week | No | Yes |
| Individual | Legalities of rates increase and rates differential | Yes, rates differential | No |

