

6 July 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wendy Moore
Head of Strategy and Planning
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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act

1987 We refer to your official information request dated 21 June 2021 for:

1. How many submissions did you receive in total for 2020/21 in the recent annual plan process?
2. How many submitters were happy in percentage terms with a 3.8% rates increase?
3. How many submitters in percentage terms were unhappy with the 3.8% rates increase and either wanted a zero or lower rates increase below 3.8%.
4. The names of councillors who voted for the 3.8% rates increase,
5. The names of councillors who voted against this 3.8% rates increase.

You also asked for the remuneration/salary paid to the Mayor and all councillors in 2020 and that this be itemised for each councillor e.g. mayor Barry=\$150,000, Councillor c= \$75,000, Councillor d=\$60,000.

The information you have requested is below.

Submissions

164 submissions (163 from individuals and 1 from an organisation) were received via BTT. There were 18 email/post submissions from individuals and 28 e mail submissions from organisations.

Analysis of submission results on overall approach and proposed rates increase

59 % strongly agreed or agreed with the overall approach outlined in the one year emergency budget and draft Annual Plan 2020/21, while 28% either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Agreement or disagreement with the overall approach outlined in one-year emergency budget and draft Annual Plan 2020-21 (158 Responses)				
Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
17% (26)	42% (67)	13% (21)	15% (24)	13% (20)

72% agreed or thought that the rates increase should be higher while 28% disagreed or thought it should be lower.

Does the proposed 3.8% overall rates increase strike the right balance (156 responses)		
Yes, I agree	No, I think the rates increase should be higher	No, I think the rates increase should be lower
58% (91)	14% (21)	28% (44)

Analysis of submission results on proposed rates increase by ward

The spread across wards in response to this particular question are in the table below:

Ward	Agreed with 3.8% or wanted larger rates increase	Disagreed lower increase	Margin of Error* ¹	Number of respondents (n=)	Total population (N=)	Agreed or wanted larger rates increase (range)	Disagreed, wanted a lower rates increase (range)
Central	66%	34%	16%	32	22467	50% - 82%	18% - 50%
Eastern	77%	23%	16%	26	14079	61% - 93%	7% - 39%
Harbour	72%	28%	16%	29	19833	56% - 88%	12% - 44%
Northern	54%	46%	27%	13	16029	27% - 81%	19% - 73%
Wainuiomata	76%	24%	13%	38	18561	63% - 89%	11% - 37%
Western	74%	26%	19%	19	13560	93% - 55%	7% - 45%
Total	72%	28%	7%	161	104529	65% - 79%	21% - 35%

The results show the margin of error for each ward. The margin of error shows how much these sample results may differ from the result if the whole population of each ward had responded. While the margin of error for each ward is quite large critically the range (the result plus or minus the margin of error) for each ward, with the exception of the Northern ward, is independent. We can say with statistical certainty that the result for 'agreed with 3.8% or wanted a higher rates increase' will be above the 'disagreed wanting a lower rates increase' overall for each ward except for Northern and Central wards which are closer to a 50/50 result.

The larger the gap between the ranges the higher the level of certainty – so for Wainuiomata with a larger sample and a large range gap (37% at the top of one and 63% at the bottom of the next) there is a higher level of certainty with the results. The number of respondents from the Northern ward was low (13) therefore the margin of error is larger than other.

The results in the table include all responses – online, email, and post – where the respondent specifically indicated a response to the question concerning the proposed rates increase of 3.8%, gave their suburb of residence and that suburb was in Lower Hutt.

If you wish to read more detailed analysis and verbatim comments please use this link to the papers prepared for Council's 18 June meeting:

http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2020/06/LTPAP_18062020_AGN_2774_AT.PDF

¹ Where z=1.96 for a confidence level of 95%

Voting on 3.8% rates rise

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor Barry• Deputy Mayor Lewis• Councillor Briggs• Councillor Brown• Councillor Dyer• Councillor Edwards• Councillor Hislop• Councillor Mitchell• Councillor Shaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Bassett• Councillor Milne• Councillor Sutton• Councillor Rasheed

Remuneration

Position	Remuneration 2020
Mayor Barry	\$151,300 (until 6 January 2021)
Councillor Lewis (Deputy Mayor and Chair of a Standing Committee)	\$100,260 (until 6 January 2021)
Councillor Hislop (Chair of a Standing Committee)	\$80,519
Councillor Bassett (Chair of a Joint Committee)	\$67,519
Councillor Briggs (Chair of a Joint Committee)	\$67,519
Councillor Brown (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Dyer (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Edwards (Chair of a Standing Committee)	\$80,519
Councillor Milne (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Mitchell (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Rasheed (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Shaw (member)	\$60,519
Councillor Sutton (Chair of a Subcommittee)	\$67,519

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Wendy Moore, (04) 5706958 or wendy.moore@huttcity.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Moore
Head of Strategy and Planning

Copy: Mayor and Councillors