



18 February 2026

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union (NZ TPU)  
ratepayersreport2026@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe NZ TPU,

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 20 January 2026, seeking information on contractor and consultant expenditure and FTEs, the budget and staffing of the Mayor's Office, and depreciation funding, renewals expenditure, reserve movements and related allocations for the 2024/25 financial year. Specifically, you requested:

*I request the following information for the **2024/25 Financial Year**.*

1. *Contractors and consultants*

- *Total expenditure on contractors by the council and the FTE equivalent as at 30 June 2025. Please provide the same information for CCOs, if applicable.*
  - *The Taxpayers' Union defines contractors as per the **Contractors and Consultants Guidance** document published by the Public Service Commission.*
- *Total expenditure on consultants by the council and the FTE equivalent as at 30 June 2025. Please provide the same information for CCOs, if applicable.*
  - *The Taxpayers' Union defines consultants as per the **Contractors and Consultants Guidance** document published by the Public Service Commission.*



## 2. Mayor's office

- *If applicable, please provide the total budget allocated to the mayor's office for both the financial year ended 30 June 2025 and the current financial year.*
- *If applicable, please provide the FTE number of staff employed to work in the mayor's office and their job titles.*

## 3. Depreciation and renewals

- *The total amount of depreciation funded for all council-owned assets in the year ended 30 June 2025, broken down by source (e.g., rates, grants, levies).*
- *The total cash amount spent on replacing, restoring, or upgrading existing assets to maintain levels of service in the year ended 30 June 2025.*
- *What was the actual year-end balance of cash reserves held for depreciation, and did the balance increase or decrease over this period?*
- *The total amount of depreciation funds allocated for purposes other than renewals capital expenditure in the year ended 30 June 2025. Specifically, detail the amounts used for:*
  - *New Capital/Growth Projects (i.e., new assets, not renewals).*
  - *Debt Repayment (i.e., principal or interest payments).*
  - *Operating Expenses.*

### **Answer:**

In response to your questions about contractors and consultants, Council's expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2025 was \$2.1 million for contractors and \$11.4 million for consultants.

For Council-controlled organisations, Seaview Marina Limited recorded \$16,000 for contractors and \$72,000 for consultants, and the Urban Plus Group recorded no contractor costs and \$114,000 for consultants. We do not hold information that would allow us to convert these costs into FTE equivalents, and we are therefore refusing that part of your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information is not held.

In response to your questions about the Mayor's Office, the budget was \$460,000 in 2024/25 and is \$500,000 for 2025/26. The office comprises 4 FTE: Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor (1 FTE), Executive Assistant to the Mayor (1 FTE), Head of Mayor's Office (1 FTE), and Mayor's Office Coordinator (1 FTE).

In response to your questions about depreciation and renewals, total depreciation expense for 2024/25 was \$89.6 million. Depreciation is a non-cash accounting expense and Council does not run fully balanced operating budgets, so not all depreciation is funded. Renewal capital expenditure recognised for the year was \$69.8 million, which is the closest proxy to funded depreciation. Renewals are funded through a mix that can include rates, subsidies, grants, or debt. Further detail about capital spend by activity, including the split between additional demand, levels of service, and renewals, is set out in the Annual Report.

You also asked for the year-end balance of "cash reserves held for depreciation" and any allocations of depreciation funds to other purposes. Council does not maintain a separate depreciation reserve, so there is no balance to report. We are refusing these parts of your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information is not held.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



Rebekah van der Splinter

**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**