

CONSULTATION RESULTS

In 2012 we presented a vision for our city – to be a great place to live, work and play. In order for this to happen the community and Council agreed a big investment was needed to promote the growth, development and rejuvenation of our city. Over the years we have consulted on the significant projects to rejuvenate our city. To date the feedback we have received through our consultations, citizens’ panel and quarterly resident satisfaction surveys suggest we are on the right track and should keep going. With this in mind we had less to ask for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan consultation.

We know our city is changing and that people may have different views on the projects we have planned. We checked in again with the community to confirm there was ongoing support for our rejuvenation journey as our significant topic of consultation. We also consulted on a proposed new policy and significant changes to two existing policies.

This year we focussed on engaging with those that we don’t often hear from – our youth, ethnic minorities and those living with a disability. We also wanted to encourage online participation, given its social and environmental advantages. This commitment resulted in a change to not only our consultation approach but also the language, tone and imagery used throughout the consultation.

Consultation ran from 3 April to 3 May 2018. The Consultation Document was available on our website and hard copies of the Consultation Document were available by request, and from all libraries, community hubs, the main Council administration building, other Council facilities (museums, galleries, pools etc) and at public information events. A computer and wifi were available at Council facilities so submitters could participate in the consultation online, with staff available to assist if required.

We received nearly 200 submissions, with over 50 per cent of these received online, compared to 18 per cent the previous year. Amongst those who provided demographic information about themselves, our submitters were younger and more ethnically diverse than in previous years.

In addition to the public consultation process, we commissioned Public Voice to complete an independent survey asking the same questions using an online citizens’ panel. The results from the public consultation and citizens’ panel along with Council’s final decision are provided.

Q1. Do you think we should continue to rejuvenate our city?

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=110) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=510) |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Option 1: (Our preferred option): Complete our planned sportsville and community hub projects | 53% | 57% |
| Option 2: Reassess things | 44% | 38% |
| Option 3: Don't know | 4% | 5% |

Decision: We will proceed with option 1, to complete our planned sportsville and community hub projects.

Q2. The Hutt City Development Charges and Rates Remissions Policy has fulfilled its purpose. We are proposing to suspend the policy from 31 December 2018. What do you think we should do?

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=104) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=476) |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Option 1: Status Quo, keep the policy as is | 21% | 28% |
| Option 2 (Our preferred option): Suspend the policy from | 76% | 68% |
| Neither, please provide an alternative option below: | 3% | 4% |

Decision: We will proceed with option 2, to suspend the Hutt City Development Charges and Rates Remissions Policy from 31 December 2018.

Q3. Do you support the Council introducing a rates postponement scheme for residential ratepayers aged 65 years and over?

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=105) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=467) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes (our preferred option) | 52% | 53% |
| No | 38% | 38% |
| Don't know | 10% | 9% |

Q4. If you answered yes to question 3, tell us whether you think the draft rates postponement policy, for consultation purposes, best ensures that the total cost of rates postponements is cost neutral to the Council and will be paid only by the applicant ratepayer(s).

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=62) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=239) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes (our preferred option) | 84% | 97% |
| No | 16% | 3% |

Decision: We will introduce a rates postponement scheme for residential rate payers aged 65 years and over. We are currently finalising the wording of the policy.

Q5. Should the Council extend the rates remission policy to include all charitable organisations, which are used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation or community purposes, regardless of whether they hold a liquor licence or not?

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=105) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=453) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes (our preferred option) | 61% | 67% |
| No | 31% | 26% |
| Don't know | 8% | 6% |

Q6. Tell us whether you think Council should maintain the rates remission at the rate of 50% of the general rate or should this be increased to 100% of the general rate?

| | LTP CONSULTATION (N=104) | INDEPENDENT SURVEY (N=450) |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 50% general rate | 40% | 55% |
| 100% general rate (preferred plan) | 42% | 38% |
| Neither, please provide an alternative option below | 17% | 8% |

Decision: All eligible sports and community group will have their general rates reduced by 50%.

Q7. If you have any other feedback on any of the projects, strategies or policies covered in this document or supporting information please us about it below.

Submitters and survey respondents commented on a range of things including the need to control or reduce rates and expenditure, prioritise development projects, as well as providing feedback on Petone wharf, transport, housing and sportsvilles.

Q8. What do you think are the key issues the Council should focus on over the next 10 years?

Submitters and survey respondents commented on a range of things including infrastructure maintenance and resilience, housing, transport, the environment, sustainability, business and employment, and development projects.