

10-Year Plan 2018-28

Consultation Document

Have your say about Hamilton's future.

Introduction

There are a number of Statutes that regulate the activities of local government bodies.

The Local Government Act

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0084/latest/versions.aspx>

10 Purpose of local government

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

11A Core services to be considered in performing role

In performing its role, a local authority must have particular regard to the contribution that the following core services make to its communities:

- (a) network infrastructure:
- (b) public transport services:
- (c) solid waste collection and disposal:
- (d) the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards:
- (e) libraries, museums, reserves, and other recreational facilities and community amenities.

14 Principles relating to local authorities

- (a) a local authority should conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and

Local Government (Rating) Act

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0006/latest/whole.htm>

The Rating Act provides local authorities with the power to set, assess and collect rates, and the means to enforce them. The Rating Act does not contain a cap on the total amount of rates, nor is it inherently based on a principle of user pays. It is, therefore, important that rates are set strictly in accordance with the requirements set out in the Rating Act.

The Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) has published a useful guide to the Local Government (Rating) Act.

https://www.solgm.org.nz/Folder?Action=View%20File&Folder_id=90&File=Rating%20Guide%20final%20-%20web%20version.pdf

Summary of the Results of the Consultation

The Council received **2190** submissions

1463 online forms

727 in the form of:

311 hardcopy submission forms

416 emails or letters

Single Issue Responses

44 responders answered only Question 11 and attached a comment about the Hamilton Gardens.

32 responders asked the Council not to sell Old St Peters Hall and the Reid Studio

84 responders approved of a plan to improve the quality of the water in Lake Rotoroa

Challenge 1

We are borrowing to pay for everyday costs

2099 responses to challenge 1

1297 responders selected one of the Options offered

802 responders made a written response to some or all of the three questions

Question 1: Which of the following options do you think Council should adopt?

Table 1 Summary of responses to Challenge 1

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Total responses to Options
Average Rate Increase	Average increase	Average increase	Average increase	Average increase	Average increase	Average increase	
2018/19	16.5%	10%	16%	9.5%	16%	9.5%	
2019/20	3.8%	10%	3.8%	9.5%	3.8%	9.5%	
2020/21	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	
3 year % Increase	26%	26%	25%	24%	25%	24%	
UAGC	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	
Move to CV	staged	staged	immediate	immediate	immediate	immediate	
Number of responses	302	322	63	237	82	291	1297
% of those who selected an option	23%	25%	5%	18%	6%	22%	
% of Total responses	14%	15%	3%	11%	4%	14%	
Number who preferred no UAGC	924						71%
Number who preferred staged move to CV	624						48%
Number who preferred UAGC and immediate move to CV					373		29%

Summary of written responses to Question 1

Responders asked where is Option 7, to reduce costs and reduce increases in rates.

Written Comment	Individual responses
None of Options 1 – 6	156
Keep to 2015 plan – average rate increase 3.8% and 10 year change to CV	184
Reduce costs, keep tighter control on project costs and “live within your means like we have to”	324
Total	664

Summary of written responses to Question 2

Question 2: Do you have any ideas about how the Council should change the way the rates are calculated?

Written Comment	Individual responses
Unaffordable, outrageous, unsustainable, expletives	305
I earn low wage, I am a pensioner	115
These rate increases will force me to sell	96
Increases should be tied to CPI / inflation	85
Capital value is unfair, does not spread rates evenly. Keep to Land value	72
No UAGC	58
Define SUIP on a fair/legal basis	39
Total	770

Summary of written responses to Question 3

Question 3: Do you have any ideas about changes the Council can make to increase it's revenue to cover everyday costs?

Responders said "it is a spending problem not a revenue problem".

Written Comment	Individual responses
Stop spending / wasting money on "nice to haves" Garden Place AGAIN, Regional theatre	390
Restrict spending to core/essentials until debt is reduced	237
Reduce staff/ consultancy/Councillor numbers/costs	218
Charge use to cover costs or sell loss making assets/Claudelands	91
Developers should pay more of costs not pass on to ratepayers	102
Total	1038

Challenge 2: Deciding where Hamilton's next big housing area will be

30 responders stated a preference for infil rather than urban sprawl

Challenge 3: Improving Hamilton's transport system

Challenge 4: Investing in community infrastructure

Council is proposing nine projects at a cost of \$70.7 million (including inflation) over 10 years

Question 8: Do you think the investment of \$70.7 million in the nine projects is the right option?

There were actually 10 options to tick in this part of the Consultation

Total responses 1664
YES 227 (14%)
NO 1437 (86%)

No the Council should not do the following (Select all that apply)

	Option	Number who ticked this option	Combine Central City Park Options	% of those who ticked NO
1	Central city park –River Plan	457	809	56%
2	Central city park	352		
3	Fenced dog exercise area	663		46%
4	Garden Place	1193		83%
5	Hamilton Gardens Development	492		34%
6	Indoor Recreation facility	606		42%
7	Playground development	413		29%
8	Rototuna Community Hub	615		43%
9	Proposed Waikato Regional Theatre	929		65%
10	Waiwhakareke Natural heritage Park development	466		32%