
REPORT 2
(1215/52/IM)

2011/12 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides a summary of the consultation process and community feedback on the 2011/12 Draft Annual Plan.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following reports on this agenda: the summary of oral submissions, and the report on funding requests and prominent issues.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Receive the submissions that were lodged as part of the special consultative procedure for the 2011/12 Draft Annual Plan (previously distributed).*
- 3. Note that a response will be provided to all submitters on the issues raised in their submissions following adoption of the 2011/12 Annual Plan.*
- 4. Note that submissions of an operational nature have been provided to relevant business units for consideration against existing work programmes and will be actioned as appropriate.*

4. Summary of consultation process

4.1 Summary of the consultation process

The 2011/12 draft Annual Plan describes year three of the 2009-19 long-term plan. The focus of community engagement was on proposed variances to what was outlined for year three of the long-term plan.

An engagement programme for the draft plan was agreed by the Strategy and Policy Committee in March 2011. The engagement programme was designed to meet the Special Consultative Procedure requirements set out

under legislation (the Local Government Act 2002), and effectively raise awareness of key proposals and encourage feedback

The draft plan received 789 written submissions – the highest number of submissions since 2007.

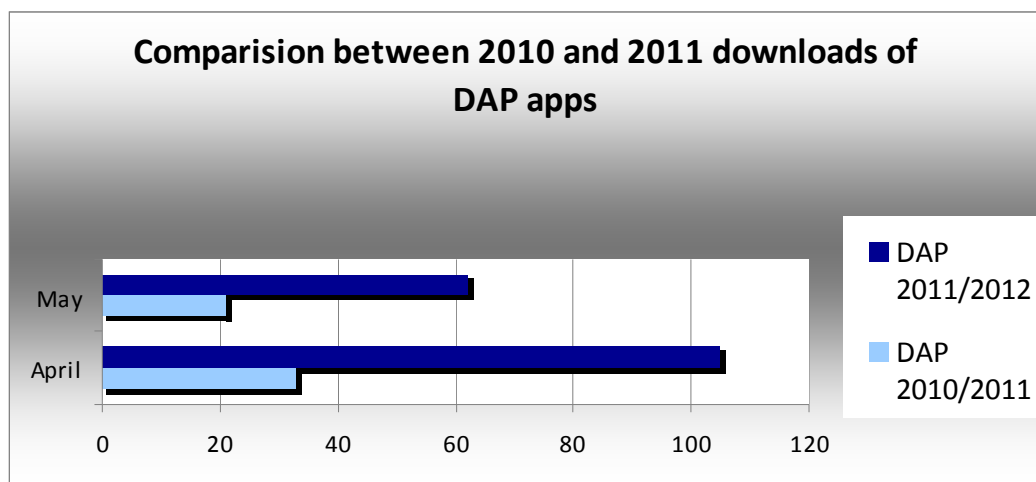
The following is a summary of the tools and techniques used to engage with the community:

Draft Annual Plan documents

Five hundred copies of the full publication and over 1500 copies of the summary were distributed. All documents were widely available - online, at libraries, swimming pools, fora, and available on request through the Contact Centre.

Council's website also hosted a short video of the mayor introducing the draft plan and outlining key issues for consultation. 204 people watched the video.

The draft annual plan was also available as an app on iTunes, and the number of people accessing information this way has increased from last year.



This year the submission form was redesigned to include a questionnaire on key proposals. Submitters could complete as much, or as little of the questionnaire as they desired and the form also provided for general comments to be made. Overall there was a very high completion rate and the redesigned questionnaire/submission form was used by 75 percent of all submitters.

Meetings

The draft annual plan was presented at a range of meetings. This included all Council fora, reference and advisory groups, and the Makara-Ohariu and Tawa community boards.

Advertising

The draft plan and an outline of how to make a submission was extensively advertised. The 'Our Wellington' page in the DominionPost newspaper was used to highlight the process and key issues, and additional advertisements were also placed in the Wellingtonian, CityLife newspapers, and on the Wellington pages of the Stuff and Trademe websites. A range of radio stations were used to raise awareness and encourage people to get involved.

All submissions have been provided to elected members and have also been made available to the public at the service centre and the Central Library.

Each submitter will be advised of the Council's decision on the points made in their submission after the annual plan has been adopted.

4.2 Some key facts on submitters

The following table details the number of submissions received since 2002.

DAP 2002	LTCCP 2003	DAP 2004	DAP 2005	LTCCP 2006	DAP 2007	DAP 2008	LTCCP 2009	DAP 2010	DAP 2011
279	578	479	817	1,368	987	438	503	487	789

The number of submissions, and who makes submissions is largely determined by the proposals included in the draft plan and the interest and/or impact on the community, or a section of the community.

This year the profile of submitters changed significantly on past years and appears to be greatly influenced by the proposals included in the draft plan. This year more young people submitted – particularly in the 18-29 age group, more women submitted than men (58 and 42 percent respectively), and the number of first time submitters was very high – with just under 80 percent of all submitters never having made a submission before on a draft annual or long-term plan.

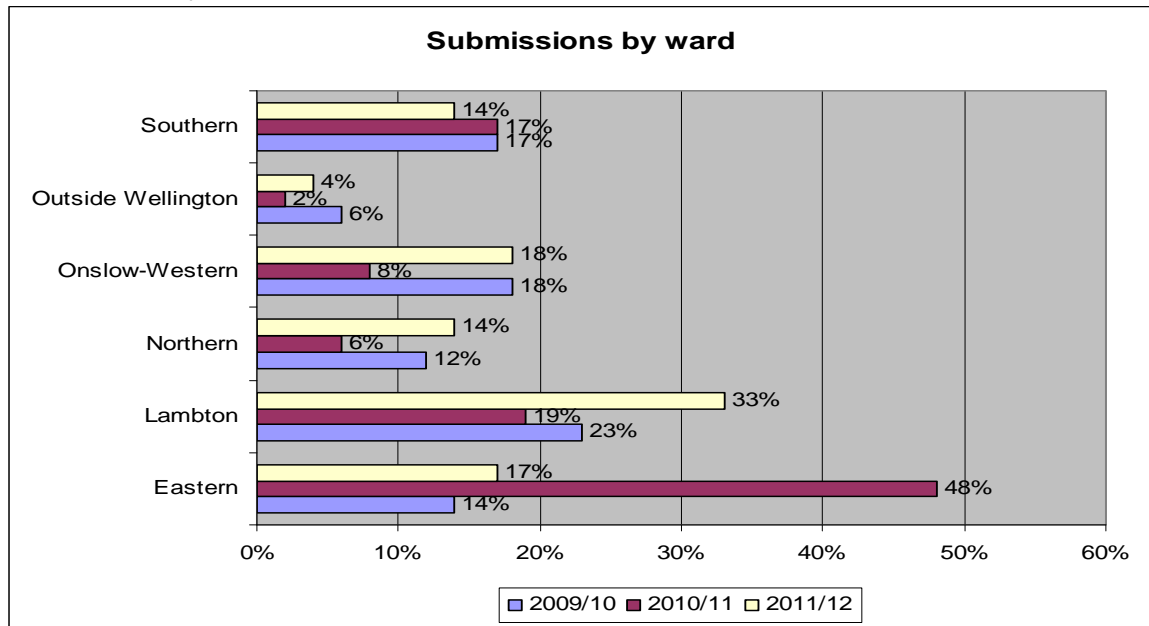
Submissions were received from all wards. The highest response rate was from the Lambton ward.

The online questionnaire submission form was extensively used by the community. Overall the questionnaire was completed by 75 percent of all submitters, and 82 percent of all submissions were made electronically (online submission form/questionnaire and emails).

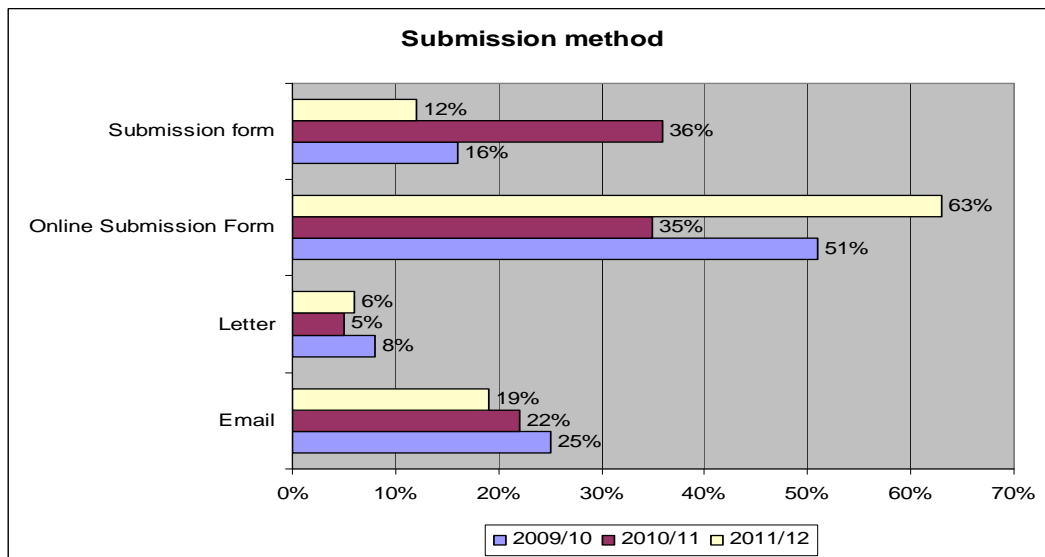
The following four graphs outline submissions for the past three years by ward, by age, submission method and whether they have submitted before¹.

¹ The sample for each graph will vary as some elements are not always evident from submissions (ie age).

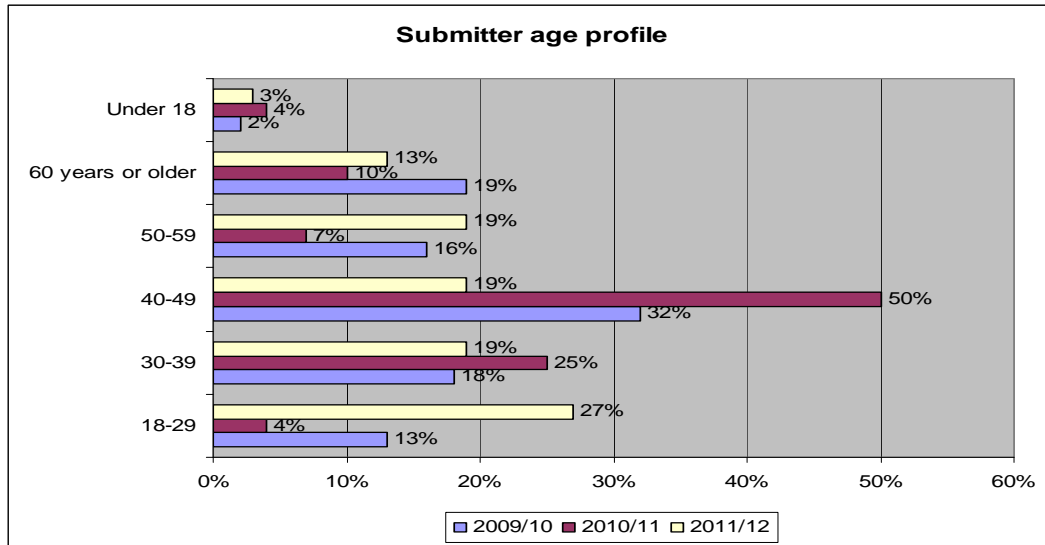
Submission by ward:



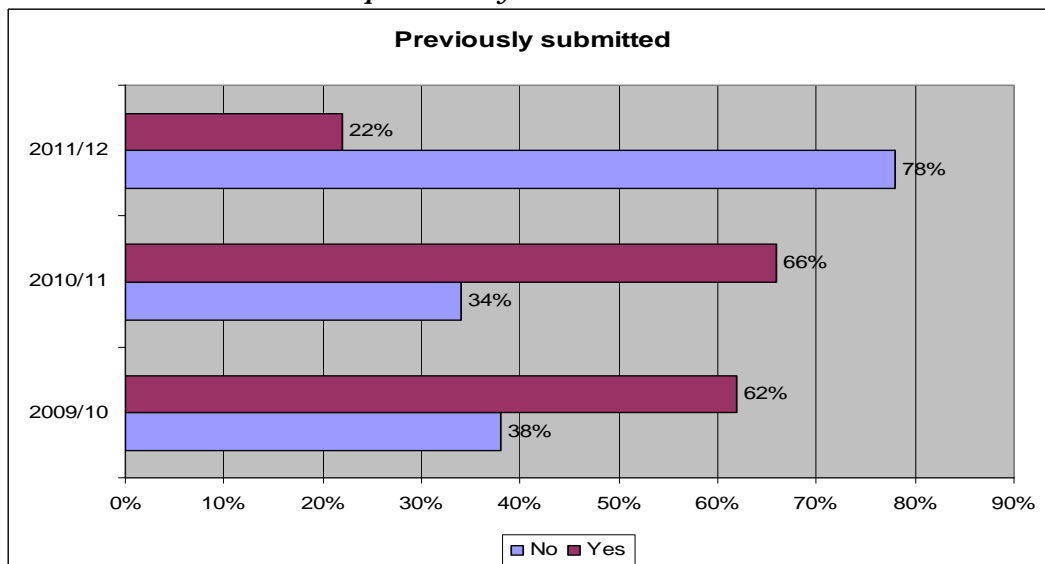
Submission method:



Submissions by age:



Submitters who have not previously submitted:



5 Summary of feedback

The next section of this report outlines the results of the questionnaire and written feedback on key issues of the draft plan.

Note on analysis:

The information in the graphs of this section is taken from the results of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed by 591 submitters in total.

Indicating a preference for each option in the questionnaire was not compulsory, and consequently the total number of responses for each option varies. Overall there was a very high completion rate.

The outline of comments in this section is taken from all submissions (789 submissions).

4.1 Savings options overview

The economic downturn continues to impact households and businesses making rates affordability a continuing challenge. This operating environment influenced the 2011/12 planning process.

The Council prepared a draft plan that took a balanced approach – one that maintained the vast of majority of services on which city residents, businesses and visitors rely, while reducing costs by making minor reductions to some services.

Council's approach to savings was to focus on small savings across the entire service spectrum rather than making deep cuts in one or two areas that would significantly impact the extent to which the service was delivered or the way the service would be experienced by the public. The Council also focused on service level changes that could easily be reinstated in future should economic conditions allow.

Overall there was a general acceptance by the community for the need to make savings to reduce the rates increase. While there was clear opposition to some savings options, there were also some submitters that thought Council could go further to reduce costs in some areas².

Results from the questionnaire show that support for savings options ranged from a high of 74 percent - for reduced funding to Wellington Waterfront Ltd - to a low of 25 percent for a small reduction in pest monitoring.

The average across all savings options is 54 percent support, 23 neutral and 24 percent opposed.

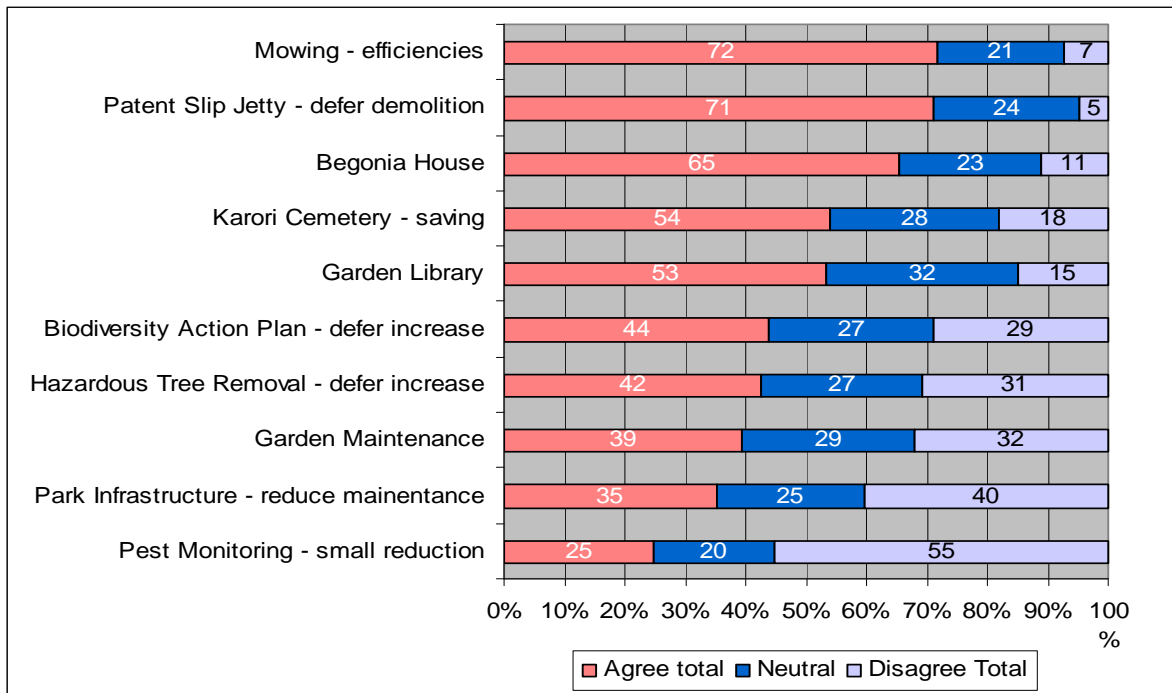
The next section outlines the questionnaire results for each savings option with a high level summary of the comments made by submitters.

Botanic gardens, local parks and green spaces – savings options

The savings included in the draft plan in this section were a mixture of deferring non-urgent work for one year, deferring budget increases that had been scheduled in the long-term plan for one year, efficiencies due to changes in work practices, or modest savings to some services but at a level where it will not adversely impact on the overall service experienced by the community.

Results of the questionnaire: Botanic Gardens, Local Parks and Green Spaces

² Additional savings options is covered in section 5.2 of this report.



The following section outlines a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters in relation to the savings options.

Patent Slip jetty – defer demolition for one year

Submitter comments on this proposal were largely opposed to demolition taking place on the basis that it had heritage value. One submitter advocated for the deferral to be extended to three years, or until the economy recovered.

Biodiversity Action Plan – defer planned funding increase for one year

There were a small number of written comments on this proposal. The majority noted the importance of biodiversity projects to the city, the need for ongoing support in this area and were largely opposed to deferring the scheduled funding increase.

Hazardous Trees – defer scheduled funding increase for one year

Submitter comments on this proposal were minimal. Some wished the funding increase to proceed and identified areas for tree removal, others accepted the deferral subject to it not increasing costs in the long term or endangering the public.

Small reduction in pest monitoring

This proposal received the least amount of support in the questionnaire and submitter comments were also largely against the reduction in pest monitoring. It was noted that significant progress in pest control had been achieved in recent years, and that this had a positive impact on bird populations in the Wellington region and that further investment should be made to capitalise on the good work achieved to date.

Reduce funding to Karori Cemetery (crematorium services reduction due to reduced demand and small saving to maintenance programme)

Submitters were positive about the Karori Cemetery, noted that the area had been opened up and tidied and was a peaceful place to visit. The small number of submitters who commented on this proposal did not wish to see a reduction in funding for maintenance.

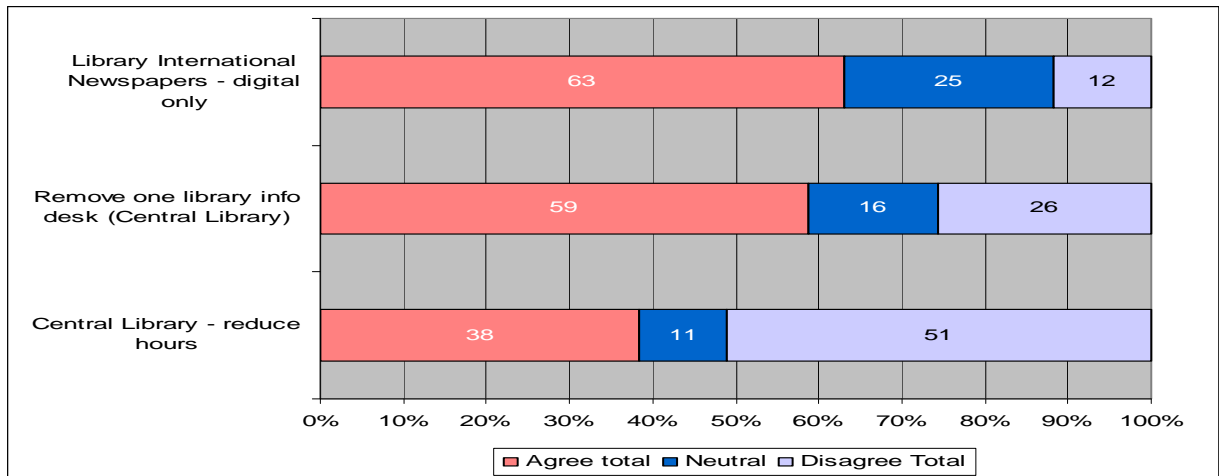
Remaining initiatives

The remaining initiatives in this area received few comments. The draft plan noted savings options that had been considered but not agreed. One of these – charging for plants for volunteer groups – received a number of comments. All supported Council's decision to continue to provide native plants to volunteer groups to plant on roadside reserve and other public places for free.

Library savings options

The library network is a significant area of investment each year and the draft plan included three modest savings options to reduce costs without unduly impacting on service continuity and the overall service experienced by library users.

Results of the questionnaire: Library savings



The following section outlines a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters in relation to the savings options.

Reduce Central Library hours in the evening

This option received the most comments out of all the library options. The majority of submitters who commented on this area opposed changes to evening hours for the Central Library. They noted that with busy work lives, studies and shift work, evenings were often the best time to access this service. A number of these submitters also wished to see hours extended.

A smaller group supported the proposal subject to one evening a week having late opening hours so access could be maintained in the evenings at least once a week. Other options for savings were also suggested including reducing staff in quieter times, and opening the library later in the morning to reduce costs.

Libraries – provide most international newspapers in digital format only

This option was generally supported. It was viewed as a means to save costs while still maintaining the overall service. One submitter advocated for an additional computer be made available at the library to meet demand for viewing newspapers in digital format only.

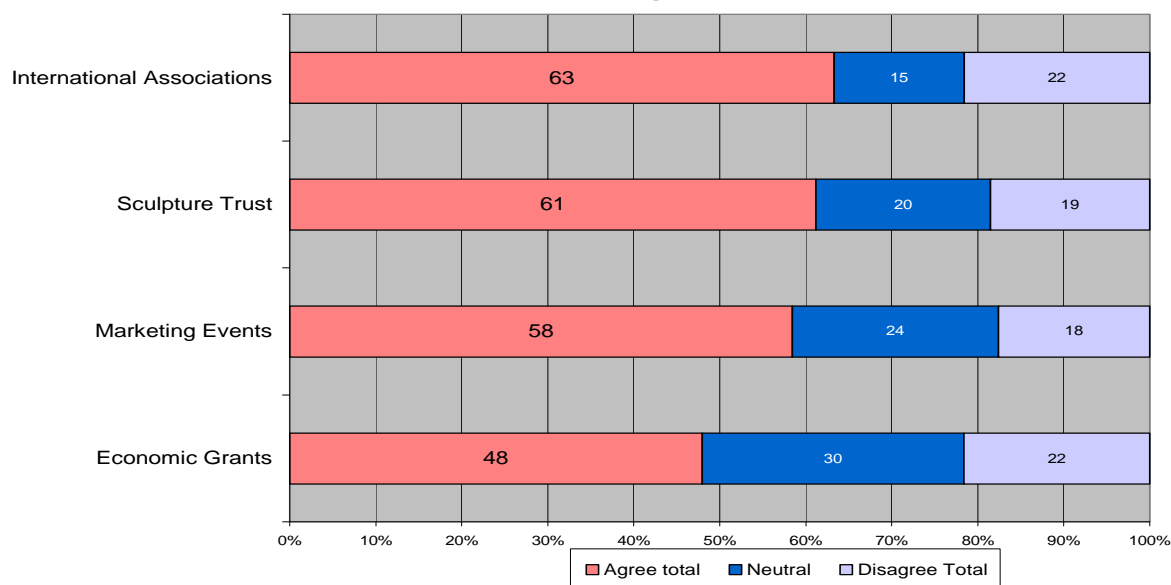
Libraries – close one information desk

There was a reasonable level of support for reducing the number of information desks at the Central library from submitters – one submitter advocated for two to be closed. Others viewed it as the ‘public face’ of the library and believed that closing the helpdesk on the ground floor would make it confusing for new members and that having skilled staff on hand near the entrance of the library was important.

Economic and cultural grants – savings options

The draft plan proposed savings to a small range of grants that support external organisations, and a minor reduction in funding for marketing Council supported events.

Questionnaire results: Economic and cultural grants



The following section outlines a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters in relation to the savings options.

Wellington Sculpture Trust - reduce grants funding for one year

While submitters recognised the importance of sculptures in the city, there was reasonable support for this saving amongst those that commented on it – at least as a temporary measure. One submitter also wished to see the saving go further.

There were two submitters that opposed the savings and the Wellington Sculpture Trust made a number of recommendations regarding wording which will be made to the final plan. They also advocated for the level of saving to be reduced by \$5,000 which is not recommended.

Comments in support of Council's proposal to maintain cultural grants at current levels were also received.

Economic grants reduction

Economic grants were viewed by some as a function that duplicated the role of Grow Wellington, and that due to the remaining grants funding level it would be hard for the grants to make much of a difference. One submitter asked that the grant be removed altogether.

There was some recognition that uptake of the grant funding has been low – although the submitter expected this to change as organisations manage themselves to fit the criteria. Others believed that reducing the grant could have long term negative impact on new businesses in the city.

One submitter also requested the establishment of a new small to medium sized enterprises (SME) coordinator role at Council. See the officer's report on funding requests and prominent issues on this agenda.

Marketing for Council events - saving

There were a small number of comments with mixed views. Submitters wanted to ensure that they continued to be informed of events, and that some level of marketing needed to occur to ensure that events were successful.

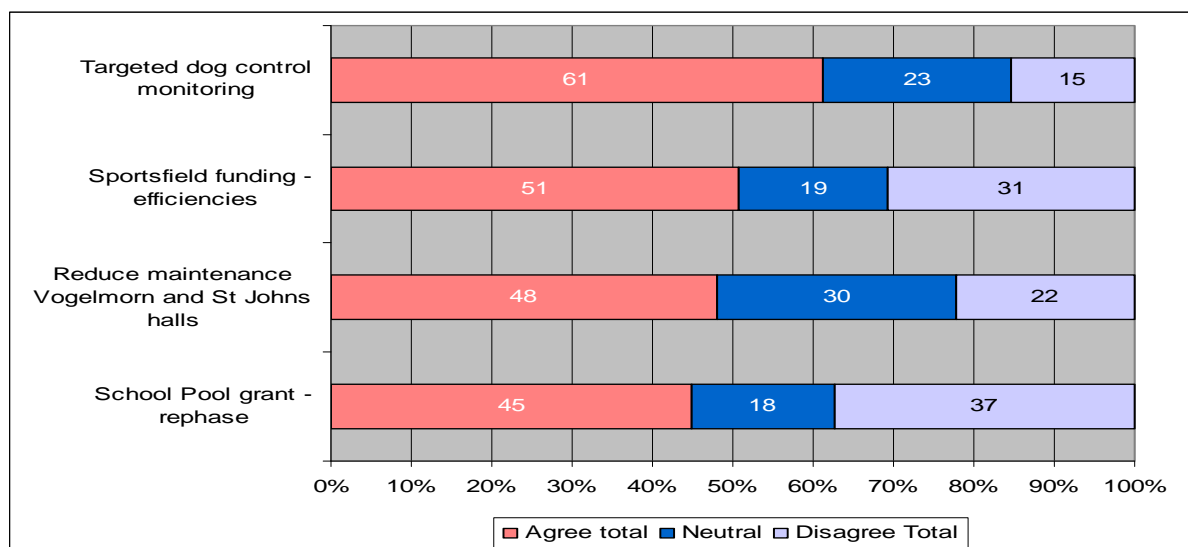
International association – reduce grants funding

There were few comments on this saving option. One submitter did not think this was an area of priority in this economic climate and further savings should be made.

Community properties and recreation savings option

Options in this area included rephasing the school pool grants programme over four years instead of two, deferring maintenance on Vogelmorn Hall and St Johns in Karori and considering divestment options, sportsfield maintenance efficiencies, and a targeted approach to dog control.

Questionnaire results: Community properties and recreation savings



The following section outlines a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters in relation to the savings options.

Rephase school pool grant funding over four years

While there were a few comments in support, others opposed funding being provided in the first place on the basis that it is inappropriate for local government to subsidise what is essentially a central government function. Others approved of the funding but opposed it being rephased over four years citing concerns such as: the number of deaths through drowning; that members of the public are currently disadvantaged because of the amount of time public pools are needed for lessons and aquatic events, and that the Council may change its mind to provide this funding in

future.

Sportsfield maintenance efficiencies

Comments in this area related to the overall shortage of all-weather playing surfaces in the city and that any efficiencies should be put towards the provision of additional artificial turf, or should be retained within the maintenance programme to ensure sportsfields were maintained, regardless of artificial turf development.

Defer maintenance for Vogelmorn Hall and St Johns Hall in Karori and consider divestment

The majority of comments on this proposal were from those who used the facilities – community and sporting groups etc. Issues raised include the impact on programmes and services provided by organisations at these venues, and the lack of alternative venues – particularly in Karori.

Targeted approach to dog control

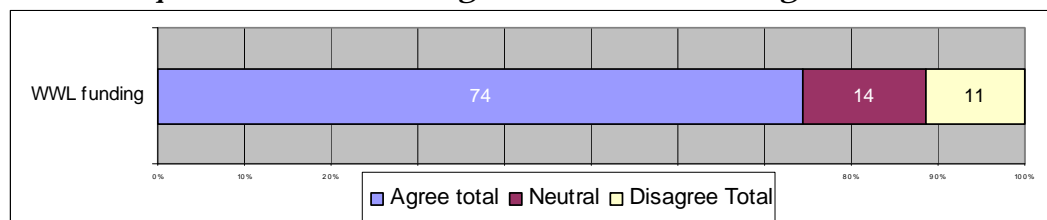
There were few comments on this option. One submitter welcomed the saving and advocated for Council to recover the full cost of this service from fines and fees paid by dog owners, another submitter believed the change in approach to the management of the dog control services may result in transferring the costs elsewhere.

Other savings

Wellington Waterfront Ltd – saving

Council oversees development of the waterfront. Implementation is managed by Wellington Waterfront Ltd. The draft plan recommended reducing funding to the waterfront company to match the level of development taking place in the current economic climate.

Results of questionnaire: Wellington Waterfront saving



There was support for this saving from submitters – they either did not see development on the waterfront as necessary in the current economic climate, wished to see further cuts made, or advocated for the functions of the company to be brought into Council. Comments were also received in opposition to continued development on the waterfront and the building of the toilets.

5.2 Submitters views on what action Council should take if savings opposed

The submission form asked submitters to identify what action Council should take if they had predominantly answered in opposition to the above

savings options. The actions available included: increase rates, increase user charges, make savings to other programmes (and if so, which ones).

The most frequently supported action (185 submitters) was for Council to make savings in other programmes – although few indicated what programmes should be targeted for savings. A further 75 submitters indicated Council should raise rates, and 93 submitters advocated for an increase to user charges.

A number of submitters also supported more than one action:

- 22 submitters believed it was appropriate to increase rates and make savings funding from other activities
- 33 submitters wanted savings in other programmes and an increase in user charges
- 18 submitters advocated for an increase in rates coupled with an increase in user charges.

The submission form also encouraged submitters to put forward savings ideas of their own. Saving options put forward varied widely - from reducing corporate overheads (ie salaries, overseas travel, Our Wellington page etc), to cuts to front line services (various options put forward). Some submitters advocated for Council to pursue greater efficiency in Council practices ahead of service level cuts, ie adoption of shared services model where possible, online service delivery, and working with utilities more effectively when undertaking renewal work on roads etc.

The options will be more fully investigated by officers in the coming months and any recommended changes will be processed through the draft long-term plan process.

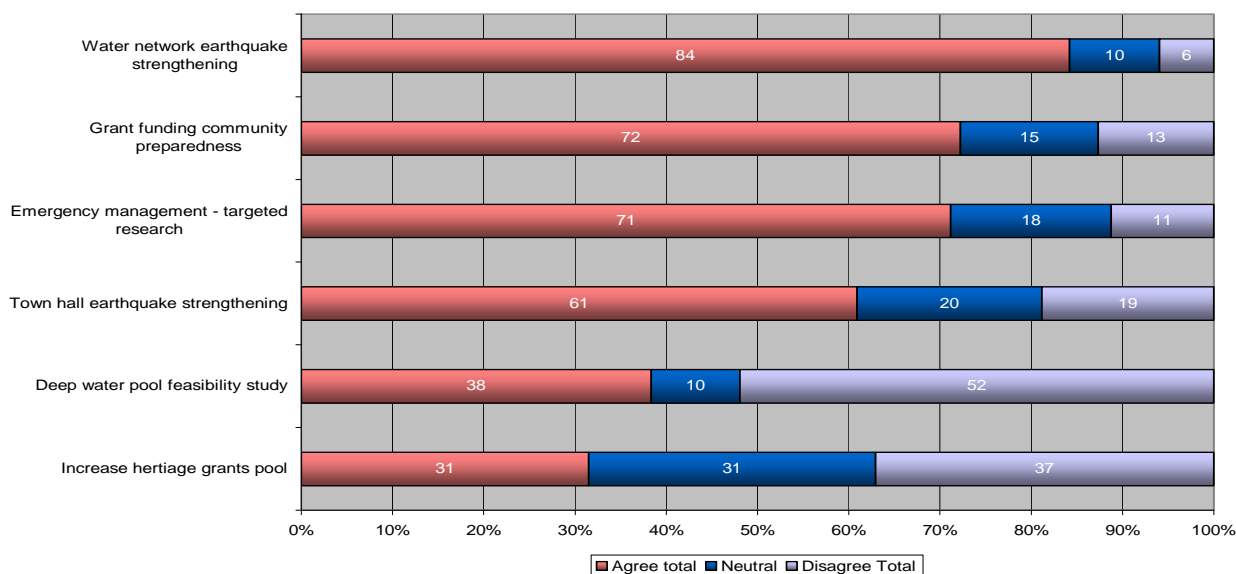
5.3 New funding proposals

The draft plan outlined a number of projects that related to earthquake strengthening existing assets or improving the city's earthquake preparedness. This included additional funding for earthquake strengthening the water network, bringing forward funding to start planning work for earthquake strengthening the Town Hall and Council Municipal Office Buildings earlier than originally scheduled, and new grant funding to build community emergency preparedness.

The draft plan also outlined plans to increase heritage grants, undertake a feasibility study on a new deep water pool at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, and additional funding to maintain assets at the Basin Reserve and the St James.

Results of questionnaire: New or additional funding

DAP 2011-12 Proposed Areas for Increase



Earthquake strengthening our water assets

The majority of submitters that commented on this area were in support of the additional funding and considered strengthening core infrastructure a priority. One submitter questioned whether strengthening of the network would actually help, and another advocated for localised water storage instead of strengthening the network.

Emergency preparedness grants, targeted research, and bringing forward funding for earthquake strengthening the Town Hall

The comments were largely in support for the establishment of this new grant and the additional research on how best to look after the city's most vulnerable in the case of an emergency such as an earthquake. A small number questioned whether it would be effective.

Submitters were also in support of bringing forward funding for planning work to strengthen the Town Hall and Council Municipal Building

A number of submitters raised operational issues regarding the city's emergency preparedness or asked for specific actions to be taken – these are addressed in the report on funding requests and prominent issues.

Deep water pool feasibility study

This proposal received polarised views - and this is also reflected in the questionnaire results.

Those in support argued that there is insufficient pool space in Wellington to meet demand, that this was negatively impacting on aquatic clubs, learn to swim and recreational swimmers, and that an additional swimming pool is required to resolve shortage of pool space.

Submitters noted that an expanded aquatic facility would provide the opportunity to attract mass-participation events to Wellington which will benefit both the aquatic community and the Wellington economy generally.

Those in opposition to the proposal spoke against the high cost of the feasibility study, and that the current economic climate – where savings were being proposed to other areas – was not the most appropriate time to consider this level of investment. Others simply did not consider it a priority, requested a regional solution to demand for pool space, or advocated for Council to focus more on core services – including maintaining other pools to a higher standard. The location was also raised by a number of submitters as an issue – either because it was not centrally located or that it would add to traffic problems in the area.

Increase to heritage grants

There was a mixed response in the comments made on this funding proposal. There was support from some who valued the contribution heritage made to Wellington, and one submitter also advocated for additional resources to be made available to ensure that heritage sites, objects, structure and buildings around Wellington were promptly listed in the District Plan. Those who opposed the funding did not consider it a priority in the tight economic times where savings were being made to other programmes.

St James and Basin Reserve – funding to maintain assets

These funding increases arose as a result of asset management plans being completed or condition surveys. They are not increases to levels of service – simply funding requirements to maintain assets. As a consequence the level of discretion around these funding requirements are much lower and were therefore not included in the questionnaire.

5.4 Rates and the differential

The majority of comments from residential submitters were in opposition to the residential rates increase. They viewed it as too high in the current economic climate and wanted to see it more closely tied to inflation levels.

There were also a smaller number of submitters who considered the rates increase reasonably well constrained considering the cost pressures, and one submitter advocated for no savings to be made and for rates to go up to ensure services were maintained to a high standard. This comment supports the preference of a number of submitters who would prefer an increase in rates over savings (see section 5.2 of this report).

A number of residential submitters also opposed the continued shift in the differential arguing that business had the opportunity to offset these costs.

The commercial submitters supported the continued movement in the differential. A number of commercial submitters advocated for greater transparency in how the Downtown Levy was spent and requested to be more involved in determining what activities should be funded.

5.5 Fees and user charges

The Council proposed to increase fees and charges for a range of services as part of the draft annual plan process. The proposed increases recognise cost pressures Council faces in delivering these services. Increasing fees by a small amount each year ensures that ratepayers are not over-subsidising services, and also helps avoid larger increases in future. The fees are set in accordance with the Revenue and Financing Policy which determines for each activity who benefits and who should pay.

The parking fees are the exception and have not been increased since 2004. The increase reflects inflation and the change in GST over that time.

Parking fees are not changed annually as the cost of implementing the change is high (signage, updating ticketing machines etc). Charging in the evenings reflects the desire to increase turnover at these times.

The vast majority of submitters that commented on the proposal to increase parking fees believed it would discourage people from visiting/shopping in the CBD, that the move would impact on the vibrancy of the inner city with many residents choosing to shop and entertain themselves in Porirua or Lower Hutt. This proposal was also strongly opposed by inner city retailers and businesses who believed this increase would have a negative impact on their business.

The proposal to increase parking fees was supported by a small number of submitters. They either viewed it as a move that would encourage greater use of public transport or recognised the increased cost as a result of inflation since 2004, and did not wish to see ratepayers subsidise car drivers.

The proposed extension to evening charging was also opposed by both individual and business submitters. Individual submitters noted that the additional cost of parking would make going out in the evenings prohibitive and that the increase would have a detrimental impact on cafes, restaurants and other entertainment venues. Some also noted that using public transport was not a viable alternative as bus services were not frequent at this time of the night.

While the majority of comments related to parking fees, a small number also opposed the increase to swimming pools and sportsfields. Traffic management costs for road closures for community fairs was also raised as an issue by one submitter.

5.6 Performance measures, consultation and the document

A number of submitters found the presentation of the plan useful, noted the plain language, that key issues had been highlighted to facilitate public involvement as did the 'areas of focus approach'.

Other submitters advocated for more detail and requested that trend data be made available for performance measures and financial tables in future. While the information is available (in the long-term plan and the annual report) it has not been included to date to ensure the document is of a manageable size. With recent legislative changes this information is required to be included from 2012 onwards, and will be included in the 2012-22 long-term plan. The Accessibility Advisory Group also raised a

number of accessibility issues that will be followed up by officers.

A few submitters also raised requests for the inclusion of specific performance measures, and these will be considered as part of the review of the performance measurement framework for the 2012-22 long-term plan.

Some submitters also commented that Council was not willing to listen, and that nothing ever changed as a result of consultation. Two resident associations also requested that ward meetings be reinstated.

5.7 Summary of submissions by strategy area

Governance area

There were no common themes in the feedback on this strategy area. Improvements to the Council's website were suggested by a few submitters which largely focused on improved navigation, usability, and accessibility. It is interesting to note that regional governance failed to generate many comments from submitters, which matches the modest response to the Council's specific consultation on this matter in February.

Environment area

While the water fluoridation issue dominated submissions, most activities in this strategy area received comments. There were several supportive comments for community environmental initiatives, particularly from groups actively involved in an initiative. The potential of these initiatives for food production was highlighted by a number of submitters as well as their primary benefits in enhancing the city's biodiversity.

There was support for efforts to reduce leaks from the city's water network, support for rainwater capture and that water should remain owned by the public. Taking a more ecologically-based approach to managing stormwater was also supported by a handful of submitters, including reducing the amount of impervious surfaces in the city.

There were a number of submissions on climate change, including a campaign for the Council to consider taking up a scheme to subsidise solar-powered hot water systems in homes. There was also a request for Council to be more proactive in dealing with the implications of sea level rise, particularly in relation to decisions that have long-term impacts, such the stormwater network and the location of facilities close to water.

There were several submissions on the new recycling system, including from schools asking that the council reinstate its informal practice of collecting their recycling.

Economic area

Concern about the tourism sector emerged as the dominant issue in this activity area. In particular, the vitality of the city's events sector attracted several submissions, concerned that the city's status was at risk from

competition from Auckland and inadequate support for existing events. There was also support for long haul flights and getting the most out of existing visitor attractions. Inner city office space vacancy rates was also raised as a significant issues and this issue will be further considered as part of the 2015 economic strategy programme.

The Rugby World Cup continued to attract submissions this draft annual plan. While there were a clutch of submissions imploring the Council to make the most of the opportunity, the majority of comments were from submitters stating their opposition to various aspects of the Council's support for the event.

Cultural Wellbeing area

As was the case last year, this area received fewest comments. Submitters highlighted the importance of supporting the arts and the value of community involvement in public art works. There was broad support for Council's investment in the arts, with a couple of suggestions to better focus its expenditure.

One submitter suggested that the Shelly Bay naval base could be transformed into a military museum.

Social and Recreation area

This year, the synthetic turf sportsfields attracted several supportive comments including a number of requests to bring forward the development programme or renewals.

Swimming pools, libraries, and emergency management were all key items in the proposed savings and new initiatives, so it was not surprising to find that submitters took to comment more broadly on these activities.

For libraries, submitters expressed concerns about any potential cuts in suburban services and the refresh of the Central Library received both support from some submitters and was also opposed a small group on the basis of the high costs of this work in the current economic climate..

For swimming pools, there were a number of specific suggestions about the maintenance of existing facilities and a general concern that aquatic facilities in the northern suburbs would suffer should the deep water pool complex go ahead at the WRAC.

For emergency management, there were a number of comments about harnessing the capacity of local communities to respond to a disaster and the need to get the region's planning in order.

Urban development area

The key themes to emerge in the urban development area were influenced by the consultation material as earthquakes and the waterfront generated the most comments from submitters.

The Waterfront Development Plan was included in the draft annual plan for the first time this year. Submitters commented on a host of matters that largely touched on the upcoming review of the Framework rather than the development plan for 2011/12. These comments have been forwarded to the Framework review process and will be reported back in more detail when the review is presented to the Council.

A combination of the new initiatives for emergency management and the recent events in Christchurch and Japan placed earthquakes at the forefront of submitters' thinking about urban planning. Submitters thought it was important that the city take the risk of natural disasters much more seriously and find ways of reconciling the tension between heritage preservation and providing safe buildings.

Other themes to emerge in this activity include a suggestion that the Council adopt a strategy to prevent light pollution and concern about the equity for ratepayers in the Council's decision to participate in the Government's leaky homes financial assistance package.

Transport area

Comments on the transport planning area focused largely on the need for a modal shift to more environmentally friendly transport solutions such as public transport, cycling and walking. There was a call for the Council to make its expenditure in walking and cycling facilities proportionate to the amount of walking and cycling activity.

There were a good number of comments supporting the Council's decision confirming its commitment to the Ngauranga to Airport Corridor Plan and several grumbles about the public transport system, which are passed on to Greater Wellington.

5.8 Community feedback on blogs and social media websites

Officers tracked comments on a range of websites and blogs before and during the formal consultation period. This year, the proposed changes in car parking fees and hours dominated online discussion after substantial coverage on stuff.co.nz. Stuff ran several articles on the matter, which collectively attracted well over a hundred comments. These raised concerns about the affordability of the increased fees and the detrimental impact extending the hours would have on the vitality of the central city. They also ran a poll which overwhelmingly rejected the fees increase (at 5 May 2011, there were 848 votes (82.6%) against the proposal).

This issue was picked up by scoop.co.nz (8 comments), where the comments were mixed, and kiwiblog.co.nz (44 comments), where some comments were a little more philosophical about the business opportunities for car parking buildings and the prospect that increased fees may free up on-street parking for those willing to pay.

There were few comments on the deep water pool complex feasibility study - an article in the lead-up to the consultation period attracted only 5 comments on stuff, largely against the proposal, and an article on the oral submissions only attracted 2 comments on stuff, both against.

An article on stuff about the proposed rates rise in the lead-up to the consultation process generated 17 comments that largely expressed concerns about the most prominent consultation issues (car parking, library hours, pool feasibility) as well the merits of accepting the leaky homes package.

6. Conclusion

This report highlights the key themes of comments and the results of feedback on the submissions form. This provide eh context for elected members to consider final decisions on priorities for the coming year.

Contact officer: Baz Kaufman – Senior Corporate Planner

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The report contributes to the governance strategy.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The report has no financial impacts.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

4) Decision-Making

This process provides feedback on a special consultative procedure.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

This report provides feedback on a broad consultation process.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua were consulted as part of the long-term plan process.

6) Legal Implications

The report provides for the formal receipt of submissions that were made as part of the special consultative procedure.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with the Council's engagement policy