
2013/14 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 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan.

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Receive the submissions that were lodged as part of the special consultative procedure for the 2013/14 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 2013/14 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.*

3. Summary of consultation process

3.1 Summary of the consultation process

The 2013/14 draft Annual Plan describes year two of the 2012-22 Long-Term Plan. The focus of community engagement was on proposed variances to what was outlined for year two of the long-term plan, as well as new initiatives.

An engagement programme for the draft plan was agreed by the Strategy and Policy Committee in March 2013. 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 formal consultation period on the draft plan ran from 16 April – 16 May 2013. A broad range of methods were used to engage people in the process and their feedback on what was being proposed.

The draft plan received 460 written submissions, with 329 completing the submission survey form.

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

Draft Annual Plan documents

Two hundred copies of the full publication and 1200 copies of the summary were distributed. All documents were widely available - online, at libraries, forums, 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. 127 people watched the video.

The draft annual plan was also available as an app for android devices. This year it was not available on iTunes due to changes in specifications for apps. We were only able to have the app available through a Google app store that android devices could download. Three people installed this on their android device.

We continued with the questionnaire format of the submission form. 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 submission form was used by 72 percent of all submitters.

Survey

We also ran an online survey mimicking the submission form. This was completed by a representative sample of Wellington's population by age and gender. 441 people completed the survey. The margin of error is 4.6% with a 95% confidence level.

Our Capital Voice

An opinion poll and a set of discussion forums on the new proposals and changes were open from Tuesday 14 May until 6pm on Thursday 23 May – a total of 10 days including one weekend.

All 402 panel members were sent an email inviting them to take part in the opinion poll and the forums on Tuesday 14 May and an email reminder on Tuesday 20 May. The opinion poll was placed on the front page of the Panel site with links to the discussion forums on the opinion poll results page.

Forty six panel members took part in the opinion poll and 17 joined the discussions in the forums.

Meetings

The draft annual plan was presented at a range of meetings. This included all Council forums, ward meetings, reference and advisory groups, and the Makara-Ohariu and Tawa Community Boards. The ward meetings were arranged to jointly discuss the draft annual plan and regional governance. Each meeting was attended by approximately 12 members of the public.

Community meetings also took place on the Khandallah Library and on cycling issues. These attracted a much higher numbers of attendees.

Advertising

The draft annual plan and information on how to make a submission was extensively advertised - online through Facebook and on the Wellington pages of the Stuff website, and through the 'Our Wellington' page in the Dominion Post newspaper.

Advertising for the joint draft annual plan/regional governance ward meetings was in the Wellingtonian, Cook Strait News, Independent Herald and Kapi Mana News.

All submissions have been provided to elected members and have also been made available to the public at the Central Library, as well as on request through the Council website.

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

3.2 Some key facts on submitters

The following table details the number of submissions received since 2006.

LTCCP 2006	DAP 2007	DAP 2008	LTCCP 2009	DAP 2010	DAP 2011	LTP 2012	DAP 2013
1,368	987	438	503	487	789	2600	460

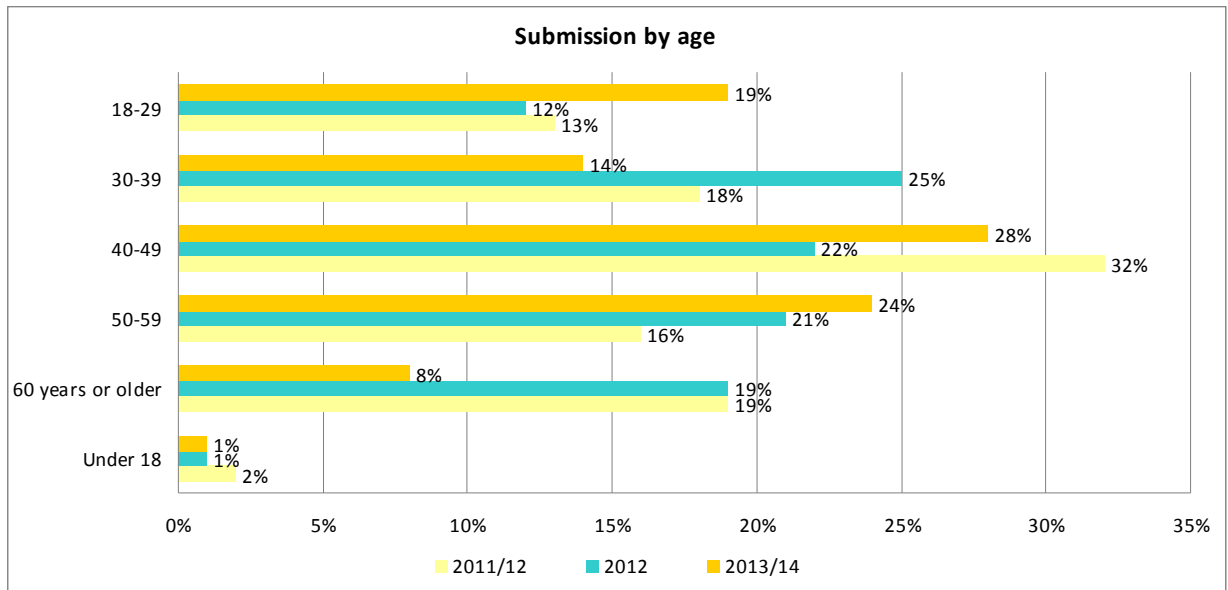
The number of submissions, and who makes submissions is largely determined by the proposals included in the draft plan and the interest and/or impact on the community, or a section of the community.

This year more young people submitted, particularly in the 18-29 age group, and there was an increase in submitters in the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups from last year. The number of first time submitters was very high with 70 percent of all submitters never having made a submission before on a draft annual or long-term plan.

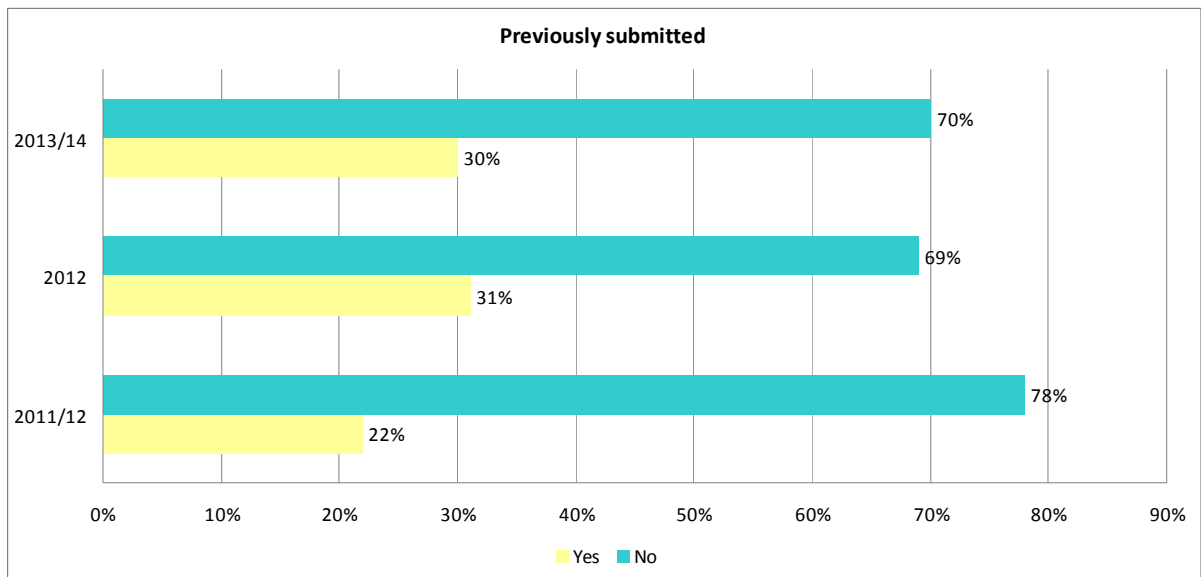
The following graphs outline submissions for the past three years by age, and whether they have submitted before¹.

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

Submissions by age:



Submitters who have previously submitted



4. Summary of feedback

The next section of this report outlines the results of the questionnaire, the survey 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 submission form questionnaire, and the survey. The questionnaire was completed by 329 submitters in total. The survey was completed by 441 respondents.

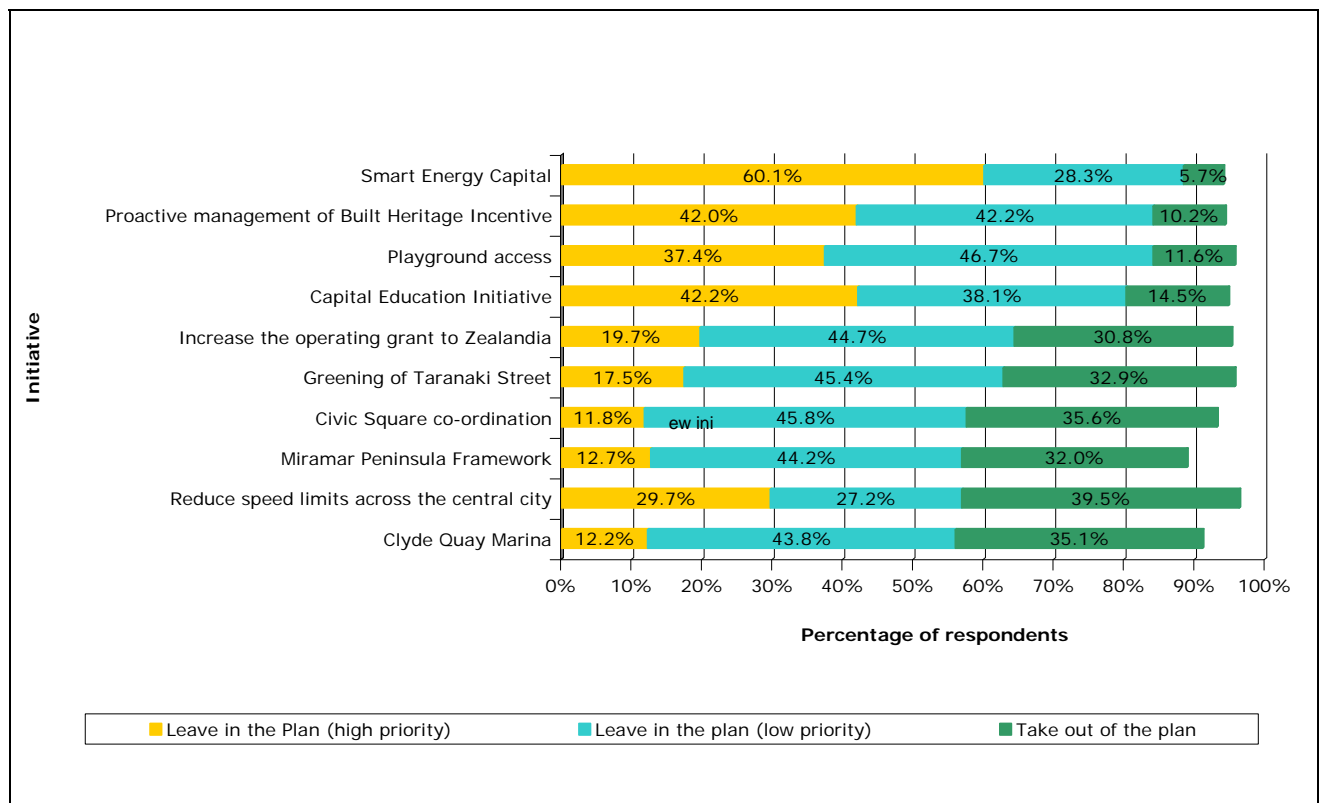
Indicating a preference for each option in the questionnaire and survey was not compulsory, and consequently the total number of responses for each option varies. Overall there was a very high completion rate.

The outline of comments in this section is taken from all submissions (460 submissions). Where appropriate comments from the discussion panel on Our Capital Voice have also been incorporated.

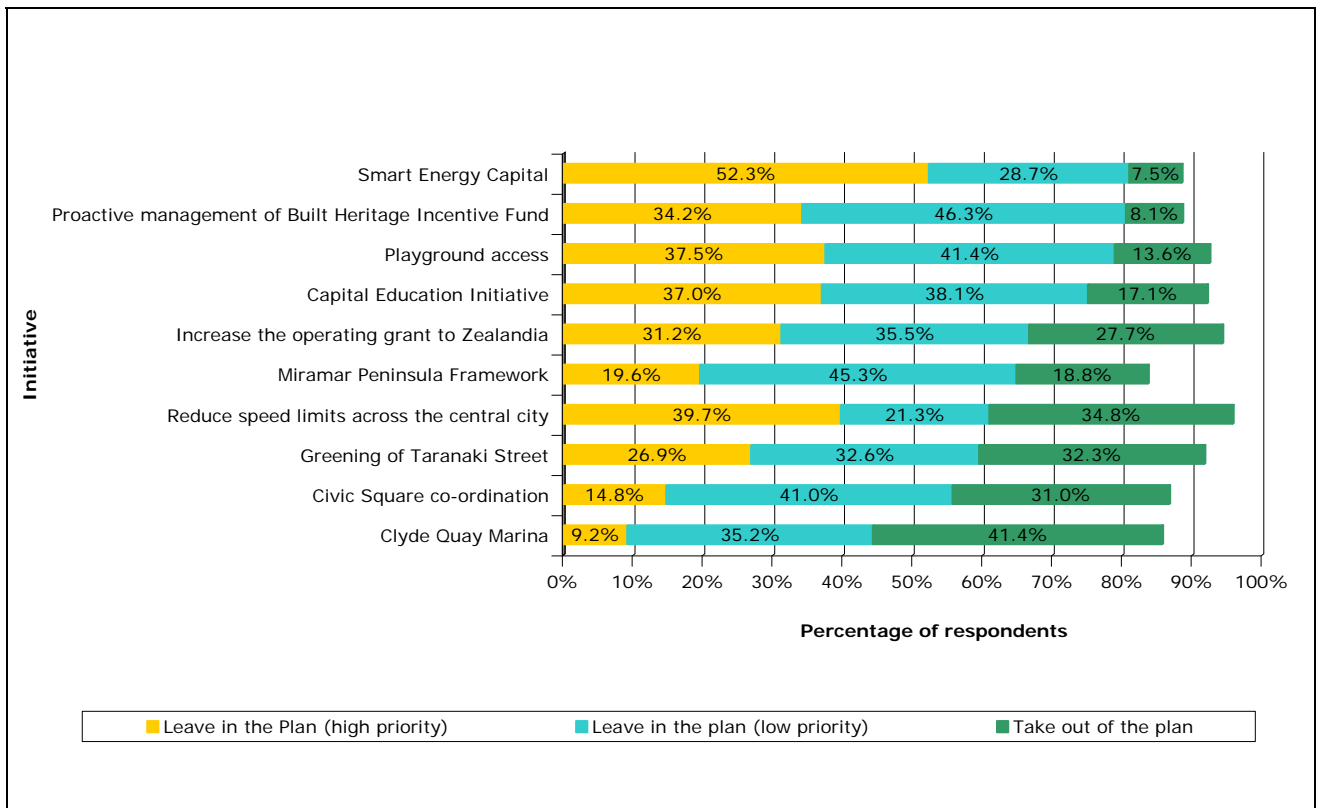
4.1 New initiatives

The draft plan outlined a number of new proposals. The graphs below group all initiatives to show the level of support from highest to lowest. Results from the survey and submissions are separated in the cluster graphs but for each individual initiative they are shown together.

Results of survey: New initiatives



Results from submissions: New initiatives



Both submitters and survey respondents supported the same top five initiatives. These were:

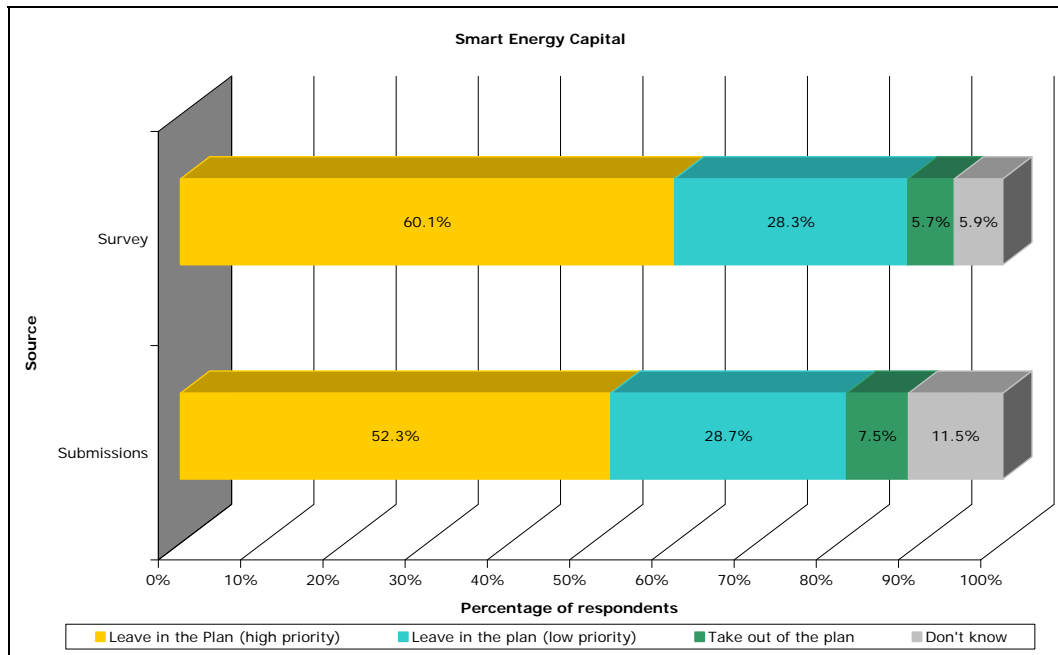
1. Smart Energy Capital,
2. Proactive management of the Built Heritage Incentive fund,
3. Playground access,
4. Capital Education initiative, and
5. Increase the operating budget to Zealandia.

However, survey respondents then gave more support to the Greening of Taranaki Street and Civic Square Co-ordination, where submitters supported the Miramar Peninsular framework and reducing speed limits across the central city.

Clyde Quay Marina had the least support from both groups, yet there were over 45 individual submissions received in support of this initiative. Many of these submissions requested it be left in as a high priority, but did not specify why or expand on their views.

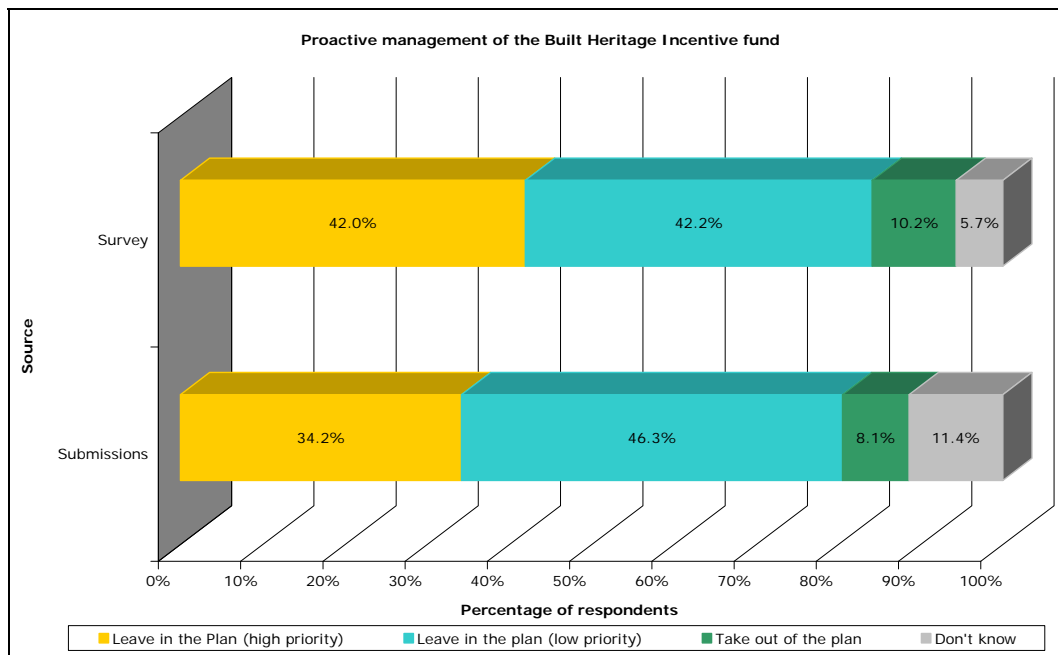
Summaries of each initiative are below, including results from the online survey. A high level synopsis of comments is also included.

Smart energy capital



Smart Energy Capital was a high priority for submitters and survey respondents. Comments largely supported this initiative with encouragement to work with other businesses and organisations. Many supported energy efficiency and the green city image that this initiative contributes to.

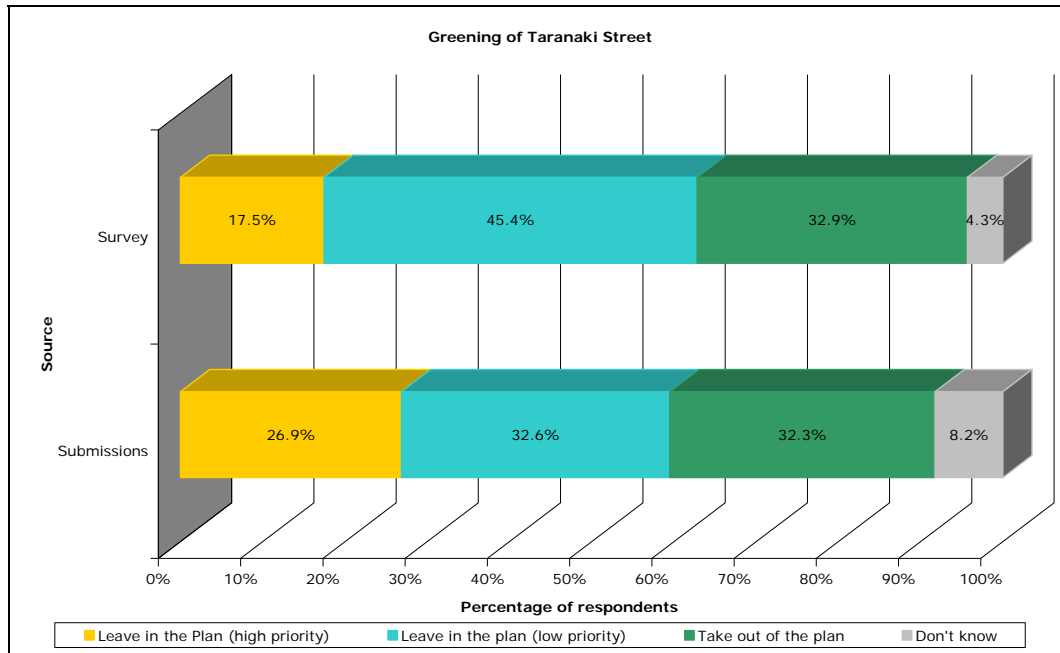
Built Heritage Incentive Fund



There was strong support for this proposal, with most wanting it left in the plan, and over a third seeing it as a high priority. Comments were generally in support of the proactive management of the Fund, though one submitter wanted

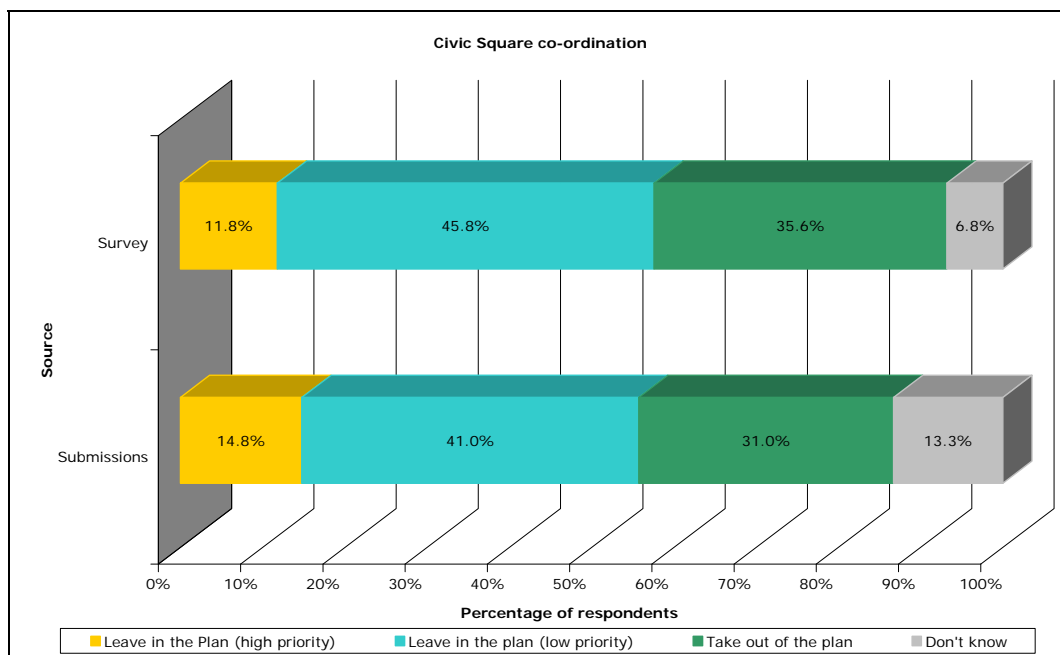
a review of the level of funding assistance to develop a range of incentives to assist property owners.

Greening of Taranaki St



There were opposing views expressed in comments about the Greening of Taranaki St initiative. Those that supported it saw it strengthening the city’s image and enhancing our open spaces and natural corridors. Those that opposed it saw it as a ‘waste of money’ and unnecessary with some believing it to be contradictory to Council’s position on the Basin Reserve Flyover.

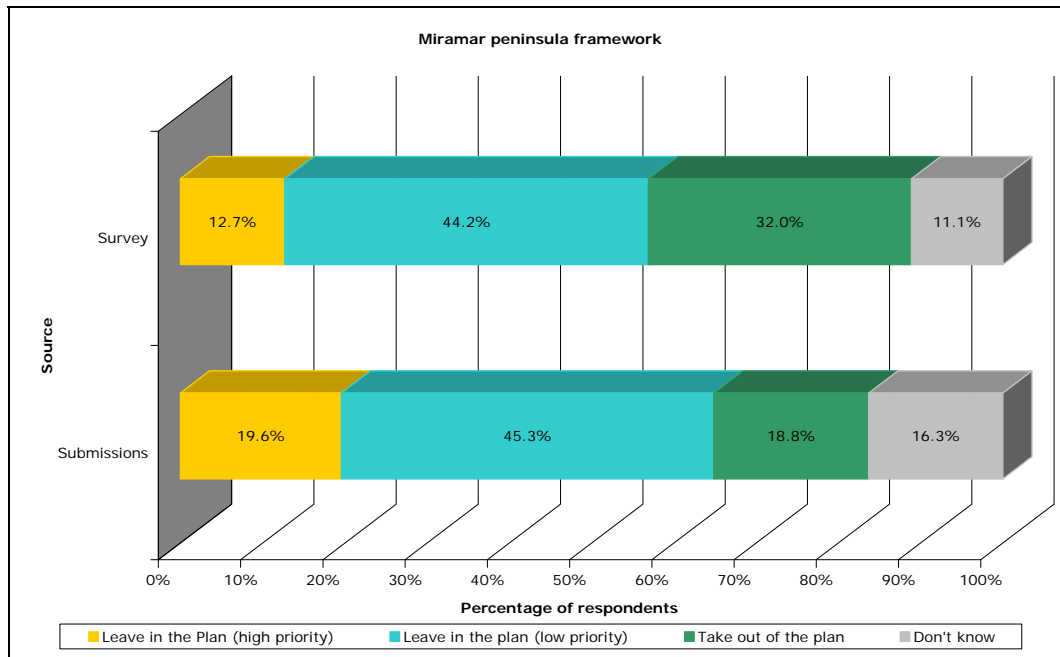
Civic Square Co-ordination



This report is officer advice only. Refer to minutes of the meeting for decision.

Not many submitters or respondents saw the Civic Square Co-ordination initiative as a high priority, which was mirrored in the small number of comments received.

Miramar Peninsula Framework

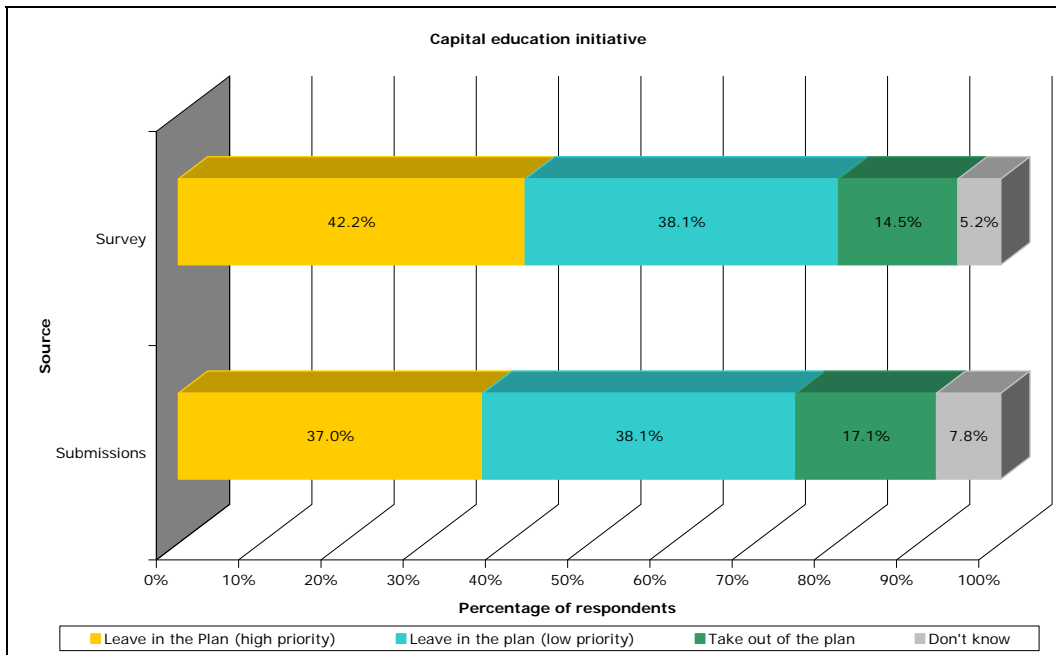


Over half the submitters and survey respondents thought the Miramar Peninsula framework initiative should be in the Annual Plan, though fewer saw it as a high priority. Almost a third of survey respondents believed it should be taken out of the plan.

Comments received were in support with one submitter stating

“Miramar Peninsula plays a big part in the Wellington economy and deserves this investment”.

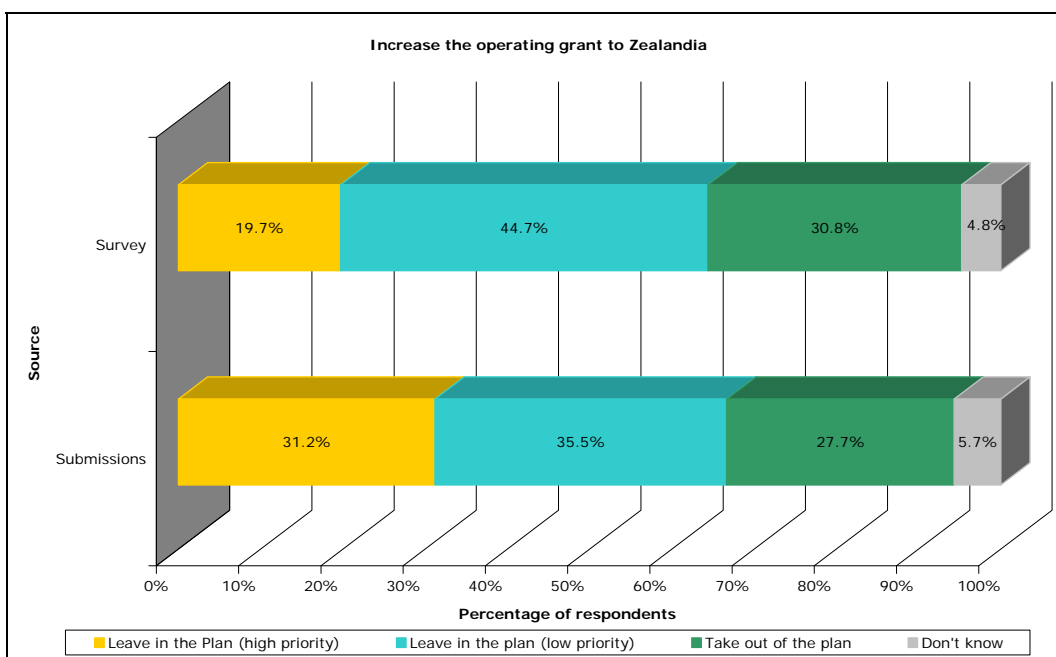
Capital Education Initiative



The Capital Education Initiative received strong support, with over three quarters of respondents wanting it left in the Plan, and over a third of these (37% of submissions and 42.2% of survey respondents) seeing it as a high priority.

Comments received about this were also in support, however one opposing view believes this expenditure should be the responsibility of Central Government, not Council.

Operating grant to Zealandia

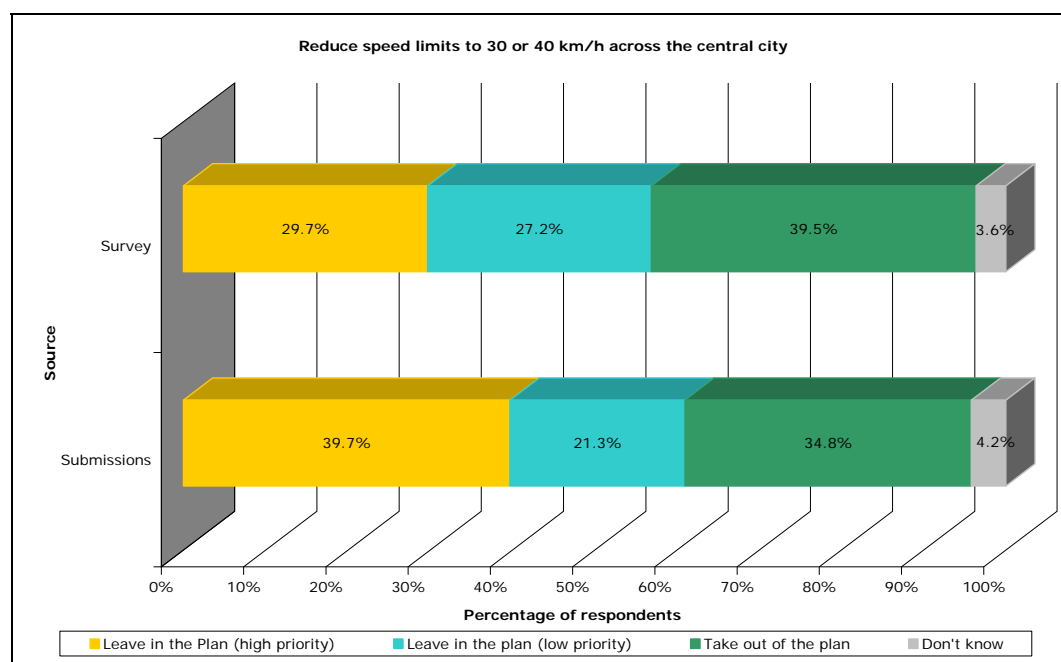


There was mixed support for increasing the operating grant to Zealandia. Whilst almost a third of submitters saw this as a high priority, less than 20% of survey respondents felt the same way. This difference can occur where submissions reflect the views of an 'interested' group of people, while the survey results tend to offer a wider and more representative view.

This was also reflected in the comments received. Common concerns centred around the amount of money that Council had already spent on Zealandia, and that other services were becoming disadvantaged because of this. Those in support believed the improvements to biodiversity and an increased education role were important.

Our Capital Voice panel members also expressed concern at the amount of investment already given to Zealandia and one believed the pricing was out of reach for the average family to visit.

Reduce speed limits across central city



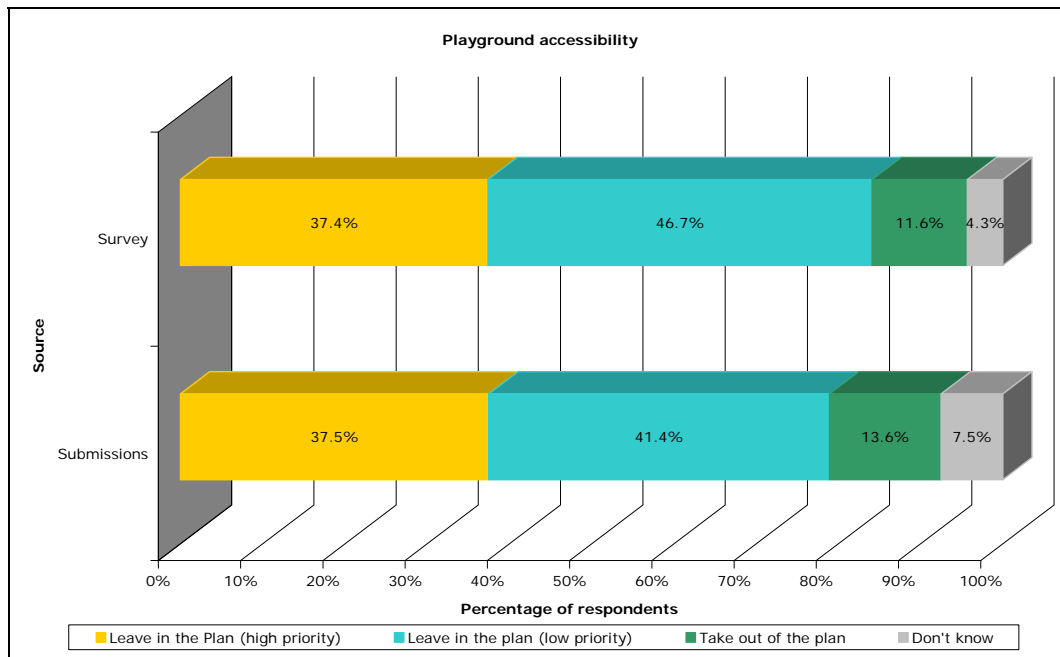
Reducing the speed limits across the central city generated polarising views. There were a comparable number of submissions received wanting it to be a high priority, to those who wanted it taken out of the plan. The survey responses were similar, though more wanted it taken out of the plan.

Those that were against it felt that 30km per hour was too slow and that it would further reduce traffic flow and increase commuting time. Comments called on pedestrians to take responsibility for their own safety and one submitter suggested increasing planted gardens to discourage jaywalking.

“Traffic should be able to freely move at a reasonable rate and the public given the benefit of the doubt to act sensibly”
Comment from submitter

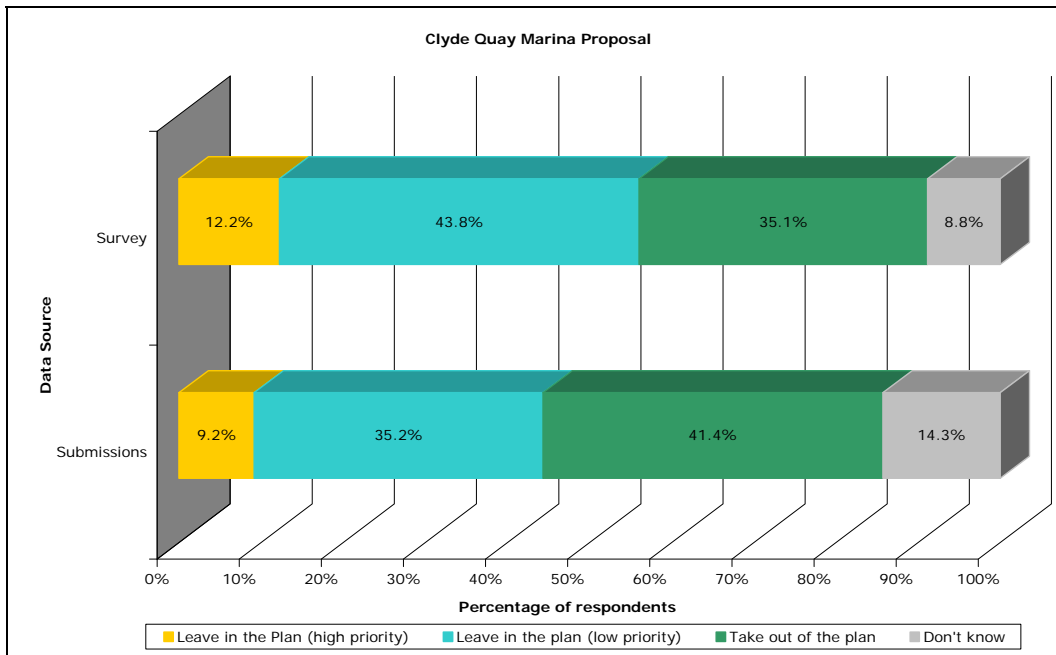
Our Capital Voice panel members were also conflicted on this proposal, with some believing it was a positive step forward to increase safety, but others questioned the impact this would have given current traffic volumes and the level of enforcement.

Playground accessibility



The majority of respondents from the survey and submissions were in support of increasing playground accessibility, with over a third seeing this as a high priority. There were few comments received on this initiative with all in support.

Clyde Quay Marina



There was strong support for this proposal in the comments received with over 40 individual written submissions were received in support of keeping it in the Plan as a high priority. Submitters believe the area is under utilised and it would increased the integration of the harbour and the city.

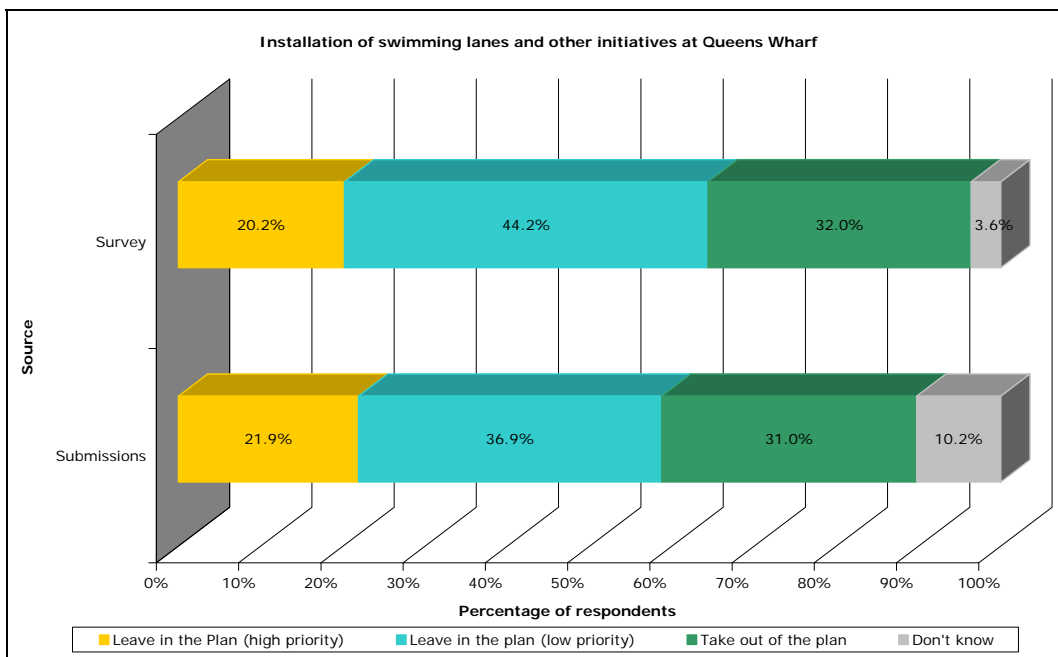
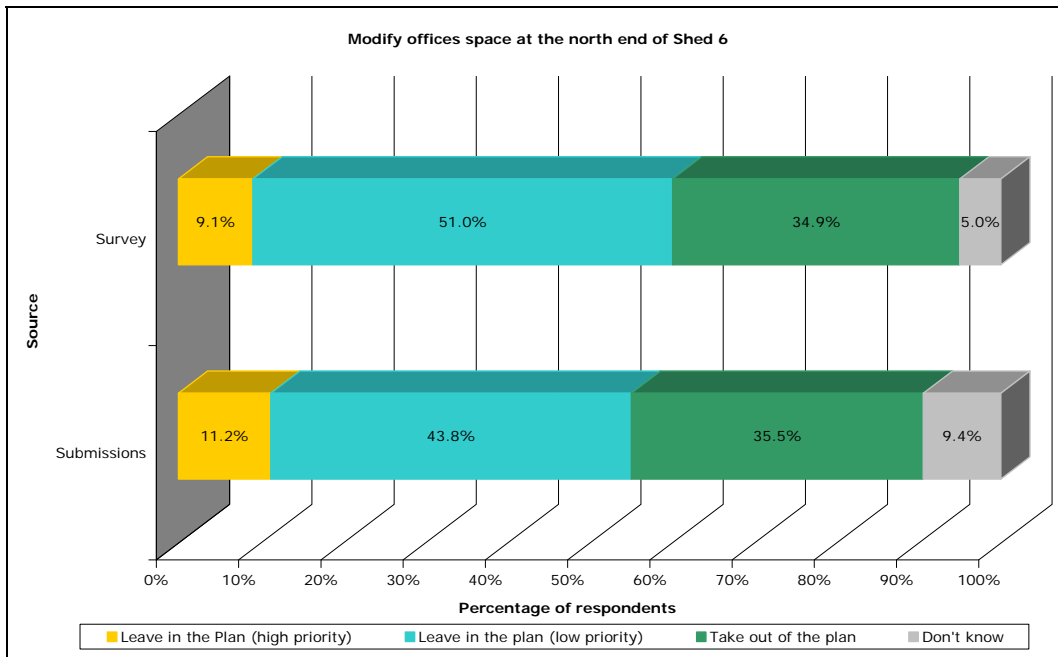
“so unlike the Auckland waterfront where the wharves and port form a barrier between the living heart of the city and the harbour”

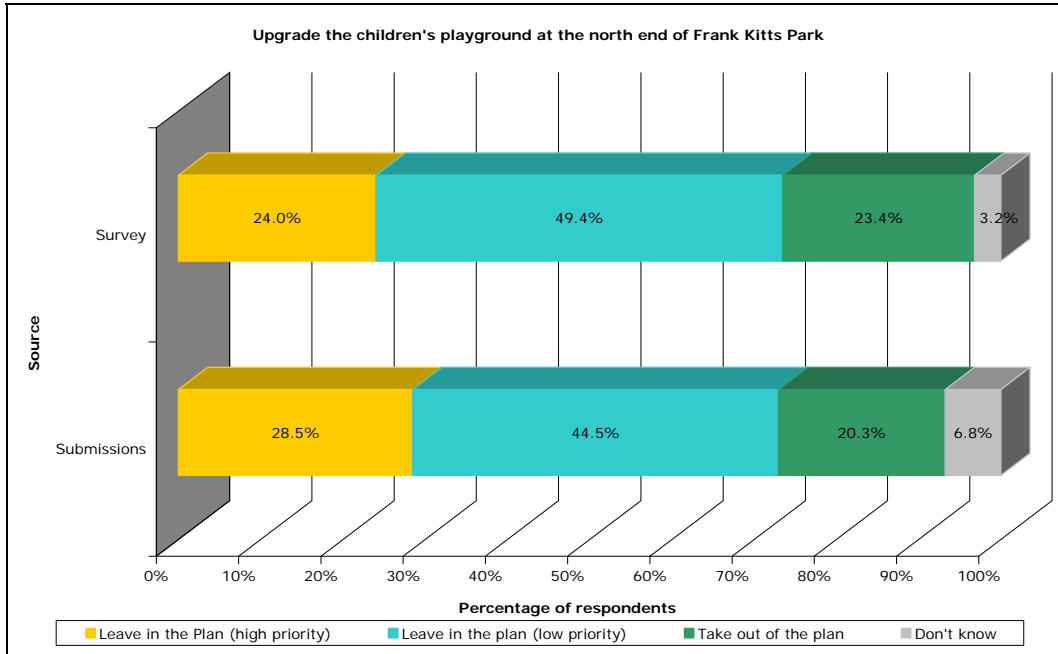
However this was not demonstrated in the survey and submissions, with 35% and 41% respectively wanting it taken out of the Plan. Those that were opposed to this being a priority believed it would only benefit a privileged few and not the wider community. Some saw this as a ‘waste of money’ and believed it should be left as it is.

Wellington Waterfront Ltd Proposals

The Waterfront Development Plan was adopted in 2012, and is in year two of this three year plan. Included in the draft Annual Plan were three development proposals from WWL.

New initiatives from WWL



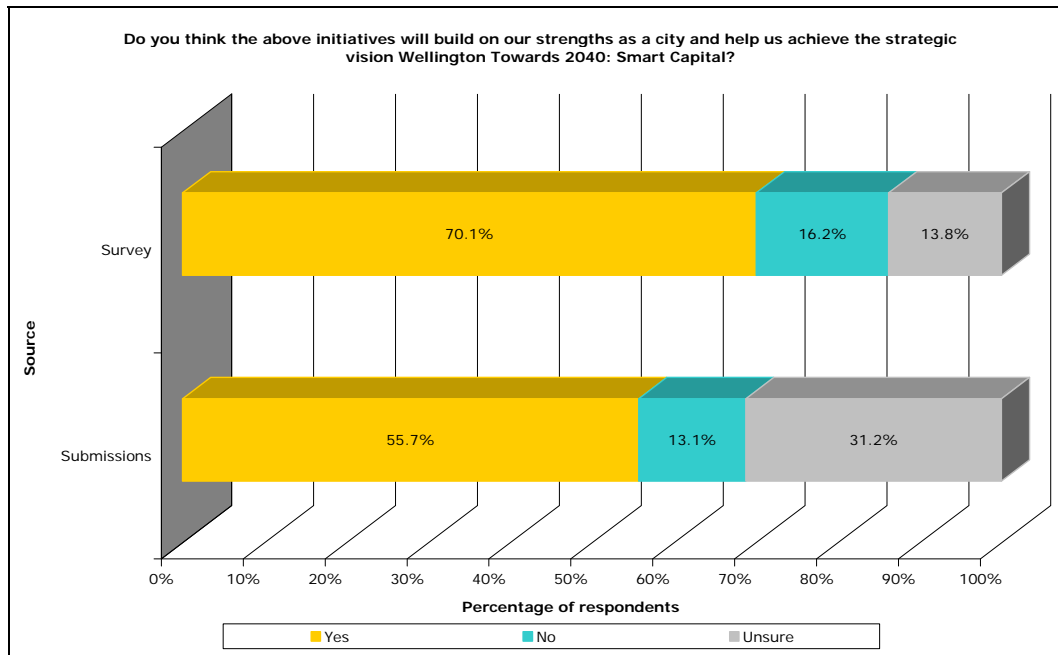


Of the three proposals there was most support to upgrade the children's playground at the north end of Frank Kitts Park, although most saw this as a low priority. A third of survey respondents and submitters did not support modifying office spaces at Shed 6 for the Crocodile bikes or installing swimming lanes at Queens Wharf and wanted these taken out of the plan.

Comments received were diverse. Some comments questioned why we would propose to spend money on these, while we were looking at closing libraries and other cost saving options.

Some were in support of the crocodile bikes and upgrading the playground but questioned the high costs, and offered alternatives such as repairing and maintaining the playground and housing the crocodile bikes in the north Queens Wharf area.

4.2 Submitters views on whether new the new initiatives would build on our strengths as a city and help achieve strategic vision.

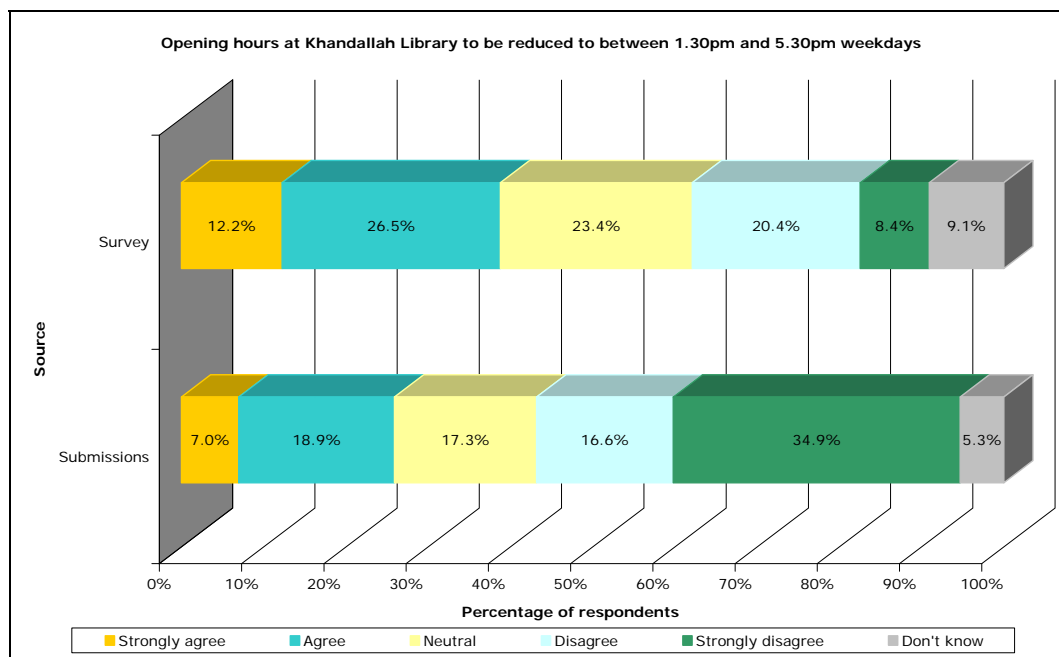


Though the majority of submitters and survey respondents said they thought the new initiatives would help achieve the strategic vision, comments on this tended to be somewhat critical. Of those who commented in a positive way, the themes that emerged were that the initiatives were a start, but that not all would contribute. A lot of the focus of submitters was on energy efficiency of the city, and cost-efficiency of the Council. Survey respondents were similar in their focus.

Library services – savings options

The library network is a significant area of investment each year and the draft plan included two modest savings options to reduce costs.

Libraries – Reducing Khandallah opening hours



This proposal received much attention in the press and the community. Many residents expressed their concerns and opposition to the proposed change in hours of Khandallah library. This is evident in the high proportion of submissions that strongly disagreed with this proposal. Survey respondents were less opposed with 28.8% disagreeing with the proposal, compared to the 51.5% of submitters. In addition to the submissions and survey results we also received a petition signed by over 723 people in protest about this proposal.

Comments received were predominantly against closing in the morning with many citing the morning hours were strongly supported by mothers with children for the popular 'story time'. Many noted that the library is the hub of the community and the meeting point of many social activities for the village. Respondents questioned the efficiency of the visitor counts and believed for its size the Khandallah Library was well used. Many feared that this would be the first step in the community losing the library altogether.

"We should be doing everything we can to keep library services in community villages like Khandallah, and in doing so, make books easily accessible to everyone, as much and as often as possible."

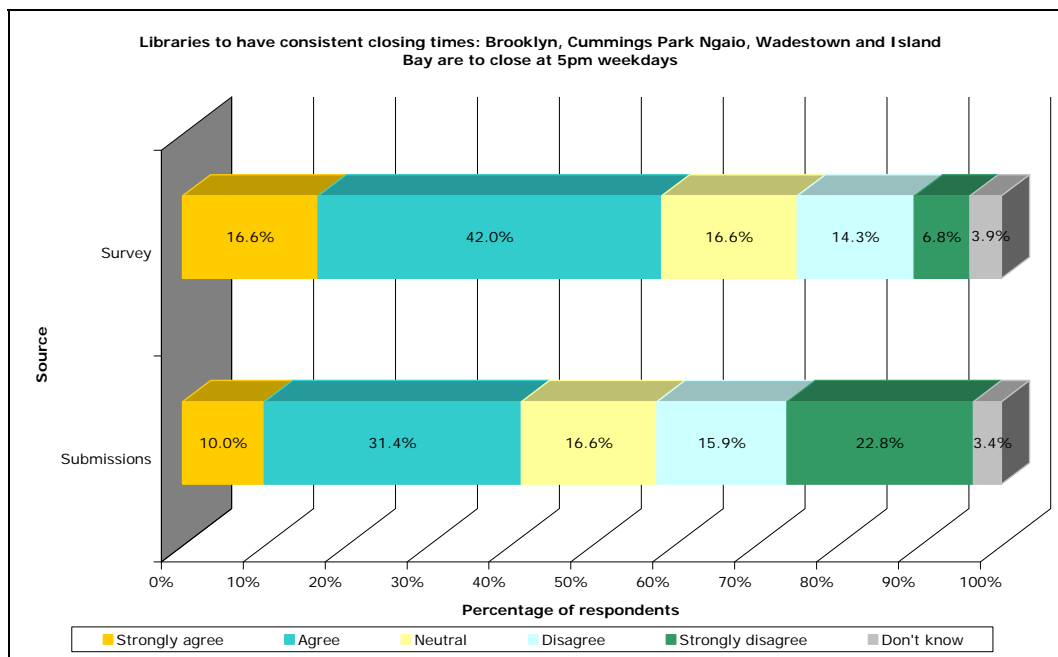
Khandallah resident

"Libraries are the one facility that can be used by all members of community regardless of age and ability. Access to well resourced libraries are of huge benefit to the well being of a community - socially, culturally, educationally."

Khandallah resident

General comments about this proposal noted that the savings were minimal for the impact on what many viewed as an essential community service. This was echoed in the *Our Capital Voice* panel.

Libraries - Consistent closing times



There was greater support to introduce consistent closing times for libraries, with over half (58.6%) the survey respondents and almost half (41.4%) of submitters agreeing with the proposal. There were fewer comments received about this library proposal but those that were concerned raised the impact this would have on the 'average' working person and for students wishing to study. Others questioned why they need consistent closing times when community needs were different.

The branch libraries are more than just places people go to borrow books. They are centres of communities where society can be changed for the better. They keep many citizens feeling connected to other people and to their community. They improve social and emotional health as well as creating a more informed population. With the rise of the use of the Internet they give people the opportunity to be better connected digitally and at the same time allow them to do this in a physically and socially connected place.

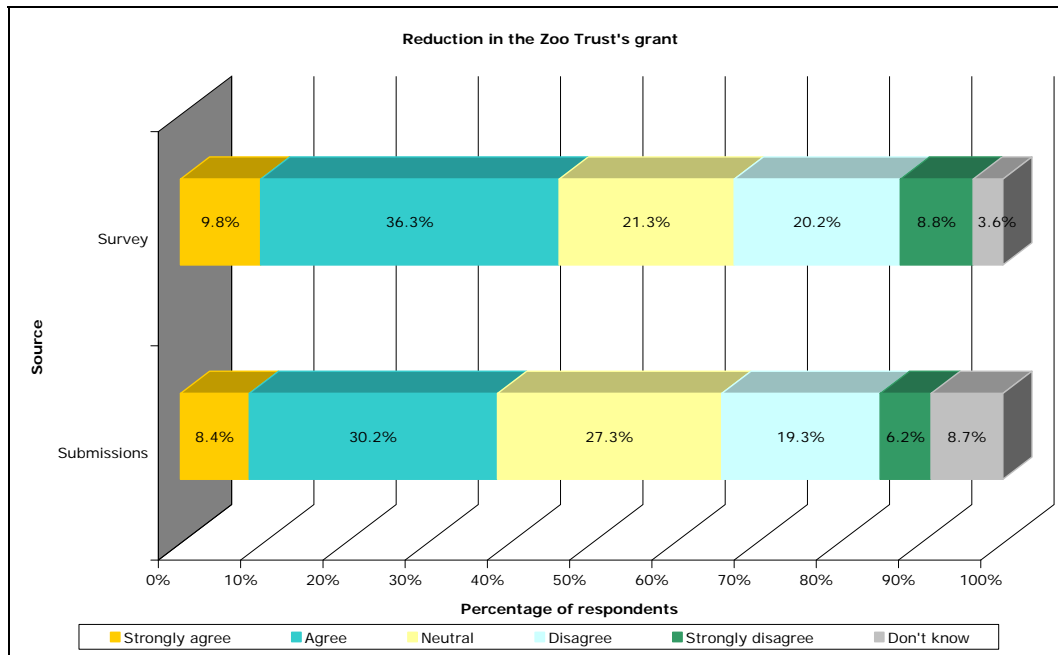
Wellington resident

Generally respondents supported this proposal and some raised the possibility of extending hours in the weekend as an alternative. *Our Capital Voice* members were not as supportive and did not think the savings gained were worth it.

Changes to CCO grants savings option

Options in this area included reducing the Wellington Zoo's Trust grant by 3%, with no negative impact expected on services in 2013/14; and reducing Positively Wellington Tourism's grant by 3%.

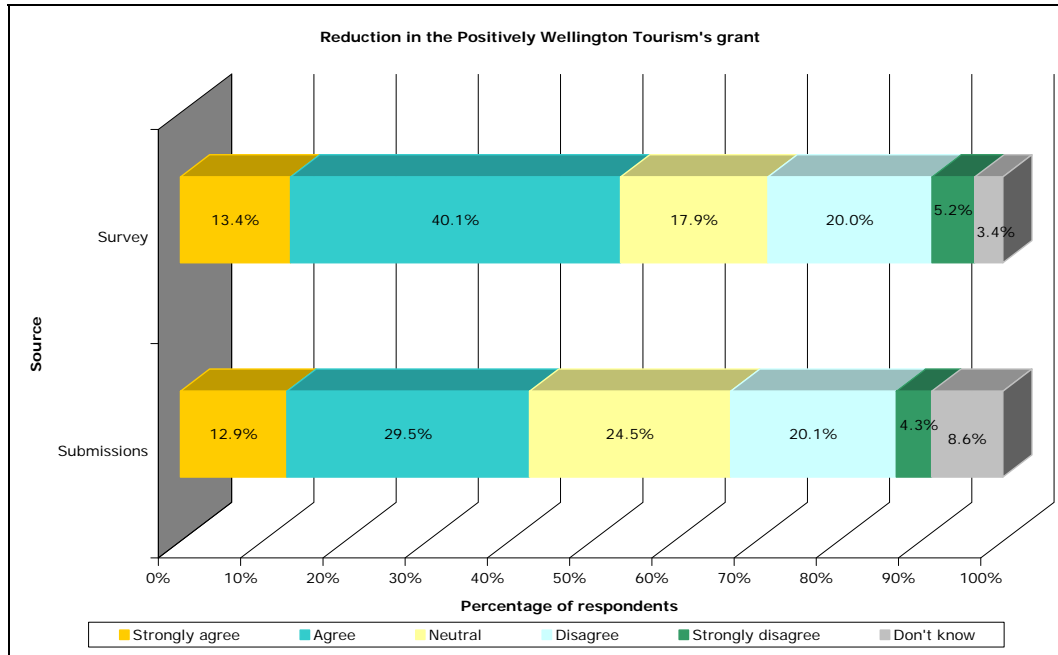
Reduce the grant to the Wellington Zoo Trust



Most survey respondents and submissions were in support of reducing the Zoo's grant with less than one in ten strongly disagreeing. A large proportion of respondents were neutral about this, which is also reflected in the minimal comments received about this.

The comments on the *Our Capital Voice* panel were generally in support of the Zoo itself, and most were comfortable with the reduction in the grant as long as there was no reduction in service. Others did not believe the Zoo was beneficial to Wellington and would rather the money be spent on Zealandia or Otari Wilton's Bush.

Reduce the grant to Positively Wellington Tourism



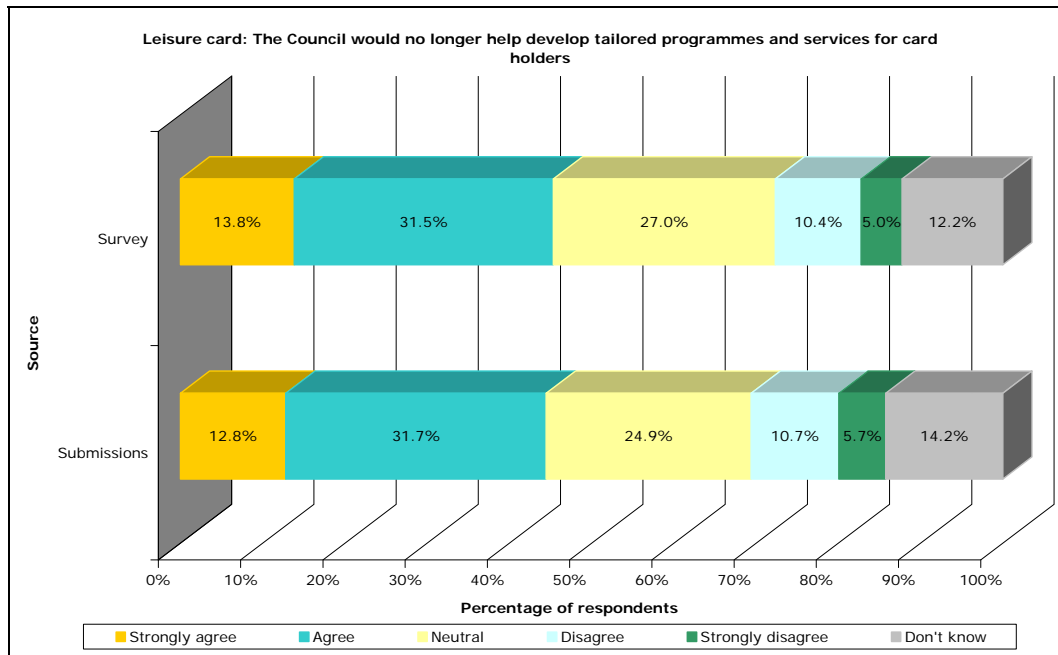
Reducing the grant to Positively Wellington Tourism also received high support from survey respondents and submissions. Again a high proportion indicated they were neutral about this proposal. Few comments were received all in support of reducing the grant, with a couple of submitters stating that they viewed this as a role of Central Government.

This was echoed by *Our Capital Voice* members, with some not feeling they had enough information about the impact this would have to make a decision on its priority.

Other savings options

The following section outlines other savings options proposed. A high level synopsis of comments made by submitters in relation to the savings options is included.

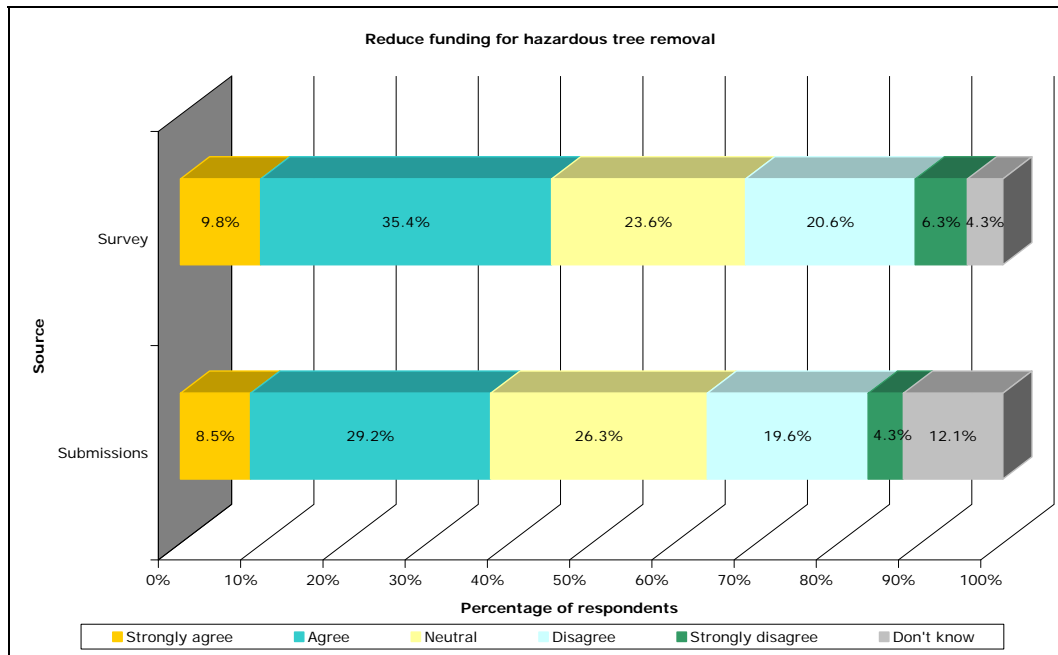
Leisure card



The proposal to cease the proactive development of programmes and services received support from both survey respondents and submitters. However, the small number of comments that were received were not in support. They included concerns over withdrawing programmes for Leisure Card holders, stating that if Council did not cater for this group no one would.

Our Capital Voice members questioned whether developing programmes and services was a role for local or central government. Others did not see the purpose of the card when a Gold Card entitled people to the same benefit. Some were concerned about stopping anything that encouraged active living.

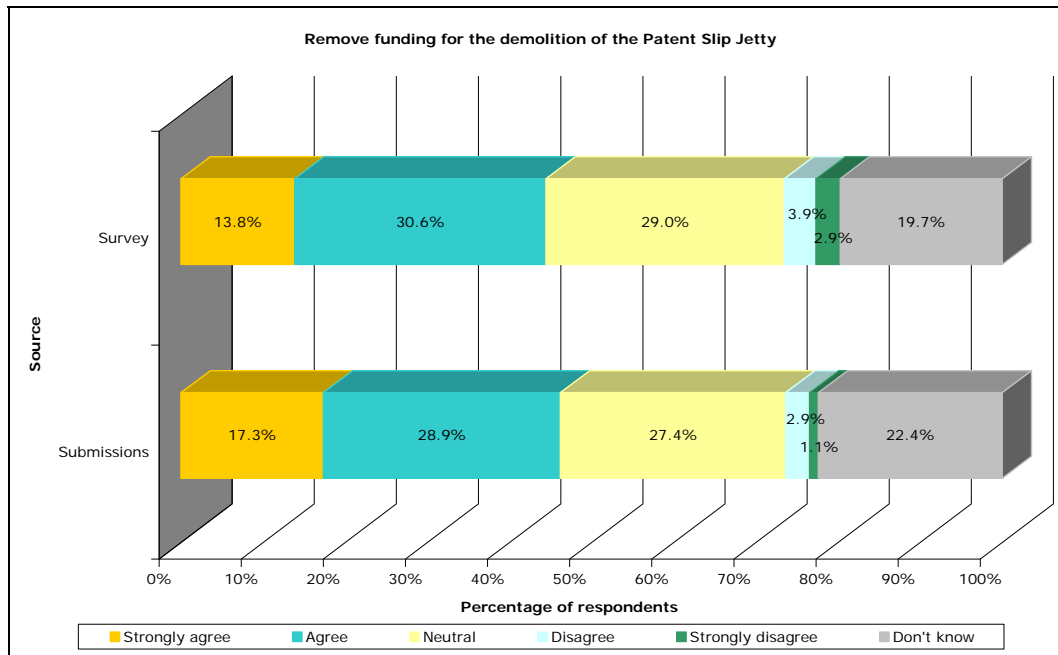
Hazardous tree removal



Support for reducing the funding for hazardous tree removal was evident from both survey respondents and submissions. However comments included concerns over safety. One submitter raised an alternative such as allocating funding to promoting and assisting landowners to remove 'pest trees' from private and public property.

What defined hazardous was discussed on the *Our Capital Voice* panel, with members wanting further information before deciding if this should be a priority or not. Some felt that if it is classed as hazardous it should be removed while others believed it was the responsibility of the tree owners.

Patent Slip jetty

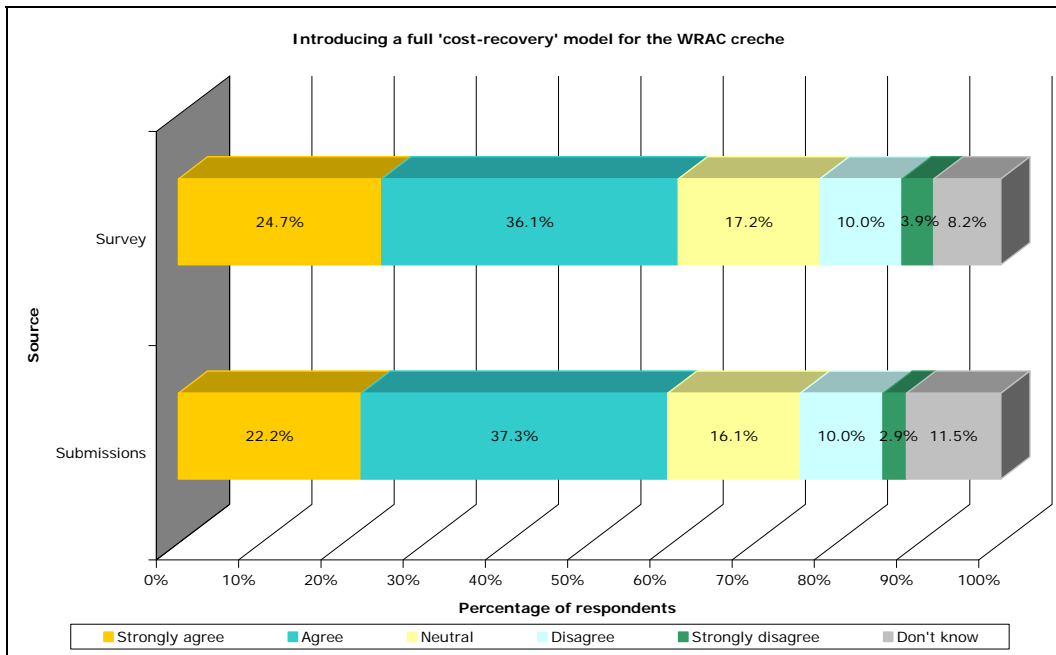


Both groups expressed support for removing the funding of the Patent Slip Jetty with very few disagreeing. There was a large proportion from both groups that didn't know – which may indicate indifference, or a lack of information.

Only two comments were received about this option, one in support and one believing Council should be repairing and reinstating, not demolishing.

Our Capital Voice panel members suggested that WelTec could be involved in the demolishing and have building apprentices do it, or have creative technology students turn it into site specific artwork.

Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre crèche



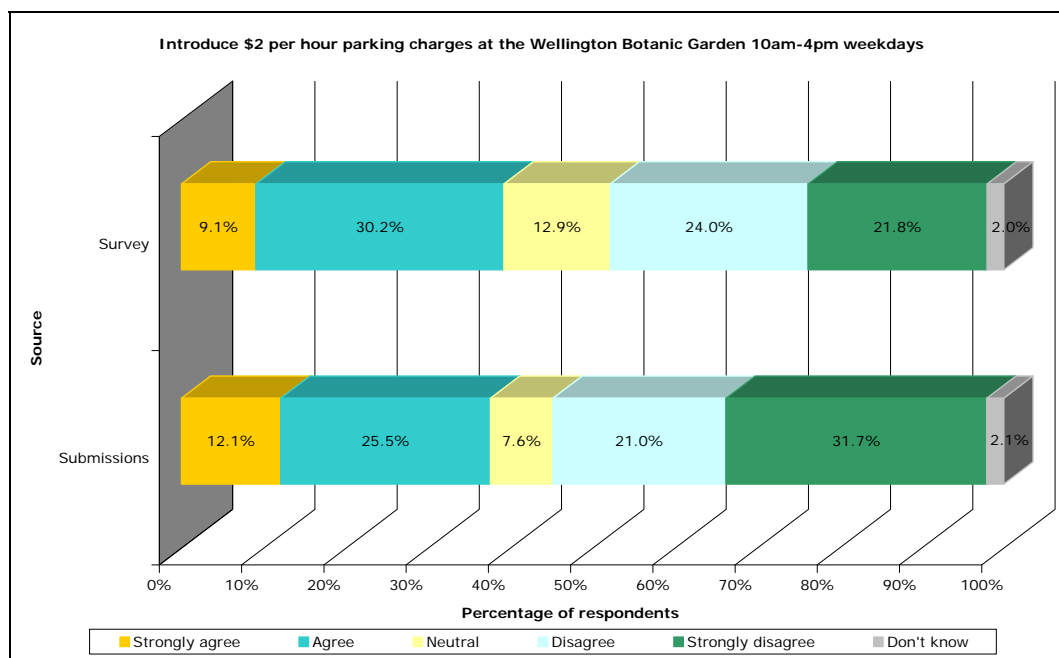
Introducing a cost recovery model at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre crèche received support from both survey respondents and submissions, with almost a quarter of both strongly agreeing with this proposal. Minimal comments were received with one submitter highlighting that the users of the crèche also tend to be users of the pool and gym and are already paying for that.

Comments on the *Our Capital Voice* panel were also in general support of this, with a couple noting that it was fair and reasonable to expect to pay a cost for the service.

4.3 Proposed increases in income

The following section outlines support for the proposed increases in incomes followed by a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters.

Parking charges at Botanic Garden



Views were split about introducing parking charges at the Botanic Garden. Over a third of submissions and survey respondents supported this proposal whilst over half of submissions and almost half of survey respondents did not.

Submitters raised concerns over the impact introducing a parking charge would have on the users and visitors to the facilities, and some felt it ran counter to Council's policy of encouraging people to be fit and healthy.

There was greater support for introducing an enforceable parking time limit of two hours.

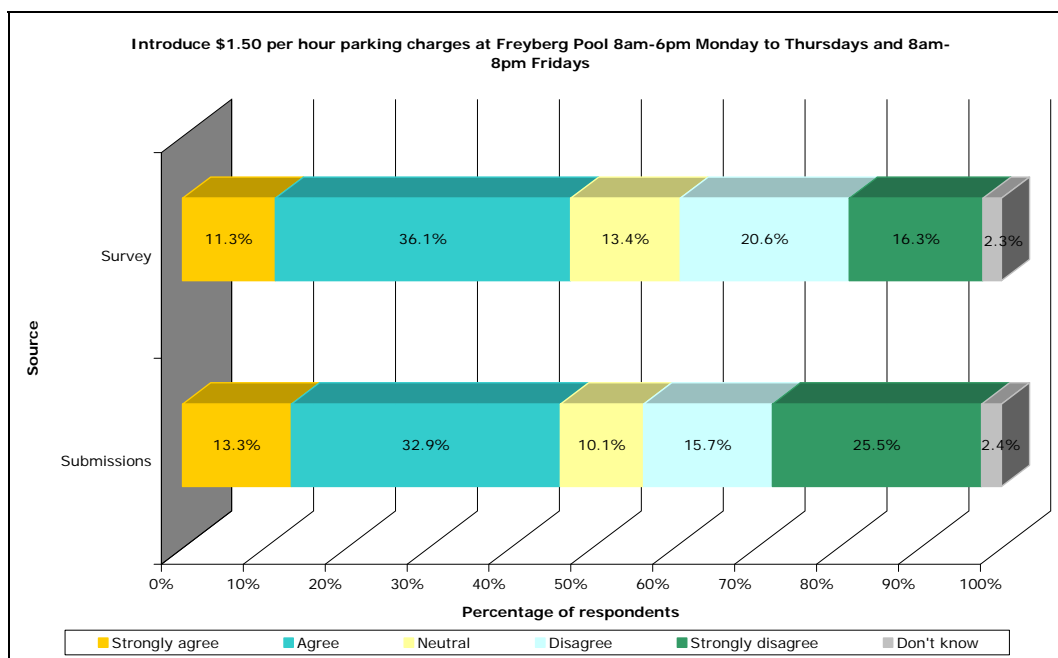
Comments from submissions and the *Our Capital Voice* panel also noted that the revenue this proposal would earn seemed to be out for proportion to the capital expenditure required to put the necessary measures in place.

The majority of comments from the *Our Capital Voice* panel were against this proposal, however a couple agreed with the user pays initiative.

Those car parks will be costing the ratepayer heaps - why should those who catch the bus, walk or cycle subsidise the parking for those who drive?

Our Capital Voice panel member

Parking changes at Freyberg Pool



Introducing parking charges at Freyberg Pool received more support than the Botanic Garden, with almost half of survey respondents and submissions agreeing with this proposal. More submitters were against this proposal than survey respondents (41.2% and 36.9% respectively).

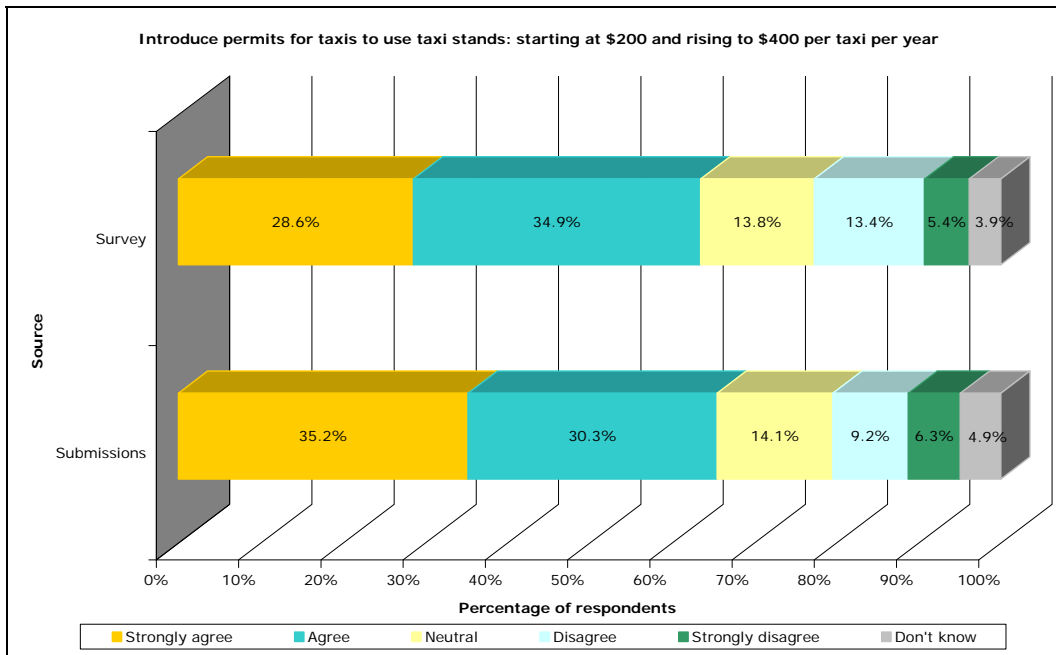
The majority of comments over the parking proposals were centred around the Botanic Garden. Those that were against paying at Freyberg Pool suggested having the first 90 minutes free – as swimmers are paying entry fee already, and many are there to exercise. Concerns were raised over the impact this would have on people accessing the space for walking and swimming. One submitter also queried whether the disabled parking would also be subject to charges.

As with the Botanic Garden, submitters felt the enforceable time limit would be a more productive measure.

Those in support of this proposal believed it was a fair way of promoting 'user pays'.

Most comments from *Our Capital Voice* were in support of this initiative, though one questioned whether free parking should be given to gym members.

Taxi permits



There was strong support for introducing taxi permits, from both submitters and survey respondents with 35.2% and 28.6% respectively strongly agreeing with this proposal. Less than 20% of both groups disagreed with this proposal. In addition, all comments on *Our Capital Voice* were in support of this proposal too.

In addition, officers and Councillor Foster met with the Taxi Federation and taxi companies to discuss this proposal. They were strongly opposed to the introduction of taxi permits, unless they were given exclusive taxi stands, as at the Wellington Airport. This is not a viable option due to legal road designation that applies in the city.

Concerns raised through submission comments were that these costs would be passed on to the customers and the potential impact on self-employed taxi drivers who are not part of large companies.

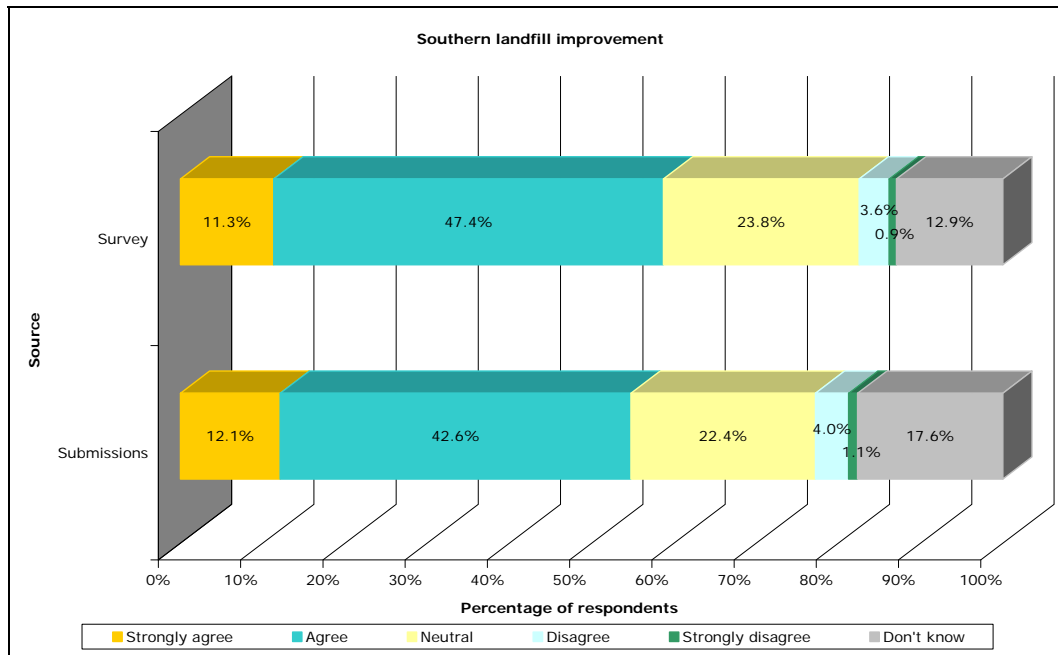
Questions as to whether other commercial transportations such as sightseeing and out of town buses should be charged were also asked.

There is a general view that there are too many taxis in the city. Increasing compliance costs on the industry should have a slightly discouraging impact.

4.4 Changes in Capital expenditure

The following section outlines support for the Southern Landfill improvement and the timing of beautification work at Alex Moore Park through the Plimmer Bequest Trust, followed by a high level synopsis of comments made by submitters.

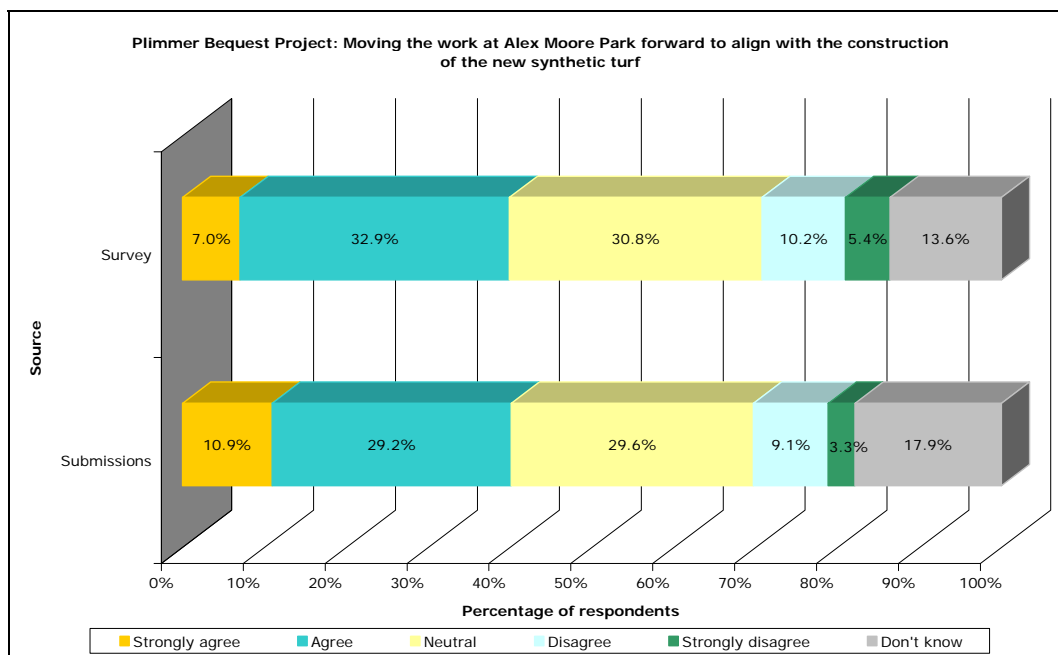
Southern Landfill improvements



The timing change in developing the next stage of the Southern Landfill received high support from survey respondents and submissions. Almost a quarter of each group selected neutral with only around 5% disagreed.

There were few comments received, most were in support though one submitter highlighted concerns about the impact of the sewerage odour from the landfill, and wanted improving this to be a priority. *Our Capital Voice* panel members also wanted to see an increase in education and more proactive initiatives about reducing waste and increasing recycling.

Plimmer Bequest project



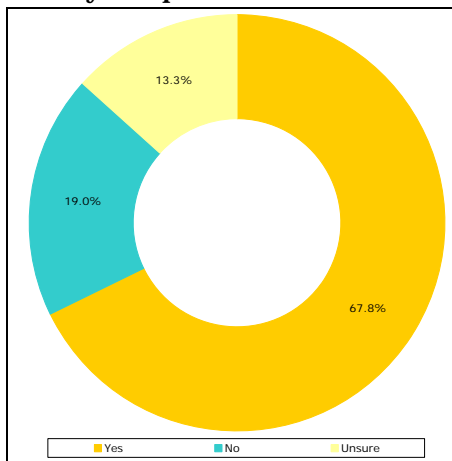
This report is officer advice only. Refer to minutes of the meeting for decision.

Large proportions of both survey respondents and submissions felt neutral or selected don't know for this proposal. Almost 40% of both groups did support it with the single comment received also in support.

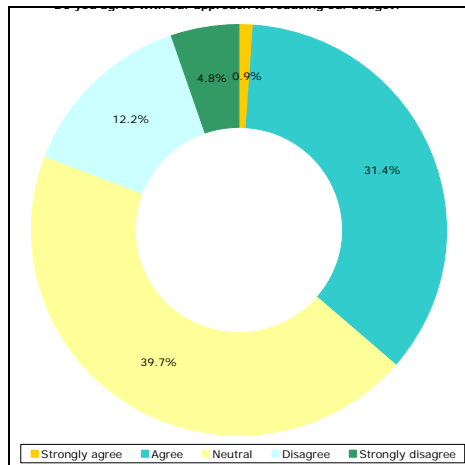
4.5 Submitters views on Council' approach to reducing budget

The submission form asked submitters whether they agreed with the approach Council was taking to reduce their budget, and what factors should be taken into consideration when making these decisions. Survey respondents were more likely to agree with the Council's approach to the budget than submitters. The survey respondents' result is based on an open-ended question that asked about agreement and why, whereas submitters were given a five-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree to choose from, making comparisons less accurate. However, a total of 32.3% of submitters either *agreed* or *strongly agreed* with the approach, compared to 67.8% of survey respondents saying they *agreed*. Submitters were mostly likely to be *neutral* on the approach (this option was not available to survey respondents; however they had the option of selecting *unsure*).

Survey Respondents



Submissions



Responses to what Council should consider in making budget reductions came in two categories; those that suggested Council focus on the basics and nothing more, keeping rates down; and those that wanted Council to consider the implications on the groups that would receive funding cuts, particularly vulnerable groups, before making the changes. The library proposals were an area of discussion in this section with the majority of respondents saying that changes to the library hours were not desirable and would disadvantage residents.

The submission form also encouraged submitters to identify services they thought could be reduced, and if there were any services they believed were not Council's responsibility and therefore should stop providing.

Submitters suggested savings in the area of Council administration costs and salaries, art projects around the city and a reduction in the parking enforcement area – such as reducing the hours or number of parking wardens. Submitters did not see the changes in library hours as a good way to reduce the budget.

Comments received from business submissions believe that greater transparency in council operations will give rate payers a clearer idea of what is being spent and how it is funded.

Identified savings 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.

4.6 Rates and the differential

Some submitters commented on the value for money provided from rates, and that they would be happy for their rates to increase if it meant services improved.

However comments received from the business sector questioned the business rating differential and expressed concerns that the burden of rates falling unfairly on businesses.

It is essential that WCC does not overcharge Wellington businesses if it wants to attract and retain businesses in the city. Businesses provide employment, pay wages, produce goods and services, and determine the depth of the rating base. If businesses are ill-treated by council rating policies they are liable to relocate, close down or downsize.

Business sector submitter

Their view is that the rates should reflect the benefits received and not be applied to business as a revenue raising mechanism. They were also concerned that several Council activities are funded by business rates but are more beneficial to ratepayers.

With regards to the Downtown Levy, one business submitter requested that business ratepayers should be given more say on how this money is spent as it should fund programmes that benefit central city businesses.

4.7 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.

Concerns over increasing fees and charges included the impact this may have on levels of service and were seen as predominantly a revenue raising mechanism.

The amount collected from the user vis a vis the rates contribution should reflect the costs and benefits of the service and where they fall.

Business sector submitter

4.8 Performance measures, the document, and consultation processes

Comments from submitters on our performance measurement framework included a request for development of a freshwater quality measure, and that the number of untreated overflows in the stormwater network is also reported on under the performance measurement framework.

Specific requests about performance measures are outlined in the summary by strategy section (5.9).

Other comments applauded the outcome and performance measures we have in our Annual Plan.

There were few comments about the document itself, and these centred on the summary publication and requests for information to be included, such as updates on currently funded projects. Others indicated that they felt there was not enough detail in the Plan, namely details on who is responsible for particular projects and proposals.

With regards to our consultation processes some submitters felt they were not given enough information to make an informed choice.

For many of these initiatives, it is difficult on the information provided, to see them as high priority or how the benefits proposed outweigh the costs for those people and businesses who are based in Wellington city.

Wellington resident

Some submitters felt it would be beneficial to have the financial benefits and impacts attached to the proposals, including how many people are likely to be affected by a change.

4.9 Summary of submissions by strategy area

Governance area

There were no common themes in the feedback on this strategy area. One submitter expressed opposition to further exploring E-meetings as they believed this would be detrimental to those without computers to access information.

A request for greater reporting of Committee minutes was also raised so that elected members accept responsibility that submissions have been considered.

Environment area

Most activities in this strategy area received comments. Again, the water fluoridation issue was strongly evident. There were several supportive comments for community environmental initiatives, particularly from groups actively involved in an initiative.

There were a number of submissions on the Town Belt, mainly concerned with the proposal that gives Council 'flexible powers' to manage the Town Belt.

There were several submissions on rubbish collection and recycling with some submitters concerned about the type of rubbish that is entering the landfill via the large green bins. Another submitter requested additional rubbish bins throughout Newtown streets as they were concerned by the amount of rubbish in the street.

Requests for greater public education about rubbish entering the stormwater drains and the impact this has to the environment was also raised.

There were a number of submissions on energy efficiency and climate change, including high support for the Smart Energy proposals. Submissions also included a call for wind turbines.

A number of submissions were concerned about the stormwater network and the impact of discharges on the environment. Greater education around stormwater and increased monitoring were requested.

Economic area

Concern about the funding of the tourism sector emerged as the dominant issue in this activity area. In particular funding for events such as the NZ International Arts Festival, and the FIFA Men's Under 20 World Cup. One submission also called for the events programme to be given performance indicators, in the way that Council Controlled Organisations with similar budgets are.

Destination Wellington was praised and received strong support from business sector submissions.

Cultural Wellbeing area

As was the case in past years, this area received the fewest comments. Submitters were generally in support of the cultural activities and work programme, especially the arts partnerships. One submitter requested that Capital E remains in its current location and another wanted to see the Cuba St Carnival revived.

Social and Recreation area

This year, synthetic turf sports fields attracted several supportive comments. One submitter was concerned about the effect on the natural environment and

the risk of synthetic material leeching into the sea. Another submitter also requested a coordinated and strategic approach to accommodate the provision of synthetic and natural turfs.

Submissions on libraries were dominated by the proposal to close Khandallah Library in the mornings. Submitters felt very strongly about this proposal and the impact it would have on their community. Concerns were raised that this was a first step towards completely closing the library.

Other submissions about libraries focussed on new revenue ideas such as increasing the price of books at the book sales and the potential for a membership fee.

Urban development area

The Waterfront Development Plan was included in the draft annual plan. Three proposals were included for feedback which was discussed earlier in this paper. Comments and feedback about the Waterfront Development Plan will be forwarded to Wellington Waterfront Ltd.

A key theme in submissions for urban development was the Lane upgrades. Some thought the funding for Opera House Lane was too much, others requested that alternate lanes, including Masons Lane and Lombard Lane, be upgraded.

Another submitter felt there needed to be a greater balance between what was done in the central city and what was done in the suburbs.

An increase to the heritage grant was sought by one submitter while another requested that the application forms for such grants be simpler and not as restrictive.

Transport area

A number of submission and comments were received related to transport planning. Many included requests for increased provision of cycling and walking infrastructure. Concerns over the roading network prioritising vehicles were raised.

One submitter raised concerns over the transport performance measures namely cycle safety and ease of movement. Rather than a target of 5% of residents using cycles to access the central city they wanted Council to aim for 30%.

One submission requested greater consultation with transportation businesses in the planning of proposed roading projects.

Several submissions were received on the public transport systems, which are passed on to Greater Wellington.

4.10 Community feedback on social media websites

Officers tracked comments on a range of websites before and during the formal consultation period. Many of the proposals featured on stuff.co.nz. Predominantly, comments featured on the proposed changes to hours at Khandallah Library. This proposal also resulted in a Facebook page being set up entitled 'Save Khandallah Library'.

The proposal to introduce parking charges at the Botanic Garden was also strongly featured on online websites, including a poll on stuff.co.nz about whether people would be put off visiting the gardens if a parking charge was introduced. Of the 344 who voted, 76% would be, 19.8% would not be put off, and the remaining 4.1% were unsure.

5. Conclusion

This report highlights the key themes of comments received during the consultation period on the draft 2013/14 Annual Plan as well as the results of feedback on submissions, the survey, and the online discussion panel on *Our Capital Voice*. This provides a context for elected members to consider final decisions on priorities for the coming year.

Contact officers: *Marianne Cavanagh, Senior Advisor, Planning and Reporting; Martin Rodgers, Manager, Research, Consultation and Planning*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The report contributes to the governance strategy.

2) LTP/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. The report reflects the views and preferences of those who have been consulted with.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

This report provides feedback on consultation undertaken on the 2013/14 draft Annual Plan.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua were consulted as part of the annual 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