

8 June 2016

Matthew Rhodes
New Zealand Taxpayers Union Inc.

By email to: matthew@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Official Information Request Response

Thank you for your emailed information request, received on 31 May 2016, requesting information about the proposed Urban Development Agency.

Specifically, in your request you asked for information that would answer the following:

- 1. What are the functions and purposes of the Urban Development Agency?**
- 2. What are the expected operating costs of the Agency? Please provide details.**
- 3. What tools will be in place to ensure the Agency remains transparent?**
- 4. How will the Agency consult ratepayers, including both in the establishment of the Agency, and also during its ongoing operation?**

In March 2016, the Council developed a business case and proposal for an Urban Development Agency, produced by The Property Group (TPG).

Throughout April 2016, the Council invited community views on the proposal, to be submitted to Council as part of the Draft Annual Plan 2016/17.

Please find both the TPG business case and proposal, and the Council supporting document requesting community views, as part of the Annual Plan consultation page on the Council website, through the following link: <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/closed/annual-plan-2016-17>

These two documents provide you with detail that explains the functions and purposes for the proposed UDA, along with proposals for the way in which the UDA will report.

With regard to set up costs for the UDA, these will be considered over the next 12 months and will be proposed as part of the 2017/18 Draft Annual Plan.

Consultation has already taken place with members of the public with regard to the proposal to set up the UDA in the first place, and the community views were submitted as part of the 2016/17 LTP process.

Approximately 130 submissions were received on the proposal. 74% of these were received from individual submitters, 22% from community, volunteer and resident's organisations, and 9% from professional and business organisations. Of these, 64% supported the proposal, another 3% offered conditional or tentative support and 23% were opposed. The remaining 10% were unable to be clearly classified.

The next steps are to develop in more detail aspects of organisational design and more clearly specify the focus areas for the UDA. In particular a specific proposal for the establishment of a UDA will be developed for approval that covers the following:

- i. The type of entity to be established;
- ii. A draft constitution;
- iii. Accountability, monitoring and review arrangements with Council;
- iv. Focus areas for UDA activity;
- v. The funding model;
- vi. Risk management framework; and
- vii. Project examples, including financial modelling.

Please contact me if you have any further questions on this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Brown', written in a cursive style.

Chris Brown
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