

From: [Official Information](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Official Information](#)
Subject: Final response - LGOIMA 421858 - [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 9 September 2024 4:19:15 pm
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

Kia ora,

We refer to your information request below. Hamilton City Council provides the following response.

Your request:

Read your leaflet about Long term Plan. I fully understand about rising interest rates, inflation and cost of living.

While you have the capacity to pass on these costs to ratepayers . The ratepayers have no way of passing theses costs on.

Over the last few months there has been substantial increases in:

House and contents insurance, Electricity and gas, Car insurance, Rates, Doctors' appointments.

We as ratepayers cannot sustain this.

I would like to know exactly what you are spending this extra revenue on.

What is the long-term plan for rates ? Are they going to continue to rise by same amount over the next 10 years?

I have asked previously for totally open and transparent with ratepayers on all expenditure.

What projects do the Council have planned over the next 10 years?

One major area that needs addressing is the whole of Victoria Street and City Centre . Buildings in general look very tired . So many empty buildings. What are you plans to address this? For a modern and growing City this is not a good look.

What are going to do to make more use of the river as a focal point?

Are you going to be providing a suitable swimming pool complex for the City? If not why not?

What are your plans for the old Founders Theatre site?

How do you intend to attract people into the City Centre.

Putting up extra parking meters , increasing parking costs is turning people away meaning more shops will be closing.

You talk in your long-term plan about garden maintenance. Well not to long ago around all out roundabouts in Hamilton there were lovely gardens now the gardens are a mess. Also grass areas that are mowed by the council are far from tidy.

Our response:

I would like to know exactly what you are spending this extra revenue on.

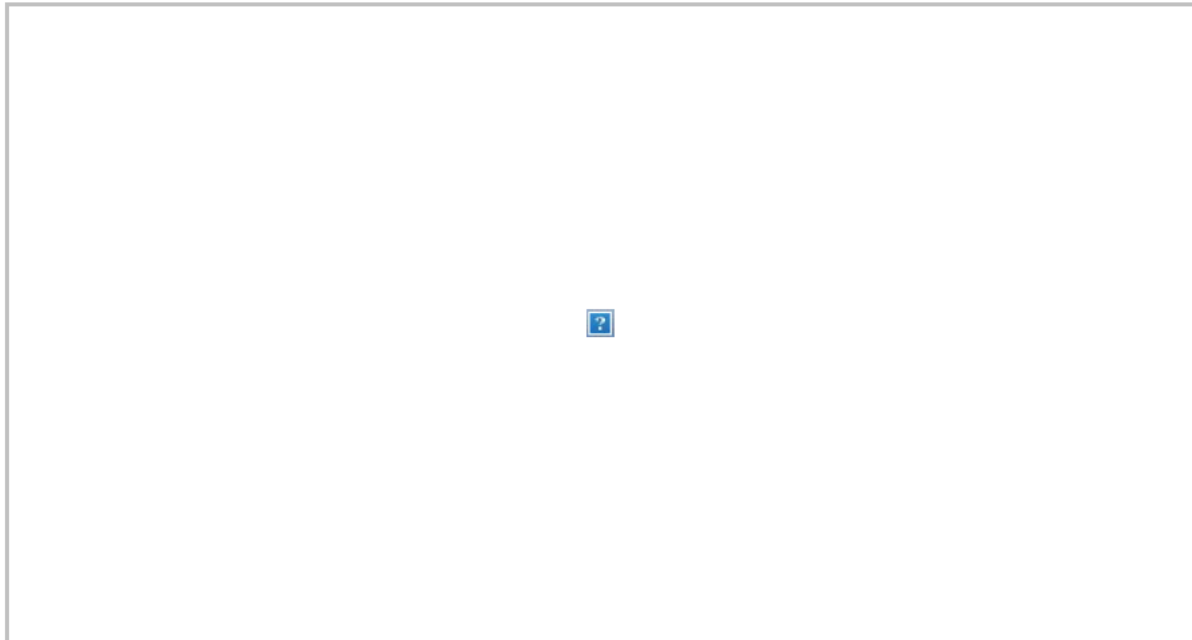
The rates increases are reflective of the increased costs incurred from higher interest rates (on debt), inflation (everything costs more), and depreciation (the cost to renew and maintain our ageing assets) – we need more revenue (generated by rates) to pay for increased costs to run the city. In response, we have worked hard to deliver a budget focused just on delivering the essentials to ensure our rates revenue sufficiently covers the day-to-day operating costs of the city and necessary capital expenditure. To deliver the essentials still results in increased costs that need to be funded in rates.

For further information on our guiding principles on how revenue is applied see Our Revenue and financing policy on page 210 of the [Long-Term Plan](#). Additionally, the section 'What we're planning to spend' provides an overview of our operational and capital expenditure over the next 10 years for each of Council's activities. Funding Impact statements (of which there is one for each activity, and an overall Council funding impact statement on page 203) detail sources of revenue and a high-level overview of how they will be applied.

What is the long-term plan for rates ? Are they going to continue to rise by same amount over the next 10 years?

-

Refer to our “Rates” section on and pages 193-203. Page 123 has a graph (shown below) of the proposed rates increases over the next 10-years.



I have asked previously for totally open and transparent with ratepayers on all expenditure.

The 2023-24 Annual Report detailing this year’s actual expenditure will be published and available online within one month of the adoption by Council (which is currently scheduled for adoption on 31st October in accordance with the Local Government Act).

All capital and operating expenditure for the next ten-years is set out in our long-term plan.

What projects do the Council have planned over the next 10 years?

Our long-term plan details all planned capital projects for the next ten years. A high-level summary of our planned capital expenditure can be found on page 21. A more detailed breakdown can be found in the capital projects tables that feature for each activity in pages 26-111.

One major area that needs addressing is the whole of Victoria Street and City Centre . Buildings in general look very tired . So many empty buildings. What are you plans to address this? For a modern and growing City this is not a good look.

Our Central City is a priority growth area for Hamilton in our Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy. Over the next decade we expect thousands of new homes in central city alongside significant commercial developments. This is enabled by Crown Grant funding of \$150.6m to invest in some of the strategic infrastructure needed to support new homes. As private developers upgrade or construct new buildings (and there are a number in the pipeline), Council will work with them to upgrade the surrounding streetscape where agreed. Exciting developments include the Templeton development and 4 star hotel by the Victoria on the River site, a new Pullman hotel and the Waikato Regional Theatre which will transform Victoria Street. There will be a beautiful park next to the new Theatre.

For more information check out the [Central City Transformation Plan](#), this includes links to the Public Realm Design Guide to give an idea of the look and feel we’re working towards over time.

While we have had to cut back on funding for significant street upgrades, like Alexandra Street, we’re working right now to upgrade street furniture and tidy things up with the limited budget we have.

What are going to do to make more use of the river as a focal point?

-

This is part of our Central City Transformation Plan – see below.

Are you going to be providing a suitable swimming pool complex for the City? If not, why not?

Council owns and manages the operations of 2 Pools in Hamilton City (Waterworld and Gallagher Aquatics Centre)
Council also have a networks of partner pools which can be found here

<https://www.hamiltonpools.co.nz/facilities/partner-pools/>

What are your plans for the old Founders Theatre site?

Boyes Park / the old Founders Theatre will be a basic park development, initially the site will be returned to grass with a small carpark, then once the budget is confirmed path connections, and planting will be completed.

How do you intend to attract people into the City Centre.

You can read [our Central city page](#) – We're investing in our central city, opening it up to the Waikato River, encouraging people to live and work here, and making it easy to access and move around in.

We also have a [Central City Transformation Plan](#) which you can read [here](#).

Putting up extra parking meters , increasing parking costs is turning people away meaning more shops will be closing.

The [Hamilton Parking Policy](#) sets out the principles that must be considered by staff and Elected Members when making decisions about parking. Principle 4 sets out the case for 'Charging for parking'.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngaa mihi

Keeley Faulkner

Official Information Coordinator

Legal services

Governance & Assurance Team | Partnerships, communication & Maaori

Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz



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I support flexibility at work. While it suits me to send this email now, I don't expect a response outside of your own working hours.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 5:50 PM

To: Rates Enquiry <Rates@hcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Information

Dear Sir/ Madam
received rates today.

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