

OIR: 2425/1092

11 September 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email received 26 August 2024 requesting the following information regarding the SuperLocal LGNZ Conference:

- 1. It would be appreciated if Council could inform ratepayers if KCDC sent any delegates and guests to this conference, at ratepayers expense. If so, please detail the number of elected and unelected delegates, and their guests, or persons sponsored by Council, the total cost of conference, travel, accommodation, and all other expenses.***

Fourteen Elected Members, one non-elected member and four members of staff attended the SuperLocal LGNZ Conference in Wellington on 21-23 August 2024.

Registration to Conference	Accommodation	Travel	Gala Dinner
\$24,219.00	\$6,264.72	\$110.00	\$1,151.76

- 2. It was also reported that Sam Broughton, President of the LGNZ, claimed that Councils have undertaken line by line budget reviews, in order to reduce the burden of rate increases. I am not aware of the release of this detailed financial analysis conducted by KCDC and informed to the ratepayers. Could you please provide details publicly to ratepayers if this detail has been undertaken. Including all cost and spending initiatives, and line by line savings achieved***

The Council has worked hard to get operating costs down so that the impact on rates is as low as possible without compromising service levels.

Some examples of how the Council continues to review operating costs, contracts, and projects include:

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

- When producing the Long-term Plan 2024-34, the Council reduced operating cost increases from \$5 million down to \$2 million by prioritising funding only for essential infrastructure and community facilities.
- The Chief Executive has capped permanent staffing numbers for the first three years of the Long-term Plan 2024-34 at 436, which reduced our personnel budget by \$1.7 million annually.
- As part of the Council's draft Long-term Plan 2024-34 consultation, the Council proposed transferring its older persons housing portfolio to community housing providers to enable access to central government funding and reduce the cost to ratepayers. Almost 60 % of submitters agreed with our preferred option to transfer the portfolio to a new provider and we are now working through a process to establish an independent affordable housing trust. This will allow access to central government and other funding sources.
- In November 2023, the Council has decided to put the development of Otaraua Park on hold as costs have skyrocketed. The original allocated budget of \$5.9 million in previous long-term plans to build a pavilion and to work alongside sports codes to "develop an operating model to meet recreative outcomes" has risen to \$17.5 million due to further information about the site and cost escalations. The current asset management plan is focused on looking after existing assets that are in poor condition before adding new assets. Please refer to the [report 7.3 for the Climate and Environment Subcommittee meeting](#).
- A new sustainable meadow will sprout in Raumati this spring as part of a trial to find new ways of managing open space on the Kāpiti Coast. Please refer to ['low mow' trial to reduce costs and emissions](#).

The Council prepares a Long-term Plan every three years and review plans annually. The Senior Leadership Team review financials monthly and the Council provides a performance report. Please refer to the performance report for more information on financial, non-financial and project performance [Council performance reports - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](#)

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast

Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū