

Detailed Media Responses 17 October

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You can attribute to General Manager Resources and Chief Financial Officer Leah Scales.

The Christchurch City Council is in the process of developing next year's Long Term Plan. Through a number of briefings which are publicly available on our website [here](#), we have established that if we continue to operate as we are, rates increases are a certainty.

Christchurch can't outrun the economic and environmental forces that are affecting the country and the world. We're in a perfect storm, and it's not a short-term blip. What the Council does, and how we pay for it, is a long-term issue that needs long-term solutions – and this is exactly why we have a Long Term Plan.

We've always tried to strike a balance between meeting today's issues head-on, and keeping an eye on the future. For the last few years we've been very creative, but we've reached a point where tough decisions really do need to be made. It's like solving a Rubik's Cube – we can't focus on just one corner. We need to look at the big picture and make a significant change in the way we're doing things.

While setting the scene for this, our Mayor gave a few examples of possible cost-saving options. The 18% rates rise is a starting point to show what would happen if the Council made no changes to its current programme. It is not the final figure proposed and Councillors will consider a wide range of options to get this down. However, no decisions have been made yet – and when a draft plan is finalised, we still need to hear community feedback. The draft LTP will go out for consultation in early 2024.

The Council is committed to delivering a level of service that the community expects, and is working on a set of options for keeping any rates increase as low as possible, with all sorts of different measures, that the community will get a say on.

Can you please release a copy of today's LTP briefing including hard copy briefing reports and a recording today? (I'm assuming this LTP hearing is being treated the same as the others.)

Briefing PowerPoint attached. We have redacted a number of commercially sensitive slides. As this briefing was publicly excluded, a recording is not available.

Just how bad are the council's finances? Can you please provide some financial details? ie the proposed capital and opex spend at least for next year, but also for the next five years. (I understand details have not been finalised, but there must be some figures to back up the 18% increase.)

Similar to Councils throughout New Zealand, Christchurch is grappling with the need to maintain services while at the same time cope with the impacts of inflation and additional costs.

What has caused the proposed rates increase to sit at 18%? What is driving this?

As in the PowerPoint.

What is the 18% made up of?

As in the Power Point.

How much of that 18% rates increase can be attributed to the stadium?

2% in 24/25.

Can you also provide a dollar figure as to how much the average ratepayer will be paying towards the stadium initially in the first year of the LTP but also for the next five years.

Average house estimate assuming it is rated on Capital Value (incl gst).

2024/25	\$94
2025/26	\$171
2026/27	\$209
2027/28	\$208
2028/29	\$201
2029/30	\$194