

From: Official Information  
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 1:43 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: LGOIMA 17/176 response - [REDACTED] - engagement cost

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email, received on 5 May 2017. You requested the following information, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

*"the cost of consultation and engagement for the council for the last three years."*

#### Refinement of request

On 31 May, you refined the scope of your request to the following:

*"the actual cost of consultation and engagement (including publicity costs if relevant) in relation to the long-term plan or the annual plan (as relevant) for each of the last 5 years."*

*Please also provide me with the budgeted amount for consultation and engagement for the long term that will be developed this year and adopted next year.*

*When answering please can you confirm if the costs/budget includes staff time."*

#### Release of information

Please find below the information you requested:

	2011/12 Annual Plan	2012/13 Three Year Plan	2013/14 Annual Plan	2015-25 Long Term Plan	2015/16 Annual Plan and Amended Long Term Plan
Cost	\$53,902.43	\$70,105.71	\$98,777.30	\$114,454.73	\$56,926.51

Budgeted amount for 2018-28 Long Term Plan: \$128,733.00. Please note that costs for developing a Long Term Plan are higher than for an Annual Plan, as it is a far larger body of work.

The costs of engagement/consultation included preparation for hearings, decision-making meetings and Councillor workshops; consultants' fees; printing; graphic design; advertising and promotions; venue hire and expenses; equipment hire and photography. Please note that some of the figures comprising the totals above are estimates only.

We have not included normal staff time in these figures, but we have included the approximate cost of temporary staff employed to assist with the Plans; these staff primarily carried out clerical tasks such as processing submissions, assisting with hearings and filing.

Council staff have also provided the following context to explain the Council's processes around consultation and engagement: The Council seeks meaningful engagement on local decision-making in order to ensure decision-makers are well informed, aware of, and take into account the community's views. We tailor the level of engagement to the level of significance, using our Significance and Engagement Policy. This helps to ensure decision-making and engagement processes are transparent and clearly expressed, and that the community has clarity on the range of engagement methods the Council may use.

The Council follows a three step process to inform decision-making.

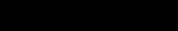
1. We determine the level of significance (in the case of Annual and Long Term Plans, it is of high significance).
2. We link the level of significance to the level of engagement, to ensure we are finding the right balance between the costs of engagement and the value it can add to decision-making.
3. We then consider the methods (or combination of engagement tools) that will best meet the engagement goals of that project.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), by fax to (04) 471 2254, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

#### Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests

Please note: our LGOIMA responses may be published on the Christchurch City Council website a month after they have been responded to, with requesters' personal details withheld. If you have any concerns about this please contact the Official Information team on [officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

  
Public Information Adviser  
Office of the Chief Executive  
Christchurch City Council  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8011  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154

---