

(E-mail Submission)

Thank you for the opportunity to have input.

First of all I note on Page 7 of this Consultation Document, Paragraph 3: "It's important to note that higher property valuations **do not** increase the overall amount of rate that the Council collects".

That paragraph seems to be at odds with the paragraph on page 8 under the sub-heading: Varying Property Valuations across areas.

OK then, my thoughts on expenditure:

Like any business I guess the Council should look at staffing levels and identify any "dead wood" in the team and perhaps put a freeze on salaries and wages where appropriate.

Cut back on any "Junket Trips" where this is considered an extravagance.

Many sports clubs and organisations put their hands up for Grants from the Council where in the past they would have to fund-raise for themselves. This annoys me, it seems the Council is the "Al Bundy" of the town, handing out ratepayers' money to all and sundry. I think this is an area that really needs some pruning.

Contractors: I think an analysis of their performance should be undertaken to see how often a contractor has to come back to correct poor workmanship. Example: The signpost at the end of our street has been damaged and pulled down on three or four occasions over the last 18 months or so. It gets replaced but only in the ground around 300mm deep. Of course it sways in the wind with the signs themselves acting like sails. Next thing it's on the ground again and the signs damaged. Contractors come back and fix it but we know it's going to happen again because they don't dig out the hole deep enough to prevent this happening and I have suggested a metal pole as in the newer subdivisions, but no, it's always a wooden one that young fellows can lift out and throw to the ground. One time I saw two trucks and three or four men dealing with it and thought what a waste of manpower. I could have done it myself in 30 minutes and made a far better job!

There must be many other occasions when this sort of thing happens - it's just a real slack attitude to workmanship. No pride at all!

AND all this has to be paid for of course, out of the rate payers funds.

Of course there are many things where credit is due to the Council and I'm not blind to that. So congratulations to you all and thank you for your service.