

OIR: 2526/82

17 September 2025

[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 of **22 August 2025** requesting the following information in relation to rates expenditure:

- I was just checking my recent rates notices which arrived in the mail and really appreciate the breakdown and expenditure that was sent with it. In the breakdown you have specified expenditure of \$3.4 Million for 'governance'. Could you please clarify what this covers. It seems like a very large figure that is not identified with any clarity.***

Governance	\$
Internal Staff Costs	\$0.6m
Councillor Fees & Costs	\$1.3m
Overheads	\$1.3m
Other	\$0.2m
Total Governance costs	\$3.4m

- You have an item of \$3.1m for tangata whenua. Could you please clarify what this is for, particularly as it shows no equivalent economic offset or benefit for it. I think, as a ratepayer who has been faced with significant rates increases, I am one of many people who are entitled to know what this actually specifically covers and why the cost to every single property and property is over \$100 per annum.***

The Council has a legislated obligation (section 81(1) (b) and Clause 8 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002) to foster the development of capacity of tangata whenua to contribute to the decision-making processes of the Council. This budget is used to meet these obligations by ensuring our iwi partners can be involved in decision-making at governance and engage across Council work programmes.

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

This information is shown in our 2025/26 Annual Plan which can be found on our website [here](#).

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast

Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū