

OIR: 2627/64

11 September 2026

[REDACTED]
[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 **18 August 2026** in relation to costs incurred by Council due to the Government's Head Start local government initiative for the period 5 May 2026 to the date our response was provided to the Government. You have requested the following information:

- 1. What was the total cost to the council for of all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative? For clarification purposes, this request is for the total cost or the best estimate of the total cost to the council of the Head Start initiative. Points 2-5 below are for components of this total.***

Council **estimates** that the total cost to Council for all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative is \$231,551 (net GST).

For clarity:

- Our Council's response leveraged extensively on existing capacity and capability in-house before utilising external contractors for advice.
- Whilst overall costs reported are modest, potentially in comparison to other local authorities, staff time spent on the response was significant and equated to around 600 hours through a 10-week period.
- The impact of taking on additional work was deferral of existing work required by legislation or regulation. Given the direction that other local authorities could compel involvement in an amalgamation proposal, our Council did not

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

see an option to not participate in the Head Start Proposal for the Wellington region.

Further to the above, Councils primary activity related to developing a response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative was as follows:

Activity	Staff and other parties involved	Est. staff hours and equivalent \$	Impact
Development of advice to Council on local amalgamation options	• 9x internal staff • Elected Members • Chief Executive • GMs: Strategy & Growth; Corporate Services	• 12 x staff, 250 hours • 4x Elected Member briefings • Est. as equivalent to \$75,000	As reported to Council, delay in delivery of several items on the 'policy work programme'.
Development of survey, and consultation with community	• 4x internal staff • Chief Executive • Group Managers, Strategy and Growth; Customer & Community	• 7 x staff, 80 hours • 1x Elected Member briefings • Est. as equivalent to \$15,000	Delayed other engagement with community on several items on the 'policy work programme'.
Involvement in the Wellington Regional Reform Group: development of a Head-Start Proposal	• 9x internal staff • Elected Members • Chief Executive • Group Managers, Strategy and Growth; and Corporate Services	• 2x 3-hour meeting per week (2 staff), for 10 weeks, total 120 hours • Preparation for meetings, 5x staff, total 200 hours • Fortnightly Chief Executives forum • Fortnightly Mayoral Forums, 10 weeks • Est. as equivalent to \$80,000	Delay to progressing other regional work, such as engaging on regional spatial planning
Development of an alternative proposal to the Wellington Head-Start proposal (to reflect Kapiti's requested position)	• 2x internal staff • Group Manager Strategy and Growth • Elected Members • Chief Executive	• 2 x staff, total 30 hours • 2x Elected Member briefings • Est. as equivalent to \$8,000	-
Attendance at MartinJenkins workshop on the financials	• 6x internal staff • Elected Members • Chief Executive • Group Managers, Strategy & Growth; and Corporate Services	• 6x staff, total 20 hours • Elected Members • Est. as equivalent to \$2,000	-
Estimated staff time and equivalent cost		• 600 hours	<i>Redirected from within existing budget and FTEs</i>
Estimated equivalent cost		• \$180,000	

Other costs were incurred related to contracted services:

Activity	Document Title/s	Cost
Development of advice to Council on local amalgamation options	MorrisonLow Headstart Pathway: Kāpiti Coast District Council	\$13,650
Development of survey, and consultation with community	Public Voice Analysis of survey results	\$19,250
	Advertising via local media - NZME radio ads - Beach FM radio ads - Mediaworks radio ads - Paekākāriki NZ - Kapiti News print ad - Google ads - Meta ads	\$3,550
Involvement in the Wellington Regional Reform Group: development of a Head-Start Proposal	MartinJenkins - Paper 1: Principles to drive option sets - Paper 2: Option analysis - Paper 3: Independent financial analysis - Paper 4: Decision paper + draft HOA/Proposal	\$15,101*
Total \$ for external contracts		\$51,551

** = The MartinJenkins costs were split between all councils participating in the Wellington Regional Working Group. The share of costs for each council was determined by their percentage of the total regional population.*

Please note, outside of the estimates provided above, that the total cost to Council for 'all activities and work' undertaken to prepare Council's response to the Government's Head Start pathway was not captured. Accordingly, this part of your question is denied under section 17(g) as Council does not hold the information you have requested.

2. What consultants and contractors were engaged to advise or provided information or analysis for the council's response to Head Start and what was the cost of each provider's services? What were the titles of any reports provided by these consultants or contractors?

Please see the Response to Question 1 above.

3. What was the total cost to the council for informing or consulting with local communities and how much was spent on surveys, advertising, informational publications (flyers, pamphlets, etc.), public meetings, websites and other such activities.

Please see the Response to Question 1 above. Further to this:

- The total cost to council for informing or consulting with local communities in Survey design, and the design and printing of survey questionnaires and supporting material was delivered in-house by members of the Communications, Engagement and Events team.
- Council engaged paid print, radio, and digital advertising to help inform the Kāpiti Coast community of this feedback opportunity and engaged Public Voice to analyse feedback received and prepare an engagement summary report.

4. What was the total cost of any extraordinary or special council meetings or workshops held regarding Head Start or the council's response to it?

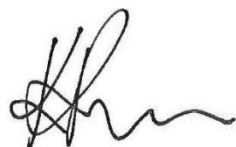
To clarify, no additional costs were incurred through extraordinary or special council meetings. All briefings, workshops and meetings that occurred regarding this topic were scheduled into the standard governance schedule.

5. What other costs were incurred by the council under this initiative and what was the value of those costs?

Please see the Response to Question 1 above.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



Kris Pervan

Group Manager Strategy and Growth
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu