

OIR: 2425/1341

6 May 2025



Tēnā koe,

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **22 April 2025** in regard to our response for OIR 2425/1341. Following our email seeking to refine your request, on 29 April 2025 you have asked for the following refined information:

Please limit the response to documents created or received between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2024, and only those related to loan packages exceeding \$5 million.

Refined Information Sought:

- 1. Governance and Decision-Making**
 - ***A list of meeting dates and corresponding agenda items where LGFA loans were discussed or approved.***
 - ***The names/titles of decision-makers and any consultants involved in loan-related briefings or approvals.***
 - ***Any Treasury advice or internal memos referencing the need or purpose of the loans in scope.***
- 2. Loan Application and Disbursement Records**
 - ***Summary sheets or project breakdowns (if they exist) showing the intended and actual use of the loan funds.***
 - ***A list of projects funded by each loan over \$5M, including project name, location, department, and approximate value.***
- 3. Contractor and Procurement Transparency**
 - ***A list of contractors, consultants, and vendors paid from LGFA-funded projects over \$500K in value, including the procurement method used (tender/direct award/etc.).***
 - ***Any procurement deviation approvals or justifications where standard process was bypassed.***

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

4. Financial Impact and Oversight

- Any external auditor reports, Treasury risk assessments, or internal reviews discussing LGFA debt sustainability.**
- Any communications with LGFA involving requests for refinancing, deferral, or renegotiation of loans (summary format is acceptable).**

If this refinement still presents issues under Section 17(f), please provide a breakdown of which elements are problematic, so I can further adjust accordingly. Alternatively, if summaries or indexes of the documents exist, I'm happy to accept those in the first instance.

As this matter relates to the prudent stewardship of public funds, I respectfully ask that this request be prioritized in the spirit of transparency and public interest. I appreciate your continued cooperation and look forward to your response.

The Council budgets are approved through the Long-term Plan (LTP) every three years and Annual Plans in the intermediate two years. The most recent LTP was approved in 2024.

The LTP includes operating and capital budgets and debt projections. The [LTP](#) can be found on the Council website.

The LTP sets the direction and programme of work to be funded. Once approved, the Council delivers against the LTP and borrows as required to fund that programme of work.

Borrowing is managed in accordance with the Council's [Treasury Management Policy](#). This policy contains a series of limits designed to manage risk, particularly with regard to interest cost and liquidity. Compliance with the Treasury Management Policy is reported quarterly to the Risk and Assurance Committee and reports can be found [on our website](#) and by filtering on the meeting type.

The above narrative outlines how council programmes of work are approved and how debt is managed. It is hoped this satisfies the intent of question 1 (governance and decision making), question 2 (loan application and disbursement) and question 4 (financial impact and oversight).

Further detailed information sought under those questions, and question 3 (contractor and procurement transparency) either does not exist or would require substantial effort to collate and is therefore declined:

This part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found. This part of your request is refused under section 17(f) of the Act as the information request cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. To compile this information would involve a significant expenditure of staff time and resource. It is work that can only be undertaken by specialist staff and for those staff to undertake this work, it would have a significant impact on their day-to-day work. Consideration has been given to whether your request could be further refined. However, in this particular situation we

do not consider this would be possible. I have also considered whether we would be able to respond to this part of your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Council's ability to undertake its day-to-day work would be significantly impacted.

I believe that the above explanation will provide you with clarity as to the processes involved in LGFA loans and borrowing by the Council generally. If you have further questions resulting from the provision of the above explanation, please let us know. If it would assist, Council staff are willing to meet or have a telephone call with you to help explain these processes better.

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,



Mark de Haast

Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū