



Budget 2018 Public Consultation Process
For consideration at a special meeting of Dublin City Council scheduled for 19th September 2017

1. Executive Summary

The public consultation process can be summarised as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total number of completed surveys was 273• The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents (252 or 92.3%)• 92.5% (or 259 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 81.7% (or 223 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied• 78% (or 174 respondents) did not wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT• A total of 150 (or 54.9%) respondents included a comment/observation in the survey
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2. Background

The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014 requires that Dublin City Council consult with the public in its administrative area in relation to its consideration of the setting of a local adjustment factor. Dublin City Council is further required to have regard, in its consideration of a report summarising the written submissions received from the public consultation process.

3. Public Notice

Dublin City Council placed an advertisement, on Monday 31st July in the Irish Independent, and on Thursday 3rd August in the Dublin City Gazette newspapers giving notice of the consideration of setting a local adjustment factor and seeking completion of an online survey on this issue. The notice was in compliance with the prescribed format as indicated in the regulations. The consultation period extended from Monday 31st July 2017 to Wednesday 30th August 2017.

The public were notified of the consultation via:

- www.dublincity.ie
- Social media (Facebook & Twitter)
- Public Participation Network newsletter
- Area Office newsletter
- Firstpost (internal staff newsletter)

Hard copies of the survey were made available at:

- Public libraries
- Area Offices
- Customer Services Centre

The survey was available for completion in English & Irish.

4. Management of Consultation Process

Dublin City Council utilises cloud-based software for managing, publicising and archiving its consultation activity for the LPT Public Consultation. The software (Citizen Space) hosted a web application which has been designed with a view to allowing organisations to run their consultation processes more efficiently and effectively.

The consultation process was managed using:

- Password-protected administration area allowing staff of the City Council to add, edit and report on consultations;
- A front-end website allowing the public to search for, share and participate in consultations that are being run by Dublin City Council;
- An online survey system for securely collecting consultation responses from users.

The use of this tool supported the protection by Dublin City Council of the integrity of responses.

5. Participation in the Consultation Process

From Budget 2015 onwards, Dublin City Council has been required to undertake a public consultation to identify if members of the public want to apply a local adjustment factor (LAF). The factor can be an upward or downward adjustment but in each consultation (including for budget 2018) the majority of the public participants have requested that the LAF be varied downwards by the maximum amount of 15%.

There was a high level of participation for budget 2015 (July/August 2014) due to considerable media coverage/commentary and to it being the first year that the public had input to the process.

For Budget 2015 a total of 899 people participated, this dropped by nearly 80% for both budget 2016 (168 participants) and 2017 (174 participants). Participation has increased to 273 for Budget 2018 but this is still down nearly 70% on the first year of the consultation. The survey is available in both English and Irish. In the four years of the consultations only seven (7) Irish surveys have been completed.

Table: Analysis of Public Participation in Consultation Process

Budget	Total Surveys Completed	English Surveys Completed	Irish Surveys Completed
2015	899	896	3
2016	168	167	1
2017	174	172	2
2018	273	272	1

Per Census 2016, the population of Dublin City is 527,612. While the survey does gather the opinions of those who participate, the level of participation out of the total population of the City is extremely low. Based on the 2018 budget, the level of participations is 0.05% of the population of the city.

Given such low participation rates, it cannot be said with certainty that the survey is representative, as the relatively low numbers responding, may or may not reflect the views of the wider total relevant population.

6. Media Coverage

There were a total of 9 articles in the Press about the Consultation. The articles referenced such topics as the impact of the revaluation on householders in 2019, the possibility of increasing the rate to fund better services and notifying the public of the consultation.

Table: Analysis of Press Coverage

Paper	Date
The Irish Times	31/07/2017 & 01/08/2017
The Times (Ireland)	01/08/2017
The Daily Mirror	01/08/2017
Dublin City Gazette	03/08/2017
The Sunday Times (Ireland)	06/08/2017
The Sunday Business Post	06/08/2017
Northside People (West)	09/08/2017
The Irish Times	15/08/2017

7. Response to Consultation Phase

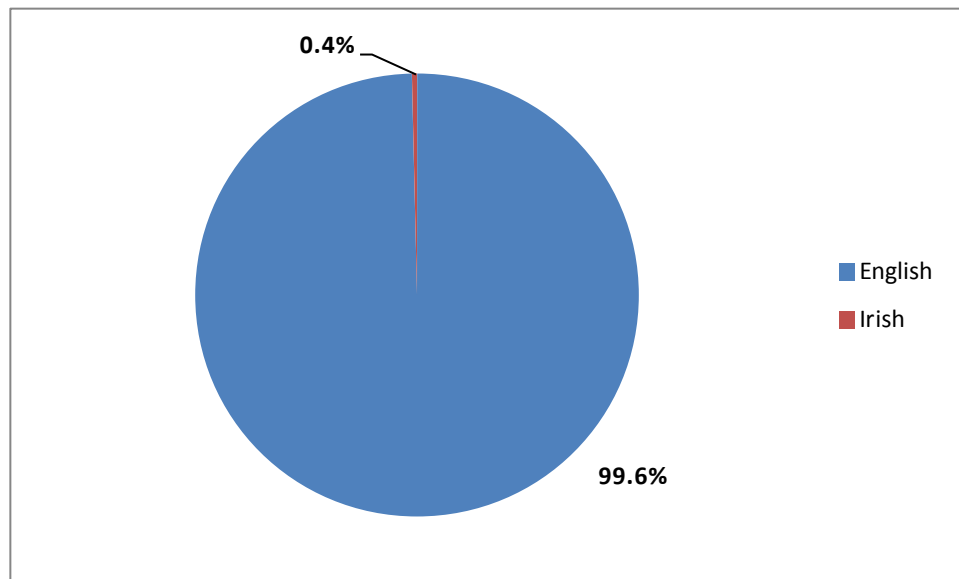
273 surveys were completed during the consultation process. This number represented 6 groups in the following categories;

- a) Dublin City Council Residents
- b) Non-Dublin City Council Residents (using Dublin City Council services)
- c) Business
- d) Charitable Organisation
- e) Sectoral Interest and
- f) Other (requested to specify).

A total of 223 submissions supported that a local adjustment factor be applied to the LPT liability, while a total of 50 submissions supported that a local adjustment factor should not be applied to the LPT liability.

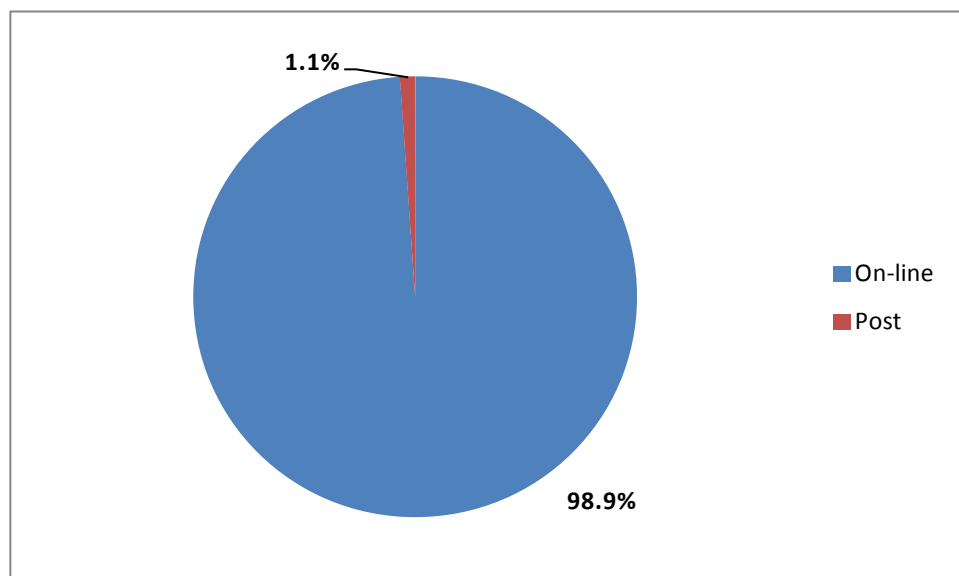
8. Analysis of Survey results

8.1 Total number of respondents



The total number of completed surveys was 273, of which 272 (99.6%) were in English and 1 (0.4%) were in Irish.

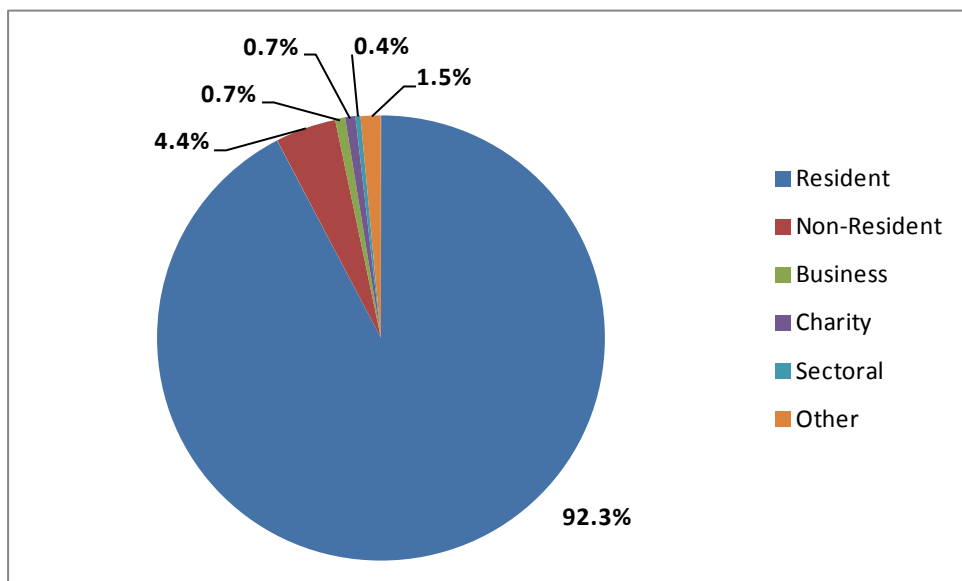
8.2 Analysis of submissions received



Completed surveys were submitted as follows:

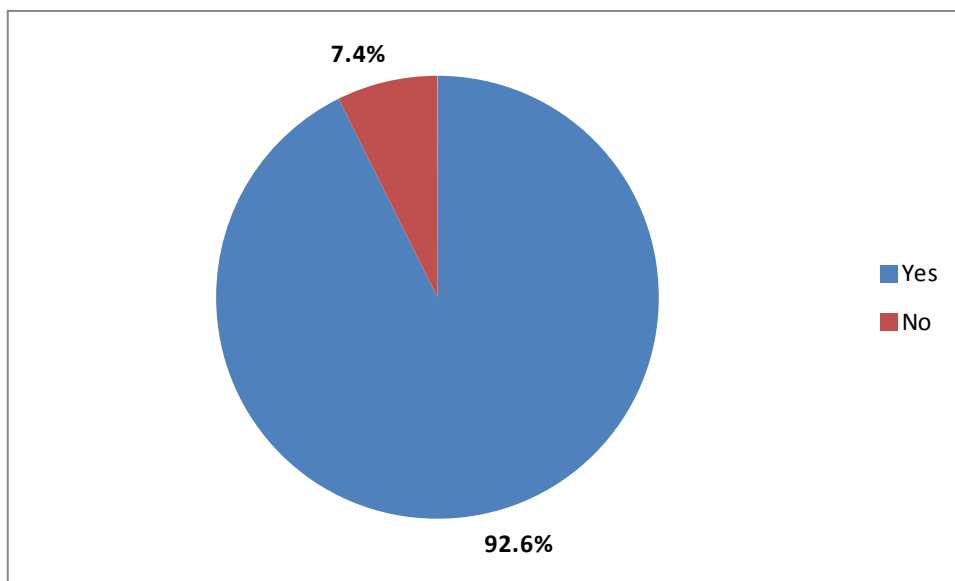
- On-line at www.dublincity.ie, a total of 270 (98.9%)
- By post to the Finance Department, a total of 3 (1.1%)

8.3 Question 1 – Analysis of Respondents



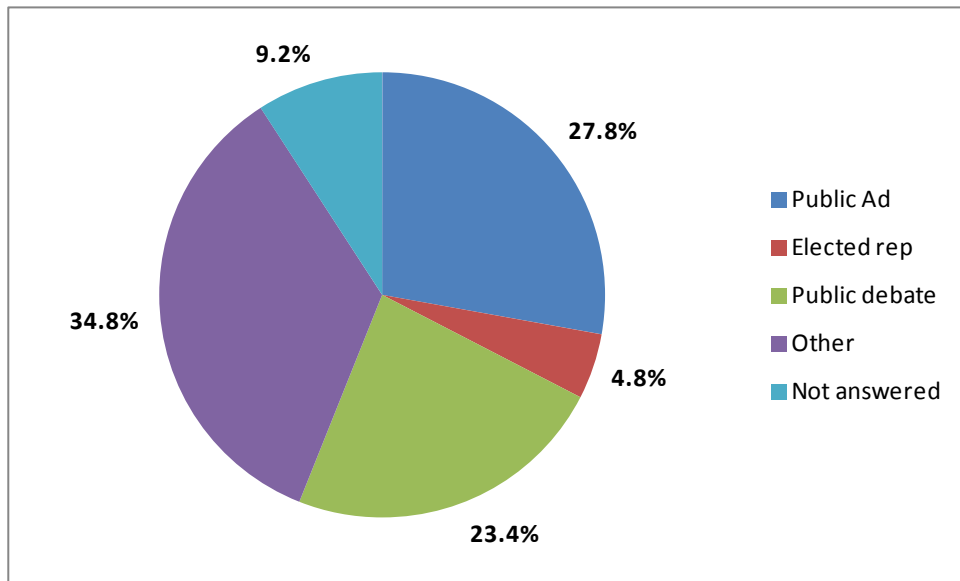
The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents who comprised 252 (or 92.3%) of the total, followed by Non-Dublin City Council residents at 12 (or 4.4%).

8.4 Question 2 – Are you aware that City Councillors can vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax for Dublin City Council’s revenue budget for 2017 by +/- 15%



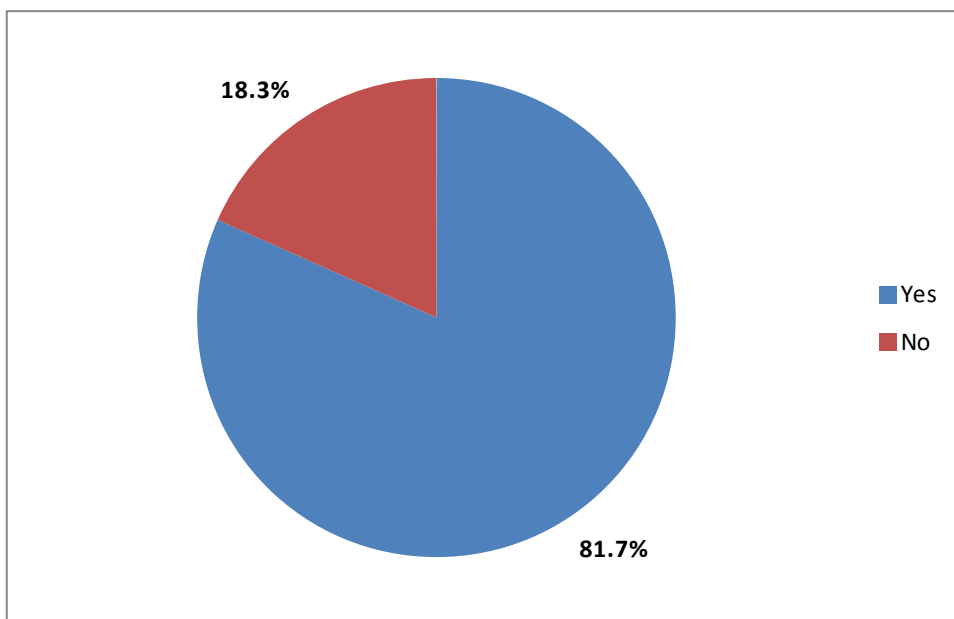
A total of 92.6% (or 252 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT. A total of 7.4% (or 20 respondents) were not aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate.

8.5 Question 3 – How did you become aware of this?



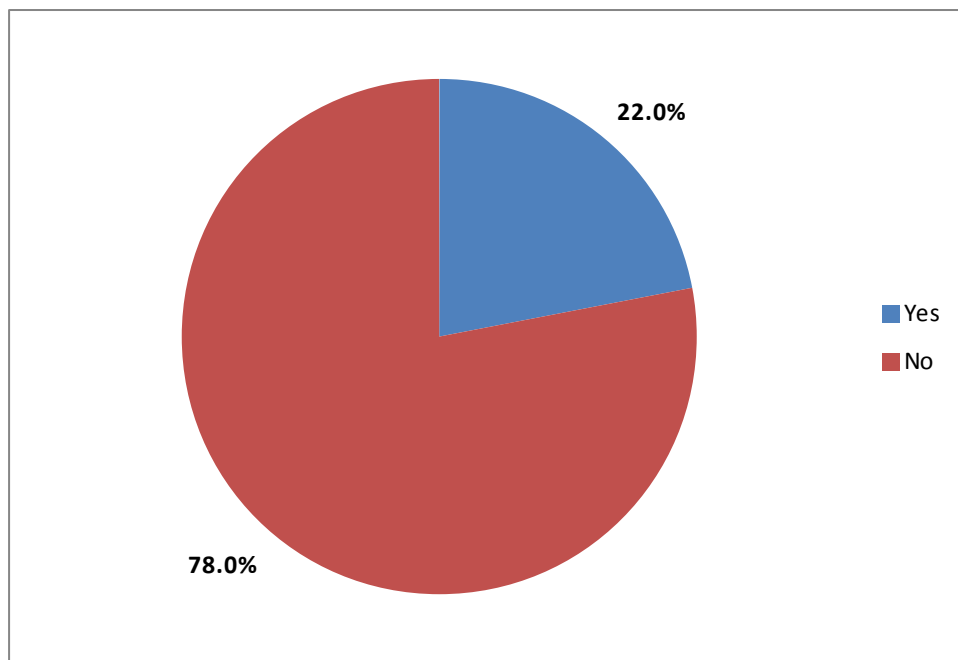
A total of 34.8% (or 95 respondents) became aware of the consultation by 'Other' methods such as media commentary, social media, word of mouth and knowledge of the relevant legislation. A total of 27.8% (or 76 respondents) became aware due to our advertisements and 23.4% (or 64 respondents) became aware of the consultation by public debate.

8.6 Question 4 – Do you wish your elected representative to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax?



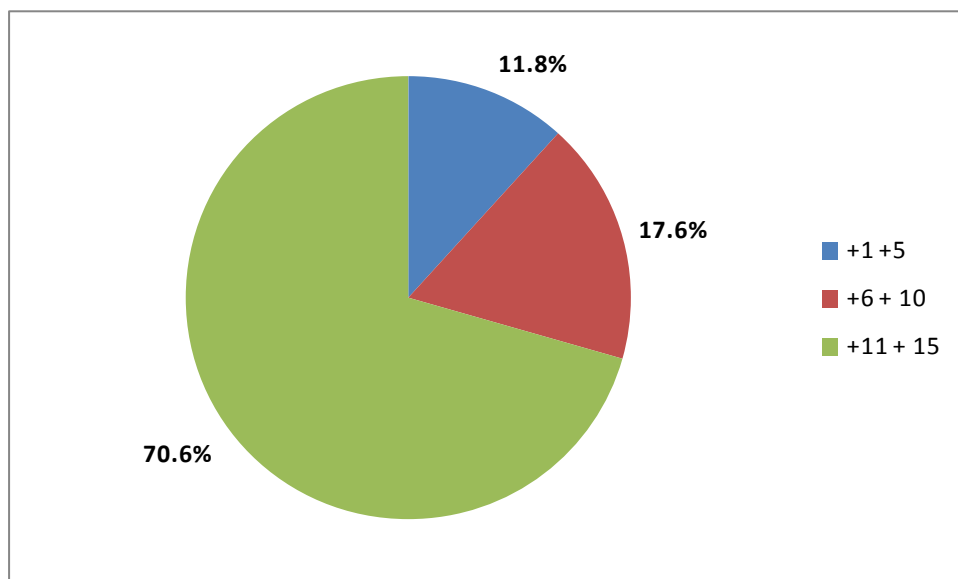
A total of 273 respondents answered this question. Of these, 81.7% (or 223 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied, 18.3% (or 50 respondents) did not ask to vary the LPT.

8.7 Question 5 – Do you wish your representative to increase the basic rate of the Local Property tax?



A total of 223 respondents answered this question. Of those who answered, 78% (or 174 respondents) did not wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT. 22% (or 49 respondents) wished to increase the basic rate.

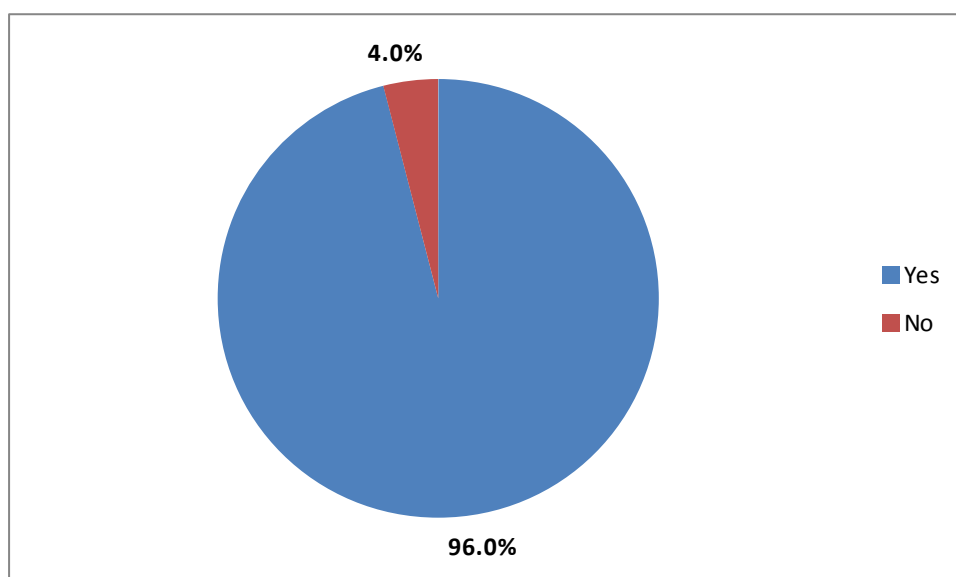
8.8 Question 6 – If yes by what range?



In question 5, a total of 49 respondents indicated they wished to increase the basic rate of LPT however 51 respondents answered this question. 70.6% (or 36 respondents) requested an increase of 11% - 15%, followed by 17.6% (or 9 respondents) who requested an increase of 6% - 10% with the balance of 11.8% (or 6 respondents) requesting an increase of between 0% - 5%.

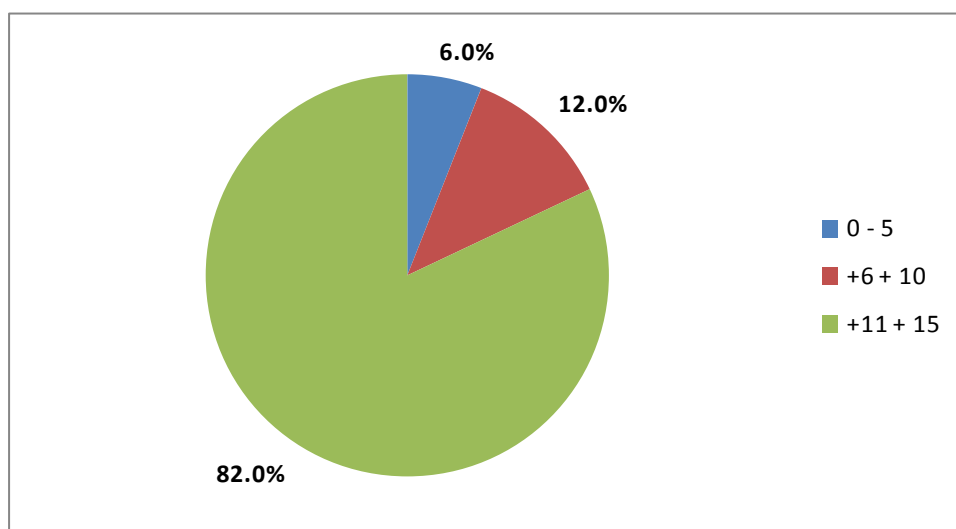
The above analysis is based on the 51 responses.

8.9 Question 7 – Do you wish your representative to decrease the basic rate of the Local Property tax?



A total of 174 respondents answered this question. Of those that answered, 96% (or 167 respondents) wished for the basic rate of the LPT to be reduced. 4% (or 7 respondents) did not wish for the basic rate of the LPT to be reduced.

8.10 Question 8 – If yes by what range?



In question 7, a total of 167 respondents indicated that they wished to decrease the basic rate of the LPT. Of those respondents who requested a decrease in the basic rate of the Local Property Tax, 82% (or 137 respondents) called for a reduction of 11% - 15%, followed by 12% (or 20 respondents) calling for a reduction of 6% - 10%, with the balance of 6% (or 10 respondents) calling for a reduction of under 5%.

Note: The above analysis on questions 4 through 8 excludes those respondents who did not answer the question.

8.11 Question 9 – Additional Comments/Observations made

Respondents were given an opportunity to make additional comments / observations. Not all respondents took this opportunity.

Respondents were given an opportunity to make additional comments / observations. A total of 150 respondents made a comment

Area	Comment
Public Realm	A total of 43 respondents (28.7%) referenced that the LPT should be used to fund services for the City. Comments included areas such as social housing, funding homeless, libraries, parks, footpath improvements, street cleaning, cycling infrastructure
Unfairness to Dublin City	A total of 24 respondents (16.0%) referenced the inequality of the LPT against Dublin City. Reference was made to rising property prices; the impact of the revaluation in 2019, the charge should be based on floor space or insurance cost or site value.
Existing Tax Burden	A total of 21 respondents (14.0%) referenced the existing tax burden and referenced item as high levels of stamp duty paid, areas of higher income should be a higher rate, the charge should be tax deductible
Decrease the LPT	A total of 17 respondents (11.3%) said the rate should be decreased, the charge should be kept as low as possible, the economy has not recovered.
Property Prices	A total of 10 respondents (6.7%) referenced the impact of property prices. Reference was made to the increasing property prices in Dublin, the charge is unfair to people who live in properties valued in excess of €1m
LPT Retention	A total of 8 respondents (5.3%) referenced that it is unfair that 20% of the Dublin City LPT goes to rural Local Authorities, the Government should be lobbied by our Councillors to make the charge fairer for Dublin City
Transparency	A total of 8 respondents (5.3%) referenced that there needs to be greater transparency in the process, there should be greater accountability as to what the LPT is funding is used for.
Increase the LPT	A total of 4 respondents (2.7%) referenced that the charge should be increased to fund services in the City.
Ability to Pay	A total of 2 respondents (1.3%) referenced that the LPT does not take account of a citizen's ability to pay.
Miscellaneous	A total of 13 respondents (8.7%) fell in to this area. The comments covered areas such as the rate should be standard across the country, it should be linked to the size of a council's budget, and higher density buildings will decrease the need to increase the LPT.

7.0 Summary

In summary:

- The total number of completed surveys was 273
- The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents (252 or 92.3%)
- 92.3% (or 252 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT

- 34.8% (or 64 respondents) became aware of the consultation by 'other means' (media comment, social media, word of mouth etc.), followed by 27.8% (or 76 respondents) who became aware by public debate
- 81.3% (or 223 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied
- 78.1% (or 174 respondents) did not wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT
- Of those who did wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT, 70.6% (or 36 respondents) requested an increase of between 11% - 15% followed by 17.6% (or 9 respondents) who requested an increase of 6% - 10%, with the balance of 11.8% (or 6 respondents) requesting an increase of between 1% - 5%
- 96% (or 167 respondents) wished for the basic rate of the LPT to be reduced
- Of those respondents who requested a decrease in the basic rate of the Local Property Tax, 82% (or 137 respondents) called for a reduction of 11% - 15%, followed by 12% (or 19 respondents) who called for a reduction of 6% - 10%, with the balance of 6% (or 10 respondents) calling for a reduction of under 5%
- A total of 150 (or 54.9%) respondents included a comment/observation in the survey

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14th September 2017