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**Budget 2017 Public Consultation Process**  
***For consideration at a special meeting of Dublin City Council scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016***

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## 1. Executive Summary

The public consultation process can be summarised as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The total number of completed surveys was 174</li><li>• The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents (160 or 92%)</li><li>• 87.9% (or 153 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 75.4% (or 129 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied</li><li>• 83.1% (or 108 respondents) did not wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT</li><li>• A total of 89 (or 51.1%) respondents included a comment/observation in the survey</li></ul>
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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 Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>, in both the Irish Times and 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 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

The public were notified of the consultation via:

- [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie)
- Social media (Facebook & Twitter)
- Public Participation Network 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 a 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. Response to Consultation Process

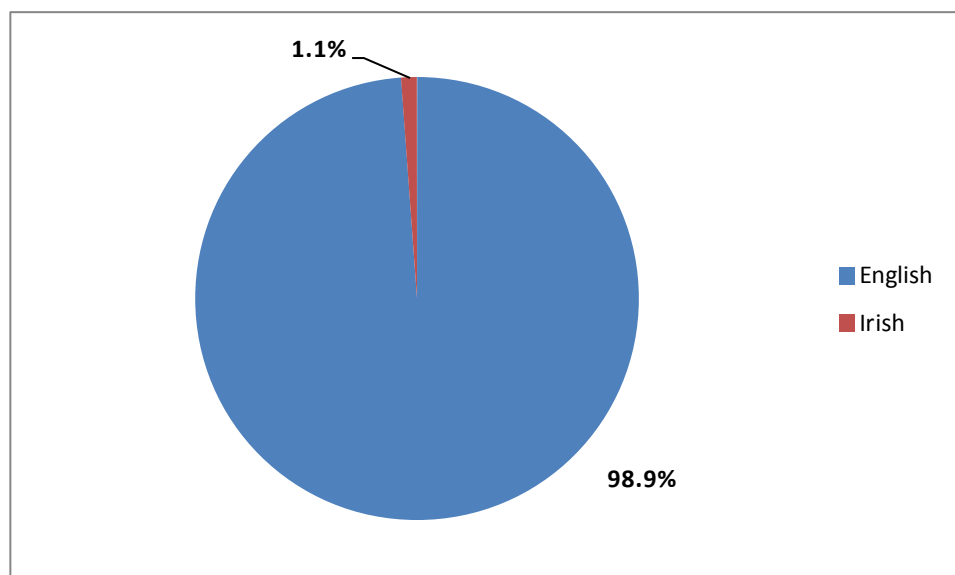
174 surveys were completed during the consultation process. This number represented 6 groups in the following categories;

- Dublin City Council Residents
- Non-Dublin City Council Residents (using Dublin City Council services)
- Business
- Charitable Organisation
- Sectoral Interest and
- Other (requested to specify).

A total of 129 submissions supported that a local adjustment factor be applied to the LPT liability, while a total of 42 submissions supported that a local adjustment factor should not be applied to the LPT liability. A total of 3 submissions did not answer the question.

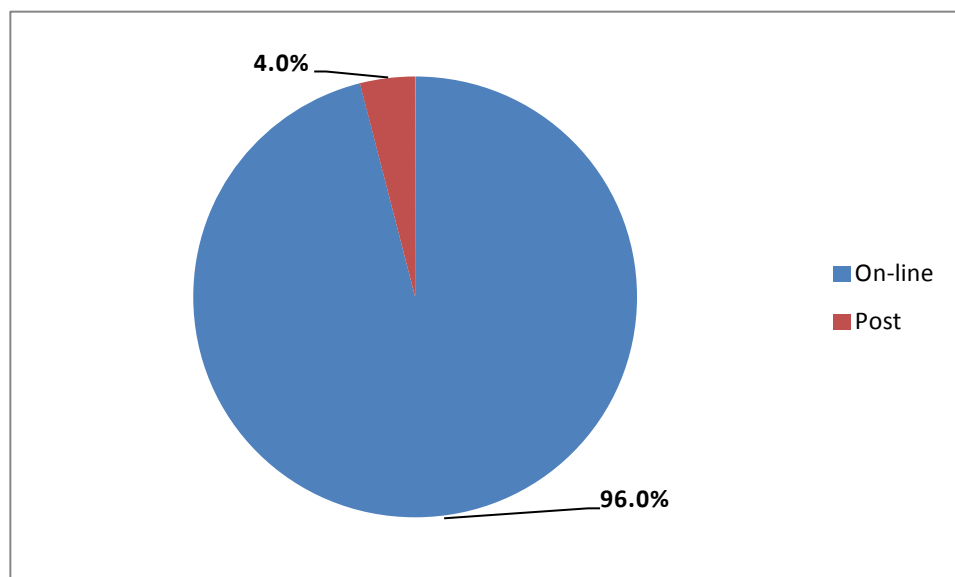
#### 6. Analysis of Survey results

##### 6.1 Total number of respondents



The total number of completed surveys was 174, of which 172 (98.9%) were in English and 2 (1.1%) were in Irish.

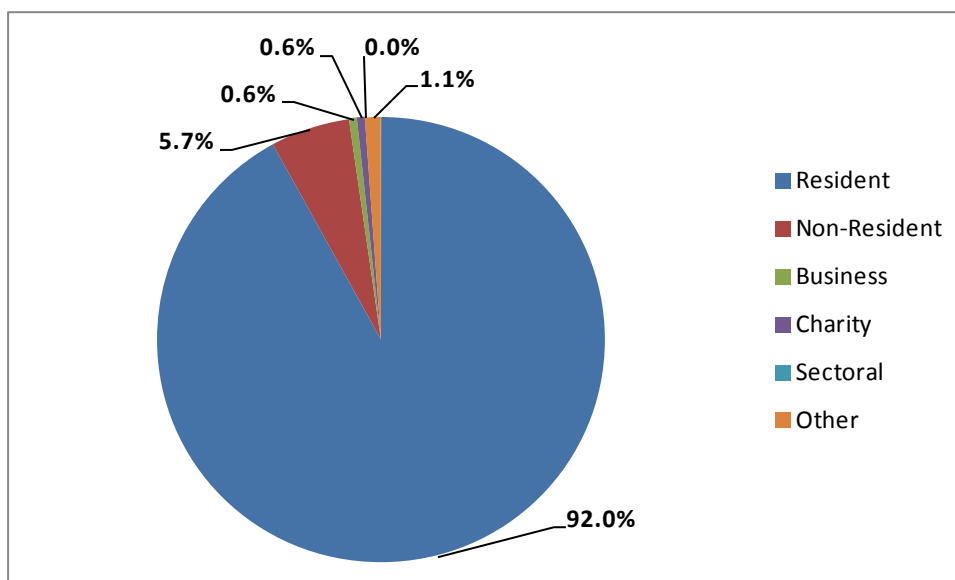
## 6.2 Analysis of submissions received



Completed surveys were submitted as follows:

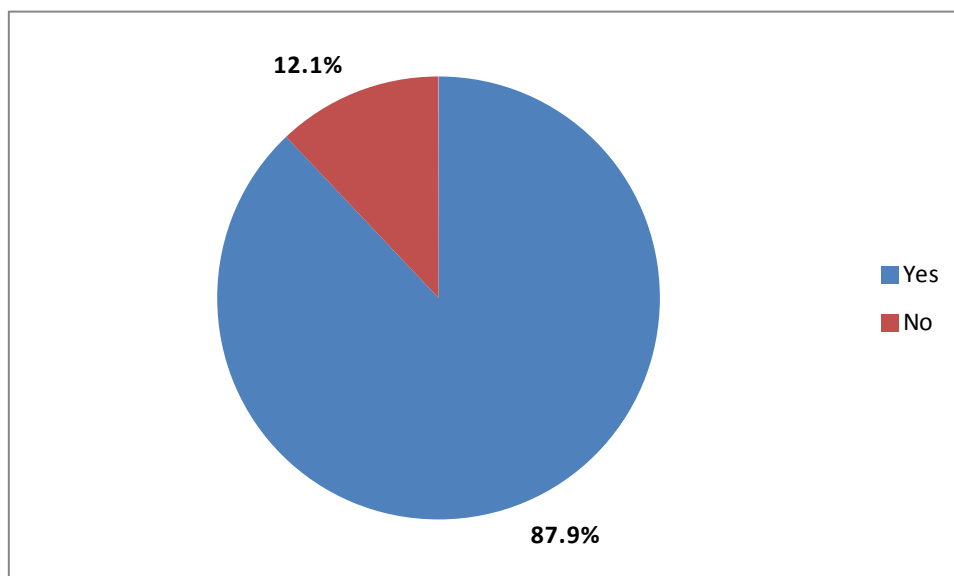
- On-line at [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie), a total of 167 (96%)
- By post to the Finance Department, a total of 7 (4%)

## 6.3 Question 1 – Analysis of Respondents



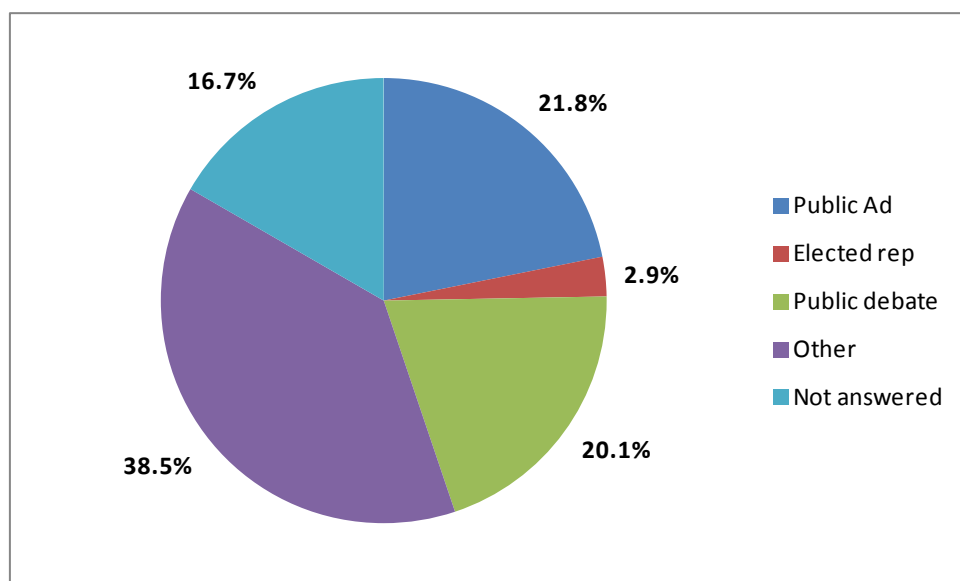
The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents who comprised 160 (or 92.0%) of the total, followed by Non-Dublin City Council residents at 10 (or 5.7%).

**6.4 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%**



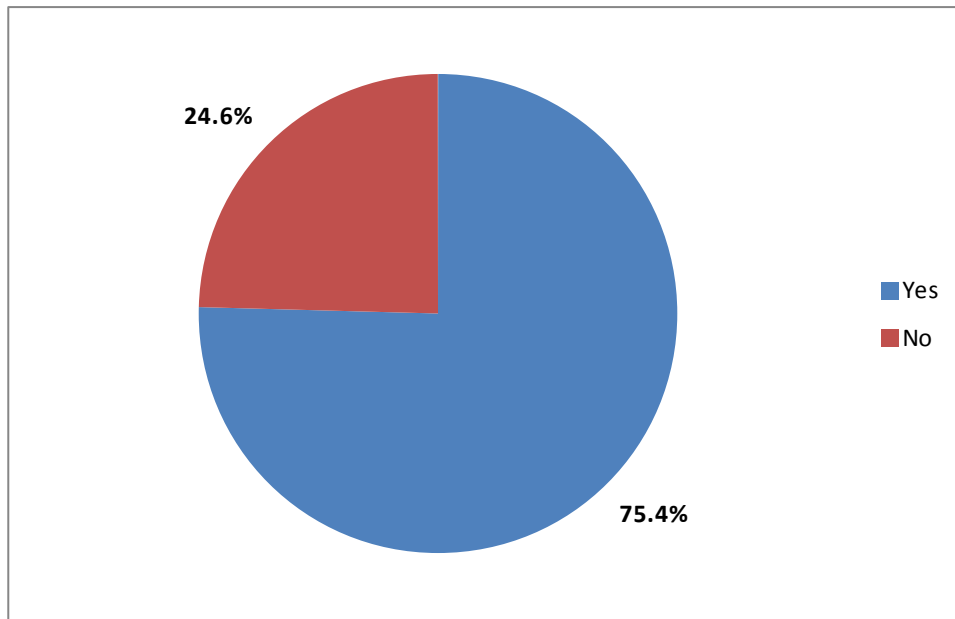
A total of 87.9% (or 153 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT. A total of 12.1% (or 21 respondents) were not aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate.

**6.5 Question 3 – How did you become aware of this?**



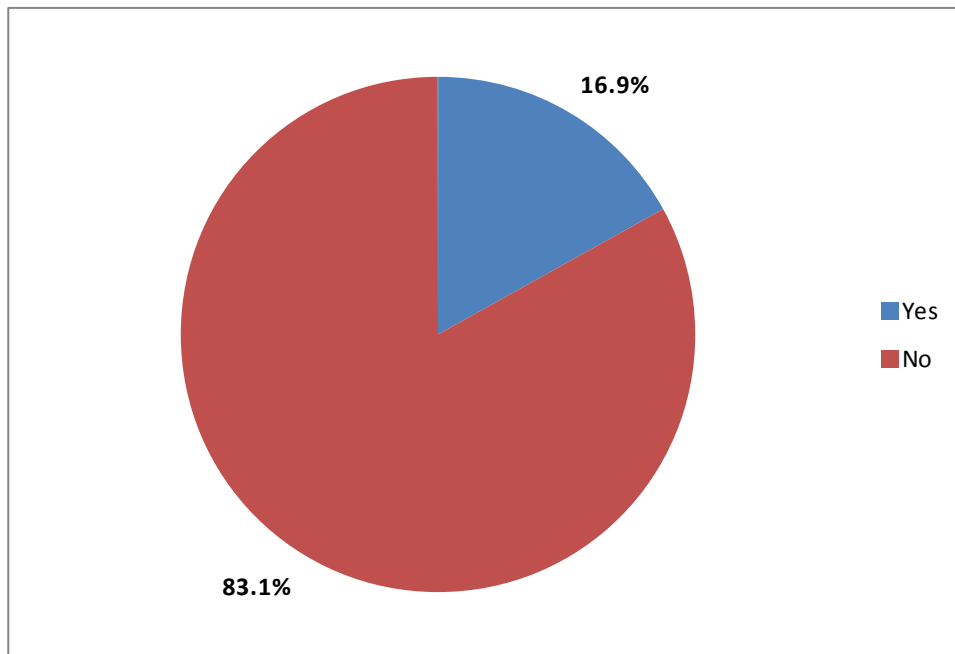
A total of 38.5% (or 67 respondents) became aware of the consultation by 'Other' methods such as the media comment, social media, word of mouth and knowledge of the relevant legislation. A total of 21.8% (or 38 respondents) became aware due to our advertisements and 20.1% (or 35 respondents) became aware of the consultation by public debate.

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



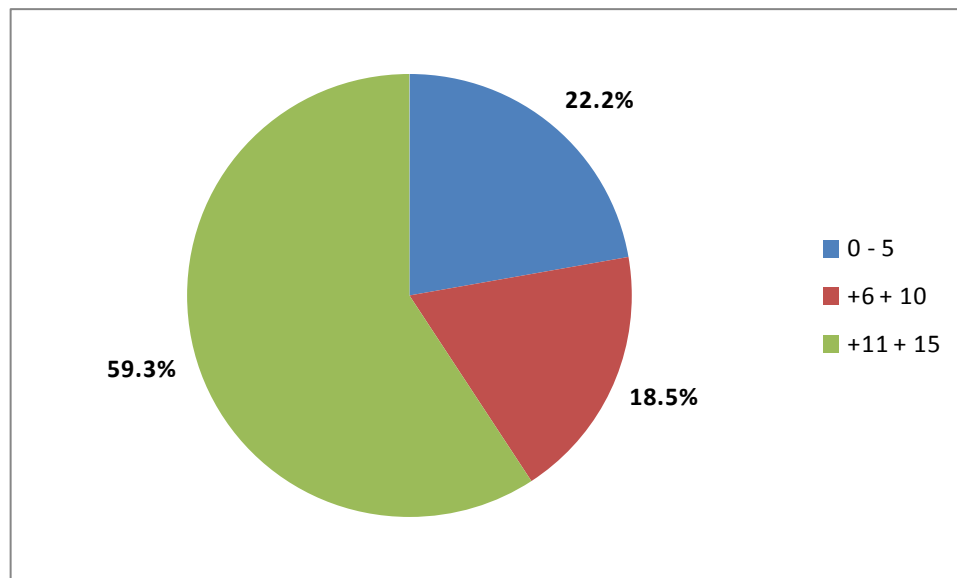
A total of 171 respondents answered this question. Of these, 75.4% (or 129 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied, 24.6% (or 42 respondents) did not ask to vary the LPT.

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



A total of 130 respondents answered this question. Of those who answered, 83.1% (or 108 respondents) did not wish to increase the basic rate of the LPT. 16.9% (or 22 respondents) wished to increase the basic rate.

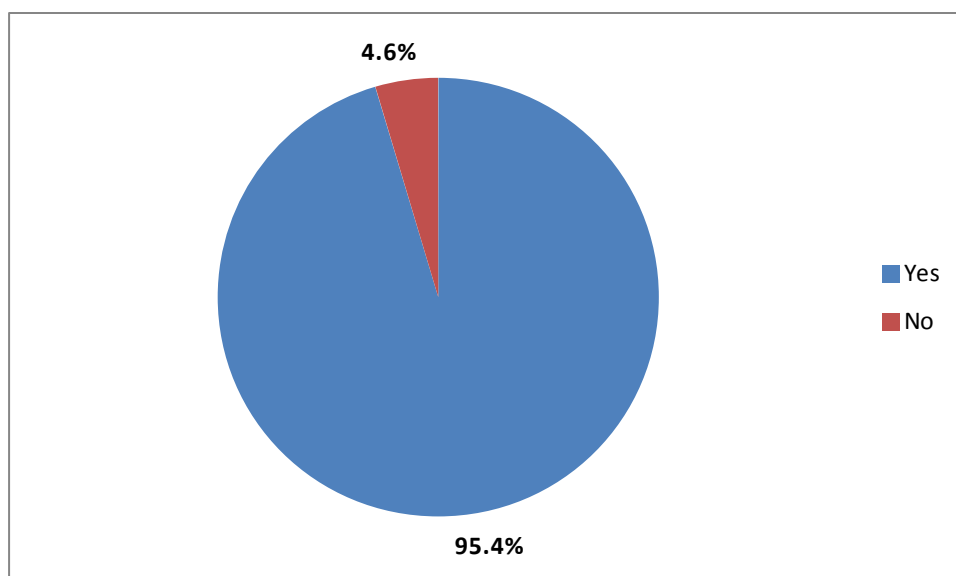
### 6.8 Question 6 – If yes by what range?



In question 5, a total of 22 respondents indicated they wished to increase the basic rate of LPT however 27 respondents answered this question. 59.3% (or 16 respondents) requested an increase of 11% - 15%, followed by 18.5% (or 5 respondents) who requested an increase of 6% - 10% with the balance of 22.2% (or 6 respondents) requesting an increase of between 0% - 5%.

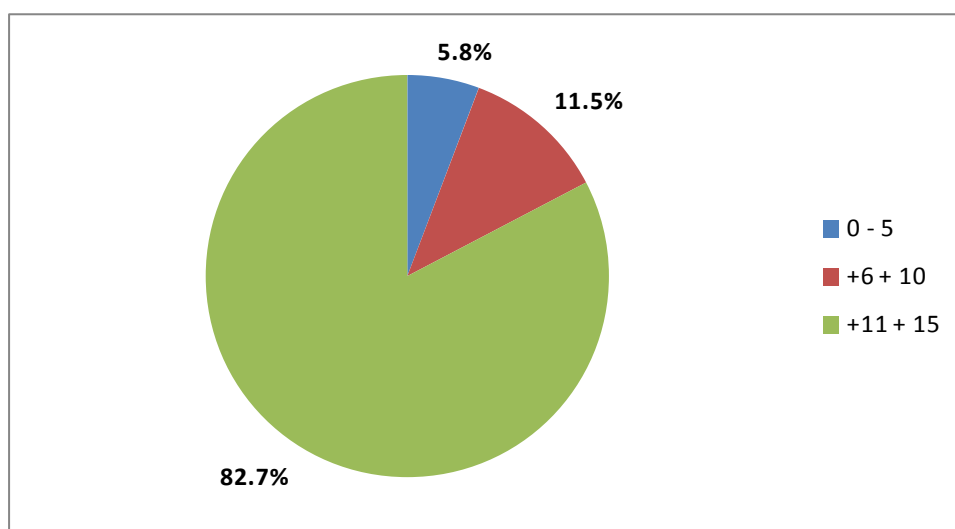
The above analysis is based on the 27 responses.

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



A total of 108 respondents answered this question. Of those that answered, 95.4% (or 103 respondents) wished for the basic rate of the LPT to be reduced. 4.6% (or 5 respondents) did not wish for the basic rate of the LPT to be reduced.

### 6.10 Question 8 – If yes by what range?



In question 7, a total of 103 respondents indicated that they wished to increase the basic rate of the LPT however, 104 respondents answered this question. Of those respondents who requested a decrease in the basic rate of the Local Property Tax, 82.7% (or 86 respondents) called for a reduction of 11% - 15%, followed by 11.5% (or 12 respondents) calling for a reduction of 6% - 10%, with the balance of 5.8% (or 6 respondents) calling for a reduction of under 5%.

The above analysis is based on the 104 responses.

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

### 6.11 Question 9 – Additional Comments/Observations made

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

Area	Comment
Existing Tax Burden	A total of 19 respondents (21.3%) referenced the existing tax burden as making it difficult to pay the LPT. Other taxes referenced were Stamp duty, VAT, DIRT, waste and water charges
Better Services	A total of 18 respondents (20.2%) referenced that the LPT should be used to fund services for the City. Comments included areas such as funding homeless, social housing, litter in the city centre, the lack of additional funding it generates for the City
Unfairness towards Dublin City	A total of 17 respondents (19.1%) referenced the inequality of the LPT against Dublin City. Reference was made to rising property prices, and that the charge should be based on a per square metre/foot basis.
Increase the tax	A total of 6 respondents (6.7%) replied that the tax to should be increased and used to fund additional services such as infrastructure, roads, parks and expanding the bike scheme
Decrease the tax	A total of 6 respondents (6.7%) replied that the tax to should be reduced. They reference areas such as how the economic recovery has not benefited everyone, the tax should be kept low, and since it's also used to

	subsidise other LA's & replace Government Grants we should not be facilitating this so we should reduce our rate
Ability to pay	A total of 4 respondents (4.5%) referenced that the LPT fails to acknowledge a person's ability to pay
Abolish the LPT	A total of 4 respondents (4.5%) referenced that the LPT should be abolished
LPT retention	A total of 2 respondents (2.2%) referenced that the full LPT raised in DCC should be retained in DCC and that we should not be subsidising other LA's
Miscellaneous	A total of 12 respondents replies fell into this area covering such diverse areas as the power of councils, how apartment owners are already paying management fees, how people should be better informed of the existence of these surveys

## 7.0 Summary

In summary:

- The total number of completed surveys was 174
- The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council residents (160 or 92%)
- 87.9% (or 153 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the basic rate of the LPT
- 38.5% (or 67 respondents) became aware of the consultation by 'other means' (media comment, social media, word of mouth etc.), followed by 21.8% (or 38 respondents) who became aware by public debate
- 75.4% (or 129 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied
- 83.1% (or 108 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, 59.3% (or 16 respondents) requested an increase of less than 5%, followed by 22.2% (or 6 respondents) who requested an increase of 11% - 15%, with the balance of 18.5% (or 5 respondents) requesting an increase of between 6% - 10%
- 95.4% (or 103 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, 82.7% (or 86 respondents) called for a reduction of 11% - 15%, followed by 11.5% (or 12 respondents) who called for a reduction of 6% - 10%, with the balance of 5.8% (or 6 respondents) calling for a reduction of under 5%
- A total of 89 (or 51.1%) respondents included a comment/observation in the survey

**Kathy Quinn**  
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