

---

## Budget 2023 Local Property Tax Public Consultation Process

---

### 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 298</li><li>• The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Council Home Owners (243 or 81.5%)</li><li>• 82.2% (or 245 respondents) indicated that they were aware that Councillors had the power to vary the rate of the LPT</li><li>• 55.7% (or 166 respondents) wished for the LPT to be maintained at its current rate of -15%</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 44.3% (or 132 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied from its current rate of -15%</li><li>• Of those who wished to vary the rate, 6.1% wanted a lesser reduction than -15%,</li><li>• Of those who wished to vary the rate, 21.2% wanted the Basic Rate to remain unchanged.</li><li>• Of those who wished to vary the rate, 72.2% wanted to increase the rate above the Basic Rate</li></ul>
---	--

### 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 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the Irish Independent, and in the Dublin City Gazette on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 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 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The public were further notified of the consultation via:

- [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram)
- Email notification to our Elected Members

## 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.

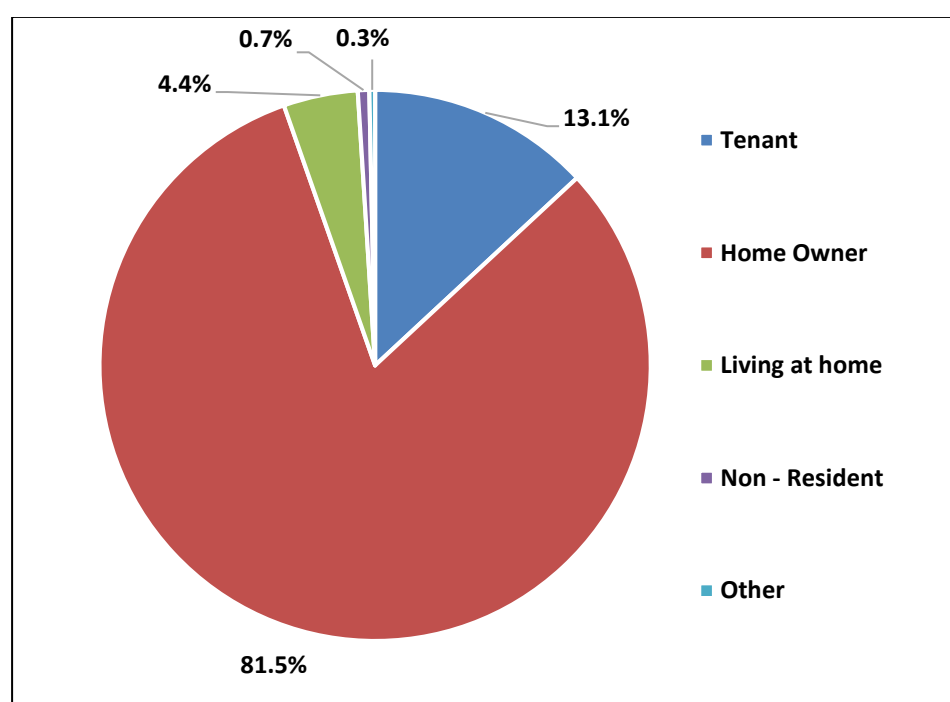
The use of this tool supported the protection by Dublin City Council of the integrity of responses.

## 5. Response to Consultation Phase

298 surveys were completed during the consultation process. Of this number 288 (96.6% of respondents) were Dublin City residents, with the balance of 10 (3.4%) not being resident in the City.

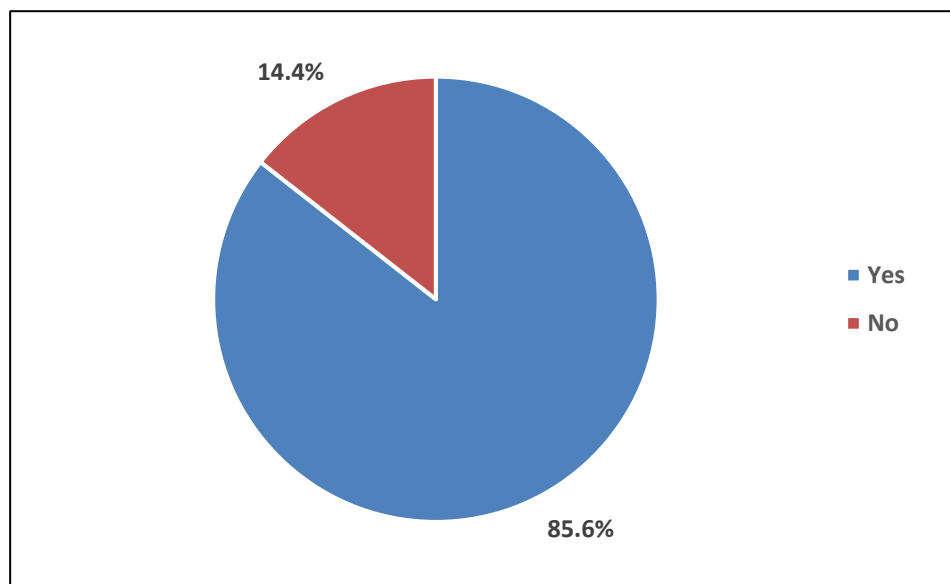
## 6. Analysis of Survey results

### 6.1 Analysis of Respondents



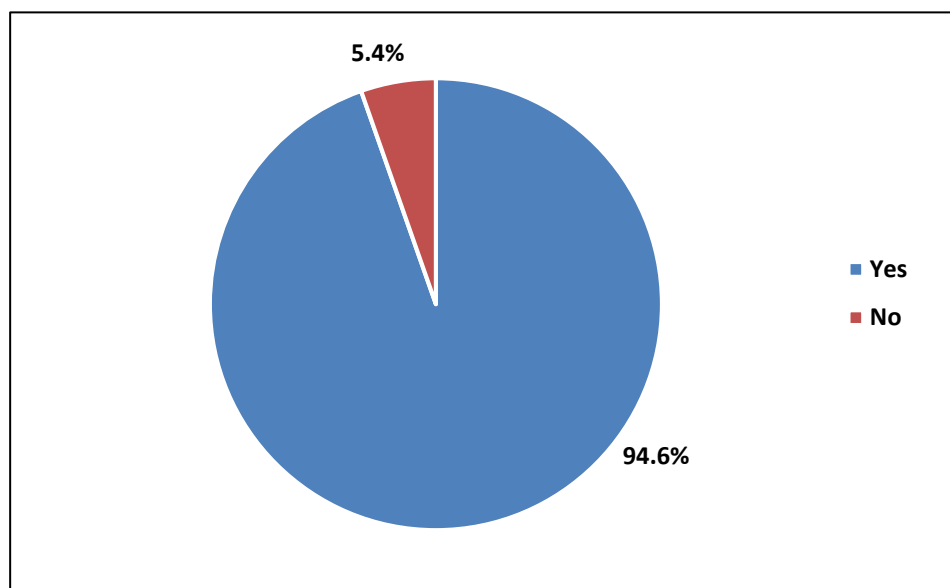
The largest single group of respondents were Home Owners who comprised 243 (or 81.5%) of the total, followed by Tenants who comprised 39 (or 13.1%).

**6.2 Are you required to pay the Local Property Tax?**



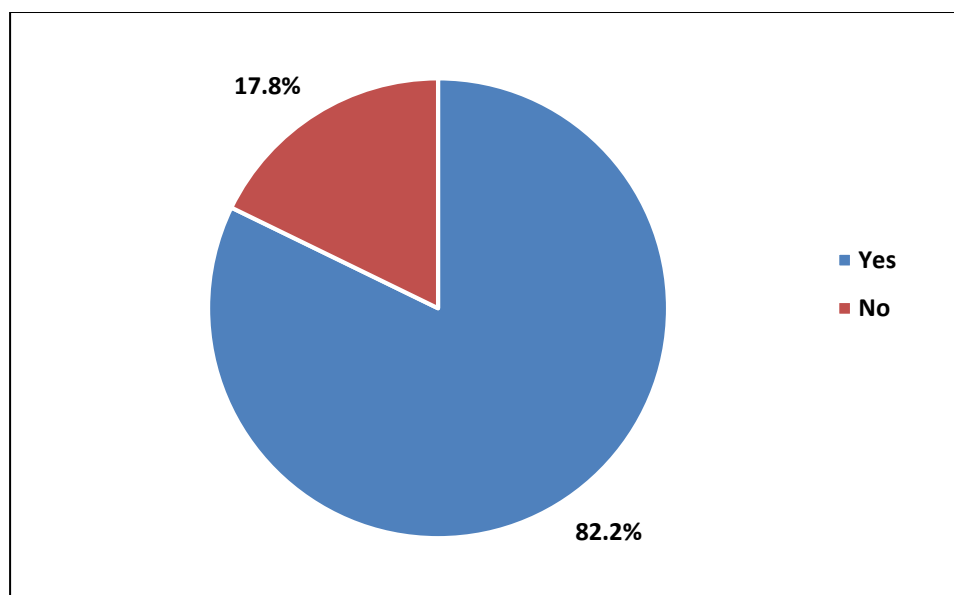
A total of 255 (85.6%) respondents are required to pay the Local Property Tax

**6.3 Are you aware that the Local Property Tax payments are used to fund some of the essential services that Dublin City Council provides to its citizens?**



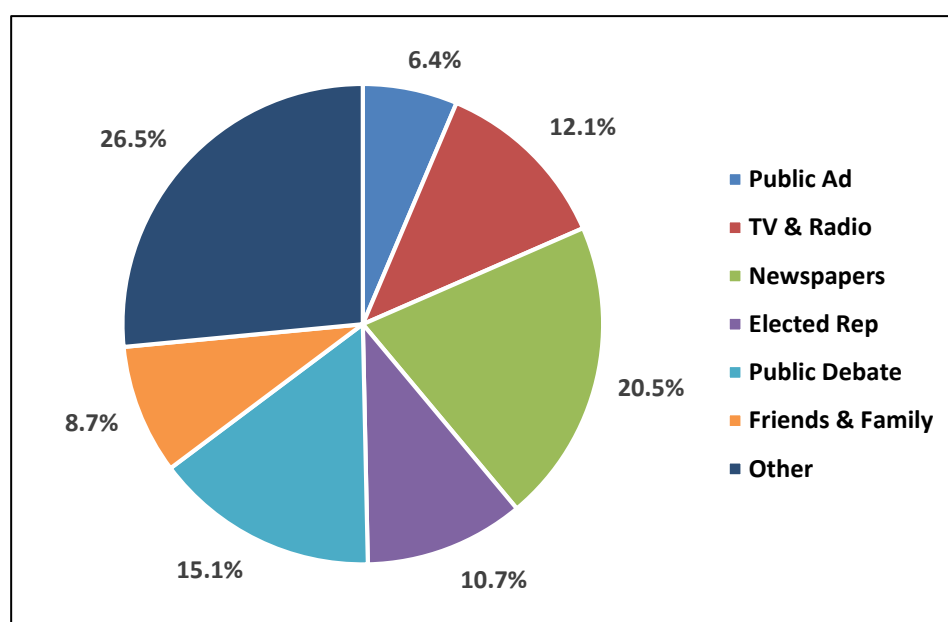
A total of 282 (94.6%) were aware that the LPT is used to fund essential services.

**6.4 Are you aware that City Councillors can increase or decrease the Basic Rate of the LPT by up to 15%?**



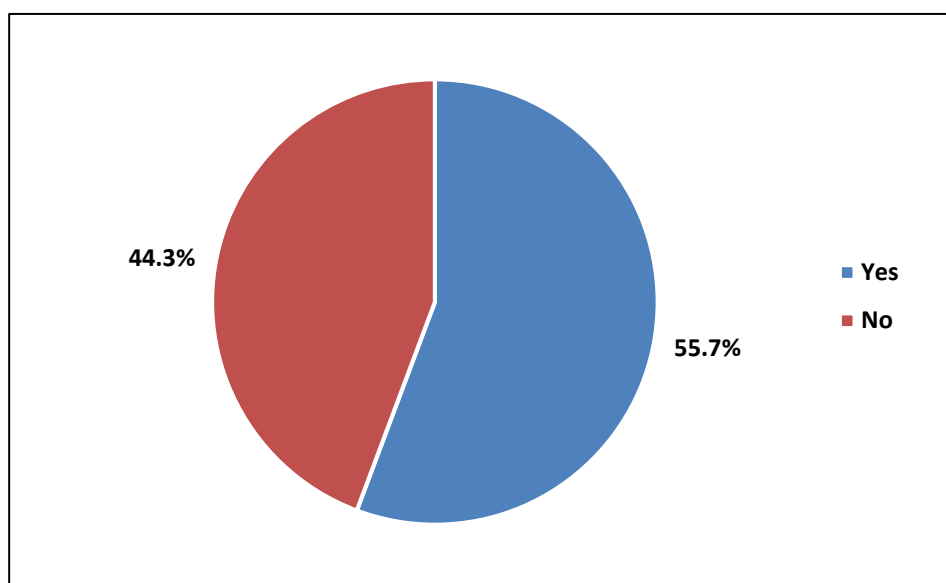
A total of 245 (82.3%) were aware that our Councillors can vary the Basic Rate of the LPT.

**6.5 How did you hear about this consultation?**



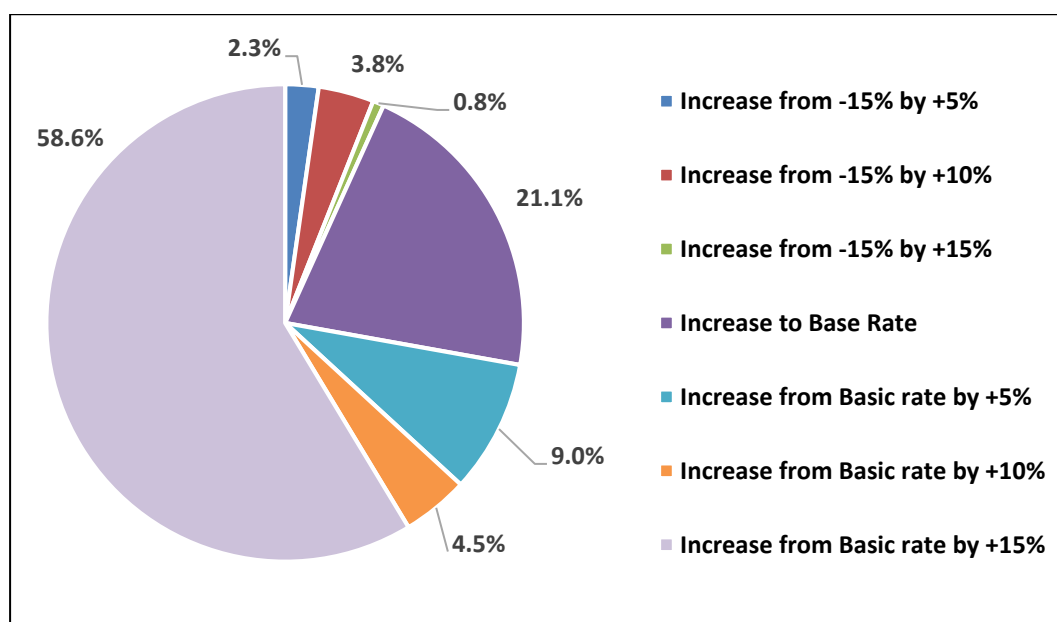
A total of 298 respondents answered this question. Of those that answered, 61 (20.5%) heard of the survey by newspaper advertisement, followed by 36 (12.1%) who heard of the survey by TV & Radio. A total of 79 selected 'other'; this covered areas such as the Workplace, Social media/internet & research/education.

**6.6 Would you like the Elected Members to retain the current reduction of -15% on the Base Rate for the year 2023?**



A total of 166 (55.7%) respondents indicated that they would like the current reduction to remain in place. A total of 132 (44.3%) respondents indicated they would like to vary the current reduction.

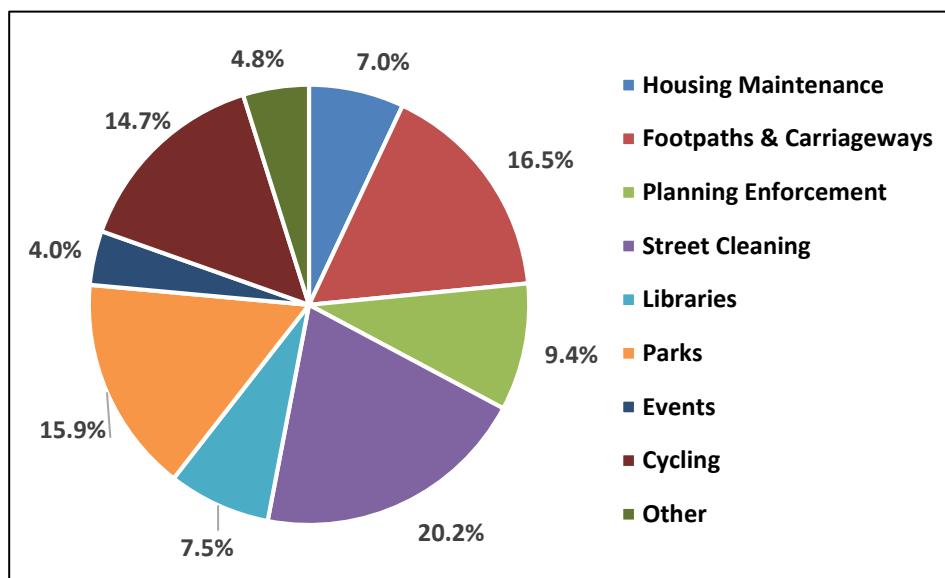
**6.7 You have indicated in the previous question that you would like to increase the rate. Please indicate your preferred increase**



A total of 132 people responded to this question. Of those respondents 6.1% expressed a preference to vary the rate by having a lesser reduction than -15%. 21.2% of respondents expressed a preference to leave the Basic Rate unchanged. The balance of respondents, 72.7%, indicated they would like to increase the rate above the basic rate.

The most popular option was to increase the Basic Rate by +15%, a total of 78 respondents expressed a preference for this option.

**6.8** *If the Elected Members voted to vary the Basic Rate by a lesser amount that the current reduction and additional income became due to the City Council, what area would like to spend it on?*



For this question respondents could select multiple options. The top 3 preferences were Street Cleaning (20.2%), Footpaths & Carriageways (16.5%), and Parks (15.9%). In the category of 'Other' areas such as climate action, anti-social enforcement, public realm and fire brigade were referenced.

## 7.0 Summary

The total number of completed surveys was 298 summarised as follows:

- The largest single group of respondents were Dublin City Home Owners (243 or 81.5%)
- 85.6% (or 255 respondents) were required to pay the LPT.
- 94.6% (or 282 respondents) are aware that the LPT is used to fund essential services
- 82.2% (or 245 respondents) are aware that the elected members can vary the rate of the LPT
- 55.7% (or 166 respondents) wished for the LPT to be remain at its current rate of -15%
- 44.3%(or 132 respondents) wished for the LPT to be varied from its current rate of -15%
- Of those who wished to vary the rate, 6.1% wish to have a lesser reduction than -15%
- Of those who wished to vary the rate, 21.2% wished to leave the base rate unchanged.
- Of those who wished to vary the rate, 72.2% wanted an increase of above the base rate
- Of those who indicated a preference to vary the rate from its current -15%, the most popular option was to increase above base rate by +15%.
- If additional money accrued for any variation to the LPT the most popular options to spend this money on were 1) Street Cleaning, 2) Footpaths & Carriageway and 3) Parks

**Kathy Quinn**  
Head of Finance

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022



**Submission to Dublin City County Council on the Variation of Local Property Tax in Budget 2023  
August 2022**

Dublin Chamber is the representative body for businesses throughout the Greater Dublin Area and is committed to enhancing both the economic competitiveness and quality of life across the region. With a cross-sectoral membership base spanning the spectrum from micro-enterprises to multinationals, and supporting 300,000 jobs, the Chamber has a unique insight into the needs of both businesses and their employees. Dublin Chamber wishes to highlight a number of concerns with respect to LPT and requests that these be taken into account by Dublin City County Council in relation to its annual decision on the Local Property Tax (LPT) variation.

Dublin is suffering from underinvestment in its infrastructure and municipal services. There is strong demand for climate action, a better urban environment, and improved quality of life.

LPT revenue has an important role to play in meeting these needs. A large and one-sided relinquishment of revenue from LPT is therefore not appropriate at this time. The current uncertain economic and fiscal outlook makes it imprudent to voluntarily forego more revenue than necessary when this could necessitate an increase in commercial rates on vulnerable businesses later in the year, putting jobs at risk. The decision on the adjustment of LPT in Dublin must not be taken in isolation. It must be considered in light of the likely implications for the overall budget for 2023 which will be agreed later this year, and the implications for commercial rates in particular.

Businesses already fund one third of the Dublin City County Council budget directly through commercial rates, in addition to their other contributions through various charges and levies, yet commercial rates have often been treated as a balancing item to address shortfalls arising from earlier decisions.

With the rapidly rising cost of doing businesses in Dublin, there is no room for complacency this year. Dublin Chamber encourages all elected representatives to consider this carefully and to ensure that commercial rates are not increased at a critical time for business and employment. Dublin City Council should limit any LPT reduction this year to an absolute maximum of -10%. In future years additional revenues may assist in accelerating projects that could make a tangible difference to the transport offering, carbon emissions level, and quality of life in Dublin.

With businesses already heavily relied upon to fund Local Authorities, LPT is a revenue stream that should be better managed to improve urban services whilst being prudent in relation to household impact. Dublin Chamber supports greater funding and empowerment of local government in Dublin, and to this end we advocate for implementation of the key recommendations of the Thornhill Report on Local Property Tax.<sup>1</sup> Dublin Chamber acknowledges the complexities involved in determining the appropriate yield from LPT and the potential impact of changes on urban living costs and the general economic environment. For example, in recent years there has been understandable concern about the potential impact of recent property price inflation on LPT liabilities in the capital. That is why the Chamber broadly welcomed the findings of the 2015 Thornhill report, and agrees that policy should aim for 'relative stability' in LPT liabilities.

There remains a general tendency amongst Local Authorities towards overreliance on the collection of commercial rates revenue as a means of balancing accounts. The manner in which the discretionary variation in LPT has been exercised by Local Authorities is indicative of the attitude prevalent among local representatives. Commercial rates paid by the business community are budgeted to account for a third (32.5%) of Dublin City Council income in 2022, while LPT revenue accounts for just 2.1%.<sup>2</sup>

*Dublin Chamber welcomes the presence of multiple sources of Local Authority funding, and encourages Dublin City Council to adopt a more balanced approach to revenue generation in the coming years. Authority representatives should make the most effective use of existing revenue streams to improve economic competitiveness and quality of life in the city, while avoiding undue burdens on struggling businesses.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Don Thornhill, Review of the Local Property Tax (LPT), July 2015, [http://www.budget.gov.ie/Budgets/2016/Documents/Review\\_of\\_Local\\_Property\\_Tax\\_pub.pdf](http://www.budget.gov.ie/Budgets/2016/Documents/Review_of_Local_Property_Tax_pub.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> NUI Galway, Local Authority Finances, Dublin City, <http://localauthorityfinances.com/income/dublin-city-2022/>