

Kia ora koutou

## **EXTRA MONEY FOR CITY BLOCK UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who submitted as part of the Extra Money for City Block? Consultation. We received over 400 submissions and held hearings on 17 June 2020.

### *Options preferred by submitters*

- 60% of submitters preferred Option one that Council invest up to \$46 million in the City Block Development;
- 18% of submitters preferred Option two that Council invest no further funds above the \$25 million already committed;
- 8% of submitters preferred Option three, that Council should repurpose the \$5 million allocated for design changes but invest no further after that;
- 13% did not select an option. Of these approximately a third were opposed to the project in totality and/or stated that they believed the Council should not invest at all.

It is worth noting that a considerable number of those who wanted the Council investment kept to either \$25 million or \$30 million still wanted the project to happen.

Common amongst all submitters, whether they were opposed or supportive of the proposed investment, was the importance of a focus on community and what that could deliver to the City.

**Following this**, Councillors approved its funding contribution at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, 8 June, after a series of funding announcements and changes.

Council had also applied to Central Government's Shovel Ready initiative for funding towards the development.

On 29 June, Council resolved to approve the \$46m investment, and noted the amount would be lower if funds were received from shovel ready.

On 1 July, it was announced that Central Government would contribute an additional \$10m towards the project.

Chief Executive Clare Hadley said Invercargill Central Limited had since become aware that there had been changes to bank funding availability, due to changes in lending rules as a result of COVID-19.

"Council agreed to cover that shortfall in bank funding. This means that its total contribution to the project is \$40.5m – based on the additional \$10m from central government coming off the approved \$46m investment," Mrs Hadley said.

Find the link here for the full media release - <https://icc.govt.nz/council-to-contribute-40-5m-to-city-block/>