

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Martin:

Following up on a question that was asked at the Council Meeting held 19 May regarding Council staffing, and the Chief Financial Officer advised staffing had gone up by 1% FTE over the past 5 years. Over the last 5 years, the population has gone up by 11%; does that indicate that our staffing per head of population had dropped by 10%? If that's the case, has this resulted in a reduction of Council services by 10% or has this achieved an increase in productivity?

Dennis O'Keeffe, Chief Financial Officer advised that he is not aware of any significant diminution to core services during that period, although there have been significant efficiency savings. He took the remainder of the question on notice.

Response:

Other than COVID impacts on service delivery and the opening of a new Childcare Centre in Ferrars St our core services have been stable over past 4-5 years. Given our core services have been maintained, then our FTE has arguably increased productivity by 10%. This outcome supports the >\$12m in efficiency savings delivered in the previous 4 budgets.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*