

### 3. SETTING THE LEVEL OF REVENUE FROM RATES

The total level of revenue from rates will be established as the total revenue required to cover all projected operating expenditure after taking into account:

- The projected operating revenue from those sources of other revenue identified above.
- The level of operating surpluses carried forward from previous financial periods and agreed to by Council.
- The level of revenue received for capital purposes (including development contributions) recognised as income for accounting purposes but required to be made available for the funding of capital expenditure.
- An amount equal to the level of depreciation expenditure on Council assets where the Council considers that it is not financially prudent to pass the funding requirement on to ratepayers.
- An amount equal to the level of reimbursement of the Council's self insurance reserve.
- Any other amount that the Council considers not financially prudent to pass (the funding requirement) on to ratepayers.

### 4. THE COUNCIL'S APPLICATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT

This section shows how the operating expenditure associated with each of the Council's activities are funded through applying the requirements of section 101 (3) of the Act. The Council illustrates the activity areas in which it operates through our Strategy Trees, which are arranged by Key Achievement Area (KAA).

Our activity analysis is organised under the following headings:

- **Activity.** The Council's activities are those areas in which we provide a service to the community. Our activity analysis starts with a statement of what activity we are assessing, where it sits in our strategy tree, and a brief description of the service provided by the Council.
- **Community outcome.** The Council has a number of community outcomes. We make reference to the community outcome to which each activity relates in our analysis.

- **Operating projects.** A list is provided of all operating projects that the Council delivers within a particular activity. Any one activity may have more than one operating project which, when combined, provides the total level of service provided by the Council.
- **Who Benefits??** This analysis looks at the benefits that flow from the activity to individuals, identifiable parts of the community and the community as a whole. The Council acknowledges that this analysis is in part subjective, and has used some basic principles to assist in its decision making.
  - when discussing benefits to the whole community, we are referring to all members, ratepayers and the general public, of the city. Benefits to the whole community accrue when individual users cannot be easily identified or cannot be easily excluded from entry (such as the use of the Town Belt and other open spaces), or where the community in general derives benefit from our activities (such as the provision of citizen information and advice). While it is not possible to charge for some activities, it is also not appropriate to charge for certain activities that benefit the community as a whole. In instances such as these, it is considered appropriate that funding is predominantly provided through the general rate.
  - where individuals or an identifiable part of the community can be identified, it is then possible to consider the use of targeted rates or user charges. Obvious examples of this include services such as pools and recreation centres, but also include activities such as our building consent and licensing services and many of our waste management services. In these instances, it is possible to exclude users who are not prepared to pay for an activity. Those users who choose to pay accrue a particular level of service over and above that available to the community as a whole.
- **Who should pay?** This section of our analysis looks at a variety of factors that may influence our decision-making when establishing a final decision as to who should pay for an activity. Through this analysis it is possible for the nominal funding split derived under the Who Benefits? analysis to be 'modified' based on a consideration of factors including:

- The period of benefit provided by each activity. For instance, investment in the city's roading and stormwater infrastructure provides a long-term and ongoing benefit to the city, whereas a one-off grant for a particular activity will typically be short-term and temporary in nature.
- Whether or not there is an identifiable exacerbator who should pay ('polluter pays' principle).
- The costs and benefits of distinct funding. This includes an assessment of how we fund each individual activity taking into account issues such as transparency and accountability, and the impacts of a chosen funding mechanism. For instance, where a service is deemed to be essential or very important in terms of contributing to the general health and wellbeing of the community, consideration will be given to ensuring that people are not excluded from access to the service because they cannot afford to pay.
- The overall impact of the funding of the activity on the current and future social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community.

While each of these areas were considered when assessing who should pay, not all were relevant to each activity, while some had more weight than others in relation a certain activity.

- **Our funding targets.** This provides the final analysis of how we will fund our activities after consideration of the issues outlined under "Who should pay?"

## 5. THE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL RATING DIFFERENTIAL AND THE MODIFIER

In 2000, the Council voted to alter the rates differential (the rates split) that decides the share of general rates only paid by residents and by businesses. Over a 10-year period, the balance will shift from a point where the commercial sector contributed 7.0 times more general rate (for a property with the same value) to a stage where they will end up contributing 2.8 times more to the general rate than the residential ratepayer by 2009/10.

The general rate is split between the base differential rate, which applies to residential ratepayers, community organisations and rural land, and the commercial, industrial and business differential rate.

During the development of the Revenue and Financing Policy, Council has taken the opportunity to review the rating differential and has concluded that the 2.8 ratio is still appropriate.

The Council also believes it is appropriate to spread the impact of proposed activity funding changes, and that a smooth transition to the 2.8 ratio in 2009/10 continues. The target general rates differential for 2006/07 is 4.4 : 1. This means that for that a commercial ratepayer will have 4.4 times the general rate payable by residential (and other base differential) ratepayers on each dollar of property capital value.

The differential transition planned through to 2009/10 is as follows:

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
GR Ratio	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.8