

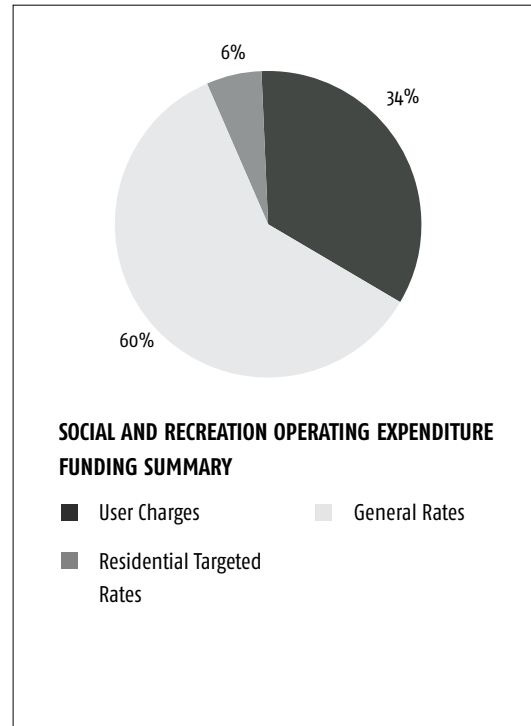
VI) SOCIAL AND RECREATION STRATEGY

BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

A city is only as strong as its people. Wellington is built on strong communities. It's a safe city where people have plenty of opportunities to fulfil their potential and engage with each other. As the city's biggest provider of recreation facilities and social housing, we aim to promote healthy lifestyles and build strong communities.

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The funding sources for this strategy are illustrated in the graph below.

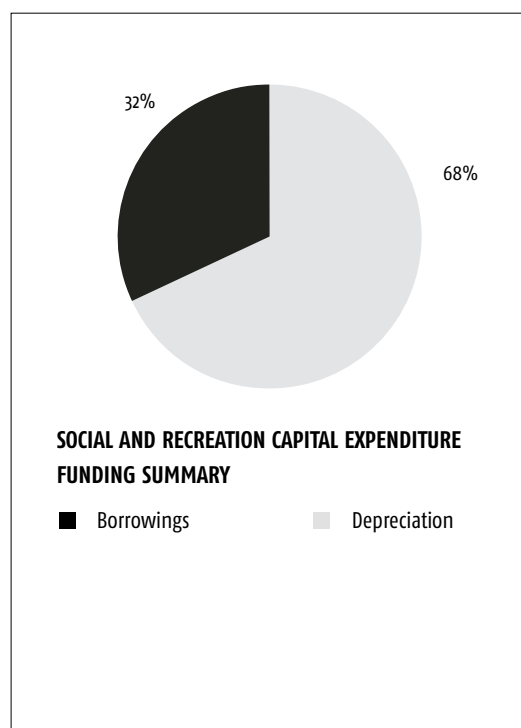


Activity	Funding Sources						
	User Charges	Other Income	General Rates	Targeted Rates			
				Residential	Commercial	Downtown	Other
6.1.1 Provision of community housing	70%	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.1.2 Facilitation of recreation partnerships	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
6.2.1 Implementation of the homelessness strategy	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.2.2 Community advocacy	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
6.3.1 Access support	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.3.2 Social and recreational grants	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.3.3 Recreation programmes	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.1 Provision of swimming pools	45%	0%	55%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.2 Provision of sports fields	10%	0%	90%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.3 Provision of recreation centres	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.4 Provision of playgrounds	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.5 Provision of marinas	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.6 Provision of community centres and halls	10%	10%	0%	80%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.7 Provision of community ICT access	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.4.8 Provision of libraries network	10%	0%	90%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.5.1 Burials and cremations	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.5.2 Provision of public toilets	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.5.3 Regulation of public health	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.6.1 Facilitation of city safety	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6.6.2 Wellington Emergency Management Office	5%	0%	95%	0%	0%	0%	0%

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The interest and depreciation costs relating to capital expenditure are incorporated in the operating costs of each activity.

Social and recreation capital expenditure projects are funded through a combination of rates funded depreciation and borrowings, as detailed below.



Activity	Funding Sources			
	LTNZ Capex Subsidies	Development Contributions	Depreciation	Borrowings
6.1.1 Provision of community housing	0.0%	0.0%	83.6%	16.4%
6.4.1 Provision of swimming pools	0.0%	0.0%	42.1%	57.9%
6.4.2 Provision of sports fields	0.0%	0.0%	40.6%	59.4%
6.4.3 Provision of recreation centres	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
6.4.4 Provision of playgrounds	0.0%	0.0%	71.9%	28.1%
6.4.5 Provision of marinas	0.0%	0.0%	47.2%	52.8%
6.4.6 Provision of community centres and halls	0.0%	0.0%	24.3%	75.7%
6.4.8 Provision of libraries network	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
6.5.1 Burials and cremations	0.0%	0.0%	46.2%	53.8%
6.5.2 Provision of public toilets	0.0%	0.0%	15.5%	84.5%
6.6.2 Wellington Emergency Management Office	0.0%	0.0%	80.2%	19.8%

ACTIVITY 6.1.1: PROVIDER – COMMUNITY HOUSING

The Council owns over 2000 housing units, which we rent to low income people whose housing needs are not met by the private sector. We allocate these homes according to need. Tenants are charged 70 percent of the estimated market rent for their property.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

Provision of community housing contributes to the outcome that “social services, especially public health and housing, will be affordable, available and accessible to all Wellingtonians”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	90%
<i>Whole community</i>	10%

The main beneficiaries of this activity are the tenants, who receive accommodation at below market rent. Their benefits are private and exclusive. While the Council's rental housing units are aimed at meeting needs that the market does not or cannot meet, to some extent these housing units are in competition with properties provided by private landlords.

However, there are also some benefits to the community as a whole. By providing homes for people who otherwise may be unable to afford them, the Council also contributes to community cohesion and may have benefits for public health and safety.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Individuals</i>	70%
<i>Whole community</i>	30%

As the main beneficiaries, it is appropriate for tenants to pay most or all of the costs involved in providing community housing. The Council's current policy is to provide homes at 70 percent of market rental. It is considered appropriate that the remainder of the costs should be funded from the general rate.

It should be noted that recent increases in Wellington property values mean the depreciation costs associated with these properties are rising faster than rental levels. If this lag continues for a prolonged period it could create a situation in some years where the income for this activity does not adequately meet the costs of upgrades and major maintenance works. At that point, further decisions will have to be made about how this activity is funded.

It should be noted that the user charges take no account of the Council's significant opportunity cost of owning a housing portfolio well in excess of \$150m.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	70%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	30%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.1.2: FACILITATOR – RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Council maintains relationships with a number of groups that seek to provide publicly accessible facilities that contribute to both passive and active recreation. Currently these include grants to the Basin Reserve Trust, and the Indoor Stadium working group, and support for the Boys and Girls Institute’s development of the Spinks Café, and support for the development of an ice skating rink.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

Our recreation partnerships contribute to the outcome that “Wellington’s communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	80%
<i>Whole community</i>	20%

The organisations we fund and the people that take part in their programmes also receive direct benefits.

Through the development of recreational partnerships, the Council aims to promote the benefits of sport and recreation to Wellingtonians. This has benefits for residents’ overall levels of health and fitness, which in turn helps economic and social well-being. In addition, by supporting recreation partners, the city receives the economic benefits from having sport and recreation organisations located here.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While the individuals who choose to access these facilities receive some benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the residential sector to bear the costs of our recreation partnerships.

The Council is just one source of funding for its recreation partners. The Council’s contribution represents the public benefits to Wellington residents while the other funding sources represent the private benefits to participants and other organisations.

In this context the benefits to the community clearly outweigh the benefits to individuals. These benefits include healthier lifestyle and overall additions to social wellbeing.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate (Residential)	100%
General rate	0%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.2.1: FUNDER AND FACILITATOR – SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS

We work in partnership with key agencies to understand and support Wellington's homeless. We are supporting the Wellington Night shelter Trust's work to renovate the downtown shelter. And we are playing a role in project margin.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

These initiatives contribute in part to the outcomes that "Wellington communities will be inclusive and welcoming to all people" and that "Wellington will have responsive social services and a strong volunteer sector".

WHO BENEFITS?

Whole community 100%

This activity provides benefit to the community as a whole through the development of cooperative working relationships with key agencies to ensure that the city's diverse population including those who are homeless are supported and embraced by a tolerant caring and welcoming community.

This activity also promotes the safety of individuals by enhancing access to safe overnight shelter for those who may otherwise not have access to it. While there is a tangible benefit to those people who use the night shelter, its presence is to ensure that those who could not otherwise afford to pay have access to overnight shelter.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

Whole community 100%

Since this activity benefits the community as a whole, the fairest and most effective way to fund it is from general rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.2.2: PROVIDER – COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

We encourage people to contribute to their community and participate in city activities. Our City Communities advisors support a wide range of community groups such as senior citizens, Maori, youth, Pacific Islanders, refugees and migrants, and people with disabilities. This work aims to ensure that Wellington’s diverse population is supported and embraced by a tolerant, caring and welcoming community.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

Given the breadth of this activity it can be seen to contribute generally to social wellbeing. In particular it contributes to “Wellington’s communities being inclusive and welcoming to all people” and to the “city having strong social services and a strong volunteer sector”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Whole community</i>	60%
<i>Individuals</i>	40%

The projects funded under this activity benefit all Wellington residents. They strengthen people’s sense of identity, and enhance community cohesion and social well-being. Some projects, such as provision of concerts and other youth activities, may help prevent crime and improve public safety.

There are also some private benefits from these activities. The very nature of this work is targeted towards discrete communities. However while the support we provide to these individuals or groups may be tailored to their needs often this will not constitute a greater level of service than that provided to the wider community. For instance tailoring a consultation document for some one who is blind allows that person to contribute to the same extent as those that are sighted.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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The Council believes it is appropriate to fund the majority of costs for this activity from rates targeted to the residential sector. This is because the benefits accrue to all residents.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate (Residential)	100%
General rate	0%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.3.1: FUNDER – ACCESS SUPPORT

The Council offers discounted access to recreation facilities for holders of our Passport to Leisure card, which is issued free to all residents on low incomes.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

Funding the Passport to Leisure programme primarily contributes to the outcome that “opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	75%
<i>Whole community</i>	25%

The Passport to Leisure programme benefits individual participants by giving them affordable access to recreation and leisure opportunities. The programme helps boost participants' health, fitness and overall well-being.

The programme also benefits the wider community by encouraging healthy lifestyles, which enhances social and economic well-being. It adds to social cohesion by reducing barriers to people on low incomes.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While the programme mainly benefits individuals the Council believes it is appropriate for the whole community to share the costs.

The programme is aimed at increasing access to recreation and leisure for people on low incomes, by making facilities available at reduced cost. Clearly, this means someone else has to pay. The benefits to all wider community justify the costs being drawn from the general rate.

This programme makes a significant contribution to the Council's goal that Wellington residents will be more actively engaged in their communities, and in recreation and leisure activities.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.3.2: FUNDER – SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL GRANTS

The Council maintains four grants pools. This activity covers the grants to community groups and organisations whose projects seek to promote recreational activity and overall social wellbeing. The grants process is overseen by a subcommittee of Council.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity contributes to overall social wellbeing.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Identifiable part of the community</i>	50%
<i>Whole community</i>	50%

The groups and organisations that receive grants clearly benefit from this activity. But the community as a whole also benefits. The grants pool itself is not exclusive – it is open so that anyone has the opportunity to apply. And the projects of the successful applicants will have flow on benefits for the community.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While grants recipients benefit directly from this activity seeking to recoup the cost from them would defeat the purpose of the grants pool. Given this and that there are benefits to the community as a whole, the Council believes the fairest and most effective way to fund it is from general rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.3.3: RECREATION PROGRAMMES

The Council organises programmes to encourage people into leisure activities. These include organised walks and recreation programmes such as Kiwitri and Artsplash aimed at children. This activity covers the cost of providing those.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity primarily contributes to the outcome that “Wellingtonians will enjoy recreation and be amongst the most active in New Zealand”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	50%
<i>Whole community</i>	50%

The Council's recreation programmes benefit the individuals who take part by providing them with access to recreation and leisure opportunities. The programmes not only promote health but can also boost participants' overall sense of well-being.

The recreation programmes also benefit the community as a whole. They not only encourage recreation and healthy lifestyles but also operate as community events, helping bring people together. The programmes are targeted at people who may have difficulty organising their own recreation activities.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While individuals receive significant direct benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the community as a whole to bear the costs of running these programmes.

The benefits to the community as a whole justify ratepayer funding and it would not be desirable to impose fees as that may discourage participation and provide barriers to people on low incomes taking part.

Some of the programmes we run attract sponsorship and subsidies, such as the Push Play programme, and we reflect this in our overall funding targets.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	25%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	75%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.4.1: SWIMMING POOLS

This activity covers the cost of providing the Council's seven swimming pools: Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre (Kilbirnie); Freyberg Pool (Oriental Bay); Karori Pool; Thorndon Pool; Khandallah Pool; Keith Spry Pool (Johnsonville); and Tawa Pool.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The provision of swimming pools primarily contributes to the outcomes that "opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive" and that "Wellington's communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces".

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	80%
<i>Whole community</i>	20%

Our swimming pools mainly benefit the people who use them. These people gain access to high-quality facilities for recreation, fitness and relaxation. The benefits are private and exclusive. It is appropriate and acceptable to charge people to use the pools.

However, there are also benefits to the community as a whole. By providing recreation facilities, the pools help increase the overall levels of residents' health, providing economic and social benefits. Pools provide important community focal points as well as health and recreation programmes that bring people together.

Most people regard the pools as important facilities and are prepared to contribute to the costs through their rates. Many people also like to have the option of using the pools even if they do not choose to do so.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Individuals</i>	50%

While individuals receive the direct benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the community as a whole to bear half of the costs of running the city's swimming pools.

The benefits to the community as a whole and the widespread community support for the facilities justify a significant ratepayer contribution. Though there are other pools in the city, the Council-operated ones are unique for the size and scale of their operations; they are not in direct competition with the private sector and can legitimately be seen as public facilities.

It would not be desirable to raise fees to levels that discouraged people from using them or provided barriers to people on low incomes. These accessibility and affordability considerations mean that this activity is expected to be below policy targets until the upgrade of facilities provides additional market leverage to allow fees to be increased without impacting on patronage. Accordingly, it is anticipated that only 40 percent of the cost of this activity will be from user charges until the completion of a major upgrade at the WRAC.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	45%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	55%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.4.2: PROVIDER – SPORTS FIELDS

This activity covers the costs of providing the city's sports fields, including their turf and artificial surfaces. These provide year-round venues for recreation and competitive sport for people of all ages.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The provision of sports fields primarily contributes to the outcomes that "opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive" and that "Wellington's communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces".

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	30%
<i>Identifiable part of the community</i>	30%
<i>Whole community</i>	40%

The city's sports fields provide significant benefits for private individuals and sports clubs. For individuals, they provide facilities for recreation, fitness and relaxation. These benefits are private and partially exclusive. While the fields are booked out at certain times for organised sports such as club football, they are also often available for members of the public to use for informal recreation.

The Council estimates individual people receive about 30 percent of the benefits from sports fields and sports clubs receive about the same benefit.

The sports fields also benefit the community as a whole. By providing recreation facilities they help increase the overall levels of residents' health, providing economic and social benefits. They also provide important community focal points. Most people recognise them as important facilities and are prepared to contribute to the costs through their rates.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	90%
<i>Individuals</i>	10%

While individuals receive significant direct benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the community as a whole to bear most of the costs of operating the city's sports fields.

The benefit to the community as a whole and the widespread community support for the facilities justifies a ratepayer contribution. The Council-operated sports fields are not in competition with private sector providers and can legitimately be seen as public facilities.

It is not always possible or desirable to identify individual users. While sports clubs who book sports fields can be identified and are charged, many other people use the fields informally and cannot be charged. It would not be desirable to raise fees to levels that discouraged organised sports. Nor would it be desirable to raise fees to levels that provided barriers to people on low incomes taking part in organised sports.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	10%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	90%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.4.3: PROVIDER – RECREATION CENTRES

This activity covers the costs of providing the Council recreation centres in Karori, Newlands (Newlands College), Kilbirnie and Khandallah (Nairnville), and Tawa. These multi-purpose centres provide a range of recreational opportunities while also helping build a sense of community.

In the coming years we will commence work on a 12 court indoor community sports centre at Cobham Drive Park.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The provision of recreation centres primarily contributes to the outcomes that “opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive” and that “Wellington’s communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	80%
<i>Whole community</i>	20%

Our recreation centres mainly benefit the people who use them. These people gain access to high-quality facilities for sports, recreation and fitness. These benefits are private and exclusive. It is appropriate and acceptable to charge people to use the centres.

However, there are also benefits to the community as a whole from our provision of recreation centres. These facilities help increase overall levels of residents’ health, providing economic and social benefits. Recreation centres also provide community focal points and recreation programmes that bring people together.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	75%
<i>Individuals</i>	25%

While individuals receive most of the benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the community as a whole to bear most of the costs of running the city’s recreation centres.

The benefit to the community and the significant role these centres play in their local areas justifies a significant ratepayer contribution. The accumulated health benefits to the community as a whole from organised and recreational physical activities at their centres also suggests the whole community should bear the majority of the cost.

In addition, it would not be desirable to raise fees to levels that discouraged people from using the centres or provided barriers to people on low incomes. Ability to pay issues limits the opportunity to recover the cost of this activity through user charges. Accordingly, the Council’s target is to fund 30 percent of the cost of this activity through user charges.

Recreation centres make a significant contribution to our goal that Wellington will offer excellent access to a sound social infrastructure that supports high levels of social cohesion.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	25%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	75%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.4.4: PROVIDER – PLAYGROUNDS

The Council provides more than 100 neighbourhood playgrounds across the city to give families a safer place to play near home. This activity covers the cost of providing those.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The provision of recreation centres primarily contributes to the outcomes that “opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive” and that “Wellington’s communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	80%
<i>Whole community</i>	20%

The city's playgrounds provide safe, entertaining places for children to play. The benefits to the children and their families are significant. These benefits are private but not exclusive. It would not be desirable or acceptable to charge people for using playgrounds. The Council's playgrounds policy states that access to playgrounds is a basic right of all children.

The playgrounds also benefit the community as a whole. Playgrounds not only encourage recreation and healthy lifestyles but are also important community focal points. Most people recognise them as important facilities and are prepared to contribute to the costs through their rates.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While individuals receive significant direct benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate for the community as a whole to bear the costs of running the city's playgrounds.

Even if the individual beneficiaries could be identified it would not be desirable or acceptable to charge them. The Council believes access to playgrounds is a fundamental right for children.

The benefits to the community as a whole and the widespread community support for the playgrounds justifies ratepayer funding. The Council believes the vast majority of ratepayers would strongly support ratepayer funding of this activity. The playgrounds are public facilities and are not in competition with private sector providers.

Playgrounds make a significant contribution to our goal that Wellington will offer excellent access to a sound social infrastructure that supports high levels of social cohesion.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.4.5: PROVIDER – MARINAS

The Council owns two marinas at Evans Bay and Clyde Quay. These provide private storage facilities for boat owners as well as supporting the recreational activities of a large number of boat owners. This activity covers the cost of providing these.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The provision of recreation centres primarily contributes to the outcomes that “opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive” and that “Wellington’s communities will have ready access to multi-use indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces”.

WHO BENEFITS?

Individuals 100%

The marinas benefit the people who use them by providing boat sheds for safe storage, moorings and access by marina piers. These benefits are private and exclusive and it is appropriate and acceptable to charge for this service.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

Individuals 100%

As identifiable individuals receive private benefits from this activity, it is appropriate for them to meet the costs. The benefits accrue to a narrow sector of the community who use these facilities and the user charges are set at an appropriate market rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	100%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	0%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.4.6: FUNDER AND PROVIDER – COMMUNITY CENTRES AND HALLS

We own 15 community centres and halls, and support another six community-owned centres. These centres provide places for people to hold meetings and other events. Eight of them also provide locations for crèches.

We also maintain and accommodation assistance fund that provides community groups with access to subsidised office space. This includes those housed at the Betty Campbell Centre.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity contributes to the outcomes that “opportunities for active and passive recreation are diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive” and that “amenities will be accessible to all Wellingtonians”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals and identifiable</i>	
<i>part of the community</i>	60%
<i>Whole community</i>	40%

The people and groups who use community facilities receive a clear and direct benefit. Though the facilities are available to all, this benefit is private and exclusive – only one group can use a room in a community centre at any one time.

However, the provision of these facilities also has benefits for the wider community. Not only do the facilities help bring people together, the groups that use them often make significant voluntary contributions to community well-being.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Individuals and identifiable</i>	
<i>part of the community</i>	20%
<i>Whole community</i>	80%

The purpose of providing these facilities is to encourage community groups and support the benefits they bring to the city. Clearly, this means someone other than the people using the facilities has to bear most of the costs. The Council believes it is appropriate to fund this activity mostly from rates targeted to the residential sector.

However it is also fair and reasonable that the people and groups using these spaces and offices meet some part of the costs by paying fees. These should be kept at nominal levels as charging more would mean some people and groups could not afford to use the facilities.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	10%
Other revenue	10%
Targeted rate (Residential)	80%
General rate	0%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.4.7: FACILITATOR – COMMUNITY ICT ACCESS

This activity covers Council's role in reducing the digital divide by providing access to computers at targeted sites in the city.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity contributes in part to the outcome that "Wellington city and its amenities will be accessible to all Wellingtonians". It also contributes to our long term goal of being "better connected".

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Individuals</i>	50%

Access to computers and to the internet is increasingly important way for people to remain connected. The Council recognises this and wants to ensure that all Wellingtonians benefit from these advances. The wider community benefits from this as it contributes to social cohesion.

The individuals who access these facilities can be seen to benefit. Learning new skills strengthen people's self esteem and may have spine off in terms of employment opportunities.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While it may be possible to identify the individuals that benefit from this activity it is not considered appropriate to charge them. Most users are on limited incomes and cost is considered a barrier to them making use of the activity. The general rate is considered the fairest way of covering the cost of this activity.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.4.8: LIBRARIES NETWORK

The Council provides a network of libraries including the Central Library, branch libraries and a highly-popular website.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity contributes in part to the following community outcomes “information required by citizens and groups will be easily accessible to enable participation in the community” and “Wellington will have venues that suit a range of events and reflect the needs of the city” and “Wellingtonians will celebrate their unique cultural identity” and “opportunities for active and passive recreation in Wellington will be diverse, safe, affordable, accessible and attractive”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	80%
<i>Whole community</i>	20%

Libraries mainly benefit the people who use them. These people gain free or low-cost access to books, videos, magazines, music and other items. The breadth of the network means that the services it provides are easily accessed by those opting to use it. They use these services for recreation or business and to enhance their knowledge and overall well-being.

We monitor the use of libraries. Our indicators suggest that the vast majority of use is for recreational and personal use while up to 30 percent is in part used for business purposes.

The libraries also provide significant benefits to the community as a whole. By providing access to information, the libraries enhance the overall levels of skill and knowledge in the city, providing economic and social benefits. They act as important community centres. And they host events and outreach services that bring people together, as well as information for immigrants and information about local communities and their history.

The library network adds to residents' quality of life. The vast majority of Wellingtonian's are library members or users – even those who are not regular users generally like to have the option of using library services. The branch libraries draw people in to suburban centres bringing vitality to those areas and added custom to local businesses. The Central Library is a significant city landmark which contributes to civic pride.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	90%
<i>Individuals</i>	10%

While individuals receive many of the direct benefits, the Council believes it is appropriate that most of the cost of running libraries should be met by the wider community. Some user charges will apply for some 'added' services and through penalty fines for late returns.

The community benefits as a whole and the widespread community support for the facilities justifies a significant ratepayer contribution. Libraries are among the most popular of Council services and there is strong support for them to be free at the point of use. The libraries are significant public facilities that are not in direct competition with the private sector.

It would not be desirable to raise fees to levels that discouraged people from using the library services or provided barriers to people on low incomes. It would not be desirable or acceptable to impose user charges for entry to the libraries or basic book lending services.

Fees are imposed on services that are provided in addition to the core services of the library. For instance modest fees apply for the rental of videos. Penalty fees also apply to the late return of items.

Since the vast majority of residents are also library users, the application of a uniform targeted rate is considered an effective way of funding the portion of the service that is known to be used by residents.

As it is not possible to distinguish a direct beneficiary of the remaining portion of users it is considered fair and efficient that a significant portion of the library service be paid for by the whole community.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	10%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	90%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.5.1: BURIALS AND CREMATORIUM SERVICES

We operate the crematorium and cemetery at Karori and the cemetery at Makara.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

The cemeteries provide sensitive and respectful bereavement services catering for a wide range of communities and beliefs. Cemetery and crematorium services also fulfil an important public health function.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Identifiable part of the community</i>	50%

The cemeteries provide families of the deceased with access to appropriate burial or cremation facilities, allowing them to farewell their loved ones with dignity.

They also have significant benefits to the community as a whole. These include the public health benefits of ensuring burials and cremations are conducted appropriately, the contribution made by the cemeteries to the city's heritage, the social benefits of ensuring a wide range of religious and cultural needs are catered for, and the provision of park-like surroundings that benefit not only families of the deceased but also all members of the community. Members of the public expect cemeteries to be properly maintained and accessible to all.

The provision of these services can also be seen to benefit funeral homes and other private businesses in this field.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Identifiable part of the community</i>	50%

Since the benefits of this activity are split between individuals and the community as a whole, it is appropriate for the costs to also be split.

It should be noted that historically we have been able to recover less than 50 percent of the cost of this activity through user charges. Recent efforts to improve this rate of cost recovery have resulted in some improvements; however due to price elasticity we anticipate that on occasions we will not meet this target. The remaining costs are appropriately met through general rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	50%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	50%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.5.2: PROVIDER – PUBLIC TOILETS

We own and maintain around 100 public toilets throughout the city, located at public places such as parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and shopping centres and in the central business district. This activity includes ensuring they are kept clean and fit for public use.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

These facilities contribute in part to the outcome “Wellingtonians will be healthy and experience a high quality of life”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Whole community</i>	60%
<i>Individuals</i>	40%

Council-owned public toilets clearly benefit people who use them. Their provision also benefits everyone who lives and works in the city, by protecting people in public places from the health hazards that would arise if there were no facilities or if facilities were not kept clean.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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Since this activity benefits the whole community, the fairest and most effective way to fund it is through the general rate. Though individuals also benefit, the Council does not believe it would be appropriate to refuse access to people who cannot or will not pay.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%

Total	100%
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ACTIVITY 6.5.3: REGULATOR – PUBLIC HEALTH

This activity covers the Council's role in licensing and monitoring food outlets, licensing liquor outlets, registering and impounding dogs, responding to noise, nuisance, animal and litter complaints, and handling infectious disease investigations and the sorting and processing of dangerous goods.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

These facilities contribute in part to the outcome "Wellingtonians will be healthy and experience a high quality of life".

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Individuals</i>	50%

The Council's public health work is required under several laws including the Liquor Act, the Resource Management Act and legislation covering hazardous substances. It provides significant benefits to the community as a whole, including protection of the public from hazards such as dangerous chemicals, unsafe food, excessive noise and diseases.

Most of this work involves protecting the public from hazards created or potentially created by identifiable businesses and people. There are benefits to individual businesses which could not legally operate without the Council providing these services, and there are benefits to individuals who have their complaints dealt with or otherwise are protected from a hazard or nuisance.

There are also a number of users who benefit from this activity. Businesses use Council services to monitor and licence their food and liquor outlets. Dog owners benefit from the dog licensing scheme. These users are charged a fee for the benefits they receive.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	50%
<i>Individuals</i>	50%

As this work largely protects the community from harm, it is appropriate that the people or businesses causing the harm should pay. The Council's public health activities include a range of user charges. For example, licensing and monitoring of food outlets is carried out on a full cost-recovery basis, while user charges recover about 75 percent of animal control costs. Some charges, such as those for liquor licensing, are determined by statute.

For some services, it is not appropriate or possible to charge users. For example, the cost of responding to public complaints about noise, nuisance, litter, animals and other public health issues cannot be recovered as it would not be appropriate to charge those making the complaints and it is not always possible to identify the person or business responsible for the hazard. Overall, user charges recover about 50 percent of the cost of providing these public health services. Accordingly, the Council's target is to fund 50 percent of the cost of this activity through user charges. However, we plan to raise this target over time.

Since the benefits to the community as a whole are significant, it is appropriate for the remaining costs to be funded from general rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	50%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	50%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.6.1: FACILITATOR – CITY SAFETY

This activity covers our efforts that are directed at making the city safe at ensuring people feel safe. This includes 24 hour patrols by city safety officers, closed circuit television monitoring of some inner-city streets, and safety audits which identify necessary improvements such as better street lighting.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity contributes directly to the outcome that “Wellington will feel safe in all parts of the city”.

WHO BENEFITS?

Whole community 100%

Our city safety initiatives benefit the whole community. By preventing crime, these initiatives have a clear and tangible effect on residents’ well-being. This, in turn, has several other positive spin-offs. Increased safety levels encourage people into the city centre, which makes the city more vibrant and also benefits retailers and other businesses. These efforts also contribute to civic pride by enhancing Wellington’s reputation as a very safe city by national and international standards.

Though individuals benefit from reduced crime, the benefits are felt community-wide and are not exclusive to individuals. As a lot of this work is directed at the inner city it may be argued that there are greater benefits to those who live and work in the city than to residents who do not use the inner city often. However, making the city safer means even those who don’t use the inner city are more likely to feel they have the option to safely access the inner city.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

Whole community 100%

Since this activity benefits the community as a whole, the fairest and most effective way to fund it is from general rates.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES

User charges	0%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	100%
Total	100%

ACTIVITY 6.6.2: PROVIDER – WELLINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

We operate the Wellington Emergency Management Office (WEMO). Its role is to help the city prepare for disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and to co-ordinate the city’s response in the event of a disaster. WEMO works with government agencies, other councils in the region and international agencies.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME

This activity directly contributes to the outcome that “Wellingtonians will be well prepared and co-ordinated to deal with any civil emergency and its aftermath”.

WHO BENEFITS?

<i>Individuals</i>	10%
<i>Whole community</i>	90%

All residents and businesses benefit from preparation work to alleviate and cope with disasters like fires, floods and earthquakes. WEMO is a focal point for help and gives the entire community some comfort that a ready response is available to cope with disasters and quickly return the community to normality.

Individual property owners benefit from the availability of a fire-fighting service. This reduces the potential for total loss in the event of a fire. This service is also available to individuals to help with other emergencies such as major earthquakes and storm/ wind damage to homes and property.

WEMO’s emergency management and fire-fighting roles are required under the Civil Defence Act.

WHO SHOULD PAY?

<i>Whole community</i>	100%
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While individuals benefit from this work in the event of a disaster, the benefit to the whole community far outweighs this. The Council believes the fairest and most effective way to fund this activity is from general rates.

From time to time, WEMO may receive income in the form of grants from the National Rural Fire Authority (based on the number and size of fires fought in a season), funding from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, and other sources. However, this income varies significantly from year to year. We anticipate 5 percent revenue over the foreseeable future.

OUR FUNDING TARGETS: OPERATING EXPENSES	
User charges	5%
Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate	0%
General rate	95%
Total	100%