

Revenue, Financing and Rating Policies

Revenue and Financing Policy

Introduction

Council adopts a Revenue & Financing Policy under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The **purpose** of this policy is to set out how each of our activities is to be funded – that is, who pays for what, and why. The policy outlines:

- Available funding sources (e.g. rates, fees, borrowing, etc.),
- Our funding considerations (i.e. the decision about how each of our activities is to be funded and the process followed to reach that decision), including:
 - funding of operating costs (i.e. the funding mix we have chosen for each activity’s operating costs), and
 - funding of capital costs (i.e. the funding mix we have chosen for each type of capital investment).

The application of this policy is supported by other policies as follows:

- Rates charges and definitions are set out in the Funding Impact Statement,
- Fees and charges for all activities are set out in the Fees & Charges Schedule,
- Development Contributions are set out in the Development Contributions Policy,

- Projected dollar revenues and costs for each activity are set out in the Activities and Services section, and for the council as a whole in the Funding Impact Statement.

Support for principles relating to Māori

Section 102(3A) of the Local Government Act 2002 provides that this policy must support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993. These principles include recognition that land is a taonga tuku iho of special significance to Māori people, and to facilitate the occupation, development, and utilisation of that land for the benefit of its owners, their whanau, and their hapū.

Council considers that this policy supports those principles, particularly when viewed in conjunction with Council’s *Policy on Remission and Postponement of Rates for Māori Freehold Land* and Council’s *Papakāinga / Kāinga Nohoanga Development Contributions Rebate Scheme*.

Available Funding Sources

General Rates

We set a general rate for all rateable land within the district. The general rate can be based on capital value, land value or annualised value. In addition, we set a uniform annual general charge (UAGC) as a fixed amount per rating unit, or a fixed amount per separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit.

General rates are used to fund those services where we believe there is a public benefit even though it may not be to the whole community. They typically fund those activities where there is no practical method for charging individual users and the benefit is wider than just the specific user.

We acknowledge that a UAGC is regressive, in that it represents a higher percentage tax on lower-value properties than on higher-value properties. However, this is considered appropriate because owners’ ability to pay is not considered likely to have a strictly linear relationship with property values, in addition to which it is considered appropriate for all property-owners to contribute at least a minimum amount towards the funding of Council Activities. We have therefore determined to apply a relatively low-level UAGC to each SUIP.

We collect the bulk of our general rates in proportion to each rating unit's capital value. Capital value represents the owner's full investment in the property, and is therefore considered to provide a more equitable basis for the general rate than the land value or annual value alternatives.

We consider that the benefits of our activities are distributed unevenly between different sectors of the community – in particular, that business properties tend to benefit relatively more and remote rural properties relatively less than other (standard) properties (including residential properties). Vacant land properties in the central city and some suburban commercial centres also benefit relatively more than standard and business properties that have corresponding capital values. We have therefore determined to apply differentials to the value-based general rate, based on the use to which the land is put and where the land is situated:

- All properties are charged at a standard rate, except those that meet the criteria for business, city vacant or remote rural set out in the Funding Impact Statement,
- Business properties are charged at a differential rate which is higher than the standard rate,
- “City vacant” properties (vacant land properties in the central city and some suburban commercial centres) are charged

at a differential rate which is higher than the standard and business rates, and

- Remote rural properties are charged at a differential rate which is lower than the standard rate.

Targeted Rates

We use targeted rates where it is considered desirable and practicable **either** to enhance the transparency of our spending (i.e. so that ratepayers can see how much they pay for a particular activity) **or** to ensure that the cost of a particular item is borne by the group(s) deemed to derive most benefit from it.

We have determined that targeted rates shall be used for the following:

(a) Water Supply

Our water supply activity is considered to primarily benefit those properties which connect, or are able to connect, to the water supply network. Targeted rates will therefore be used to fund the activity from just those properties receiving or able to receive this benefit.

These targeted rates will collect the cash operating cost of the water supply activity plus a significant contribution towards the expected long term average cost of related asset renewal and replacement (charged in lieu of depreciation). The proportion of asset renewal and replacement costs covered by these targeted rates may be adjusted where this is considered

desirable to help deliver predictable and less volatile rates increases from year to year.

We have identified three types of non-standard service for which it is considered appropriate to recover costs through separate, user-pays based targeted rates:

- Properties with a fire connection will be charged a fixed dollar Water Supply Fire Connection Targeted Rate per connection.
- Properties located outside the standard serviced area but receiving a restricted rural water supply will be charged a fixed dollar Restricted Water Supply Targeted Rate per unit of supply being provided.
- Properties located within the standard serviced area that have a high water use will be charged a volumetric excess water targeted rate per cubic metre of actual water consumption in excess of that property's daily allowance.

Aside from these targeted rates, capital value is considered to be the most equitable basis for targeted water rates (consistent with the approach taken for General Rates). All activity costs not collected through the above targeted rates for non-standard services will therefore be collected using a capital value-based Water Supply Targeted Rate, applied to those properties located within the standard serviced area.

Some properties located within the standard serviced area may not be actually connected (most commonly vacant sections). We consider that the level of benefit received by these un-connected properties is lower than that received by connected properties. The Water Supply Targeted Rate will therefore be set differentially, with connected properties being charged at a higher differential rate than un-connected properties.

(b) Wastewater

Our wastewater (sewer) activity is considered to primarily benefit those properties which connect (or are able to connect) to the wastewater network. A targeted rate will therefore be used to fund the activity from just those properties receiving or able to receive this benefit.

This targeted rate will collect the cash operating cost of the activity plus a significant contribution towards the expected long term average cost of related asset renewal and replacement (charged in lieu of depreciation). The proportion of asset renewal and replacement costs covered by this targeted rate may be adjusted where this is considered desirable to help deliver predictable and less volatile rates increases from year to year.

Capital value is considered to be the most equitable basis for the Sewerage Targeted Rate (consistent with the approach taken for General

Rates). The rate will be applied to those properties located within the sewer serviced area.

(c) Stormwater Drainage and Flood Protection & Control Works

We consider stormwater drainage and flood protection and control works primarily benefit properties within the serviced area. We consider it desirable and practical to enhance the transparency of our spending by using a targeted rate so ratepayers can see how much they pay for these activities.

This targeted rate will collect the cash operating cost of these activities plus a significant contribution towards the expected long term average cost of related asset renewal and replacement (charged in lieu of depreciation). The proportion of asset renewal and replacement costs covered by this targeted rate may be adjusted where this is considered desirable to help deliver predictable and less volatile rates increases from year to year.

Capital value is considered to be the most equitable basis for the Land Drainage Targeted Rate (consistent with the approach taken for general rates).

(d) Recycling and Composting

Recycling and composting activities lie within the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Group of Activities. We consider it desirable to use a Waste

Minimisation Targeted Rate to fund recycling and composting costs so that ratepayers can see how much they pay for yellow and green bin services.

This targeted rate funds the cash operating cost of recycling and composting activities plus a significant contribution towards the expected long term average cost of related asset renewal and replacement (charged in lieu of depreciation).

The benefit of this activity is considered to be distributed evenly across all ratepayers to whom the yellow and green bin services are made available, except to the extent that more remote ratepayers do not receive a kerbside collection service. The Waste Minimisation Targeted Rate will therefore be set as a fixed dollar charge per SUIP (consistent with the UAGC), but set differentially – a higher fixed dollar charge will be applied where the property is located within the kerbside collection area.

(e) Council Grants

We provide several grants schemes (usually within the Communities & Citizens or Strategic Planning activities), for the benefit of the community and funded by general rates.

From time to time Council determines that it is desirable to make a grant for a specific purpose. In such circumstances, and subject

to public consultation, such grant may be funded by a Grants Targeted Rate.

A Grants Targeted Rate:

- May be either a specific grant rated over a fixed period, or an annual grant rated on an ongoing basis.
- May be applied either universally or to a specifically identified group of ratepayers, usually as a fixed dollar charge per rating unit or per SUIP, depending on our assessment of how the benefits of the grant are distributed.

For any Grants Targeted Rate, the level of rate will be set in each Annual Plan based on the annual revenue required to fund the grant. However, the basis of the rate (for example, fixed dollar amount or value-based, universal or an identified group of ratepayers) will not be changed.

We currently set or propose the following Grants Targeted Rates under this Policy:

- **Special Heritage (Cathedral) Targeted Rate:**
This rate relates to a \$10 million Council grant (plus GST if any) supporting the restoration of the Anglican Cathedral, the benefit of which is considered to be distributed evenly to all ratepayers. The rate will be set as a fixed dollar charge per SUIP, applied to all properties across the District until 30 June 2028.

- **Special Heritage (Arts Centre) Targeted Rate:**
This rate relates to a \$5.5 million Council grant (plus GST if any) supporting the restoration of the Arts Centre, the benefit of which is considered to be distributed evenly to all ratepayers. The rate will be set based on capital value, applied to all properties across the District until 30 June 2031.
- **Central City Business Association Targeted Rate:**
This rate relates to an annual grant provided to the Central City Business Association. The rate will be set as a fixed dollar charge per rating unit, applied to all business rating units with a land value greater than or equal to a minimum value, within the area covered by the Central City Business Association.

Development Contributions

We make significant capital investment in infrastructure specifically to service growth development in the District (i.e. new subdivision and/or more intensive development of existing developed land). We use development contributions to recover a fair and equitable portion of the cost of this investment from persons undertaking development.

Development contributions requirements are in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and our Development Contributions Policy.

Financial Contributions

The Council is able to require new developments to pay financial contributions which are used by the Council to fund works to mitigate or offset specified negative impacts of development.

Financial contributions requirements are in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991, the Local Government Act 2002, the Christchurch District Plan and our Development Contributions Policy.

The details of any requirement would be included in the District Plan and Development Contributions Policy and any new or altered requirements would be consulted on through changes to those documents.

Grants & Subsidies

Some of our activities qualify for a grant or subsidy from the Crown (e.g. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for qualifying roading expenditure), or other entities. These are used as the initial source of funding where they are available.

Fees & Charges

We typically collect fees and charges where an Activity is perceived to provide benefit primarily to identifiable individuals or groups (i.e. user-pays), or where the need for the activity is driven by the actions or inactions of

identifiable individuals or groups (i.e. exacerbator-pays).

However, consideration is also given to whether each fee or charge is practical and economically viable (including the extent to which fees may result in an unacceptable decrease in the use of council services), and whether such charging may undermine one of our identified core community outcomes (see “Council’s Funding Considerations” below).

Borrowing

We borrow to fund spending where the benefit is perceived to endure for multiple years – for example, capital expenditure on improving assets, or growth prior to the collection of development contributions. Sometimes this may be in the form of equity in CCOs or advances to third parties. Some operational expenditure also meets this criteria – e.g. grant to Canterbury Museum for redevelopment.

Borrowing is undertaken corporately (i.e. as a single debt portfolio) for efficient debt management.

The funding of costs associated with borrowing

Repayment of rate-funded debt is via the general rate over a period of thirty years, except for borrowing in relation to CCO equity.

Interest costs on debt relating to the capital works programme (excluding the earthquake rebuild or equity investments) are allocated to

council activities for budgeting and funding purposes, in proportion to the amount of depreciation generated by that activity. The balance of interest costs are funded by general rates.

Proceeds from asset sales

Proceeds from asset sales will be used to reduce debt or any current borrowing requirement.

Interest, Dividends, & Other Revenues

Our principal investment revenues are the dividends received from our commercial subsidiaries (most importantly Christchurch City Holdings Ltd). Cash investments (e.g. term deposits with banks) are generally held only for liquidity purposes, as we are a net borrower.

Income from dividends, interest, and other sources not described above (e.g. petrol taxes) are treated as corporate revenues and are assumed to accrue to general ratepayers – i.e. they are not allocated against specific activities, but reduce the amount of general rates that we need to collect to fund those activities.

Council’s Funding Considerations

Our decision about which funding sources to use to fund each activity is guided by the following considerations:

- **Community Outcomes** (i.e. what the activity is trying to achieve) – the source of funding for each activity is decided after considering

the community outcome(s) to which it contributes.

- **User-pays** (i.e. how the benefits of an activity are distributed) – where the primary benefit from a council activity is provided to an identifiable group, it is preferable for that group to bear the principal cost of the activity.
- **Exacerbator-pays** (i.e. where the activity is required due to the activities or inactions of identifiable groups) – it is preferable for such costs to be paid for by those groups contributing to the need for the activity.
- **Inter-generational equity** (i.e. the period over which the benefits of an activity occur) – most operational expenditure provides a benefit only during the year that it is spent, so is best funded from current revenues; however, expenditure providing benefits over many years is more appropriately funded through borrowing (which is repaid over multiple years).
- **Potential for distinct funding sources** – it may improve the transparency and accountability of our spending on any particular activity if its funding is specifically identified (e.g. through a targeted rate), particularly where the cost is significant or where it is considered desirable to demonstrate that funding is being spent on a specific project. The

potential benefit of such improved transparency and accountability are weighed against the cost of having to administer the specifically identified funding.

Our choice of funding for each activity is also guided by the overall impact that any allocation of charges and costs may have on the community. In particular, although some Activities should arguably be funded by user fees and charges due to the level of private benefit they provide, we may consider such user-charging inappropriate – for example, full user-funding of libraries and swimming pools may result in these services no longer being provided.

We have therefore determined that the following Activities will receive a material amount of funding from general rates:

- Transport
- Parks, Heritage & Coastal Environment
- Communities & Citizens
- Solid Waste and Resource Recovery
- Governance
- Economic Development
- Strategic Planning & Policy
- Regulatory Compliance & Licencing

Funding of Operating Costs

Where an activity is funded using a number of funding sources, our practice is to meet our operating costs in the first instance from fees & charges and grants & subsidies (subject to the considerations outlined above). If the activity requires further operational funding, this remainder is funded through rates. The following pages set out our operational funding decision for each activity. The analysis of each Activity is supported by three tables:

- *Table 1: Community Outcome* – this table identifies the community outcomes to which the activity **primarily** contributes.
- *Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)* – this table shows how we have considered the other funding considerations set out in section 101(3)(a)(ii) to (v) of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to funding the operating costs of the activity. This evaluation uses a simple high / medium / low scale for each of the following considerations:
 - User-pays – the degree to which the Activity can be attributed to individuals or identifiable groups rather than the community as a whole – refer to section 101(3)(a)(ii);
 - Exacerbator-pays – the degree to which the activity is required as a result of the action (or inaction) of individuals or identifiable groups – refer to section 101(3)(a)(iv);
 - Inter-generational equity – the degree to which benefits can be attributed to future periods; – refer to section 101(3)(a)(iii) and
 - Separate funding – the degree to which the costs and benefits justify separate funding for the activity – refer to section 101(3)(a)(v).
- *Table 3: Funding Decision* – this table shows our broad funding target for the activity (i.e. how much is paid for by individuals / groups, and how much by the community as a whole), and the associated funding mechanism used (i.e. general rates, targeted rates, user charges, etc.). As the precise balance between individual / group and community funding may vary in practice (particularly for volumetric fees and charges), the funding target is expressed in broad terms rather than specific percentages:
 - Low = this source provides 0%-25% of the funding for this activity;
 - Medium = this source provides 25%-75% of the funding for this activity; and
 - High = this source provides 75%-100% of the funding for this activity.

The specific revenue and cost projections for the LTP planning period are shown in the individual Funding Impact Statements in the Activities and Services section of the LTP.

Water Supply

Local authorities have an obligation under the Water Services Act 2021, and the Local Government Act 2002 to provide a drinking water supply to the urban areas of the District, to maintain its capacity, to protect it from contamination, and to ensure that it complies with the appropriate Drinking Water Standards and is safe.

Local Authorities also ensure an adequate supply of water for commercial use and for fire-fighting and ensure that it is managed in a way that supports the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of current and future generations.

This includes maintaining the network, including wells, pump stations, treatment facilities, reservoirs, and underground reticulation pipes and meters. We supply water through approximately 160,000 residential and business connections, through seven urban water supply schemes and six rural water supply schemes. This equates to 50-55 billion litres of water in a typical year, which is the equivalent of around 22,000 full Olympic size swimming pools.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue primarily to those properties located in our geographic network area – that is all of those properties that can physically connect to the network. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund the bulk of this Activity from the Water Supply Targeted Rate applied to all properties located within this serviced area.

However, as the level of supply provided to some properties may differ from the standard supply provided to most there are also targeted rates for:

- Restricted Rural Supply
- Fire connection
- Excess water consumption

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Water Supply	Safe and healthy communities High quality drinking water

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
High	Low	Low	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rate (High) • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants and Other (Low)

Wastewater

We build, own, operate and maintain wastewater networks and wastewater treatment plants to protect public health and the environment. The service is focussed on providing a reliable, safe and resilient system for conveying wastewater away from properties, for treatment and disposal.

Wastewater, also known as sewage, refers to the used water collected in internal drains from homes and businesses, and includes trade waste from industrial and commercial operations. Wastewater does not include stormwater drainage, which is collected, treated and re-introduced into the environment via a separate system.

Providing a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal service is core activity for us, required by the Local Government Act 2002 and the Health Act 1956.

We implement these services for the community in a number of ways, this includes planning, day to day operations, planned and reactive maintenance, repair or renewal of damaged infrastructure, building new infrastructure and implementing improvements to the system.

Key deliverables are to:

- Collect, convey and treat wastewater in a safe, efficient and reliable manner;
- Discharge treated wastewater to the environment in compliance with resource consents;
- Reuse and/or dispose of wastewater treatment by-products, including biogas and bio-solids;
- Provide laboratory services to monitor treatment processes and treated wastewater quality; and
- Plan, regulate, build, maintain, manage and renew wastewater systems.

We collect wastewater from approximately 160,000 customers in Christchurch, Lyttelton, Diamond Harbour, Governors Bay, Akaroa,

Duvauchelle, Tikao Bay and Wainui. We treat this wastewater at eight treatment plants and dispose the treated wastewater into the sea and to land irrigation schemes.

Although all residents benefit from the presence of a safe and reliable sewer network, the primary benefit accrues to those properties which are located within our geographic network area – that is all those properties that can physically connect to the network.

It is therefore considered appropriate to fund the bulk of this Activity from a Targeted Rate applied to all properties located within this serviced area.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Wastewater	Safe and healthy communities Healthy water bodies

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
High	Low	Low	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rate (High) • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants & Other (Low)

Stormwater Drainage

This Activity collects and conveys stormwater during rainfall events, and is intrinsically linked to and interdependent with our Flood Protection & Control Works Activity to protect the community from the harmful effects of flooding.

The key physical assets used to deliver this activity are:

- The underground conveyance networks (including pipes, manholes, sumps, inlets and outlets);
- Open channels and overland flow path (including natural waterways such as rivers, streams and creeks, constructed drainage channels, in-channel structures, lining and retaining walls); and
- Treatment devices that are not within the Flood Protection and Control Works Activity (for example, where there is no flood protection component such as silt traps, gross debris traps or proprietary treatments devices such as cartridge filters) and flow level control devices.

We use a multi-value approach to stormwater, where the drainage value of the network is considered alongside other values such as ecology, culture, recreation, heritage and landscape. Together these are known as the ‘six values’ that we utilise in stormwater drainage and waterway management.

In delivering this service we provide a balanced mix of maintenance and renewals to preserve the levels of service and improve stormwater discharge quality to mitigate the human effect on water body health.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue mostly to those properties located within the Council’s drainage and stormwater infrastructure networks. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund this Activity and the Flood Protections & Control Works Activity together using a targeted rate.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Stormwater Drainage	Healthy water bodies Modern and robust city infrastructure and community facilities Safe and healthy communities

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
High	Low	Low	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rate (High) • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a

Flood Protection & Control Works

This Activity delivers floodplain management and stormwater management plan objectives to reduce the harm from flooding to the community and to improve the quality of surface water. It is intrinsically linked to and interdependent with our Stormwater Drainage Activity.

The activity includes construction of new flood protection infrastructure and management of existing infrastructure including:

- pump stations and water flow control devices and structures such as valve stations;
- stop-banks, tide gates and basins;
- water quality treatment devices such as basins, wetlands, tree pits and raingardens; and
- hydrometric monitoring devices, measuring rainfall along with surface water, sea and groundwater levels.

Basins and wetlands serve a dual purpose of providing stormwater detention for reducing flood risk as well as providing water quality treatment.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to properties located within the Council’s drainage and stormwater infrastructure networks. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund this Activity and the Stormwater Drainage Activity together using a targeted rate.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Flood Protection & Control Works	Healthy water bodies Modern and robust city infrastructure and community facilities

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
High	Low	Low	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rate (High) • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a

Transport

Local government is responsible for planning for, providing, and maintaining safe road networks, including pedestrian linkages and attractive functional streetscapes. We maintain the assets that provide the District’s local roading network, comprising the carriageways, footpaths, bridges, retaining walls, rail crossings, and associated drainage.

National highways linking the Christchurch District with the rest of the country are managed by central government through Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and work between the national and local roading networks is co-ordinated as much as possible.

The streets we manage provide a safe and efficient network that connect communities and facilitate the movement of people and goods around the District and to the adjoining region. Key deliverables include:

- Network planning
- Asset maintenance
- Renewal of life-expired infrastructure
- Improvements to the network

This Activity also relates to how the roading network and associated infrastructure is used and controlled, so that people have safe, easy, and reliable access to homes, shops, businesses, and leisure activities, from a variety of mode choices. This includes:

- Control over how the road corridor can be used by other parties (such as service authorities and developers);
- Planning, building, and maintaining the infrastructure required to support the operation of the bus network;
- Planning, building, operating, and maintaining the major cycleways network;
- Operating and maintaining traffic lights, traffic cameras, and traveller information portals;
- Operating and maintaining Christchurch’s public parking facilities; and

- Planning and providing transport education initiatives.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue primarily to road users. However, it is not considered practicable or desirable to fund this Activity separately, because the roading network is considered to be qualitatively different to the water and sewer networks which are funded through targeted rates. In particular:

- The roading network also delivers benefits to non-users, to a far greater extent than water or sewer networks, reducing the desirability of a “user-pays” funding approach.
- The extent of “use” is more difficult to determine than for water and sewer (for which benefit is more clearly binary between those that can connect and those that cannot).

This Activity is therefore primarily funded by the community as a whole, mostly through general rates. Waka Kotahi subsidies are treated as “Community-sourced” in table 3 below, as they are paid by central government rather than individuals or groups within the District.

While not specified in Table 3, we consider that greater use of fees & charges is appropriate where our control function provides permission to specific users for certain actions (such as use of the road corridor or marine activities).

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Transport	A well-connected and accessible City promoting active and public transport Modern and robust city infrastructure and facilities network Safe and healthy communities

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Transport Access	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Transport Environment	Low	Low	Low	Low
Transport Safety	-	Low	Low	Medium

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Transport Access	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Medium / High) • Grants & Other (Low)
Transport Environment	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (High) • Grants & Other (Low)
Transport Safety	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Medium) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Medium)

Parks, Heritage & Coastal Environment

Christchurch residents have a strong affinity with their parks, reserves, and open spaces. We wish to support this affinity, and maintain the notion of Christchurch as the “garden city”.

This Activity involves the management of:

- **Parks** – We manage over 1200 parks and reserves, covering more than 9,384 hectares in Christchurch city and Banks Peninsula. Neighbourhood parks provide space and facilities for local communities. Garden & heritage parks provide botanical diversity and contribute to plant conservation and research. Sports parks provide both local spaces for neighbourhood community amenity as well as providing the necessary spaces to support organised and casual sport and recreational pursuits. Large Sports parks like Ngā Puna Wai provide high quality sports facilities to support community, regional and national sporting pursuits. Regional parks protect the region’s natural landscape and biodiversity values, while accommodating extensive outdoor recreation. Significant parks such as Hagley Park, the Botanic Gardens, and Mona Vale also contribute to the economic well-being of the district by attracting visitors.
- **Cemeteries** – We administer burials and plot purchases as well as maintaining current and closed cemeteries.
- **Heritage protection** – We aim to preserve the district’s built, natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of the current and future communities.
- **Harbours & marine structures** – We provide marine structures (including wharves & jetties, slipways & ramps, seawalls, recreational rafts, boat moorings, and wharf buildings), to facilitate access to the marine environment for residents, visitors and commercial operators for recreation, sport, tourism, commercial activities, and transport.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to the community as a whole. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund it primarily from general rates.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Heritage Management	Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage and sport 21st century garden city we are proud to live in Vibrant and thriving city centre
Parks and Foreshore	Safe & Healthy Communities Unique landscapes and indigenous biodiversity are valued and stewardship exercised Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation 21st century garden city we are proud to live in

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Heritage Management	Low	Low	High	Low
Parks and Foreshore	Low	Low	Medium	Low

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Heritage Management	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (High)
Parks and Foreshore	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (High) • Grants & Other (Low)

Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

We collect and dispose of some of the district’s solid waste, and work with the community to minimise waste by encouraging both residents and businesses to recycle their waste thereby reducing the volume of waste sent to the landfill.

This Activity includes:

- **Recycling** – reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill by collecting recyclable material from households and public places, advising the public of recycling options (for example, EcoDrops and register of recyclers), and by sorting and processing recyclable material.
- **Organics / composting** – collection of kitchen and garden waste from households and converting this into compost for resale. We encourage home composting and worm farms.
- **Residual Waste** – not everything can be recycled, the waste remaining is collected and transported to landfill.
- **Closed landfill** – monitoring the closed landfills around the District. This includes the capping and aftercare of the old Burwood landfill, where methane gas is captured, piped underground, and used to power some city buildings and parts of the Christchurch Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- **Education** – educating residents to make informed decisions on the best waste practices, focusing on the best environmental and social outcomes. We work with other councils on the “love food, hate waste” campaign, with regular workshops informing communities how to minimise the food waste generated by households.

Kerbside collection of general and recycling waste is provided to most properties across the district – other properties may deposit their waste at collection points.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to the community as a whole. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund the bulk of costs from rates, supported by fees and charges for non-household and excess waste.

It is also considered desirable to make the cost of recycling and composting activity more transparent, so that ratepayers can see how much they are paying for these services. The operating cost of yellow and green wheelie bin services is therefore funded from a Targeted Rate.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Solid Waste and Resource Recovery	Sustainable use of resources and minimising waste Safe and healthy communities

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Low	High	Medium	Medium

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rates (Medium) • Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Medium) • Grants & Other (Low)

Communities & Citizens

Local Government is responsible for promoting the cultural and social well-being of communities, and for educating the public in regard to civil defence.

This supports strong communities by providing high quality library, sports & recreation, arts & cultural, community development, and emergency management services.

This Activity provides:

- opportunities for people to express themselves and be challenged by art, music, theatre, dance and other media and to understand and celebrate their many identities and heritage;
- libraries which act as a vehicle for access to knowledge, ideas and information and as a service open and available to anyone;
- encouragement to be more active more often through the provision of a range of sport and recreation facilities and programmes;
- community centres, halls and houses to encourage participation in local activities and build a sense of community; and
- information and advice to help citizens and communities, including support to community organisations to help them deliver the valuable services they provide.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to the community as a whole. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund the bulk of costs from rates, supported by fees and charges especially for Recreation, Sports, Community Arts and Events.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Canterbury & Akaroa Museums	Strong sense of community Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation
Christchurch Art Gallery	Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation Strong sense of community
Citizen and Customer Services	Active participation in civic life
Civil Defence Emergency Management	Safe and healthy communities
Community Development and Facilities	Strong Sense of Community Active Participation in Civic Life Safe & Healthy Communities Valuing the voices of all cultures and ages (including children)
Libraries	Strong sense of community Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage and sport An inclusive, equitable economy with broad-based prosperity for all
Recreation, Sports, Community Arts & Events	Strong sense of community Safe and healthy communities Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Canterbury & Akaroa Museums	Low	Low	Low	Low
Christchurch Art Gallery	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Citizen and Customer Services	Low	Low	Low	Low
Civil Defence Emergency Management	Low	Low	Low	Low
Community Development and Facilities	Low	Low	Low	Low
Libraries	Low	Low	Low	Low
Recreation, Sports, Community Arts & Events	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Canterbury & Akaroa Museums	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High) Grants & Other (Low)
Christchurch Art Gallery	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High) Grants & Other (Low)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Citizen and Customer Services	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High)
Civil Defence Emergency Management	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High)
Community Development and Facilities	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Low) Targeted Rates (Low)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High) Grants & Other (Low)
Libraries	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Low) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (High) Grants & Other (Low)
Recreation, Sports, Comm Arts & Events	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & Charges (Medium) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Rates (Medium) Grants & Other (Low)

* The Akaroa Community Health Trust targeted rate is included in this Community Development and Facilities activity

Housing

We wish to support vulnerable groups in the District’s community by providing housing targeted towards the elderly, disabled, and those on low incomes.

This Activity involves asset management, maintenance, replacement, intensification, and a partnership programme that supports the provision of affordable accommodation to people on low incomes. We work collaboratively with central government to address housing supply and affordability issues, through the Christchurch Housing Accord agreement.

Most of the housing units are studio and one-bedroom units, with a small percentage of two, three, and four bedroom units. These Council-owned housing complexes are leased to the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust, a Community Housing Provider, which then sub-lets these to those in need.

Our involvement in this Activity is intended to contribute to social well-being by ensuring that an adequate supply of safe, accessible, and affordable housing is available to those in need.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue mostly to the housing tenants. It is therefore considered appropriate to fund the Activity mostly from user charges (housing rents) plus Income Related Rent Subsidies (IRRS). These are intended to be sufficient to cover operating costs without subsidy from rates or other sources.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Community Housing	Sufficient supply of, and access to, a range of housing Safe and healthy communities

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
High	Low	Medium	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
High	Low	• Fees & Charges (High)	• Grants & Other (Low)

Regulatory & Compliance

Regulation and compliance services are needed to administer the laws that govern building and development work, the health and safety of licensed activities, and the keeping of dogs. We enforce compliance with regulations, monitor individual licences and approvals, investigate complaints and non-compliance, and assess the potential effects of various activities while still enabling builders, developers and property owners to carry on their business.

Key outputs of this Activity are:

- Compliance services relating to Resource Management Act (District Plan), Building Act, Local Government Act, Litter Act, and local Council Bylaws;
- Animal Management;
- Alcohol Licensing;
- Food Safety and Health Licensing; and
- Environmental Health, including noise management, environmental nuisance and environmental health risks e.g. asbestos and land contamination.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to be mixed:

- Building Regulation and Land & Property Information Services activities – costs are mainly caused by applicants, but there is a wider community benefit in having a consented building stock.
- Regulatory Compliance & Licencing and Resource Consenting activities – costs are mainly caused by applicants and holders whose activities, if unregulated, could cause nuisance to the public or pose a threat to the safety or health of the community; however, the community benefits from the control of such potential nuisances and threats.

In addition, for Regulatory Compliance & Licencing activities, it is acknowledged that full cost recovery through user charges would increase those user charges to a point where full compliance may be discouraged. On balance, for that activity, it is considered appropriate to adopt material levels of funding from both fees & charges and general rates.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Building Regulation	Great place for people, business and investment
Land & Property Information Services	Sufficient supply of, and access to, a range of housing
Regulatory Compliance & Licencing	Safe and healthy communities
Resource Consenting	Vibrant and thriving city centre Sufficient supply of, and access to, a range of housing

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Building Regulation	High	High	Medium	Medium
Land & Property Information Services	High	High	Low	Low
Regulatory Compliance & Licencing	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Resource Consenting	High	High	Medium	High

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Building Regulation	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (High) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Low)
Land & Property Information Services	High	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (High) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
Regulatory Compliance & Licencing	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Medium) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Medium) • Grants & Other (Low)
Resource Consenting	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees & Charges (Medium / High) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (Low / Medium)

Economic Development

This activity is focused on delivering economic development initiatives to achieve long-term sustainable prosperity improvements for the region by:

- Creating high-value quality jobs and pathways to employment by driving growth of industry clusters, supporting new and existing businesses to be competitive, innovative and sustainable and improving alignment between skills and education and local employment opportunities.
- Attracting residents, talent, business and investors to grow the strength and resilience of the local economy.
- Attracting education, business, conference and leisure visitors to ensure local businesses have the customers they need to thrive, and the city has greater vibrancy for residents.
- Facilitating urban development projects that support local prosperity.

In addition this activity coordinates and leads city-wide international relations activity, in alignment with the 2020 International Relations Policy Framework (IRPF), and delivers scheduled and unscheduled Civic Ceremonies, National Ceremonies and Visits.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to the whole community. It is therefore considered appropriate to source funding mostly from general rates.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Civic & International Relations	Great place for people, business and investment Active participation in civic life Strong sense of community Vibrant & thriving central city 21st century garden city we are proud to live in

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Economic Development	Great place for people, business and investment A productive, adaptive and resilient economic base

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Civic & International Relations	-	-	High	Low
Economic Development	Low	Low	High	Low

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Civic & International Relations	n/a	High	• n/a	• General Rates (High) • Grants & Other (Low)
Economic Development	Low	High	• Fees & Charges (Low)	• General Rates (High)

Strategic Planning & Policy

Public Information and Participation

We are committed to being a resident-focused, outward looking organisation. To achieve this we provide our community with information that is timely, relevant and accurate through channels that our residents use.

We are making better use of new media – online, social media and targeted electronic communications to interest groups – to supplement and improve on traditional communications. We also manage media relationships and answer their queries. Our role is to promote the Council’s activities including libraries, sports and recreation facilities and parks.

We also engage and consult with the public on Council projects and activities.

Strategic Planning, Future Development and Regeneration

Strategic planning, future development and regeneration work is fundamental to the workings of local government and touches on almost all aspects of Council activities. It helps meet community needs for good quality local infrastructure, local services, and performance of regulatory functions. It also supports the organisation to respond to the significant reforms underway right across our sector, and to prepare for the future.

This Activity provides strategic policy, city planning and urban regeneration services for us and our communities. We support the ongoing evolution of a resilient city that is better able to adapt to future challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. Responding to climate change and building climate resilience will be one of the biggest challenges Christchurch faces and this Activity leads that programme of work.

Key areas include to:

- provide specialised policy and strategy advice, enabling us to plan effectively for the future,

- develop, maintain and monitor the Christchurch District Plan which enables us to manage land use, subdivision and development,
- lead policy and strategy for transport to ensure people and businesses can easily move around the city,
- work with the community to enable their aspirations for quality places and neighbourhoods, including heritage,
- ensure that natural resources are used efficiently and sustainably to meet the needs of today and those of future generations,
- understand natural hazard risks to be better prepared for future challenges, and
- work collaboratively with strategic partners at a Greater Christchurch, regional and national level.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Public Information & Participation	Active participation in civic life Safe and healthy communities Identity through arts, culture, heritage and sport Strong sense of community Great place for people, business and investment
Strategic Planning, Future Development & Regeneration	Great place for people, business and investment Safe and healthy communities Sustainable use of resources and minimising waste

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Public Information & Participation	-	Low	Low	-
Strategic Planning, Future Development & Regen	Low	Low	Medium	Low

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Public Information & Participation	n/a	High	• n/a	• General Rates (High)
Strategic Planning, Future Dev & Regen	Low	High	• Fees & Charges (Low)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Rates (High) • Targeted Rates (Low)* • Grants & Other (Low)

* The ten-year special heritage (Cathedral) targeted rate is included in this activity.

Governance

Christchurch City Council is the second largest territorial local authority (TLA) in New Zealand. We are committed to participatory democracy for all residents, and actively encourage residents to participate in making deputations to Council and Community Boards, participating in hearings and engaging with Councillors and Community Board members. As a large TLA with a strong commitment to an active local democracy our effectiveness is dependent upon efficient and effective processes to support effective governance and good decision making.

In direct support of governance and decision making, this activity provides the following services:

- Secretariat services, information, support for our decision-making processes at governance-level meetings and hearings and to Elected Members of the Council and Community Boards
- Holding elections of Elected Members to the Council and Community Boards, polls and representation reviews
- Provision of information in accordance with LGOIMA
- Provide information, support and advice to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors and Chief Executive
- Manage relationships with Treaty partners and Mana Whenua.

The benefit of this Activity is considered to accrue to the community as a whole. It is therefore considered appropriate for it to be funded primarily from general rates.

Table 1: Community Outcomes

Activity	Primary Outcome(s)
Governance & Decision Making	Active participation in civic life Strong sense of community Valuing the voices of all cultures and ages (including children)
Office of Mayor, Chief Exec, Mana Whenua	All

Table 2: Funding Principles (operating costs only)

Activity	User-Pays	Exacerbator-Pays	Inter-Generational Equity	Separate Funding?
Governance & Decision Making	Low	Low	Low	Low
Office of Mayor, Chief Exec, Mana Whenua	-	-	Medium	-

Table 3: Funding Decision (operating costs only)

Activity	Funding Target		Funding mechanism	
	Individual / Group	Community	Individual / Group	Community
Governance & Decision Making	Low	High	• Fees & Charges (Low)	• General Rates (High)
Office of Mayor, Chief Exec, Mana Whenua	-	High	• -	• General Rates (High)

Funding of Capital Costs

The term “Capital Cost” includes a range of relatively long-term investment spending:

- Equity investment in Council-controlled organisations (most importantly, Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, which owns the city’s shares in the airport, port company, electricity lines company, fibre-optic network, and others);
- Network and community assets (the broadest category, including water, wastewater and stormwater networks, libraries, community halls, and community housing, and including strategic assets purchased in advance of need – for example, a drainage basin purchased to support anticipated future development); and
- Other assets (such as general plant and equipment).

Having considered the factors in section 101(3) of the Local Government Act 2002, we consider that capital investment in any particular Council Activity contributes to the same community outcomes as the operating costs of that activity (per tables above), and will tend to have the same distribution of benefits across the community. However, most capital investments are long-term in nature, so inter-generational equity is a far more important driver of our capital funding decision than it is for operational funding.

We have therefore determined that capital costs will be funded in accordance with the following principles:

- Investment in assets of a commercial or revenue-generating nature should be funded by borrowing, and be either self-funding or expected to deliver a net benefit to ratepayers in the long-term – any difference between investment income and funding costs in individual years will be allocated to or supported by general rates.
- Non-commercial capital investments will be funded in the first instance from borrowing, offset where appropriate by Crown grants and asset sales. Where the spending is to provide new assets to service growth (new subdivisions and/or more intensive development of developed

land), the growth component is funded from Development Contributions.

- Capital renewals – we are moving towards fully funding the long run average asset renewals programme (net of subsidies) from rates. Any variation between that and the renewals programme in a particular year will be funded/deducted from the overall borrowing requirement.

Table: Council’s Capital Funding Policy, by Investment Type

Investment type	Initial funding	Serviced and/or repaid by:
Equity investment in CCOs / CCTOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt (interest only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividends and Rates
Network & Community assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal / replacement • Service Improvement • Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates and debt • Debt • Debt and Development Contributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates • Rates • Future Development Contributions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation and/ or offsetting of specific negative impacts of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt and Financial Contributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Financial Contributions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent
Other assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates

The application of these principles to individual Activities is tabulated below. The High / Medium / Low scale is the same as applied to the

operational tables above. The specific capital spending and funding projections for the current planning period are shown in the individual Funding Impact Statements by group of activity.

Table: Council's Capital Funding Policy, by Activity

Activity	Rates	Borrowing	DCs/FCs	Grants & Other
Water Supply	High	Low	Low	Low
Wastewater	High	Low	Low	Low
Stormwater Drainage	High	Low	Low	-
Flood Protection & Control Works	Low	High	Low	-
Transport				
Transport Access	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Transport Environment	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Transport Safety	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Parks, Heritage & Coastal Environment				
Heritage Management	High	Low	-	-
Parks and Foreshore	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Solid Waste and Resource Recovery	Medium	Medium	-	Low
Communities & Citizens				
Canterbury & Akaroa Museums	High	Low	-	-
Christchurch Art Gallery	Medium	Medium	-	-
Citizen and Customer Services	-	-	-	-
Civil Defence Emergency Management	Medium	Medium	-	-
Community Development and Facilities	High	Low	-	-
Libraries	High	Low	-	-
Recreation, Sports, Comm Arts & Events	Medium	Medium	Low	-

Activity	Rates	Borrowing	DCs/FCs	Grants & Other
Housing	-		-	High
Regulatory & Compliance				
Building Regulation	-	-	-	-
Land & Property Information Services	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Compliance & Licencing	High	Low	-	-
Resource Consenting				
Economic Development				
Civic & International Relations	-	-	-	-
Economic Development	-	-	-	-
Strategic Planning & Policy				
Public Information & Participation	-	-	-	-
Strategic Planning, Future Dev & Regen	-	High	-	-
Governance				
Governance & Decision Making	-	-	-	-
Office of Mayor, Chief Exec, Mana Whenua	-	-	-	-

Impact on well-being

We consider the use of the funding sources described above to meet our funding needs is appropriate. We expect the use of these funding sources will promote the current and future social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the community by:

- Funding activities in ways that are generally perceived by the community as consistent, fair and reasonable
- Limiting the impact of rates on ratepayers, and especially on the most economically vulnerable ratepayers
- Setting fees and charges in a way that does not unduly limit social and economic participation
- Fairly balancing the impact of rates funding across multiple years
- Using fees and charges to provide an incentive for residents to reduce the need for us to incur additional costs
- Limiting the opportunities for ratepayers to use resources unproductively in order to avoid rates (ensuring rates are reasonably economically efficient)

Rates Remission Policy

Objective of the policy

To provide rates relief in certain situations, to support either the fairness and equity of the rating system or the overall wellbeing of the community.

Remission 1: Not-for-profit community-based organisations

Objective

Certain types of land use are classified as “non-rateable” under Section 8 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, including schools, churches, and land used for some conservation or recreational purposes. Such land may be either fully or 50% “non-rateable”, although any rates specifically for the purpose of water supply, sewage and refuse collection must still be charged.

The objective of this remission is to provide rates relief to Christchurch community-based organisations (including some that may be classified as non-rateable under section 8), to support the benefit they provide to the wellbeing of the Christchurch district.

Conditions and criteria

Council may remit up to 100% of rates for not-for-profit community-based organisations which the Council considers deliver a predominant community benefit.

Applications for this remission must be in writing. Applicants must provide financial accounts for the latest financial year for which accounts are available (not more than 18 months old). The accounts must be for the reporting entity which is directly responsible for paying the rates. Where there is a legal or reporting obligation on the reporting

entity to have the accounts audited or reviewed, the accounts must have been audited or reviewed.

The extent of remission (if any) shall be determined at the absolute discretion of the Council, and may be phased in over several years.

The Council reserves the right to require annual applications to renew the remission, or to require certification from the applicant that the property is still eligible for the remission.

Remission applies to

Any community-based not-for-profit organisation whose activities, in the opinion of the Council, provide significant public good as a result of its occupation of the property.

The remission may (at Council’s absolute discretion) include property over which a liquor licence is held, provided this is incidental to the primary purpose of occupancy. This inclusion may also apply to those organisations classified as “non-rateable” under Section 8 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The remission is not available to property owned or used by chartered clubs, political parties, trade unions (and associated entities), or dog or horse racing clubs.

Any remission will only apply to the portion of the property used for the purpose for which the remission is granted.

Remission 2: Land owned or used by the Council for community benefit

Objective

To support facilities providing benefit to the community, by remitting rates.

Conditions and criteria

The Council may remit up to 100% of rates on land owned by or used by the Council and which is used for:

- Those activities listed in Schedule 1 Part 1 clause 4 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (including parks, libraries, halls, and similar),
- Rental housing provided within the Council's Community Housing activity, and
- Any other community benefit use (excluding infrastructural asset rating units).

Remission 3: Rates - Late payment and arrears penalties

Objective

Council charges penalties for late payment of rates and for rates arrears, in accordance with sections 57 & 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The objective of this remission is to enable such penalties to be waived where it is fair and equitable to do so, and to encourage ratepayers to clear arrears and keep their payments up to date.

Conditions and criteria

Council will consider remitting late payment penalties in the following four circumstances:

- *One-off ratepayer error* (including timing differences arising from payments via regular bank transactions).
 - This may only be applied once in any two-year period.
 - Only penalties applied within the past twelve months may be remitted.
 - Applications must state the reason for late payment, and deliberate non-payment will not qualify for remission.
 - Applications must generally be in writing, although staff may waive this requirement if they are satisfied that the full details of the application are recorded.
 - Payment of all outstanding rates (other than the penalties to be remitted) is required prior to the remission being granted.
- *Inability to pay* (including sickness, death, financial hardship, or other circumstances where it is considered fair and equitable for the remission to be applied):
 - Penalties imposed in the last two-year period may be remitted, where this would facilitate immediate payment of all outstanding rates (remission of penalties over a longer time period may be considered, if the amount of arrears is large).
 - Where an acceptable arrangement to pay arrears and future rates over an agreed time period is to be implemented, then any penalties that would otherwise have been imposed over this time period may be remitted.
 - Applications must generally be in writing, although staff may waive this requirement if they are satisfied that the full details of the application are recorded.

- *Full year payment* (i.e. where the ratepayer pays the financial year's rates in full, rather than in instalments):
 - Late penalties on the current year's Instalment 1 rates invoice will be remitted if current-year rates are paid in full by the due date for Instalment 2.

Remission 4: Contiguous parcels of land

Objective

Council charges a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) as part of its general rates.

The objective of this remission is to waive the UAGC where doing so supports the purpose of the UAGC as set out in the "Rating Information" part of Council's Funding Impact Statement.

Conditions and criteria

Council will consider remitting the UAGC rate where:

- Parcels of land under different ownership are contiguous (i.e. sharing a boundary and in common usage, such that they should reasonably be treated as a single unit); OR
- It has been determined that a building consent will not be issued for the primary use of the land under the City Plan.

Remission applies to

All rating units.

Remission 5: Residential pressure wastewater system electricity costs

Objective

Following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, some gravity-fed wastewater disposal systems are being replaced by low pressure pump systems. This generally requires the pump to be connected to the electricity supply of the particular house that it serves.

The objective of this remission is to compensate affected homeowners for the additional electricity cost an average household has to pay to operate the new system.

Conditions and criteria

Affected ratepayers will receive a general rates remission equal to an amount determined by Council each year. The Council will make an effort to match this amount to the estimated annual electricity supply charges likely to be paid that year to operate the system.

The remission reflects the estimated annual cost for an average household and therefore only provides general compensation, not compensation reflecting the exact amount of the electricity charge actually paid by the homeowner.

Council's expectation is that where tenants pay for electricity, landlords will pass on the benefit of the remission to their tenants.

Any change to this remission policy must be the subject of consultation with affected residents prior to any decision being made.

For 2024/25, the remission is set at \$37.00 per annum (including GST).

Remission applies to

All affected residential properties where the new low pressure pumps are connected to the household electricity supply as a result of Council's earthquake recovery work, but excluding any property:

- With a pump owned and installed by a property owner prior to 1 July 2013,
- That requires a pressure sewer system after 1 July 2013 as part of a subdivision, land use consent or building consent,
- That was vacant land prior to 4 September 2010, or
- That is sold after 30 June 2018

Remission 6: Earthquake-affected properties

Objective

The objective of this remission is to provide rates relief to those ratepayers most affected by the earthquakes, whilst acknowledging that any such support is effectively paid for by those ratepayers less affected.

Conditions and criteria

Rates may be remitted for residential and “non-rateable” units unable to be occupied as a direct result of earthquake damage (i.e. the remission will not apply to houses vacated for the purpose of effecting earthquake repair).

The amount remitted will be equal to the amount of rates charged on the value of Improvements (i.e. rates will effectively be charged on Land Value only, as if the building had been demolished).

This remission shall NOT apply to properties sold after 30 June 2018, and will cease once the property becomes inhabited or inhabitable.

This remission also shall NOT apply where insurance claims on the property have been settled with the relevant insurance company.

Any new applications must be in writing, and any new remissions granted will not be back-dated prior to 1 July 2018. The Council may seek assurance or evidence from time to time that properties receiving these remissions remain eligible.

Remission applies to

All rating units.

Remission 7: Excess Water Rates

Objective

The Council expects that, in general, excess water rates must be paid in full by the ratepayer. However, the Council recognises that in some limited instances it is unreasonable to collect the full amount of excess water rates payable by a ratepayer.

The objective of this remission is to waive the payment of excess water supply rates where it is fair and equitable to do so.

Conditions and criteria

Council may consider remitting up to 100% of excess water rates when:

- A ratepayer could not reasonably have been expected to know that a leak within their boundary has resulted in unusually high water consumption, and can provide evidence the leak has been repaired.
- A residential ratepayer provides evidence that water is used for personal medical purposes, and that has contributed to the high water use.
- A residential ratepayer provides evidence that the high water use is the result of a large number of family members (greater than 8) living in the residence.

Remission applies to:

All ratepayers liable for excess water rates.

Remission 8: City Vacant Land

Objective

To provide rates relief for land that pays the City Vacant differential on the value-based general rate, where that land contributes to the amenity of its local area.

Conditions and criteria

Rates may be remitted for land paying the City Vacant differential on the value-based general rate. The amount of rates remitted is at Council's discretion, but may be up to the amount that restores the land to the same rating position it would have been in if the City Vacant differential was not applied to the land.

Land qualifies for this remission if it is being kept in an improved and maintained state, consistent with Council's Vacant Site Improvement Guide. This will be assessed at the discretion of Council.

Council will grant this remission based on the circumstances of the land as at the beginning of the rating year.

Further remission – consenting delay

Rates may also be remitted where Council considers that Council's actions or inactions have caused a delay in processing a building or resource consent relating to that land, and where Council considers that, if it had processed the consents in accordance with statutory timeframes, it is reasonable to expect that the land owner could have avoided being assessed for the City Vacant differential. The amount of rates remitted is at Council's discretion.

Remission 9: Wheelie bin service reduction

Objective

To provide rates relief from the Waste Minimisation targeted rate for rating units within multi-unit residential developments where the rating

unit has opted out of receiving the 3-bin kerbside collection service, and to provide further rates relief to the extent that kerbside collection and disposal costs for refuse are included within the general rate rather than the Waste Minimisation targeted rate.

Conditions and criteria

This rates remission applies where a rating unit within a multi-unit residential development has, with the approval of Council, opted out of the 3-bin kerbside collection service. Note that opt out will be approved only where alternative arrangements are made for collection of all waste streams, and Council considers those arrangements provide an appropriately equivalent service.

Where the opt out applies for the whole year, the remission will be equal to the Waste Minimisation targeted rate, plus \$83 (representing the average annual kerbside collection and disposal cost for the red bin).

Where the opt out applies for part of the year the Council may, at its discretion, grant a remission calculated based on the proportion of the year to which the opt out applies.

Remission 10: Other remissions deemed fair and equitable

Objective

To recognise that the Council's policies for rates remission cannot contemplate all possible situations where it may be appropriate to remit rates.

Conditions and criteria

The Council may, by specific resolution, remit any rate or rates penalty when it considers it fair and equitable to do so.

Rates Postponement Policy

Objective

To assist owner-occupiers of property to continue living in their home – in particular for retired ratepayers on fixed incomes, but also for younger ratepayers if they do not have the financial capacity to pay their rates or where the payment of rates would create financial hardship.

Postponement statement

Up to 100% of rates may be postponed for a period determined by the Council, where Council's rating staff consider that the applicant qualifies under this Policy.

Conditions and criteria

The postponement applies to properties that are the primary private residence owned and occupied by the ratepayer.

Applicants may qualify if they can demonstrate that:

- a) they do not have the financial capacity to pay their rates; or
- b) the payment of rates would create financial hardship.

Written applications and a declaration of eligibility will generally be required for all postponements. However, staff may waive the written application provided they are satisfied there is good reason and provided that full details of the application are recorded.

Applications for postponement will be considered on their individual merits.

Rates penalties will not be applied or will be remitted for any rates that have been postponed.

The postponement will continue to apply until:

- a) the ratepayer ceases to be the owner or occupier of the rating unit; or
- b) the ratepayer ceases to use the property as their primary private residence; or
- c) the ratepayer recovers the ability to pay; or
- d) a date specified by the Council at the time of granting the postponement;

whichever is the sooner.

Notwithstanding these criteria, the total amount postponed may not exceed 20% of the property's most recent Rating Valuation. If the postponed amount exceeds this figure, or Council rates staff consider that the continuation of postponement for another

financial year will cause it to exceed this figure, the postponement will cease and all amounts will become due and payable. In such circumstance, the ratepayer may apply for a payment arrangement to avoid the imposition of late payment penalties (in accordance with Remission 3 of Council's Remissions Policy)

Postponement applies to:

Any rating unit owned and occupied by the ratepayer as their primary private residence.

Postponement – general issues

The postponed rates will remain a charge against the property and must be paid either when the property ceases to be the place of residence of the applicant or the criteria no longer apply. Postponed rates may include rate arrears owing from previous financial years.

A fee (calculated as a percentage of postponed rates) will be charged annually where rates have been postponed, and will be added to the

total postponed amount. This fee will be calculated at the end of each rating year on the accrued amount postponed (including any fees) at the beginning of that financial year. The fee will be based on the Council's estimated cost of borrowing as published in the Annual Plan.

The Applicant must demonstrate understanding of the nature of compounding fees, for example through evidence of adequate financial or legal advice. The Council may require this understanding to be re-confirmed each financial year.

Policy on Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land

Material in shaded boxes provides background information but is not part of the Policy.

Acknowledgements and Council's Relationship with Ngā Rūnanga

Council acknowledges Te Ngāi Tū Ahuriri Rūnanga, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rapaki), Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata, Wairewa Rūnanga, Te Taumutū Rūnanga and Ōnuku Rūnanga (together “Ngā Rūnanga”) as tangata whenua of the area within the Christchurch takiwā (the territory of the Christchurch City Council).

As tangata whenua, Ngā Rūnanga hold tino rangatiratanga, past present and future. This rangatiratanga is immutable and has been acknowledged by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Relationship Agreement between Christchurch City Council and Ngā Rūnanga (1 Sep 2016)

Council has a Relationship Agreement with Ngā Rūnanga. The purpose of the agreement is recorded as follows:

“This Agreement records and embeds a new era of partnership between [Council and Ngā Rūnanga] that is based on mutual respect, the utmost standards of good faith and confidence that working jointly together will produce meaningful outcomes for current and future generations of all citizens, living within a vibrant and sustainable takiwā. - Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei”

Recognising this Relationship Agreement, the process for making decisions under this policy will be determined by Te Hononga Council – Papatipu Rūnanga Committee (Te Hononga), or an equivalent Committee mechanism, or in the absence of such a process, by Council staff in accordance with Council’s delegations register.

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 applies to the area within the Christchurch takiwā.

Introduction

“Māori freehold land” is defined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as *land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order.*

Maori freehold land in the Christchurch City Council takiwā (district)

As at 1 July 2021 there were 159 rating units of Māori freehold land in the Christchurch City Council takiwā (district). Most are located in Rapaki, Gebbies Valley and Motukarara, and in Banks Peninsula at Koukourarata (Port Levy), Wairewa (Little River), Wainui, and Onuku. The total capital value of this land was around \$37 million.

The Council recognises that the ownership and use of Māori freehold land is different to general land. This Policy enables Council to respond to those differences in ways that are fair to owners and that encourage the long term retention, use and enjoyment of Māori freehold land by its owners.

The Council acknowledges the following features of Māori freehold land:

- Māori freehold land represents a very small proportion of land previously owned by Māori, the remainder of which has been alienated from Māori ownership and use.
- Much of the Māori freehold land in the Christchurch City Council takiwā is either unoccupied or unimproved or only partially used
- Much of the land is isolated and marginal in quality
- Māori freehold land usually has multiple owners making it challenging for individuals with a stake to get the necessary agreement from the owners to use or develop the land
- Multiple ownership presents challenges in terms of administering the land including the payment of rates. This can result in significant rates arrears which may need to be paid before the land is used or developed
- Some land has special significance which would make it undesirable to develop or reside on.

Definitions

Terms used in this Policy have the meaning given to them by the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993.

Land to which this policy applies

This policy applies to Māori freehold land.

This policy may also apply to the following types of land as if it were Māori freehold land:

- Māori customary land

Māori customary land

Council understands there is no land within the Christchurch City Council takiwā that is classified as Māori customary land.

- a Māori reservation set apart under section 338 of the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 or the corresponding provisions of any former enactment
- land described in section 62A(1)(a) and (b) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (“1967 land”)

“1967 land”

This term refers to general land that ceased to be Māori land under Part 1 of the Maori Affairs Amendment Act 1967, where the land is beneficially owned by the persons, or by the descendants of the persons, who beneficially owned the land immediately before the land ceased to be Māori land.

The 1967 amendment to the Māori Affairs Act required the Registrar of the Māori Land Court to reclassify some Māori freehold land as general land. This was sometimes done without the knowledge or agreement of the owners.

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 limits the actions that a local authority can take to recover unpaid rates in respect of 1967 land. In particular, it cannot carry out an abandoned land or rating sale (refer to s77(3A) and s67(3)(b)).

- land returned to iwi or hapū ownership through treaty settlement or a right of first refusal scheme

Rateability of Māori freehold land

The following land is fully non-rateable under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (*this is not a complete list of non-rateable land – refer to that Act for further details in some cases*):

- An unused rating unit of Māori freehold land (clause 14A)
- Land that is subject to a Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata (clause 1A)
- Land used solely or principally as a place of religious worship (clause 9)
- Land used as a Māori burial ground (clause 10)
- Māori customary land (clause 11)
- Land that is used for the purposes of a marae (some exceptions apply) (clause 12)
- Land set apart as a Māori reservation (some exceptions apply) (clauses 13 and 13B)
- Māori freehold land on which a meeting house is erected (some exceptions apply) (clause 13A)

Non-rateable land may still have targeted rates set on it for sewerage and water supply, but will not have other rates applied.

Remission or postponement of rates is available only to the extent that rates are actually set on the land. Non-rateable Māori freehold land will not need to apply for a rates relief under this Policy, except to the extent that the land has rates set for sewer and water supply – those rates may be remitted under this Policy.

Valuation of Māori freehold land

Christchurch City Council sets rates primarily in proportion to the capital value of rating units. The capital value of a rating unit is determined by the Council's Valuation Service Provider – currently Quotable Value (QV).

For Māori freehold land rating units, QV first values the property as if it were general land, and then applies adjustments, which reduce the capital value, to reflect:

(i) adjustments under *Valuer-General v Mangatu Inc* [1997] 3 NZLR 641, which recognise among other things the very significant constraints on the sale of Māori freehold land

(ii) an adjustment factor applied for multiple owners, expressed as a percentage, and

(iii) an adjustment factor applied for sites of significance, expressed as a percentage.

To the extent that the capital value is adjusted downwards, Council rates set on the land will be correspondingly lower.

Who is liable for rates on Māori freehold land?

Normally the owner or registered lessee of a rating unit is liable for rates on land.

However, under section 96 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, where a rating unit of Māori freehold land is in multiple ownership that is not vested in a trustee, a person actually using that land is liable for the rates on the land, regardless of whether the person using the land is one of the owners.

Section 62A of the same Act sets out a broadly similar provision for “1967 land”.

Rates relief: remission and postponement

Rates relief under this Policy can take two forms: rates remission and rates postponement.

Council also has a Rates Remission Policy which applies generally to all land rather than specifically to Māori freehold land. Nothing in this Policy prevents owners of Māori freehold land from applying for a rates remission under that Rates Remission Policy. For example, a not-for-profit community-based organisation providing services from Māori freehold land might apply for a remission under the Rates Remission Policy. However, two rates remissions will not be given in respect of the same rates.

Council also has a Rates Postponement Policy which applies generally to all land. Owners of Māori freehold land may apply for rates postponement under that policy. If Council considers such a postponement is appropriate, Council may require the applicant to enter into an agreement with Council in relation to the postponed rates. This recognises that the Council would not ultimately be able to sell the land to recover any rates that remain unpaid following the end of the postponement.

Rates remission is generally preferred to rates postponement

Historically, the relief granted under previous versions of this Policy has tended to take the form of rates remissions rather than rates postponement. Council expects that is likely to continue. However, particular circumstances may well arise in future where Council

considers postponement is more appropriate than a remission under this Policy.

Policy objectives

This Policy seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To recognise the rangatiratanga of Ngā Rūnanga over the land within the Christchurch takiwā.
2. To recognise that land is a taonga tuku iho of special significance to Māori and, for that reason, to promote the retention of Māori freehold land in the hands of its owners, their whanau, and their hapū, and to protect wāhi tapu.
3. To facilitate the occupation, development, and utilisation of Māori freehold land for the benefit of its owners, their whanau, and their hapū.
4. To ensure that owners of Māori freehold land contribute to Council’s overall rates revenue requirement to the extent consistent with the first two objectives, and to the extent equitable with the contributions made by other land owners.

Conditions and criteria for postponement or remission of rates

Criteria

Rates relief under this Policy is granted entirely at the discretion of Council. The criteria for granting either a rates remission or rates postponement include some or all of the following:

1. the land is not in use

Council considers land would be in use if it is leased. Other circumstances that would be regarded as use include (but are not limited to) where a person or persons

- (i) resides on the land,
- (ii) depastures or maintains livestock on the land, or
- (iii) stores anything on the land (compare the definition of “person actually using land” in section 5 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002)

Council considers that, while commercial grazing is a use, merely allowing animals to keep down the grass is not, in itself, a use. Council will consider other factors such as the whether the size and quality of the land would support commercial grazing.

Significant improvements on the land may indicate that a use is being made of the land.

Where land is difficult to access (e.g. it is landlocked or does not have legal access to a public road), that may indicate that no significant use is being made of the land.

Where the use is insignificant, Council may, at its sole discretion, provide rates relief.

Land is not regarded as used (for this purpose) merely because personal visits are made to the land or personal collections of kai or cultural or medicinal material are made from the land

Where use is being made of a portion the land, Council may, at its sole discretion, provide rates relief that recognises that the remaining portion is unused.

- 2. the land is being used for traditional purposes
- 3. where the land is used in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated papakāinga housing (whether on the land or elsewhere).
- 4. the use of the land for other purposes is affected by the presence of wāhi tapu
- 5. the land has a high conservation value which the Council or community wish to preserve
- 6. the land is in multiple ownership or fragmented ownership, and no management or operating structure is in place to administer matters
- 7. there is a history of rate arrears and/or a difficulty in establishing who is/should be responsible for the payment of rates
- 8. where the rates relief is needed to avoid further alienation of Māori freehold land
- 9. where a rates remission is sought under section 114A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 for Māori freehold land under development.

The key parts of s114A provide as follows:

114A Remission of rates for Māori freehold land under development

- 1) The purpose of this section is to facilitate the occupation, development, and utilisation of Māori freehold land for the benefit of its owners.
- (2) A local authority must consider an application by a ratepayer for a remission of rates on Māori freehold land if—
 - (a) the ratepayer has applied in writing for a remission on the land; and
 - (b) the ratepayer or another person is developing, or intends to develop, the land.
- (3) The local authority may, for the purpose of this section, remit all or part of the rates (including penalties for unpaid rates) on Māori freehold land if the local authority is satisfied that the development is likely to have any or all of the following benefits:
 - (a) benefits to the district by creating new employment opportunities;
 - (b) benefits to the district by creating new homes;
 - (c) benefits to the council by increasing the council's rating base in the long term;
 - (d) benefits to Māori in the district by providing support for marae in the district;
 - (e) benefits to the owners by facilitating the occupation, development, and utilisation of the land.
- (4) The local authority may remit all or part of the rates—
 - (a) for the duration of a development; and

- (b) differently during different stages of a development; and
 - (c) subject to any conditions specified by the local authority, including conditions relating to—
 - (i) the commencement of the development; or
 - (ii) the completion of the development or any stage of the development.
- (5) In determining what proportion of the rates to remit during the development or any stage of the development, the local authority must take into account—
 - (a) the expected duration of the development or any stage of the development; and
 - (b) if the land is being developed for a commercial purpose, when the ratepayer or ratepayers are likely to generate income from the development; and
 - (c) if the development involves the building of 1 or more dwellings, when the ratepayer or any other persons are likely to be able to reside in the dwellings.

Conditions

In general, Council will provide rates relief under this Policy only where an application is made in writing, signed by the ratepayer. This allows Council to obtain the information it needs to make a decision. However, if Council already has sufficient information, it may grant rates relief without an application.

Council will provide an application form for rates relief under this Policy, and will publish it on Council's website.

In the event that applications for rates relief are made by only one or a minority of owners, Council may require evidence of agreement or support from a greater proportion of owners.

Council may, at its discretion, review whether a property continues to qualify for rates relief under this Policy. In doing so, Council may seek further information from any party that has a relationship with that land. Council may also request a written application from the ratepayer (or owners, or trustee).

Council may seek undertakings from the ratepayer, owners, users or managers of the land to provide information about the ongoing use or circumstances of the land.

Council may, at its discretion, end the rates relief if it considers the land no longer qualifies for the relief, or if the ratepayer has not provided sufficient information to enable a review of rates relief for the property.

Conditions relating to applications under s114A (Māori freehold land under development)

Following an application for rates remission under s114A, Council may request additional documentation where necessary to determine the start and finish dates of a proposed development or the staging of a development.

Developments that are staged can apply for remission for each separate stage of the development.

Rates will be remitted until such time as the development is complete, or the development is generating income, or persons are residing in houses built upon the land. Council retains flexibility to apply the remission for a longer period of time where desirable.

Amount and timing of rates relief

The amount and timing of any rates relief provided under this policy is entirely at the discretion of the Council.

Other forms of rates relief for Māori freehold land

Rating units of Māori freehold land used as a single unit: Under s20A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, a person actually using 2 or more rating units of Māori freehold land may apply for the rating units to be treated as 1 unit for the purposes of a rates assessment. This could reduce the number of fixed rates that are applied to the properties. Applications should be made by email to ratesinfo@ccc.govt.nz mentioning s20A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Council must treat the rating units as 1 unit for assessing a rate if:

- (a) the units are used jointly as a single unit by the person; and
- (b) Council is satisfied the units are derived from the same original block of Māori freehold land.

Separate rating area: Council may, on request, divide a “separate rating area” from a rating unit on Māori freehold land if one part of the land comprises a dwelling that is used separately from the other land in the rating unit. This could help the occupant of that dwelling claim a rates rebate for low income earners in relation to their own rates assessment (for more information, see <https://ccc.govt.nz/services/rates-and-valuations/reductions/apply-for-a-rates-rebate-low-income-earners>). This is governed by section 98A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Applications to divide a separate rating area should be made by email to ratesinfo@ccc.govt.nz mentioning 98A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Adoption date

This policy was adopted on 21 June 2022 and in accordance with section 108(4A) of the Local Government Act 2002 must be reviewed at least once every six years following this date.