Funding Policy

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Related documents:	Annual Business Plan Asset Management Plans Long-Term Financial Plan Strategic Plan Treasury Management Policy Rating Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the framework within which Council will raise revenue necessary to fund services and programs set out in Council's *Long Term Financial Plan*.

2. Scope

2.1. This policy applies to Council Members and employees who manage funding sources available to Council.
2.2. This policy does not apply to matters outside Council's jurisdiction.

3. Definitions

3.1. ***Act*** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;
3.2. ***borrowings*** mean funds borrowed by Council intended to be repaid by Council;
3.3. ***community*** means any person who lives, works, pays rates, conducts private or government business, visits, utilises services, facilities and public space within the Council area (may also be referred to as a stakeholder);
3.4. ***Council*** means Adelaide Plains Council;
3.5. ***Council Member*** means a member of council elected in accordance with the Act;
3.6. ***employee*** means any person carrying our duties or performing tasks for and on behalf of Council, whether they are paid or unpaid, including staff, contractors, consultants, trainees, volunteers, students and any other person who has access to Council's electronic systems and services in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity;
3.7. ***funding*** means the raising of revenue for Council. e.g., through rates, user charges, or the receipt of grants, subsidies and contributions.

4. Our Core Values

Our approach to raising revenue for Council is underpinned by Council's core values:

Honesty and Integrity	Innovative and Open-minded	Leadership and Diplomacy	Professionalism	Respect	Teamwork
Building trust and loyalty with the community and within Council.	Being proactive in continually improving our services.	By acting strategically and effectively managing our relationships.	Through commitment, quality and timeliness of work delivered.	For others, acting with humility and empathy.	Through unity, cooperation and support.

5. Key considerations

5.1. <u>General</u>

In applying this policy, Council will consider:

(a) user or beneficiary pays and the capacity to pay of different sections of the community;
(b) costs of provision of services and, where relevant, prices charged by others for provision of similar services;
(c) maximising sourcing of external funding;
(d) accommodating individual circumstances of financial hardship; and
(e) achieving and preserving reasonable inter-generational equity.

Note: *the electronic version in Council's Electronic Document and Records Management System is the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.*

5.2. Long-Term Financial Plan

Council must adopt a Long Term Financial Plan (10-years) which outlines: [1]

(a) Council's approach to funding services and infrastructure;
(b) Council's projected total revenue; and
(c) Intended resources of total revenue.

5.3. Council will review and update 10-year Long Term Financial plan as part of its annual budget process to ensure that Council planned long-term service, infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services.

6. How does Council raise funds?

6.1. Rates

Council will raise general and other rates from its community in accordance with Council's ***Rating Policy***, which sets out its application of the following rating provisions contained in the Act:

(a) fixed charges;
(b) service rates and charges;
(c) differential rates;
(d) rate rebates; and
(e) postponement of rates.

6.1.1. Revenue from general rates helps meet a substantial part of the cost of Council services and activities that are widely available to ratepayers.

6.2. Financial assistance and other discretionary grants

(a) Council values the ongoing Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants that it receives through the SA Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC). Similarly, Roads to Recovery Grants from the Commonwealth are an important funding source.
(b) Council will continue to provide timely and accurate information requested by the LGGC to ensure that it receives its appropriate funding allocation as determined by the LGGC's methodology for allocating Financial Assistance Grants. Timely and accurate information regarding Roads to Recovery will also be provided to the Commonwealth.

6.3. Special purpose grants

(a) Council recognises that opportunities arise from time-to-time to secure grants or funding for specific projects or purposes. Council will pursue such opportunities where the funding objectives align with Council's *Strategic Plan* and financial sustainability objectives.
(b) Council will assess the whole-of-life costs of a project considered for a special purpose grant or funding application (including maintenance, other operating costs over the projects life and required Council contribution) and will consider the impact of these costs on Council's financial sustainability indicators over the projects life.

6.4. User charges

To reduce dependence on rate revenue and charge for the provision of private works, Council applies user charges to meet the cost of its services where this is equitable, efficient and practical. Charges are set in consideration to the costs incurred, the benefits to direct users and others from the provision of the services and prices charged elsewhere for similar services. Council's user charges are set out in Council's *Fees and Charges Schedule*.

[1] As required under section 122(1a)(a) of the Act.

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6.5. Borrowings

Council recognises that borrowings are not a funding source but are nevertheless likely to be required at times particularly due to decisions to add to or enhance Councils stock of assets. If Council sets revenue raising targets at levels that not only meet the full cost of existing services but also enable it to accumulate funds to finance net asset acquisition, it could create significant inter-generational inequity between beneficiaries of Councils services. Council will manage decisions about when to borrow and what type of borrowings to raise in accordance with Council's ***Treasury Management Policy***.

6.6. Private sector contributions / partnerships

Council will seek private sector funding for projects e.g. through joint ventures, grants or provision of infrastructure etc. where this is considered beneficial to the community. In assessing the community benefit of such arrangements, Council will take account of its financial exposure through an analysis of the projects whole-of-life costs.

7. References

Local Government Act 1999
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011
LGA Financial Sustainability Information Paper 20 - Rating and Other Funding Policy Options – December 2024

8. Records management

All documents relating to this policy will be registered in Council's Record Management System and remain confidential where identified.[2]

9. Document review

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's *Policy Review Schedule* to ensure legislative compliance and its continued relevance to Council's needs, activities and programs.

10. Further information

Public Access:	Members of the public may inspect this this policy (and any other related documents) free of charge at: Council's website: **www.apc.sa.gov.au;** or Council's Principal Office: **2a Wasleys Rd, Mallala SA 5502**. *A copy of this policy may be obtained on payment of a fee.*[3]
Queries:	Any queries in relation to this policy must be in writing to info@apc.sa.gov.au, marked: *Attention: Manager Governance*

[2] Refer to Council's ***Information Management Policy***.
[3] As outlined in Council's Fees & Charges Schedule.

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