

Policies

The following policies set out basic principles and associated guidelines that Council will follow to direct and limit actions, in pursuit of its long-term goal of sustainable development and providing for the current and future interests of the Community.

All figures are GST exclusive unless otherwise stated.

Development Contributions

It is Council's policy not to charge Development Contributions (Local Government Act) or Financial Contributions (Resource Management Act).

Significance and Engagement Policy

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy lets the Community know when and how they can expect to be engaged in Council's decision-making

The final decision on a matter's significance rests with Council, but the following criteria are used in the assessment:

- Contribution to Community Outcomes or Key Projects
- Consistency with the Long-term Plan
- Net cost to Council
- Variation of options
- Reversibility
- Level of controversy
- Precautionary approach
- Impact on funders

Council's engagement with the Community can occur in a number of ways and at a number of different levels. Council has adapted the IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement for its use. The five levels of engagement are:

- 1) Inform
- 2) Consult
- 3) Involve
- 4) Collaborate
- 5) Empower

Council determines the most appropriate level for each community engagement process.

Council has determined to develop and implement an Engagement Strategy in 2018. As part of this process the Significance and Engagement Policy will be reviewed and opened for feedback from the Community.

A copy of the full Significance and Engagement Policy can be found on Council's website – www.icc.govt.nz.



Revenue and Financing Policy

Introduction

The Revenue and Financing Policy states Council's policies on the funding of its operating and capital expenditure and the sources of those funds.

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to manage its finances prudently and in a manner which promotes the current and future needs of the community. Council must ensure that each year's projected operating revenues are set at a level sufficient to meet the year's projected operating expenses.

General Principles

In considering the sources of its funding, consideration was given to the following in relation to each activity.

- The Community Outcome to which it primarily contributes.
- The distribution of benefits between the community as a whole, any identifiable part of the community, and individuals.
- The period in or over which those benefits are expected to occur.
- The costs and benefits, including consequences for transparency and accountability, of funding the activity distinctly from other activities.
- The extent to which an individual's or group's action contributes to the need to undertake a service.

After giving consideration to the above the Council then considered "the overall impact of any allocation of liability for revenue needs on the community".

Invercargill City Council's funding policy is to treat both operating and capital expenditure in the same way. That

is to say, the extent to which the provision of a service by the Council is a public or private good will largely determine the extent to which rates or fees and charges fund capital expenditure.

For example, the revenue funding policy for Parks and Reserves is 45-65% public good; 35-55% private benefit. Funding the capital expenditure would be proportioned the same way, ie 40-65% by rates and 35-55% by fees and charges.

	Residential	Non-Residential
Water	84%	16%
Sewerage	75%	25%
Drainage	75%	25%

Period of Benefit

Three periods of benefit have been identified:

1. Short term

- Activities which have an immediate, short term benefit/impact (1-5 years) on an individual or organisation.

2. Medium term

- Activities undertaken to implement legislation which, if amended, may alter the activity's areas of responsibility and focus.
- Activities which contribute significantly to the needs of the community.

3. Long term

- Activities which rely on Council's strategic assets listed in the Significance and Engagement Policy.
- Activities which rely on structures/buildings having a lifespan of at least 25 years.



Identification of Who Benefits From the Activity

Consideration of who benefits is unique for each activity. Individuals, when they obtain a consent / registration / licence / certification which allows them to undertake an activity, receive a personal benefit. Council's policy is that applicants pay the full costs associated with processing applications, once lodged.

Public benefit is gained from having access to activities provided by Council and the opportunity to be involved in the development of policies which will guide their operation.

The public benefit by having confidence in Council implementing policy and standards fairly and efficiently. Complaints are investigated and resolved.

Funding Sources

The following sources of funding are used by Council:

General Rate

General rates are used to fund activities where it is not possible to clearly identify customers or users.

The general rate is also used to fund activities where, for reasons of fairness and equity, consideration of the wider community good indicates that this is the most appropriate way to fund an activity. Differentials detailed in the Funding Impact Statement are applied to this rate. Differentials have been applied in order to maintain an equitable rating impact. Council does not charge a Uniform Annual General Charge.

Targeted Rates

Targeted rates are used where an activity benefits an easily identifiable group of ratepayers and where it is appropriate that only this group be targeted to pay for some or all of a particular service, for example, water supply. Some of these rates are set on a differential basis as detailed in the Funding Impact Statement.

Fees and Charges

These are direct charges to individuals or organisations who use certain activities such as pools and building consents.

Other Sources of Funding

Other sources of funding received by Council include dividends, interest, proceeds from asset sales, grants from external funders and income from external agencies. These are used to support an activity e.g. government assistance such as the New Zealand Transport Agency for the roading activity.

Loans and Reserves

Activities which rely on assets to provide services use reserve funds for capital renewals and improvements as well as loans. Reserves are developed and reserves and loans repaid on the same proportion as the benefits received from the activity.

While borrowing may be used from time to time, usually to give effect to the principles of intergenerational equity, the repayment and servicing of the debt is funded by rates, fees and charges and other sources. In short, the actual borrowing is a mechanism only; the revenue and financing policy applies to its repayment and servicing.

Rating Basis

Council has elected to use capital value as the basis for apportioning rates charges against the rating units where the rate is set on a value basis. This applies to both the General Rate and to targeted rates.

Major community projects such as the Additional Pool, Living Dinosaurs Experience and the Art Centre are budgeted to be partially funded by grants and subsidised by external parties.

Demand Generators

The Long-term Plan is based on assumptions which identify potential growth/demand generators. Greater detail and explanation is provided in this Long-term Plan.

Community Outcomes to Which the Activity Significantly Contributes

The Community Outcomes are identified in this policy. Greater detail and explanation is provided in the Community Outcomes section of this Long-term Plan.

Taking into consideration the costs and benefits, including consequences for transparency and accountability of funding the activity distinctly from other activities, Council had made the following determinations.

Infrastructural Services Activities				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Roading				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Public: Ability to travel effectively, efficiently and safely through the district.	Target/General rates 50-65% Fees/Charges/Other sources 0-15% NZTA funding 30-40%	Change in vehicle ownership and number of vehicle trips. Change in the industrial activity.
Sewerage				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Consent holders: Council approval to discharge trade waste into Council's sewerage network. Public: Sewage is collected, treated and appropriately disposed of.	Targeted rates 83-93% Fees/Charges/Other sources 7-17%	Change in strength and quantities of trade waste. Change in number of properties connected to sewerage networks.
Solid Waste Management				
Preserve its Character.	Long	Collection service: Waste is regularly collected and disposed of. Public: Council Transfer Stations accept solid waste for disposal.	Targeted rates 45-55% Fees/Charges/Other sources 45-55%	Change in legislation. Change in number of properties receiving the collection service. Change in total tonnage and its components.
Stormwater				



Infrastructural Services Activities continued				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Public: Stormwater is collected and discharged to prevent flooding.	Targeted rates 90-100% Fees/Charges/Other sources 0-10%	Change in legislation. Change in level of development.
Water Supply				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character	Long	Reticulated service: A safe, reliable water supply is provided. Public: Tankered water supply is available for sale. Private: Commercial users can be metered.	Targeted rates 80-90% Fees/Charges/Other sources 10-20%	Change in legislation. Change in demand for water supply.

* Funding proportions may vary within set range on an annual basis.

Regulatory Services Activity				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Building Services				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Consent holders/applicants: Council approval to build. Certification that building meets minimum standards. Public: Buildings are safe.	Targeted rates 20-30% Fees/Charges/Other sources 70-80%	Change in legislation. Change in level of development.

Regulatory Services Activity continued				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Environmental Health and Compliance				
Environmental Health				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Licence holders/applicants: Council approval to operate business within standards. Public: Business premises are clean and healthy.	Targeted rates 80-90% Fees/Charges/Other sources 10-20%	Change in legislation. Change in level of development.
Animal Services				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Short	Dog Owners: Permission to keep dogs. Ensures population of dogs remains well controlled. Impounded animals are well cared for. Public: Stray animals are controlled.	Targeted rates 5-15% Fees/Charges/Other sources 85-95%	Change in legislation. Change in level of animal ownership and welfare.
Compliance				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Short	Public: Turnover of parking in Council provided spaces. Poor parking behaviour is discouraged.	Fees/Charges/Other sources 100%	Change in legislation. Change in vehicle usage and parking behaviour.



Regulatory Services Activity continued

Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
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Resource Management and District Licensing

Resource Management

Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Consent holders / applicants: Council approval to undertake activities subject to conditions. Public: Environment is protected.	Targeted rates 85-95% Fees/Charges/Other sources 5-15%	Change in legislation. Change in level of development.
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Alcohol Licensing

Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Licence holders / applicants: Council approval for the sale of alcohol.	Targeted rates 0-10% Fees/Charges/Other sources 90-100%	Changes in legislation. Change in level of development.
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* Funding proportions may vary within set range on an annual basis.

Community Services Group of Activities

Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
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Provision of Specialised Community Services

Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Short	Public: Events and services provided for the well-being of the Community.	General rates 90-100% Other Sources 0-10%	Change in demand for specialised community services.
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Community Development

Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Public: The provision of advice and information to strengthen community empowerment.	General rates 90-100% Other Sources 0-10%	Change in community demand for service.
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Housing Care Service

Preserve its Character.	Long	Tenants: The provision of affordable housing to people with limited means.	Fees/Charges/Other sources 100%	Change in facilities within the units available for rental. Change in rental levels.
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Community Services Group of Activities continued				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Libraries and Archives				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Public: Access to quality and affordable library and archives services.	Targeted rates 90-100% Fees/Charges/Other sources 0-10%	Change in legislation. Change in services available for clients.
Parks and Reserves				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Sports clubs and organisations: Hire of grounds for sporting activities. Public: Safe, inviting and attractive parks and open spaces throughout the district. Burial and cremation services available.	Targeted rates 40-50% Uniform Charge 5-15% Fees/Charges/Other sources 35-55%	Change in demand for open space. Change in level of development.
Public Transport				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Short	Public: Access to public bus and Total Mobility services.	Targeted rates 30-40% Fees/Charges/Other sources 60-70%	Change in vehicle usage and running costs.
Pools				
Enhance our City. Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Long	Sports clubs and organisations: Hire of facilities for sporting activities. Public: Provision of aquatic facilities	Uniform Charge 10-20% Targeted rates 30-50% Fees/Charges/Other sources 40-60%	Change in services available to clients.



Community Services Group of Activities continued				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Public Toilets				
Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Public: Provision of facilities in the main retail areas and Stirling Point, Bluff.	General rates 95-100% Fees/Charges/Other sources 0-5%	Change in population and visitor numbers.

* Funding proportions may vary within set range on an annual basis.

Corporate Services Group of Activities				
Community Outcome	Period of Benefit	Who Benefits?	Funding Sources and proportion*	Demand Generators
Democratic Process				
Preserve its Character. Embrace Innovation and Change.	Medium	Public: Local decision making about local issues.	General rates 95-100% Other Sources 0-5%	Change in legislation.
Investment Property				
Enhance our City.	Medium	Public: Net income used to offset rates.	Fees/Charges/Other sources 100%	Changes in property values.

* Funding proportions may vary within set range on an annual basis.

Having considered the above, the Council was satisfied with the allocation of liability and decided not to make any adjustments under section 101(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.



INVERCARGILL COUNCIL

