

PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

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| STATUS: | City Policy - <i>A policy that is developed for administrative and operational imperatives and has an internal focus.</i> <i>Developed by the Policy Committee and/or the administration and adopted by Council.</i> |
| RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE: | Corporate Services and Resource Management |
| OBJECTIVE: | To enable flexibility and choice appropriate for the needs of the community in the payment of rates and charges established by the City, while also acknowledging individual financial circumstances and recognising the fiscal responsibility of the City in meeting the community's service expectations. |

STATEMENT:

The Council recognises that individual financial circumstances may differ across the community.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, as part of the budget adoption process, the Council will adopt a four payment option for the payment of annual rates and services charges, with payment schedules to form part of the annual budget.

In addition, as part of the budget adoption process, the Council may determine incentive options for early payment of rates and charges.

In responding to the needs of residents experiencing severe financial hardship by the ensuring that they are treated with respect, dignity, fairness, equity and confidentiality.

The level of relief applicants may receive will be based on the evidence of genuine hardship because of trauma/tragedy, level of income, reliance on Social Security, illness/disability, business failure or other factors considered relevant by the Chief Executive Officer.

The City will determine the financial contribution amount an applicant may contribute to the reduction of the debt.

If it the CEO is satisfied that the contribution will exacerbate the level of hardship then consideration may be given to writing off all or part of the late payment interest.

Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to determine alternative payment options based on individual circumstances.

Amendments: CJ213-06/99, CJ121-06/02, JSC30-08/04,
CJ206-10/05, CJ207-10/07

Related Documentation: Local Government Act 1995
Annual Budget
Delegated Authority Manual

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