

Amendments to the Revenue and Financing Policy

Long-term Plan 2015-25

ACTIVITY 3.1.5: MAJOR PROJECTS – FUNDING ENVELOPE FOR POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

The Council has a growth agenda that includes a number of major projects to support economic growth. The overall aim of these projects is to realise Wellington's economic potential by:

- Growing the local economy, making it more diverse and resilient, and less reliant on the government sector
- Building sectors of the economy where we have a competitive advantage e.g. tourism, smart economy
- Building better connections between the tertiary sector and businesses to boost the knowledge economy
- Removing barriers to growth by improving our connections to the region and to the rest of the world and by making it easier to do business in the city

This activity provides a funding envelope that would allow major projects to be implemented, should council ultimately decide to proceed with the project.

This activity makes provision for potential funding so that major projects can move to an implementation phase, but only if council is satisfied that the business case for an investment by Council justifies it.

We have a clear idea of the potential major projects that should be investigated and in broad terms we know the order of magnitude of any possible council contribution to these projects. This information has been used to establish the size of the potential funding envelope. However, Council has made no commitments to fund the implementation of any of the major projects included under the funding envelope and the final funding requirements may differ.

Such commitments will only be made following the consideration of a business case for each possible project. Each business case will include more precise estimates of the risks and cost of the project, how it would be funded (including the size and nature of any Council contribution), how it will be procured, implemented and managed and what benefits it will create. Only then will the Council be able to consider committing specific funds to a project.

In terms of transparency of future costs, if and when Council decides to commit funds to a project, that project will be given its own activity class and will be reported on separately. The remaining funding envelope will be reduced accordingly.

The major projects that could potentially be funded from the envelope are:

- Airport runway extension
- Indoor arena
- Westpac stadium upgrade

Community outcome

This activity contributes towards the following outcome:

- *People-centred City* – these projects will promote the city as an attractive place to do business and attract visitors to the city every year.

- *Connected City* - improving direct access internationally will provide local businesses with new opportunities to access large markets.
- *Dynamic Central City* – attracting visitors, investment and jobs will be critical to growing the city's economy and ensuring Wellington remains vibrant and retains its competitive advantage.

Who Benefits?

Whole community

100%

The core aim of the major projects is to drive and support economic growth. This is especially important given that many of the people we seek to attract have choices to live in or visit other cities around New Zealand and the world. It is critical Wellington remains vibrant and internationally relevant, and that people coming here have the best possible experience.

Economic growth benefits residents by providing jobs, raising incomes, providing a wider range of career choices, making the city more vibrant, prosperous and supporting a robust property market.

The major projects covered by this activity, if justified based on a future business cases, also have the potential to benefit commercial sectors, such as export education, hospitality, retail, and professional service businesses.

At this stage it is not possible to estimate how benefits of any future council investment in major projects will be distributed across the community as a whole, the commercial sectors and possibly the Government sector. This is because it is not certain which major projects will be implemented until business cases are completed and decisions are made on whether or not to proceed. It is also possible that some beneficiaries of a major project will contribute to its implementation, in which case the 'Who' benefits from the council's contribution may differ.

Who should pay?

Whole community

100%

Decisions on who should pay for the Council's contribution to each major project cannot be made at this stage. Options include use of the downtown targeted rate, the commercial sector generally, and the whole community through general rates. Who should pay depends on a range of factors such as which projects are implemented, where they are located, and what funding is provided from non-council sources. In the meantime we intend to apply a proxy/default assumption that 100% general rates funding is used.

Ultimately, as each potential project reaches the stage where the Council is completing the process of deciding to proceed to the implementation stage, part of the process will include consideration of what the particular Revenue & Financing policy should be for that specific project and in particular who should pay, based on the comprehensive information available at that stage.

Our funding targets: operating expenses

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

ACTIVITY 4.1.1: GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

The Council is the main funder of the Wellington Museums Trust, which operates the Museum of Wellington City and Sea, the City Gallery, Capital E, the Wellington Cable Car Museum and the Colonial Cottage Museum. This activity also includes Council's contribution towards a World War I commemorative museum and exhibitions and the proposed movie museum.

Community outcome

This activity contributes towards the following outcome:

- *People-centred City* – museums shape Wellington's sense of place and identity. They celebrate creativity and ideas and increase our understanding of culture and science. They tell Wellington's diverse stories and help us understand ourselves and each other.
- *Connected City* - museums provide ideas and places where people can connect, share what is common and explore what is different and new. They connect us with people, places and ideas here and abroad.
- *Dynamic Central City* – museums enhance Wellington's vibrancy as a diverse, active and eventful place attractive to visitors.

Who Benefits?

<i>Individuals</i>	70%
<i>Identifiable part of the community</i>	15%
<i>Whole community</i>	15%

The individuals who attend the exhibitions and shows at the galleries and museums clearly benefit from their attendance.

The various venues are also important attractions for visitors and residents alike. The location of these draws people into the downtown area and boosts local businesses, particularly those in the tourism, hospitality and retail sectors.

The museums and galleries funded by this activity also benefit the whole community in many ways. They help make the city vibrant and interesting, preserve its heritage, form a vital part of Wellington's image as a creative city, and are a source of civic pride. The exhibitions run by the galleries and museums also foster community identity. These benefits are felt even by people who choose not to visit the facilities.

Who should pay?

<i>Whole community</i>	75%
<i>Downtown sector</i>	25%

The Council funds the museums and galleries to encourage greater participation in the arts and because it believes that high quality cultural amenities add to a vibrant city life.

While there are clearly direct benefits to people who choose to visit the galleries and museums, the Council believes these are outweighed by the overall community benefit and the benefits that flow to the businesses in the downtown sector.

Our funding targets: operating expenses

User charges	0%
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Other revenue	0%
Targeted rate (Downtown)	25%
<u>General rate</u>	<u>75%</u>
TOTAL	100%