

**0.0 Adoption of the 2024-25 Budget**

**File Ref**

**Responsible Officer** Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer

**Reporting Officer** Bruce Mead, Executive Manager Corporate Services

**Attachments** Nil

**Voting Requirements** Absolute Majority

**Disclosure of interest** Financial Interest as salary and conditions of officers incorporated within the municipal budget.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Pursuant to the provision of Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts the budget for the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes 2024-25 financial year which includes the following:
  - a. Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature;
  - b. Statement of Cash Flows;
  - c. Statement of Financial Activity by Nature;
  - d. Index of Notes to the Budget; and
  - e. Schedule of Fees and Charges.

[Absolute Majority Required]

2. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed in the 2024/25 Annual Budget, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.34 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the differential rates and minimum payment for 2024/25 that were advertised by public notice on 1 July 2024, as follows:

| Category                                    | Rate in \$    | Minimum Payment |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| General Gross Rental Value (GRV) Properties | 11.0431 cents | \$1,195.00      |
| Mining Gross Rental Value (GRV) Properties  | 21.4750 cents | \$1,995.00      |
| Rural Unimproved Value (UV) Properties      | 0.4623 cents  | \$1,481.00      |
| Mining Unimproved Value (UV) Properties     | 6.8326 cents  | \$219.00        |

[Absolute Majority Required]

3. Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, nominates the following due dates for the payment of rates in full, and service charges by instalments:

| Payment in Full | Payment in 4 Instalments |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 4 November 2024 | 4 November 2024          |
|                 | 4 January 2025           |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | 4 March 2025 |
|  | 4 May 2025   |

4. Pursuant to Section 6.51(1) and subject to Section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

[Absolute Majority Required]

5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and charges through an instalment option and 11% upon default.

[Absolute Majority Required]

6. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through the statutory 4-instalment option of \$10.66 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

7. Approves the following incentive prizes for the early payment of rates paid in full by the due date of 4 November 2024:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$400 Community Cash Vouchers
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200 Community Cash Vouchers

8. Note that, pursuant to Section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council adopted the 2024-25 Schedule of Fees and Charges included in the Draft 2024-25 Budget, at the June 13 Special Meeting of Council.

9. Approve the following changes to the Annual Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024-25 as follows:
  - Reduce the Annual Pool and Group Fitness Memberships from \$1080 to \$925
  - Reduce the Annual Pool and Group Fitness Membership from \$702 to \$601.25
  - Creation of a new fee for Annual Group Fitness Membership (Concession & Youth) for \$509.60

[Absolute Majority Required]

10. Pursuant to Section 66 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, impose a Waste Collection & Disposal Fee in the compulsory areas as follows:
  - \$140 per annum per 120 litre or 140 litre rubbish bin (noting that a 240 litre bin is charged as two 120 litre bins); and
  - \$169 per annum per 240 litre recycling bin.

[Absolute Majority Required]

11. Pursuant to Section 67 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource recovery Act 2007*, adopts the following waste services rate and minimum payment to fund the operations of the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Landfill Site;
- GRV base rate \$0.00022682
  - UVC base rate \$0.00003193
  - Minimum payment of \$186.00 to apply to both GRV and UV rated land

[Absolute Majority Required]

12. That the Landfill Site Maintenance Rate include the concession where more than one assessment is held in identical name or names, no more than one charge will apply, except in the following situation:
- A habitable dwelling, house or commercial rented premises is situated on the additional property; or
  - The additional properties are separated by more than 10 kilometers as measured cadastrally on an appropriate map.

[Absolute Majority Required]

**IN BRIEF**

Local Governments must prepare annual budgets in the format as prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

This report is for Council to consider:

- Adopting the 2024/25 Annual Budget;
- Setting a level of reporting material variances so as to satisfy Council that the annual budget is being implemented satisfactorily;
- Setting fees for kerbside rubbish collection and kerbside recycling collection services;
- Setting the Landfill Site Maintenance Rate under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*;
- Setting due dates for payment of rates and service charges, either in full or by instalments;
- Setting interest rates for outstanding rates after the due date and for rates paid by instalments and the administrative fee for setting up an instalment plan;
- Transfer of reserve account funds;
- Transfer of trust funds; and
- Determining the prize to be provided in the 'early payment of rates' competition.

**MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

The adoption of the annual 2024/2025 budget.

**BACKGROUND**

Local Government must prepare annual budgets in the format prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes commenced the 2024-25 budget process in February 2024. The budgeting process and Council engagement were aimed at ensuring complete transparency and knowledge sharing throughout all engagements. The draft budget and Corporate Business Plan upon which it is based was presented to Council and extensively interrogated to ensure all aspects contained within each document is fully known.

The 2024/25 budget process commenced with the opening of the application process for new community grants in 2024/25 and service agreement applications for up to 3 years from 2024/25.

Feeding into the budget preparation process, Council reviewed its Corporate Business Plan with the amended Plan being adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024.

Council's Corporate Business Plan is the key informing document for the annual budget. The Corporate Business Plan is an internal business planning tool that translates Council priorities into operations within the resources available. The Plan details the services, operations and projects a local government will deliver within a defined period. It also includes the processes for delivering these.

The Corporate Business Plan contains forecasts of funding, additional operating activities/expenditure (over and above current operating activities) and capital program expenditure. The forecasts for Year 4 of the Corporate Business Plan have been fed directly into the 2024/25 budget.

At Council Concept Forums between March 2024 and July 2024 Councillors considered the following informing strategies of the draft budget:

- An annual review of the 10 Year Strategic Works Program, as developed by the Executive Manager, Infrastructure. This included a newly developed Roads Hierarchy to ensure transparency and accountability in the Roads Works Schedule.
- A review of the 5 Year Building Capital Works Plan. Year 1 of the plan is reflected in the draft 2023/24 budget. Note that since Council's review of the Plan, part of the funds for the Greenbushes Old Road Board building have been reallocated to the Visitor Centre building works.
- An annual review of the 10 Year Plant Replacement Plan. Year 1 of the plan is reflected in the draft 2023/24 budget.
- A review of the assumptions, financial strategies, Statement of Financial Activity and rating strategies contained in the Long-Term Financial Plan.
- During these meetings budget updates were also provided to Councillors, including by staff presenting various matters for informal discussion to inform the draft budget.

At the Council meeting on 27 June 2024, Council reviewed members' allowances and adopted its 2024/2025 fees and charges predominantly incorporating a 4.6% increase to discretionary fees and charges.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The annual budget identifies how funds will be sourced and allocated in the forthcoming year and allows for the imposition of rates which is a primary income stream from which services and upcoming projects may be funded.

The budget proposes the allocation of funds towards many activities, functions and projects of Council. Where required for specific projects the concept of whole-of-life accounting will be investigated and if necessary reported on to Council.

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

- 14 Effective governance and financial management.
  - 14.1 Achieve excellence in organisational performance and service delivery.
  - 14.2 Improve real and perceived value for money from Council rates.
- 15 A well informed and engaged community.
  - 15.1 Engage the community in a meaningful and timely way using appropriate communication and consultation channels.

#### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple majority other than when the requirement for an Absolute Majority is noted for specific parts of the Officer's recommendation.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

- 14 Effective governance and financial management.

#### **CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN**

All objectives and actions detailed within the Corporate Business Plan have been relevant to budget preparation because we are in the final year of that particular Plan. The preparation of the annual budget is structured around the Corporate Business Plan which is reviewed annually. Where actions within the Corporate Business Plan are identified for implementation in 2024/25 and specific funding is required, this funding has been included in the draft budget.

#### **LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The contents of the Long Term Financial Plan were a determinant in developing the 2024/25 budget.

#### **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The principles outlined in Council's Asset Management Plan and policies have been referred to when developing the budget.

#### **WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Workforce Plan is a major informing document in the development of the annual budget. However, the current Workforce Plan is due for review and so added only moderate value this year. Any additional resource requirements that are required are usually identified in the Workforce Plan are allocated in the Long-Term Financial Plan and in turn the annual budget.

#### **OTHER INTEGRATED PLANNING**

The Strategic Works Program, Plant Replacement Program and Buildings Capital Plan are major informing documents in the development of the annual budget.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Low. Risks have been assessed and mitigated against throughout the budget process.

| Measures of Likelihood |   |                            |                               |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rating                 | Description   | Frequency                  | Probability                   |
| <b>Almost Certain</b>  | The event is expected to occur in most circumstances  | More than once per year    | > 90% chance of occurring     |
| <b>Likely</b>          | The event will probably occur in most circumstances   | At least once per year     | 60% - 90% chance of occurring |
| <b>Possible</b>        | The event should occur at some time                   | At least once in 3 years   | 40% - 60% chance of occurring |
| <b>Unlikely</b>        | The event could occur at some time                    | At least once in 10 years  | 10% - 40% chance of occurring |
| <b>Rare</b>            | The event may only occur in exceptional circumstances | Less than once in 15 years | < 10% chance of occurring     |

|            |                     | Consequence     |               |               |               |                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
|            |                     | Negligible<br>1 | Minor<br>2    | Moderate<br>3 | Major<br>4    | Catastrophic<br>5 |
| Likelihood | 5<br>Almost certain | Moderate<br>5   | High<br>10    | Extreme<br>15 | Extreme<br>20 | Extreme<br>25     |
|            | 4<br>Likely         | Moderate<br>4   | High<br>8     | High<br>12    | Extreme<br>16 | Extreme<br>20     |
|            | 3<br>Possible       | Low<br>3        | Moderate<br>6 | High<br>9     | High<br>12    | Extreme<br>15     |
|            | 2<br>Unlikely       | Low<br>2        | Moderate<br>4 | Moderate<br>6 | High<br>8     | High<br>10        |
|            | 1<br>Rare           | Low<br>1        | Low<br>2      | Low<br>3      | Moderate<br>4 | Moderate<br>5     |

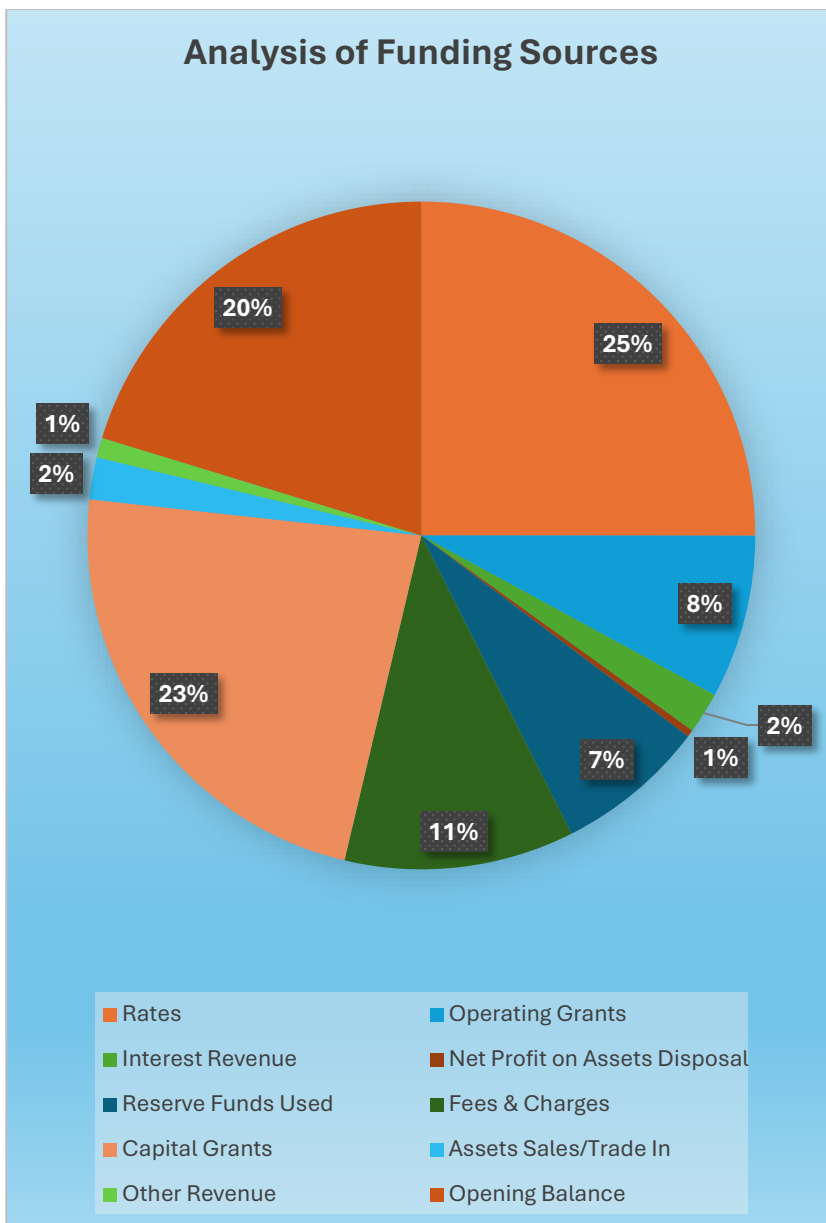
**OFFICER COMMENT**

The draft budget is a balanced budget with a 7.5% rate increase noting that some natural growth in rates will occur from revaluations associated with creation of new properties (subdivision) and development of properties.

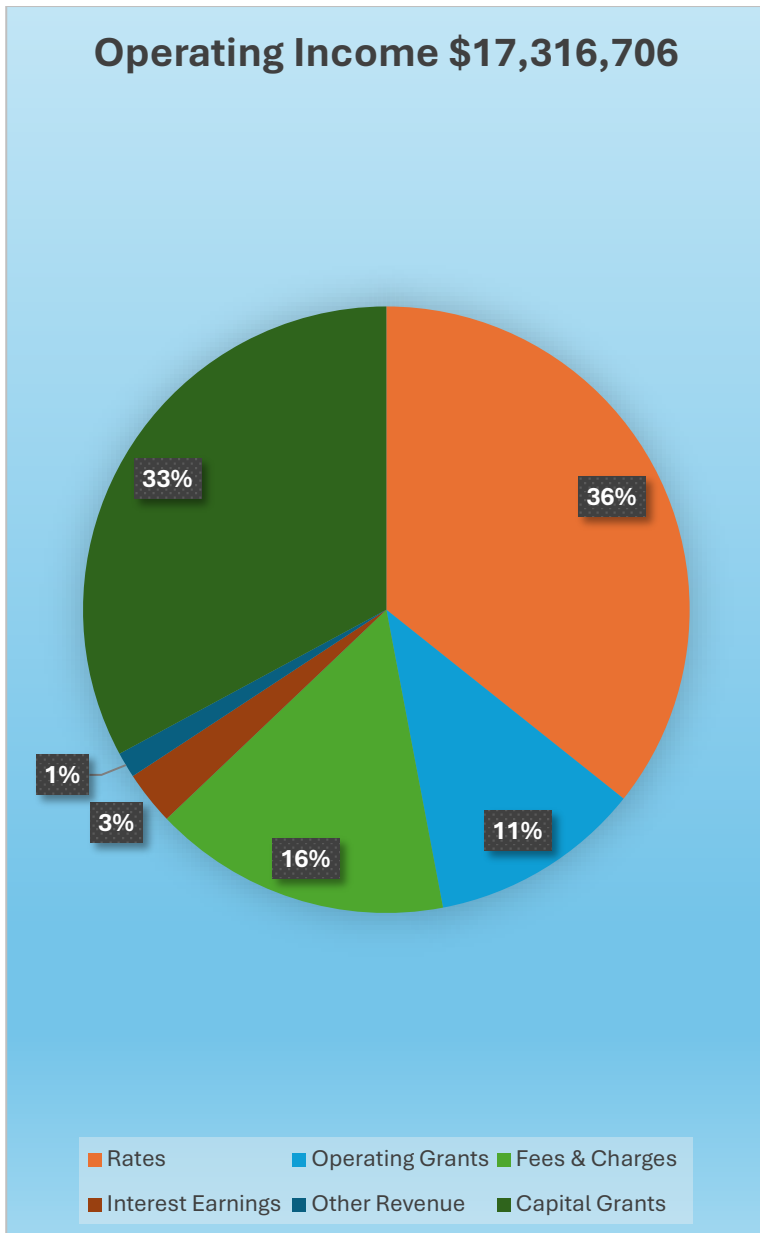
The four graphs following provide an analysis of various funding sources and expenditure areas as contained in the draft 2024/25 budget.

**Analysis of Funding Sources Pie Chart**

Rates make up 25% of budgeted revenue with operating grants 7.9%, capital grants 23%, transfers from reserve accounts 7.3% and revenue from fees and charges 11.2% also being significant funding sources.



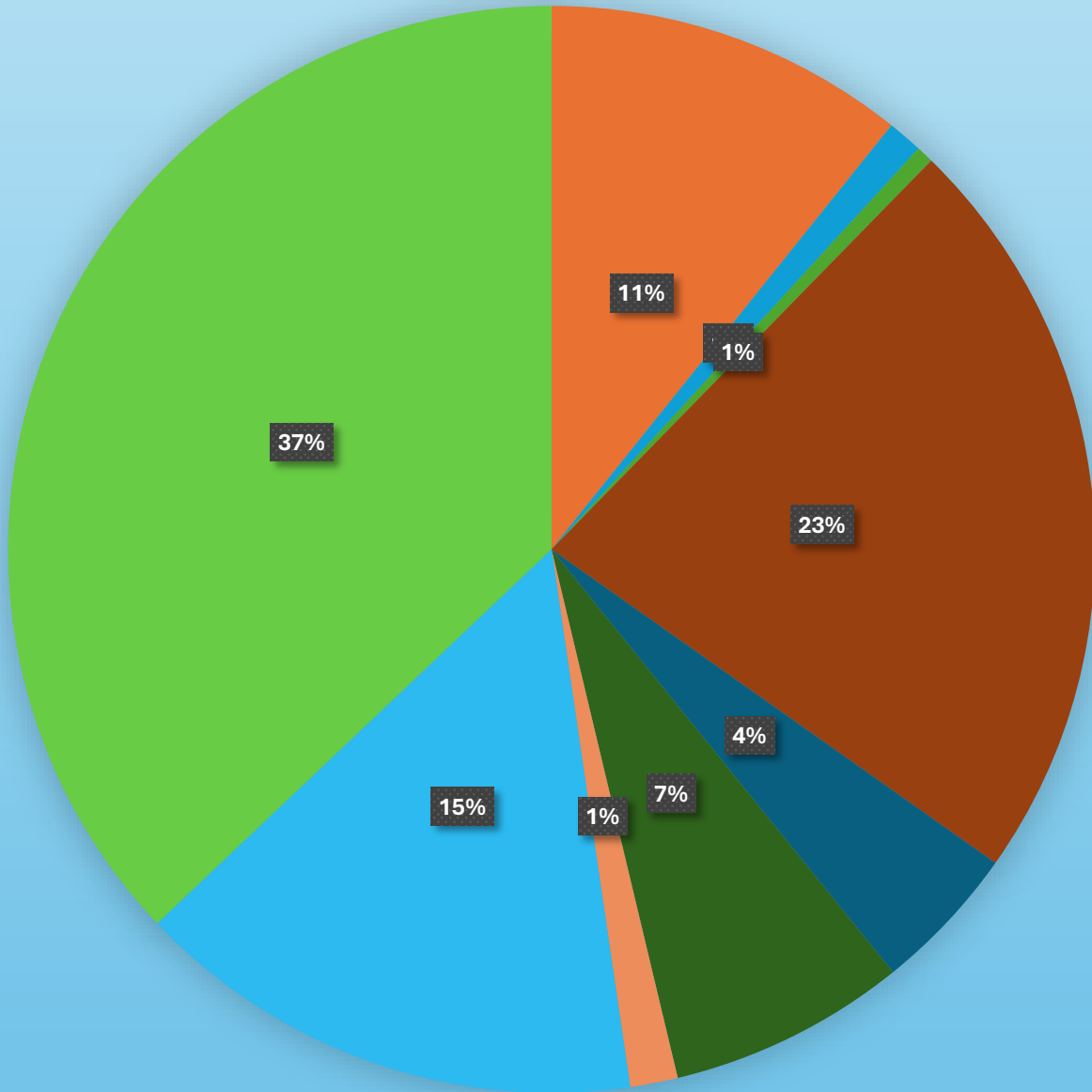
The largest expenditure areas by percentage are capital works, employee costs, depreciation (non-cash) and materials & contracts.



The graph above shows the source of operating income contained in the draft 2024/25 budget, excluding transfers from reserve accounts, borrowings and asset sales.



### Program Expenditure of Rate Revenue \$6,152,000



- Governance
- Health
- Housing
- Recreation & Culture
- Economic Services
- Law, Order & Public Safety
- Education & Welfare
- Community Amenities
- Transport

The graph above shows where the budgeted rate revenue of \$6,152,000 is to be expended with the largest program areas of expenditure being Recreation & Culture and Transport.

Set out below is a summary of funding for some of the key features of the draft budget and other related subjects.

1. 2024/25 Rates in the Dollar and Minimum Payments

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) Council was required to establish the differential rates it will advertise prior to considering and adopting the budget.

At its meeting held 25 May 2024 Council adopted, for advertising purposes, its proposed differential rates and minimum payments for the 2024/25 rating year as detailed in the table below:

| Rating Category                             | Rate in \$    | Minimum Payment |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| General Gross Rental Value (GRV) Properties | 11.0431 cents | \$1,195.00      |
| Mining Gross Rental Value (GRV) Properties  | 21.4750 cents | \$1,195.00      |
| Rural Unimproved Value (UV) Properties      | 0.4623 cents  | \$1,481.00      |
| Mining Unimproved Value (UV) Properties     | 6.8328 cents  | \$219.00        |

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act the differential rating proposal was advertised for public comment. There were no submissions received in relation to the proposed differential rates.

As required by Section 6.33(3) of the Act approval was sought from the Minister for the imposition of a differential Mining UV rate which is more than twice the lowest differential UV rate. Approval from the Minister was received 19 August 2024.

The increases in minimum payments from 2023/24 to 2024/25 are \$83.00 for GRV properties and \$103.00 for Rural UV properties, whilst for Mining UV properties the increase is only \$8.00.

2. ‘Partnering for the Future’ (Partnership with Talison Lithium Pty Ltd)

In 2023/24 the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes announced a meaningful collaboration titled ‘Partnering for the Future’ with Talison Lithium Pty Ltd, which will be ongoing in 2024/25. The main objective of this partnership is to undertake essential capital projects that will significantly improve the overall livability of our community.

This collaboration is a part of Talison’s Community Investment Program (CIP), which allows the Shire to execute projects that go beyond our typical capital works program.

The establishment of this partnership was driven by the Shire and Council, dedicating considerable time and effort to create proposals presented to Talison. The proposal encompassed projects with positive impacts on various facets of our community in Greenbushes and Bridgetown. With additional financial resources beyond our regular capital works budget, we can now achieve a multitude of objectives within a shorter timeframe.

An amount of \$2,254,000 was provided by Talison for various projects running until December 2024. \$1,027,000 has already been received for the coming year. These projects hold immense potential for enhancing the well-being and prosperity of our community.

The funded projects are:

#### FOOTPATHS & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

- Greenbushes Footpath Upgrade
- Greenbushes Jephsons Street – Landscape Plan

#### ROADS & DRAINAGE

- Greenbushes Blackwood Road Drainage Design
- Greenbushes Kerbing
- Greenbushes Local Road Sealing

#### SPORTSGROUNDS & BUILDINGS

- Greenbushes Sportsground hard courts – Complete works concluded 2023/24.
- Greenbushes Youth Precinct Stage 2
- Greenbushes Roads Board Toilets
- Bridgetown Town Hall Project
- Bridgetown Visitors Centre

#### ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

- Planning Phase - design and costings to install solar panels and batteries to make the Leisure Centre, Library and Civic Centre energy neutral equivalent.

We envision this partnership extending beyond the initial proposal, with the intention to consistently deliver further significant improvements to the lives of our community.

### 3. Other Major Projects

Arising from its Corporate Business Plan Council is planning to deliver the following major projects in 2024/25:

- Bridgetown Civic Centre Restoration/Redevelopment - upgrades to the Town Hall to make it more suitable for performing arts and cultural events and renovations to the kitchen and internal toilets.
- Reconstruction of the Shire Depot that was destroyed by the February 2022 bush fire.

The budget also contains funds to complete the planning and design processes on the next tranche of major projects to be delivered in future years. These projects and 2024/25 budget allocations are:

- Greenbushes Recreation Precinct – progress with the ongoing excision of the Dumpling Dams to become a Shire Asset (2 year process and Act of Parliament).
- Greenbushes Recreation Precinct – planning for future recreational use of the ex-Water Corporation dams at Dumpling Gully.
- Bridgetown CBD Water Restoration Project (Geegilup Brook) – Detailed design phase to become “Shovel Ready.”
- Bridgetown Light Industrial Area – Progress with a feasibility study into developing a light industrial area in the area identified near the Bridgetown Sportsground.

#### 4. Community Grants, Service Agreements and Donations

At its ordinary meeting held on 30 May 2024 Council resolved to allocate \$130,000 in the 2024/25 budget for community donations as follows:

- \$6,905 New service agreements
- \$14,712 Existing service agreements to be carried forward
- \$2,690 New community group grants
- \$16,350 New non-contestable annual community contributions
- \$30,435 Existing non-contestable annual community contributions
- \$3,000 Chief Executive Officer hall hire donations
- \$3,000 Rubbish and recycling collection for community events
- \$3,000 Rubbish and recycling collection for Shire leased facilities
- \$45,508 Landcare Officer
- \$500 South West Academy of Sport Sponsorship
- \$500 Agricultural Society School Art Prize Sponsorship
- \$1,000 Manjimup Airfield Contribution
- \$2,000 Regional Airport Marketing (Busselton)
- \$1,000 Greenbushes' Australia Day Breakfast Event
- \$400 School Awards

The \$2,690 of new community grants is made up of:

- Bridgetown Repertory Club – Signs - \$1,800
- Bushfire Museum & Heritage – Air Compressor - \$890

The \$6,905 of new service agreements is made up of:

- Bridgetown Historical Society - \$4,000
- Bridgetown Rotary - \$1,750
- Grow Greenbushes Community Gardens – Insurance - \$455
- Catterick Progress Association - \$700

Continuing service agreements and non-contestable funding allocations totalling \$44,785 are made up of:

Non-Contestable Funding:

- Bridgetown Family & Community Centre (rates & insurance) - \$8,000
- Greenbushes Playgroup (rent) - \$600
- Henri Nouwen House (administration & wages) - \$12,835
- Bridgetown Lawn Tennis Club (Easter Tournament) - \$2,000
- Rotary Club of Bridgetown Inc. (Marathon Event) - \$5,000
- Blues at Bridgetown - \$14,350
- Greenbushes CRC - Satellite Services - \$2000

Continuing Service Agreements: (\$14,712)

- The Rabbit Hole – funding towards rent and electricity - \$6,313
- Blackwood River Arts Trail – annual arts trail event - \$1,000
- Bridgetown Swimming Club – contribution towards lane hire at swimming events - \$432
- Bridgetown Bushfire Museum and Heritage Group – public liability insurance for fundraising events - \$637
- Bridgetown Ag Society – Show Entertainment - \$2,000
- Blackwood River Radio – Utilities - \$1,000
- Festival of Community Gardens – Promotion - \$1,000
- Bridgetown Festival – Promotion - \$2,000
- Bridgetown RSL – Banner Installation - \$330

5. ROAD WORKS

Separate to the works being funded by Talison under its “Partnering for the Future” partnership with the Shire, the draft budget provides for the following road construction works:

- Winnejuip Road (Regional Road Group progressive reconstruction works)
- Hester Cascades Road (reconstruct failing section)
- Steere Street and Stewart Street (Line of sight improvement at intersection)
- Hampton Street (Installation of an ACROD parking bay at front of former Westpac Bank)
- Hampton Street (Bus stop and Footpath reconstruction)
- Tweed Road (gravel sheet approx. 2.2kms length east of Carbanup Brook road intersection)
- Whittels Road (Asphalt overlay, approx. 300 metres, from Railway Terrace)
- Geegilup View (Scheduled reseal after 23/24 works)
- Eedle Terrace (Scheduled reseal after 23/24 works)
- Mount Street (Install traffic safety barrier)
- Somme Street (Turnaround improvements)
- Apex Grove (Turnaround improvements)
- Various Roads (Microsurfacing pavement treatment)
- Lakeview Crescent (Asphalt cul-de-sac- head)
- Pioneer Street (Asphalt, approx. 70 metres, from South West Highway)
- Intersection Alignments (Safety improvements to various gravel road intersections)
- Wilkins Road – (Turnaround improvements)

6. Footpaths

The budget includes \$14,040 for footpath works at the following footpath locations:

- Steere Street (approx. 25 metre section between Library and Leisure Centre)

7. Drainage

The budget provides \$10,457 for drainage works on the following location:

- Nelson Street (Install side entry pit between Allnut and Campbell Streets)

## 8. Plant and Fleet

Included in the budget are the following plant and fleet replacements:

### **Plant Items**

- Posi Track & Attachments (acquisition)
- Grader (replacement)
- Backhoe Loader (replacement)
- Small Plant Trailer (disposal)
- Tandem Truck (disposal)
- Hiab (replacement)
- Medium sized Loader (acquisition)
- Prime Mover (acquisition)
- Side Tipper Trailer (acquisition)
- Low Loader Float (replacement)

### **Light Fleet Change Overs (Excluding Bush Fire Fleet)**

- 2018 Mitsubishi Triton (replacement)
- 2018 Nissan Xtrail (replacement)
- 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander (replacement)
- 2020 Toyota Prado (replacement)
- 2020 Toyota Rav4 Hybrid (replacement)

## 9. Fire Prevention/Emergency Management

- ESL operating grant (DFES) for bush fire brigades of \$256,380.
- ESL operating grant (DFES) for the Bridgetown SES Brigade of \$24,750.
- New heavy tanker for the Yornup brigade.
- In 2023/24 construction of new fire stations at Greenbushes and Wandillup Brigades was approved with construction planned for completion in November 2024. Funds secured from DFES have been set aside to complete the buildings.
- Expenditure of \$187,950 has been approved for the upgrading of the Kangaroo Gully Fire station in 2024/25.
- The State Government's Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) has provided an allocation of \$236,800.
- Council has also budgeted \$76,548 of our own funds for bushfire mitigation on Shire controlled land.

## 10. Community Services

- Funding for seniors and access/inclusion programming via various programs, events and initiatives.
- Funding for the continuation of the summer evening outdoor film festival.
- Development of new Trails and maintenance of same.

11. Governance and Administration

- We have been advised by the WA Local Government Grants Commission that the 2024/25 Financial Assistance Grant (from the Commonwealth Government) will be \$866,888. The Shire received an advance payment of \$866,884 on 28 June 2024 leaving just \$4 for the remainder of the year. The payment received in June is contained in the carry-forward surplus from 2023/24.
- The Commission has also advised that this year's Local Roads Grant (Commonwealth Government) payment will be \$859,394 with an amount of \$780,683 being received as an advance payment in June 2024. There will be further funding of \$78,711 paid quarterly. The payment received in June is contained in the carry-forward surplus from 2023/24.
- The Regional Road Group allocation is \$262,500 for the Winnejup Rd project.
- The 2024/25 State Government direct grant for road funding is \$249,005 which is a 21.67% increase on last year's grant amount.
- The Commonwealth Government Roads to Recovery funding is \$745,703.
- \$15,000 for the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner has been allocated to manage an election if required.
- An amount of \$20,000 for new IT and software initiatives identified for customer service and process/productivity improvements.
- \$35,000 for an assessment of current IT system capabilities and recommended improvements to ensure a smooth transition to contemporary software.
- \$30,000 for a number of IT security improvements. This was an audit requirement.
- \$30,000 for the biennial community survey to inform the next full review of the Strategic Community Plan in 2024/25.
- Funding to refresh the Shire and Visitor Centre websites.
- Unexpended funds from 2022/23 for the preparation of a Local Planning Strategy and a new Town Planning Scheme have been carried forward with these projects to be progressed in 2023/24.
- Continuation as a member of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils and funding of the regional trails' website and events website (Southern Forests and Valleys Region website).
- A continuation of funding towards the operations of a sub-regional tourism marketing and promotion initiative. The Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils is funded by the member Councils.
- The total budgeted wages for 2024/25 is \$5,893,923 which is 4.67% greater than that allocated in the 2023/24 budget. The increase has been necessary to:
  - Meet the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement obligations of pay increases.
  - Reinstate a Town Planner position.
  - Ensure a full-time Environmental Health Officer position.
  - Employ casual staff to keep the Recreation Centre (including pool) open longer.
  - Employ two more people on the Works and Services Team to increase the quality and speed of road construction and maintenance.
  - Employ one more person on the Gardens Team, as we were relying on one employee to do the parks and gardens across the entire Shire.

- Employ one more person on the Maintenance Team, as we were relying on one employee to do the maintenance across the entire Shire.
- Upkeep of new facilities such as the newly renovated sports ground.

## 12. Major Building Improvements

Separate from building capital works identified in the sections above, significant building improvement works proposed in 2024/25 include:

- Year 2 of a 2 year schedule of works for upgrade of the Greenbushes Hall – \$200,000 (\$158,244 is carry forward)
- Various building renewal works at Greenbushes Golf Club - \$97,311
- Renewal works at the old visitor centre building - \$37,000
- External renewal works at Shire administration building – \$18,768
- Ceiling works at Yornup Hall – \$3,600
- Renewal works at Shire dwelling 144 Hampton Street - \$32,500
- Renewal works at Shire dwelling 146 Hampton Street - \$32,500

## 13. Waste Management

For many years Council has adopted the principle that waste management should be funded on a cost recovery basis. This means that all the expenses associated with waste management are funded by the kerbside rubbish collection charge, kerbside recycling collection charge, the landfill site maintenance rate plus other waste income such as recycling subsidies and tipping fees.

Council charges on all rateable properties a landfill rate under Section 66 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*. This section of the Act allows a local government to impose on rateable land within its district, and cause to be collected, an annual rate for the purpose of providing for the proper performance of all or any of the waste services it provides.

The annual rate must not exceed —

- 12 cents in the dollar on the gross rental value; or
- where the system of valuation on the basis of the unimproved value is adopted, 3 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of the land in fee simple.

The following rates in the dollar have been set for this charge:

- GRV - \$0.00022682
- UV - \$0.00003193

Section 6.35 of the Local Government Act and Regulation 52A of the Local Government (*Financial Management*) Regulations allow Council to have more than 50% of rateable properties on the minimum payment if the minimum is less than \$200.00. On this basis all rateable properties will be charged a minimum rate of \$186.00 with concessions for multiple properties applicable as per previous years. This minimum rate is \$1.00 less than charged in 2023/24.

Waste initiatives included in the budget include:

- Crushing of the inert waste stockpile at the waste site
- Improvements to the liquid waste infrastructure at the Bridgetown Waste Site
- A development plan is to be completed setting out the future development of the waste site



- Completion of a landfill profile and post closure landfill plan as required by DWER licence conditions
- Completion of storage tanks and bunded area at liquid waste facility

The Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service areas remain unchanged (last review was undertaken in 2015/16) and the relevant charges for households receiving these services are:

- Rubbish Collection Charge - \$140.00 (up \$9.00 from last year)
- Recycling Collection Charge - \$169.00 (up \$18 from last year)

In 2024/25 increased only in accordance with the contractor's percentage increase.

#### 14. Loans

- The Shire does not intend to undertake any new borrowings for the year ending 30 June 2025.
- As at 1 July 2024 the Shire's loan liability was \$1,542,164 and under the 2024/25 budget this liability will decrease to \$1,405,073 at 30 June 2025.

#### 15. Reserve and Trust Account Transfers

The budget proposes to transfer \$1,112,573 into reserve, including:

- \$300,000 – Plant Reserve
- \$200,000 – Land & Buildings
- \$79,573 – Maintenance and Renewal of Mine Heavy Haulage Roads
- \$60,000 – Sanitation Reserve
- \$10,000 – Black Spot Works Reserve
- \$10,000 – Bush Fire Reserve
- \$10,000 – Drainage Reserve
- \$10,000 – Matched Grants Reserve
- \$10,000 – Recreation Centre Floor & Solar Reserve
- \$10,000 – Subdivision Reserve
- \$200,000 – Strategic Projects Reserve
- \$5,000 – Community Bus Replacement Reserve
- \$5,000 – Refuse Site Post Closure
- \$5,000 – Trails Reserve
- \$15,000 – Sustainability Reserve
- \$30,000 – CCTV Infrastructure Reserve
- \$18,000 – Public Open Space Reserve
- \$10,000 – Assets & GRV Valuation
- \$125,000 – Interest on investment of funds allocated to all reserves.

In the budget an amount of \$1,793,236 is to be transferred from reserves, including:

- \$1,082,500 – Plant Reserve – transfer as per Plant Replacement Program

- \$63,325 – Sanitation Reserve
- \$103,135 – Building Maintenance Reserve – Bridgetown Railway Station Revitalization
- \$40,000 – Recreation Centre Floor
- \$130,000 – Strategic Projects Reserve – Purchase New Finance Software
- \$15,226 – Assets & GRV Valuations – Land & Buildings Assets fair values
- \$50,000 – Assets & GRV Valuations – Infrastructure Assets fair values
- \$2,500 – Trails Reserve – Somme Creek fitness trail pamphlets
- \$20,000 – Trails Reserve – Geegelup Mountain Bike Trail network planning
- \$156,550 – Light Fleet Vehicle Reserve – as per Light Fleet replacement Program
- \$100,000 – Project Management Reserve – Transfer as per Program
- \$30,000 – CCTV Infrastructure Reserve – Purchase new CCTV

#### 16. Early Payment of Rates Incentive Prizes

Once again it is proposed to offer an incentive for the early payment of rates. Property owners who pay their rates in full by the due date can lodge an entry into a draw. The draw will be conducted by the Shire President after the closing date for early payment. The prizes to be offered this year are:

- 1st Prize - \$400 Community Cash Vouchers
- 2nd Prize - \$200 Community Cash Vouchers