

Payment of Rates and Charges Policy

City Policy

Responsible Directorate: Corporate Services

Objective: To enable flexibility and choice, appropriate for the needs of the community, in the payment of rates and charges established by the City

1. Statement:

The City of Joondalup recognises that individual financial circumstances differ across the community and that, as a government organisation, it has a fiscal responsibility to meet the community's service expectations with regard to flexible options for the payment of rates and charges that it establishes.

This Policy seeks to guide Council in determining alternative payment options for rates and charges as part of the *Annual Budget* process.

2. Details:

2.1. General Payment Options:

a. In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and as part of the budget adoption process, the ~~Council-City~~ will ~~adopt-offer a four~~ instalment payment options for the payment of annual rates and services charges, with instalment payment schedules ~~prescribed to format the time part of~~ the Annual Budget is adopted each year. If an administrative charge is associated with each instalment option, this will be set annually by Council in the Schedule of Fees and Charges adopted as part of the Annual Budget.

b. Alternatives to standard instalment options comprising weekly, fortnightly or monthly special payment arrangements will be offered each year as part of the Annual Budget adoption by Council. Any associated administrative charges will be set annually by Council in the Schedule of Fees and Charges adopted as a part of the Annual Budget.

a. —

b.c. As part of the budget adoption process, the Council may also determine incentive options for early payment of rates and charges.

2.2. Financial Hardship:

- a. The City recognises its responsibility in responding to the needs of **residents ratepayers** experiencing severe financial hardship by ~~the~~ ensuring that they are treated with respect, dignity, fairness, equity and confidentiality.
- ~~b. The level of relief applicants may receive will be based on the evidence of genuine hardship because of due to 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's approach to rates financial hardship is outlined in the Rates Hardship Policy~~
- ~~c. The City will determine the financial contribution amount an applicant may contribute to the reduction of the debt.~~
- ~~d. If the Chief Executive Officer 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.~~
- ~~e. In the case of severe financial hardship, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer, the City will not impose additional charges and interest.~~
- ~~f.b. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to determine alternative payment options based on individual circumstances.~~

Creation Date: June 1999

Amendments: CJ121-06/02, JSC30-08/04, CJ206-10/05, CJ093-05/12

Related Documentation:

- *Annual Budget*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Register of Delegation of Authority*
- *Rates Hardship Policy*