



A G E N D A

OF THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

5 May 2020

6:00pm

Electronic Meeting

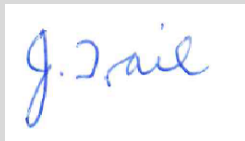
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SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Elected Member

The next Special Meeting of the Shire of Coolgardie will be held on Tuesday 5 May 2020 Electronically, commencing at {meeting-time}.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Trail". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

JAMES TRAIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DISCLAIMER

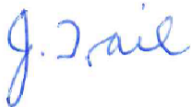
INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE:

THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA ARE OFFICERS RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE ACTED UPON UNTIL COUNCIL HAS RESOLVED TO ADOPT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY PERUSING THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONSIDERED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THEY ACT AT THEIR OWN RISK IF THEY ENACT ANY RESOLUTION PRIOR TO RECEIVING OFFICIAL WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF COUNCILS DECISION.



James Trail
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION NOTES

1. Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.
2. From time to time Council may form a Committee to examine subjects and then report to Council.
3. Generally all meetings are open to the public; however, from time to time Council will be required to deal with personal, legal and other sensitive matters. On those occasions Council will generally close that part of the meeting to the public. Every endeavour will be made to do this as the last item of business of the meeting.
4. Public Question Time. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1995 to allow at least fifteen (15) minutes for public question time following the opening and announcements at the beginning of the meeting. Should there be a series of questions the period can be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.

Written notice of each question should be given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to 12:30pm on the day of the meeting. A summary of each question and response is included in the Minutes.

When a question is not able to be answered at the Council Meeting a written answer will be provided after the necessary research has been carried out. Council staff will endeavour to provide the answers prior to the next meeting of Council.

5. **Councillors** may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter before Council. Councillors must declare an interest and the extent of the interest in the matter on the Agenda. However, the Councillor can request the meeting to declare the matter **trivial, insignificant or in common with a significant number of electors or ratepayers**. The Councillor must leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and cannot vote unless those present agree as above.

Members of staff, who have delegated authority from Council to act on certain matters, may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter on the Agenda. The member of staff must declare that interest and generally the Chairman of the meeting will advise the Officer if he/she is to leave the meeting.

6. Agendas including an Information Bulletin are delivered to Councillors within the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, i.e. seventy-two (72) hours prior to the advertised commencement of the meeting. Whilst late items are generally not considered there is provision on the Agenda for items of an urgent nature to be considered.

Should an elector wish to have a matter placed on the Agenda the relevant information should be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer in time to allow the matter to be fully researched by staff. An Agenda item including a recommendation will then be submitted to Council for consideration.

The Agenda closes the Monday week prior to the Council Meeting (i.e. ten (10) days prior to the meeting).

The Information Bulletin produced as part of the Agenda includes items of interest and information, which does not require a decision of Council.

7. Agendas for Ordinary Meetings are available in the Coolgardie and Kambalda Offices/Libraries seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the public are invited to secure a copy.
8. Agenda items submitted to Council will include a recommendation for Council consideration. Electors should not interpret and/or act on the recommendations until after they have been considered by Council. Please note the Disclaimer in the Agenda (page 3).
9. Public Question Time – Statutory Provisions – Local Government Act 1995

Time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to at:

- (a) Every ordinary meeting of a council; and
- (b) Such other meetings of councils or committees as may be prescribed

Procedures and the minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at council or committee meetings are to be in accordance with regulations.

- 9A. Question Time for the Public at Certain Meetings – s5.24 (1) (b)

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Reg 5 For the purpose of section 5.24(1)(b), the meetings at which time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to are:

- (a) every special meeting of a council; and
- (b) every meeting of a committee to which the local government has delegated a power or duty.

Minimum Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

Reg 6 (1) The minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at ordinary meetings of councils and meetings referred to in regulation 5 is fifteen (15) minutes.

- (2) Once all the questions raised by members of the public have been asked and responded to at a meeting referred to in sub regulation (1), nothing in these regulations prevents the unused part of the minimum question time period from being used for other matters.

Procedures for Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Reg 7 (1) Procedures for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6 (1) are to be determined:

- (a) by the person presiding at the meeting; or
- (b) in the case where the majority of members of the council or committee present at the meeting disagree with the person presiding, by the majority of members,

having regard to the requirements of sub regulations (2) and (3).

- (2) The time allocated to the asking and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to precede the discussion of any matter that requires a decision to be made by the council or the committee, as the case may be.
- (3) Each member of the public who wishes to ask a question at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to be given an equal and fair opportunity to ask the question and receive a response.
- (4) Nothing in sub regulation (3) requires:
 - (a) A council to answer a question that does not relate to a matter affecting the local government;
 - (b) A council at a special meeting to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting; or
 - (c) A committee to answer a question that does not relate to a function of the committee.

10. Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes (Reg 13)

A copy of the unconfirmed Minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings will be available for public inspection in the Coolgardie and Kambalda Offices/Libraries within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.

NOTE:

10.3 Unopposed Business

- (1) Upon a motion being moved and seconded, the person presiding may ask the meeting if any member opposes it.
- (2) If no member signifies opposition to the motion the person presiding may declare the motion in sub clause (1) carried without debate and without taking a vote on it,
- (3) A motion carried under sub clause (2) is to be recorded in the minutes as a unanimous decision of the Council or committee.
- (4) If a member signifies opposition to a motion the motion is to be dealt with according to this Part.
- (5) This clause does not apply to any motion or decision to revoke or change a decision which has been made at a Council or committee meeting.

QUESTION TIME FOR THE PUBLIC

(Please Write Clearly)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT:-

- **GENERAL QUESTION / QUESTION RELATED TO THE AGENDA)**
(Strike out unnecessary words)

ITEM NO: _____ PAGE NO: _____

PLEASE PASS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR REFERRAL TO THE PRESIDENT BY 12.30PM ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING AT THE KAMBALDA OFFICE, IRISH MULGA DRIVE, KAMBALDA.

SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Under the Provisions of Division 6 of Part 5 of the Local Government Act 1995, I hereby disclose a Financial Interest/s in the matter/s listed on this form, which is/are scheduled for consideration at the meeting of Council to be held on:

TUESDAY _____ 2020

Where indicated by the word 'YES' in column 6, I will be seeking a determination (under Section 5.68) by the meeting, for reasons I will expand on.

(Print Name) _____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

NOTE: Members of Council are asked to deliver this completed form to the Chief Executive Officer on the day of the Council Meeting as required by the Act. Where this is not practicable the Disclosure/s may be telephoned to the Council Office on 9080 2111 and/or the form subsequently passed to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting.

ITEM	PAGE No.	TYPE	REASON

For inclusion for interest declaration

Interests Affecting Impartiality: Disclosing Statement

"With regard to....(the matter in item)... I disclose that I have an association with the applicant. As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly."



APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

I Cr, _____ hereby request leave of absence for the following

Dates, From _____ to _____

Signed Cr: _____

Date _____

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- 1 **DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

- 2 **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - 3.1 ***Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60A***

 - 3.2 ***Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60B***

 - 3.3 ***Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Administration Regulation 34C***

- 4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 5 **APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 6 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

7 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7.1 Chief Executive Officer

7.1.1 Budget Amendments 2019/20

Location:	Shire Coolgardie
Applicant:	Nil
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	1 May 2020
Author:	Chief Executive Officer, James Trail

Summary:

This report recommends that Council endorse amendments to the adopted 2019-2020 Budget as detailed in the officer recommendation

Background:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 24th March 2020 Council Resolved;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: # 45/20

Moved: Councillor, T Keast

Seconded: Councillor, K Lindup

That Council;

- 1. Note that the intended purposes of the funding in relation to mitigating the effects of CV-19 include but not limited to;**
 - Additional unbudgeted employee costs, including, potentially the need to recruit additional permanent or temporary/casual employees to undertake additional functions, to cover for current employees on extended sick leave or carer's leave due to COVID19**
 - Additional insurance expenditure due to COVID-19**
 - Additional equipment costs to ensure the Shire can respond to a variety of issues and scenarios**
 - Potential need to support ongoing community services, functions and facilities**
 - Stockpiling larger quantities of goods than normally would be required**
 - Provision of generators and fuel tanks for operations**
 - Provision of additional funding to ST JOHN's for integrated medical services**
- 2. Make the following allocations from the respective reserves to the COVID-19 Reserve for the purpose of meeting any emergency expenditure associated with COVID-19;**
 - Land & Building Reserve \$150,000**

- **Plant Reserve \$150,000**
 - **Landfill Reserve \$150,000**
 - **Community & Recreation Reserve \$100,000**
 - **Aerodrome Reserve \$100,000**
 - **Infrastructure Renewal Reserve \$100,000**
3. **In accordance with section 6.11 of the Local Government Act 1995 gives one month's public notice of the intention to change the purpose of the IT & Communications Reserve to COVID-19 Reserve to quarantine these funds to meet any costs associated with COVID-19.**
 4. **Any funds, unused in 2. above be returned to the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Account at an appropriate time;**
 5. **That the CEO prepare a Report for Council consideration in April 2020 recommending a procedure for determining what funds are to be applied to CV-19 mitigation purposes, and how. Such procedures should address what delegations the CEO may need and what roles Council will have in determining such matters.**
 6. **That the CEO advise the Shire's Auditor of this decision and actions to be taken**

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 7-0

Comment:

In accordance with Council Resolution #45/20 and section 6.11 of the Local Government Act 1995 gives one month's public notice of the intention to change the purpose of the IT & Communications Reserve to COVID-19 Reserve to quarantine these funds to meet any costs associated with COVID-19.

One submission was received during the advertising period (see attached). The context of the submission was that due to the lack of detail, logical reasons and Purpose for the COVID-19 Reserve the submission was against the transfer of funds and establishment of the Reserve Account.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in additional operating costs for the Shire of Coolgardie. These have been largely to do with;

- Additional unbudgeted employee costs to cover for current employees on extended sick leave, annual leave, additional work hours due to COVID19
- Additional equipment costs to ensure the Shire can respond to a variety of issues and scenarios
- Additional costs to the Coolgardie Sewerage system due to numerous additional items being disposed of through the sewerage system
- Governance and Compliance costs to meet the statutory requirements of the regulation amendments by the State Government
- Potential need to support ongoing and extensive cleaning of community facilities
- Stockpiling larger quantities of goods than normally would be required
- Planning to bring forward capital and infrastructure projects in order to stimulate the Shire economy
- Increased communication costs associated with the media and community

While it is difficult to estimate what further additional costs are likely to be incurred in the coming months, it is obvious that there will be additional costs associated with providing regular updates to staff and the community. It is also highly probable that there will also be additional capital costs associated with addressing the impact COVID-19 has on maintaining and improving many of the Shire's infrastructure facilities.

At the time of Council making their decision at the March 2020 Ordinary Meeting, changing the purpose of a reserve account or using reserve funds for another purpose required at least one month under section 6.11 of the Local Government Act 1995. As such advertising commenced on the 28th March 2020 with submission invited up until 4pm Thursday 30th April 2020.

It should be noted that during the period of advertising legislation was changed to exempt local governments from having to advertise proposals to change the purpose of reserves where a state of emergency had been declared. This change is reflected in Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and came into effect in April 2020.

Effectively this means that Council would have been within their rights to approve the change of purpose of reserve funds as per Council Resolution #45/20 without inviting public comment. This was not the case, with the period for public submissions remaining open until 4pm Thursday 30th April 2020 as originally advertised.

A total of \$750,000 will be transferred from a number of existing reserve accounts into a newly created COVID-19 Reserve Account. Any unused funds as at 30 June 2020 will be transferred back into the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve. Any further allocations required for COVID-19 will be considered during the preparation of the 2020/21 Annual Budget.

The following amendments are proposed and recommended to Council;

RS005 Refuse Site Infrastructure (\$230,000) Provision for purchase and installation of weighbridge Coolgardie Tip Site
723000 Landfill Reserve \$230,000 Transfer funds for Weighbridge purchase
722000 Land & Building Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
721000 Plant Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
723000 Landfill Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
729000 Community & Recreation Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
735000 Aerodrome Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
750000 Infrastructure Renewal Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
736000 COVID-19 Reserve \$750,000 – Transfer from Reserve Accounts
070700 Capital Costs COVID-19 (\$100,000) Provision for capital costs associated with COVID-19
070710 Operating Costs COVID-19 (\$650,000) Provision of operating costs associated with COVID-19
736000 COVID-19 Reserve \$750,000 – Transfer funds for operating and capital costs COVID-19
RS005 Refuse Site Infrastructure (60,000) Provision for conceptual design and technical specifications for Coolgardie Tip Site
750000 Infrastructure Renewal Reserve \$60,000 – Transfer funds for conceptual design and technical specifications for Coolgardie Tip Site
S0415-520 Consultancy Governance \$90,000 – Asset Management Plan and Strategy including asset assessment of Shire Buildings, Footpaths and Drainage
A0480-520 Consultants Administration (\$20,000) – Reduction in costs
130635-520 Migrants Expenses (\$20,000) – Reduction in costs Migrants
130635-500 Migrants Expenses (\$10,000) – Reduction in costs Migrants
130680-500 Economic Development (\$20,000) – Reduction in costs Economic Development
130680-520 Economic Development (\$20,000) – Reduction in costs Economic Development
111100-500 Community Development (\$40,000) – Reduction in costs Community Development
070700-702 Capital Costs COVID-19 (\$10,000) – Reduction in capital costs associated with COVID-19
S0415-520 Consultancy Governance \$50,000 – Expenditure for Economic Stimulus Strategy

Attachments:

Nil

Consultation:

Shire Staff

All Councilors

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.4

6.11. Reserve accounts

- (1) Subject to subsection (5), where a local government wishes to set aside money for use for a purpose in a future financial year, it is to establish and maintain a reserve account for each such purpose.
 - (2) Subject to subsection (3), before a local government —
 - (a) changes* the purpose of a reserve account; or
 - (b) uses* the money in a reserve account for another purpose,it must give one month's local public notice of the proposed change of purpose or proposed use.
- * *Absolute majority required.*
- (3) A local government is not required to give local public notice under subsection (2) —
 - (a) where the change of purpose or of proposed use of money has been disclosed in the annual budget of the local government for that financial year; or
 - (b) in such other circumstances as are prescribed.
 - (4) A change of purpose of, or use of money in, a reserve account is to be disclosed in the annual financial report for the year in which the change occurs.
 - (5) Regulations may prescribe the circumstances and the manner in which a local government may set aside money for use for a purpose in a future financial year without the requirement to establish and maintain a reserve account.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Section 34

17. Reserve accounts, title of etc.

- (1) A reserve account is to have a title that clearly identifies the purpose for which the money in the account is set aside.
- (2) In the accounts, annual budget and financial reports of the local government a reserve account is to be referred to —
 - (a) in the information required by regulations 27(g) and 38, by its full title; and
 - (b) otherwise, by its full title or by an abbreviation of that title.

[Regulation 17 amended: Gazette 20 Jun 1997 p. 2839.]

18. When local public notice not required for change of use of money in reserve account (Act s. 6.11(3)(b))

A local government is not required to give local public notice of a proposed change of use of money in a reserve account —

- (a) where the money is to be used to meet expenditure authorised by the mayor or president under section 6.8(1)(c); or
- (b) where the total amount to be so used does not exceed \$5 000 in a financial year.

34. Financial activity statement required each month (Act s. 6.4)

(1A) In this regulation —

committed assets means revenue unspent but set aside under the annual budget for a specific purpose.

- (1) A local government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d), for that month in the following detail —
 - (a) annual budget estimates, taking into account any expenditure incurred for an additional purpose under section 6.8(1)(b) or (c); and
 - (b) budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates; and
 - (c) actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates; and
 - (d) material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c); and
 - (e) the net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.
 - (2) Each statement of financial activity is to be accompanied by documents containing —
 - (a) an explanation of the composition of the net current assets of the month to which the statement relates, less committed assets and restricted assets; and
 - (b) an explanation of each of the material variances referred to in sub regulation (1)(d); and
 - (c) such other supporting information as is considered relevant by the local government.
 - (3) The information in a statement of financial activity may be shown —
 - (a) according to nature and type classification; or
 - (b) by program; or
 - (c) by business unit.
 - (4) A statement of financial activity, and the accompanying documents referred to in sub regulation (2), are to be —
 - (a) Presented at an ordinary meeting of the council within 2 months after the end of the month to which the statement relates; and
 - (b) Recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented.
 - (5) Each financial year, a local government is to adopt a percentage or value, calculated in accordance with the AAS, to be used in statements of financial activity for reporting material variances.

New Amendments to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 due to State of Emergency;

Reg 18 A local government is not required to give local public notice of a proposed change of use of money in a reserve account —

(c) where each of the following conditions is satisfied —

- (i) a decision to change the use of the money is made while there is in force a state of emergency declaration applying to the district, or part of the district, of the local government;**
- (ii) the local government considers that the change of use is required to address a need arising from the hazard, or from the impact or consequences of the hazard, to which the state of emergency declaration relates;**
- (iii) the decision and the reasons for it are recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the decision is made.**

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

The financial implications of these budget amendments and reserve transfers have been explained in the body of the report. Any proposed amendments have been made to bring the budget in line with the current financial position and impacts of COVID-19.

Strategic Implications:

Accountable and Effective Leaders

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability
High quality corporate governance, accountability and compliance

Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council,

1. Resolve to create a new COVID-19 Reserve (GL Account 736000) for the purpose of meeting any emergency expenditure associated with COVID-19
2. Endorse the following transfers from the reserve accounts below into the COVID-19 Reserve (GL Account 736000);
 - GL 721000 Plant Reserve \$150,000
 - GL 722000 Land & Building Reserve \$150,000
 - GL 723000 Landfill Reserve \$150,000
 - GL 729000 Community & Recreation Reserve \$100,000
 - GL 735000 Aerodrome Reserve \$100,000
 - GL 750000 Infrastructure Renewal Reserve \$100,000
3. Endorse any unspent funds as at 30 June 2020 to be transferred from the COVID-19 Reserve (GL 736000) back into the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve (GL 750000)
4. Note the submission received on the intention to change the purpose of the IT & Communications Reserve to COVID-19 Reserve to quarantine these funds to meet any costs associated with COVID-19
5. Endorse the amendments to the adopted 2019-2020 Budget as detailed below;
 - RS005 Refuse Site Infrastructure (\$230,000) Provision for purchase and installation of weighbridge Coolgardie Tip Site
 - 723000 Landfill Reserve \$230,000 Transfer funds for Weighbridge purchase
 - 722000 Land & Building Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 721000 Plant Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 723000 Landfill Reserve (\$150,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 729000 Community & Recreation Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 735000 Aerodrome Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 750000 Infrastructure Renewal Reserve (\$100,000) Transfer to COVID-19 Reserve
 - 736000 COVID-19 Reserve \$750,000 – Transfer from Reserve Accounts
 - 070700 Capital Costs COVID-19 (\$100,000) Provision for capital costs associated with COVID-19
 - 070710 Operating Costs COVID-19 (\$650,000) Provision of operating costs associated with COVID-19

736000 COVID-19 Reserve \$750,000 – Transfer funds for operating and capital costs COVID-19

RS005 Refuse Site Infrastructure **(60,000)** Provision for conceptual design and technical specifications for Coolgardie Tip Site

750000 Infrastructure Renewal Reserve \$60,000 – Transfer funds for conceptual design and technical specifications for Coolgardie Tip Site

S0415-520 Consultancy Governance \$90,000 – Asset Management Plan and Strategy including asset assessment of Shire Buildings, Footpaths and Drainage

A0480-520 Consultants Administration **(\$20,000)** – Reduction in costs

130635-520 Migrants Expenses **(\$20,000)** – Reduction in costs Migrants

130635-500 Migrants Expenses **(\$10,000)** – Reduction in costs Migrants

130680-500 Economic Development **(\$20,000)** – Reduction in costs Economic Development

130680-520 Economic Development **(\$20,000)** – Reduction in costs Economic Development

111100-500 Community Development **(\$40,000)** – Reduction in costs Community Development

070700-702 Capital Costs COVID-19 **(\$10,000)** – Reduction in capital costs associated with COVID-19

S0415-520 Consultancy Governance \$50,000 – Expenditure for Economic Stimulus Strategy

6. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make the required budget amendments within the chart of accounts

7.1.2 Differential Rates 2020/21

Location:	Shire Coolgardie
Applicant:	Nil
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	1 May 2020
Author:	Chief Executive Officer, James Trail

Summary:

This report recommends that Council commence the process for differential rating and provide public notice of a proposed specified area rate to be applied during the 2020/21 financial year.

Background:

The rating system imposed under the Local Government Act 1995 (the "Act") is primarily based on two types of property valuations, Unimproved Value (UV) and Gross Rental Value (GRV).

The Unimproved Value of land is its market value under normal sales conditions assuming that no structural improvements have been made. Land within the Perth Metropolitan Region and town sites through Western Australia is assessed on the "site value" basis which included merged improvements with examples including draining, filling, excavation, grading and retaining walls. Each year, the Valuer General determines the unimproved values of all land in the State.

GRV means the gross annual rental that the land might reasonably be expected to realise if let on a tenancy from year to year upon condition that the landlord is liable for all rates, taxes and other charges thereon and the insurance and other outgoings necessary to maintain the value of the land.

As a rule of thumb in non-metropolitan Councils, properties located within a town site, whether developed or not, are rated on a GRV basis while rural properties are rated on a UV Basis. Mining Tenements generally fall under the UV valuation system.

Differential Rating is when different classes of land within the same valuation methodology are rated at different levels, i.e. as in this proposal, when mining tenements and rural agricultural lands are both rated within the UV Methodology but at differing cents in the dollar. It is a requirement under section 6.36 of the Act that a local government is to give local public notice of its intention to apply a differential rate category before the differential rate is imposed. It should be noted that if the highest cent in the dollar rate imposed is **more than double** the lowest, there is a requirement that Ministerial approval is sought.

Comment:

Differential Rating

It is intended to recommend again differentially rating assessments within the UV categories as was the case in 2019/20. Current differential rates are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table1

Differential Rates 2019/20		
Rate Category	Minimum Payment	Rate in the \$
Unimproved Value		
Pastoral	\$684	0.11051
Mining/Other	\$437	0.22044

In 2019 the differential rates model above raised \$5,489,163.

The change proposed for 2020/21 is to introduce new differential rates within the GRV Categories;

- Commercial
- General Industry, Light Industry, Industrial Area, Light Industrial Area
- Strategic Industry
- Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation

The proposed differential rates for 2020/21 are listed in table 2 below:

Table 2

Proposed Differential Rates 2020/21			
Rate Category	Proposed Minimum Payment	Proposed Rate in the Dollar	Change in Average Rate
Gross Rental Value	\$	\$	%
Residential	708.00	0.076110	0%
Commercial	708.00	0.076110	0%
General Industry, Light Industry, Industrial Area, Light Industrial Area	708.00	0.076110	0%
Strategic Industry	708.00	0.076110	0%
Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation	708.00	0.076110	0%
Unimproved Value			
Pastoral	684.00	0.110510	0%
Mining/Other	437.00	0.220440	0%

Based on current rating information, the proposed differential rates model would raise \$7,195,490 million in rates in the 2020/21 financial year.

Council must consider the services it has historically provided and determine whether the services and the level of service should continue into the next financial year.

The differential between mining and rural/pastoral recognised an anomaly in valuations that occurred some time ago. The valuation of rural values is set at a state-wide level and it is believed is not a true reflection of the value of rural properties in this Shire. The adoption of a lesser rate for the rural/pastoral properties is aimed at addressing this inequity.

A concession for "Bona fide" prospectors has been offered previously for those holding a Department of Transport certificate and has been afforded on mining leases rated as UV Mining. The concession was introduced following consultation with the community at a series of stakeholder meetings. Council have the ability to grant this, or other concessions when adopting the Annual Budget (or should they choose to at a later date) by way of absolute majority as per section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995.

The statement of **Rates Objectives and Reasons 2020/21** details Council's rationale for the setting of rates and is attached for Council information and comment.

Attachments:

1. Statement of Objectives and Reasons 2020-21 [7.1.2.1 - 9 pages]

Consultation:

The proposed differential rates together with the objects and reasons for each rate must be advertised for a minimum period of 21 days, no earlier than 1 May 2020.

This period of advertising allows ratepayers to consider the proposed rates and make any submissions for Council's consideration prior to resolving the final differential rates as part of the budget approval process. The advertising process does not prevent Council from amending the rate model at Budget adoption.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

6.32. Rates and service charges

- (1) When adopting the annual budget, a local government —
 - (a) in order to make up the budget deficiency, is to impose* a general rate on rateable land within its district, which rate may be imposed either —
 - (i) uniformly; or
 - (ii) differentially;and
 - (b) may impose* on rateable land within its district —
 - (i) a specified area rate; or
 - (ii) a minimum payment;and
 - (c) may impose* a service charge on land within its district.

* *Absolute majority required.*

6.33. Differential general rates

- (1) A local government may impose differential general rates according to any, or a combination, of the following characteristics —
 - (a) the purpose for which the land is zoned, whether or not under a local planning scheme or improvement scheme in force under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*; or

- (b) a purpose for which the land is held or used as determined by the local government; or
 - (c) whether or not the land is vacant land; or
 - (d) any other characteristic or combination of characteristics prescribed.
- (2) Regulations may —
- (a) specify the characteristics under subsection (1) which a local government is to use; or
 - (b) limit the characteristics under subsection (1) which a local government is permitted to use.
- (3) In imposing a differential general rate, a local government is not to, without the approval of the Minister, impose a differential general rate which is more than twice the lowest differential general rate imposed by it.
- 6.36. Local government to give notice of certain rates
- (1) Before imposing any differential general rates or a minimum payment applying to a differential rate category under section 6.35(6)(c) a local government is to give local public notice of its intention to do so.
- (2) A local government is required to ensure that a notice referred to in subsection (1) is published in sufficient time to allow compliance with the requirements specified in this section and section 6.2(1).
- (3) A notice referred to in subsection (1) —
- (a) may be published within the period of 2 months preceding the commencement of the financial year to which the proposed rates are to apply on the basis of the local government's estimate of the budget deficiency; and
 - (b) is to contain —
 - (i) details of each rate or minimum payment the local government intends to impose; and
 - (ii) an invitation for submissions to be made by an elector or a ratepayer in respect of the proposed rate or minimum payment and any related matters within 21 days (or such longer period as is specified in the notice) of the notice; and
 - (iii) any further information in relation to the matters specified in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) which may be prescribed;
 - and
 - (c) is to advise electors and ratepayers of the time and place where a document describing the objects of, and reasons for, each proposed rate and minimum payment may be inspected.
- (4) The local government is required to consider any submissions received before imposing the proposed rate or minimum payment with or without modification.

In addition to giving public notice and inviting submissions regarding the proposed differential rates, s6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that a local government is not to, without the approval of the Minister, impose a differential general rate which is more than twice the lowest differential rate.

6.47. Concessions

Subject to the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992*, a local government may at the time of imposing a rate or service charge or at a later date resolve to waive* a rate or service charge or resolve to grant other concessions in relation to a rate or service charge.

* *Absolute majority required.*

Policy Implications:

In accordance with the Department of Local Government Rating Policy – Differential Rates, Council must demonstrate that consideration has been given to the key values of Objectivity, Fairness and Equity, Consistency, Transparency and Administrative Efficiency.

The following indicates how these values are satisfied by the proposed differential rates:

Objectivity:

- The land on which differential general rates is proposed has been rated according to Zoning and Land Use. No land is proposed for differential general rates based on being vacant land.
- There has been no change to the boundaries of the District in the past five years.

Fairness and Equity:

- The objects of imposing differential rates and reasons for each rate are set out in the attached document that will be publicly available from 7 May 2020.
- These objects and reasons clearly explain why each differential general rate is proposed to be imposed.
- The objects and reasons clearly explain why it is proposed to set the differential general rate at that particular rate.
- As there are fewer than 4 ratepayers in the Transient Workforce Accommodation/Workforce Accommodation differential rating categories, each of these ratepayers will be individually informed in writing of the Department's Rating Policy, Council's Objects and Reasons, the differential general rate proposed that will apply to the ratepayer's property and the previous year's differential general rate for comparison. The closing date for submissions on the proposal will be at least 21 days after this information is provided.
- All submissions from ratepayers will be presented to Council for consideration at a later meeting and the minutes of this meeting, including the responses to ratepayer submissions, will be provided to the Department and the Minister.

Consistency:

- All properties with the same land use characteristics have been rated in the same way, with the exception of vacant land which has been rated based on zoning.
- The proposed differential rates align with the principles of the rating strategy in the Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan, however they differ in application given the 2.3% increase forecast for 2020/21 in the proposed Long Term Financial Plan.
- Average rates per property across all differential rating categories are estimated to remain the same given that the Shire has proposed a 0% increase in the rate in the \$.

Transparency and Administrative Efficiency:

- A document has been prepared clearly describing the object of and reason for each differential general rate. This will be made publicly available from 8 May 2020.
- Public notice will be exhibited on a notice board at Council's offices and at each recreation centre (where possible) within the district from 8 May 2020. This public notice will also be published in state wide and local newspapers from 8 May 2020.
- The public notice will detail each differential general rate to be imposed, advise ratepayers where to obtain a copy of the objects and reasons, invite submissions from ratepayers on the proposed differential general rates and advise the closing date for submissions of 30 May 2020.
- After the closing date for submissions, each submission received will be presented to Council for consideration prior to resolving to make application to the Minister for approval of the proposed differential general rates.

Financial Implications:

The decision to impose differential and specified area rating will have a direct impact on the rates revenue generated in any financial year.

Table 3 provides a comparison of the proposed rates yield compared to 2019/20:

Proposed Differential Rates 2020/21						
Table 3 Rate Type	Differential Rates Categories	2019/20 Rate Yield \$	2019/20 Rate Yield %	Proposed Rate Yield \$	Proposed Rate Yield %	Increase/Decrease %
GRV	Residential	1,360,451	18.91%	1,360,451	18.91%	0.00%
GRV	Commercial	206,958	2.88%	206,958	2.88%	0.00%
GRV	General Industry, Light Industry, Industrial Area, Light Industrial Area	73,084	1.02%	73,084	1.02%	0.00%
GRV	Strategic Industry	0	0%	0	0%	0.00%
GRV	Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation	65,835	0.91%	65,835	0.91%	0.00%
UV	Pastoral	134,984	1.88%	134,984	1.88%	0.00%
UV	Mining/Other	5,354,179	74.41%	5,354,179	74.41%	0.00%
Total		7,195,490	100.00%	7,195,490	100.00%	0.00%

Leaving the current rate in the dollar unchanged will mean no estimated increases for all ratepayers. The UV Valuations for Mining and Pastoral have yet to be received by the Shire. If there is a change in valuations this may impact on whether ratepayers with unimproved valuations have an increase or decrease in their rates if the minimum rate and rate in the \$ stay the same as 2019/20.

Officers are not recommending Council consider a reduction in the rate in the \$ or the minimum rate

Strategic Implications:**Accountable and Effective Leaders**

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability
Ensuring the Shire of Coolgardie is well positioned to meet future needs
High quality corporate governance, accountability and compliance

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to

1. Endorse the Rates Objectives and Reasons for Differential Rates
2. Consider any submissions received for Council during the 2020/21 Annual Budget process; and
3. Advertise and Invite submissions regarding the following proposed differential rates in 2020/21 which reflect no increase in the 2019/20 rates; and

Proposed Differential Rates 2020/21			
GRV/UV	Differential Rate Categories	Proposed Minimum Rate	Proposed Rate in \$
GRV	Residential	708.00	0.076110
GRV	Commercial	708.00	0.076110
GRV	General Industry, Light Industry, Industrial Area, Light Industrial Area	708.00	0.076110
GRV	Strategic Industry	708.00	0.076110
GRV	Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation	708.00	0.076110
UV	Pastoral	684.00	0.110510
UV	Mining/Other	437.00	0.220440

7.1.3 Habrok (Geko Pit) PL - Haulage Campaign

Location:	Shire Coolgardie
Applicant:	Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	1 May 2020
Author:	Chief Executive Officer, James Trail

Summary:

That Council,

1. Note that the upgrade work on the junction of Jaurdi Hills and Sand Pit road has been completed in accordance with the specification approved by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a complying and safe junction for both heavy and light vehicles.
2. In accordance with Policy 044 Haulage Campaigns, endorse the request from Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd to not pay a maintenance contribution of 0.04 cents per tonne per km of \$445,280 (inc gst) on the basis that the haulage route will be maintained consisting of watering to ensure dust suppression and road surface maintenance will be ongoing with Rivet engaging the MLG group to complete the road maintenance

Background:

Council considered a request from Habrok (Geko Pit) PL for a haulage campaign at the March 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council. At the meeting Council resolved;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: # 41/20

Moved: Councillor, T Rathbone

Seconded: Councillor, E Winter

That Council, In accordance with Policy 044 Haulage Campaigns, endorse the proposal from Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd to use Jaurdi Hills, Coolgardie North and Carins Roads for a haulage campaign comprising of 1,100,000 tonnes on the basis that;

1. **The junction of Jaurdi Hills and Sand Pit road is realigned in accordance with specification approved by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a complying and safe junction for both heavy and light vehicles.**
2. **A road audit every 3 months is undertaken by Shire staff with Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd and Rivet Mining Services.**
3. **The haulage route will continue to be maintained consisting of ongoing watering to ensure dust is suppressed and the road surface is maintained**
4. **A Maintenance Contribution at {resolution}.04 per tonne per km at 1,100,000 tonnes over 9.2km, \$445,280 (inc GST) and attributed to Account/Job #11202750 (Limited Cartage Campaign).**

5. A Capital Contribution at {resolution}.07 per tonne per km at 1,100,000 tonnes over 7.67km, \$649,649 (inc GST) and attributed to Account/Job #11202750 (Limited Cartage Campaign).
6. Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd pay a 25% of contribution prior to campaign starting.
7. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to issue CA07 Letters of Approvals for a period of 3 months once 25% payment received and cleared in the Shire bank account
8. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to issue CA07 Letters of Approvals for the period of the campaign in accordance with (5) above.

CARRIED ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 7/0

Comment:

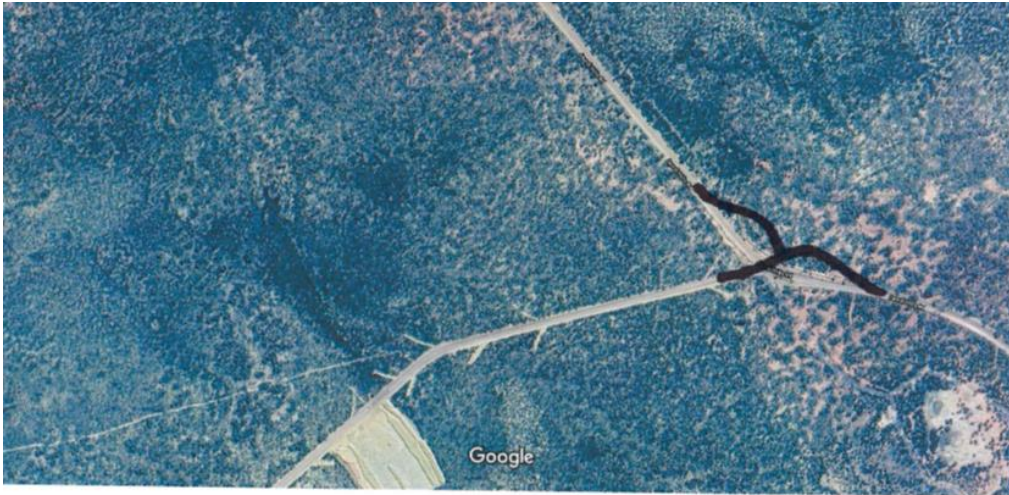
In regards to the works for the junction of the Sand Pit Road and Jaurdi Hills Road the following points and specifications were agreed on site;

- The Shire of Coolgardie (SoC) will supply the required road delineators for installation by RMS
- Soc will supply appropriate signage for the intersection for RMS to install
- The intersection is constructed as surveyed and marked on site
- Finished road surface levels are to be higher than current road levels
- A minimum of 300mm base coarse to any new road construction
- A minimum of 150mm sheeting to any new road construction
- Any new construction is to be blended to original road surface levels
- Traffic management will be in place during the entire construction period
- RMS are to notify all other heavy haulage users of the roadway and inform users and the SoC of timeframes and expected commencement/completion dates
- Weekly inspection is carried out by a SoC appointed officer
- The completion of the intersection to signed as acceptable by a Soc appointed officer at their sole discretion
- All costs for construction and materials (excluding signage and delineators) are to be covered by RMS

At the time of writing this report the works had been completed and an inspection done by the Manger Technical Services and Director Operations. During the period the works have been undertaken the Shire has discussed the campaign with Rivet and SMS Mining. Habrok have written to the Shire confirming that the haulage route will be maintained consisting of watering to ensure dust suppression and road surface maintenance will be ongoing with Rivet engaging the MLG group to complete the road maintenance.

Consequently they have requested that Council reconsider the requirement to pay a maintenance contribution of 0.04 cents per tonne per km at 1,100,000 tonnes over 9.2km, \$445,280 (inc GST). It would be consistent with Council Policy 44 Haulage Campaigns for this maintenance contribution to not be a requirement given the route will be maintained by the proponent during the campaign

All haulage activities undertaken will be in accordance with Council Policy #044 which applies to haulage campaigns within the Shire of Coolgardie. All haulage campaigns should be read in conjunction with the Shire's Policy #045 (Heavy Vehicles Conditions for use of Shire Roads). The purpose of both policies aims to ensure safe use on Shire roads by long term haulage campaign users.



Attachments:

Consultation:

Andrew Peters – Rivet Mining Services
Peter Sims – Rivet Mining Services
Shire Staff

Statutory Environment:

Road Traffic Act 1974 Section 85
Local Government Act 1995, Section 3.5

Policy Implications:

Policy #044 - Haulage Campaigns
Policy #045 - Heavy Vehicles Conditions for use on Shire Roads

Financial Implications:

Contribution to Capital Works on Coolgardie North Road and Carins Roads, Coolgardie. Any contribution received will be placed in the road construction reserve account for use on the relevant road infrastructure.

Strategic Implications:

Accountable and Effective Leaders

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability

High quality corporate governance, accountability and compliance

Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council,

1. Note that the upgrade work on the junction of Jaurdi Hills and Sand Pit road has been completed in accordance with the specification approved by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a complying and safe junction for both heavy and light vehicles.

- 2. In accordance with Policy 044 Haulage Campaigns, endorse the request from Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd to not pay a maintenance contribution of 0.04 cents per tonne per km of \$445,280 (inc gst) on the basis that the haulage route will be maintained consisting of watering to ensure dust suppression and road surface maintenance will be ongoing with Rivet engaging the MLG group to complete the road maintenance.**
- 3. In accordance with Policy 044 Haulage Campaigns, endorse the proposal from Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd to use Jaurdi Hills, Coolgardie North and Carins Roads for a haulage campaign comprising of 1,100,000 tonnes on the basis of a Capital Contribution of 0.07 per tonne per km at 1,100,000 tonnes over 7.67km, \$649,649 (inc GST) attributed to Account/Job #11202750 (Limited Cartage Campaign).**
- 4. Habrok (Geko Pit) Pty Ltd pay a 25% of contribution prior to campaign starting.**
- 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to issue CA07 Letters of Approvals for a period of 3 months once 25% payment received and cleared in the Shire bank account**

7.1.4 Financial Hardship Policy

Location:	Shire Coolgardie
Applicant:	Nil
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	1 May 2020
Author:	Chief Executive Officer, James Trail

Summary:

That Council by ABSOLUTE Majority pursuant to Section 3.18 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. ADOPT the following Business Support Initiatives:
 - a. Rate/Fee Freeze: Commit to a 0% increases to Council rates and a 0% increase on existing Shire fees and charges in 2020/21;
2. Adopt Council Policy 64 Financial Hardship as attached

Background:

As well as posing significant health risks, COVID-19 has and will continue to have a major impact on businesses and the economy. The Shire of Coolgardie understands the concern businesses have regarding employee retention, revenue, health and safety matters as well as the ability to plan for further disruptions to trade.

There are extensive assistance packages being made available through State and Federal Governments, Financial Institutions, Business Support Agencies, Utility Providers and Industry. The assistance offerings are rapidly changing and a summary of what is available at the time of writing this report is provided as follows:

Federal Government of Australia

- Cash flow assistance for businesses provides \$25,000 back to small and medium-sized businesses, with a minimum payment of \$10,000 for eligible businesses. The payment will provide cash flow support to businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million that employ staff. The payment will be tax free;
- Eligible small businesses that withhold income tax from employee salaries and wages and pay it to the Australian Taxation Office can receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of the amount withheld, up to a maximum payment of \$50,000, and can be applied for twice. A minimum payment of \$10,000 may be available to businesses that pay wages but are not required to pay tax;
- Businesses employing apprentices/trainees may be eligible for a wage subsidy of 50% of the wage paid from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020;
- The instant write-off threshold for assets has been increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000;
- A time-limited investment incentive to support business investment and economic growth in the short term by accelerating depreciation deductions;
- A wide range of support available through the Australian Taxation Office;

- Two \$750 payments to approximately 6.5 million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and concession card holders;
- Eligible sole traders will be granted access to the job seeker allowance which includes an additional supplement of \$550 per fortnight for the next six months;
- Sole traders are allowed to have early access to superannuation capped at \$10,000 this financial year, and further applied next financial year – tax free;
- Not-for-profits and small businesses with a turnover under \$50M will receive a tax-free cash payment of \$20,000 - \$100,000 to retain staff and continue to operate;
- Threshold at which a creditor can take action against a small business has been increased from \$2,000 to \$20,000 and the response rate has been increased from 21 days to 6 months; and
- Lending guarantees of to 50% for new unsecured loans to be used for working capital up to \$250,000 up to 3 years with the initial 6 month period deferred.

State Government of Western Australia

- Small business grants of \$17,500 with a payroll of \$1M- \$4M;
- The \$1M payroll tax threshold brought forward by six months to July 2020;
- Businesses can apply to defer payment of payroll tax until 21 July 2020; and
- Policies developed to prevent eviction of small businesses and ease pressure on commercial tenants.

Industry

- BHP has established a \$50M Vital Resources Fund to support regional communities; and
- Banks and Financial Institutions are promoting financial offerings in conjunction with the Federal Government's assistance package, including suspending interest repayments, access to additional credit and decrease on loan rates.

Utilities

- Increased data available through most telephone and internet providers;
- Most utility providers are not charging overdue fees and are not suspending services for bills that become overdue; and
- The Water Corporation has put a freeze on increases to household fees and charges.

There are a range of support services available to businesses including how to manage staff, marketing and mental health. The Australia Competition and Consumer Commission provides resources to combat scammers to support small businesses.

Local Government Involvement in Economic Stimulus

In addition to what is currently being made available by other levels of government, it has been suggested/recommended that a local government driven stimulus package that is more specifically tailored to the local business community may be appropriate. Councillors discussed this concept and indicated that it was supportive of establishing initiatives that supported residents, ratepayers, community organisations and local businesses.

While there is a high level of support for the development of a local business stimulus package, there are some key issues that should be considered prior to initiating any package including:

COVID-19 impact on Shire Revenues:

While the Shire is in a strong financial position, COVID-19 will have a significant impact on the Shire's short/medium term financial position. Revenues from many areas are projected to fall significantly including:

- Waste revenues will fall as industry activity declines;
- Fee revenue from facilities has dropped;
- Application fee revenue has dropped;
- Rate collection revenue is projected to be slower; and
- Timely of debtor payments is likely to be slower impacting on Shire cash flows.

Timing of Stimulus Package:

While it is universally acknowledged that Local Governments should and will provide support for local small businesses, there is considerable differences in the strategies that are being suggested/proposed by Local Governments. Based on feedback from WALGA, discussions with RCAWA members and discussions with other Local Government CEO's it seems that while there is significant interest in supporting local businesses, most WA Local governments are currently primarily focussed on supporting and managing their own operations. Some organisations are actively saving money (rather than spending more) with the expressed objectives of ensuring long term financial viability/stability and/or ensuring that there is ample funding available for substantial recovery related activities post-pandemic.

Impact:

While any and all support will be appreciated, the Shire's resources are finite and are dwarfed by the resources that the State and Federal Government have to respond to this crisis. While the Shire can support local businesses, it is unrealistic to think that the Shire's resources/stimulus will have a significant impact on the overall operations of the local small business community.

Fairness/Equity:

The COVID-19 crisis is still unfolding and the scale and magnitude of the local economic impact is still far from known. While there is an eagerness to help, the Shire needs to be fair and equitable in its approach and needs to ensure that it is not undertaking unnecessary 'knee-jerk' actions.

Comment:

Like the rest of the world, small business and the community within the Shire of Coolgardie is in chaos with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Shire has a role to play in supporting ratepayers, community groups and local businesses through this difficult time.

Officers will continue to monitor and report to Council on the status and effectiveness of any initiatives Council chooses to adopt to combat COVID-19 and present adjustments and revisions as required.

Attachments:

1. Financial Hardship Policy 64 [7.1.4.1 - 4 pages]

Consultation:

Council
Shire Staff
WALGA
CEO's

Statutory Environment:

There are no statutory implications

Policy Implications:

Policy Number 64 Financial Hardship Policy. To give effect to our commitment to support the whole community to meet the unprecedented challenges arising from the COVID19 pandemic, the Shire Coolgardie recognises that these challenges will result in financial hardship for our ratepayers.

This Policy is intended to ensure that we offer fair, equitable, consistent and dignified support to ratepayers suffering hardship, while treating all members of the community with respect and understanding at this difficult time.

Financial Implications:

It is estimated in 2020/21 the financial impact of the Policy will be somewhere between \$280,000 and \$400,000 on cashflow in regard to non - collection of rates

Strategic Implications:**Accountable and Effective Leaders**

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability
High quality corporate governance, accountability and compliance

Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council by ABSOLUTE Majority pursuant to Section 3.18 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

- 1. ADOPT the following Business Support Initiatives:**
 - a) Commit to a 0% increase to Council minimum rates and rate in the \$ and a 0% increase on existing Shire fees and charges in 2020/21;**
- 2. Adopt Council Policy 64 Financial Hardship as attached**

7.2 *Technical Services*

Nil

7.3 *Recreation and Community Services*

Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING