



ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN SUMMARY 2020-21



FROM THE CEO

Your Council provides a range of programs, services and events, as outlined in the 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget. In developing the business plan and budget each year, we consider the cost and value of services and programs and place a significant focus on sound management of resources.

This year, the financial challenges to provide programs and services to our community have been greater than ever due to the unforeseen effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our economy.

In the current circumstances, and mindful of the impact COVID-19 is having on our community, Council's decision was that it would seek no increase in rates revenue, except for an allowance for growth in the assessment book. At the same time, Council also made decisions to provide assistance with the management of the impact of COVID-19.

These decisions will see a reduction in our operating surplus for the coming year. Although we'll have less flexibility in the budget, we will be careful with our spending. This means no borrowing, with the imperative to maintain current services within existing financial resources in order to deliver great outcomes for our community.

High priority activities for 2020/21 include completion of enhancements to recreational spaces at Goodwood and Unley Ovals and flood mitigation works in the Brown Hill

Keswick Creek catchment, including improvements to Wilberforce Walk. Further stages of our Walking and Cycling Plan are also being completed to create a better connected, safer city to commute through.

In our environmental initiatives, funds have been allocated in line with Council's Tree Strategy to accelerate our tree planting program for a cooler, greener city. This work will be supported with a survey of significant trees, installing water wells for street trees and by planting more green verges.

We're also developing a Climate Energy Plan which will help Council make decisions on reducing our energy emissions over the next ten years. In 2021, The City of Unley also marks 150 years since its establishment, and we are considering the planning of suitable community celebrations to mark the sesquicentenary.

We hope to host other popular community events as we've done in the past, showcasing Unley in our relationship with the Tour Down Under, with plans for a stage start. Provision for some events has been made in the 2020/21 budget but uncertainty remains about whether they will proceed because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The full impact of COVID-19 is impossible to predict because it's unknown how long the economy will take to recover. Unley's past prudent financial management places us well to manage through these difficult times, and be responsive to the needs of our community. Despite our conservative approach this year, we are poised to deliver a range of projects and initiatives designed to support the ongoing sustainability of our community.

Peter Tsokas
Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision
"Our City is recognised for its enviable lifestyle, environment, business strength and civic leadership."

The City of Unley's Annual Business Plan and Budget 2020/21 outlines the services, programs, and activities we plan to provide over the next 12 months.

The objectives and key initiatives outlined in the plan are guided by our vision and goals set out in our Community Plan 2033 and Long Term Financial Plan. **A full version of the Plan is available on the Council website.**



CORE SERVICES



\$466k
Upgrading our reserves/parks



\$2.3m
Roads, Kerb & Water Table



\$940k
Drains and stormwater

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In addition to Council's responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council provides a wide range of services and programs in response to community needs. These include:

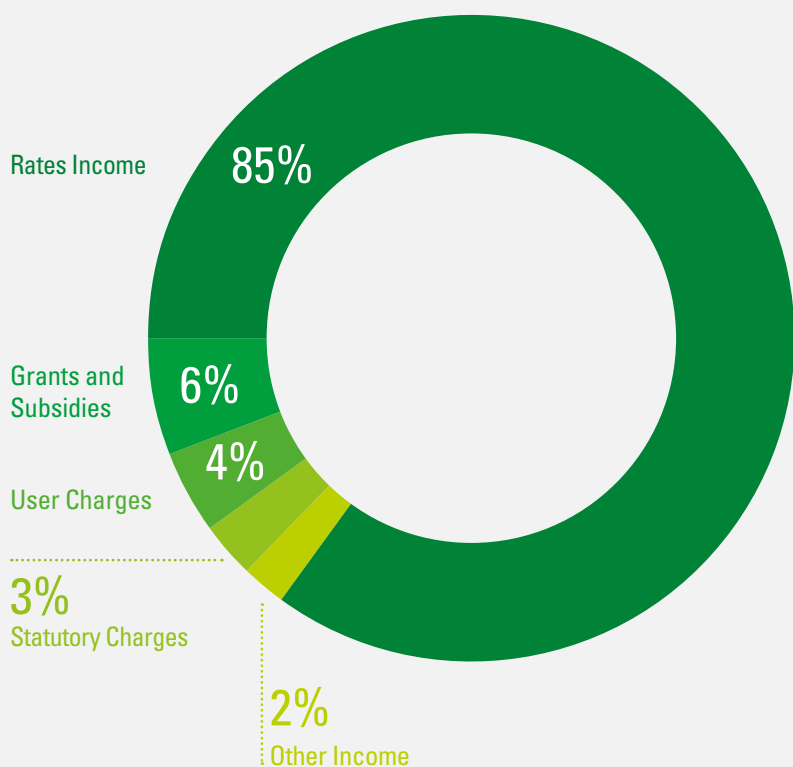
- Aged and Social Care
- Economic Development
- Animal Management
- Urban Policy and Planning
- Library Services
- Community Development
- Sustainable Landscapes
- Parking Control
- Community Centres
- Museum
- Sport and Recreation and
- Youth Development.

RATE SCHEDULE

Rates are Council's main source of income required to deliver services and maintain the infrastructure required by our community.

	LAST YEAR 2019-20	THIS YEAR 2020-21
Minimum rate	\$850	\$855
Residential rate in \$	0.002411	0.002420
Commercial office/other rate in \$	0.005705	0.005736
Commercial shop / industry / primary production / vacant / other rate in \$	0.004820	0.004845

INCOME SOURCES OF REVENUE





KEY INITIATIVES
Investing in our community

Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project Contribution

\$1.2m

Local Road Construction/Improvement

\$463k

Local Area Traffic Management Implementation

\$215k

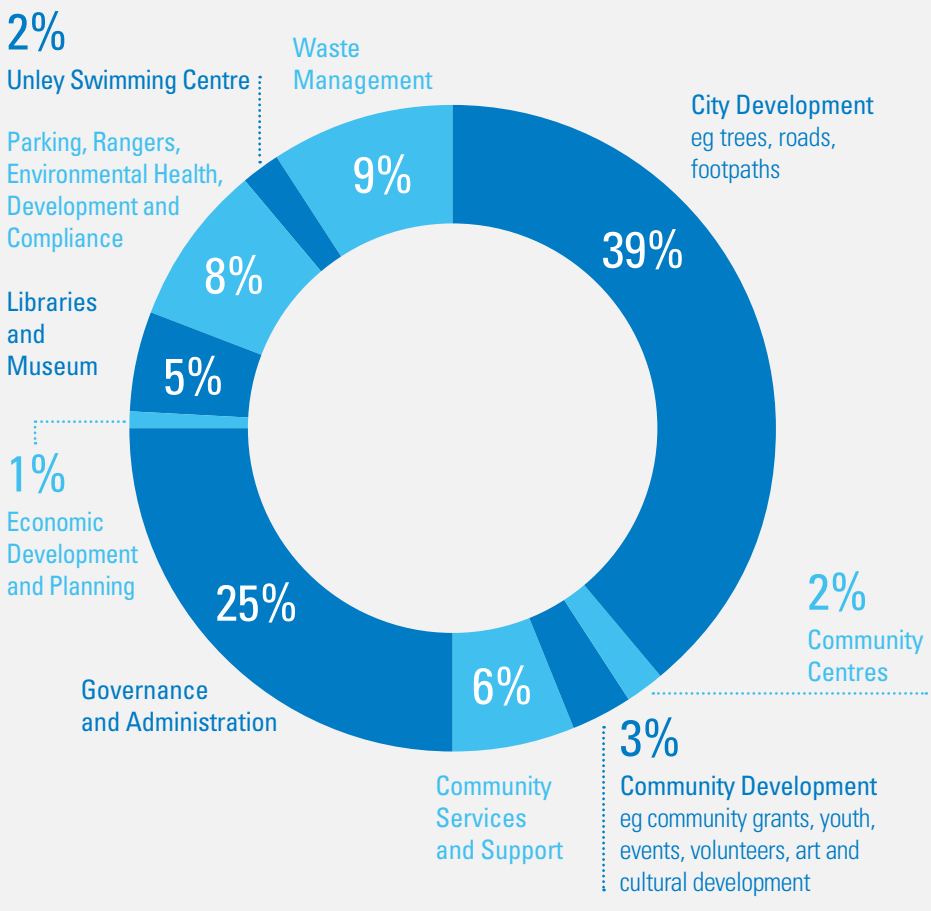
Edmund Avenue Cottages design

\$180k

Community Events

\$268k

EXPENDITURE HOW REVENUE IS SPENT



HOW THE PLAN AND BUDGET IS DEVELOPED

The Annual Business Plan and Budget has been endorsed by Council.

Each year, prior to development, City of Unley staff review services to:

- predict the community's demand in the upcoming financial year;
- determine the most cost effective and efficient method of delivery; and
- establish any additional services that may be required o meet the goals outlined in the Community Plan 2033.

A number of workshops with Elected Members were held during the budgeting process. Information showing the cost of services and projects was presented for consideration and discussion.

Residents were encouraged to participate in developing the Annual Business Plan by providing feedback on the draft online, at public Zoom meetings or by written submission.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

On 27 July 2020, Council adopted the Budget for the 2020-21 financial year.

This year's budget has allocated \$47.7 million to continuing the existing level of services with an additional \$673k for new operating initiatives. The budget also includes \$10.3 million for replacement and new infrastructure.

To fund the Council's expenditure requirements, income has been budgeted at \$49.7 million.

The following key financial indicators demonstrate the City of Unley's financial sustainability:

- all operating expenses are fully funded;
- net financial liabilities (in broad terms borrowings) as a percentage of operating income is within a manageable range; and
- capital expenditure for replacement and upgrade of assets is below target this year but subject to review in 2021-22.

HOW RATES ARE DETERMINED

In setting the rates for the financial year, Council considered the unpredictable current economic climate, specific issues faced by the community, the impact of rates on the community and its Community Plan, which determines:

- what services will be provided;
- what works will be undertaken; and
- how community assets will be managed.

The cost of providing services, undertaking works, projects and managing community assets is then determined and the

amount of income that is to be received from grants and subsidies is estimated.

The amount of income from grants and subsidies is subtracted from the estimated expenditure.

The remaining balance is the amount that will need to be collected through rates.

For the majority, individual property rates are calculated by multiplying the property's capital valuation (as determined by the South Australian Valuer-General), by a rate in the dollar.

Council considers that rates based on the capital value of the property provide the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers.

At the City of Unley, we have a minimum rate, which ensures all ratepayers contribute towards the provision of basic services at a reasonable level. In 2020-21, the minimum will increase from \$850 to \$855 per annum.

IMPACT ON RATEPAYERS

In recognition of the financial difficulties imposed by COVID-19 Council has elected not to increase general rates, other than for valuation growth, in 2020-21. For a residential property of average value, this equates to an increase in general rates of approximately \$10 for the 2020-21 year. Rate increases may vary from the average where there has been new development, capital improvements or other significant change to the value of the property.

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE LEVY

(Formerly the Natural Resources Management Levy)

The Regional Landscape Levy is a State tax, which Council is obliged, by virtue of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, to impose and collect. The proceeds are paid to the Green Adelaide Board.

The Council will collect \$1.41 million in the 2020-21 financial year.

For specific information about how this levy is used please contact the Green Adelaide Board by phoning 8463 3855 or viewing the website at landscape.sa.gov.au

SEPARATE RATE

A separate rate is levied against certain commercial properties along Unley, King William, Goodwood, Fullarton and Glen Osmond Roads.

The Council has determined to raise a separate rate, for the purposes of promotion of the business and traders located along major shopping strips.

Council has capped the amount that any main street precinct separate ratepayer pays at \$2,000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Valuer-General
Valuation queries and
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Ph 1300 653 346

Green Adelaide Board
Ph 8463 3855

