

ADDRESSING COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE – SUMMARY

In summary, if Council is to achieve a sustainable financial position, and thus to have the resources to deliver those objectives of the Community Strategic Plan for which it has historically considered to be its responsibility, \$8M in additional funding is required.

Options Council has available to raise these funds include:

- Productivity improvements (changing the way services are delivered)
- New revenue opportunities (e.g. commercialisation of council services)
- Reductions in current levels of service delivery
- Additional Rate income

None of these options will, in isolation, solve Council's sustainability challenge satisfactorily. Rather, it is anticipated that a combination of these options will be required, with some level of Special Rate Variation being very difficult to avoid.

In order to formulate a revised, sustainable, Resourcing Strategy from 2014/15 there are two fundamental questions that are sometimes referred to as encompassing the "right debate" about service delivery:

- What are our service delivery priorities?
- What are we willing to pay to enable these to be delivered?

It is essential that the community is engaged in this discussion.

The next two sections discuss, firstly, the work undertaken by Council staff to date in preparation for this community engagement, and then the broad principles that will inform the community engagement program regarding the "right debate".