

Glossary of Terms

Act	Local Government Act 1989.
Accounting standards	Accounting standards are issued from time to time by the professional accounting bodies and are applicable to the preparation of general purpose financial reports.
Adjusted underlying revenue	The adjusted underlying revenue means total income other than non-recurrent grants used to fund the capital expenditure, non-monetary asset contributions and contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than grants and non-monetary contributions.
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	<p>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Schedule 3.</p> <p>The adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure. It is a measure of financial sustainability of the City which can be masked in the net surplus (or deficit) by capital-related items.</p>
Annual budget	<p>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Schedule 3.</p> <p>Plan under section 127 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other sources required.</p>
Annual report	The annual report prepared by the City under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act. The annual report to the community contains a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements.
Annual reporting requirements	Annual reporting requirements include the financial reporting requirements of the Act, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
Asset expansion	Expenditure that extends the capacity of an existing asset to provide benefits to new users at the same standard as is provided to existing beneficiaries.
Asset renewal	<p>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5.</p> <p>Expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to original capability.</p>
Asset upgrade	<p>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5.</p> <p>Expenditure which enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service or expenditure that will increase the life of the asset beyond its original life.</p>
Borrowing strategy	<p>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5.</p> <p>A borrowing strategy is the process by which the City's current external funding requirements can be identified, existing funding arrangements managed and future requirements monitored.</p>

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Balance sheet	<p>The balance sheet shows the expected net current asset, net non-current asset and net asset positions in the forthcoming year compared to the forecast actual in the current year.</p> <p>The balance sheet should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 - Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.</p>
Budget preparation requirement	<p>Under the Act, a Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.</p>
Capital expenditure	<p>Capital expenditure is relatively large (material) expenditure that produces economic benefits expected to last for more than 12 months. A pre determined 'threshold' may be used which indicates the level of expenditure deemed to be material in accordance with Council's policy. Capital expenditure includes renewal, expansion and upgrade. Where capital projects involve a combination of renewal, expansion and upgrade expenditures, the total project cost needs to be allocated accordingly.</p>
Capital works program	<p>A detailed list of capital works expenditure that will be undertaken during the 2019-2020 financial year. Regulation 10 requires that the budget contains a detailed list of capital works expenditure and sets out how that information is to be disclosed by reference to asset categories, asset expenditure type and funding sources.</p>
Carry forward capital works	<p>Carry forward capital works are those that are incomplete in the current budget year due to unavoidable delays and will be completed in the following budget year.</p>
Community plan / vision	<p>A "community owned" document or process which identifies the long term needs and aspirations of the City, and the medium and short term goals and objectives which are framed within the long term plan.</p>
Comprehensive income statement	<p>The comprehensive income statement shows the expected operating result in the forthcoming year compared to the forecast actual result in the current year. The income statement should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.</p>
Council plan	<p>Means a Council Plan prepared by the City under section 125 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>. This document sets out the strategic objectives of the City and strategies for achieving the objectives as part of the overall strategic planning framework required by the Act.</p>
Current year rate increase (Rating information)	<p>A statement included in the budget quantifying the amount of the rate change for the forthcoming year and disclosing any significant factors influencing the rate change.</p>
Differential rates	<p>When the City intends to declare a differential rate (e.g. business and residential), information prescribed by the Act under section 161 must be disclosed in the Annual Budget.</p>

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Discretionary reserves	Discretionary reserves are funds earmarked by the City for various purposes. Councils can by resolution, change the purpose of these reserves.
Financial sustainability	A key outcome of the strategic resource plan. Longer term planning is essential to ensuring that a council remains financially sustainable in the long term.
Financing activities	Financing activities means those activities which relate to changing the size and composition of the financial structure of the entity, including equity, and borrowings not falling within the definition of cash.
Infrastructure	Non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land.
Infrastructure strategy	An infrastructure strategy is the process by which the Council's current infrastructure and ongoing maintenance requirements can be identified, budgeted capital works implemented and future developments monitored. The key objective of an infrastructure strategy is to maintain or preserve the City's existing assets at desired condition levels. If sufficient funds are not allocated to asset preservation then the City's investment in those assets will reduce, along with the capacity to deliver services to the community.
Investing activities	Investing activities means those activities which relate to acquisition and disposal of non-current assets, including property, plant and equipment and other productive assets, and investments not falling within the definition of cash.
Legislative framework	The Act, Regulations and other laws and statutes which set the City's governance, planning and reporting requirements.
Local Government model financial report	Local Government Model Financial Report published by the Department from time to time including on the Department's Internet website.
Local Government (Planning And Reporting) Regulations 2014	Regulations, made under section 243 of the Act prescribe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the content and preparation of the financial statements of a council.(b) the performance indicators and measures to be included in a budget, revised budget and annual report of a council.(c) the information to be included in a Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, budget, revised budget and annual report.(d) Other matters required to be prescribed under Parts 6 and 7 of the Act.
New asset expenditure	Expenditure that creates a new asset that provides a service that does not currently exist.
Non financial resources	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5. Resources of a non financial nature (such as human resources, information systems and processes, asset management systems) that are consumed by an organisation in the achievement of its strategic resource plan goals.

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Non-recurrent grant	A grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by the City's Strategic Resource Plan.
Operating activities	Operating activities means those activities that relate to the provision of goods and services.
Operating expenditure	Operating expenditure is defined as consumptions or losses of future economic benefits, in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities; and that result in a decrease in equity during the reporting period.
Operating performance (<i>impact of current year on 2017-2018 budget</i>)	This statement shows the expected operating result as compared to the budget result in the current year separating operating and capital components of revenue and expenditure.
Operating revenue	Operating revenue is defined as inflows or other enhancements, or savings in outflows of future economic benefits, in the form of increases in assets or reductions in liabilities; and that result in an increase in equity during the reporting period.
Own-source revenue	Adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants).
Performance statement	A performance statement must be included in the annual report of a Council and include the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the annual report.
Rate cap	The maximum annual rate of increase that councils can apply to their rates revenue, as advised by the Minister for Local Government under Section 185D of the Local Government Act 1989.
Rating strategy	A rating strategy is the process by which the Council's rate structure is established and how the total income generated through rates and charges is allocated across properties in the municipality. Decisions regarding the quantum of rate levels and increases from year to year are made as part of Council's Budget financial planning processes and with consideration of Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for its community.
Recurrent grant	A grant other than a non-recurrent grant.
Regulations	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.
Restricted cash	Cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of AAS, that are not available for use other than a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year.
Revised budget	Section 128 of the Act permits a Council to prepare a revised budget if circumstances arise which cause a material change in the budget and which affects the financial operations and position of the Council.

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Road Management Act 2004	The purpose of this Act which came into operation from 1 July 2004 is to reform the law relating to road management in Victoria and to make relating amendments to certain Acts, including the Local Government Act 1989.
Services, initiatives and major initiatives	<p>Section 127 of the Act requires a budget to contain a description of the services and initiatives to be funded by the budget, along with a statement as to how they will contribute to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan.</p> <p>The budget must also include major initiatives, being initiatives identified by the Council as priorities to be undertaken during the financial year.</p> <p>The services delivered by Council means assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community.</p> <p>Initiatives means actions that are once-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in service.</p> <p>Major initiatives means significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council plan during the current year and have a major focus in the budget.</p>
Statement of capital works	The statement of capital works shows the expected internal and external funding for capital works expenditure and the total proposed capital works expenditure for the forthcoming year with a comparison with forecast actual for the current year. The statement of capital works should be prepared in accordance with Regulation 9.
Statement of cash flows	<p>The statement of cash flows shows the expected net cash inflows and outflows in the forthcoming year in the form of reconciliation between opening and closing balances of total cash and investments for the year. Comparison is made to the current year's expected inflows and outflows.</p> <p>The cash flows statement should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows and the Local Government Model Financial Report.</p>
Statement of changes in equity	The statement of changes in equity shows the expected movement in Accumulated Surplus and reserves for the year. The statement of changes in equity should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 - Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.
Statement of human resources	Means a statement which shows all Council staff expenditure and the number of full time equivalent Council staff.
Statutory reserves	Statutory reserves are funds set aside for specified statutory purposes in accordance with various legislative and contractual requirements. These reserves are not available for other purposes.

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Strategic resource plan (SRP) Section 125(2)(d) of the Act requires that a Council must prepare and approve a Council Plan that must include a strategic resource plan containing the matters specified in Section 126.

Section 126 of the act states that:

- the strategic resource plan is a plan of the resources required to achieve the council plan strategic objectives.
- the strategic resource plan must include the financial statements describing the financial resources in respect of at least the next four financial years.
- the strategic resource plan must include statements describing the non-financial resources including human resources in respect of at least the next four financial years.
- the strategic resource plan must take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by council and if the council proposes to adopt a plan to provide services or take initiatives, the resources required must be consistent with the strategic resource plan.
- council must review their strategic resource plan during the preparation of the council plan.
- council must adopt the strategic resource plan not later than 30 June each year and a copy must be available for public inspection at the council office and internet website.

In preparing the strategic resource plan, councils should comply with the principles of sound financial management as prescribed in the Act being to:

- prudently manage financial risks relating to debt, assets and liabilities.
- provide reasonable stability in the level of rate burden.
- consider the financial effects of council decisions on future generations.
- provide full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information.

In addition to section 126 of the Act, parts 2 and 3 of the Regulations also prescribe further details in relation to the preparation of a strategic resource plan.

Unrestricted cash Unrestricted cash represents all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Valuations of Land Act 1960 The Valuations of Land Act 1960 requires a Council to revalue all rateable properties every two years.