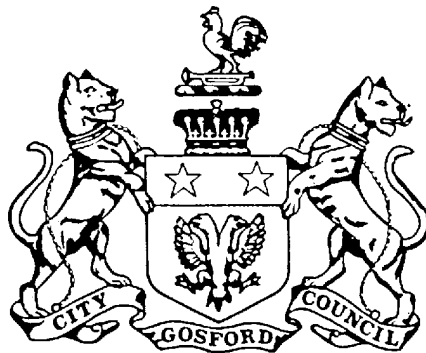




# CONNECTION TO SEWERAGE SYSTEM - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



## **CONNECTION TO SEWERAGE SYSTEM – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING - GOVERNANCE & BUSINESS SERVICES

### **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

To provide financial assistance to eligible persons to enable them to connect their property to Council's sewerage system.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Council will provide financial assistance of up to \$10,000 to eligible persons to assist them in connecting to the sewer system. To be eligible for assistance the person/persons must be:

The owner/owners of an unconnected property which is subject to the residential sewerage charge

**and**

Be a pensioner/pensioners who hold a current Health Benefits Card

**or**

Be assessed by Council as experiencing financial hardship which warrants Council's assistance.

**or**

Have received a Final Notice from Council directing connection of the property to the sewer.

This assistance will be in the form of a loan equivalent to the cost of connection of up to \$10,000 at a rate of interest equivalent to the investment rate obtainable by Council for term deposits for the loan period at the time the assistance is provided. The term of the loan is to be for a maximum of six (6) years with repayments made six-monthly. The loan will be entered as a charge against the property under Section 310 of the Water Management Act 2000 and, should the person/persons default on the loan, it will become payable on sale or transfer of the property, or on the death of the owner of the property when the estate is settled.

### **PROCEDURE**

The procedure (attached), being an administrative process, may be altered as necessary by the Chief Executive Officer.

(Min No 1140/1991 - 10 September 1991)

(Min No 206/1996 - 12 March 1996)

(Min No 699/1996 - 24 September 1996 - Review of Policies)

(Min No 239/2000 - 24 October 2000 – Review of Policies – no change)

(Min No 214/2005 - 8 March 2005 - Review of Policies)

(Min No 311/2009 - 5 May 2009 - Review of Policies)

(Min No 2013/388 - 16 July 2013 - Review of Policies)

## **ATTACHMENT - PROCEDURE**

### **CONNECTION TO SEWERAGE SYSTEM - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Pensioners**

- 1 Pensioner seeking financial assistance submits an application to Council requesting a loan from Council to connect to the sewer. The submission must include at least two (2) recent quotations for the cost of connection from licensed plumbers.
- 2 A Designated Council officer is to verify pensioner eligibility, assess the application and negotiate the term of loan with the applicant.
- 3 The Designated Council officer will produce a schedule of loan repayments and attach it to suitable legal agreement to be signed by the applicant, the applicant's witness and the Designated officer of Council. The agreement is registered as a legal document and a copy provided to the applicant.
- 4 Debtors' register is updated and the information linked to the charge/rate file.

#### **Persons Experiencing Financial Hardship**

- 1 A person seeking financial assistance submits an application to Council requesting a loan from Council to connect to the sewer. The submission must include the details required by Council to assess eligibility for assistance. These details to indicate the applicant's present assets, liabilities and current income and expenditure.
- 2 The submission must include at least two (2) recent quotations for the cost of connection from licensed plumbers.
- 3 Designated Council officer/officers will assess the application and will make a determination.
- 4 A Designated Council officer will negotiate the term of the loan with the applicant that has been assessed as warranting assistance.
- 5 The Designated Council officer will produce a schedule of loan repayments and will attach this to a legal agreement to be signed by the applicant, the applicants' witness and the Designated Council officer. The agreement is registered as a legal document and a copy provided to the applicant.
- 6 The Debtors' register is updated and the information linked to the charge/rate file.

### **Persons who are Recipients of Final Notice to Connect**

- 1 A person seeking financial assistance submits an application to Council requesting a loan from Council to connect to the sewer. The submission must include a copy of the Final Notice to connect to the sewer.
- 2 The submission must include at least two (2) recent quotations for the cost of connection from licensed plumbers.
- 3 A Designated Council officer will negotiate the term of the loan with the applicant.
- 4 The Designated Council officer will produce a schedule of loan repayments and will attach this to a legal agreement to be signed by the applicant, the applicant's witness and the Designated Council officer. The agreement is registered as a legal document and a copy provided to the applicant.
- 5 The Debtors' register is updated and the information linked to the charge/rate file.