

What is the difference between mandatory and non-mandatory services?

MANDATORY

Many of the services we deliver are classified as mandatory which means there is a statutory or legislative requirement, law or regulation that says they must be provided to the community. Examples of mandatory services include (but not limited to) the following;

Service	State Legislation/Regulation
Town Planning	
Animal control	Dog Act/Cat Act/Local Government Act
Fire and Emergency Services	
Community Engagement	Integrated Planning Framework

While these services are mandatory, the level to which they are provided can be discretionary. The level of service was discussed by the previous Community Panel in February/March 2014. (See Range and Level of Services Community Panel Summary Report in your Day One Desk Pack)

NON-MANDATORY

The City also delivers a number of non-mandatory services which we are not bound by laws or regulations; these are provided because the City believes the community needs or wants them. You will be given a list of +95 non-mandatory services currently being provided by the City. Your task will be to prioritise these services so we can assess which services are most valued and which services are least valued. This will assist Council decision-making regarding the services we continue to provide and those we discontinue.

Why are Summit participants prioritising non-mandatory services?

Last year the City engaged with the Community Panel regarding the level of services we provide. Although the Community Panel gave the City a real insight into the level of service the community wants and expects, we now need to know which services the community most values and the services it may be more willing to do without.

At the Community Summit participants will be asked to review our non-mandatory services and develop a priority list of services they believe the community values and should continue to be provided.

Why are Summit participants NOT reviewing mandatory services?

Parallel to the Community Summit, the City's Executive Management Team is reviewing all the mandatory services we provide to determine if, and how, a reduction in the level of service can be achieved whilst ensuring we still meet our statutory or legislative obligations. This work will be informed by the recommendations of the last Community Panel. This requires the interpretation of a multitude of government acts, legislation and regulations and will be no easy task.

However, while the primary task of participants at the Community Summit is to provide a prioritised list of non-mandatory services, participants will also have a chance to make recommendations, which may include recommendations on the level of mandatory services.

However, at the end of both of these processes the City will be able to provide Council with a priority list of services, both mandatory and non-mandatory, to assist in Council decision making.