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| 001 | Fees, Allowances and Expenses for Elected Members | V8 Draft |
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1. PURPOSE

In accordance with Division 8 of Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1995* elected members are entitled to receive a fee for meeting attendance, be reimbursed for expenses and/or be paid an allowance for certain types of expenses. Certain payments are an automatic entitlement in accordance with the Act, while others require specific local government approval. The Fees, Allowances and Expenses for Elected Members policy provides the approval framework under which all fees, allowances and reimbursements to elected members will be made.

2. SCOPE

"**Elected member**" - Any person who holds the office of Councillor on the Council of the City of Busselton, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

"**Schedule**" – Information describing the current Local Government Band Allocation and fees and allowances established within that Band in accordance with any *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination* under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*.

The Fees, Allowances and Expenses for Elected Members policy is to apply to the purchase of all local government-owned equipment for the specific and individual use of an elected member, the reimbursement of any expenses incurred by an elected member in the performance of their functions and duties, and fees and allowances provided to all elected members.

This policy provides the approval framework to enable the provision of equipment and certain payments to be made to elected members to enable them to carry out their role as an elected member effectively. All matters approved in this policy are in accordance with the relevant legislation and determinations, being the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government Elected Council Members Determinations* in accordance with the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*.

3. POLICY CONTENT

3.1 Elected members

3.1.1 Provision of equipment

Without limiting the application of any other clause in this policy, the local government will provide to elected members of the City of Busselton access to resources to enable them to carry out their duties efficiently and effectively. In accordance with Section 3.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, in order to provide for the good government of persons in the District, any newly elected member will have the opportunity to be furnished with the following equipment:

- A standard-issue mobile telephone;
- A standard City-owned laptop computer or tablet that will be upgraded from time to time, inclusive of standard equipment associated with the day-to-day use of the laptop computer or tablet.

The laptop computer or tablet provided remains at all times the property of the City of Busselton. Any mobile telephone purchased in accordance with this policy can be retained by the elected member at the completion of their term of office if they serve a minimum of 12 months as an elected member.

3.1.2 Meeting attendance fees

An elected member is entitled to receive an annual fee for attending Council and Committee meetings in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*. This payment is in lieu of any entitlement established for a fee per meeting under that Act.

The annual fee will be established during the annual budget process within the Band established in the relevant *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination* . .

The annual meeting attendance fee is full and final satisfaction of an elected member's meeting entitlements and no other claims can be made for attendance at meetings, with the exception that an elected member's expenses incurred for travelling to and from the meeting can be reimbursed in accordance with clause 3.1.5 of this policy or childcare expenses incurred can be reimbursed in accordance with clause 3.1.4 of this policy.

Meeting attendance fees will be paid monthly or quarterly in arrears. The fee will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for any elected member who commences or ceases office during the month or quarter. Upon commencement of office, elected members, for the purposes of budget development, will be requested to indicate whether it is their intention to claim meeting attendance fees and their preferred payment method. Nothing in the relevant legislation or this policy prevents an elected member from changing their intention at any time.

3.1.3 Information and Communications Technology allowance

In accordance with the relevant *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination*, all elected members are eligible to claim an annual information and communications technology allowance the amount of which will be included in the Schedule. This allowance is to cover an elected member's costs in relation to the following equipment and services:

- Telephone rental charges;
- Any other expenses that relate to information and communications technology, for example telephone call charges and internet service provider fees, and that are a kind of expense prescribed by regulation 32(1) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

The information and communications technology allowance will be paid monthly or quarterly in arrears. The allowance will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for any elected member who commences or ceases office during the month or quarter. Upon commencement of office, elected members, for the purposes of budget development, will be requested to indicate whether it is their intention to claim the information and communications technology allowance and their preferred payment method. Nothing in the relevant legislation or this policy prevents an elected member from changing their intention at any time.

3.1.4 Reimbursement of childcare expenses

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* an elected member who incurs childcare expenses due to their attendance at a Council meeting or a meeting of a formally constituted Council Committee of which they are a member is entitled to be reimbursed. The extent to which the childcare expenses incurred will be reimbursed will be in accordance with the relevant *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination*.,. For the purposes of this section, the number of hours claimed shall be limited to the actual length of the meeting, with a nominal time allowance for partaking in refreshments and travel to and from the place of care.

3.1.5 Reimbursement of travel expenses

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* an elected member who incurs expenses to travel to a Council meeting or a meeting of a formally constituted Council Committee of which they are a member is

entitled to be reimbursed. Elected members can also be reimbursed for other types of travel in accordance with Regulation 32 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. The extent to which travel expenses can be reimbursed is in accordance with the *Public Service Award 1992*. The following list represents the meetings and events at which the attendance of an elected member is required for which the elected member will be able to claim reimbursement in accordance with the *Public Service Award 1992* for incurring travel expenses.

- Council meetings - ordinary and special;
- Committee meetings of a formally constituted Council committee of which they are a member or a deputy member acting in the capacity of a member;
- Electors' meetings - annual general and special;
- Civic receptions hosted by the City of Busselton;
- Visits by Ministers of the Crown;
- Inspection tours of matters arising before the Council;
- Any City-convened meeting requiring elected member attendance, including briefing sessions, workshops and other forums;
- Elected member training courses;
- Officially convened meetings with ratepayers;
- Attendance at community functions with a formal invitation as an elected member;
- Seminars and conferences attended in the capacity of an elected member;
- Meetings of community groups or other external organisations of which the elected member has been appointed the Council's representative by Council resolution (except where the other body pays the elected member for meeting attendance and/or travel eg ministerial appointment to State Advisory Boards).

The reimbursement will be made available to the elected member on the receipt of a certified claim form and in accordance with the rates set out in the *Public Service Award 1992*. Nothing in this section prevents an elected member from utilising a City-owned motor vehicle for the types of travel approved under this section and this is encouraged where practical for the elected member's purposes. Subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, the elected member is entitled to use the City-owned motor vehicle for travel for personal reasons during the time when the vehicle is being used for City purposes, provided such use does not go beyond use of a minor incidental nature. Where a City vehicle is utilised, the travel reimbursement or travel allowance cannot be claimed.

3.1.6 Reimbursement of expenses while away from home on sanctioned activities

Expenses incurred for conferences, training, seminars and similar occasions requiring an elected member to stay overnight away from their place of residence will be reimbursed to the elected member or paid directly by the City in accordance with the following guidelines.

Air travel and accommodation will be arranged and paid for by the City in consultation with the elected member and the key considerations will be cost effectiveness and for accommodation also proximity to the location at which the conference, training, seminar or similar occasion is being held.

While staying in the accommodation provided by the City for the purpose of enabling attendance at the approved conference, training or seminar, the expenses to be met by the City will be:

| Expenses and Restrictions | Elected Member | Spouse |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Laundry > 2 nights | Y | Y |
| Taxi fares or other public transport - only where these directly relate to the activity and no other transport is provided | Y | Y |
| Daily sustenance per day allowance in accordance with the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> (1) | Y | N |
| Specific conference related dinners/meals | Y | Y |
| (1) Limited authority exists (refer to Mayor for prior approval) to purchase alcohol for networking | | |

purposes in a similar manner to the way the Council offers community members an invitation to share a drink after a Council meeting.

3.1.7 Reimbursement of other expenses

3.1.7.1 Reimbursement of hospitality expenses

Elected members may seek reimbursement of the reasonable costs of beverages or snack items provided during any meeting or networking opportunity that relates to City activities, subject to the provision of receipts to the CEO.

3.1.7.2 Corporate attire reimbursement

Each elected member is eligible to claim up to \$1,000 reimbursement for the purchase of corporate attire, which may include a brief case or travel case. Payment will be made on the production of receipts for clothing, shoes or a case, but will be limited to \$500 for the period November to April and a further \$500 for the period May to October.

3.2 Mayor

3.2.1 Mayoral allowance

In addition to their entitlements as an elected member under Section 3.1 of this policy, the Mayor is eligible for a Mayoral allowance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*. In accordance with the relevant *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination* the Mayor of the City of Busselton shall be paid an allowance within the Band established, payable monthly or quarterly in arrears.

The allowance will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for any Mayor who commences or ceases office during the month or quarter. Upon commencement of office, the Mayor, for the purposes of budget development, will be requested to indicate whether it is their intention to claim a Mayoral allowance and their preferred payment method. Nothing in the relevant legislation or this policy prevents the Mayor from changing their intention at any time.

3.2.2 Provision of a City-owned vehicle

The Mayor shall be provided with a City-owned motor vehicle for use in his or her official capacity. The Mayor is entitled to use the City-owned motor vehicle for travel for personal reasons during the time when the vehicle is being used for City purposes, provided such use does not go beyond use of a minor incidental nature. Nothing in this section prevents the vehicle from being utilised in accordance with City fleet guidelines by other elected members or officers with the agreement of the Mayor.

3.3 Deputy Mayor

3.3.1 Deputy Mayor's allowance

In addition to their entitlements as an elected member under Section 3.1 of this policy, the Deputy Mayor may be paid a Deputy Mayor's allowance in accordance the *Local Government Act 1995*. In accordance with the relevant *Local Government Elected Council Members Determination* the Deputy Mayor can be paid up to 25% of the Mayoral allowance. The Deputy Mayor of the City of Busselton shall be paid the maximum percentage of the Mayoral allowance of 25%, payable monthly or quarterly in arrears.

The allowance will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for any Deputy Mayor who commences or ceases office during the month or quarter. Upon commencement of office, the Deputy Mayor, for the purposes of budget development, will be requested to indicate whether it is their intention to claim a Deputy

Mayor's allowance and their preferred payment schedule. Nothing in the relevant legislation or this policy prevents the Deputy Mayor from changing their intention at any time.

4. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

Any request for reimbursement in accordance with the relevant clauses of this policy must be accompanied by an original supplier receipt.

Policy Background

Policy Reference No. - 001

Owner Unit – Governance

Originator – Manager, Governance Services

Policy approved by – Council

Date Approved – For consideration

Review Frequency – As required following determinations

Related Documents –

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Local Government Elected Council Members Determinations

Background/History - Initiated June 2008 to replace former policies:

054/1 - Councillors' Travelling Expenses;

055/1 - Attendance at Conferences, Training and Seminars;

193 - Communications Allowances - Councillors;

212/1 - Vehicle for Use by Shire President and Councillors;

226 - Laptop Computers - Councillors and Officers;

227 - Printer Consumables.

History

| Council Resolution | Date | Information |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | Adjustments to schedule fees and allowances determined in accordance with any <i>Local Government Elected Council Members Determination</i> Version 8 |
| C1411/292 | 12 November, 2014 | Adjustments to recognise increases made in determinations of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal via the <i>Local Government Elected Council Members Determination No. 1 of 2014</i> Version 7 |
| C1307/182 | 10 July, 2013 | Adjustments to recognise the determinations made by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal via the <i>Local Government Elected Council Members Determination No. 1 of 2013</i> Version 6 |

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| C1206/168 | 27 June, 2012 | Increase to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's allowances to maximums available under the Act; change of terminology to City / Mayor / Deputy Mayor; and removal of outdated reimbursement proposals for mobiles and internet connections Version 5 |
| C1111/362 | 23 November, 2011 | Ability provided for Councillors to be remunerated monthly Version 4 |
| C1007/238 | 14 July, 2010 | Clarification regarding use of the vehicle assigned to the Shire President Version 3 |
| C1005/157 | 12 May, 2010 | Increase to the allowance payable to the Shire President (and therefore Deputy) to be effective from 1 July, 2010 Version 2 |
| C0808/267 | 27 August, 2008 | New policy to replace former policies 054/1; 055/1; 193; 212/1; 226 and 227 Version 1 |