

Council Policy Name: Fees, Allowances and Expenses for Elected Members

Responsible Directorate: Finance and Corporate Services

Version: Current

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to set out the fees, allowances, reimbursements and equipment that Elected Members are entitled to, to enable them to carry out their role effectively and efficiently.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This Policy is applicable to the purchase of all City of Busselton 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.

2.2. All matters approved in this Policy are in accordance with the relevant legislation, being the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and the Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination made under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Act	Local Government Act 1995
Determination	The determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members as current from time to time
Elected Member	Any person who holds the office of Councillor on the Council of the City of Busselton, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
Policy	This City of Busselton Council policy entitled "Fees, Allowances and Expenses for Elected Members"
Regulations	Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

4.1. This Policy links to Key Goal Area 6: Leadership of the City’s Strategic Community Plan 2017 and specifically the following Community Objective/s:

- a. 6.1: Governance systems, process and practices are responsible ethical and transparent.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

Elected Members

- 5.1. In accordance with Division 8 of Part 5 of the Act Elected Members are entitled to receive a fee for meeting attendance, to be reimbursed for expenses and/or be paid an allowance for certain types of expenses. Certain payments are an entitlement in accordance with the Act, while others require specific local government approval.
- 5.2. Reimbursements under this Policy must be submitted within three months of the expenses being incurred.

Elected Member fee

- 5.3. As per Section 5.99 of the Act, Elected Members will be paid an annual attendance fee in lieu of fees for attending meetings referred to in Section 5.98(1) of the Act. In accordance with the Determination Elected Members shall be paid an annual fee within the Band established as set by Council when the annual budget is adopted.
- 5.4. The annual fee will be payable monthly or quarterly in arrears and 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, and Elected Member, for the purposes of budget development, will be requested to indicate their preferred payment method.

Provision of equipment

- 5.5. Without limiting the application of any other clause in this Policy, the local government will provide to Elected Members access to resources to enable them to carry out their duties efficiently and effectively.
- 5.6. In accordance with Section 3.1 of the Act, in order to provide for the good government of persons in the District, any new Elected Member will be provided upon request with the following equipment:
 - a. brief case up to the value of \$150;
 - b. standard-issue mobile telephone;
 - c. standard issue portable device that will be upgraded from time to time, inclusive of standard equipment associated with the day-to-day use of the device.
- 5.7. Any equipment provided in accordance with this Policy can be retained by the Elected Member at the completion of their term of office or if they serve a minimum of 24 months as an Elected Member.

Information and communication technology allowance

- 5.8. In accordance with the Determination, Elected Members are eligible to claim an annual information and communications technology allowance.
- 5.9. This allowance is to cover an Elected Member's costs in relation to expenses that relate to information and communications technology, for example telephone rental and call charges and internet service provider fees, and are of a kind prescribed by Regulation 32(1) of the Regulations.

- 5.10. 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.

Reimbursement of childcare expenses

- 5.11. In accordance with the 5.98(2)(a) of the Act 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.
- 5.12. In addition, pursuant to 5.98(2)(b) of the Act, an Elected Member who incurs childcare expenses due to their attendance as an Elected Member at arranged briefing sessions and workshops within the City of Busselton district is entitled to be reimbursed.
- 5.13. The extent to which childcare expenses incurred will be reimbursed will be in accordance with the Determination, with the number of hours claimed limited to the actual length of the meeting plus a nominal time allowance for travel to and from the place of care.
- 5.14. Notwithstanding 5.13, reimbursement will be for the lowest minimum set rate of payment which provides coverage of the time calculated under paragraph 5.13.

Reimbursement of travel expenses

- 5.15. In accordance with the Act 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 Regulations.
- 5.16. The following list represents the meetings and other events for which Elected Members will be able to claim reimbursement in accordance with the Determination for incurring travel expenses:
- a. Council meetings - ordinary and special;
 - b. 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;
 - c. Electors' meetings - annual and special;
 - d. civic receptions hosted by the City of Busselton;
 - e. visits by Ministers of the Crown or other distinguished visitors of similar status;
 - f. City organised inspection tours of matters arising before the Council or as a JDAP member;
 - g. any City-convened meeting by the Mayor or CEO requiring Elected Member attendance, including briefing sessions, workshops and other forums;
 - h. Elected Member training courses;
 - i. City organised meetings with ratepayers;
 - j. attendance at functions and events sponsored to a value of \$10,000 or more by the City of Busselton through the Marketing and Events Reference Group funding, held within the boundaries of the City, and where a specific invitation has been issued by the City's administration. Additionally other events may be approved from time to time by the Mayor and the CEO;
 - k. where the Mayor is unable to attend a function or event and has requested another elected member to attend on his behalf. This includes attendance at functions within the district for the purposes of presenting awards / gifts;
 - l. attendance at functions and events for the purposes of receiving awards on behalf of the City;

- m. seminars and conferences attended in the capacity of an Elected Member as approved by the City in accordance with Policy 08 “Councillors Induction, Training and Professional Development”;
 - n. meetings of community groups or other external organisations of which the Elected Member has been appointed the Council's representative / delegate by Council resolution (except where the other body pays the elected member for meeting attendance and/or travel e.g. ministerial appointment to State Advisory Boards).
- 5.17. Where large distances are involved and when practicable, Elected Members are encouraged to use a City-owned motor vehicle in the first instance.
- 5.18. Reimbursement will be made available to Elected Members on the receipt of a certified claim form, in accordance with the Determination.
- 5.19. Where a City vehicle is utilised, the travel reimbursement or travel allowance cannot be claimed.
- 5.20. Subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer or delegate, Elected Members are entitled to use a City-owned motor vehicle for travel for personal reasons during the time when the vehicle is being used for City purposes, provided such use is of a minor incidental nature only.

Reimbursement of expenses while away from home on sanctioned activities

- 5.21. Expenses incurred for conferences, training, seminars, attendance at intrastate functions for the purposes of receiving awards 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 subject to and in accordance with paragraphs 5.22 and 5.23.
- 5.22. Air travel (where applicable) and accommodation will be arranged and paid for by the City in consultation with the Elected Member, with the key consideration being cost effectiveness and, in relation to accommodation, proximity to the location at which the conference, training, seminar or similar occasion is being held.
- 5.23. While staying in accommodation provided by the City, the City will also meet the following expenses:
- a. cost of laundry for Elected Member and spouse or partner for greater than 2 nights;
 - b. taxi fares or other public transport where these directly relate to the activity and no other transport is provided. Reimbursement for an Elected Member's spouse or partner is subject to them being accompanied by the Elected Member;
 - c. daily sustenance allowance per day, in accordance with the Public Service Award 1992 for Elected Member only;
 - d. specific conference / event related meals for Elected Member and spouse or partner.

Reimbursement of hospitality expenses

- 5.24. Elected Members may, subject to the provision of receipts and approval by the Mayor, seek reimbursement of the reasonable costs of beverages or snack items provided during any meeting or function for which they are entitled to reimbursement of travel under paragraph 5.15 and 5.16.

Corporate attire expenses

- 5.25. Upon election or re-election, Elected Members will within the first year of their term be entitled to the following business attire, up to a value of \$750:
- a. Business suit (male – 2 pairs of trousers and 1 jacket); or
 - b. Business suit (female – 2 skirts, dresses or pants and 1 jacket); and
 - c. Business shirt / blouse – 3;
 - d. Business tie / scarf – 1; and
 - e. Business shoes – 1 pair.
- 5.26. Additionally, upon election or re-election Elected Members will be entitled to the following corporate attire:
- a. Corporate (City branded) casual / light weight fleecy jacket – 1
 - b. Corporate (City branded) polo top – 1
 - c. Corporate (City branded) tie / scarf – 1
- 5.27. In years two, three and four of their term Elected Members will be entitled to reimbursement of costs associated with the dry cleaning, maintenance and / or replacement of business attire, up to a value of \$250 per annum.
- 5.28. All items of business attire which are City branded should be returned to the City on expiry of office.

Mayor

Mayoral allowance

- 5.29. In addition to their entitlements as an Elected Member under this Policy, the Mayor is eligible for a Mayoral allowance in accordance with the Act. In accordance with the Determination the Mayor shall be paid an allowance within the Band established as set by Council when the annual budget is adopted.
- 5.30. The allowance will be payable monthly or quarterly in arrears and 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.

Provision of a Mayoral vehicle

- 5.31. 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 is of a minor incidental nature only. Nothing in this section prevents the vehicle from being utilised in accordance with City fleet guidelines by other Elected Members with the agreement of the Mayor.
- 5.32. The Mayor may also use the vehicle for private use for convenience or necessity on a cost recovery basis. Details of private use shall be recorded in a log book which shall be provided to the City on a quarterly basis with reimbursement made to the City in one of the following ways:
- a. by deduction from the quarterly members allowance payment;
 - b. an invoice provided to the Mayor.
- 5.33. The mileage rate will be determined by the State Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

5.34. Unless Council approves otherwise, the Mayoral vehicle may only be used for private purposes for travel within the State of WA.

Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor's allowance

5.35. In addition to their entitlements as an Elected Member under this Policy, the Deputy Mayor may be paid a Deputy Mayor's allowance in accordance with the Act. In accordance with the Determination the Deputy Mayor shall be paid 25% of the Mayoral allowance.

5.36. The allowance will be payable monthly or quarterly in arrears and 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.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

6.1. *Local Government Act 1995*

6.2. *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*

6.3. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (as current from time to time)

6.4. Local Government Department Circular 9-2011

7. REVIEW DETAILS

Review Frequency		3 yearly		
Council Adoption	DATE	27 August 2019	Resolution #	C1908/164
Previous Adoption	DATE	12 December 2018	Resolution #	C1812/260
Previous Adoption	DATE	10 October 2018	Resolution #	C1810/207