

Elected Member Professional Development and Authorised Travel

Policy Objective

To provide guidelines for Elected Member training, professional development and travel to ensure Elected Members are provided with appropriate skills and knowledge to effectively fulfill their role.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* this policy sets out requirements for Elected Member mandatory training, professional development and travel. The policy outlines Elected Member entitlements as well as establish what constitutes authorised travel on behalf of the City of Belmont.

The Policy must be reviewed by Council after each ordinary election.

All monetary values in this policy exclude GST.

Policy Detail

1. Training and professional development

- a) Elected Member Mandatory Training
 - (i) An Elected Member must complete any training prescribed by section 5.126(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, within a period of twelve months of being elected.
 - (ii) In accordance with section 5.127 of the Act, the City must prepare a report for each financial year on the mandatory training completed by Elected Members during the financial year. The report must be published on the City's website within one month after the end of the financial year to which the report relates.
- b) Continuous Professional Development
 - (i) In accordance with section 5.128 of the Act, Elected Members are encouraged to identify their individual continuing professional development needs to enhance their effectiveness and address skill gaps as required.
 - (ii) As the needs of individual Elected Members may vary, each Elected Member is encouraged to seek the assistance of the CEO and Mayor in analysing their particular requirements and in identifying appropriate courses, seminars and training to meet those needs.
 - (iii) In determining the professional development activities for individuals, Elected Members should consider the current or future strategic direction and activities of the City and its priorities and the skills that will be needed to give effect to the direction.

c) Budget for Professional Development

This policy establishes a limit for travel, accommodation and registration expenses for Elected Members. Each Elected Member is to be allocated \$5,000 for each year of their term for travel, accommodation and registration expenses for professional development. In the first three years of the term an Elected Member may draw on amounts exceeding the \$5,000 per year, but any amount greater than the \$5,000 reduces the allocation available in subsequent years. In the final year of an Elected Member's term the lesser of the remaining balance or \$5,000 may not be exceeded.

An Elected Member may agree to personally fund any short fall in Professional Development expenses in the event that costs would exceed the set budget amount.

The costs associated with mandatory training under the Act will be funded outside of the Elected Members Professional Development budget allocation outlined above.

d) Council Nominated Professional Development and Authorised Travel Events

The costs of attendance at Council nominated Professional Development and Authorised Travel listed in this policy, or to which Council resolves to send an Elected Member as a delegate, are not to be deducted from the Professional Development budget limit for that Elected Member. These events include Australian Local Government Association events, Australian Mayoral Aviation Council events and the receipt of awards or approved lobbying on behalf of the City of Belmont.

Unless otherwise resolved by Council;

- i. the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor; and
- ii. the CEO or the CEO's nominee will be the Council delegate for attendance at these events.

The costs of attendance at the Western Australian Local Government Week event and any legislated/mandatory training are not to be included as a cost to an Elected Member's Professional Development Allowance.

e) Reimbursement of Other Expenses

In accordance with section 5.98 of the Act and Regulation 32 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* an Elected Member is to be reimbursed for the following types of expenses to the extent set for each type of expense where the expense is incurred:

- i. in performing a function under the express authority of the City;
 - ii. by reason of being accompanied by no more than one other person while performing an official function where the City considers it to be appropriate;
- or

- iii. in performing a function in the Elected Member’s official capacity; and the expense is verified by sufficient information.

The table below outlines standard expenses and limits.

Type of expense	Professional development
<p>Professional development expenses</p>	<p>For Professional Development opportunities outside of the Perth metropolitan area, an Elected Member is entitled to be reimbursed for registration, travel, accommodation and sundry expenses.</p> <p>For Professional Development opportunities within the Perth metropolitan area, an Elected Member is entitled to be reimbursed for registration, travel and sundry expenses. Accommodation expenses are excluded, not claimable, under this policy.</p> <p><i>Note: See Policy item 1.3 for budget limit</i></p>
<p>Sundry expenses</p>	<p>Breakfast expenses: The actual expense incurred to a maximum value of \$40 per day</p> <p>Lunch expenses: The actual expense incurred to a maximum value of \$60 per day</p> <p>Dinner expenses: The actual expense incurred to a maximum value of \$80 per day</p> <p>Other expenses: (<i>i.e., Drinks, Mini-bar, Dry cleaning, Personal grooming</i>) The actual expense incurred to a maximum value of \$50 per day</p> <p>Regardless of limits, sufficient supporting documentation is required.</p>

f) Accompaniment by Spouse

If an Elected Member wishes to be accompanied by their spouse or partner then the Elected Member must cover the cost of all expenses of being accompanied by their spouse or partner other than:

- i. the cost of attending an official dinner or equivalent function; and
- ii. accommodation costs where the spouse or partner stays in the same room as the Elected Member.

In some circumstances it will be more efficient and effective for the City to make arrangements for a spouse or partner and pay for travel, accommodation and registration costs. In this instance, the Elected Member must reimburse the City for any of these costs. When necessary, reimbursement will be deducted from the Elected Member’s sitting fees.

- g) **Approval Process**
The Mayor will consider and assess all Elected Member requests to attend professional development opportunities, and, the Mayor's requests will be assessed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Any request by an Elected Member for professional development or reimbursement of expenses that is additional to or outside of the requirements of this policy will be referred to Council for further consideration.

- h) **Report**
Elected Members will provide a brief presentation to the next available Information Forum upon returning from any Professional Development attended.

A summary of expenses for Professional Development of each Elected Member will be reported in the City of Belmont Annual Report each year.

2. Travel

- a) **Travel, Accommodation and Registration**
The City will pay the cost of Elected Member travel, accommodation and registration at professional development events under this policy up to the limit determined in this policy. If an Elected Member pays for travel, accommodation and registration at a professional development event then the Elected Member is entitled to reimbursement up to the limits determined in this policy.

- b) **Standard of Travel and Accommodation**
All Elected Member travel is to be economy class.

Hotel accommodation may be provided at the professional development event venue or if not available at the event venue then accommodation is to be at a mid-range hotel as close as practicable to the venue.

- c) **Frequent Flyer Points**
Where possible, any frequent flyer points earned from flights undertaken whilst on Council business shall be applied:
- (i) in relation to Council business; or
 - (ii) to enable Elected Members to be accompanied by their partner or spouse whilst on Council business.

- d) **Interstate and Overseas Professional Development Events**
Overseas travel will be subject to Council approval.

Unless otherwise resolved by Council, a maximum of two Elected Members shall attend an interstate Professional Development event, unless otherwise resolved by Council. Should there be more than two nominees; the Mayor will have complete discretion on the selection of approved attendees.

Consideration will also be given as to whether attendance at events will impede a quorum at any scheduled Council or Committee meetings, and available budget.

e) Carbon Offsets

The City will offset the carbon emissions for all interstate or overseas air travel by purchasing carbon offsets at the time of flight booking.

f) Travelling whilst Interstate and Overseas (other than air travel)

Elected Members shall endeavour to use the most cost effective and environmentally friendly method of travelling when interstate and overseas. When travelling within a region, an Elected Member will endeavour to travel by public transport or, if this is not practicable, then by taxi. An Elected Member may request cab charge vouchers in advance of travelling interstate.

When relevant, Elected Members are expected to share transport. The use of a hire car must be approved in advance by the Chief Executive Officer.

Reference/Associated Documents

[Local Government Act 1995](#)

[Local Government \(Administration\) Regulations 1996](#)

Reference to Internal Procedure

N/A

Definitions

'CEO' means the Chief Executive Officer of the City.

'City' means the City of Belmont.

'Interstate Professional Development' means an interstate professional development event and includes those held in New Zealand.

i. Authorised Travel includes:

- a) Receiving of a National Award; and
- b) Approved lobbying on behalf of the City of Belmont.

'Professional Development' includes conferences, congresses, study tours, seminars, training courses, lectures, workshops or similar events.

Note:

- i. Professional Development events held **outside** of the Perth Metropolitan area, including intrastate, interstate and New Zealand are to be deducted from the Elected Member allocation, as detailed in the expense table under items 1 and 2.

- ii. Professional Development events **within** the Perth Metropolitan area (which are within 100kms of CBD) are also deducted from the Elected Member allocation, but exclude accommodation, as this is not a claimable expense under this policy.

This Policy is supported by:		
Policy No:	CP21	
Strategic Community Plan:	Goal 5: Responsible Belmont Strategy: 5.6 Deliver effective, fair and transparent leadership and decision-making, reflective of community needs and aspirations	
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28/10/14	Review – Major	12.4
22/09/15	Review – None	10.7
27/09/16	Review – Minor	12.9
22/08/17	Review – Minor	12.2
25/09/18	Review – None	12.5
10/12/19	Review – Minor	12.8
23/02/21	Review – Major	12.7
24/05/22	Review - Minor	12.7
12/12/23	Review - Moderate	12.8