

COUNCIL POLICIES, PRACTICES AND KEY DECISIONS

6 - Payment of allowances and expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

OBJECTIVE

To establish a policy for the reimbursement of expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

MINUTE NO(S)

529/94 - 18.8.94; 505/95 - 9.10.95; 106/2001 - 19.3.2001; 351/2005 - 08.11.2005; 405/2007 - 06.11.2007; 251/2009 - 17.08.2009; 253/2009 - 17.08.2009; 404/2011 - 12.12.2011

APPROVED

▪ That the following policy be adopted in respect of payment of expenses incurred by Councillors in carrying out the duties of office and in respect of the loan of services, facilities and equipment:

- 1 That the Council pay allowances in accordance with Regulation 42 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005* ("the Regulations") and section 340A of the *Local Government Act* ("the Act"). Regulation 42 specifies the allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors and an indexation process has been established so that allowances are adjusted each year.
- 2 A Councillor may elect to receive the prescribed allowance in fortnightly, monthly or quarterly instalments. The prescribed allowance is paid in arrears. In accordance with section 340A of the Act, a Councillor who determines that he or she does not wish to accept all or part of the prescribed allowance is to notify the General Manager accordingly, in writing.
- 3 That the Council will reimburse Councillors \$40.00 per month towards the cost of telephone line rental and calls, and internet access. This payment will be made as part of the direct deposit of the Councillor allowance. A Councillor who determines that he or she does not wish to accept all or part of the allowance is to notify the General Manager accordingly, in writing.

Payment of allowances and expenses (cont.)

- 4 That the Council provide a tablet computer with internet connectivity via wireless and NextG (remaining the property of the Council at all times) for use for Council business. Each tablet will be supplied with software for viewing and creating Microsoft Office compatible files and software for viewing and marking-up PDF documents. Other software deemed necessary for Council business will be loaded as and when needed (upon approval by the General Manager).

The cost of internet access will be monitored by and paid for by the Council.

Each Councillor will be supplied with a Council email address which will remain active for the duration of the Councillor's term of office.

The tablet will be provided with the following accessories:

- (a) case;
- (b) pen; and
- (c) bluetooth keyboard (provided upon request).

Training in the use of the tablets will be provided by the Council.

- 5 That on a half-yearly basis in the months of December and June, the Council reimburse a claim for travelling which has occurred as a result of a decision of the Council or the General Manager and is able to be automatically recorded within the records of the Council. The travel allowance payable will be at the "Required User" rates specified in the Tasmanian State Service Award 2000 (as amended from time to time). This payment will be made as part of the direct deposit of the Councillor allowance. A Councillor who determines that he or she does not wish to accept all or part of the allowance is to notify the General Manager accordingly, in writing.
- 6 That the Council provide a fully serviced sedan (the sedan remaining the property of the Council at all times) for the Mayor in the exercise of his/her duties and functions as Mayor. The vehicle is only to be used for bona fide Council business and is to be garaged at the Mayor's residence.
- 7 That the Council reimburse a claim for the care of any person for whom the councillor is responsible, where a copy of an account of the carer is provided and the period of the care matches the approved business of the Council.

Payment of allowances and expenses (cont.)

- 8 That before any claim for carer expenses can be settled, a photocopy of a signed assessment by a qualified person stating the need for a carer presence for the person concerned to be cared for must be supplied with the application for refunding of carer expenses by the Councillor concerned.
- 9 That the Council accept responsibility for the payment of all reasonable costs of registration fees, travel, accommodation and meals in respect of the attendance by any Councillor at an approved conference, meeting, training session or the like. Where possible, a receipt should be provided with the claim for payment.
- 10 That the Council will provide Councillors with insurance cover against loss arising from any claims incurred by them in their capacity as Councillors under the Directors and Officers Liability Policy, together with personal accident insurance cover for Councillors (subject to age limit) whilst engaged in Council activities, including travel to and from place of work and residence.
- 11 That all Councillors be urged to retain records of expenses for taxation purposes.

BACKGROUND

Refer to Council minutes.