



CP 1.6 | Council Member Allowances, Fees and Entitlements

Objective

To provide rules and transparency regarding the allowances, fees and entitlements awarded to Council Members for the purpose of undertaking their role as representatives of the City, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, and determinations of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Scope

This Policy sets the nature and extent of the allowances, fees and entitlements that Council Members are entitled to receive, and the responsibilities of Council Members and the Administration to ensure these allowances, fees and entitlements are awarded fairly, consistently, and transparently.

Policy statement

Annual allowances and fees

1. The following annual allowances and fees are to be paid to Council Members monthly in arrears via electronic funds transfer to their nominated bank account.

Annual allowance for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

2. The Lord Mayor is entitled to be paid an annual allowance up to the maximum amount determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.
3. The Deputy Lord Mayor is entitled to be paid an annual allowance up to the maximum percentage determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal of the annual allowance that the Lord Mayor is entitled to be paid.

Annual attendance fees in lieu of Council meeting, committee meeting and prescribed meeting attendance fees

4. Council Members are entitled to be paid an annual attendance fee of up to the maximum amount determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.



Annual allowance for ICT expenses

5. Council Members are entitled to be paid an annual allowance for ICT expenses up to the maximum amount determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.
6. This allowance is to be paid instead of reimbursement for –
 - a. Rental charges in relation to one telephone and one facsimile machine (as prescribed by regulation 31(1)(a) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* (the ‘Administration Regulations’)
 - b. Any other expenses that relate to information and communication technology and are a kind of expense prescribed by regulation 32(1) of the Administration Regulations, such as telephone call charges or internet service provider fees incurred by a Council Member in performing a function in their official capacity.

Reimbursements

Reimbursable expenses

7. Council Members are entitled to be reimbursed for the following expenses:
 - a. Child care
 - b. Carer
 - c. Travel
 - d. Parking
 - e. Accommodation
 - f. Food and drink
 - g. Australian Institute of Company Directors’ Company Directors course
8. Council Members are only entitled to be reimbursed for these expenses to the extent that they are:
 - a. Incurred in the performance of an ‘authorised function’; and
 - b. Approved for reimbursement in accordance with this Policy.
9. An ‘authorised function’ refers to a Council member’s attendance at the following in their official capacity:
 - a. Ordinary and special Council meetings
 - b. General and special electors’ meetings.
 - c. Meetings of committees, boards, groups and regional and statutory councils to which the Council Member is a member in their official capacity or is an authorised representative of the City.
 - d. Sessions, workshops and forums convened by the Lord Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.
 - e. Events that the Council Member is approved to attend in accordance with Council’s Attendance at Events Policy.
 - f. Professional development and mandatory training that a Council Member is required, permitted, or approved to attend in accordance with Council’s Professional Development Policy.



Childcare

10. Childcare expenses refer to the cost of childcare that is:
 - a. Required in the absence of the Council Member while performing or travelling to and from an authorised function.
 - b. For a child aged 13 years or under.
 - c. Provided by a professional childcare provider and not by a relative or person who lives with the Council Member and/or the child.
 - d. Not part of a compulsory education program such as school.
11. The extent to which childcare expenses may be reimbursed is to be consistent with the extent determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Carer

12. Carer expenses refer to the cost of personal care, support and assistance:
 - a. Required while performing or travelling to and from an authorised function,
 - b. For another individual who requires care due to disability, medical condition, mental illness, or because the individual is frail and aged, and
 - c. Provided by one or more carers.
13. The extent to which carer expenses may be reimbursed is to be consistent with the extent to which childcare costs may be reimbursed.

Travel

14. Where a Council Member is undertaking an authorised function, the City will make appropriate travel arrangements associated with that authorised function or will reimburse the Council Member for appropriate travel arrangements made in accordance with this policy.
15. Travel expenses refer to the cost of reasonable travel to and from the performance of an authorised function. This does not include the cost of any infringements or fines related to travel.
16. Travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle are to be calculated at the rate determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.
17. Travel is to be undertaken by the shortest or most practical route.
18. The extent to which travel expenses may be reimbursed is to be in accordance with the rate determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Accommodation

19. Where a Council Member is undertaking an authorised function, the City will make appropriate accommodation arrangements or will reimburse the Council Member for appropriate accommodation arrangements to support their attendance in accordance with this policy.



Parking

20. Parking expenses refer to the cost of parking for the duration of performing an authorised function and does not include costs for valet parking or any parking infringements or fines.
21. Parking costs incurred within the City of Perth district may only be reimbursed where the Council Member is not entitled to suitable parking free of charge.
22. The extent to which parking expenses may be reimbursed is to be at cost.

Food and drink

23. Food and drink expenses refer to the cost of reasonable food and drink incurred while performing or travelling to or from an authorised function, where a food and drink is not provided as part of the event or activity and the cost is not incurred outside of reasonable travelling times.
24. The extent to which food and drink may be reimbursed is to be at cost.

Australian Institute of Company Directors Company Directors' course

25. Council members are entitled to be reimbursed for the cost of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Company Directors' Course in accordance with Council's Professional Development Policy and upon successful completion of the course.
26. The extent to which the course may be reimbursed is to be at cost.

Reimbursement claims

27. A Council Member making a claim for reimbursement is to submit the following information to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. A completed City of Perth reimbursement of expenses form.
 - b. Full copy of the receipt(s) for the expense.
 - c. Evidence of the nature, amount, date and time of the expense incurred and paid by the Council Member, and who the Council Member made payment to, where this information is not provided on the expense receipt.
28. A reimbursement can only occur if:
 - a. The claim for reimbursement contains all required information.
 - b. The expense is of a kind that the Council Member is entitled to be reimbursed for under this Policy.
 - c. The Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that the sole purpose of the expenditure was for the purpose of the Council Member undertaking an authorised function.



Other entitlements

Professional development allocation

29. Council Members are entitled to attend professional development events arranged and paid for by the City in accordance with Council's Professional Development Policy.
30. An amount determined by Council will be allocated each financial year for the costs related to enrolment at professional development events for each Council Member for the purposes of Council's Professional Development Policy.
31. Professional development costs paid by the City are to be deducted from the Council Member's professional development allocation, except for mandatory training and the AICD Company Directors Course enrolment related costs.
32. Professional development costs that the City may pay for using the funds allocated for a Council Member's professional development include:
 - a. Enrolment or registration costs
 - b. Reimbursement of a council member's travel to attend professional development.
 - c. Support for attendance provided as per section 'Support for Attendance' of this policy.
33. Council approval is required where sufficient funds are not available in the professional development budget.
34. Reimbursements relating to participation at training in the last 3 months of their term of office and following their resignation or suspension will not be paid to a Council Member.

Support for attendance

35. Support for attendance by a Council Member at an authorised function, including air fares and accommodation must be arranged in accordance with the conditions below:
 - a. Airfares will be determined by the most practical route to and from the location. All air travel will be by Business Class unless the Council Member nominates Economy Class as their preferred option.
 - b. Reasonable accommodation for a Council Member (accompanying person may share this accommodation) will be provided as recommended by the professional development or event organisers or located near the venue.

The City will provide the length of stay at the accommodation as follows:

State and or Interstate	One night prior, during and one night after
International	Two nights prior, during and one night after

- c. Travel insurance will be provided for Council Members in accordance with the Corporate Travel Policy.



- d. Any additional travel expenses will be considered for reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- e. Where a council member chooses to arrive earlier or extend their stay when undertaking an authorised function or vary the City's arrangements, then the council member will be responsible for the full cost associated with that extended stay and/or variation to travel arrangements for private purposes.

Parking and access to Council House

36. Council Members may be provided with:
 - a. An 'Elected Member Parking Permit' under the *City of Perth Parking Local Law 2017* (the 'Parking Local Law'); and
 - b. Access to City of Perth Parking facilities in accordance with their entitlements under the Parking Local Law.
37. Council Members may park in allocated bays at Council House while undertaking official duties.
38. Council Members may be provided access to the civic areas of Council House for the purpose of undertaking official duties.

Lord Mayoral Vehicle

39. A City of Perth owned and maintained vehicle is to be made available to the Lord Mayor for the purpose of undertaking official duties.

Governance of fees, allowances and entitlements

40. Where this Policy states that an allowance, fee or entitlement 'may' be provided to a Council Member, the City will provide the allowance, fee or entitlement to the maximum extent permitted by this Policy unless the Council Member makes a written request to the CEO that it either not be provided or provided to a lesser extent.
41. Council members cannot commit City funds or incur expenses on behalf of the City.
42. If a Council Member is aware of having received a payment or entitlement that is not in accordance with Council Policy, the Council Member must notify the City immediately and return payment to the City.
43. The fees, allowances and entitlements awarded to a Council Member cannot be used by another Council Member or claimed by one Council Member on behalf of another.
44. Making a false or fraudulent claim for reimbursement or any other entitlement may be a criminal offence and reported to the Western Australian Police Force and/or the Corruption and Crime Commission.



Expenses register

45. All reimbursement claims, including the Council Member's name, type of expense, authorised function, connection to the proper discharge of the Council Member's role, amount and date approved are to be recorded in a register maintained by the Administration and published on the City's website.



Document control

Policy context

Legislation, standards & external guidelines	Local Government Act 1995 Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996
Policies and procedures	Council Policy 1.1 Attendance at Events Council Policy 1.2 Professional Development
Strategies, plans and frameworks	

Document custodian

Alliance	CEO	Service unit	Governance
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Review management

Next review due	February 2026	Document management ref.	EDRMS-1336483316-798
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Document management

Version	Adopted by	Adoption date	Synopsis of changes
1.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	9 July 1996	Council Policy adopted – supersedes revoked Council Policy No: C245, CS20
2.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	28 April 1998	Council Policy reviewed
3.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	25 May 1999	Council Policy reviewed
4.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	1 October 2005	Council Policy amended – Local Government Act amendments
5.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	25 October 2005	Council Policy reviewed
6.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	5 August 2009	Council Policy reviewed
7.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	25 June 2013	Council Policy amended – Reflect changes based on SAT determination
8.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	15 July 2014	Council Policy amended – Further amendments to ensure alignment with future SAT determinations
9.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	30 April 2015	Council Policy amended – Custodian position title amended to fit within organisational restructure



Version	Adopted by	Adoption date	Synopsis of changes
10.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	24 April 2018	Council Policy reviewed
11.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	29 September 2020	Council Policy – Council Member Allowances and Fees attendance adopted
12.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	25 May 2021	Council Policy 1.6 adopted – supersedes revoked Council Policies: 10.5 Council Member Allowance and Meeting Attendance Fees 10.6 Elected Members – Reimbursement of Expenses 10.10 Parking and Access to Council House – Councillors 13.6A Motor Vehicle and Transport Services for the Lord Mayor 10.16 Legal Representation for Members and Employees
13.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	28 March 2023	Council Policy amended – removal of “legal expenses and insurance deductables” headings and sections 40, 41 and 42.
14.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	27 February 2024	Council Policy amended