

Policy number	Policy 021
Policy title	Fees, expenses and allowances – Elected members and independent committee members
Strategic outcomes supported	CL6 – Finances are managed appropriately, sustainably and transparently for the benefit of the community. CL8 – Visionary civic leadership with sound and accountable governance that reflects objective decision making.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To outline the fees, allowances and entitlements available to elected members and independent committee members in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (Act) and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 (WA) (Regulations), and to support them in performing their duties.

POLICY SCOPE:

This policy applies to elected members and independent committee members.

DEFINITIONS:

ICT expenses means rental charges in relation to one telephone and one facsimile machine and 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 Regulations.

Independent Committee Member means a person appointed to a committee of the Council who is not an elected member or employee.

Tribunal means the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal established under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* (WA).

POLICY STATEMENT:

ELECTED MEMBERS

Fees and allowances (s.5.98, s5.99, s.5.99A Act)

Annual meeting attendance fee in lieu of meeting fees

1. All elected members are entitled to the maximum annual meeting attendance fees as determined by the Tribunal, and as adopted by Council in the annual budget.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance

2. All elected members are entitled to the maximum annual ICT expenses allowance in lieu of reimbursement

of ICT expenses as determined by the Tribunal, and as adopted by Council in the annual budget.

Annual local government allowances for Mayor and Deputy Mayor (s.5.98, s5.98A Act)

3. The Mayor is entitled to the maximum annual local government allowance as determined by the Tribunal.
4. The Deputy Mayor is entitled to the maximum percentage of the mayoral annual local government allowance as determined by the Tribunal.

Reimbursement of Expenses for Elected Members (s.5.98 Act)

5. Elected members are entitled to be reimbursed for expenses of the kind prescribed in Regulations 31 and 32 of the Regulations, including but not limited to child care and travel costs.
6. The extent to which elected members can be reimbursed for expenses of the kind prescribed in Regulations 31 and 32 of the Regulations shall be as determined by the Tribunal.
7. Child care costs will not be paid for where the care is provided by a member of the immediate family or relative living in the same premises as the elected member.
8. Under no circumstances is any reimbursement to be made in connection with costs incurred for re-election to the office of elected member or election to the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
9. Elected members are entitled to reimbursements for travelling expenses incurred, in the performance of their duties, to/from their normal place of residence or work, with respect to the following:
 - a. Council meetings, civic functions, citizenship ceremonies or briefings called by either Council, the Mayor or the Chief Executive Officer;
 - b. Committees to which an elected member is appointed a delegate or deputy by Council;
 - c. Meetings, training and functions scheduled by the Chief Executive Officer;
 - d. Conferences, community organisations, industry groups and local government associations to which an elected member has been appointed by Council as its delegate or a deputy to the delegate;
 - e. Gatherings or events (i.e. funerals, local business or community events), attended by the Mayor or the Mayor's nominated deputy as a representative of the Town;
 - f. Site inspections in connection with matters listed on any Council Agenda paper. When making this claim, elected members are to state the Item Number listed on any Council Agenda paper along with the date and time of the visit on the claim form;
 - g. In response to a request to meet with a ratepayer/elector, but excluding the day of Council elections. When making this claim, elected members are to state the time and purpose of the visit and the name and address of the ratepayer/elector on the claim form.

Conference expenses

- ~~10. The guidelines for elected members' attendance at conferences including conference expenses is otherwise as set out in Policy 022 Conference expenses – Elected members.~~
- ~~11. Council will allocate an amount in the annual budget for the costs of elected members' attendance at approved conferences.~~

Professional development expenses

- ~~12. The guidelines for expenses related to professional development are set out in Policy 022 Elected Member Professional Development. Council will allocate an amount in the annual budget for the costs of elected members' attendance at approved professional development courses, trainings or seminars.~~
- ~~13. An elected member who wishes to attend a professional development course, training or seminar must apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer setting out how it will assist the elected member in the discharge of their duties.~~
- ~~14. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to arrange the registration of an elected member at any professional development course at the Council's cost.~~

INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No meeting fees payable (s.5.100A Act)

~~15.10.~~ In accordance with section 5.100 of the Act, Independent Committee Members are not entitled to be paid fees for attending committee meetings or other meetings associated with their roles on committees.

Reimbursement of expenses

- ~~16.11.~~ Independent Committee Members are entitled to be reimbursed for child care and travel costs incurred as a result of the member's attendance at a committee meeting of which they are a member as prescribed in Regulation 31 of the Regulations.
- ~~17.12.~~ The extent to which Independent Committee Members can be reimbursed for child care and travel expenses shall be as determined by the Tribunal.

Training and Professional development expenses

- ~~18.13.~~ Independent Committee Members are entitled to attend training and professional development courses in local government, governance and financial management directly relevant to the performance of their role as committee members provided by WALGA or an equivalent course as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.
- ~~19.14.~~ Independent Committee Members must apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer prior to attending the course setting out the how the course or seminar will assist the Independent Committee

Member in the discharge of their duties prior to attending the course.

20.15. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to arrange the registration of an Independent Committee Member at any training or professional development course at the Council's cost.

24.16. Council will allocate an amount in the annual budget for the costs of Independent Committee Members' attendance at approved courses.

PAYMENTS

Payments of fees and allowances monthly in arrears

22.17. All elected members will be paid annual meeting attendance fees and all other allowances in arrears on a monthly basis commencing from the date on which the next payment is due.

Reimbursement of Expenses

23.18. All claims for reimbursements by elected members and Independent Committee Members are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer within 60 days of the expense being incurred, accompanied by:

- a. Date of the claim
- b. Type of travel (as identified in Section 3)
- c. Distance travelled
- d. Origin and destination of travel

24.19. Reimbursements, once approved, will be paid during the next scheduled payment run following approval.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

[Local Government Act 1995 \(WA\)](#)

[Determinations of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal](#)

Policy manager	Manager – Governance and Strategy
Responsible officers	Not applicable.
Approval authority	Council
Next Evaluation Date	

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved, Amended, Rescinded or Reviewed	Date	Authority	Resolution Number	Key Changes/Notes
1	Approved	25/05/1999	Council	-	Item 3.12
1	Reviewed	15/08/2006	Council	-	Item 4.1
1	Reviewed	09/07/2013	Council	-	Item 10.1

1	Reviewed	11/08/2015	Council	-	Item 10.1
2	Amended	19/02/2019	Council	25/2019	Item 14.7
3	Reviewed and Amended	20/08/2019	Council	148/2019	Item 10.1

