
4 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY - OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Report prepared by: Civic Services Manager
File No.: GRP/23/11 - BP23/52

REPORT SUMMARY

The 'Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy', ensures that City of Ryde Councillors have access to reasonable facilities and support to enable them to fulfil their civic duties, while also ensuring accountability, transparency and equity.

At its meeting held on 13 December 2022, Council resolved to remove from the Policy the option for Councillors to incur accommodation-related expenses. Accordingly, the Policy was revised and the draft presented to Council at its meeting on 28 February 2023 for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition.

The draft Policy, as endorsed by Council on 28 February 2023, was placed on public exhibition, with submissions being accepted between Monday, 6 March 2023 and Monday, 3 April 2023. It should be noted that no public submissions were received during the exhibition period.

This report therefore recommends that Council adopt the 'Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy', as **ATTACHED**.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the **ATTACHED** 'Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy'.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy - February 2023 - CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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ITEM 4 (continued)

Report

The Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy aims to ensure that all Councillors have access to the appropriate resources and facilities required to fulfil their civic duties.

This Policy ensures that there is accountability and transparency in the facilities provided to Councillors and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors in carrying out their civic duties. Section 253(1) of the Local Government Act requires Council to give public notice of its intention to adopt or amend this Policy and to allow at least 28 days for the making of public submissions.

There is no longer a requirement to provide a copy of this Policy to the Office of Local Government.

Discussion

At its meeting held on 13 December 2022, Council resolved to remove from the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy the option for Councillors to incur accommodation-related expenses. Accordingly, the Policy was revised and the draft presented to Council at its meeting on 28 February 2023 for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition.

At its meeting held on 28 February 2023, Council considered the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy and resolved as follows:-

- (a) *That Council endorse the public exhibition of the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy, as **attached** for a period of at least 28 days.*
- (b) *That following the exhibition period, a further report be provided to Council detailing any submissions received and seeking the adoption of the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.*

Public Exhibition and Call for Submissions

As required by Section 253(1) of the Local Government Act, the draft Policy, was placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. Submissions were invited between Monday, 6 March 2023 and Monday, 3 April 2023.

It is noted that no public submissions were received during the exhibition period and therefore, it is recommended that the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy, as **ATTACHED – CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER**, be adopted by Council.

ITEM 4 (continued)**Critical Dates**

Council should be aware that further amendments can be made to the Policy. However, if the amendments are considered to be significant, Council would be required to place the Policy on public exhibition again for a period of 28 days, before it can be adopted.

Financial Implications

Adoption of the recommendation will have no financial impact. Payments of expenses and the provision of facilities are included within Council's adopted base budget.