

Minutes Extract – Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 September 2021

13.5 Councillor Expenses Monthly Reporting – June and July 2021, and response to Council resolution relating to childcare provisions of the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy

Purpose

- 1.1 To report to Council and the community on the expenses incurred by Councillors, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy for the months June and July 2021.
- 1.2 To respond to the decision of Council on 16 June 2021, which requested that officers undertake benchmarking against other Victorian Councils, on the childcare provisions in the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy and prepare a briefing paper to Councillors with any opportunities to increase the accessibility of childcare provisions in the Policy.

The Mayor noted that due to its complexity, the recommendation has been prepared in sections.

Section 1

MOVED Crs Pearl/Martin

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and notes the monthly Councillor expense report for June 2021 (attachment 1).
- 3.2 Receives and notes the monthly Councillor expense report for July 2021 (attachment 2).
- 3.3 Notes the benchmarking activity undertaken with other Councils, feedback received from Councillors and discussions held by the Audit and Risk Committee.
- 3.4 Amends the current Councillor Expenses and Support Policy (**Policy**) in the following ways:
 - 3.4.1 Remove the mandatory requirement for the childcare / babysitting service provider to hold a current Working with Children's Check (WWCC) and First Aid Certificate.
 - 3.4.2 Increase the age limit for childcare reimbursements claims from 13 years of age to 16 years of age.
 - 3.4.3 Remove the age limit for childcare for a child with a disability where the child requires assistance with daily living tasks.
- 3.5 Considers the following elements of the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy and resolves its preferred option/s.

The vote was taken DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Copsey, Martin, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Nil

The MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

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Section 2

MOVED Crs Copsey/Martin

3.6 Notes the following options with respect to timing requirement for claims:

- a. Option 1 - 30-days from the end of the month, except for the month of June, where claims must be submitted within 7 days.
- b. Option 2 - 30 days from the date of service, except for the month of June, where claims must be submitted within 7 days.

3.6.1 Adopts **Option 1** - 30-days from the end of the month, except for the month of June, where claims must be submitted within 7 days.

The vote was taken DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Copsey, Martin, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Nil

The MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

Section 3

MOVED Crs Pearl/Martin

3.7 Notes the following options with respect to invoices and receipts not containing an ABN:

- a. Option 1 - accept a receipt that does not contain an ABN, and provide an attestation of the expense through the reimbursement form;
- b. Option 2 – not accept an invoice and receipt that does not contain an ABN

3.7.1 Adopts **Option 1** - accept a receipt that does not contain an ABN, and provide an attestation of the expense through the reimbursement form.

The vote was taken DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Copsey, Martin, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Nil

The MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

Section 4

MOVED Crs Clark/Sirakoff

3.8 Notes the following options with respect to preparatory time:

- a. Option 1 – No inclusion of preparatory time
- b. Option 2 – The inclusion of preparatory time to a maximum amount of 16 hours per month
- c. Option 3 – Provide a maximum amount of 12 hours for the day of Council meetings and Assemblies of Council

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3.8.1 Adopts **Option 1** – no inclusion of preparatory time.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

The MOTION was LOST.

MOVED Martin/Copsey

3.8 Notes the following options with respect to preparatory time:

- a. Option 1 – No inclusion of preparatory time
- b. Option 2 – The inclusion of preparatory time to a maximum amount of 16 hours per month
- c. Option 3 – Provide a maximum amount of 12 hours for the day of Council meetings and Assemblies of Council

3.8.1 Adopts **Option 3** – Provide a maximum amount of 12 hours for the day of Council meetings and Assemblies of Council

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Section 5

MOVED Crs Clark/Bond

3.9 Notes the following options for whether claims can be made retrospectively by Councillors from the commencement of this Council term, being 11 November 2020:

- a. Option 1 - No retrospective payments to be made
- b. Option 2 - Allow retrospective claims for six weeks following this resolution of Council

3.9.1 Adopts **Option 1** - No retrospective payments to be made.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

AGAINST: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

The MOTION was LOST.

Moved Crs Martin/Baxter

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3.9 Notes the following options for whether claims can be made retrospectively by Councillors from the commencement of this Council term, being 11 November 2020:

- a. Option 1 - No retrospective payments to be made
- b. Option 2 - Allow retrospective claims for six weeks following this resolution of Council

3.9.1 Adopts **Option 2** - Allow retrospective claims for six weeks following this resolution of Council

The vote was taken under DIVISION

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

The MOTION was CARRIED.

Section 6

Moved Crs Copsey/Martin

3.10 Notes the following options available to change the childcare access provisions to include reimbursement of full day childcare if the Councillor has met the definition in clause 3 of the Councillor Expense and Support Policy:

- a. Option 1 - for at least meeting/s for the day being claimed
- b. Option 2 - for at least hours for the day being claimed
- c. Option 3 - makes no change to the current access provisions of the policy

3.10.1 Adopts **Option 2** for at least **4 hours** for the day being claimed

The vote was taken under DIVISION

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Bond, Sirakoff, Clark and Pearl

The MOTION was CARRIED.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:08pm.

The meeting resumed at 11:13pm.

Section 7

Moved Crs Copsey/Martin

3.11 Requests that the use of the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy forms a regular part of the Internal Audit & Compliance program, and asks the CEO to notify the Audit and Risk Committee of this request.

3.12 Requests that the CEO update the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy to reflect this resolution and publish for Councillors and the community at the earliest possible opportunity.

The vote was taken under DIVISION.

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FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Sirakoff, Copsey, Martin, Pearl
and Clark

AGAINST: Nil

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED** unanimously.