



Policy Manual

Updated August 2019



Preamble

1. General

- a) When Council adopts a policy it is exercising its legislative function. It does so when required by the Local Government Act or to provide guidance to staff and the public about the way its discretionary powers will be exercised.
- b) Even though a Council has adopted a policy it may be amended or waived at any time if Council determines to do so.
- c) When policies are implemented or applied by members of staff, the Administration is exercising its executive function.
- d) Each policy identified the purpose for which the policy was adopted and a statement of Policy.

2. Changing Policies

Only Council may amend or revoke a policy.

Policies may be amended or revoked at any time but each Council policy must be reviewed at least once every three years.

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Employee Housing Policy

Policy Owner Chief Executive Officer

Distribution Management

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 22 May 2018

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-3

Objective

To provide transparency, equity and consistency in the provision of housing or housing allowance for all employees across the organisation;

To assist in ensuring the Shire of Dowerin is competitive in attracting and retaining quality employees noting that access to quality housing in rural communities such as Dowerin where local availability is scarce, housing is an important means of achieving the organisations goals.

This policy will:

- Establish the guidelines for allocation of Council provided housing for employees and cost to employees; and
 - Establish the housing allowance paid to all permanent employees who provide their own housing.
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Policy

This policy applies to all permanent (excluding temporary, contract and casual) employees of the Shire of Dowerin.

Housing may be offered to all permanent staff, subject to and determined by the availability of Shire owned housing;

Housing will be offered as part of the remuneration package on a predominately hierarchical basis for positions that have traditionally been difficult to attract interest specifically:

- CEO;
- Finance Manager;
- Works Manager;

In exceptional circumstances the CEO may take into account requirements of the employee and/or the significance of the position for the ongoing operations of the organisation and offer either housing or an allowance as part of a offer of employment as an attraction strategy.

Leases will be subject to periodic tenancy agreements limited to the term of employment with the Shire and will be terminated upon cessation of employment with the Shire.

Due to the shortage of accommodation, the CEO will consider what is best for the strategic future of the Organisation and therefore, it is not in a position to guarantee accommodation to positions other than the above designated positions.

Shire staff will be given preference over staff from other local businesses unless an exceptional circumstance arises;

Where possible staff will have an option to apply for upgraded housing if housing becomes available. Their application will be assessed by the CEO on the following criteria;

- The Shire's circumstances and operational need;
- Suitable tenancy history;
- Demand; AND
- Any other relevant factors.

The lease fee will be set at 100% of the gross rental value of the property except where a negotiated employment contract provides otherwise.

The gross rental value will be obtained by the Shire on a biennial basis with any resulting variation applied in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement.

Rates, Water rates and Building only insurance associated with the property are to be paid by Council.

Reasonable water consumption costs will be met by the Shire to encourage tenants to maintain gardens to an acceptable standard. This will be subject to the CEO's discretion.

All other utilities consumption (such as power, gas, telephone and other charges) are to be met by the tenant.

All lease agreements are to be in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA) and all agreements are to be in writing using Form 1AA Residential Tenancy Agreement as varied from time to time;

Staff who do not satisfactorily maintain their property or breach their lease and/or Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA) may be evicted and have their lease terminated.

Housing Allowance

In the pursuit of salary attractiveness and equity, permanent employees who reside in privately owned or rented accommodation within the district of the Shire of Dowerin as defined by the Local Government Act WA 1995 will be paid a housing allowance in accordance with Council's annual budget. Part time employees will be paid a pro-rata allowance based on ordinary hours of work. Casual and temporary employees are not eligible for a housing allowance. Eligible employees will have the housing allowance stipulated in their employment agreement.

Conditions:

The housing allowance is only paid during service – that is, the housing allowance will not be paid for any period of unpaid leave.

The housing allowance is not payable when an employee's primary residence is not located within the district of the Shire of Dowerin.

Housing and/or a housing allowance will only be paid to one member of a household; that is where two or more employees share a house or are eligible for an allowance, only one employee is eligible to claim the Shire allowance.

Staff in Shire housing are not permitted to sub-let the property either in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Council in the case of the CEO and the CEO in the case of employees on negotiated contracts can vary the conditions of this policy as required as part of contract negotiations.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- Ensure fair and equitable remuneration elements to all employees; and
- To ensure implementation of this policy.

Senior Managers

- Ensure new employees are aware of this policy; and
- Ensure that all employees are treated equitably.

Related Documentation

Lease agreements with employees
Employment Contract/Agreement

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA)
Shire of Dowerin Strategic Community Plan

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

Adopted 23 May 2017

Financial Reserves Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	18 December 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies/Financial Reserves Policy

Objective

This policy ensures:

- a. Responsible financial management of general revenue allocations for specific reserves, as well as tied contributions that have not been utilised in the year of receipt;
 - b. Council sets aside and maintains funds to meet specific liabilities;
 - c. There is a clear and shared understanding of the purpose of all Council reserves.
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Policy

Council will consider the transfer to and from reserves as part of the annual budget process based on strategic direction as outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan, operational need and budgetary requirements.

3.1 Purpose of reserves

The purpose of reserve accounting includes:

- a. to put aside funds in the current year for capital and other purchases to be made in future years. This practice eliminates fluctuations in Council's annual budget for capital and large purchases, and provides more consistency in the level of rates required each year;
- b. to ensure responsible management of tied contributions that have not been utilised in the year of receipt.

3.2 Movement of reserves

During the annual budget process Council adopted movement of funds into and out of reserves. These transactions will be informed by the Long Term Financial Plan and this policy.

Financial reserves will be maintained in the following categories:

3.2.1 Leave Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to cash back the cost of Long Service, Annual and Sick Leave where the leave cannot be absorbed within the annual budget. Given that Council is not expected to have to fund the full liability in any one year, this reserve should aim to maintain cash to the value of 100% of the current liability. This reserve will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

3.2.2 Plant Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to ensure the cost of additional new plant and refurbishment or replacement can be met as per the Plant Replacement Program. The balance of this reserve will reflect Council adopted Plant Replacement program plus a 10% contingency for unexpected, emergency maintenance that cannot be met within the annual budget. This reserve will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

3.2.3 Sewerage Asset Preservation Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to provide for the replacement and development of sewerage and stormwater infrastructure throughout the Shire. This reserve will be funded

by transferring the net amount of funding remaining from revenue (rates) after expenditure on scheme maintenance. This reserve, including the amount to be maintained in the reserve, will be informed by the Asset Management Plan for this asset. This reserve will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

3.2.4 Land and Building Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to assist with funding the development and purchase of land and building assets. The purpose of the reserve is to allow Council to take advantage of opportunities such as grants that allow for building developments and/or opportune land sales that have a strategic value. This reserve, including the amount to be maintained in the reserve, will be informed by the Asset Management Plan for this class of assets.

3.2.5 Recreation Facilities Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to fund future maintenance, upgrades and developments of recreation facilities, including the swimming pool. This reserve will also allow Council to take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise. This reserve, including the amount to be maintained in the reserve, will be informed by the Asset Management Plan for this class of assets.

3.2.6 Community Housing Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to enable participation in community housing projects such as independent living units for seniors. This reserve will be funded by transferring the net amount of funding remaining from revenue (rental income) after expenditure. This reserve will be reviewed in two years when this policy is reviewed.

3.2.7 Economic Development Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve to fund economic development initiatives. This reserve will allow Council to take advantage of grant funding opportunities as most grant funding programs require a co-contribution of approximately 30% to 50%. Council will consider transferring funds to this reserve based on strategic and operational requirements as part of the annual budget process.

3.2.8 Bowling Green Replacement Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve for the replacement of the Bowling Green. Council and the Bowling Club will each provide matching contributions of \$5000. This reserve limit will be capped at the replacement cost of the bowling green.

3.2.9 Tennis Court Replacement Reserve

Council will maintain a reserve for the replacement of the Tennis Courts. Council and the Tennis Club will each provide matching contributions of \$3000. This reserve limit will be capped at the replacement cost of the tennis court.

3.2.10 Sporting Club Reserve.

Council will maintain a reserve for the sporting clubs. This fund shall be funded by sporting club fees.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

Policy Manual

27 June 2017 (Item 10.1.1)

26 June 2018 (Item 10.1.8)

18 December 2018 (Item 10.2.4)

Investment Policy

Policy Owner Chief Executive Officer

Distribution Management

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 27 June 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-52

Objective

This Policy will ensure that investments of the Shire of Dowerin's surplus funds will include consideration of preservation of capital, liquidity and the return of investment.

The Policy will provide guidance so that investments are made in a manner that seeks to ensure security and safeguarding of the Shire's investment portfolio. The investment decisions will ensure:

- sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements; and investments achieve a market average rate of return that takes into account Council's risk tolerance.

Policy

Prudent Person Standard

The investment will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. Officers are to manage the investment portfolios to safeguard the portfolios in accordance with this Investment Policy, and not for speculative purposes.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. This policy requires officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the Chief Executive Officer or in the case of the Chief Executive Officer, to the Shire President.

Approved Investments

Funds may be placed in Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI's) being licensed banks as defined under the Banking Act 1959 (Commonwealth) or the Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

Approved investments include:

- Interest bearing deposits;
- State/Commonwealth Government Bonds
- Managed Funds with a minimum long term Standard & Poor (S&P) rating of "A" and short term rating of "A2".

Prohibited Investments

In accordance with regulation 20 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 the Shire of Dowerin will not do any of the following:

- Deposit with an institution except an authorised institution (as defined in section 5 of the Bank Act 1959);
- Deposit for a fixed term of more than 3 years;

- Invest in bonds that are not guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government, or a State or Territory government;
- Invest in bonds with a term to maturity of more than 3 years;
- Invest in a foreign currency.

This investment policy prohibits any investment carried out for speculative purposes including:

- Derivative based investments;
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow; and
- Stand alone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forwards contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) of an investment.

Risk Management Guidelines

Investments obtained are to comply with three key criteria relating to:

- Portfolio Credit Framework: limit overall credit exposure of the portfolio
- Counterparty Credit Framework: limit exposure to individual counterparties/institutions
- Term to Maturity Framework: limits based upon maturity of securities.

Overall Portfolio Limits

To control the credit quality on the entire portfolio, the following credit framework limits the percentage of the portfolio exposed to any particular credit rating category.

S&P Long Term Rating	S&P Short Term Rating	Direct Investment Max	Managed Funds Max
AAA	A-1+	100%	100%
AA	A-1	100%	100%
A	A-2	60%	80%

Counterparty Credit Framework

Exposure to an individual counterparty/institution will be restricted by its credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited, as detailed in the table below: Investments fixed for greater than 12 months are to be approved by Council and reviewed on a regular term and invested for no longer than 3 years.

S&P Long Term Rating	S&P Short Term Rating	Direct Investment Max	Managed Funds Max
AAA	A-1+	45%	50%
AA	A-1	35%	45%
A	A-2	20%	40%

Term to Maturity Framework

The investment portfolio is to be invested within the following maturity constraints:

Portfolio % <1 year 100% Max / 40% Min

Portfolio % >1 year <3 years 60% Max

Investment Advisor

The Shire of Dowerin does not use an investment advisor to assist in the investment decision making process. If such advice is to be sought, any advisor must be approved by Council and licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

Measurement

The market value is to be assessed at least once a month to coincide with monthly reporting to Council.

Implementation

Funds held in investment will be subject to a monthly reconciliation process.

Any new investment or re-investment will require robust comparison of rates from at least the Shire's two banking institutes, Bendigo Bank and NAB, to ensure a rate of return most advantageous to the Shire.

Reporting and Review

A monthly report will be provided to Council in support of the monthly statement of activity. The report will detail the investment portfolio in terms of performance, percentage exposure of total portfolio, maturity date and changes in market value.

Documentary evidence must be held for each investment and details thereof maintained in an investment Register.

Certificates must be obtained from the financial institutions confirming the amounts of investments held on the Council's behalf as at 30 June each year and reconciled to the Investment Register.

reserve limit will be capped at the replacement cost of the bowling green.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- Responsible for implementing this policy and for bringing it to Council for annual review.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.14
The Trustees Act 1962 (as amended) Part III Investments;
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 (as amended) - Regulation 19,
Regulation 28 and Regulation 49
Australian Accounting Standards

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

27 June 2017 (Item 10.1.2)

Related Party Disclosures Party

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Corporate & Community Services Manager
Date Adopted	22 January 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance to the Shire in the preparation of financial statements to ensure disclosure requirements are met for AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures.

This policy applies to Related Parties of the Shire and their Related Party Transactions with the Shire. This policy provides guidance in determining Related Parties of the Shire along with associated transactions and outstanding balances, materiality and disclosure requirements.

Definitions

AASB 124 means the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Related Party Disclosures Standard.

Arm's Length Terms – Terms between parties that are reasonable in the circumstances of the transaction that would result from:

- (a) neither party bearing the other any special duty or obligation; and
- (b) the parties being unrelated and uninfluenced by the other; and
- (c) each party having acted in its own interest.

Asset - A physical component of a facility which has value, enables a service to be provided and has an economic life of greater than 12 months.

Close members of the family of a person - are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the Council and include:

- (a) that person's children and spouse or domestic partner;
- (b) children of that person's spouse or domestic partner; and
- (c) dependants of that person or that person's spouse or domestic partner.

Control – Control of an entity is present when there is:

- (a) power over the entity; and
- (b) exposure or rights to variable returns from involvement with the entity; and
- (c) the ability to use power over the entity to affect the amount of returns received.

Entity can include a body corporate, a partnership or a trust, incorporated, or unincorporated group or body.

Incorporated Association means an association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*.

Joint Control – The contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

Joint Venture – An arrangement of which two or more parties have joint control and have right to the net assets of the arrangement.

Key Management Personnel - as defined in Section 1 of this Policy.

KMP Compensation means all forms of consideration paid, payable, or provided in exchange for services provided, and may include:

- Short-term employee benefits, such as wages, salaries and social security contributions, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, profit sharing and bonuses (if payable within twelve months of the end of the period) and non-monetary benefits (such as medical care, housing, cars and free and subsidised goods or services) for current employees;
- Post-employment benefits such as pensions, other retirement benefits, post-employment life insurance and post-employment medical care;
- Other long-term employee benefits, including long-service leave or sabbatical leave, jubilee or other long-service benefits, long-term disability benefits and, if they are not payable wholly within twelve months after the end of the period, profit sharing, bonuses and deferred compensation;
- Termination benefits; and
- Share-based payment.

Material (materiality) means the assessment of whether the transaction, either individually or in aggregate with other transactions, by omitting it or misstating it could influence decisions that users make on the basis of an entity's financial statements. For the purpose of this policy, it is not considered appropriate to set either a dollar value or a percentage value to determine materiality.

Ordinary Citizen Transaction means a transaction that an ordinary citizen of the community would undertake in the ordinary course of business with Council.

Possible (Possibly) close members of the family of a person are those family members who could be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the Council and include:

- (a) that person's brothers' and sisters';
- (b) aunts', uncles', and cousins' of that person's spouse or domestic partner;
- (c) dependants of those persons' or that person's spouse or domestic partner as stated in (b); and
- (d) that person's or that person's spouse or domestic partners', parents' and grandparents'.

Record means any record of information however recorded and includes- anything on which there is writing, a map, plan, diagram or graph, a drawing, pictorial or graphic work, photograph; or anything from which images, sounds or writings can be reproduced.

Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between a Council and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Significant (significance) means likely to influence the decisions that users of the Council's financial statements make having regard to both the extent (value and frequency) of the transactions, and that the transactions have occurred between the Council and related party outside a public service provider/ taxpayer relationship.

Policy

Related Party relationships are a normal feature of commerce and business. For example, entities frequently carry on parts of their activities through subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates. In those circumstances, there is the possibility of the entity having the ability to affect the financial and operating policies of Council through the presence of control, joint control or significant influence.

A Related Party relationship could influence the normal business operations of Council. In some instances, Council may enter into transactions with a Related Party that unrelated parties would not. For example, goods are supplied to Council on terms that might not be offered to other customers. Also, transactions between Related Parties may not be made on the same terms as between unrelated parties.

The normal business operations of Council may be affected by a Related Party relationship even if Related Party Transactions do not occur. The mere existence of the relationship may be sufficient to affect the transactions of the Council with other parties. Alternatively, one party may refrain from trading with Council because of the significant influence of another—for example, a local supplier may be instructed by its parent not to engage in supplying goods to Council. For these reasons, knowledge of Council's transactions and outstanding balances (including commitments and relationships with Related Parties) may affect assessments of Council's operations by users of financial statements, including assessments of the risks and opportunities facing the Council.

Council in complying with disclosure requirements of AASB 124, will:

- (1) Identify key management personnel, related party relationships, related party transactions and ordinary citizen transactions;
- (2) Identify information about the related party transactions for disclosure;
- (3) Assess materiality of transactions captured;
- (4) Identify the circumstances in which disclosure of the items in (2) and (3) are required; and
- (5) Determine the disclosures to be made about those items in the General Purpose Financial Statements for the purpose of complying with AASB 124.

1. Identification of Key Management Personnel (KMP)

AASB 124 defines KMP's as "*those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity*".

KMP's for the Council are considered to include:

- Councillors (including the Shire President);
- Chief Executive Officer; and
- The Management Team.

2. Identification of Related Parties

A person or entity is a related party of Council if any of the following apply:

- They are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
- They are an associate or belong to a joint venture of which Council is part of.
- They and Council are joint ventures of the same third party.
- They are part of a joint venture of a third party and Council is an associate of the third party.
- A post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either Council or an entity related to Council.
- They are controlled or jointly controlled by *Close members of the family of a person*.
- They are identified as a *close or possibly close member of the family of a person* with significant influence over Council or a *close or possibly close member of the family of a person* who is a KMP of Council.
- They, or any member of a group of which they are a part, provide KMP services to Council.

For the purposes of this Policy, related parties of Council are:

- Entities related to Council;
- Key Management Personnel (KMP) of Council;
- Close family members of KMP;
- Possible close family members of KMP's; and
- Entities or persons that are controlled or jointly controlled by KMP, or their close family members, or their possible close family members.

3. Review of Related Parties

KMP will be required to complete a 'Related Party Disclosure Declaration' form once every twelve months (July to June) and submit to the Corporate Services Manager. In addition to this, events may warrant additional disclosure during the year. Such events include both ordinary and extraordinary Council Elections, terminations of KMP or appointments of KMP.

The primary identification method of close family members and associated entities of Key Management Personnel shall be by (but not limited to) KMP self-assessment. KMP have a responsibility to identify and report any changes to their related parties as they occur.

If any elected member or employee believes a transaction may constitute a related party transaction they must notify the Chief Executive Officer who will, in consultation with the Corporate Services Manager, make a determination on the matter.

4. Identification of Control or Joint Control

A person or entity is deemed to have control if they have:

- power over the entity;
- exposure, or rights, to variable returns from involvement with the entity; and
- the ability to use power over the entity to affect the amount of returns.

To jointly control, a person or entity must have contractual rights or agreed sharing of control of the entity, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

All regional councils and regional subsidiaries meet the definition of a related entity.

5. Required Disclosures and Reporting

AASB 124 states Council must disclose the following financial information in its financial statements for each financial year:

5.1. Disclosure of any related party relationship - must disclose in the annual financial statements its relationship with any related parties or subsidiaries (where applicable), whether or not there have been transactions within the relevant reporting period.

5.2. KMP Compensation Disclosures - must disclose in the annual financial statements KMP for each of the categories of compensation (as defined in the definitions of this Policy) in total.

6. Related Party Transactions Disclosures

The Standard defines a related party transaction as being a 'transfer of resources, services or obligations between a reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged'.

The Shire deems the following transactions with a Related Party to be a Related Party Transaction (but not limited to):

- Purchase or sale of goods;
- Purchase or sale of property and other assets;
- Rendering or receiving services;
- Leases;
- Quotations and/or tenders;
- Commitments;
- Settlements of liabilities on behalf of Council or by Council on behalf of the related party;
- Guarantees given or received
- Loans and Settlements of liabilities
- Expense recognised during the period in respect of bad debts
- Provision for doubtful debts relating to outstanding balances
- Grants and subsidy payments made to associated entities of Council
- Non-monetary transactions between Council and associated entities of Council
- Other goods and services provided by Council to associated entities of Council
- Compensation made to key management personnel
- Fees and charges charged to related parties
- Infrastructure contributions and application fees from related parties
- Purchase of materials and services from related parties
- Employee expenses for close family members of key management personnel

Council must disclose all **material** and **significant** Related Party Transactions in its annual financial statements and include the following detail:

6.1. The nature of the related party relationship; and

6.2. Relevant information about the transactions including:

6.2.1. The amount of the transaction;

6.2.2. The amount of outstanding balances, including commitments, and their terms and conditions, including whether they are secured, and the nature of the consideration to be provided in the settlement; and details of any guarantee given or received.

6.2.3. Provision for doubtful debts related to the amount of outstanding balances; and;

6.2.4. The expense recognised during the period in respect of bad or doubtful debts due from related parties.

The following matters must be considered in determining the materiality and significance of any related party transactions:

- Significance of transaction in terms of size;
- Whether the transaction was carried out on non-commercial terms;
- Whether the transaction is outside normal day-to-day business operations, such as the purchase and sale of assets;
- Whether the transaction is disclosed to regulatory or supervisory authorities;
- Whether the transaction has been reported to senior management; and
- Whether the transaction was subject to Council approval.

Regard must also be given for transactions that are collectively, but not individually significant.

Related Party Transactions that are not considered to be material do not need to be disclosed. A key assessment on whether a transaction is material is whether knowledge of the relationship and terms and conditions could influence a user's understanding of the

impact on the financial statements or influence their decisions (i.e. in their vote by Councillors). In determining materiality, Council and management will consult with the Audit Committee and external auditor as required.

Disclosures that Related Party Transactions were made on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions can only be made if such terms can be substantiated.

All transactions involving Related Parties will be captured and reviewed to determine materiality or otherwise of such transactions, if the transactions are Ordinary Citizen Transactions (OCTs), and to determine the significance of each of the transactions.

7. Ordinary Citizen Transaction (OCT)

The Shire acknowledges that there are Related Party Transactions that also satisfy the definition of an Ordinary Citizen Transaction (OCT). An OCT is a transaction that occurs on terms and conditions no different to those applying to the general public and has been provided in the course of delivery public service objectives. The Shire will not disclose such related party transaction in the financial statements.

The Shire has determined that the following transactions with related parties are Ordinary Citizen Transactions and do not need to be disclosed:

- Use of Council facilities, equipment and services in accordance with Council's fees, charges and policies;
- Payment of rates and charges;
- Attendance at Council functions and activities that are open to the public;
- Payment of fines and other penalties on normal terms and conditions; and
- Related party transactions occurring during the course of delivering Council's public service objectives and which occur on no different terms to that of the general public.

Amendments to transactions classified as Ordinary Citizen Transactions may be identified from time to time and this policy will be amended accordingly.

Inspection of Local Government information is regulated under the *Local Government Act 1995 (sections 5.93, 5.94 and 5.95)* and the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* also apply. Information provided by KMP and other related parties will be held for the purpose of compliance with the Shire's reporting obligations and will be disclosed for compliance or legal reasons only.

The Corporate Services Manager will also review other information held by the Shire including but not limited to:

- Minutes of Ordinary Meetings of Council and Committee Meetings;
- Disclosure of Interests Register;
- Gift Register.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- Responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented and reviewed.

Corporate and Community Services Manager

- Responsible for the application of this policy.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures
AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statement
AASB 11 Joint Arrangements

*AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures and;
Local Government Act 1995*

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

Adopted 25 July 2017 (Item 10.1.3)

22 January 2019 (Item 10.2.2)

Risk Management Policy

Policy Owner	Asset Management Officer
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	23 May 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-35

Objective

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to organisation-wide risk management principles, systems and processes that ensure consistent, efficient, and effective assessment of risk in all planning, decision making and operational processes.

Definition of “Risk”:

AS/NZS/ISO 3100:2009 defines risk as “*the effect of uncertainty on objectives.*”

A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. An effect may be positive, negative, or a deviation from the expected. An objective may be financial, related to health and safety, or defined in other terms..

Definition of “Risk Management”:

Co-ordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk. (ISO Guide 73)

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin considers risk management to be an essential management function in its operations. They recognise that the risk management responsibility for managing specific risks lies with the person who has the responsibility for the function, service or activity that gives rise to that risk.

Council is committed to the principles of managing risk as outlined in *AS/NZS/ISO 3100:2009*. The Shire of Dowerin will manage risks continuously using a process involving the identification, analysis, evaluation, treatment, monitoring and review of risks. It will be applied to decision making through all levels of the Organisation in relation to planning or executing any function, service or activity.

In particular it will be applied to:

- Strategic planning
- Expenditure of large amounts of money
- New strategies and procedures
- Managing projects
- Introducing significant change, and
- The management of sensitive issues.

Risk Management Objectives

- The achievement of Organisational Goals and Objectives.
- The ongoing health and safety of all employees at the workplace
- Ensuring public safety within the Council’s jurisdiction is not compromised.
- Limited loss or damage to property and other assets.
- Limited interruption to business continuity.

- Positive public perception of Council.
 - Application of Equal Opportunity principles in the workforce and the community.
-

Roles and Responsibilities

- Executive, managers and supervisors have the responsibility and accountability for ensuring that all staff manages risks within their own work areas. In each of these areas, risks should be anticipated and reasonable protective measures taken.
- All managers will encourage openness and honesty in the reporting and escalation of risks. All staff will be encouraged to alert management to the risks that exist within their area, without fear of recrimination.
- All staff will, after appropriate training, adopt the principles of risk management and comply with all policies, procedures and practices relating to risk management.
- All staff and employees will, as required, conduct risk assessments during the performance of their daily duties. The level of sophistication of the risk assessment will be commensurate with the scope of the task and the associated level of risk identified.
- Failure by staff to observe reasonable directions from supervisors regarding the management of risks and/or failure of staff to take reasonable care in identifying and treating risks in the workplace may result in disciplinary action.
- It is the responsibility of every department to observe and implement this policy in accordance with procedures and initiatives that are developed by management from time to time.
- Council is committed morally and financially to the concept and resourcing of risk management.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

AS/NZS/ISO 3100: 2009

Related Delegation

Review History

8 January 2008

Use of Shire Property By Employees

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Employees and Elected Members
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 April 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-53

Objective

To ensure that employees utilising the Shire of Dowerin equipment outside of working hours do so with the requisite permission, understand and accept the risks and their responsibilities to care for the equipment.

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin is willing to permit employees to use equipment outside working hours subject to the provisions of this policy.

REQUEST

An employee wishing to borrow or use Shire property outside of working hours must request the use in writing to the Manager/Supervisor in charge of the equipment stating:

- the equipment required;
- the purpose; and
- duration, specifying a return date.

Employees must obtain written permission from the Chief Executive Officer or the Manager responsible for the equipment by completing the required form.

If permission is granted, it is the responsibility of that employee to coordinate with the supervisor of that equipment to avoid any disruption/negative impact on the conducting of regular business.

The Chief Executive Officer or Manager, having regard to the significance of the cost to the Shire of Dowerin, will decide on a case by case basis whether any contribution is required for consumables used e.g. electricity, paper, oil, blades and fuel.

The Manager/Supervisor is to maintain a record of the equipment removed from the Shire of Dowerin, including dates take and returned, name and signature of employee borrowing equipment and a note on condition before and after use.

Restriction on Use

Use of the Shire of Dowerin equipment is restricted to personal use only and shall not be used for personal gain or reward in connection with a business or secondary employment. The use of any plant or equipment that the employee has not been trained or skilled in the use of is strictly prohibited.

Responsibility for Use

Persons utilising equipment will be held responsible for the loss of or damage to such items.

It is the responsibility of the borrower to ensure that the use of any equipment is done so in a responsible manner so to avoid damage or misuse of the equipment.

The Shire of Dowerin does not take any responsibility for the equipment in relation to breakdowns, faults or mishaps that may occur whilst being borrowed or used.

It is the responsibility of the borrower, to ensure that any equipment or plant is stored in a secure location when not in use and not left unattended for extended periods of time.

Where plant or equipment is required to be towed by a private vehicle, it is the responsibility of the borrower to ensure that the vehicle has the capacity to handle the additional towing load to avoid damage to the equipment. All equipment is required to be secured when transported.

Contravention of this policy may preclude the employee from any further private use of equipment and/or financial penalties for misuse or damage. In serious circumstances, breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action being taken against the individual concerned.

Some plant or equipment may emit a high amount of noise when in use, so consequently it is the responsibility of the borrower that when operating the equipment, it must be done at a responsible hour and day in accordance with Environment Health Guidelines to avoid excessive noise in residential areas.

Insurance

No personal use insurance shall be provided, therefore any damage incurred during use will be the financial and legal responsibility of the employee borrowing the equipment.

The Shire of Dowerin will not be responsible for any other insurance including public liability, personal injury insurance or home/content insurance associated with the operation or storage of the equipment whilst borrowed.

Shire of Dowerin Image

It must be acknowledged by all borrowers that the Shire of Dowerin's equipment may be clearly marked with the Shire of Dowerin's logo. Therefore when equipment is used outside business hours for personal use, it may still be considered by the general public as being a Shire activity and consequently must be used in a responsible manner.

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Review History

Bank Account Policy

Policy Owner	Finance Manager
Distribution	Finance Staff
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	22 January 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To provide guidelines for the opening and management of all bank accounts.

Policy

Where additional policy is noted, this policy must also be adhered to when undertaking the finance transaction.

Opening Bank Accounts

Any new bank accounts to be opened for the Shire must have the authorisation of the Chief Executive Officer, and Finance Manager.

For each new bank account opened, the SynergySoft financial system must be updated and the bank account registered by the Finance Manager.

Bank Account Authorisation of Transactions

All payments of monies from or transferred between any Shire bank account; by cheque, EFT or other online payment method; must be pre-approved by two authorising officers.

The designated authorised positions for bank account payments are:

Position Description Title
Chief Executive Officer
Finance Manager
Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services
Finance Officer

Each payment made must be supported by invoice, receipt or other appropriate documentation and the authorisations must be attached to this documentation prior to payment.

Variations to Bank Account Terms and Conditions

Any variations to banking arrangements can be made or varied by Chief Executive Officer or Finance Manager.

Finance Manager is responsible for updating the SynergySoft financial system and/or bank account register with the new information.

Closing Bank Accounts

Where it is decided that a bank account is no longer necessary, the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Manager will authorise the closure of the bank account.

The Finance Manager will then be required to complete the following;

- ensure all transactions with respect to the account (including cheques drawn) have been completed;
- lodge a letter with the bank, signed by Chief Executive Officer and Finance Manager as authorised signatories advising of the closure of the account;
- meet the banks requirements with respect to account closure; and
- update the SynergySoft financial system and bank account register.

Bank Account Transactions

All deposits received will be banked within two days from receipt. In exceptional circumstances when bank closure prevents this, deposits will be deposited the morning the bank re-opens.

Unallocated direct deposits of more than one month will be investigated fully to determine source of deposit. Where the source cannot be identified, the deposit will be allocated to the appropriate account.

Cheques outstanding for more than twelve months will be reallocated back to the creditor through the SynergySoft financial system.

Where a stop payment on a cheque is required, it will be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer or Finance Manager

The Finance Manager will be responsible for carrying out the following duties in regards to a stop payment on a cheque:

- ensuring the cheque has not already been presented at the bank;
- obtaining authorisation to action the stop payment using appropriate forms from the bank;
- ensuring the bank receives notification of the stop payment notice;
- receiving confirmation of action from the bank of the stop payment;
- updating Synergy Soft and
- ensuring the details of the stop payment are attached to the initial payment and kept in the stop payment folder.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

26 June 2018 (Item 10.1.8)

22 January 2019 (Item 10.2.3)

Disposal of Property Policy

Policy Owner Chief Executive Officer

Distribution All Staff

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 24 October 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-33

Objective

To provide a clear and transparent approach to disposal of property that is less than \$20,000; or where the property that is to be disposed of is part of the purchase of other property for which the total consideration is less than \$75,000.

This policy will ensure compliance with legislative requirements, the best financial result for the Shire and operational efficiency.

Definitions

Property means local government property means anything, whether land or not, that belongs to, or is vested in, or under the care, control or management of, the local government.

Policy

The disposal of Council owned property with a market value of less than \$20,000 or where the property that is to be disposed of is part of the purchase of other property for which the total consideration is less than \$75,000 will be carried out in accordance with the following schedule:

Current Market Value of Property	Method of Disposal
\$501-\$75,000 or less per item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the highest bidder at public auction; or • To the most acceptable tender, whether or not to the highest bidder through the public tender process, or • To an external party at market value.
\$1 - \$500 per item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the highest bidder through an external bidding process for staff, except the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), whereby bids are sealed and placed in a Shire Tender Box to be opened by the CEO. • Any property not purchased by staff or Councillors may be donated to a local service organisation for distribution to community groups through Expressions of Interest.
Nil value	At the direction of the Chief Executive Officer giving due consideration to the best community and environmental outcomes.

A written register is to be kept of all disposal that includes all bids received; all purchases made and all property donated to local service organisations.

The disposal of property exceeding the values describes in the above schedule will be in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- Responsible for ensuring this policy is applied in fair and equitable manner.

Managers and Supervisor

- Ensure all disposals are in strict accordance with this policy and associated legislation.

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 - S3.58

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer - Delegation 1.3 – April 2017 Delegations Register

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

Finance Authorisation Policy

Policy Owner Finance and Corporate Services Manager

Distribution Finance Staff

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 26 June 2018

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-19

Objective

All finance transactions as noted in this policy are to be authorised by the noted authorised person prior to the transaction being undertaken.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other specific finance policies where relevant.

Policy

Prior to any of the following finance transactions being undertaken, the authorising person noted must authorise the transaction by signing the relevant form/s.

Where additional policy is noted, this policy must also be adhered to when undertaking the finance transaction.

Finance Transaction	Authorised Person	Additional Policy
Bank Accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal • Cash Maximiser • Reserve • Trust • Term Deposit 	Chief Executive Officer Finance Manager Assets and Works Manager Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services	Shire of Dowerin Bank Accounts Policy Investment Policy
Issuing Petty Cash	Finance Officer	Petty Cash Policy
Corporate Credit Card	Chief Executive Officer Finance Manager Assets and Works Manager	Corporate Credit Card Policy
Authorising New Debtors	Finance Manager	
Authorising New Suppliers	Chief Executive Officer Assets and Works Manager Finance Manager	New Suppliers Approval & Appointment Policy
Purchasing Fuel Stock	Finance Manager Assets and Works Manager	
Purchasing Assets/ Equipment	Chief Executive Officer Finance Manager Assets and Works Manager	Purchasing Policy
Debt Collection	Finance Manager Finance Officer	Sundry Debt Collection Policy
Payment of Invoices	Chief Executive Officer Finance Manager Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services Finance Officer	General Transactions Policy
EFT/BPay Receipting	Finance Finance Officer	General Transactions Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

26 June 2018 (Item 10.1.8)

Financial Management Policy

Policy Owner Finance and Corporate Services Manager

Distribution Management

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 24 October 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-17

Objective

To ensure that council officers work within set annual budget parameters.

To outline parameters for efficient and effective budget management in relation to interim overdraft conditions which prevail in the early and closing parts of each financial year.

To enable Council to efficiently administer debt reduction.

To take a conservative approach to investments, but with a focus to adding value through prudent investment of funds.

To achieve an adequate level of diversification to spread risk.

To achieve a high level of security by using recognised ratings criteria.

To have ready access to funds for day to day requirements without penalty.

To establish financial management and governance principles to be applied to general financial decision making and provide a coherent and logical framework for the long term financial management of the Shire of Dowerin

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin makes decisions in relation to financial matters in prudent manner considering transparency, accountability and equality to result in good governance. The Shire will make decisions in relation to financial management and financial governance that encompass the following principles:

- Management of financial risk prudently, having regard to economic circumstances. Examples of financial risks to be managed prudently include the level of council debt, commercial activities, community business activities, financial assets and liabilities.
- Implement spending and rating policies to promote stability and predictability.
- Fund physical assets with regard to intergenerational equity.
- Manage and maintain physical assets to achieve the maximum useful life from the initial investment.
- Ensure full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information, unless commercial in confidence.

Budget Control

That all officers be instructed that where any account, for which they are liable to keep expenditure within budget limits, becomes overspent or will evidently become overspent,

the officer concerned halt spending until a report is made to the Departmental Manager for appropriate action.

Budget Management

Owing to interim overdraft conditions which prevail in the early and closing parts of each financial year, it is Council's preference to:

1. Defer procurement of new budgeted plant items until November each year.
2. Discourage the programming of materially intensive works in the early and closing parts of each financial year.
3. To not procure fixed assets within the last fiscal month of the year unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Loan Funding

Council will consider loan funding that is prudent and within guidelines and ratios as identified by the Department of Local Government. Loan funding will be guided by those loans that are proposed in the Long Term Financial Plan. An exception to this is self-supporting loans.

Rate Setting

The Shire of Dowerin will endeavour to maintain a consistent approach to rate setting between rural and residential areas and will endeavour to ensure that increases in the value of rates levied are incrementally increased.

Reserve Funds

Cash reserves are to be established and maintained to accumulate funds for the following purposes:

- To fund future strategic initiatives and the provision of new services and facilities to future residents.
- To fund asset replacement and renewal of existing physical/built assets (including buildings, plants, roads and other infrastructure).
- To buffer against unpredictable events.
- To hold unspent grant and contributions
- To meet statutory obligations
- Other purposes as determined by Council from time to time.

Liabilities

The Shire of Dowerin will allocate an appropriate and agreed amount to provide for leave and other liabilities annually.

Borrowing

The Shire of Dowerin will exercise its borrowing power in a financially responsible and prudent way so as to promote equity amongst current and future ratepayers. In general the Shire of Dowerin will not borrow to fund operating expenditure.

Borrowing is acceptable to fund:

- Short-term peak working capital requirements (overdraft or short-term); and/or
- Transitional/bridging funding for projects or acquisitions.

The Council will consider its forecast borrowing requirements as part of its Long Term Financial Plan and Adoption of the Annual Budget.

Long Term Financial Planning

The Shire of Dowerin will prepare/update annually a long term financial plan that includes, but not limited to, the following components:

- Major underlying economic assumptions;
- Projections of operating revenues and expenses for at least ten years;
- Expected rate yield and percentage change from the previous periods;
- Major capital outlays separated into components of new and renewal;
- Variations in the net debt levels;
- Changes in the value of reserve balances;
- Sensitivity analysis (changes most likely to affect the plan).

Every two/three years, the Shire of Dowerin will include, as a component of the long term financial plan, a strategic financial section which consists of at least the following:

Asset management planning

An analysis of the impact of future changes in service levels;
An explanation of the strategic financial direction and rationale underpinning the plan;
Details of the strategic initiatives contained within the financial plan;
Strategic financial parameters and targets.

Annual Budget

The annual budget is to be developed from a base being the first year of the Council's adopted long term financial plan.

Where the annual budget results in a projected financial result in major conflict with the stated strategic direction outlined in the most recent long term financial plan, this is to be separately highlighted and explained in the annual budget.

The Council will structure its budget to achieve an outcome where operating revenue (less capital contributions) is at least sufficient to meet cash operating expenses (excluding non cash expenditure). The extent of any operating surplus will be dependent on the resources necessary to manage the renewal of assets (including infrastructure assets and business activity assets) and considering intergenerational equity issues.

Land Acquisition/Disposal

The Shire of Dowerin will regularly review all land holdings with a view to considering retention or disposal.

Regulatory Role

Where the Shire of Dowerin operates in a competitive environment while providing a regulatory or statutory role in that environment it will maintain a management structure designed to minimise the potential for conflict between these two roles and encourage transparency to maintain confidence in its regulatory independence.

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 - S2.7
Local Government Act 1995 - S6.0

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

Fuel Stock Control Policy

Policy Owner	Asset and Works Manager
Distribution	Finance Team
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	24 October 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-31

Objective

This policy provides guidelines for monitoring and managing the amount of fuel stock within the Shire to ensure that there are suitable levels of diesel available for operations at all times.

It is the responsibility of the Assets and Works Manager (AWM) to ensure that the fuel stock control policy is adhered to by all employees.

Policy

Purchase of Stock

It is AWM's responsibility to:

- Identify fuel stock and ensure that appropriate levels are held at all times;
- Monitor all fuel stock levels and 'stock turns' (how many times stock turns over in a year);
- Regularly review sales budgets and order necessary stock in line with budgets;
- Negotiate with suppliers for best price, quality, delivery methods and returns policy;
- Order all fuel stock required;
- Maintain "preferred suppliers" list;
- Purchase of all fuel stock must be authorised by the AWM or FCSM.

All fuel stock purchases must be requested by using a purchase order and adhere to the purchasing policy.

Receiving Fuel Stock

When fuel stock is received from the supplier, it is the AWM or Leading Hand's responsibility to:

- Review delivered items to delivery docket, including quantity, quality and completeness of order;
- Match delivery docket to purchase order;
- Store the fuel stock securely and in allocated area;
- Update all fuel stock records for receipt of goods;
- Inform or AWM or FCSM of any under/over-supply of fuel stock.

Managing Stock

It is the AWM 's responsibility to:

- Identify fuel stock and ensure that appropriate levels are held at all times;
- Monitor all fuel stock levels and stock turns;

- Regularly review sales budgets and ensure that fuel stock is ordered in line with budgets;
- Monitor re-order levels and ensure orders are placed in adequate time to reduce non-availability of fuel stock;
- Ensure that all staff are aware of new supplier, price changes and procedures for accurate recording of all fuel stock movements;
- Ensure that there are adequate controls (physical and administrative) in place to minimise theft and/or waste of all stock items;
- Organise and oversee physical stock take twice a year and match records of stock take to administrative and financial records.

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Purchasing Policy
 Finance Authorisation Policy
 New Supplier or Contractor Appointment Approval Policy

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

General Financial Transactions Policy

Policy Owner	Finance Manager
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 June 2018
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-15

Objective

To ensure that Council accounting records will be maintained on a full accrual basis using up to date methods of electronic data processing.

Policy

Accounting/Book Keeping

The following accounting records will be maintained:

- (1) Cash - consecutive record of cash receipts and payments;
- (2) General Journals;
- (3) General Ledger;
- (4) Subsidiary Ledger including Receivable/Payable/Rates/Assets;
- (5) Other records necessary to fully document and explain the financial transaction of Council as required to comply with the Local Government Act, 1995 (the Act) and Regulations in relation to other financially expressed obligations (for example, budgeting and annual reporting).

Subsidiary ledgers shall be reconciled with the general ledger at least monthly.

There will be adequate and appropriate supervision of employees with sufficient employee backup to ensure that accounts and ledgers are adequately maintained.

Finance Manager (FM) to sight and review all receipt reversals, journals, reversal of rates journals and alterations to parameters of the rating system. FM will sign all relevant documents as evidence of sighting and approval.

Employees working within the finance department will have the capabilities and training, commensurate with their responsibilities.

Monies Received

Monies received shall be recorded by an entry for each individual transaction.

The payer shall be issued with a receipt/tax invoice upon request.

The receipt/tax invoice record shall indicate the mode of payment, i.e. cheque, cash, EFTPOS etc.

Cheques received shall, on receipt, be restrictively crossed "not negotiable".

Receipts shall be issued in numerical sequence.

Details of each receipt shall be retained for the period prescribed by the State Records Act 2000 WA.

Details of each voided or reversed receipt shall be retained for the period prescribed by the State Records Act 2000 WA.

Cash floats may be issued to a cashier for use as change for monies received.

Where possible will be opened centrally in the presence of two (2) employees and scanned directly into Sharepoint (the Shire's Record Management System).

Cheques and cash received through the mail will be forwarded to the Customer Service staff for immediate receipting and banking.

Cash received must be logged in Cheque/Cash Received Register.

Banking

Monies received by an officer or employee of Council must be paid into a Council bank account.

Monies received by or on behalf of Council must be banked as soon as practicable on or after the day of receipt.

Detailed records of Council's banking activities must be kept.

Banking shall be reconciled with receipts. Reconciliation will occur daily and reconciliations will be signed by two staff members.

Monies received will be delivered to the bank on days that the local NAB Branch is open.

In the intervening periods between banking, monies received will be deposited in the safe.

During peak rates periods, banking will be carried out as quickly as possible to ensure that cash held on the premises is limited.

Cash held on the premises overnight shall remain insured to the value of \$100,000 as per Council's insurance policy.

Cheques over \$25,000 will be banked on the day received where possible.

Petty Cash

Cash payments may be made out of a petty cash account established by Council for expense reimbursement only. Cash advances are not permitted unless authorised by the FM.

A cash reimbursement cannot, in respect of any particular docket or voucher, exceed \$50 (including GST) unless authorised by the FM.

The cash floats for petty cash purposes:

- Administration Office \$ 200
- HACC \$ 300

The petty cash account shall be reconciled at least monthly (more often if possible). FM will review process and signoff as evidence of review.

Approval of dockets is to be authorised in accordance with Council's Delegation Manual.

Petty cash vouchers are subject to Council's Purchasing Policy and as such require signature by an Authoriser delegated under that Policy.

Petty cash transactions shall be recorded and supported by petty cash dockets and receipts (or statutory declaration where receipts cannot be provided).

The recipient of the petty cash will be required to sign a petty cash docket and provide supporting documentation when claiming.

The recipient of cash must not be the Authorising Officer, even if the staff member has delegated authority. The recipient must have a more senior delegated officer or one of equal authority sign the petty cash form.

Receipts presented to support petty cash purchases must quote the suppliers ABN and/or be a tax invoice where appropriate.

An audit of petty cash floats will be undertaken at least annually.

All responsible officers who administer petty cash must ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding petty cash and have read and understood the petty cash policy and procedures.

Receipts which do not end in round dollars will need to be rounded when reimbursed via petty cash.

Bank Accounts

Bank accounts will be operated exclusively for the purpose of conducting Council business. Those presently approved:

- (1) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- (2) Finance Manager (FM)
- (3) Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services (MCCS)
- (3) Assets and Works Manager (AWM)
- (4) Finance Officer x 2

At least two authorised bank signatories are required to authorise disbursements from bank accounts.

All accounts will be in the name of Shire of Dowerin. New accounts can only be opened with the approval of the CEO and FM.

Bank reconciliation for each bank account operated by Council shall be prepared weekly. - FM will review reconciliations and signoff as evidence of review.

Transactional banking is presently carried out through the National Australia Bank.

Banking trends and costs will be monitored by the FM and this relationship will be maintained unless determined otherwise by Council resolution. – Evidence of review will be presented by way of an agenda item to the Finance Committee each quarter.

Debtors

Shire of Dowerin provides a range of services which are purchased by varying individuals and organisations. Income is received after the service is provided and a tax invoice is raised. It remains a debt to Council up to the time it is paid or written off.

Staff will complete a Debtor Invoice Request Form (DIRF) immediately an amount becomes due and payable, and forward it to the finance section.

Tax Invoices will be raised upon receipt of a DIRF.

Tax Invoices numbers will be system generated and issued in numerical sequence and meet ATO legislative requirements.

Records shall be maintained for all debtors and transactions relating thereto.

Debtors have 30 days from the date of invoice before the amount is considered “overdue”.

Debt Collection

The policy does not apply to the collection of rate or infringement related debts but extends to specific user pay services such as licences and leases on sporting clubs and hall hire.

Council will apply prudent debt management practices. Outstanding debtor balances shall be reviewed at least monthly and appropriate action initiated to recover debts.

This will include:

- (1) 30 Days - First Reminder letter
- (2) 60 days - Final Notice requesting payment within 14 days
- (3) 90 days - Debtors that fail to respond to Council will be referred to a commercial agent for further action as considered appropriate

Council must ensure that debt is managed in a way which is fair and equitable to the debtor and efficient for both parties. Council acknowledges that a debtor’s financial circumstances can change. As a result, if financial difficulties are experienced or are anticipated, a debtor is encouraged to promptly initiate discussions with Council to seek alternative arrangements.

Should the debtor fail to meet the payment terms without having made contact with Council regarding difficulties, Council will invoke its standard debt recovery procedures to ensure a fair, equitable and consistent approach to all debt follow up. At all times consideration will be given to the amount overdue and the circumstances of the debtor.

Provision for Doubtful Debts

A provision for doubtful debts will be established for aged debts greater than 150 days, taking into account:

- The size and nature of the debt; and
- The debtor in question.

Aged debts less than 150 days may be provided for if the recovery is known to be unlikely.

Outstanding debtor balances shall be reviewed annually towards the end of each financial year to ensure doubtful debts are adequately provided for.

Bad Debts/Write Offs

Debts shall be written off only when all reasonable attempts at recovery have been taken and failed. Recommendation for write off shall be made by the FM following discussion with the section responsible for the raising of the invoice.

Debts that are considered irrecoverable, or where the cost of recovery is uneconomical, shall be written off as a bad debt.

The authority to write off such debts is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer as per the Delegations Register to the value of \$200 for any one debt. Debts of any amount greater than \$200 will be presented to Council for consideration.

Credit Cards

The Chief Executive Officer and Authorised Officers maintain Council owned credit cards.

The corporate credit card recipient must comply with the conditions of use as set out in the "Credit Card Agreement" and "Acknowledgement by Cardholders" that must be signed before the card is issued. This document details limits on usage and conditions relating to documents required to support credit card transactions.

Expenditure on credit cards will be limited to the maximum credit balances as follows:

- (1) Chief Executive Officer - \$3,000
- (2) Finance and Corporate Services Manager - \$3,000
- (3) Assets and Works Manager - \$6,000

All Credit Card Statements must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

The CEO Credit Card Statement must be approved by the President.

Credit card expenditure must be signed by the card holder and supported by the appropriate documentation and be submitted to the Accounts Payable Officer for reconciliation with the statement of account.

The cardholder will ensure that a satisfactory description of the goods purchased is on the sale docket/tax invoice.

In the event the cardholder is unable to produce a valid tax invoice / receipt, a statutory declaration must be submitted by the cardholder confirming that the nature of the item purchased, the item was work related expenditure and the reason a tax invoice or receipt was not provided.

The credit card cannot be used for:-

- (1) Cash withdrawals
- (2) Non Work Related Expenditure
- (3) Items of equipment that must be recorded on an asset register (unless approved by the CEO)
- (4) Internet transactions which are not on a secure web site
- (5) Membership for recreational, sporting or social clubs
- (6) Dangerous goods and hazardous substances
- (7) Foreign currency

Personal expenditure charged by a Cardholder to their Council Card will be treated as a serious breach of policy. Disciplinary action may include, but not be limited to: formal warning, administrative action in the form of card cancellation, cost recovery, termination of employment, Police report and / or criminal proceedings.

Card holders must maintain an up to date knowledge of Council's Credit (Purchase) Card Procedure and Purchasing Procedure.

The cardholder will not permit use of the card by another person except for work related expenses incurred with prior approval.

For Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) purposes, hospitality or entertainment payments which are charged on the credit card must be accompanied by information such as the reason for function, the number of internal staff, spouse and the total number of people in attendance at the function.

Failure to provide the required information regarding hospitality or entertainment expenditure may result in the costs being treated as non work related expenses and therefore subject to FBT.

Where a credit card is lost or stolen, the cardholder must immediately report to the Bank for cancellation.

Any staff member who does not comply with the conditions of use, will have the cards withdrawn & may be subject to disciplinary action.

The cardholder must return the card should they cease to be an employee of Shire of Dowerin or when so directed by the CEO. Where the CEO ceases to be an employee, the CEO must return the card immediately to the FM. Employees surrendering a credit card will sign a form declaring the date and person to whom the credit card was surrendered.

It is the Cardholder's responsibility to ensure that all transactions listed on the Credit Card Statements are correct. If a cardholder does not agree with or recognise a transaction or charge on their Card, the Cardholder must investigate the transaction with the supplier and where necessary, lodge a 'Disputed Transaction Form' with Council's Bank. This must be done within 3 months of the transaction date of the disputed transaction or may be recharged to the cardholder as a personal expense.

Reconciliation of Credit Card Statements must be completed by the second week of each month. – Reconciliations will be reviewed and signed off as evidence of review by the FM. In the case of the FM, the CEO will review and sign the reconciliation.

Purchase Cards

The usage of purchase cards enables Council to procure necessary small value goods in an efficient manner.

A written request detailing the proposed cardholder, reason for the establishment of the card, card limit and manager approval must be submitted to the FM for approval prior to issuance of a card.

The purchase card recipient must comply with the conditions of use as set out in the "Acknowledgement by Purchase Cardholders Form" that must be signed before the card is issued.

This document details strict limits on usage, conditions relating to documents required for records maintenance purposes and authorisation requirements.

Purchase cards should replace the usage of petty cash where possible.

Purchase cards cannot be used for non-work related purchase under any circumstances.

Types of purchase cards approved for usage include, but are not limited to Bunnings Cards and Fuel Cards.

A tax invoice/receipt must be provided for each purchase.

In most instances, purchase cards will only be issued to permanent employees who have completed their probationary period. Exceptions can be authorised by the CEO.

The FM has the discretion to approve the issuance of purchase cards based upon:

- Number of purchase cards held within the relevant team at time of application
- Estimated frequency of usage
- Alternative suppliers who accept purchase orders
- A review of the capacity of the proposed cardholder to meet the card holder responsibilities listed in the 'Acknowledgement by Purchase Cardholders Form'.

The FM has the discretion to withdraw a purchase card from a Council Officer in the event the 'Acknowledgement by Purchase Cardholders Form' is breached in any manner.

Purchase card holders must notify the card provider organisation immediately in the event of a lost or stolen card.

Reconciliation of the cardholders account must be submitted to the Accounts Payable Officer within 7 working days of receipt of the account. Reconciliations will be reviewed and signed off as evidence of review by the FM. In the case of the FM, the CEO will review and sign the reconciliation.

It is the responsibility of the cardholder to return the purchase card to the FM in the event the card is no longer required (e.g. termination of employment). The card holder will sign a form showing the date and person to whom the card was surrendered.

Accounts for Payment and Disbursements

All accounts for payment shall be confirmed that goods/supplies received and certified by an Authorised Officer as to:

- (1) The receipt of the goods and services being in accordance with the relevant official purchase order;
- (2) The prices charged being fair and reasonable;
- (3) The calculations and additions being correct;
- (4) The allocation of the payment to the correct ledger account.

Authorisation of payments/disbursements is to be in accordance with Council Purchasing Policy and/or Council's Delegations Manual. All authorising officers will sign a relevant form showing that they have reviewed the payments/disbursements; in accordance with the Finance Authorisation Policy

An Elected Member is entitled, at any reasonable time, to inspect the record of accounts paid or payable.

A payment on behalf of Council must be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Direct Debit or cheque drawn on Council's bank. All disbursements shall be authorised by any two (2) of the following:

- (1) Chief Executive Officer
- (2) Finance Manager
- (3) Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services
- (3) Assets and Works Manager
- (4) Finance Officer x 2

Cheques shall be on Council stationery, pre-numbered and issued in numerical sequence. Unused cheques shall be stored securely by the Accounts Payable Officer who shall maintain an up to date register. This register is required to be sighted and approved by the FM on a monthly basis. FM will sign all relevant documents as evidence of sighting and approval.

Documentation regarding disbursements shall be retained for the period set down prescribed by the State Records Act 2000 WA.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) is paid on benefits in place of, or in addition to, salary or wages of employees.

Fringe benefits provided are also required to be reported on employee's annual PAYG payment summaries. As the FBT year is not aligned with the financial year, the benefits reported on payment summaries relate to the preceding FBT year, which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Council will comply with FBT legislative requirements.

Goods and Services Tax

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a broad-based consumption tax of 10 per cent on most supplies of goods and services consumed in Australia.

Council's ABN is 35 9399 77194.

Shire of Dowerin is a registered organisation for the purposes of GST, therefore GST is payable on goods and services Council sells or supplies to others in the course of business. These supplies are called taxable supplies.

There are other types of supplies where GST does not have to be included in the price. These are called input taxed supplies and GST-free supplies. The Shire of Dowerin will keep a schedule of Fees and Charges and their relevant GST applicability which is reviewed yearly.

Council will only deal with suppliers who have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or suppliers who are prepared to sign a "Statement by Supplier" tax declaration. A register will be kept of all suppliers who have signed this declaration.

All invoices for Council supplies exceeding \$82.50 and which attract GST must be complying Tax Invoices.

Monthly remittances of GST received and paid will be submitted on Council's Business Activity Statement (BAS).

Amounts will be netted off against other tax office liabilities/receivable such as PAYG/Fuel Tax Credits and Fringe Benefits Tax.

The BAS is used by Council to report its GST related obligations and will be submitted by the 21st day of each month.

Auditor Policy

The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the performance of Council's Auditor and making recommendations to Council as required regarding the appointment or termination of the Auditor. The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference provide detail on how the Audit Committee is required to carry out this responsibility.

Annual Budget/Corporate Business Plan

Council will adopt an Annual Budget from 1 June and before 31 August for the ensuing financial year. The budget will deal with each activity on a separate basis and must comply with the standards and principles prescribed by regulations under the Local Government Act, 1995.

As part of the budget process Council will prepare a Corporate Business Plan which will address the activities Council intends to undertake in the ensuing year to achieve its objectives and the key performance indicators that Council will use to assess its performance against its objectives.

The following budget principles will underpin the budget development:

- (1) Honest & Accountable - with a framework of reporting that is open and transparent;
- (2) Strategic Approach - to the delivery of Council services within Council's strategic priorities;
- (3) Forward Financial Planning - with long term financial plans of a minimum of ten years to ensure sustainability of operations and careful consideration of the impact on Council's key strategic financial indicators;
- (4) Realistic Budgeting - based on best available information at the time of budget preparation;
- (5) Meet Long Term Liabilities - and ensure appropriate funding for infrastructure provisions;
- (6) Affordable Rates - balanced against meeting Council objectives and the community's ability to pay with a focus on reducing the reliance on residential rates where possible;
- (7) Avoid Cost Shifting - from other levels of government;
- (8) New Initiatives - fully costed and evaluated in terms of meeting Council's strategic priorities;
- (9) Asset Sales and Debt - will ensure the operations do not rely on asset sales to fund core services. Debt will be used as a strategic tool to fund infrastructure needs;
- (10) Financial Control - to minimise Council's exposure to risk;
- (11) Cognisance of financial ratios that measure financial sustainability.

The budget performance will be reviewed each year by the FM as per Section 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

The FM will present to Council, a report that compares budgeted performance to actual performance with explanations for significant budget variances.

Council is solely responsible for approving any change to Council's budget.

The Council will consider Budget Carry Overs at the Mid-Year Budget Review to ensure their consideration for inclusion in the Original Budget for the following year.

Payroll

Records will be maintained in respect all employees of Council showing:

- (1) Hours worked and rate of pay
- (2) Gross salary or wages
- (3) Tax and details of all other payments and deductions
- (4) Sick, annual, long service and other leave available and taken
- (5) Allocation of time worked on jobs
- (6) Superannuation deductions
- (7) Salary Sacrifice/Packaging

Salaries and wages will be paid on the basis of hours of attendance recorded on an approved time sheet, except for employees on "no fixed hours" contracts.

Time sheets will be submitted fortnightly by the employee to the Payroll Officer and a copy to their immediate supervisor for authorisation (unless agreed otherwise).

All claims for overtime must be authorised by the relevant manager.

Hours of work, time in lieu etc. will be paid in accordance with Shire of Dowerin Policy.

All annual leave and long service leave must be applied for in writing by employees and authorised by their supervisor prior to commencement of leave.

All sick leave must be authorised by the relevant supervisor as soon as practical after the period of absence, and will be paid in accordance with Shire of Dowerin Policy and the relevant Award.

Additional hours resulting in the accrual of time in lieu or payment of overtime must be approved by the relevant Manager prior to undertaking the additional hours.

A responsible officer shall certify the pay sheets for payments of salaries and wages for each period in the following manner:

- (1) I certify that:
 - (a) The persons named on these pay sheets were actually and bona fide employed for the period shown.
 - (b) The rates of pay are correct.
 - (c) The additions and calculations have been checked.

Unclaimed or unpaid salaries or wages will be held in Council's general operating bank account.

Council may make payments of cash advances against salaries or wages earned but unpaid. No advance shall exceed the amount of salary or wage earned in the next pay period and the advance shall be reimbursed on the next date on which salaries and wages are paid. Any such payment is to be approved by the Chief Executive Officer in writing to the Payroll Officer.

Payroll deductions on behalf of employees will be limited to:

- (1) Taxation liabilities;
- (2) Superannuation liabilities;
- (3) Union Fees;
- (4) Child Support Agency;

- (5) Registered Banking Institutions;
 - (6) Staff Social Events and Clubs (eg. Christmas Dinner, Staff Social Club);
 - (7) Corporate Wardrobe Deduction;
 - (8) Council Rates Deductions (where employees are ratepayers in Council area).
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Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

26 June 2018 (Item 10.1.8)

New Supplier Approval & Appointment Policy

Policy Owner Finance and Corporate Services Manager

Distribution Finance Team

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 24 October 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-29

Objective

To provide guidelines and parameters for the approval and appointment of new suppliers.

Policy

All new suppliers or contractors to the business must be reviewed and accepted in accordance with this policy to ensure that the supplier service is aligned with Council objectives.

Choosing a New Supplier or Contractor

For each new supplier or contractor the following information table must be completed prior to agreeing to services:

Supplier or Contractor Selection Background Information	
Business Name of Supplier or Contractor	
ABN or ACN	
Location of Supplier or Contractor	
Products/Services provided by supplier or contractor (Attach a list if necessary)	
Name of business contact	

For each new supplier or contractor being considered the following checklist must be completed:

Supplier or Contractor Selection Review	
Is the supplier or contractor WALGA approved?	
Is the supplier or contractor pricing competitive? Attach list to this checklist	
What are the payment terms for this supplier or contractor?	
Does the supplier or contractor provide warranties, guarantees etc.?	

Are the suppliers or contractors knowledgeable of the products/ services and industry?	
Is there an alternative to this supplier or contractor, has the alternative supplier or contractor been considered?	

Appointment of Supplier or Contractor

The appointment of a new supplier will be authorised by Finance and Corporate Services Manager (FCSM).

All relevant details of the supplier will be entered into the financial system by Finance Officer once approval is obtained from FCSM.

FCSM will review information entered into the financial system and independently verify the bank account or other payment details of the supplier to ensure payments made are to the correct supplier

Supplier or Contractor Payment Terms

All purchases from suppliers must be supported by a purchase order – refer to the Purchasing and Stock Control policy

Payment terms for all suppliers must be reviewed by Finance Officer annually.

All supplier payment terms must be a minimum of fourteen days.

Any variation to the above must be authorised by FCSM.

All supplier payments are to be reviewed every quarter to ensure that payment terms are adhered to. For payments made to any suppliers earlier or later than the agreed terms, Finance Officer will prepare a report that details the reasons why payment terms have not been adhered to.

This report will be reviewed and authorised by FCSM.

Additional Policies for Suppliers or Contractors

Purchasing Policy
Fuel Stock Control Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

Petty Cash Policy

Policy Owner	Finance Manager
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 February 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

Petty cash should be used to pay for small business expenses up to \$30 where payments through accounts payable or credit card are not justified or appropriate.

Policy

Issuing Petty Cash

A petty cash voucher receipt must be completed before any cash is paid out of the petty cash float.

Only up to \$30 can be disbursed at any one time.

All petty cash voucher receipts must be approved for payment by either the Finance Officer, Dowerin Home Care Co-ordinator or a Manager.

All petty cash vouchers must be supported by a supplier invoice or receipt to justify the petty cash expenditure.

All completed vouchers must have the following details included:

- Issue date of voucher;
- Name of person who issued the voucher;
- Amount of monies disbursed;
- Details of expense;
- Invoice or receipt; and
- Signature of approval person.

Reconciling Petty Cash

The petty cash float is to be reconciled monthly. This is the responsibility of the Petty Cash Custodian. The Finance Manager will review and sign off on monthly reconciliations.

All the petty cash expenditure must be entered into the financial system once the petty cash has been reconciled.

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Petty Cash Float

Reimbursement of the petty cash float will be authorised by the Finance Manager.

The balance of monies and vouchers must equal the petty cash float before reimbursement.

The shire has two petty cash floats as follows:

- The Shire administration office for \$200

- Dowerin Home Care for \$300

The petty cash float shall be locked in the safe in the related buildings.

Forms used

Petty cash voucher book receipt
Petty cash reconciliation voucher
Accounts payable reimbursement voucher

Roles and Responsibilities

Finance Officer - Petty Cash Custodian for the Shire Administration office.

Dowerin Home Care Co-ordinator - Petty Cash Custodian for the Dowerin Home Care

Finance Manager - Approval of the reconciliation and reimbursement of the petty cash float.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1996
Finance Authorisation Policy

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)
26 February 2019 (Item 10.2.2)

Sundry Debt Collection Policy

Policy Owner Finance and Corporate Services Manager

Distribution Finance Team

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 24 October 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-25

Objective

- To ensure all debts owed to Council are not paid by the due date are followed up and recovered within specified time frames.
- To establish the procedures to be followed when a debt becomes overdue.

Policy

Sundry Debts

Council undertakes to issue GST compliant tax invoices as soon as practicable following the debt being realised. Finance staff will ensure that invoices are correctly addressed and contain sufficient information for the debtor to understand the charge and due date.

Payment terms default to Local Government Terms, i.e. payment due 30 days after the end of the month of the date of invoice. Any exceptions are documented in debtor specific agreements.

Interest charges are applied to outstanding invoices at the end of the month following the due date. Interest is charged at the rate set by Council on a yearly basis and detailed in the schedule of fees and charges. Interest shall be applied on all overdue sundry debts unless otherwise authorised.

Council will not commence legal action without taking all reasonable steps to establish a payment arrangement or negotiate settlement of outstanding debt.

The Council has provided a delegation to the CEO to enter into arrangements with debtors or extended payment plans.

Outstanding Sundry Debts (excluding Rates and Service Charges)

1 - 30 Days Past Due

Courtesy call to debtor to ensure invoice has been received and to remind them that the debt is still outstanding.

31 - 60 Days Past Due

Letter to debtor advising them formally that the outstanding amount is still outstanding and that legal action may be taken without further notice.

>61 Days Past Due

The debt may be referred to Council's Collection Agency for action. Should the debt be connected with an abatement notice the debt may be transferred to the property rates as allowed under Section 201 (5) of the Local Government Act 1995.

Bad Debts (Sundry Debtors)

Bad debts can only be written off in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Recommendations for the write off of a bad debt will be made to the CEO following discussion the department responsible for raising the debt. The CEO has delegated authority to write off any sundry debtor bad debt to the amount of \$200.

In all cases before a debt is written off staff are to ensure that all reasonable attempts have been made to recover the debt and there are no reasonable prospects of recovering the debt or determine that the costs of recovery are likely to equal or exceed the amount to be recovered.

Bad debts over the amount of \$200 will be referred to Council for a decision. A report will also be provided to Council listing details of any bad debts written off.

Rates and Service charges

Payment of rates and service charges is dealt with Local Government Act and Regulations.

The Chief Executive Officer is to take necessary and appropriate measures to recover outstanding rates and service charges under Delegated Authority (Delegation 2.1).

Action	Timing	Action to be taken	Authority Level
1	15 days from due date	Final notice advising ratepayer of the overdue account and warning that matter will be referred to the Shire's debt collection agency.	Finance and Corporate Services Manager
2	30 days from due date	Phone call or email to ratepayer advising them the matter is due to be referred to the Shire's debt collection agency.	Chief Executive Officer or delegate
3	45 days from due date	Appropriate action in accordance with s6.54-6.75 of the Local Government Act 1995 - Recovery of overdue account including referral to Council's debt collection agency.	Chief Executive Officer

Payment Arrangements- Rates and Service Charges

As a general rule, Council will not accept periodic payment or special arrangement except in exceptional circumstances (like debtor is in financial hardships). Where special payment arrangement is made, it has to be authorised and approved by Chief Executive Officer. Once an agreement is committed, no further recovery action is required; however, in the event that agreement is not honoured, the matter will be referred to the Shire's debt collection agency.

Where recovery of the amount is unlikely to happen (like debtor is in liquidation), the Chief Executive Officer may agree to terms such as partial payment.

Debts Write Off - Rates and Service Charges

Amount deemed uncollectible up to \$100, write off will be granted by Chief Executive Officer.

Amount deemed uncollectible above \$100 must be referred to Council and may be written off by a Council decision.

Reporting

The Chief Executive Officer is required to submit on a monthly basis to the Council, a report detailing debts owed to the Shire, and which may include action taken or recommended to be taken in relation to recalcitrant debtors or where recovery action to date has been unsuccessful and requires escalation.

Guidelines

All requests outside the scope of this policy are to be referred to Council.

All bad debts written off will be in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995. S76, S201(5), S76

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

Elected Member's Fees, Allowances, Reimbursements and Benefits Policy

Policy Owner	Governance and Organisational Development Coordinator
Distribution	Management Team Finance Team
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	24 October 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-27

Objective

- To clearly outline the support and allowances available to the Shire's Elected Members' within the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 to cover any out of pocket expenses that are incurred in carrying out their function as an Elected Member.
 - To establish guidelines in respect to Elected Members' participation in conferences and training.
-

Policy

Allowances

Elected Member meeting attendance fees and the Shire president's local government allowance are set each year as part of Council's annual budget process. Allowances and fees are to be paid in two instalments in June and December.

- Allowances and fees are to be raised annually by the cost of inflation (the total remuneration in not to exceed the amount set by the Local Government Act 1995):

Allowance in lieu of reimbursement of telephone expenses

All expenses that have been approved for reimbursement under Regulation 32 may be paid as an annual allowance to Council members in lieu of reimbursement under section 5.99A of the Act and Regulation 34A.

Allowance in lieu of reimbursement of information technology expenses

All expenses that have been approved for reimbursement under Regulation 32 may be paid as an annual allowance to Council members in lieu of reimbursement, under section 5.99A of the Act and Regulation 34AA.

Reimbursements for travelling expenses

It is noted that under section 5.98(2)(a) and Regulations 31(1)(b) and 31(4), an Elected Member who incurs travel expenses because of the member's attendance at a Council meeting or meeting of a committee of which he or she is a member, is entitled to be reimbursed.

The expenses shall be paid only on receipt of a formal claim and shall be calculated on the number of kilometres between the President/Elected Member's principal place of residence or work within the Shire to the meeting venue and back.

All claims are to be entered onto the Shire's register and emailed to the Chief Executive Officer at the end of each quarter (as listed above).

Professional Development and Conferences

To enable Elected Members to develop and maintain skills and knowledge relevant to their role as representatives of the Shire training and professional development is encouraged and will be financially supported in accordance with the annual budget allocation.

Opportunities for Elected Members training and Professional Development will be selected by a decision of Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Review History

24 October 2017 (Item 9.1.3)

Safety Bonus Scheme Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management Team
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 April 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-27

Objective

The Shire of Dowerin considers its employees to be its most valuable assets and this policy aims to provide a clear, transparent and equitable system to assist in the teamwork implementation of safety processes and procedures, as far as reasonably practical, to ensure a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of its employees.

Policy

To support a culture of safety and health, the Shire of Dowerin will commit to providing a Monthly Safety Bonus Scheme. The scheme offers a monthly bonus payment of \$50.00 to all outside staff, subject to the following eligibility criteria being satisfied:

Eligibility: Success Criteria

The Safety Bonus Scheme is payable in response to a calendar month that is free from:

- Personal injury;
- Workplace accidents that result in lost time injuries;
- Avoidable damage to machinery;
- Avoidable damage to vehicles; and
- Where all required OSH documentation has been completed to a satisfactory standard as per Supervisor's direction (including but not limited to Risk assessments, SWIMS, Take 5s, Pre-start checklists).

This bonus is part of a suite of initiatives that aims to improve safety of staff and adherence to OSH requirements by outside staff that includes:

- Inclusion of OSH as a formal requirement within Position Descriptions; OSH Training for all staff;
- Adherence to OSH requirements as part of the annual formal performance review process;
- Monthly tool box meetings;
- A formal OSH Committee;
- Ongoing review of OSH policies and procedures.

If any employee is found to be in breach of the Incident Reporting Requirements specified in this policy, in order to receive payment of this Safety Bonus, they will be subject to disciplinary action.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

To ensure equitable and transparent application of this policy.

Assets and Works Manager

To ensure all outside staff are aware of this policy and understand its implications; and
To monitor and access adherence to policy requirements

Employees

To ensure they comply with the requirements of this policy.

Related Documentation

9.4. Occupational Safety and Health Key Performance Indicators

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 (specifically Part III, Section 19)

Related Delegation

Review History

Gravel Supplies & Rehabilitation Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Employees
Responsible Officer	Works and Assets Manager
Date Adopted	18 December 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To ensure there is adequate supply of road building materials available for Council road works and there is an effective rehabilitation program in place and to ensure arrangements are transparent and comply with the Shire's obligations under sections 3.21 and 3.22 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Policy

Access to Gravel

Council recognises that in order to access gravel it needs to pay a fair price and abide by its own policies and local laws. To this end, Council will undertake the following:

- approach the landowner at least four weeks prior to the time that the works are due to commence, to advise the landowner of the Shire's intention, negotiate compensation and enable the landowner to make any domestic arrangements in relation to stock, etc.
- All gravel pits opened on private property will be reclaimed before the plant shifts to the next programmed job, unless firm arrangements are made with the landowner for not reclaiming.
- If the area is required for dam catchments, all top soil shall be stock piled, or removed if suitable for road building.
- If required by land holder, gravel areas shall be fenced, and suitable gates fitted to fenced area, at Shires expense.
- All care is to be taken to cause the least amount of inconvenience to the landowner as is possible.
- All Gravel Pits are to be rehabilitated in accordance with this Policy.
- Council's preference for payment of gravel is to pay \$2.20 including GST per cubic metre for compacted gravel that is removed from private property. The cost will be charged against the particular job or jobs concerned.
- All transactions to be in accordance with relevant legislation and include a written agreement setting out all relevant details, including rehabilitation of the quarry/pit.

Gravel Pit Rehabilitation

The Shire recognises and accepts that gravel pit rehabilitation is necessary to avoid soil compaction, decrease surface drainage, avoid erosion and minimise visual pollution.

1. In general, prior to opening a gravel pit, a plan for the management of the site will be prepared which will include rehabilitation and monitoring.
2. Private operators are required to submit and abide to a gravel pit management plan, which includes rehabilitation and monitoring, before establishing a gravel pit.
3. Wherever possible, new gravel pits will be established on cleared land, not existing bushland and will not be located on a road verge.
4. Where necessary, the visual impacts of an operating gravel pit will be minimised through the establishment of buffers between the pit and visual vantage point/s.
5. Where necessary, the dust and noise impacts of an operating gravel pit will be minimised through the establishment of buffers between the pit and neighbours.

6. Throughout the life of the pit, topsoil, overburden and vegetation will be stockpiled separately ready for respreading in the rehabilitation process.
7. If weeds have developed on the topsoil mounds these should be removed prior to respreading the topsoil.
8. If necessary, drainage structures will be established within the pit, to reduce any ponding and surface erosion.
9. Rehabilitation will be done progressively throughout the life of the gravel pit.
10. The site will be monitored every year and for three years after closure of the pit. If rehabilitation is inadequate, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure success.

Bush Sites

Where a proposed gravel pit is located within bushland, the following will apply:

1. Refer to the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* and obtain the necessary clearing permits.
2. Prior to opening a gravel pit, seed from local endemic species will be collected from the site and stored for use in the revegetation phase of rehabilitation.
3. The general process of rehabilitation will be to first rip the floor of the pit at 1 metre intervals across the contour. Following ripping the pit needs to be shaped so that the surfaces are as smooth as possible, and the edges are battered down to blend in with the landscape. The batter slopes should be no steeper than 4H:1V. Next, the overburden, and then the topsoil should be returned to the pit. The site should then be cross-ripped at 1m intervals on the contour to encourage plant growth. Finally, the vegetation and debris should be returned to the pit.
4. Seeds collected prior to pit establishment should be scattered on the site at the time of year suited for germination (varies with location) if establishment from respreading vegetation has been inadequate. If a store of seeds is not available, seed from local endemic species should be collected from surrounding areas.
5. If the gravel pit is located on farm land, it will be fenced to exclude stock to help ensure adequate regeneration.

Pastured Sites

1. Prior to establishment of the site, the landowner will be asked how they want the site rehabilitated.
2. For sites to be rehabilitated back to pasture the general process of rehabilitation will be as follows. Firstly, the floor of the pit will be ripped to a depth of at least 50cm along the contour. Following ripping the pit needs to be shaped so that the surfaces are as smooth as possible, and the edges are battered down to blend in with the landscape.

Next, the overburden and then topsoil should be returned to the pit. Pasture seed will be spread.

Abandoned Gravel Pits

1. An amount to be determined by Council as part of the annual budget process will be budgeted each financial year for rehabilitating abandoned gravel pits until all pits are rehabilitated to a satisfactory level.
2. The method for rehabilitation will not change from that mentioned in the section on current gravel pits.
3. If fill is no longer available, spoil from roadworks etc. will be used. Topsoil, if no longer on site, will be carted to the area to ensure regeneration will be satisfactory.
4. The site will be monitored every year for three years after rehabilitation works. If rehabilitation is inadequate, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure success.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Related Documentation

NIL

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Sections 3.21 and 3.22 Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

18 December 2018 (Item 10.1.1)

Revoked Road Network Supplies from Landowners in Exchange for Work Policy

Corporate Credit Card Policy

Policy Owner	Manager Corporate and Community Services
Distribution	All Employees, Elected Members, Public
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	28 March 2017
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To regulate the use of Shire of Dowerin Corporate Credit Cards held by employees.

Policy

This policy applies to all officers issued with a corporate credit card. It documents the responsibilities attached to the issue and acceptable use of these cards.

General

Credit Cards assist in achieving efficiencies in the purchasing and payment process as:

- They reduce the steps required to process and pay for a purchase.
- Credit Cards are a more flexible payment tool in order to enhance daily purchasing processes and reduce administrative costs.

These advantages result in prompt payment of suppliers, reduction in paperwork, improved cash management and greater convenience.

Authorised Use and Limits

Shire of Dowerin Corporate Credit Cards are to be used only in pursuit of official Council business.

Corporate Credit Cards may be issued to designated Senior Employees for the Shire of Dowerin:

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Manager Corporate & Community Services
- Manager Works & Assets

The overall limit of the Shire's corporate credit card facility shall not exceed \$20,000. This overall limit can only be increased by Council resolution on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

The *Local Government Act 1995* does not allow for the issue of Corporate Credit Cards to Elected Members. There are no provisions within the Act which allow an Elected Member to incur a debt, as would be the case with a credit card.

Financial Institution

The Shire's Corporate Credit Cards are to be issued by its financial institution once approved by the CEO.

The Financial institution will verify the card user by requiring identification as per banking legislation policy prior to the issue of a card.

Purchasing and Use of Corporate Credit Cards

Corporate Credit Cards are only be used for purchasing goods and services on behalf of the Shire which is authorised in the current budget. Cardholders must follow the Shire of Dowerin Purchasing Policy. Personal expenditure is prohibited. Corporate Credit Cards are not to be used for cash withdrawals.

Where the purchase has been made via facsimile, telephone, or over the internet an invoice or receipt is required in all circumstances and must contain details of the purchase.

For Fringe Benefits Tax purposes, any expenditure for entertainment must include the reason for the function, the number of people who were in attendance and the full names of any Shire staff.

Payments

The Financial Institution of the credit card will supply the Shire with a statement of account each month. The statement will be provided by the Finance Officer to the respective cardholder for certification and the supply of receipts and tax invoices in support of the transactions. All paperwork must be returned to the Finance Officer within 7 days of receiving the statement.

Once the cardholder has returned the statement, it must be signed by an authorised Senior Employee. The Shire President will be required to authorise and sign the CEO's statement.

If the credit card is being used by another staff member apart from the cardholder, a Credit Card Authorisation Form must be completed and approved.

All invoices/receipts must include the suppliers ABN, amount and whether GST applies, and a brief description of goods and services purchased.

Stolen or Lost Credit Card

In the event that the cardholder loses or misplaces their credit card they will need to report this to the issuing financial institution and the CEO or the Manager of Corporate and Community Services.

Lost Invoices / Receipt

In the event the cardholder is unable to produce a valid tax invoice/receipt, a declaration must be submitted by the cardholder confirming the nature of the item purchased, the item was work related expenditure and the reason a tax invoice or receipt was not provided.

Register of Corporate Credit Card Holders

The Manager of Corporate and Community Services will maintain a register of credit cardholders.

Misuse of Corporate Credit Cards

Cards which show unreasonable, excessive or unauthorised expenditure will be reported to the CEO, will be subject to audit and may result in the withdrawal of the card from the officer. Any personal expenditure charged by the cardholder will be treated as a serious breach of policy and disciplinary action taken.

Reward/Bonus Points

Where the corporate credit cards carry rewards or bonus points, under no circumstances are rewards or bonus points to be redeemed for an officer's private benefit. These rewards or points will be accumulated in the name of the Shire of Dowerin. The CEO will decide how these points are to be utilised.

Return of Cards

In the event that a cardholder ceases employment, takes an extended period of leave, or they move to a position which does not require the use of a Corporate Credit Card, the cardholder must notify the CEO two weeks before the date to arrange cancellation of use and to ensure all receipts and their account has been settled.

All surrendered Corporate Credit Cards must be returned to the Manager of Corporate and Community Services or the CEO who will make arrangements for the destruction of the card and advise the financial institution to cancel the credit card.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

Council approve the following conditions for the CEO;

- That a Corporate Credit Card be issued;
- The Shire President must approve the monthly statements for the CEO;
- All other terms and conditions set out in this policy and other relevant policies must apply.

Manager Corporate and Community Services

The Manager Corporate and Community Services must;

- Arrange the issues and cancellations of Corporate Credit Cards when requested by the CEO;
- Maintain a register of all cardholders;
- Provide cardholders with the Policy, and where required any changes to the policy and their responsibilities and obligations as cardholders; and
- Arrange for all cardholders to sign the Corporate Credit Cardholder Agreement on receipt of the issue of the new card, ensure the signed agreement is placed in the Council's Information Management System and recorded in the Corporate Credit Card Register.

Cardholders Responsibilities and Obligations

Cardholders must;

- All holders of Corporate Credit Cards must refer to the following guidelines which is provided by the financial institution at the time of the card issue;
- Keep their card in a safe place and under no circumstances permit another person to use their card to make a purchase or use the card for cash advances;
- Only make purchases over the internet on secure sites receiving the approval by the CEO or relevant Manager has provided written approval;
- Report immediately any lost or stolen credit card to the financial institution issuing the card, the CEO or the Manager Corporate and Community Services;
- Adhere to policy and procedures in relation to Corporate Credit Policy and Council's Purchasing Policy; and
- Ensure all receipts and tax invoices are kept and submitted to Finance Officer within 7 (seven) days of receipt.

Related Documentation

Corporate Card User Agreement

National Australia Bank Commercial Card application Form

Corporate Credit Card Authorisation Form

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

The use of Corporate Credit Cards is not specifically mentioned in the *Local Government Act 1995*. However the impacts of the use and control of corporate credit cards are related to the following sections of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

- Section 6.5(a) requires the CEO to ensure that there are kept, in accordance with regulations, proper accounts and records of the transactions and affairs of the local government.
- *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 - Regulation 11(1)(a)* requires local governments to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and the payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, and properly authorised use of cheques, credit cards, computer encryption devices and passwords, purchasing cards and any other devices or methods by which goods, services, money or other benefits may be obtained.

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

Adopted 17 November 2015

Reviewed 28 May 2019 – Item 10.2.1

Residential and Commercial Standard Crossing (Crossover) Policy

Policy Owner	Asset and Works Manager
Distribution	All Employees, Elected Members , Public
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	28 March 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-66

Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to ensure transparency, equity and consistency in the provision of 'standard crossing' (or cross over as they are usually called) on private residential and commercial properties in the Shire of Dowerin and sets out what constitutes a cross over from the paved portion of a road to a property boundary for use by vehicles.

Policy

This policy applies to all officers involved in dealing with applications for cross over.

Definition: A standard cross over comprises either:

- a. A minimum of 100 mm reinforced concrete over a compacted sub-base; or
- b. A minimum of 50 mm thick brick pavers; or
- c. As approved by Council.

Residential and Commercial properties as defined under Local Scheme Zones in the Shire of Dowerin (Scheme 2) are subject to these policy conditions.

This policy does not apply to Industrial Properties as defined under Local Scheme Zones in the Shire of Dowerin (Scheme 2).

A cross over must be built from the paved portion of a road or kerb to the front boundary line and tied in or made contiguous with abutting structures (kerbs, footpaths and driveways).

The minimum width of the standard cross over shall be 3.0 meters from residences, 4.0 meters for commercial.

The Shire of Dowerin will contribute to one crossing per property only.

Where the ratepayer elects to construct a crossover, the Shire's contribution shall not exceed 50% of the cost of the crossover as defined in this policy and as per Council adopted Fees and Charges Schedule of its annual budget.

The square metres calculated shall be the length (from the road kerb to the property line) multiplied by the nominal width. The applicant must produce documents stating the full cost of the crossing.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO is responsible for implementing this policy and for bringing it to Council for review.

Management Team

The Management team is responsible for ensuring their direct reports are aware of, and comply with, this policy./

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Regulation 15 of the Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996, and Clauses 2.4 and 2.5 of the Shire of Dowerin Activities on Thoroughfares Local Law relate to temporary crossovers, and removal of crossovers.

Related Delegation

Review History

Purchasing Policy

Policy Owner	Finance Manager
Distribution	All Employees, Elected Members , Public
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 June 2018
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-68

Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to ensure that all purchasing activities:

- demonstrate that best value for money is attained for the Shire of Dowerin;
 - are compliant with relevant legislations, including the Act and Regulations;
 - are recorded in compliance with the State Records Act 2000 and associated records management practices and procedures of the Shire of Dowerin;
 - mitigate probity risk, by establishing consistent and demonstrated processes that promotes openness, transparency, fairness and equity to all potential suppliers;
 - ensure that the sustainable benefits, such as environmental, social and local economic factors are considered in the overall value for money assessment; and
 - are conducted in a consistent and efficient manner across the Shire of Dowerin and that ethical decision making is demonstrated.
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Policy

This policy applies to all officers purchasing goods or services on behalf of the Shire/and or using Shire funds. It documents the responsibilities attached to the making purchases on behalf of the Shire.

Ethis & Integrity/Code of Conduct

All officers and employees of the Shire of Dowerin undertaking purchasing activities must have regard for the Code of Conduct requirements and shall observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity. All officers and employees of the Shire of Dowerin must act in an honest and professional manner at all times which supports the standing of the Shire of Dowerin.

Purchasing Principles

The following principles, standards and behaviours must be observed and enforced through all stages of the purchasing process to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all parties:

- full accountability shall be taken for all purchasing decisions and the efficient, effective and proper expenditure of public monies based on achieving value for money;
- all purchasing practices shall comply with relevant legislation, regulations, and requirements consistent with the Shire of Dowerin's policies and Code of Conduct;
- purchasing is to be undertaken on a competitive basis where all potential suppliers are treated impartially, honestly and consistently;
- all processes, evaluations and decisions shall be transparent, free from bias and fully documented in accordance with applicable policies, audit requirements and relevant legislation;
- any actual or perceived conflicts of interest are to be identified, disclosed and appropriately managed; and any information provided to the Shire of

Dowerin's by a supplier shall be treated as commercial-in-confidence and should not be released unless authorised by the supplier or relevant legislation.

Value for Money

Value for money is determined when the consideration of price, risk and qualitative factors that are assessed to determine the most advantageous outcome to be achieved for the Shire of Dowerin. As such, purchasing decisions must be made with greater consideration than obtaining lowest price, but also to incorporate qualitative and risk factors into the decision.

Application

An assessment of the best value for money outcome for any purchasing process should consider:

- all relevant Total Costs of Ownership (TCO) and benefits including transaction costs associated with acquisition, delivery, distribution, as well as other costs such as but not limited to holding costs, consumables, deployment, maintenance and disposal;
- the technical merits of the goods or services being offered in terms of compliance with specifications, contractual terms and conditions and any relevant methods of assuring quality, including but not limited to an assessment of levels and currency of compliances, value adds offered, warranties, guarantees, repair and replacement policies, ease of inspection, ease of after sales service, ease of communications etc.financial viability and capacity to supply without risk of default (competency of the prospective suppliers in terms of managerial and technical capabilities and compliance history);
- a strong element of competition in the allocation of orders or the awarding of contracts. This is achieved by obtaining a sufficient number of competitive quotations wherever practicable;
- the safety requirements associated with both the product design and specification offered by suppliers and the evaluation of risk when considering purchasing goods and services from suppliers;
- purchasing of goods and services from suppliers that demonstrate sustainable benefits and good corporate social responsibility; and
- providing opportunities for businesses within the Shire of Dowerin's boundaries to be given the opportunity to quote for providing goods and services wherever possible.

Authorised Officer Limits

The following Officers are authorised to sign orders on behalf of Council within the limits stated provided such proposed purchases are contained within the Budget and are within the officer's area of activity.

Position	Amount
Chief Executive Officer	Unlimited
Assets and Works Manager	\$50,000
Finance Manager	\$50,000
Depot Supervisor	\$ 5,000
Acting Manager of Corporate and Community Services	\$ 5,000
Finance Officers	\$ 2,000

Administration Staff	\$ 500
Parks and Gardens	\$ 500

Purchasing Value Definition

Determining purchasing value is to be based on the following considerations:

1. Exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST);
2. The actual or expected value of a contract over the full contract period, including all options to extend; or the extent to which it could be reasonably expected that the Shire of Dowerin will continue to purchase a particular category of goods, services or works and what total value is or could be reasonably expected to be purchased. A best practice suggestion is that if a purchasing threshold is reached within three years for a particular category of goods, services or works, then the purchasing requirement under the relevant threshold (including the tender threshold) must apply.
3. Must incorporate any variation to the scope of the purchase and be limited to a 10% tolerance of the original purchasing value.

Purchasing from Existing Contracts

Where the Shire of Dowerin has an existing contract in place, it must ensure that goods and services required are purchased under these contracts to the extent that the scope of the contract allows. When planning the purchase, the Shire of Dowerin must consult its Contracts Register in the first instance before seeking to obtain quotes and tenders on its own accord.

Purchasing Thresholds

Purchase Value Threshold	Purchasing Requirement
Up to \$5,000	Purchase directly from a supplier using a Purchasing or Corporate Credit Card issued by the Shire of Dowerin, or obtain at least one (1) oral or written quotation from a suitable supplier, either from:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Shire of Dowerin; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government Common Use Arrangement (CUA); or • from the open market.
Over \$5,000 and up to \$50,000	<p>Obtain at least three (3) written quotations from suppliers following a brief outlining the specified requirement, either from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Shire of Dowerin; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government CUA; or • from the open market.
Over \$50,000 and up to \$150,000	<p>Obtain at least three (3) written quotations from suppliers by formal invitation under a Request for Quotation, containing price and detailed specification of goods and services required. The procurement decision is to be based on pre-determined evaluation criteria that assesses all value for money considerations in accordance with the definition stated within this Policy.</p> <p>Quotations within this threshold may be obtained from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Shire of Dowerin; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government CUA; or • from the open market. <p>Requests for quotation from a pre-qualified panel of suppliers (whether administered by the Shire of Dowerin through the WALGA preferred supply program or State Government CUA) are not required to be invited using a Request for Quotation form, however at least three written quotes are still required to be obtained.</p>

Over \$150,000	Where the purchasing requirement is not suitable to be met through a panel of pre-qualified suppliers, or any other tender-exempt arrangement as listed in this Policy, it is mandatory to conduct a public Request for Tender process in accordance with Part 4 of the <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> , this policy and the Shire of Dowerin's tender procedures. The procurement decision is to be based on pre-determined evaluation criteria that assesses all value for money considerations in accordance with the definition stated within this Policy.
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Tendering Exemptions

An exemption to publicly invite tenders may apply in the following instances:

- the purchase is obtained from a pre-qualified supplier under the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government Common Use Arrangement.
- the purchase is from a Regional Local Government or another Local Government;
- the purchase is from a pre-qualified supplier under a Panel established by the Shire of Dowerin; or
- any of the other exclusions under Regulation 11 of the Regulations apply.

When making a decision about whether to conduct a public Tender or utilise a Tender exempt arrangement, the Local Government should compare the cost and benefits of both processes. The compliance requirements, time constraints, costs and risks associated with a public Tender should be evaluated against the value delivered by such a process. This should then be compared with the costs and benefits of using a Tender exempt arrangement which include direct access to pre-qualified suppliers, full regulatory compliance, risk mitigation, administrative efficiencies and cost savings.

Inviting Tenders Under the Tender Threshold

Where considered appropriate and beneficial, the Shire of Dowerin may consider publicly advertising Tenders in lieu of undertaking a Request for Quotation for purchases under the tender threshold. This decision should be made after considering the benefits of this approach in comparison with the costs, risks, timeliness and compliance requirements and also whether the purchasing requirement can be met through the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government CUA.

If a decision is made to undertake a public Tender for contracts expected to be \$150,000 or less in value, the Shire of Dowerin's tendering procedures must be followed in full.

Sole Source of Supply

Where the purchasing requirement is over the value of \$5,000 and of a unique nature that can only be supplied from one supplier, the purchase is permitted without undertaking a tender or quotation process. This is only permitted in circumstances where the Shire of Dowerin is satisfied and can evidence that there is only one source of supply for those goods, services or works. The Shire of Dowerin must use its best endeavors to determine if the sole source of supply is genuine by exploring if there are any alternative sources of supply. Once determined, the justification must be endorsed by either the Chief Executive Officer, Finance and Corporate Services Manager or Assets and Works Manager, prior to a contract being entered into. From time to time, the Shire of Dowerin may publicly invite an expression of interest to effectively determine that one sole source of supply still genuinely exists.

Anti-Avoidance

The Shire of Dowerin shall not enter into two or more contracts or create multiple purchase order transactions of a similar nature for the purpose of "splitting" the value of the purchase or contract to take the value of the consideration of the purchase below a particular purchasing threshold, particularly in relation to Tenders and to avoid the need to call a public Tender.

Emergency Purchases

An emergency purchase is defined as an unanticipated and unbudgeted purchase which is required in response to an emergency situation as provided for in the Local Government Act 1995. In such instances, quotes and tenders are not required to be obtained prior to the purchase being undertaken.

An emergency purchase does not relate to purchases not planned for due to time constraints. Every effort must be made to anticipate purchases required by the Shire of Dowerin in advance and to allow sufficient time to obtain quotes and tenders, whichever may apply.

Records Management

Records of all purchasing activity must be retained in compliance with the State Records Act 2000 (WA), the Shire of Dowerin's Records Management Policy and associated procurement procedures.

For each procurement activity, such documents may include:

- The Procurement initiation document such as a procurement business case which justifies the need for a contract to be created (where applicable);
 - Procurement Planning and approval documentation which describes how the procurement is to be undertaken to create and manage the contract;
- Request for Quotation/Tender documentation;
- Copy of public advertisement inviting tenders, or the notice of private invitation (whichever is applicable);
- Copies of quotes/tenders received;
- Evaluation documentation, including individual evaluators note and clarifications sought;
- Negotiation documents such as negotiation plans and negotiation logs;
- Approval of award documentation;
- All correspondence to respondents notifying of the outcome to award a contract;
- Contract Management Plans which describes how the contract will be managed; and copies of contract(s) with supplier(s) formed from the procurement process.

Occupational Safety and Health

An underlying principle of purchasing, hiring, leasing, or receiving donated goods, is to ensure that hazards are not introduced into the workplace without assessing the risk and implementing controls to mitigate the risk. Items that are purchased must be assessed for their safety and health risks and other factors such as cleaning, maintenance and training staff in their use. Consultation shall be undertaken with the relevant employee(s) when new plant/equipment/substances are being purchased for the first time and where there is the potential for significant detrimental impact on health and safety of any person. The consultation process shall be documented by file or diary notes and retained as a record.

Prior to purchasing a new item, the authorised officer shall consider occupational safety and health issues as listed in the OSH Purchasing & Risk assessment of New Plant or Equipment Form (Found in the OSH Manual at 2.2.1). All new chemicals (including cleaning products) must include a Safety Data Sheet which will be provided to the Shire of Dowerin OSH Officer.

Buy Local Policy

As much as practicable, the Shire of Dowerin must:

- where appropriate, consider buying practices, procedures and specifications that do not unfairly disadvantage local businesses;
- consider indirect benefits that have flow on benefits for local suppliers (i.e. servicing and support);
- ensure that procurement plans address local business capability and local content;
- explore the capability of local businesses to meet requirements and ensure that Requests for Quotation and Tenders are designed to accommodate the capabilities of local businesses;

- avoid bias in the design and specifications for Requests for Quotation and Tenders - all Requests must be structured to encourage local businesses to bid; and
- provide adequate and consistent information to potential suppliers.

To this extent, a qualitative weighting may be afforded in the evaluation of quotes and tenders where suppliers are located within the boundaries of the Shire of Dowerin, or substantially demonstrate a benefit or contribution to the local economy.

Panels of Pre-Qualified Suppliers

In accordance with Regulation 24AC of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, a Panel of Pre-qualified Suppliers ("Panel") may be created where most of the following factors apply:

- the Shire of Dowerin determines that a range of similar goods and services are required to be purchased on a continuing and regular basis;
 - there are numerous potential suppliers in the local and regional procurement-related market sector(s) that satisfy the test of 'value for money';
- the purchasing activity under the intended Panel is assessed as being of a low to medium risk;
- the Panel will streamline and will improve procurement processes; and
 - the Shire of Dowerin has the capability to establish, manage the risks and achieve the benefits expected of the proposed Panel.

The Shire of Dowerin will endeavour to ensure that Panels will not be created unless most of the above factors are firmly and quantifiably established.

Should the Shire of Dowerin determine that a Panel is beneficial to be created, it must do so in accordance with Part 4, Division 3 the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.

Panels may be established for one supply requirement, or a number of similar supply requirements under defined categories within the Panel.

Panels may be established for a minimum of two (2) years and for a maximum length of time deemed appropriate by the Shire of Dowerin.

Evaluation criteria must be determined and communicated in the application process by which applications will be assessed and accepted.

Where a Panel is to be established, the Shire of Dowerin will endeavour to appoint at least three (3) suppliers to each category, on the basis that best value for money is demonstrated. Where less than three (3) suppliers are appointed to each category within the Panel, the category is not to be established.

In each invitation to apply to become a pre-qualified supplier (through a procurement process advertised through a state-wide notice), the Shire of Dowerin must state the expected number of suppliers it intends to put on the panel.

Should a Panel member leave the Panel, they may be replaced by the next ranked Panel member determined in the value for money assessment should the supplier agree to do so, with this intention to be disclosed in the detailed information set out under Regulation 24AD(5)(d) and (e) when establishing the Panel.

To satisfy Regulation 24AD(5) of the Regulations, when establishing a Panel of pre-qualified suppliers, the detailed information associated with each invitation to apply to join the Panel must either prescribe whether the Shire of Dowerin intends to:

- Obtain quotations from each pre-qualified supplier on the Panel with respect to all purchases, in accordance with Clause 11.4; or

- ii. Purchase goods and services exclusively from any pre-qualified supplier appointed to that Panel, and under what circumstances; or
- iii. Develop a ranking system for selection to the Panel, with work awarded in accordance with Clause 11.3(b).

In considering the distribution of work among Panel members, the detailed information must also prescribe whether:

- a) each Panel member will have the opportunity to bid for each item of work under the Panel, with pre-determined evaluation criteria forming part of the invitation to quote to assess the suitability of the supplier for particular items of work. Contracts under the pre-qualified panel will be awarded on the basis of value for money in every instance; or
- b) work will be awarded on a ranked basis, which is to be stipulated in the detailed information set out under Regulation 24AD(5)(f) when establishing the Panel. The Shire of Dowerin is to invite the highest ranked Panel member, who is to give written notice as to whether to accept the offer for the work to be undertaken. Should the offer be declined, an invitation to the next ranked Panel member is to be made and so forth until a Panel member accepts a Contract. Should the list of Panel members invited be exhausted with no Panel member accepting the offer to provide goods/services under the Panel, the Shire of Dowerin may then invite suppliers that are not pre-qualified under the Panel, in accordance with the Purchasing Thresholds stated in section 5.5 of this Policy. When a ranking system is established, the Panel must not operate for a period exceeding 12 months. In every instance, a contract must not be formed with a pre-qualified supplier for an item of work beyond 12 months, which includes options to extend the contract.

The invitation to apply to be considered to join a panel of pre-qualified suppliers must state whether quotations are either to be invited to every member (within each category, if applicable) of the Panel for each purchasing requirement, whether a ranking system is to be established, or otherwise.

Each quotation process, including the invitation to quote, communications with panel members, quotations received, evaluation of quotes and notification of award communications must all be captured on the Shire of Dowerin's electronic records system. A separate file is to be maintained for each quotation process made under each Panel that captures all communications between the Shire of Dowerin and Panel members.

Records of all communications with Panel members, with respect to the quotation process and all subsequent purchases made through the Panel, must be kept. For the creation of a Panel, this includes:

- The Procurement initiation document such as a procurement business case which justifies the need for a Panel to be created;
- Procurement Planning and approval documentation which describes how the procurement is to be undertaken to create and manage the Panel;
- Request for Applications documentation;
- Copy of public advertisement inviting applications;
- Copies of applications received;
- Evaluation documentation, including clarifications sought;
- Negotiation documents such as negotiation plans and negotiation logs;
- Approval of award documentation;
- All correspondence to applicants notifying of the establishment and composition of the Panel such as award letters;

- Contract Management Plans which describes how the contract will be managed; and
- Copies of framework agreements entered into with pre-qualified suppliers.

The Shire of Dowerin is also to retain itemised records of all requests for quotation, including quotations received from pre-qualified suppliers and contracts awarded to Panel members. A unique reference number shall be applied to all records relating to each quotation process, which is to also be quoted on each purchase order issued under the Contract. Information with regards to the Panel offerings, including details of suppliers appointed to the Panel, must be kept up to date, consistent and made available for access by all officers and employees of the Shire of Dowerin.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO is responsible for implementing this policy and for bringing it to Council for review.

Management Team

The Management team is responsible for ensuring their direct reports are aware of, and comply with, this policy.

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

The requirements that must be complied with by the Shire of Dowerin, including purchasing thresholds and processes, are prescribed within the Regulations, this Policy and associated purchasing procedures in effect at the Shire of Dowerin.

Purchasing that is \$150,000 or below in total value (excluding GST) must be in accordance with the purchasing requirements under the relevant threshold as defined under section 5.5 of this Purchasing Policy.

Purchasing that exceeds \$150,000 in total value (excluding GST) must be put to public Tender when it is determined that a regulatory Tender exemption, as stated under 5.6 of this Policy is not deemed to be suitable.

Related Delegation

Review History

28 March 2017 (Item 10.1.8)

26 June 2018 (Item 10.1.8)

Occupational Safety, Health & Environmental Policy

Policy Owner	Manager Works & Assets
Distribution	All Employees, Elected Members, Public
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 March 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to providing and maintaining an environmentally conscious, safe and healthy workplace for all employees and those who may be affected by our work operations. This commitment is consistently demonstrated through the behaviours of our management and employees at the workplace.

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin seeks to efficiently provide a wide range of vital services to residents and visitors to our region.

Responsibilities for addressing safety, health and environmental concerns are shared by everyone at the Shire of Dowerin. Our management representatives acknowledge specific responsibility for providing and maintaining a legislatively compliant working environment where persons at the workplace are not exposed to hazards and are provided with adequate resources, education and training to meet our safety, health and environmental obligations. Employees assist our management team to fulfil obligations through actively ensuring their own safety and that of others in the workplace.

All workers engaged with the Shire of Dowerin are required to report in a timely manner any incident, hazard or issues that are identified as posing a risk to health, safety or to the environment. These are promptly managed in accordance with the hierarchy of risk controls and accepted risk management principles.

At the Shire of Dowerin, we vigorously monitor our environmental impact and we are committed to continually improving our environmental performance through the prevention of pollution, efficient use of resources, waste minimisation, reuse and recycling practices. Our environmental intent is to ensure that our operations are conducted in a manner that contributes to the overall environmental sustainability of Australia.

We are proud of our commitment to continuously improving our workplace safety and health performance aimed at the elimination of workplace injury through the achievement of the specific targets and objectives which are documented in our Safety, Health and Environmental Management Plan.

Our Safety, Health and Environmental Management Plan is supported by a procedural framework intended to guide our employees and subcontractors to work safely and in an environmentally conscious manner including, but not limited to, compliance with all applicable legislative regulatory requirements, relevant Australian Standards and with all other requirements to which our organisation subscribes.

This Safety, Health and Environmental Policy and our supporting management systems documentation are regularly reviewed in line with continual improvement and occupational health and safety management system recommendations.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has a responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have a responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy.

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996

Australian Standard AS 4801 - Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems

Related Delegation

Review History

30 September 2016

28 February 2017

27 February 2018

26 March 2019(Item 10.2.1)

Recognising Council Service Policy

Policy Owner	Governance and Organisational Development Coordinator
Distribution	Organisation
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	24 October 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-72

Objective

To promote and encourage a loyal, competent and motivated workforce; and to officially recognise the ongoing contribution, dedication and service of Elected members to Council and the community.

Policy

To ensure that employees and elected members are acknowledged and recognised for their length of service periodically during their time of service to Council.

Employees

This policy recognises the importance of long serving employees in maintaining an effective and efficient workplace. The contribution made by such individuals to the ongoing operation of the Council and therefore the community is significant and worthy of recognition.

During Employment

In order to recognise long serving employees, at 30 March each year, a report will be prepared by Human Resources officers listing all employees who have attained, or will attain, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years service with the Shire of Dowerin within that calendar year.

Schedule of Employee Service Milestones

Service	Gift
10 Years	Plaque and voucher to value of \$100.00
15 Years	Plaque and voucher to value of \$150.00
20 Years	Plaque and Voucher to value of \$200.00
25 Years	Plaque and Voucher to value of \$250.00
30 Years	Plaque and Voucher to value of \$300.00
35 Years	Plaque and Voucher to value of \$350.00
40 Years	Plaque and Voucher to value of \$400.00

The plaque and gift voucher are to be presented to the employee by the President or Chief Executive Officer at an annual Council function.

Employee Resignation or Retirement

The Shire may recognise employees with over 10 years of continuous service on resignation or retirement, by way of a suitable function. The President or CEO may make a presentation in the form of a gift voucher on behalf of the Shire to a resigning or retiring employee, subject to that employee having completed a minimum of 10 years commendable and continuous service.

The method of determining the level of expenditure for such gift shall be the provision of up to \$20 for every year-of-service, with each situation being assessed on its merits.

Elected Members

This policy allows for official recognition of the dedication, service and commitment of Elected Members to the community.

Retirement of Elected Members – Certificate, Plaque and Gift

Council shall present the following to council members who retire either voluntarily or through the election process.

1. 4 years - a framed certificate with appropriate wording listing the elected member.
2. 8 years - a plaque and gift for Councillors who have completed two terms (8) years of service based on a minimum of \$100 plus \$20 for each additional year of completed service.
3. 12 years - a plaque and gift for Councillors who have completed three terms (12) years of service based on a minimum of \$200 plus \$20 for each additional year of completed service.
4. 20 years - a plaque and gift for Councillors who have completed 20 years of service based on a minimum of \$500 plus \$20 for each additional year of completed service.

Presentation of certificates, plaques and gifts:

- will occur at an ordinary meeting of Council as soon as practical following conclusion of an Elected Member's term,
- should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting under the President's Presentations, and
- will be at the discretion of Council who will give due consideration to each occasion on individual merit.

Disqualified Councillors

Any Councillor who is disqualified from office under the *Local Government Act 1995* shall not be eligible for recognition.

Christmas/End of Year Break-Up

Council will provide an amount determined by Council within the Annual Budget to allow for a joint Councillors, staff and partners Christmas/End of Year break-up function each year.

Tributes to Employees and Councillors in the Event of Illness/Accident or Bereavement

The President is authorised to acknowledge Councillors or their immediate family and the CEO is authorised to acknowledge staff members in the event of hospitalisation, accident or bereavement (via card, flowers, chocolates, small gift etc or if requested in lieu, a donation to a nominated charity).

Value of gift to be up to \$75.00.

Recognition of Significant Achievements

The President is authorised to acknowledge significant achievements by Councillors (via card and flowers or small gift).

The CEO is authorised to acknowledge significant achievements by staff members e.g. birth of a child (via card and flowers or small gift).

The value of these tribute, gift or donation referred to above is to be up to \$75.00.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO and President are responsible for the application of this policy.

Governance and Organisational Coordinator

The Governance and Organisational Coordinator will administer this policy.

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Review History

20 December 2016

POLICY NUMBER	-
POLICY SUBJECT	- Employee Health & Well Being Policy
DATE ADOPTED	- 15 August 2017
POLICY OWNER	- Chief Executive Officer
DISTRIBUTION	- Elected Members, All Employees. Public
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Chief Executive Officer
REVIEWED	- 20 August 2019 (CMRef 0033)

Objective

This policy aims to create a workplace culture that supports and encourages the health and well-being of our employees. The Shire will work in partnership with our insurer, LGIS, to implement the initiatives outlined in this policy.

Policy

Wellbeing Program

LGIS Municipal Workcare Scheme has developed a preferred supplier arrangement, and it is through this that the Shire of Dowerin offers employees access to health services.

The Shire of Dowerin is provided with a range of health services such as:

- Health Assessments
- Skin Cancer Screenings
- Flu Vaccinations
- Health Seminars / Workshops
- Corporate Massage
- Audiometric testing
- Healthy Lifestyle Programs (such as walking challenges, quit smoking programs, support from a nutritionist or exercise physiologist)
- Ergonomic Assessments
- Manual Task Training

Periodically throughout the year, the Shire will promote and make available to employees a selection of these services. As the services are dependent on funding, limited spaces may be available however every effort will be made to provide these services to those employees interested in participating.

Provider

Contact LGIS Health & Wellbeing Program Manager to determine Shire of Dowerin's annual funding allocation and arrange services.

Swimming Pool and Gym Membership Subsidy

To encourage fitness and general wellbeing the Shire of Dowerin offers to all permanent staff members, a non-transferable, non-redeemable adult membership to the Dowerin All-hours Gym and a non-transferable, non-redeemable adult/family pass for the Dowerin Memorial Swimming Pool. Staff are required to cover the cost of the New Gym Joining Fee and a Replacement Card (should they lose theirs).

Staff Support Services

The Shire of Dowerin offers staff support services, in the form of confidential counselling services through LGIS, to assist employees experiencing personal and / or work related issues.

The services are offered to all employees of the Shire and are designed to be short-term.

Use of the services provided is on a voluntary basis and is free to employees.

If a problem cannot be resolved by the individual's own efforts or through other means, the LGIS counselling service can be accessed by:

Manager Referral - in some cases, managers may suggest to employees that they may benefit from utilising the counselling service. In this case referral to LGIS counselling services should be kept confidential between the manager and the employee; or

Internal Contact - employees may contact the CEO to organise referral. Alternatively, employees may access the service at their own discretion. Workers and managers can access the service by phone or email (face to face if availability permits) enabling them to receive confidential counselling support wherever they are based.

Number of Sessions

The counselling services provided by LGIS are primarily 'stress counselling' and of a short-term nature. Sessions are generally one hour in duration. The service is available between 8.30am and 5.00pm Mondays to Fridays. Sessions are predominantly phone based. Upon special request, face to face counselling can be organised depending on availability.

If the psychologist considers the issue to require ongoing counselling or long term therapy, resources will be provided to the employee to access alternative support (for example, through the Better Access scheme via a doctor's referral or local resources available within the community).

Leave Provisions

In the event that the employee desires to ensure that their manager is not aware that they are undertaking counselling, then the employee should organise sessions to be completed during non-working hours. The arrangement for taking time off during work hours will be the same as for any form of absence from the workplace, including time in lieu, however the manager does not need to be informed of the referral or the specifics of the matter.

Confidentiality

Information on all referrals to LGIS counselling services will be in strict confidence. Confidentiality means that the Shire of Dowerin will not receive any information from LGIS concerning the employee's problem. Employees will need to provide written consent to release their personal information, should they choose to share their counselling information to a third party.

Provider

LGIS counselling services should be contacted by the employee for an appointment.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented in an open and transparent manner.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and Supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy and actively promote and supports its implementation.

Employees

Employees have responsibility to support each other to access health and wellbeing initiatives.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Policy Manual

Nil

Related Delegation

Nil

POLICY NUMBER	-
POLICY SUBJECT	- Grievances, Investigations and Resolution Policy
DATE ADOPTED	- 20 August 2019 (CMRef 0034)
POLICY OWNER	- Chief Executive Officer
DISTRIBUTION	- Elected Members, All Employees. Public
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Chief Executive Officer
REVIEWED	-

Policy Statement

All employees have a right to express any genuine grievances or complaints via an impartial internal process. All employees involved in a grievance process are expected to participate in good faith. For the purposes of this policy, the term “employee/s” will extend to cover contractors, volunteers and any person performing work for or with the Shire of Dowerin in any capacity.

Roles

Complainant: An employee who raises a complaint about a matter regarding the workplace.

Respondent: An employee who is alleged to have acted in a manner which caused the Complainant to raise a complaint.

Support Person: A Complainant and/or a Respondent may choose to bring a Support Person with them to a meeting, where practicable. The role of a Support Person is not to advocate on behalf of anyone, but to simply provide emotional support.

Witness: A person (including an employee) who is requested by the Shire of Dowerin to assist the process by providing relevant information regarding the complaint.

What to do if you have a Complaint?

If an employee (Complainant) is the victim of behaviour of another employee (Respondent) which is inconsistent with the Shire of Dowerin’s policies, procedures or guidelines (Policies), the Complainant should, where reasonable or practicable, first approach the Respondent for an informal discussion. If the nature of the complaint is deemed to be sufficiently serious, the complainant should contact their Manager or the CEO directly.

If the inappropriate behaviour continues, the Complainant is encouraged to make a formal complaint to their Manager. If the Manager is the Respondent in the matter or if the employee feels uncomfortable approaching their Manager, the Complainant should approach the CEO.

The employee who receives the complaint must contact the CEO and decide upon the most appropriate way to take the matter forward, whether it is an informal discussion with the Complainant and/or the Respondent, or the commencement of a formal investigation of the complaint.

Key Principles in the Complaint Resolution Process

The following principles are necessary for the fair investigation and resolution of a complaint:

- **Confidential** – Only the employees directly investigating or addressing the complaint will have access to the information about the complaint. The Shire of Dowerin may inform or appoint a third party to investigate or advise on the investigation. All parties involved in dealing with a complaint are required to keep the matter confidential. Information will only be placed on an employee’s personal file if they are disciplined as a result of the complaint;

- **Impartial (fair/unbiased)** - Both parties will have an opportunity to put their case forward. No assumptions are made and no action will be taken until available and relevant information has been collected and considered;
- **Sensitive** - The employees who assist in responding to complaints should be specifically trained or equipped to treat all complaints sensitively and ensure the process is free of coercion or intimidation;
- **Timely** - The Shire of Dowerin aims to deal with all complaints as quickly as possible and in accordance with any legislative requirements;
- **Documented** - All complaints and investigations must be documented. In formal grievance processes, records must be kept of all documents collected and/or drafted as part of that process. For more informal processes, a file note or note in a diary may be sufficient;
- **Natural Justice** - The principles of natural justice provide that:
 - a Respondent against whom allegations are made as part of a grievance process has the right to respond to the allegations before any determination is made;
 - a Respondent against whom an allegation is made has the right to be told (where possible and appropriate) who made the allegation;
 - anyone involved in the investigation should be unbiased and declare any conflict of interest;
 - decisions must be based on objective considerations and substantiated facts; and
 - the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to have a support person present at any meetings where practicable.
- **Procedural Fairness** - The principles of procedural fairness provide that:
 - the Respondent is advised of the details (as precisely and specifically as possible) of any allegations when reasonably practicable;
 - the Respondent is entitled to receive verbal or written communication from the Shire of Dowerin of the potential consequences of given forms of conduct, as applicable to the situation;
 - the Respondent is given an opportunity to respond to any allegations made against them by a Complainant;
 - any mitigating circumstances presented to the Shire of Dowerin through the grievance process are investigated and considered;
 - the Respondent has the right to have an appropriate support person present during any inquiry or investigation process where practicable or necessary;
 - any witnesses who can reasonably be expected to help with any inquiry or investigation process should be interviewed; and
 - all interviews of witnesses are conducted separately and confidentially.

Outcome of Making a Complaint

If a complaint is substantiated, there are a number of possible outcomes. If the complaint involves a performance issue, the manager of the Respondent may commence a formal or informal performance management process with the Respondent or elect to discipline the Respondent in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy.

If the complaint involves a breach of a Policy or any other behaviour that is inconsistent with the employment relationship, the manager of the Respondent, in consultation with the CEO, may elect to discipline the Respondent in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy.

Vexatious or Malicious Complaints

Where a Complainant has deliberately made a vexatious or malicious complaint that Complainant may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, termination of employment.

Victimisation of Complainant

A Complainant must not be victimised by the Respondent or any other employee of the Shire of Dowerin for making a complaint. Anyone responsible for victimising a Complainant may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, termination of employment.

Victimisation of Respondent

A Respondent must not be victimised by the Complainant or any other employee of the Shire of Dowerin. Anyone responsible for victimising a Respondent may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, termination of employment.

Variation to This Policy

This policy may be cancelled or varied from time to time. All the Shire of Dowerin's employees will be notified of any variation to this policy by the normal correspondence method.

Related Corporate Documents

- Grievances, Investigations and Resolution Procedures
- Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying Policy
- Code of Conduct
- EEO Management Plan

POLICY NUMBER	-
POLICY SUBJECT	- Disciplinary Policy
DATE ADOPTED	- 20 August 2019 (CMRef 0034)
POLICY OWNER	- Chief Executive Officer
DISTRIBUTION	- Elected Members, All Employees. Public
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Chief Executive Officer
REVIEWED	-

Policy Statement

The Shire of Dowerin may from time to time consider that issues of employee behaviour, misconduct or unacceptable performance levels require disciplinary action.

Application

This policy applies to all employees who work at Shire of Dowerin including contractors, volunteers and any person performing work for or with the Shire of Dowerin in any capacity.

Commitment

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to providing the best possible service and ensuring its employees perform and conduct themselves in accordance with the Shire of Dowerin's policies, procedures and guidelines (Policies). Any disciplinary procedure will be applied in a consistent, fair and objective manner, and it will ensure that, where reasonable, employees are given an opportunity and assistance to improve.

Authority to take Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may only be taken when authorised by the Manager. The Manager may only approve disciplinary action after consultation with the CEO.

When the Disciplinary Policy Applies

Some examples of when this policy may be invoked include breaches of the Shire of Dowerin policies and procedures including, but not limited to:

- breaches of the Code of Conduct such as failing to disclose a conflict of interest, or accepting a prohibited gift; or
- poor performance such as frequently attending for work late or producing a poor quality of work; or
- inappropriate behaviour such as theft, violating the Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy, or wilfully disobeying a lawful instruction.

General Disciplinary Principles

The following principles will apply to any disciplinary action taken:

- **Nature of allegation and investigation:** Before formal disciplinary action is taken against an employee, the nature of the allegations made against an employee will be put to the employee and an investigation may follow, in accordance with the *Grievances, Investigations & Resolution Policy and Procedure*;
- **Right to a support person:** Where an employee is required to attend a formal meeting regarding a disciplinary matter or procedure, the employee may be accompanied by a support person where practicable. The role of a support person is not to advocate on behalf of anyone, but to simply provide emotional or other support;
- **Confidential:** All parties must keep matters related to a disciplinary process confidential; and
- **Fair and impartial:** The Shire of Dowerin strives to keep the disciplinary process fair and impartial, meaning that all parties involved will have an opportunity to put their case forward and be given an opportunity to respond.

Serious Misconduct

Serious misconduct pursuant to the *Fair Work Regulations 2009* includes, but is not limited to:

- wilful or deliberate behaviour by an employee that is inconsistent with the continuation of the contract of employment;
- conduct that causes serious and imminent risk to the health or safety of a person; or the reputation, viability or profitability of the Shire of Dowerin's organisation;
- the employee, in the course of the employee's employment, engaging in:
 - theft; or
 - fraud; or
 - assault;
- the employee being intoxicated at work; or
- the employee refusing to carry out a lawful and reasonable instruction that is consistent with the employee's contract of employment.

If an employee engages in serious misconduct, disciplinary action that may be taken includes, but is not limited to, summary dismissal (termination of employment without notice).

Other Disciplinary Action

With the exception of serious misconduct, where an employee has engaged in an act or omission which is inconsistent with any of the Shire of Dowerin's Policies, the employee could be disciplined as follows:

- **Verbal warning** - Where an employee engages in an act or omission which is inconsistent with the Policies, the Management has the discretion to issue the employee with a verbal warning. The verbal warning should be noted in a file note and placed on the employee's personnel file;
- **Written warning** - If the employee engages in a more serious act or omission, or acts in a manner which is inconsistent with the Policies, the Management has the discretion to issue the employee with a written warning. The employee must be given a copy of the written warning.; and
- **Termination of employment with notice** - In cases other than summary dismissal, an employee's employment may be terminated with notice or payment in lieu of notice provided the Shire of Dowerin has a valid reason for terminating the employee's employment and the employee has an opportunity to respond to the reasons for termination.

Whenever an employee is required to attend a meeting regarding a disciplinary issue, the employee may have a support person present where practicable. The type of disciplinary action taken against an employee is at the Shire of Dowerin's discretion and the type of disciplinary action will depend on the seriousness and frequency of any misconduct or performance issue.

Principles to be Applied

Where disciplinary action is taken, the principles of procedural fairness must prevail. These principles are expanded on in the Shire of Dowerin's Grievances, Investigations, and Resolutions Policy and Procedure.

Investigation Procedures for Alleged Misconduct

Investigations into alleged misconduct should follow the processes detailed in the Shire of Dowerin's Grievances, Investigations, and Resolutions Policy and Procedure.

Reporting Obligations

If an officer or employee of the Shire of Dowerin has reporting obligations pursuant to the *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003 (WA)* and suspects on reasonable grounds that a matter arises which concerns or may concern misconduct, the Corruption and Crime Commission must be notified of that matter as soon as reasonably practicable.

Employees must also be aware of and adhere to any obligations pursuant to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003 (WA)*.

Variation to this Policy

This policy may be cancelled or varied from time to time. All the organisation's employees will be notified of any variation to this policy by the normal correspondence method.

Related Corporate Documents

- Grievances, Investigations, and Resolutions Policy
- Grievances, Investigations, and Resolutions Procedure
- Code of Conduct

POLICY NUMBER	-
POLICY SUBJECT	- Discrimination, Bullying & Harassment Policy
DATE ADOPTED	- 20 August 2019 (CMRef 0034)
POLICY OWNER	- Chief Executive Officer
DISTRIBUTION	- Elected Members, All Employees. Public
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Chief Executive Officer
REVIEWED	-

Policy Statement

The Shire of Dowerin and its employees are committed to providing a working environment where every employee is treated equally, fairly and without prejudice. For the purposes of this policy the term “employee/s” will extend to cover contractors, volunteers and any person performing work for or with the Shire of Dowerin in any capacity.

Unlawful Discrimination

An employee is directly discriminated against if they are treated less favourably than another person in the same or similar circumstance because of any one of the grounds of discrimination outlined below. Indirect discrimination can occur where a practice or requirement is imposed upon all employees; however a high proportion of employees with an attribute cannot comply with, or are affected by, that practice or requirement.

The Shire of Dowerin acknowledges its responsibilities and obligations pursuant to State and Federal equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the grounds of discrimination for which it is unlawful to discriminate against an individual:

1. Age;
2. Family responsibility or status;
3. Race or colour;
4. Sex including gender identity, sexual orientation and intersex status;
5. Physical or mental disability;
6. Marital status;
7. Political or religious conviction;
8. Pregnancy;
9. Criminal record;
10. Breastfeeding;
11. Gender history;
12. Impairment;
13. National extraction or social origin; and
14. Trade union activity

Sexual Harassment

The *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)* and the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)* provide that it is unlawful to engage in sexual harassment. Sexual harassment can be defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as an unwelcome sexual advance or an unwelcome request for sexual favours, in circumstances in which a reasonable person would anticipate that the person harassed would be offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Some examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical contact (touching, rubbing, patting, embracing, brushing up against etc.);
2. Gestures of a sexual nature;
3. Leering or staring;
4. Offensive telephone calls, emails, text messages or notes;
5. Sexual suggestive jokes or comments;
6. Tales of sexual exploits;

7. Repeated requests for a date;
8. Unwelcome comments or questions about a person's sex life, appearance or dress;
and
9. Sexually graphic material (poster, calendars, cartoons, graffiti, messages, emails).

Bullying

Bullying is defined as repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards an employee or a group of employees that creates a risk to health and safety. Unreasonable behaviour amounts to behaviour that a reasonable person in the circumstances would see as unreasonable including behaviour that is victimising, humiliating, intimidating or threatening.

Bullying is also unlawful under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 (WA)* and the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 (WA)*.

Some examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

1. Loud, abusive or offensive language or comments;
2. Yelling and screaming;
3. Unjustified criticism and insults;
4. Unjustified threats of dismissal or other disciplinary action;
5. Acts of sabotaging another's work by withholding information which is required to fulfil tasks;
6. Spreading malicious rumours or misinformation;
7. Inappropriate comments about an employee's appearance, lifestyle of family;
8. Deliberately excluding an employee from workplace meetings or activities;
9. Hiding documents or equipment or withholding vital information required for effective work performance;
10. Constantly changing targets or work guidelines;
11. Overloading an employee with work and impossible deadlines;
12. Setting tasks that are unreasonably below or beyond an employee's level of skill;
13. Threats of assault or violence or actual violence;
14. Teasing and practical jokes; and
15. Isolating or ignoring an employee on a constant basis.

Where an employee makes a threat of violence or assaults another employee the police should be called.

Reasonable Management Action

The Shire of Dowerin has a right to take reasonable management action to direct the way in which work is conducted and to give employees lawful and reasonable directions to complete work in a certain manner. Reasonable management action is not workplace bullying.

Some examples of reasonable management action include, but are not limited to:

1. The establishment and regular use of performance management systems;
2. The setting of reasonable performance targets and deadlines;
3. Providing employees with constructive feedback or counselling to assist workers to improve their work performance or the standard of their behaviour;
4. Issuing a lawful and reasonable direction to an employee to complete a work task;
5. Preparing and amending a roster for employees;
6. Transferring an employee to a different work location for operational reasons;
7. Implementing organisational change;
8. Informing an employee about inappropriate behaviour in a confidential manner; and
9. Taking disciplinary action against an employee.

Other Behaviours not Considered to be Bullying

Where two or more employees have a difference of opinion and disagree on an issue, this is not usually considered to be workplace bullying. However, where conflict escalates and is repeated it may meet the definition of workplace bullying.

Additionally, bullying does not occur where bullying behaviour is a one off occurrence and if that behaviour does not create a risk to health or safety.

Ways in which Bullying can Occur

There are a variety of ways bullying behaviour can occur in the workplace such as verbally, through email or text message or via social media. Bullying can be directed at an individual employee or a group of employees and can be carried out by one or more employees. Bullying can occur between employees, downwards from managers to employees or upwards from employees to supervisors or managers.

What to do if you think you are being Discriminated Against, Sexually Harassed or Bullied

Refer to the Grievance Policy and Grievance Procedure for steps to take if you think you are being discriminated against, sexually harassed or bullied, or if you suspect another employee is experiencing any of those things.

Roles & Responsibilities

To ensure the intent of this policy is realised various roles within the Shire of Dowerin must assume certain responsibilities.

The Employer

The Shire of Dowerin will endeavour to:

1. provide all workplace participants with a workplace free from discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying;
2. provide and maintain safe systems of work;
3. provide a fair and effective procedure to investigate and resolve complaints of sexual harassment, discrimination and bullying;
4. treat all employees fairly; and
5. take suitable disciplinary action against any employee who is found to have sexually harassed, discriminated, bullied or victimised another employee.

All the Organisation's Employees

Employees are required to:

1. report any incidents of sexual harassment, discrimination or bullying they may see happening around them to an appropriate manager or supervisor;
2. follow all policies and procedures of the Shire of Dowerin;
3. ensure they do not victimise any person making a complaint of sexual harassment, discrimination or bullying; and
4. treat all employees fairly and with respect.

Consequences of Breaching This Policy

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

POLICY NUMBER	-
POLICY SUBJECT	- Equal Opportunity Employment Policy
DATE ADOPTED	- 20 August 2019 (CMRef 0034)
POLICY OWNER	- Chief Executive Officer
DISTRIBUTION	- Elected Members, All Employees. Public
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	- Chief Executive Officer
REVIEWED	-

Purpose

To detail the Shire of Dowerin's commitment to Equal Opportunity.

Policy Statement

This Council recognises its legal obligations under the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and will actively promote equal employment opportunity based solely on merit to ensure that discrimination does not occur on the grounds of gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, disability, religious or political convictions.

This policy applies to all elected members, employees and contractors to the Shire of Dowerin.

Guidelines

1. All offers of employment within this Council will be directed towards providing equal opportunity to prospective employees provided their relevant experience, skills and ability meet the minimum requirements for engagement.
2. All employment training with this Council will be directed towards providing equal opportunity to all employees provided their relevant experience, skills and ability meet the minimum requirements for such training.
3. All promotional policies and opportunities with this Council will be directed towards providing equal opportunity to all employees provided their relevant experience, skills and ability meet the minimum requirements for such promotion.
4. The equal employment opportunity goals of this Council are designed to provide an enjoyable, challenging, involving, harmonious work environment for all employees where each has the opportunity to progress to the extent of their ability.
5. This Council will not tolerate harassment within its workplace. Harassment is defined as any unwelcome, offensive actions or remark concerning a person's race, colour, language, ethnicity, political or religious convictions, gender, marital status or disability.

Related Policies & Procedures

Code of Conduct
Bullying, Discrimination & Harassment Policy
Grievances, Investigations & Resolutions Policy
Disciplinary Policy
Grievances, Investigations & Resolutions Procedure

Pop Up Shop Collective Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Manager Corporate & Community Services
Date Adopted	26 March 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To initiate Council involvement in business and commercial activities to generate economic growth.

To demonstrate Council's commitment to a next-generation sustainable economy in Dowerin that encourages the promotion of local or value added products and/or attracts new enterprises to the Shire.

To stimulate additional business activities and initiatives in the main street of the town.

To assist Council pursue and achieve the desired social and economic benefits for the community of Dowerin.

Policy

Council may encourage and administer business and/or entrepreneurial, community or cultural activities in The Country Collective.

It is up to the discretion of the Shire's Management Team as to who occupies The Country Collective.

Tenants are required to be members of The Country Collective group and be financial prior to occupation. Membership fees will be determined as part of the annual budget process.

Tenants in the building will have the necessary insurances in place prior to occupation or will sign an Insurance Disclaimer.

Tenants would be required to participate in a Health and Safety induction prior to occupation, led by the Shire of Dowerin.

Tenants can occupy The Country Collective for one day (minimum) or one month (maximum) plus an additional one month extension if there is an immediate or future availability.

In the lead up to 1 week prior and 1 week post the Dowerin Field Days, a collective of businesses are encouraged and preferred to occupy The Country Collective to maximise exposure and to be fair to tenants wishing to occupy the space during this time.

Tenants are required to follow the Retail Trading Hours Act 1987 (WA) which applies to retail shops in Western Australia south of the 26th parallel. It sets out the trading hours and rules covering various categories of retail outlets. Extensions can be sought under this Act upon application to the Department of Commerce.

Profits generated from membership (if applicable) will be reinvested into other mainstreet activation projects to the discretion of the Council.

The evaluation of return on investment into The Country Collective will be evaluated annually against a set of criteria including but not limited to occupancy rate, diversity of tenants, estimated multiplier effect of tenants, income, risk and achievement of Council's strategic goals.

Councillors and staff will conduct their Council roles ethically in administering and promoting The Country Collective, in such a way as to maintain the highest level of community accountability, community stewardship and leadership whilst maintaining respect for individuals and the rule of law.

The Shire's Management Team will determine and communicate the risk assessment of all tenants who occupy The Country Collective as well as the building space itself to Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has a responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Community Development Officer

To develop and implement a processes and procedures that ensures this policy is enacted.

Related Documentation

Risk Management Policy
Building Profile
License Membership Agreement
Occupancy Licensing Agreement

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Retail Trading Hours Act 1987 (WA)

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

28 February 2017 (Item 10.1.8)

26 March 2019 (Item 10.2.2)

Asset Management Policy

Policy Owner	Asset and Works Manager
Distribution	Council, CEO and All Staff
Responsible Officer	Assets and Works Manager
Date Adopted	28 February 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-83

Objective

To ensure adequate provision is made for the long-term replacement of major assets by:

- Ensuring that Council's services and infrastructure are provided in a sustainable manner, with the appropriate levels of service to residents, visitors and the environment.
 - Safeguarding Council assets including physical assets and employees by implementing appropriate asset management strategies and appropriate financial resources for those assets.
 - Creating an environment where all Council employees take an integral part in overall management of Council assets by creating and sustaining an asset management awareness throughout the organisation by training and development.
 - Meeting legislative requirements for asset management.
 - Ensuring resources and operational capabilities are identified and responsibility for asset management is allocated.
 - Demonstrating transparent and responsible asset management processes that align with demonstrated best practice.
 - Council are required to comply with legislation and standards in relation to asset management. Section 5.56(1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995 - Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2011*.
-

Policy

To set guidelines for implementing consistent asset management process throughout the Shire of Dowerin. This policy applies to all Council activities.

This Asset Management Policy reflects Council's Vision, Mission, and asset management objectives for assets as encapsulated in the Shire of Dowerin Community Strategic Plan.

This policy

- Provides clear direction and "ownership" of asset management;
- Is a guide to better and more informed decision-making by Council, staff and community;
- Integrates resources, knowledge and ability to plan for the present and future generations;
- Provides a framework to implement continuous improvement in asset management;
- Allows community needs and expectations to be met;
- Manage Council's risk;
- Offers greater resource efficiency through the use of integrated systems; and
- Ensures compliance to State and Federal legislation.

Asset Management

Understanding Customer Expectations

- All infrastructure services will be regularly reviewed to ascertain community's service standard expectations.

Asset Management Representatives

- A multidisciplinary and cross-functional Asset Management Working Team will be established to assist with the strategic asset management planning.
- Staff responsibilities for Asset Management activities shall be included in the Asset Management Plans, and also reflected in individual position descriptions.

Asset Planning and Budgeting

- Council will adopt life cycle cost analysis for the management of assets. Each asset will be condition assessed and included in the asset management database. Projections of the life cycle of each asset will be extrapolated from data including current condition, intervention levels and forecast maintenance requirements.
- Council will regularly review its asset stock and identify opportunities for asset rationalisation and condition improvement or asset replacement as required.

Asset Operations and Maintenance

- Annual Maintenance Plans shall be developed using asset condition data and shall incorporate corresponding financial data.
- All outsourced services shall be procured through a competitive process.
- All services shall be regularly benchmarked to ensure Council is adopting best practice techniques.

Risk Assessment and Management

- Council will maintain a program of regular inspection of assets under its control to minimise Community's risk.
- Council will maintain a Quality and Occupational Health and Safety System for its employees and contractors working on Council assets.
- Council will consider risk associated with each asset category in its Asset Management Plans.

Asset Accounting and Costing

- Council will maintain detailed asset registers for those asset categories as listed in this policy.
- Useful lives will be given to each of these assets with the written down value and depreciation value determined in accordance with the current applicable accounting regulations.
- Depreciation will be calculated using a method that reflects the true consumption of the asset, or is an indication of the future cash flows necessary to sustain asset condition and maintain the required service level.

Asset Management Plans

- Council will develop an Asset Management Plan that includes each major asset category.
- These Asset Management Plans will be subjected to continuous improvement.

Asset Type Classification

Asset Class	Asset Sub-Class
Land	Reserves
	Parks & Gardens
	Sportsgrounds & Playing Fields
	Landfill Sites
Buildings	Community & Cultural Buildings

	Civic Buildings
	Public Amenities Buildings
	Residential Buildings
	Sports & Recreation Buildings
	Other Structures
Infrastructure - Roads and Bridges	Sealed Rural Road
	Sealed Townsite Road
	Gravel Road
	Access Roadways & Carparks
	Road Bridges
	Road Culverts
	Kerb & Gutter
	Footpaths
	Road Signage
Infrastructure - Stormwater & Sewerage	Drainage Networks
	Water Supply Networks
	Sewerage Networks
Infrastructure - Open Space	Cemetery
	Cricket Pitch and Nets
	Golf Course
	Tennis Courts
	Indoor Badminton & Squash Courts
	Indoor Basketball & Netball Courts

	Hockey Fields
	Playgrounds
	Playing Fields
	Fountains
	Seating - Fixed Bench
	Seating - Unfixed Bench
	Tanks
Information Technology	Hardware
	Software
	Communications
	Application specific technology
Plant and Equipment	Vehicles
	Equipment
Other Assets	Streetscapes

Roles and Responsibilities

Council

- To act as stewards for all assets
- To set corporate Asset Management policy and vision with linking to the Community Strategic Plan
- To ensure appropriate resources and funding for Asset Management activities are made available for Asset Management.

Management Team

- To continue to refine the “overarching” Asset Management Policy and the initial Asset Management Plan with linkage to the Community Strategic Plan for consideration by Council.
- To recognise and embrace asset management as a corporate process.
- To foster and support the principles of Asset Management and the Integrated Planning process.
- To implement and continuously review the corporate Asset Management Policy and Plan with agreed resources.
- To ensure that timely, accurate and reliable information is presented to council for decision-making.

Asset Management Representatives

- Oversee the introduction and management of Asset Management into the Council structure.
- Develop and maintain up to date inventories for each asset category.
- Make appropriate suggestions on items such as suitability of software platforms, applicable asset categories and Asset Management Plan content.

Related Documentation

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.56(1) and (2)
Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2011

Related Delegation

Review History

Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Councillors, All Shire Employee and Contractors
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	27 February 2018
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-85

Objective

To provide a clear and robust position and process for Councillors, all Shire employees and Shire contractors relating to public interest disclosures as defined by the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003* Section 3;

To assist in ensuring the Shire of Dowerin Councillors and all employees maintain the highest standards of ethics in behaviour that are in accordance with the Shire of Dowerin's objective of achieving a high performing organisation that serves its community efficiently and with high standards of integrity.

To ensure the Shire of Dowerin Integrity is trusted by the Community it serves and is accountable for its actions.

This policy will:

- ensure that there is a supportive and informed culture within the organisation in terms of public interest disclosures.
 - clarify the support for Councillors, staff or contractors who make Public Interest Disclosures.
-

Policy

This policy applies to all Councillors, all employees and all contractors of the Shire of Dowerin.

PRINCIPLES

The Shire of Dowerin does not tolerate corrupt or other improper conduct, including mismanagement of public resources, in the exercise of the public functions of the Shire of Dowerin, its elected members, employees and contractors.

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to the aims and objectives of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* (PID Act). It recognises the value and importance of contributions of staff to enhance administrative and management practices and strongly supports disclosures being made, by staff, as to improper conduct.

The Shire of Dowerin will ensure every effort to provide protection to staff who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for the making of a public interest disclosure.

The Shire of Dowerin will not tolerate any of its elected members, employees or contractors engaging in acts of victimisation or reprisal against those who make public interest disclosures.

PROCEDURES

A person wishing to make a public interest disclosure should seek advice from the Shire's PID Officer to ensure they understand their rights and responsibilities under the Act prior to making a disclosure.

To meet the requirements of the Act, the disclosure must be made to the PID Officer.

The person holding or acting in the position of Governance and Organisational Development Officer (or a position as determined by the Chief Executive Officer) is designated as the PID Officer for the Shire of Dowerin.

The PID Officer is responsible for receiving disclosure of public interest information relating to matters falling within the sphere of the responsibility of the Shire of Dowerin. The PID Officer is to act in that role in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act and Guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Public Sector Standards [which are to be read in conjunction with this policy].

The PID Officer will utilise the Public Sector Commission's Guideline template for the reporting of PID matters located at https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/public_interest_disclosure_guidelines_1.pdf

Should Councillors, staff or contractors feel unable to speak to the designated PID Officer for the Shire of Dowerin, they are to utilise one of the following:

1. Report the matter directly to the Shire of Dowerin Chief Executive Officer who will utilise the Public Sector Commission's Guideline template for reporting of PID matters https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/public_interest_disclosure_guidelines_1.pdf
2. The Public Sector Commission's Advisory service on 08 6552 8888 or minormisconduct@psc.wa.gov.au or utilise the resources of the Public Sector Commission to better inform themselves of their options - see link <https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/conduct-integrity/minor-misconduct/reporting-minor-misconduct-psc>
3. The Department of Local Government and Communities Public Interest Disclosure Officer on 6551 8700.
3. The Ombudsman of Western Australia via the Ombudsman's office on 08 9220 7555 or mail@ombudsman.wa.gov.au

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- To ensure the implementation of this policy

Managers

- Ensure all current and new employees are aware of this policy;
- Ensure that that this policy guides behaviours and actions of employees;

Noting that public interest disclosures can only be made to the PID Officer, Managers are to direct staff to the PID Officer and / or the following document. <http://forms.wairc.wa.gov.au/files/Don't%20Be%20Afraid%20to%20Speak%20Up.pdf>

Employees

- Ensure they understand and comply with the requirements of this policy.
- Seek clarification from their supervisor or the PID Officer if they are unsure of the content or implications of this policy.

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003

Shire of Dowerin Code of Conduct

Shire of Dowerin Induction Manual

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

19 July 2016

27 February 2018

Drug & Alcohol Policy

Policy Owner Chief Executive Officer

Distribution All Employees

Responsible Officer Chief Executive Officer

Date Adopted 19 December 2017

File Reference ORGN-1017121432-80

Objective

This Policy supports the Shire of Dowerin's commitment to maintaining a safe and efficient working environment for all staff members and contractors.

The Drug and Alcohol Policy applies to all workers who carry out work in any capacity for the Shire of Dowerin including work as an employee, contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a labour hire company assigned to work for the Shire of Dowerin, an apprentice or trainee, work experience student, or volunteer.

Policy

Workers are not to present themselves for work if they have consumed alcohol and/or other drugs where they may be at risk of impairment during work hours. It is a condition of entry to all Council workplaces that all workers may be tested at any time for alcohol and/or drugs.

Alcohol and illicit drugs shall not be consumed at any Council workplace, in any Council owned vehicle or plant, or at any time as a worker of the Council whilst undertaking their respective duties. An exception for the consumption of alcohol will be made for special occasions or locations as determined by the CEO and where the provision of hospitality is within the bounds of normal customary hospitality.

Alcohol and Drug Tolerance Levels within the Workplace

Council's alcohol tolerance within the workplace is in accordance with applicable standards considering the workplace requirements and the nature of the work being undertaken.

Council's drug tolerance within the workplace is in accordance with the testing method's Australian Standard, including amendments, which Council accepts as indicators of the risk of impairment.

Prescription and Pharmacy Medication

If Council suspects that there is a risk of impairment to a worker's ability to safely perform work, Council may take steps to address the issue in accordance with this Policy and associated procedures.

Where a worker is taking prescription and pharmacy medications for a legitimate medical purpose, the worker will not breach this Policy by attending work or duties subject to guidelines listed in the Drug and Alcohol Procedure.

Any information supplied by workers in relation to prescription and pharmacy medication to Council or any of its workers must be kept confidential.

Awareness and Training

Council recognises that it is important to develop a workplace culture, through awareness and training where employees are prepared to encourage each other to be safe and not unfit for work. All employees shall be familiarised with this Policy and the Drug and Alcohol Procedure upon commencement of employment and annually thereafter.

All other workers shall be made aware of the components of this Policy and the Drug and Alcohol Procedure that may affect them whilst performing work in any capacity for Council.

Drug and Alcohol Testing Triggers

Consistent with Council's obligation and commitment to ensuring a safe workplace, workers will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the following circumstances in accordance with the Drug and Alcohol Procedure:

- As part of a Random Testing Program;
- In a case of Reasonable Suspicion;
- Post Incident; and/or
- Any testing as part of a return to work and/or rehabilitation program conducted under this policy and associated procedure.

Testing Methods

All initial drugs testing undertaken will comprise of a saliva test. Confirmatory test may comprise of either a urine or saliva test.

Urine testing will be conducted in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4308:2008. Saliva testing will be conducted in accordance with Australian Standard 4760-2006.

Alcohol testing will be conducted in accordance with current random breath testing procedures in Western Australia (Australian Standard AS 3547-1997).

Employee Assistance

Council recognises drug and alcohol dependency as a treatable condition. Workers who suspect they have an issue with drugs and/or alcohol are encouraged to seek advice regarding appropriate treatment options. Council offers employees the services under the EAP. The services provided by Council's EAP provider are strictly confidential.

Any Workers referred to EAP may access either a Council provided EAP or a recognised program of their choosing (at the employee's own expense).

Breaches of Policy

Disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the actions detailed in the Drug and Alcohol Procedure and Discipline Procedure for breaches of this policy including, but not limited to:

- The recording of a positive result from a drug and / or alcohol test;
- If found to have deliberately masked a substance;
- The falsification of medication information or details;
- Tampering with a sample for drug and / or alcohol testing; or
- Refusing to comply with any requirements of this Policy.

Definitions

CEO (Chief Executive Officer) - A person who holds an appointment under section 194 of the Local Government Act 2009.

Council - Shire of Dowerin

Employee - Local government employee;

(a) the chief executive officer; or

(b) a person holding an appointment under section 196 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - A confidential, professional counselling service available to Council employees.

Fitness for Work - A state (physically, mentally and emotionally) to perform assigned tasks competently and in a manner which does not compromise or threaten the health, wellbeing and safety of themselves or other persons.

Risk of Impairment - The risk of a worker's reduced quality, strength or effectiveness due to the effects of drugs and/or alcohol consumption whilst performing their usual duties.

Random - Having no specific pattern, nor predetermined outcome.

Suspicion Testing - Testing undertaken on the suspicion that an employee may be at risk of impairment from drugs or alcohol.

Worker - Contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a contractor or subcontractor, an employee of a labour hire company assigned to work for Council, work experience student or a volunteer.

Work Hours - Any time where a worker is at the workplace for work purposes, and claiming remuneration, including time where the on-call allowance is received.

Workplace - A place where work is carried out for a business or undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to all workers as per the above definition.

The CEO is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented.

Managers are responsible for ensuring their staff are aware of this policy and for reporting any breaches to the CEO.

Related Documentation

Drug and Alcohol Procedure
Code of Conduct
Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4308:2008
Australian Standard 4760-2006.
Australian Standard AS 3547-1997

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Drug and Alcohol Procedure

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

Social Media Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff and Elected Members
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	19 December 2017
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-78

Objective

The purpose of Council utilising social media platforms is to:

- Provide an efficient method of delivering factual, up-to-date information online
- Provide two-way communication with stakeholders through online feedback and correspondence mechanisms
- Become more interactive with the community

The purpose of this policy is to provide Shire of Dowerin employees with standards of use as they engage in conversations or interactions using digital media. The intention of this policy is to ensure Council's use of social media platforms to communicate with various stakeholder groups is effective, informative and appropriate.

Policy

Council representatives using social media must:

- Only disclose publicly available information. No comment will be made on Social Media sites regarding confidential, private or legal matters
- Only use corporate imagery such as logos and official Council photographs
- Ensure that no copyrighted or trademarked material is published without permission
- Ensure that information posted online is not illegal, libellous, discriminatory, defamatory, abusive, or obscene
- Ensure that information posted online does not infringe Council's Code of Conduct or any other Council code or policy.

When using Council social media sites, employees authorised by the CEO (or nominee) will:

- Only post content that is genuinely expected to be relevant and of interest to followers
- Respond to enquiries within 24 hours (Monday to Friday) where possible
- Keep messages simple
- Provide relevant, accurate, fair and thorough information.

Monitoring social media

The Community and Economic Development Officer (CEDO) will monitor content posted on all official social media outlets to ensure adherence to the Social Media Policy for appropriate use, message and consistency in branding.

Content relating to Council that is posted on the internet by elected members, employees, residents and other community members or organisations will be monitored by the CEDO through the use of Google Alerts and other applications.

Comments from social media users will be monitored and moderated where possible.

Personal use of social media

Staff and Councillors that comment via social media on their personal accounts could be linked to the Shire of Dowerin. With this understanding staff and Councillors should be aware that comments made via social media are in the public domain, and use of such should be aligned to Council's Internet Email and Computer Use Policy and Code of Conduct.

Defamatory, disrespectful or deliberately misleading commentary provided on these platforms may bring staff or Councillors in breach of Council's Code of Conduct.

Non-compliance with the Social Media Policy by Council representatives, staff and Councillors will be managed through the relevant Code of Conduct and disciplinary systems.

Developing new social media platforms

Council's CEO must authorise the use of online marketing tools such as additional Council websites and social media channels that are branded or deemed to be associated with the Shire of Dowerin.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to any and all persons who represent the Shire of Dowerin in a paid or unpaid capacity.

The CEO is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented.

Managers are responsible for ensuring their staff are aware of this policy and for reporting any breaches to the CEO.

Related Documentation

- Shire of Dowerin Code of Conduct
- Social Media Procedure
- Bullying in the Workplace Policy (DRAFT)
- Occupational Safety, Health & Environmental Policy
- Internet Email and Computer Use Policy (DRAFT)

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

- WA Local Government Act 1995
- Copyright Act 1968
- The Privacy Act 1988
- The Information Privacy Bill 2007 (WA)
- Defamation Act 2005

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

Senior Employees & Acting CEO Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management Team
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 March 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To designate the employee positions which are determined by the Shire as 'senior employees' for the purposes of section 5.37 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

To provide direction in the appointment of an Acting CEO during periods of less than 3 months absence of the CEO.

Policy

Council has designated the following positions to be classified as 'Senior Employees' for the purpose of the Act:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Manager Corporate & Community Services
- Manager Works & Assets

Acting CEO

Council has determined that the employees appointed to the position of Manager to the Shire of Dowerin are suitably qualified to perform the role of Acting CEO.

Managers may be appointed to the position of Acting CEO at the discretion of the CEO for periods of three (3) months or less.

Appointment for periods extending three months will require a Council Decision.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO is responsible for implementing a

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Section 5.37 - Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.36(2)(A) - Local Government Act 1995

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

26 March 2019 (Item 10.2.3)

Recruitment and Selection Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Employees
Responsible Officer	Coordinator Governance & Organisational Development
Date Adopted	24 April 2018
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-102

Objective

To ensure that the recruitment and selection of employees is transparent, equitable and upholds the values of the organisation and ensures legislative requirements are met.

Policy

The Shire is committed to ensuring recruitment and selection of prospective employees is in accordance with relevant employment legislation.

Effective employee selection and the subsequent management of employees are critical to the success of the Shire's and the provision of services to the community. This success depends on the Shire's ability to identify, attract and develop employees.

The Shire is committed to an effective and professional method of selecting employees that is consistent with organisational values.

The Shire aims to attract and appoint highly skilled and motivated employees who will aim to meet agreed objectives and performance improvement goals. For every recruitment and selection decision, the Chief Executive Officer will aim to ensure the best person for the job is appointed.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Selection to positions within the Shire is based on the principles of appointment and merit and the provision of equal employment opportunity. The appointment of employees must be made on the basis of the individual capacity of the person having particular regard to the knowledge, skills, qualifications, experience and potential for future development of that person in their employment.

Selection on the basis of merit means that the grounds for the decision must directly relate to the inherent requirements of the position and prevents those decisions being made on unjustified discriminatory grounds such as:

- Race, colour, national or ethnic origin or nationality;
- Gender, sexual preference, marital status, pregnancy, status as parent or carer;
- Religious or political belief or activity, industrial activity;
- Age, physical features, disability, medical records;
- Personal association with a person who is identified by reference to any of the listed attributes.

Recruitment Authorisation

To ensure alignment with the Shire's strategic goals and budget allocations, new positions identified must be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

Vacancies created by a resignation are not automatically filled. The supervisor will need to review the position to determine if it is still required and if so, whether any changes are required to ensure the best strategic alignment and most effective use of limited staffing resources. This review must be presented to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration prior to recruitment progressing.

Encouragement to Existing Employees to Apply for Vacancies

The Shire is committed to fostering the process of developing and promoting existing employees where possible and the Shire will provide every opportunity for employees to advance and develop to their full potential. Internal applicants are encouraged to consider positions where they can meet the selection criteria.

Confidentiality

All enquiries and applications for vacancies from internal and external applicants will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

Conflicts of Interest

No person shall be appointed, other than by a merit selection process, where such a person is directly related to an employee of the Shire or where some other conflict of interest may exist.

Family and other close personal relationships as well as business relationships must be declared by prospective members of recruitment panels in relation to candidates. The panel will collectively determine if the potential for the perception of a conflict of interest is too great for the member to remain on the panel.

Recruitment Strategy

The most appropriate strategy for recruitment will be adopted to ensure the timely and effective use of resources and to maximise the successful performance of the role for the Shire. Whilst the Shire is committed to providing opportunities for existing employees to apply for vacancies, the recruitment mix (advertisements, internal applications, external applications etc), will be determined by a range of elements, including the role, required skills and abilities, existing skill base and organisational needs. At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, vacant positions may be filled by:

- An internal recruitment process;
- An external recruitment process involving external advertising or the use of a recruitment agency for senior positions; or
- By direct selection.

Probationary Period

All new employees may be appointed subject to a probationary period to be determined by the recruitment and selection panel.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented in an open and transparent manner.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and Supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy and actively promote professional development of staff as part of this policy.

Related Documentation

Recruitment & Selection Procedure

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.40

Fair Work Act 2009

Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1984

Sex Discrimination Act 1984

Racial Discrimination Act 1975

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

Adopted 18 March 2014

Untied Surplus Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	24 April 2018
File Reference	ORGN-1017121432-92

Objective

This Policy aims to establish parameters for the use of untied surplus funds at the end of each financial year as identified through the Annual Budget adoption process.

Definitions

Untied surplus: savings achieved as a result of increased revenue not tied to a particular project or initiative or from reduction in expenditure from efficiencies and / or project and initiatives that were able to be delivered under budget.

Policy

As part of the annual budget process Council's end of year financial position is calculated.

In the event Council is in a surplus position, the process will include a calculation of any untied surpluses.

Should an untied surplus be calculated, Council will recognise this an opportunity to progress one or more of the following financial goals:

1. Reduction or retirement of debt noting that the WA Treasury Corp is likely to impose a penalty for reduction or early retirement of debt; therefore, this option will require analysis and calculations on a case-by-case basis.
2. Transfer to one or more reserves as determined by Council guided by the Shire of Dowerin Reserves Policy;
3. To progress a one-off project or initiative.

Council recognises that untied surplus funds are not a regular or reliable revenue stream and therefore will not use untied surpluses to supplement the operational budget.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- Responsible for implementing this policy and for bringing it to Council for annual review.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.14

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 (as amended)

Shire of Dowerin Investment Policy
Shire of Dowerin Reserves Policy

Related Delegation

Chief Executive Officer

Review History

Uniforms - Staff

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Acting Manager Corporate & Community Services
Date Adopted	25 September 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

The type of clothing and standard of dress for the Shire of Dowerin's employees varies according to roles and safety requirements. This policy provides parameters regarding appropriate types of clothing, standards of dress and related matters.

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to presenting itself in a professional manner as well as maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for its employees. This policy aims to fulfil such a commitment by providing clarity in relation to personal clothing and hygiene standards.

Payments Made Under This Policy

Shire will pay up to a maximum of \$500 per financial year to employees towards the cost of an approved corporate uniform for permanent employees.

The cost of any uniforms purchased above the \$500 limit will be borne by the employee.

Compulsory Uniform/Protective Clothing

The Shire of Dowerin may require employees to wear a uniform. The following applies in relation to compulsory wearing of the Shire of Dowerin uniforms:

1. The employee is responsible for ensuring the uniform is kept clean and presentable. Any employee who fails to wear the required uniform when presenting for duty shall be sent home to change and may not receive payment for the time they are not at work.
2. Uniforms shall be replaced if it is determined by an appropriate officer that they are no longer suitable for use due to ordinary wear and tear.
3. If an employee's uniform is damaged the employee may be entitled to a replacement uniform or an additional one-off allowance. An employee may not be entitled to a replacement uniform or an additional one-off allowance if their uniform has been damaged due to neglect or misconduct. In such cases the employee will be responsible for the replacement costs of the uniform.

Additional Requirements Relating to Protective Clothing

An employee may be instructed to wear protective clothing by their supervisor. Employees will be issued with protective clothing by the Shire of Dowerin in accordance with the Shire's Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing (PPE) Procedure. An employee must not modify, alter or change protective clothing under any circumstances unless they are directed to do so by their supervisor.

Wearing Uniform Out of Hours

Primarily uniforms are to be worn only during working hours and employees should take care to refrain from wearing uniforms outside of work. Employees must recognise that when wearing the uniform they are recognised as representing the Shire of Dowerin. Employees must adhere to the Shire of Dowerin's Code of Conduct, policies and procedures if they are wearing the uniform outside of work.

Acceptable Standards of Dress

Employees who are not required to wear uniforms must present for work in a professional manner and be suitably attired for their work activities. The standard for both men and women is smart business dress.

Smart business dress for work may include tailored trousers, tailored skirts, collared business shirts, tailored shorts, tailored jackets, dresses, blouses, smart/business shoes, socks, appropriate underwear, belts and ties.

Smart business dress for work does not include low cut or sheer tops, tops that expose the midriff, shorts that expose the buttocks, thongs, sneakers, bare feet, singlets, faded jeans, frayed jeans, board shorts or other items of clothing deemed unsuitable by their supervisor.

The following items may be acceptable provided they do not pose any possible hazard to health and safety at work or deviate significantly from the image required in the given work area:

1. Clothing worn to comply with cultural or religious practices;
2. Tattoos or body piercings; and
3. Jewellery

In relation to appropriate footwear and clothing, staff have regard for the possible hazards within the workplace (ie accidentally spilling boiling water, dropping heavy items etc) and take steps to minimise the risk of injury. When out of the office, staff will wear footwear and clothing appropriate to the task being conducted (ie water or housing/building inspections, loading or unloading vehicles etc) which may be different to the footwear and clothing worn within the office environment. Appropriate footwear is that which provides protection from potential injury.

Casual Dress Days

On "casual dress" days, "smart casual" is the minimum required standard. Within the Shire Administration Office it is generally accepted that Friday will be "casual dress" day. The Shire of Dowerin polo shirt is the preferred uniform which can be worn with appropriate smart business dress jeans, skirts, pants or shorts.

Further guidance is available from the respective line manager.

Unacceptable Standard of Dress

The following items are unacceptable at the Local Government:

1. Clothing that contains messages or designs that may be offensive to others including but not limited to items of clothing which may be considered racist, sexist or derogatory.
2. Body tattoos that contain messages or designs that may be offensive to others including but not limited to tattoo's which may be considered racist, sexist or derogatory.

Personal Hygiene

Employees are responsible for ensuring that they maintain good standards of personal hygiene whilst at the workplace. Clothes should be laundered to a reasonable standard and employees should be respectful of others and minimise strong body odour, perfumes and colognes when attending the workplace.

All matters relating to personal hygiene will be handled sympathetically and discreetly.

Consequences of Breaching This Policy

This policy constitutes a lawful instruction to all staff of the organisation people and breaches may lead to disciplinary action or termination by the Shire of Dowerin. People who breach this policy may also be personally liable for their actions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy.

Related Documentation

Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing (PPE) Procedure

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Strategic Community Plan – Our Leaders – Outcome 3 – Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and good governance practices ensures the Shire is adaptive to evolving community needs.

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

25 September 2018 (Item 10.1.3)

Restricted Access Vehicle Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Asset & Works Manager
Date Adopted	25 September 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To provide clear guidelines to the Council, its staff and heavy vehicle transport operators for Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network requests and access to roads under the care, control and management of the Shire of Dowerin.

The Council wishes to balance road safety, transport efficiency for Shire economic benefits, community amenity and preservation of the road asset. The Policy supports 'as of right' vehicles as defined by Main Roads WA (MRWA) or approved RAV routes, except where roads are closed for safety reasons.

Definitions

Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network

The RAV Network is a list of roads which have been assessed and classified by MRWA according to the type and size of heavy vehicle that may access them. It is administered by the Heavy Vehicles Section (HVS) of MRWA.

Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) Network

The AMMS scheme allows for three (3) concessional mass tiers that are available to approved heavy vehicle transport operators with appropriate loading control methods. This scheme uses a network approach similar to the existing RAV Network.

Both the RAV and AMMS Networks are published in the form of road tables and a visual Mapping Tool is available on the MRWA website.

Policy

Request to Access Roads

- a) RAV Classified Roads - If required, heavy vehicle transport operators may request use of a classified road on the RAV Network by applying to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for approval.
- b) Unclassified Roads - If the road is not classified on the RAV Network then the applicant will first need to apply to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS), the Shire of Dowerin will assess request in accordance with MRWA approved guidelines and if supported, a submission will be made to MRWA (HVS) for their consideration including any conditions that may apply to the use of the road.
- c) AMMS Network - Heavy Vehicle transport operators may apply for a road already classified on the RAV Network to be approved for an AMMS Network level by applying to MRWA (HVS). Upon receipt from MRWA (HVS) the Shire of Dowerin

will assess the request in accordance with MRWA approved guidelines. If supported, a submission will be made to MRWA (HVS) for their consideration

- d) Should the road access request be declined, the Shire of Dowerin will inform MRWA (HVS) who will advise the applicant.
- e) Depending on the need for access, a RAV access request may be supported if the applicant is willing to meet the costs associated for the shire to carry out any road upgrades or vegetation pruning necessary to qualify the road for the RAV network level requested.

RAV Road Reclassification

The Shire may withdraw support for an approved route at any time if:

- (i) The route is deemed unsafe for RAV use;
- (ii) The route is deemed unsuitable for RAV use; or
- (iii) The heavy vehicle transport operator has breached approval conditions.

Roles and Responsibilities

All RAVs require a permit, unless they are authorised under a class of notice issued by either the Commissioner of Main Roads or the Director General, Transport.

CEO to issue a written Shire Letter of Agreement with Conditions;

The Shire is required to provide a formal letter of agreement to Main Roads before Main Roads will assess a road for RAV operation. Under certain conditions the Shire may authorise Main Roads to issue an approval and stipulate special operating conditions to address local community and industry concerns. Main Roads has standard operating conditions but can impose the condition that on a certain road or section of road the RAV operator must obtain a written agreement with additional local operating conditions. The Letter of Agreement from the CEO must be carried within the vehicle at all times. The Letter of Agreement is in addition to the permit required from Main Roads.

The CEO may grant agreement to Main Roads for all RAVs up N4 to without referring the matter to Council providing the road/roads comply with the Main Roads Route Assessment Guidelines at standard VSR axle mass limits.

If access is requested for a RAV and the road/roads do not comply with Main Roads Route Assessment Guidelines and RAV Category, any request must be brought before Council for consideration.

Applications for the operation of a RAV with increased mass and tri drive vehicles etcetera will require to be brought to Council and a cost recovery method considered.

Related Documentation

[RAV Mapping Tool](#)

<https://mainroads.wa.gov.au/hvsnetworkmap>

which features:

- A seamless map of WA using a Google interface.
- Allows users the ability to quickly access network information and their associated conditions.
- The ability to overlay individual networks, which will enable you to plan your journey more efficiently.
- Mobile device compatibility

Note: The RAV mapping tool should be used as a guide only and approved roads should be checked using the road tables and addendums.

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

The Road Traffic Act 1974 and the Road Traffic (Vehicle) Regulations 2014 govern the use of heavy vehicles on roads within Western Australia and define items such as compliance notices, exemptions, permits and notices for heavy restricted access vehicles. These regulations also contain provisions for mass and loading, load restraints, vehicle modifications and vehicle maintenance.

The Land Administration Act 1997 Section 55 and Local Government Act 1995 Section 3.53(2) gives the Shire of Dowerin management responsibility for roads within its boundaries.

Related Delegation

Works & Assets Manager

Review History

25 September 2018 (Item 10.1.4)

Education and Study Assistance Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Acting Manager Corporate & Community Services
Date Adopted	25 September 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

The Shire of Dowerin is committed to providing an environment in which its employees are adequately equipped to achieve their career and professional development needs relevant to their employment.

All employees have equal access to training and development opportunities promoted by the Shire and/or courses of study that will contribute to the improvement of their professional skills and knowledge relevant to their employment with the Shire, as identified in the staff performance review process.

This policy provides guidance in administering an employee's request for further education and specifies what the Shire will reimburse employees for expenses incurred as well as leave allocation while undertaking approved courses of study, as part of their career planning.

Policy

The Shire of Dowerin supports and encourages employees to undertake studies appropriate to the needs of the Shire.

The Shire recognises that employees will from time to time aspire to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

1. Education (being acquisition of general, tertiary and professional skills and qualification) is the responsibility of the individual employee.
2. The Shire will provide regular opportunities for employees of the Shire to upgrade or enhance their skills.
3. This policy only applies to full time and part time employment. Employees who are a trainee, apprentice, casual and employees on a temporary contract of 12 months or less will not be eligible to apply.
4. The employee must gain Manager and CEO approval of the course prior to seeking assistance under this policy.
5. The Shire is supportive of employees who seek further education and, through the Chief Executive Officer, an application may be considered and/or approved under the following considerations:
 - a. the studies are relevant to the current position or potential future career development;
 - b. the extent to which the department/section will be inconvenienced;
 - c. the employees past work performance and behaviour.

Contribution to Fees

6. When it is financially advantageous to do so the Shire will consider paying the fees incurred upfront in order to receive any discount offered by their respective Educational Institution.

7. The employee pays for the fees and thereafter provides a copy of their receipt and statement of results at the end of the semester at which time the Shire will repay the employee up to 100% upon proof of completion and passing of the course. A statement of results as well as a copy of the payment receipt is required for reimbursement.
8. A repayment scale is applied if an employee leaves the Shire within 2 years from the date they received the payment.
 - Within 6 months - 100% repay to the Shire
 - Within 12 months - 75% repay to the Shire
 - Within 18 months - 50% repay to the Shire
 - Within 24 months - 25% repay to the Shire
9. The Shire will not make any contribution towards the books, parking, campus fines, memberships, guild fees, travel costs or other costs associated with the course of study undertaken.
10. All requests for assistance from the Shire should be made and approved within a financial year and not be carried into a second financial year.
11. The need for an employee to repeat a unit shall be deemed to be unsatisfactory performance and the employee will not receive further assistance from the Shire.
12. Fees paid to employees who work part-time hours will be calculated on a pro-rata system calculated as a percentage of a full time equivalent figure based on the employee's normal hours of work.
13. All costs, other than salaries, incurred under this policy will be costed against the Shire's training budget.

Leave Arrangements

The Shire will provide the opportunity for an employee to take time off (study leave) of up to 5 hours per week, provided that such time is made up and does not interfere with Council operations significantly, excepting in the case of employees classified as "trainee", "cadet" or "apprentice" where additional Study Leave may be granted by the CEO.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy and actively promote professional development of staff as part of this policy.

Related Documentation

Study Assistance Application Form

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Strategic Community Plan - Our Leaders - Outcome 3 - Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and good governance practices ensures the Shire is adaptive to evolving community needs.

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

25 September 2018 (Item 10.1.1)

Development of Policies and Administrative Procedures

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Staff
Responsible Officer	Acting Manager Corporate & Community Services
Date Adopted	25 September 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

To establish a policy framework that aims to set an overarching governance hierarchy enabling the Council and Administration to collectively:

- Provide effective and accountable strategic leadership
 - Make decisions based on principles of equity, fairness, natural justice, transparency of decision making and good government, as well as meeting statutory requirements.
-

Policy

Council Policies and Administrative Procedures enable effective and efficient management of Council resources and assist staff and Council to achieve an equitable decision-making process.

In respect to policy development and implementation, the intent outlined in the Local Government Act 1995 (section 2.7 (2b) and 5.41) is for Council to set the strategy and policy direction with the implementation of that direction and the day to day operations resting with the Chief Executive Officer.

Council Policies - approved by Council

- Are strategic, outcome focussed and set governing principles, guiding the direction of the organisation;
- Have strategic external focus;
- Align with community values and aspirations;
- Are clearly linked to the role of Council;
- Are focussed on alignment with Strategic Plan and Strategic Financial Plan of Council; and
- Do not prevail over or contradict the Local Planning Scheme.

Their intent is to have Council Policies that drive and align with the five focus areas of the Strategic Plan:

- Our Lifestyle;
- Our Infrastructure;
- Our Economy;
- Our Natural Environment;
- Our Leaders.

Council policies are developed through a Council workshop process and/or the administration and adopted by Council.

Council policies provide general guidance without directing operational activities.

Administrative Procedures

- Are developed for administrative and operational imperatives;
- Have an internal focus;
- Are developed by the administration; and
- Are endorsed by the Management team and approved by the CEO.

Procedures are the administrative guidelines for the implementation of Council Policies, supporting sound administration of the Shire (generally technical and/or operational in nature). They are endorsed by Management and approved by the CEO.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy and actively review policy and procedures to ensure compliance with this policy.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Local Government Act 1995 (section 2.7 (2b) and 5.41)

Strategic Community Plan – Our Leaders – Outcome 3 – Commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and good governance practices ensures the Shire is adaptive to evolving community needs.

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

25 September 2018 (Item 10.1.2)

Street Tree Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Management
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	27 November 2018
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

This policy aims to provide guidance for the provision, management and maintenance of street trees and shire gardens within the Shire.

Policy

Trees in the rural urban environment perform several functions that maintain the sustainability of our towns and contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community. This policy will:

- Encourage the planting of appropriate trees, particularly trees native to Western Australia, throughout the Dowerin townsite.
- Guide decisions regarding the planting, management, maintenance and removal of street trees.
- Ensure the protection of existing trees worthy of retaining in the road reserve.
- Identify management and maintenance responsibilities.
- Provide consistent advice on all enquiries relating to street trees.

Street trees are provided by the Shire through its annual winter planting program where a request for a street tree is formally lodged via the Shire Office.

The number of trees permitted on the verge abutting the front property boundary line of a typical residential lot (typical lot frontage is 15m) is one tree per property; however up to three trees may be permitted on corner blocks, and more than one may also be permitted on the verge of a large commercial or industrial property. To minimise maintenance requirements, planting of trees under power lines will not be permitted.

The species of tree provided will be the same or similar to those already existing in the street. Where possible, preference will be given to tree species native to Western Australia. If there is not a dominant tree species, a tree from the Suggested Tree Planting List, located on the Shire's website, will be selected based on its suitability to the site.

The Shire encourages land developers to provide one shade tree per residential lot (except in rear laneways) that is consistent with the Shire's Suggested Street Tree Species List.

The Shire preference is to install trees of 5 litre pot size for reasons of cost-effectiveness, vigour of stock, and quicker establishment periods. However, in some instances where 5 litre trees are not available, the Shire may consider trees of up to 90 litre in pot size.

All trees planted in the road reserve are ultimately the maintenance and management responsibility of the Shire. After planting, the Shire will schedule watering during summer however residents are encouraged to water trees for at least two summers to assist in their establishment. The Shire will undertake all other maintenance works to ensure the tree remains healthy, has appropriate sightline clearances for pedestrians and vehicles, and fulfils the legislated clearance requirements regarding overhead power supply.

Regular pruning of street trees located near aerial power lines is necessary to prevent trees from growing into the Western Power exclusion zones around these wires. The Shire undertakes these works to comply with Western Power requirements.

The Shire will consider removing a street tree where the tree is dead, in a state of decline to the point that survival is unlikely, is causing significant damage to infrastructure or services, as well as presenting an unacceptable level of risk to surrounding infrastructure or if retention is not possible due to an approved development. All requests for the removal of street trees will be assessed by the Shire in accordance with best arboriculture practice to maximise the possibility of retaining the tree. Tree removal is considered as a final option in street tree management.

The Shire consults with affected stakeholders during the planning stages of specific streetscape replanting programs. Notification will be provided to the adjoining resident/stakeholders in cases where a tree is required to be removed or replaced.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy and actively review policy and procedures to ensure compliance with this policy.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

27 November 2018 (Item 10.1.6)

Prescription Safety Glasses Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer		
Distribution	All Staff		
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer		
Date Adopted	22 January 2019		
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council	Policies/Prescription	Safety Glasses

Objective

To comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984* in providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees.

To provide prescription safety glasses for employees where optical aids are required and their regular duties require the use of safety glasses.

Policy

This policy applies to all Shire employees with the exception of employees on casual contracts, independent contractors and volunteers.

Reimbursing an employee for prescription safety glasses will only be approved when the safety glasses provided by the Shire, which fit over prescription glasses, do not fit properly and therefore are not fit for purpose.

If a reimbursement is approved, based on the above, the Shire will reimburse employees for the cost of prescription safety glasses up to a maximum value of \$200.

Employees may purchase glasses costing more than this amount, however they will only be reimbursed the prescribed amount above. If the amount is less than the prescribed amount or the employee obtains any kind of rebate which brings the total cost of the glasses to less than the prescribed amount, the Shire will only reimburse the employee for their out-of-pocket expenses. Employees wishing to be reimbursed will be required to produce:

- A receipt for the glasses
- A private health insurance or other rebate receipt (if applicable)

Employees are responsible for ensuring that all glasses purchased comply with the Australian/New Zealand standards:

- AS/NZS 1337:1992 Eye protectors for industrial applications; and
- AS/NZS 1338:1992 Filters for eye protectors

Prescription safety glasses may be replaced where:

- they are lost or stolen;
- they are scratched or damaged during regular work duties; or
- the employee's prescription changes.

Employees are entitled to one (1) pair of prescription safety glasses per financial year. The Shire will only consider replacing glasses more than once per year in extenuating circumstances.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has a responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors have a responsibility to ensure employees are aware of this policy.

Related Documentation

Occupational Safety Health and Environmental Policy

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996

AS/NZS 1337: 1992 Eye protectors for industrial applications

AS/NZS 1338: 1992 Filters for eye protectors

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

22 January 2019 (Item 10.2.1)

Information Management Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	Councillors, Employees & Contractors
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	26 February 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

- To ensure that the Shire meets the statutory requirements of the State Records Act 2000;
- To ensure uniformity and consistency for the creation and maintenance of records within the management systems within the Shire of Dowerin.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of those Officers who manage and perform record keeping processes for, or on behalf of, the Shire of Dowerin.

Definitions

Ephemeral Records

Ephemeral records are those with only short-term value to the Shire, as they contain little or no ongoing administrative, fiscal, legal, evidential or historical value. They are usually not incorporated into the Shire's recordkeeping system.

Government Record

Is a record created or received by or for a government organisation or a government organisation employee or contractor in the course of the work for the organisation.

Records

Any record of information however recorded and includes:

- (a) Any thing on which there is writing or Braille;
- (b) A map, plan, diagram or graph;
- (c) A drawing, pictorial or graphic work, or photograph;
- (d) Anything on which there are figures, marks perforations, symbols, having a meaning for persons qualified to interpret them;
- (e) Anything for which images, sounds or writings can be reproduced with or without the aid of anything else; and
- (f) Any thing on which information has been stored or recorded either mechanically, magnetically, or electronically.

State Archive

A State Record that is to be retained permanently.

Policy

The Shire's corporate records are to be managed in accordance with the Shire's Record Keeping Plan. All Councillors, Employees and Contractors are responsible for maintaining complete, accurate and reliable evidence of all business transactions and ensuring all corporate documents are retained in the Shire's official Information Management system, at the point of creation, regardless of the format, in accordance with:

- a) State Records Act 2000;
- b) Freedom of Information Act 1992; and

c) Local Government Act 1995.

Accurately created and maintained records are important and necessary because they serve as a history of the transactions and business processes of the Shire. They are a fundamental tool for providing evidence of local government accountability and responsibility. It is for these reasons' legislation exists to ensure that records are properly maintained and preserved for future generations.

Creation of Records

All Councillors, staff and contractors will create full and accurate records, in the appropriate format, that properly and adequately record the business decisions and transactions of the Shire of Dowerin, to meet all legislative, business, administrative, financial, evidential and historical requirements.

Capture and Control of Records

All records created and received in the course of the Shire of Dowerin's business are to be captured at the point of creation, regardless of format, with required metadata, into the appropriate recordkeeping and business systems, that are managed in accordance with sound recordkeeping principles. The Customer Service and Records Officer is responsible for collecting, opening and sorting all mail. All incoming and outgoing mail is recorded in the Shire's recordkeeping system by the relevant Officer. All incoming mail is distributed to the relevant Officers on a daily basis through the recordkeeping system.

Security and Protection of Records

All records are categorised as to their level of sensitivity and adequately stored and protection from violation, unauthorised access or destruction, and kept in accordance with necessary retrieval, preservation and storage requirements.

Access to Records

Access to the Shire of Dowerin's records by staff and contractors will be in accordance with designated security classifications. Access to the Shire's records by the general public will be in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1992 and the Shire's Information Statement.

Access to the Shire of Dowerin's records by Councillors will be via the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995.

Retention and Disposal

All records kept by the Shire of Dowerin will be retained and disposed of in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records, produced by the State Records Office of WA.

The Disposal of records will be coordinated by the Corporate & Community Services Manager and authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is to ensure that there is an organisational system which facilitates the maintenance and management of records in compliance with the *State Records Act 2000* and Shire guidelines and procedures.

All Staff

All staff are to create, maintain and retain records relating to the business activities they perform. They are to identify records and ensure that all records are captured and recorded in the appropriate record keeping system, and, protected and disposed of in accordance with the State Records Office's General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records.

Councillors

Councillors are to ensure that they are aware of the record keeping procedures that ensure records are created and kept regarding their participation in the decision-making processes of Council.

Related Documentation

Shire of Dowerin Recordkeeping Plan

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

State Records Act 2000
Section 5.41 (h) Local Government Act 1995
Freedom of Information Act 1992

Related Delegation

NIL

Review History

26 February 2019 (Item 10.2.1)

Mixed Use Properties Policy

Policy Owner	Finance Manager
Distribution	Finance Team
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date Adopted	30 April 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

- To ensure Council complies with the Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992 when applying pensioner and/or senior concessions to mixed use properties.
- To provide a fair and equitable method of calculating the concession to be applied to mixed use properties.
- To ensure a consistent approach is adopted for the calculation of pensioner and/or senior concessions on mixed use properties.

Policy

From the 1 July 2019, Council will calculate the curtilage percentage to apply to mixed use assessments each year when the rates and charges are struck.

This calculation will be based upon the residential portion of the assessment being charged the minimum levy for the year.

Calculation Method

The curtilage percentage will be calculated each year when the rates and charges are levied. The curtilage percentage will be used to calculate the rebate allowed for that assessment.

Step One – Determining Curtilage Percentage

Calculation Equation;

- Minimum Levy for the Rate Code assigned to the assessment
- Multiplied by 100
- Divided by Total Rates Levied for the assessment
- Equals Curtilage Percentage

For example;

- Minimum Levy for the Rate Code = \$741.00
- Total Rates Levied for the assessment = \$2697.32
- Curtilage Percentage Equation $(\$741.00 \times 100) / \2697.32
- Equals 27.47%

Step Two – Calculating Rebate Allowed

Rebate Allowed Calculation is in accordance with *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992* as interpreted by the Office of State Revenue.

Based on 1/7/2019 calculation rules the rebate allowed calculation equation is;

- Rates Levied for the assessment
- Multiplied by the Rebate % for Pensioner/Senior
- Multiplied by the Curtilage % for assessment

If less than the rebate cap, the amount calculated applies
 If greater than the rebate cap, the rebate cap applies

- Multiplied by Pensioner/Senior Equity in assessment
- Equals Rebate Allowed

For example;

- Rates Levied for the assessment = \$2697.32
- Pensioner is entitled to 50% rebate
- Curtilage Percentage = 27.47%
- Rebate Cap = \$750.00
- Pensioner Equity = 100%

Rebate Allowed Equation

- (\$2,697.32 multiplied by 50%) multiplied 27.47% = \$370.48
- Rebate is less than \$750.00 so rebate applied = \$370.48
- Pensioners Equity = \$370.48 multiplied by 100%
- Rebate Allowed = \$370.48

Notifying Ratepayers

Ratepayers affected by this calculation will be advised what their curtilage percentage will be each year when the rate notices are issued. The Ratepayer will be given the opportunity to inform Council that the property is no longer earning an income and therefore can receive the full entitlement to the pensioner and/or senior concession.

New Pensioners and/or Seniors

Council will check the property use for each new pensioner and/or senior application. If the property is recorded as having a zone or land use which indicates it may earn an income, the ratepayer will be written to advising of this policy. The Ratepayer will be given the opportunity to inform Council that the property is not earning an income and therefore can receive the full entitlement to the pensioner and/or senior concession.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Rates Officer is to ensure all pensioner and/or senior concession applications are reviewed to determine if the property may have mixed use.

The Rates Officer will be responsible, under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, of advising the ratepayers of this policy and its impact on their entitlement to concessions.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992, Section 28

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History

Adopted 30 April 2019 (Item 10.2.2)

Road Engineering and Subdivision Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Distribution	All Employees
Responsible Officer	Manager Works and Assets
Date Adopted	28 May 2019
File Reference	Organisation/Governance/Council Policies

Objective

- Provide a safe, efficient and effective road system for the Shire;
- Facilitate the upgrading of existing roads to standardised widths, alignments and standards of construction;
- Provide sufficient road reserve width to accommodate all required public utilities required now and into the future as part of any Road Construction; and
- Provide a rational and consistent basis for the construction of roads and any financial contributions required for such construction.

Policy

The Dowerin road hierarchy consists of 5 category types:

- **Category 1: Regional Distributer Rural (RRG 2030)**
- **Category 2: Local Distributer Rural**
- **Category 3: Access Road**
- **Category 4: Minor Access Road Rural**
- **Category 5: Urban Road (Town Streets)**

Regional Distributer Rural (RRG 2030)	Regional Distributer Rural (RRG 2030) are to conform to type 5 roads with a minimum 10 metre gravel formation with a minimum 7.0 metre width sealed running surface and 1.5 m shoulders within a minimum 20 metre wide road reserve.
Local Distributer Rural	Minimum 10 metre gravel formation with a minimum 7.0 metre wide running surface and 1.5 m shoulders within a minimum 20 metre wide road reserve.
Access Road Rural	Minimum 8 metre gravel formation with a minimum 7.0 metre wide paved running surface and 0.5 m shoulders within a minimum 20 metre wide road reserve.
Minor Access Road Rural	Minimum 6 metre formed road within a 20 metre wide road reserve.

<p>Urban Roads (Town Streets)</p>	<p>These roadways are defined in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Guide as Access Streets and Laneway/Service Lane.</p> <p>Town Access Streets pavements shall be sealed with a minimum width of 7.2 metres between kerbs within a minimum 20 metre wide road reserve. The diameter between kerbs for a cul-de-sac shall be a minimum of 18.0 metres. (“T” turning heads are not acceptable) Concrete/asphalt footpath on at least one side of the road shall connect to existing footpaths.</p> <p>Industrial, Commercial and Thoroughfares</p> <p>Pavements shall be subject to a minimum seal width of 7.2 metres between kerbs within a minimum 20 metre wide road reserve. Unsealed gravel footpath on sides of the road to connect to existing footpaths where possible.</p> <p>Rural Residential</p> <p>Pavements shall be subject to a minimum width of 7.2 metres within a minimum 20 metre, wide road reserve. Unsealed gravel footpath to one side of the road to connect to existing footpaths where possible.</p>
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DESIGN CRITERIA

General

Criteria provided here are minimum criteria only and are necessarily broad based to cover general subdivision situations. In particular situations amendments may be required and the Council may impose special conditions not covered by the criteria.

ROADS

General Information

Roads should generally be designed in accordance with relevant Austroads (NAASRA) and ARRB guidelines and publications, which include:

1. Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice;
2. Guide for the Design of Typical Urban Intersections;
3. Guide Policy for Geometric Design of Major Urban Roads;
4. Policy for Geometric Design of Rural Roads;
5. Policy for Installation by Public Utility Authorities within the Road Reserve;
6. A Structural Design Guide for Flexible Residential Street Pavements;
7. Pavement Design - A guide to the Structural Design of Road Pavements;
8. Australian Model Code for Residential Development;
9. Bicycle Facilities Design Guidelines; and
10. Where there is any conflict between the requirements of these guidelines and the above publications, the details specified in these guidelines

Generally all road pavement widths shall conform to the Shire of Dowerin' road hierarchy. For residential subdivisions, this has been based upon the Liveable Neighbourhoods Community Design Code which is the operational policy for the Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC). This road hierarchy enables the safe and orderly movement of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians within and throughout the municipality. Consideration however must be given to the final aesthetic and functional aspects of the area, particularly in rural areas. Aspects to be considered include minimising the environmental impact (particularly regarding existing trees and vegetation), fitting road grades as close to existing contours as practicable and provision of lot access.

Crossfall

Sufficient crossfall should be provided to allow easy run-off of water from the surface, to prevent potholes developing. If too great a crossfall is applied, the surface material will be prone to scouring and erosion. For dual carriageway, two way crossfalls should meet with a crown. This will assist in preventing the development of potholes in the road centre. For single lane carriageways, it may be best to have single crossfall for ease of grading during regular maintenance.

Generally,

1. for unsealed roads, a crossfall of 4-5% shall apply;
2. for sealed roads, a crossfall of 2-3% shall apply;
3. for shoulders or straights, the crossfall of road shoulders may be up to 2% steeper than the crossfall of the traffic lane it flanks; and
4. for shoulders or curves with superelevated pavements, both shoulders can be superelevated to crossfalls not less than the pavement crossfalls.

WIDTHS - UNSEALED SHOULDERS ON SEALED ROADS

The purpose of shoulders is to:

1. give lateral support to the pavement;
2. carry surface water away from the pavement;
3. give extra width for traffic to stop or stand for emergency use;
4. allow overtaking or passing movements, particularly on single lane pavements; and
5. create a sense of open space, and therefore increase the effective use of traffic lanes.

Shoulder widths on future sealed roads should ideally be 1.5m on each side, although this can be reduced to 1.0m on dual lane minor roads. This recommended standard will be applied to existing roads as part of a future upgrade/reconstruction to that road.

DRAINAGE WORKS

Table Drains

Table drains should be a minimum of 300m below the gravel pavement layer.

Drains should be free of all vegetation and obstructions, to allow for free drainage and improved sight distances.

Culverts

Culvert bedding should comprise of cement stabilised gravel or sand (40kg of cement per cubic metre of loose gravel) in a minimum thickness of 150mm (compacted). Culvert backfill should comprise of cement stabilised gravel in a maximum working thickness of 150mm (compacted).

For sealed roads, the cement stabilised gravel should be constructed up to the finished level and the seal coat applied. For unsealed roads, the cement stabilised backfill should be constructed to 150mm below the finished road level.

Box Culvert Cases

All new and/or replaced box culverts are to have a continuous concrete slab base unless using Main Roads approved flat packed culverts with a 2 piece interlocking slab.

Headwalls

All culverts, headwalls shall be constructed of concrete or grouted stone pitched headwalls comprising of wing walls, aprons and cut off walls.

For culverts greater than 750mm diameter or height, the headwalls shall be steel reinforced.

Batters

In shallow cuttings - up to 3m depth, cut batters are usually flattened for improved appearance beyond that required for stability purposes.

Batters should be no steeper than 3 to 1.

Slope Benches

On high batters, exceeding 10m vertical height, or where batters are constructed of unstable material, consideration should be given to the provision of benches.

Benches are beneficial for:

1. eliminating the need to flatten the batter slope in the interests of stability;
2. reducing scour on the batter face;
3. minimising the possibility of rock falling onto the pavement; and
4. improving the appearance of the cutting.

ROAD UPGRADING

The Shire may request contributions from developers to upgrade existing roads as a condition of approval of adjoining applications.

Road Construction Specification

If the proposed subdivision or development is located on an unsealed road, Council may determine that the developer shall contribute towards road construction or upgrade to connect the development to the nearest sealed road the upgrade may include services and drainage.

PROVISION OF SUBDIVISIONAL ROADS AND ASSOCIATED CIVIL WORKS

Public access to all or part of the roads is applicable within the subdivision will not be allowed until a certificate of completion from the Consulting Engineer is given and accepted by the CEO.

Clearance of the subdivision by the CEO shall be granted at such time as the subdivisional civil works are fully completed, all other relevant conditions set by the Western Australian Planning Commission are satisfied, supervision fee (1.5% or 3%) paid, and the 7.5% retention bond is in place as.

Clearance may also be granted to an uncompleted subdivision whereby bonds will be negotiated to cover the cost of the incomplete works or relevant conditions. This will be decided, at the discretion of the CEO, on a case by case basis however generally bonds will only be permitted where the majority of the work or the majority of the relevant conditions set by the Planning Commission have been satisfied. Bonds will be held until such time as the outstanding issues are completed to the satisfaction of the CEO.

The amount of the bond will be determined based on the value of the work subject to the bond plus 20%.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UPGRADING ADJOINING AND FEEDER ROADS

Subdivisions which increase the volume of traffic on Council controlled roads may attract a contribution from the subdivider for the upgrading of the Council road.

In instances where a subdivision attracts a road upgrading condition, the CEO shall specify and justify the work in the response to the Planning Commission. Depending upon the size and scale of the proposed subdivision the CEO is to either stipulate the specific road upgrading requirements (eg; upgrade 'x' road to 6m seal from intersection with 'y' road to entrance of proposed internal access road of subdivision) or a financial contribution towards the future upgrading of the subject road.

In some instances the size of the subdivision will generate such a significant increase in traffic volume on an existing road that a total (100%) contribution towards the upgrading of the road will be required.

This is to allow appeal by the subdivider through the normal appeal process.

All financial contributions received from subdividers not expended in the same year as receipt are to be placed in reserve and quarantined for use on the nominated road.

OUTLINE SPECIFICATION FOR BITUMEN CONSTRUCTION

General

All work should be carried out to the complete satisfaction of the Shire of Dowerin and in accordance with best accepted engineering practice. As a guide, developers should refer to the text “Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development” published by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (WA Division), ISBN 0-646-36284-4.

Design

A preliminary design for the work must be prepared by a qualified practicing Civil Engineer or suitably qualified or experienced person (as approved by the CEO. The design should show longitudinal plans and cross sections of the proposed road(s), general specifications, levels, drainage, nature of soil and other such information to enable the CEO to make a decision on approving the work.

It is important that subdividers establish road standards with the Shire before commencing design.

Design Drawings

Design drawings and specifications should be to the extent and in accordance with that recommended at Section 3 of the text “Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development”. However, as a minimum design drawings shall include plans and longitudinal sections generally at the scale of 1 in 1000. Levels should be reduced to AHD where possible. Cross sections shall be included for all roads.

The design shall be forwarded to the CEO for approval in two hard copies minimum drawing size A1 unless specifically approved. The design will be reviewed after which either approval or changes will be suggested. Any changes or amendments will need to be reflected in revised drawings prior to approval being issued.

Geometric design to be based on a minimum design speed of 80km/h unless ground conditions make this impossible. Where this occurs the standard reached shall be clearly indicated and provision for appropriate road signs included in the contract.

Drainage

Drainage detail should be specific and include constructional detail of all structures being utilised.

Storm water should be discharged as soon as possible onto the land surface or to a natural water course.

Where grades exceed 6% or where sub-grade material is particularly subject to erosion, stormwater shall not be carried in unlined water-tables or open drains unless specific approval is given by the CEO.

All storm water drainage is to be designed in accordance with Australian Rainfall and Runoff 1997 and the relevant Austroads Guides. Flow widths along kerb lines are not to exceed 2.0m from the face of kerb and water velocity is not to exceed the scour velocity of the road and kerb surface.

All drainage discharge points shall be protected against erosion approved by the CEO.

All drainage lines shall be of a standard recommended by the concrete pipe association (or equivalent design code for other types of pipe such as PVC or polypropylene) for the proposed installation situation.

Pipes are to be laid in straight lines between structures, true to grade and line. At all structures, pipes, etc., shall be connected with cement mortar or as specified by the manufacturer to ensure water-tightness and exclusion of ground water, unless otherwise approved in the design.

Subgrade

Roads shall be formed and compacted true to location, level and grade as shown on the design drawings. All fill areas shall be compacted from the bottom up, with the base dimensions calculated to comply with acceptable angles of repose. All material used in fills must be capable of compaction as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications. The

CEO reserves the right to require compaction testing as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications at the contractors or subdivider's cost.

Pavement Design

Road base material shall be laterite gravel (or other approved material) taken from a pit approved by the CEO. Laboratory tests may be required on representative samples at the contractors or subdivider's expense.

The pavement design shall be carried out as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications. Details submitted in the design shall include the materials and the pavement structure being proposed.

Road base depth shall be not less than 200mm compacted unless approved by the Shire or justified by laboratory test results on the sub-grade and base material.

Surface Treatment

The Consulting Engineer shall submit a seal design to the CEO giving full details of the proposed seal treatment(s). Seals shall conform to Main Roads Western Australia specifications. No seal shall be applied prior to the seal design being approved by the CEO.

The approval process will include an inspection of the base course.

OUTLINE SPECIFICATION FOR UNSEALED (GRAVEL) CONSTRUCTION

General

All work should be carried out to the complete satisfaction of the Shire of Dowerin and in accordance with best accepted engineering practice. As a guide, developers should refer to the texts "Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development" published by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (WA Division), ISBN 0-646-36284-4 and ARRB's 'Unsealed Road Manual – Guidelines for Good Practice'.

Design

A preliminary design for the work must be prepared by a qualified practicing Civil Engineer or suitably qualified or experienced person as approved by the CEO.

The design should show longitudinal plans and cross sections of the proposed road(s), general specifications, levels, drainage, nature of soil and other such information to enable the CEO to make a decision on approving the work.

It is important that subdividers establish road standards with the Shire before commencing design.

Design Drawings

Design drawings and specifications should be to the extent and in accordance with that recommended at Section 3 of the text "Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development". However, as a minimum design drawings shall include plans and longitudinal sections generally at the scale of 1 in 1000. Levels should be reduced to AHD where possible.

The design shall be forwarded to the CEO for approval in two hard copies minimum drawing size A1 unless specifically approved. The design will be reviewed after which either approval or changes will be suggested. Any changes or amendments will need to be reflected in revised drawings prior to approval being issued.

Note: All geometric design to be based on a minimum Design Speed of 80km/h unless ground conditions make this impossible. Where this occurs the standard reached shall be clearly indicated and provision for appropriate road signs included in the contract.

Drainage

Generally, drainage on gravel roads will consist of open drains with culverts with headwall structures installed transversely beneath the road surface.

Drainage detail should be specific and include constructional detail of all structures being utilised.

Storm water should be discharged as soon as possible onto the land surface or to a natural water course.

Where grades exceed 6% or where sub-grade material is particularly subject to erosion, stormwater shall not be carried in unlined water-tables or open drains unless specific approval is given by the CEO.

All storm water drainage is to be designed in accordance with Australian Rainfall and Runoff 1997 and the relevant Austroads Guides.

All drainage discharge points shall be protected against erosion in a manner approved by the CEO.

All drainage lines shall be of a standard recommended by the concrete pipe association (or equivalent design code for other types of pipe such as PVC or polypropylene) for the proposed installation situation. Pipes are to be laid in straight lines between structures, true to grade and line. At all structures, pipes, etc., shall be connected with cement mortar or as specified by the manufacturer to ensure water-tightness and exclusion of ground water, unless otherwise approved in the design.

Earthworks & Formation

Subgrade

Roads shall be formed and compacted true to location, level and grade as shown on the design drawings. All fill areas shall be compacted from the bottom up, with the base dimensions calculated to comply with acceptable angles of repose. All material used in fills must be capable of compaction as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications. The CEO reserves the right to require compaction testing as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications at the contractors or subdivider's cost.

Pavement Design

Road base material shall be laterite gravel (or other Shire approved material) taken from a pit approved by the Shire. Laboratory tests may be required on representative samples at the contractors or subdivider's expense.

The pavement design shall be carried out as per Main Roads Western Australia specifications. Details submitted in the design shall include the materials and the pavement structure being proposed. Crossfalls shall not be less than 2-3%.

Road base depth shall be not less than 200mm compacted unless approved by the Shire or justified by laboratory test results on the sub-grade and base material.

Surface Treatment

The surface shall be water bound, compacted and shaped as per the design to give a smooth and solid running course with a minimum of loose material.

SUBDIVISIONAL ROAD REQUIREMENTS

Internal Roads (Access Roads) - the full cost of all internal roads will be at the cost of the developer.

The standard of road will conform to Council's Road Standards, and the level of construction will be as dictated by the number of lots serviced, terrain, number of spur roads, and potential traffic generated.

Servicing by Existing Roads - when subdivisional lots are permitted to be serviced by existing roads a contribution will be required to upgrade the road to an acceptable standard dictated by the number of lots and the volume of potential additional traffic.

Feeder Road Upgrading (Regional Distributer Rural (RD) Roads) - where subdivisional roads connect to an existing Shire feeder road which is of a standard inadequate for the potential traffic after the subdivision is fully developed, a contribution sufficient to raise that standard to an acceptable level will be required after taking into consideration future contributions from other adjacent subdividable land.

NOTE: A feeder road standard not less than that required for the internal road provided for the subdivision will be required.

Major Feeder Road Connection (Primary Distributor, District Distributor A or Regional Distributor Roads) - where subdivisional roads connect to an existing major feeder road (eg. highway or secondary road) already adequate in standard, a contribution will be required for any traffic controlling treatments, containing drainage, entry treatments, and dealing with specific safety problems such as visibility, signage etc. Where the feeder road is a highway or secondary road under the control of Main Roads Western Australia approval from Main Roads Western Australia is required prior to submission of design drawings to the Shire.

Connecting Road Presently Not Existing - where a subdivision is created which will require connection to a feeder road or highway and no formed road exists then the full cost of this connecting road to a standard dictated by the number of created lots and potential volume of traffic generated will be required.

Additional or Connecting Roads - where contributions have been assessed in accordance with this Policy, Council reserves the right to fully utilise the contribution on the section of adjoining or connecting road with the greatest priority.

CROSSOVERS

Under Schedule 9.1, Clause 7 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, regulations may authorise a local government to require a person to make or repair a crossing from public thoroughfare to: a) private land that the person owns or occupies, or b) a private thoroughfare servicing private land that the person owns or occupies, and if the person fails to do so, to do so itself and recover 50% of the cost as a debt due from the person.

The Council wishes to encourage land owners to install vehicle crossovers in a timely manner.

To encourage the installation of crossings by landowners, the Council will offer a subsidy towards the cost.

The Manager of Works & Assets will inspect and prepare a standard specification which shall be the basis for calculation of a subsidy payment.

Payment of up to half of the cost for a standard 4.0 metres urban and 6 metres wide rural crossing from the road surface to the front boundary of the property.
Council's contribution shall not exceed the maximum of \$1,000 reimbursement.

The Manager of Works & Assets shall approve the specification for the different circumstances within the shire and each crossing must be constructed in accordance with Shire's specifications, the remaining cost shall be payable by the property owner.

In the instance where an existing vehicle crossing has reached the end of its life cycle a subsidy may be payable if the crossing is replaced in accordance with Shire's, specifications and standard. Any extra costs associated with the replacement of the crossing ie cost to remove deteriorated surface and formwork will be at the owners cost. A substandard crossover will not be considered.

Maintenance and upkeep of the crossing to a safe and useable standard is the responsibility of that property owner.

FOOTPATHS

Council recognises the importance of footpaths and dual use paths. There is greater demand than funds available to meet all proposals for footpath and dual use path provision. This policy is to establish how priority will be allocated and standards established.

1. Footpaths and dual use paths will be constructed in accordance with the priorities established in the Shire of Dowerin footpath plan.

2. Paths are to be constructed to the Austroads Standards Part 6A: Pedestrian and Cyclist Paths.

ROAD VERGE VEGETATION

The purpose is to allow for the construction and maintenance of rural roads while acknowledging the importance of the protection and conservation of native vegetation where possible.

Although conservation of roadside vegetation is an objective of this policy, road safety and road asset protection, is the principal consideration.

Relevant Legislation

The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* govern the activities that will impact on native vegetation. This legislation is relevant to the Shire, setting limitations for road infrastructure works, and landowners who wish to undertake work in road reserves.

Designated Maintenance Corridor

The Environmental Protection legislation, in particular Regulation 5, Item 22 Clearing for maintenance in existing transport corridors (*Environmental Protection [Clearing of Native Vegetation] Regulations 2004*) provides that local government can carry out activities to maintain and protect the integrity of road infrastructure within the designated 'maintenance corridor'.

Road Construction Operations

Where necessary, the Shire will make application for the appropriate clearing permits from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) prior to undertaking any road construction. Conditions of the permit will be complied with including special considerations for declared rare flora and/or fauna if any has been identified as present in the maintenance corridor.

All works shall be planned to ensure that there is no damage to any vegetation outside the limits of clearing specified. No growing vegetation shall be destroyed or damaged by the works other than those specified and those indicated.

Any tree remaining within the road reserve but outside the limits of clearing which upon assessment is considered unsafe and likely to fall upon the roadway may be cleared and disposed of.

Road Maintenance Operations

The Shire's road maintenance program includes grading, slashing, herbicide application, pruning, drain cleaning, drainage improvements, bitumen resealing, bitumen shoulder grading and gravel re-sheeting. Road maintenance activities will be contained within the Maintenance Corridor, which comprises the running surface, shoulder, table drain and batter to the tip of the back slope.

When major weed control works are to be undertaken, including areas outside the Maintenance Corridor, consultation may occur with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, DER and local catchment management groups.

As part of the Shire's annual road program, unsealed shoulders subject to significant traffic will require periodic grading and gravel re-sheeting. During this process all grasses and vegetation will be removed and disposed of prior to operation.

Some maintenance grading requires occasional clearing of vegetation to accommodate the machine and ensure road safety, however, where possible this will be minimised.

Drains can be mechanically cleared and maintained with a grader or slashed if covered with grass. Drains inaccessible to mechanical equipment may require maintenance with hand tools or approved herbicides. In the cases where these practices will not provide for an acceptable level of drainage the use of excavation equipment may be used.

Requests received from members of the public relating to exclusion of a road reserve/section of road reserve adjacent to their property from the spraying program, should be forwarded in writing to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.

Removal of Dangerous Vegetation

Occasionally it is necessary to remove a dangerous tree/vegetation that pose/s an imminent threat to public safety, such as impeding sight along the roadway or a tree that has been subject to storm damage and is threatening to fall over a fence line or a roadway. Following inspection by a Shire Officer, any tree removal will be in accordance with Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations.

Services and Utilities

Alignment of services is to be encouraged to minimise impact on roadside vegetation where possible. Under the Utility Providers Code of Practice for Western Australia, utility providers are to liaise with the Shire of Dowerin regarding the positioning of services and the reinstatement and rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

All materials are to be removed from the road verge, by the utility providers, on the completion of works. The trenches, if relevant, are to be backfilled, adequately compacted and trimmed. All works are to be in accordance with Council Policy.

Flora Roads

Gazetted Flora Roads shall be managed to minimise any disturbance to the roadside flora, consistent with the provision of a safe and efficient roadway.

Unauthorised Clearing and/or Activities Within Rural Road Reserves

Clearing of a rural road verge or unmade road reserve without the relevant permits is prohibited. Penalties may also apply in accordance with the Environmental Protection legislation.

No works shall be undertaken in rural road reserves without written approval from the Shire of Dowerin. This includes planting (including native species), drainage work, fencing, spraying, burning off, clearing vegetation or seed collection.

LANDOWNERS MAINTENANCE OF RURAL ROAD VERGES

Legislation and Approvals

Landowners may apply, in writing, to the Shire of Dowerin to maintain the rural road verge immediately adjacent to their property boundary. Maintenance activities may include vegetation protection or weed removal, but do not include any additions or developments, including, drainage works or construction of any type. Planting within road verges may be considered, however approval will only be given to native / local species that enhance the biodiversity of the road verge area.

Landowners must also comply with the Environmental Protection legislation (refer 2.0 - Relevant Legislation) if planning to undertake any work in a rural road verge.

Maintenance Area

If approved, landowners may only work on the areas of road verge which fall outside the Maintenance Corridor. This is the portion of the verge from the tip of the back slope to the property boundary/fence line. The Council will take all care not to damage any portion of the rural road reserve from the back slope to the fence line, however, landowners will also acknowledge that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to vegetation or areas of the road reserve that may occur due to road maintenance or construction activities.

Application Process

If approval is given to a landowner to maintain their rural road verge, Declared Rare Flora area will be marked with yellow 'hockey stick' style markers and a register kept of relevant rural road verges which are to be left untouched. The landowner needs to be aware when applying for approval that their application may be refused if the Shire is required to carry out maintenance activities to maintain the integrity of the road infrastructure.

Spraying

The Shire's annual spraying program is conducted within townsites and on particular rural road verges to reduce the amount of flammable material. Residents requesting no spraying of the rural road verge adjacent to their property need to apply to the Shire to be placed on the 'Do Not Spray' register.

Fence line Clearing or Removal of Trees Over Fence lines/Boundaries

Landowners wishing to remove vegetation from road verges that has impacted on their property or boundary fence line or seeking permission to clear an area of the road verge for a boundary fence line, should apply in writing to the Shire for permission to do so.

Seed Collection from Road Verges

All flora that is native to Western Australia is protected throughout the State under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. Protected flora is defined as any plant (including any wildflower, palm, shrub tree, fern, creeper or vine) and includes any part of a plant, including seeds and spores.

The taking of flora is regulated by the issue of licences under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*. A Scientific or Other Prescribed Purposes (SOPP) Licence is required to take flora from Crown land (non-commercial) and a Commercial Purposes Licence is required for the take of flora for sale from Crown land.

Fire Hazard

The Shire of Dowerin conducts an annual spraying program within townsites and rural road verges to reduce the amount of flammable material.

As the budget for spraying is limited, landowners are encouraged to apply to the Shire to carry out road verge burning.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

- The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented.

Related Documentation

Nil

Related Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure

Schedule 9.1, Clause 7 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

Environmental Protection [Clearing of Native Vegetation] Regulations 2004

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Related Delegation

Nil

Review History