COUNCIL POLICY 4.1 ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING &TRAVEL	COUNCIL POLICY 4.1 COUNCIL MEMBER CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &TRAVEL	New title to align with Regulations	
CURRENT POLICY STATEMENT	PROPOSED	CHANGE NOTES	Councillor Feedback
SUSTAINABILITY THEME	SUSTAINABILITY THEME	No change	
Governance	Governance		
<ul> <li>OBJECTIVES The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines to elected members:</li> <li>wishing to access any training and development programs that may enhance and improve the skills necessary to perform their role and function as an elected member.</li> <li>for travel and accommodation arrangements when required to travel on City business.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>OBJECTIVES         The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines to council members with regard to:         <ul> <li>Completion of training in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 section 5.126(1) and regulations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Access to training and development programs that may enhance and improve the skills necessary to perform their role and function as a council member.</li> <li>Travel and accommodation arrangements when required to travel on City business.</li> </ul>	Minor change to wording.  Amended to incorporate the mandatory training requirement under the Local Government Act 1995	
POLICY STATEMENT  This policy provides a framework to all Elected Members on training, professional development and travel related to City Representation, for the benefit of Council and the community  POLICY DETAILS	POLICY STATEMENT  This policy provides a framework to all council members on training, professional development and travel related to City Representation, for the benefit of the council and the community  POLICY DETAILS	Change the word elected to council to align with regulations	
<ol> <li>Professional Development</li> <li>1.1. Commitment to professional development</li> <li>1.1.1. As the public face of Council and as community representatives, elected members play an integral leadership role in the processes for the development, communication and representation of the Council Strategic Plan and Council's policies, strategies and programs.</li> <li>1.1.2. Professional development for elected members contributes towards a positive presentation of Council for the betterment of the organisation and the community.</li> <li>1.1.3. Council will allocate funds through its budget process to meet approved professional development needs of elected members.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Professional Development</li> <li>1.1. Commitment to professional development</li> <li>1.1.1. As the public face of the council and as community representatives, council members play an integral leadership role in the processes for the development, communication and representation of the Council Strategic Plan and the council's policies, strategies and programs.</li> <li>1.1.2. Professional development for council members contributes towards a positive presentation of the council for the betterment of the organisation and the community.</li> <li>1.1.3. Council will allocate funds through its budget process to meet approved professional development needs of council members.</li> </ol>	Change the word elected to council to align with Regulations	
	1.2. Mandatory Training  Each council member must complete training in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 section 5.126(1) and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996:	New Section as per amendments to the Local Government Act 1995, and Local Government Amendment (Induction and	

	1.2.1. Council Member Essentials Training)	
	A council member must pass the course titled Council Member Essentials in accordance with the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996:	2019
	within a period of twelve months beginning on the day on which the council member is elected. The course consists of the following modules:	
	<ul> <li>Understanding Local Government;</li> <li>Serving on Council;</li> <li>Meeting Procedures;</li> <li>Conflicts of Interest; and</li> <li>Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets; and</li> </ul>	
	Is provided by any of the following bodies –	
	i. North Metropolitan TAFE; ii. South Metropolitan TAFE; iii. WALGA	
	1.2.2. Exemption from Mandatory Training A council member is exempt from the requirement in section 5.126(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 if:  1.2.2.1. the council member passed either of the following courses within the period of five years ending immediately before	s to the rnment d Local t
	the day on which the council member is elected:  • Council Member Essentials;  • 52756WA Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member); or	
	<b>1.2.2.2.</b> the council member passed the course titled <i>LGASS00002</i> Elected Member Skill Set before1 July 2019 and within a period of five years ending immediately before the day on which the council member is elected.	
	1.2.2.3. A person who is a council member on the day on which the Local Government Regulations Amendment (Induction and Training) Regulations 2019 regulation 8 comes into operation is exempt from the requirement in section 5.126(1) until the end of their term of office.	
1.3. Personal development	1.3. Personal development Change the elected to c	
1.3.1. Elected members are encouraged to identify individual and group personal development needs to enhance their effectiveness. As the needs of individual members may vary, each member is encouraged to seek the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer in analysing his or her particular requirements and in identifying appropriate courses, seminars and training to meet those needs.	1.3.1. Council members are encouraged to identify individual and group personal development needs to enhance their effectiveness. As the needs of individual council members may vary, each member is encouraged to seek the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer in analysing his or her particular requirements and in identifying appropriate courses, seminars and training to meet those needs.	and

1.3. Conferences, seminars, forums or delegations	1.4. Conferences, seminars, forums or delegations	Change the word elected to council
1.3.1.An elected member who is funded by Council to attend a conference, seminar, forum, delegation or similar event, shall participate as a representative of Council, not as an individual.	1.4.1. A council member who is funded by the council to attend a conference, seminar, forum, delegation or similar event, shall participate as a representative of the council, not as an individual.	to align with regulations.
<ul> <li>1.3.2. Elected members may participate in conferences, seminars, forums, delegations or similar events where it can be demonstrated that attendance will:</li> <li>Provide information on a contemporary issue, so that Council can contribute to discussion or debate;</li> <li>Put forward Council's viewpoint during formation of a collaborative policy, or stance on an issue;</li> <li>Meet community expectations that Council representation is necessary for the benefit of the community;</li> <li>Provide development to the elected member in his/her role; or</li> <li>Provide improvements to the built, social, economic and natural well-being of the community.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>1.4.2. Council members may participate in conferences, seminars, forums, delegations or similar events where it can be demonstrated that attendance will: <ul> <li>Provide information on a contemporary issue, so that the council can contribute to discussion or debate;</li> <li>Put forward the council's viewpoint during formation of a collaborative policy, or stance on an issue;</li> <li>Meet community expectations that the council representation is necessary for the benefit of the community;</li> <li>Provide development to the council member in his/her role; or</li> <li>Provide improvements to the built, social, economic and natural well-being of the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.4.3. Where voting delegates are required to represent the City of Greater Geraldton – i.e. Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA) Week, this is to be approved by the council.</li> </ul>	re- numbered  New Section to determine voting delegates when applicable
1.4. Funding for Professional Development	1.5. Funding for Professional Development	Section re- numbered
Council will allocate funds for professional development during the budget process each year to provide for the professional development of elected members.	The council will allocate funds for professional development during the budget process each year to provide for the professional development of council members.	
1.5. Applications for professional development funding	1.6. Applications for professional development funding	Change the word elected to council
<b>1.5.1.</b> To maximise the effectiveness of allocated resources, Council will only meet the cost of professional development outlined in this policy, subject to approval of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.	1.6.1. To maximise the effectiveness of allocated resources, the council will only meet the cost of professional development outlined in this policy, subject to approval of the mayor or deputy mayor.	to align with regulations.  Section
<b>1.5.2.</b> An elected member is required to complete the attached form (Appendix A) to facilitate participation in professional development.	1.6.2. A council member is required to complete the application form (Appendix A) to facilitate participation in professional development.	re- numbered
<ul><li>1.5.3. If a request for professional development cannot be accommodated within the budget allocation the Mayor, in conjunction with the CEO, will determine if additional funding may be available from another area of the budget.</li><li>1.5.4. Applications to attend any interstate and overseas conferences, seminars,</li></ul>	1.6.3. If a request for professional development cannot be accommodated within the budget allocation the mayor, in conjunction with the CEO, will determine if additional funding may be available from another area of the budget.	1.6.4 change to
forums, delegations or similar events under this Policy must be discussed with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor prior to arrangements being made.	1.6.4. Applications to attend any interstate and overseas conferences, seminars, forums, delegations or similar events under this policy must be discussed with the mayor or deputy mayor prior to seeking council approval.	New 1.6.5 to ensure good
	1.6.5. The mayor or CEO may limit the attendance of multiple council members to a conference to ensure the effective governance of the Council.	governance.
1.6. Travel and Accommodation while attending professional development		Added to section 3 Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation expenses incurred as part of attending professional development activities must be in accordance with Section 2 of this policy - Travel and Accommodation.	2.	Report on Training  The City must prepare a report for each financial year on the training completed by council members in the financial year. The report must be published on the City's website within one month after the end of the financial year to which the report relates.	New section to comply with amendment to Local Government Act 1995 section 5.127	
<ol> <li>Travel and Accommodation         <ol> <li>Travel within Western Australia</li> <li>Elected members may attend City Representation events within Western Australia during their term of office upon the following conditions:</li> <li>The travel falls within the definitions for conference, professional development or delegation;</li> </ol> </li> <li>Prior approval has been granted by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor as applicable;</li> <li>In deciding whether approval is to be granted the Mayor or Deputy Mayor should take into consideration the elected members remaining term of office; and</li> <li>There is sufficient budget allocation for the elected members travel.</li> </ol>	3.	Travel and Accommodation  Travel and accommodation expenses incurred as part of attending professional development activities must be in accordance with Section 3 of this policy - Travel and Accommodation.  3.1. Travel within Western Australia  Council members may attend City Representation events within Western Australia during their term of office upon the following conditions:  3.1.1. The travel falls within the definitions for conference, professional development or delegation;  3.1.2. Prior approval has been granted by the mayor or deputy mayor as applicable;  3.1.3. In deciding whether approval is to be granted the mayor or deputy mayor should take into consideration the council members remaining term of office; and  3.1.4. There is sufficient budget allocation for the council members travel.	Former section 1.6 added to this section.  Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.  Section re- numbered	should / could this include all interstate and overseas travel, excluding mayor, to require council approval resolution (Cr Mcilwaine)
<ul> <li>2.1. Travel outside of Western Australia</li> <li>Elected members may attend City Representation events held outside WA and overseas during their term of office upon the following conditions:</li> <li>2.1.1. The travel falls within the definitions for conference, professional development or delegation;</li> <li>2.1.2. An item has been presented to Council specifying: <ul> <li>the benefit to the City of the attendance at the conference, professional development or delegation;</li> <li>whether, if applicable, there is a necessity to send more than one elected member; and</li> <li>whether the information to be discussed at the conference or professional development can be sourced from within Western Australia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2.1.3. Approval has been granted by Council resolution;</li> <li>2.1.4. There is sufficient budget allocation for the elected members travel.</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>3.2. Travel outside of Western Australia</li> <li>Council members may attend City Representation events held outside WA and overseas during their term of office upon the following conditions:</li> <li>3.2.1. The travel falls within the definitions for conference, professional development or delegation;</li> <li>3.2.2. An item has been presented to the council with the exclusion of the mayor's and/or councillor acting in that office, interstate travel specifying: <ul> <li>the benefit to the City of the attendance at the conference, professional development or delegation;</li> <li>whether, if applicable, there is a necessity to send more than one council member; and</li> <li>whether the information to be discussed at the conference or professional development can be sourced from within Western Australia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.2.3. Approval has been granted by council resolution;</li> <li>3.2.4. There is sufficient budget allocation for the council members travel.</li> </ul>	Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.  Section re- numbered  3.2.2 First sentence amended to clarify that Mayor's interstate travel is excluded from the requirement for a council resolution.	

## 2.2. General conditions of travel

## 2.2.1. Bookings

Approved travel and accommodation will be booked by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer upon the completion of a form titled "Request for travel booking". This will allow the City to take advantage of any discounts offered. Travel requests should be provided at least one month before travel to allow adequate time for bookings to be made.

## 2.2.2. Travel

- **2.2.2.1.** The cost of air travel to and from destinations is to be by the shortest most practical route unless additional travel is contemplated before or after a conference.
- **2.2.2.2.** Elected members who include travel other than that referred to in 2.3.2.1. as part of the entire journey and the additional travel is unrelated to the approved travel, must pay the costs of this additional travel from personal funds.
- **2.2.2.3.** Air travel will be booked as economy class on the most economical flight. The cost of any upgrade to business class shall be paid from the elected members personal funds.
- **2.2.2.4.** The Mayor shall have the authority to assess special, medical or extenuating circumstances and approve business travel. Such requests must be in writing and supported by appropriate evidence.
- **2.2.2.5.** Hire cars may be booked only if required to meet the reasonable travel requirements of the conference or professional development.
- **2.2.2.6.** Taxi fares for reasonable travel requirements relevant to the conference and/or Council Business:
  - will be reimbursed upon return on the production of receipts to verify the expense; or
  - can be paid with Cabcharge card or vouchers issued to the elected member prior to departure.
- **2.2.2.7.** Elected members, who use their private vehicle for conference travel, will be reimbursed for vehicle costs in accordance with the Public Service Award Motor Vehicle Allowance to a maximum amount equivalent to what it would have cost to travel by air.
- **2.2.2.8.** As part of the City's Business Travel Insurance Policy, any travel insurance for Elected Members or their spouses is provided for as part of that certificate of currency.

## 3.3. General conditions of travel

# 3.3.1. Bookings

Travel, accommodation and registrations will be booked by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer upon receipt and approval of the Application Form Council Member Professional Development (Appendix A). This will allow the City to take advantage of any discounts offered. Where practicable, travel requests should be provided at least one month before travel to allow adequate time for bookings to be made.

## 3.3.2. Travel

- **3.3.2.1.** The cost of air travel to and from destinations is to be by the shortest most practical route unless additional travel is contemplated before or after a conference.
- 3.3.2.2 Where a council member chooses to arrive earlier or extend their stay at the location of a conference or deviates from the travel arrangements, then the council member will be responsible for the full cost associated with that extended stay and/or variation to travel arrangements for private purposes. The exception would be if the flight schedules determine an extended stay is required.
- **3.3.2.3**. Air travel will be booked as economy class on the most economical flight. The cost of any upgrade to business class shall be paid from the council members personal funds or personal frequent flyer points.
- **3.3.2.4.** The mayor shall have the authority to assess special, medical or extenuating circumstances and approve business travel. Such requests must be in writing and supported by appropriate evidence.
- **3.3.2.5.** Hire cars may be booked only if required to meet the reasonable travel requirements of the conference or professional development.
- **3.3.2.6.** Taxi fares for reasonable travel requirements relevant to the conference and/or council business:
  - will be reimbursed upon return on the production of receipts to verify the expense; or
  - may be paid with Cabcharge card or vouchers issued to the council member prior to departure.
- 3.3.2.7. Council members, who use their private vehicle for conference travel, will be reimbursed for vehicle costs in accordance with the Public Service Award Motor Vehicle Allowance to a maximum amount equivalent to what it would have cost to travel by air.
- 3.2.2.8 A Council Member Reimbursement of Travel Expenses form (Appendix B) is to be completed and submitted to the Office of the CEO to process for approval and payment. [NEW]
- **3.3.2.9.** As part of the City's business travel insurance policy, any travel insurance for council members or their

Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.

Section re- numbered

Tidy up of wording of 3.3.1 (was 2.2.1). to reference new title to form.

Updated 3.3.2.2 (was 2.2.2.2) to clearly define what the council member is responsible for.

3.3.2.3. Amended to include use of frequent flyer points.

New 3.2.2.8 to include reference to Appendix B

	spouses is provided for as part of that certificate of currency.		
2.2.3. Accommodation  Accommodation will be booked, where practicable, at the associated venue or, if unavailable, at premises in close proximity to the venue. Bookings will include accommodation the night before and/or after the event where necessary because of travel, airline flights and/or event timetables.	3.3.3. Accommodation Accommodation will be booked, where practicable, at the associated venue or, if unavailable, at premises in close proximity to the venue. Bookings will include accommodation the night before and/or after the event where necessary because of travel, airline flights and/or event timetables.	Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.  Section re- numbered	2.2.4.14/-
2.3.4. Meal and Incidentals	3.3.4. Meal and Incidentals	Change the word elected to council	3.3.4 – We should include
<ul> <li>2.3.4.1. The City will pay for reasonable costs of meal and incidentals. Such expenses which will be paid or reimbursed by the City include:</li> <li>Taxi, train, bus and tram fares to/from the airport and the venue;</li> </ul>	3.3.4.1. The City will pay to a daily and combined level for reasonable costs of meals and incidentals per annual ATO Taxation Determination for these expense amounts as denoted on attached Reimbursement of Expenses form. Such expenses which will be paid or reimbursed by the City include:	to align with regulations. Section re- numbered Ride share added.	Rideshare- Uber etc. (Mayor Van Styn/ Cr Mcilwaine) 3.3.4.3 – We
<ul> <li>Vehicle hire, petrol and parking fees;</li> <li>Breakfasts, lunches, dinners not included in the registration</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Taxi, rideshare (i.e.Uber) train, bus and tram fares to/from the airport and the venue;</li> </ul>	3.3.4.1 Reference to ATO Taxation Determination	should allow Minbar expenses
fee;	<ul> <li>Vehicle hire, petrol and parking fees;</li> </ul>	added; removed the	where they a
<ul> <li>Reasonable telephone, facsimile and internet charges;</li> <li>Optional activities related to the conference/training; and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Breakfasts, lunches, dinners not included in the registration fee;</li> </ul>	reference to facsimiles	(Mayor Van Styn)
Laundry and dry cleaning if the stay is for more than three	<ul> <li>Reasonable telephone and internet charges;</li> </ul>		Mini bar
days.	<ul> <li>Optional activities related to the conference/training; and</li> </ul>		expenses remain as is
<ul><li>2.3.4.2. The City will not pay for or reimburse:</li><li>Mini bar expenses;</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Laundry and dry cleaning if the stay is for more than three days.</li> </ul>		(Cr Mcilwaii
<ul> <li>Entertainment costs not associated with those scheduled as part of the City Representation event.</li> <li>Any expenses associated with matters other than those attended to while attending the City Representation event.</li> </ul>	3.3.4.2 All costs are to be fully substantiated by receipts and invoices and a Council Member Reimbursement of Expenses form (Appendix C) is to be completed and submitted to the Office of the CEO to process for approval and payment.	New section 3.3.4.2 to provide receipts and completion of Appendix C.	I am also of the opinion that alcohol ancillary to meal should an allowable
	<b>3.3.4.3</b> . The City will not pay for or reimburse:	Amended to	expense. (Mayor Van
	<ul> <li>Alcohol expenses of any type;</li> </ul>	'alcohol expenses of any type'	Styn)
	<ul> <li>Entertainment costs not associated with those scheduled as part of the City Representation event.</li> </ul>		No more th
	<ul> <li>Any expenses associated with matters other than those attended to while attending the City Representation event.</li> </ul>	New point relating to meal allowances	alcohol the should be p for by
	A meal allowance if the conference provides meals as part of the package.		councillors Douglas)  Agree with points mad the Mayor. would add "reasonable quantity" of

Y TERM	DEFINITIONS	KEY TER	RM DEFINITIO	NS		
3.3.	All conference and training papers remain the property of the City.	4.3.	All conferen	ce and training papers remain the property of the City.		days ( Cr Mcilwaine)
	the value of future attendance or representation by council at similar events.		<ul> <li>the value events.</li> </ul>	e of future attendance or representation by council at similar		report, I would be comfortal with > 4 or 5
	the benefits to the elected member, council and the community; and		the bene	fits to the council member, council and the community; and		not always requiring
	whether the objectives of the participation were met;		• whether	the objectives of the participation were met;		is quite
	the program and major points of interest to the city;		the progr	ram and major points of interest to the city;		- agree strongly wi mayor, 2 d
3.2.	The report should document;	4.2.	The report sl	hould document;		
3.1.	The elected member(s) is expected to submit an individual or composite report (where approval has been granted for more than one member to attend) for inclusion in the "Reports to be Received" in the next Council Agenda, within 30 days of attendance.	4.1.	report (where attend) for in	member(s) is expected to submit an individual or composite e approval has been granted for more than one member to aclusion in the "Reports to be Received" in the next Council nin 30 days of attendance.	Paragraph 4, length of event amended to more than 5 days duration	Council. I would sug 5. (Mayor Va
Following participation in an event covered by section 1 or a City Representation event of more than 2 days' duration covered in section 2 (excluding Local Government Week):		Repre	Following participation in an event covered by section 1 or a City Representation event of more than 5 days' duration covered in section 2 (excluding Local Government Week):			simple 2 d is a bit sho require a f on report
Work	kplace Information	4. Work	place Informa	tion	Change the word elected to council to align with	4. I think a
	expenditure must be repaid to the City by the Council Member/accompanying person within 30 days of being invoiced for such expenditure.		3.3.5.3.	would have attended the event on their own.  Where the City meets an account containing any expenditure of cost incurred on behalf of an accompanying person attending, such expenditure must be repaid to the City by the council member/accompanying person within 30 days of being invoiced for such expenditure.		
2	accommodation costs arising from if the Elected Council Member attending the event on their own.  2.3.5.3 Where the City meets an account containing any expenditure of cost incurred on behalf of an accompanying person attending, such			<ul> <li>Official conference meals;</li> <li>Accommodation, provided there is no increase in accommodation costs arising if the council member</li> </ul>		
	Accommodation provided there is no increase in			reimbursed by the City:	Section re- numbered	
_	accompanying person or Elected Council Member, except the following which will be paid or reimbursed by the City:  • Official conference meals; and		3.3.5.2.	All expenses incurred by the accompanying person are to be paid by the accompanying person or council member, except the following which will be paid or	elected to council to align with regulations.	
	<ul><li>2.3.5.1 A partner or spouse may accompany an Elected Council Member to a City Representation event.</li><li>2.3.5.2 All expenses incurred by the accompanying person are to be paid by the</li></ul>		3.3.5.1.	A partner or spouse may accompany a council member to a City Representation event.	Change the word	
	Accompanying persons	3	3.3.5. Accomp	anying persons		reymond)
						alcoholic beverages ancillary to meal (Cr Reymond)

Conference means conferences, seminars, congresses, forums, workshops, study tours, delegations and events relevant to the role of a councillor.  Professional Development means personal development such as undergraduate and post graduate studies, short courses, study tours, conferences, seminars, forums, or similar events that will assist a councillor in their broad civic leadership role.  Delegation means any formal group visit, authorised by Council, to an external organisation representing the City of Greater Geraldton.  The Terms "Conference, Professional Development and Delegation" are collectively used in this policy under the term "City Representation"				and post graduate studies, short courses, study tours, conferences, seminars, forums, or similar events that will assist a councillor in their broad civic leadership				No change	
ROLES AND RESPONSIE	ILITIES				AND RESPONSIBILITIES	c,pc		Change of responsibility	
The Director of Corporate a policy	nd Commercial Services is respo	onsible for implement	ing this	The Chie	ef Executive Officer is respo	nsible for implementing this p	olicy.		
WORKPLACE INFORMATION  Local Government Act 1995 City of Greater Geraldton - Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members				Local Go	PLACE INFORMATION overnment Act 1995 Greater Geraldton - Code of (s	Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.			
Appendix A- Application Form Elected Member Training & Travel				Appendix A - Application Form Council Member Professional Development  NEW Appendix B – Council Member Reimbursement of Travel Expenses form  NEW Appendix C – Council Member Reimbursement of Expenses form				Change to title of Form. Change the word elected to council to align with regulations.  Reference to policy	
POLICY ADMINISTRATIO	N			POLICY ADMINISTRATION				mandatory training.	
Directorate	Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due	Directo	prate	Officer	Review Cycle	Updated	
Versi on Decision Refere	nce			Versi on Decision Reference		Synopsis			