

5.3 POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF DELEGATED COMMITTEES & RESOURCES & FACILITIES FOR COUNCILLORS (NA)

Responsible Officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the policy for the reimbursement of expenses, for Councillor and delegated committee members and resources and facilities for Councillors, be adopted.

INTRODUCTION

This report addresses the requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) for a policy for the reimbursement of expenses, for Councillors and delegated committee members and the provision of resources and facilities for Councillors.

BACKGROUND

Reimbursement of Expenses

Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act') states that:

- (1) A Council must reimburse a Councillor or a member of a delegated committee for out-of-pocket expenses, which the Council is satisfied—
 - (a) are bona fide expenses; and
 - (b) have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or member of a delegated committee; and
 - (c) are reasonably necessary for the Councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform that role.

This must be put into effect via a Council policy.

Resources and Facilities

Section 42 of the Act requires Council to:

1. make available to the Mayor and the Councillors the resources and facilities reasonably necessary to enable them to effectively perform their role.
2. consider the support that may be required by a Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor because of a disability.
3. have particular regard to the support that may be required by a Councillor who is a carer in a care relationship within the meaning of section 4 of the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*.

The Council must adopt the policy on or prior to 1 September 2020.

DISCUSSION

A policy addressing the legislative requirements has been prepared (refer to Attachment 1 to this report).

In the preparation of the document, officers have referenced guidance material prepared by Local Government Victoria on this subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts the policy for the reimbursement of expenses, for Councillors and delegated committee members and the provision of resources and facilities for Councillors.

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