

DOCUMENT TYPE	Policy
TITLE	ELECTED MEMBER CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
NUMBER:	POL-1004

PURPOSE

To ensure that Elected Members of the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley meet and comply with the prescribed professional development requirements under the Local Government Act 1995, and to further encourage participation in other conferences and training specifically designed to enhance skills and knowledge relating to roles and responsibilities, as an Elected Member of the Shire of Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

DEFINITIONS

Professional Development is learning to earn or maintain professional credentials such as academic degrees to formal coursework, attending conferences, and informal learning opportunities situated in practice.

POLICY STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is required under the Local Government Act 1995 to adopt and report on compulsory training, and additionally, continuing development for Elected Members of the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

It is policy that – Elected Members of the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley undertake and successfully complete the following prescribed professional development training modules titled “Council Member Essentials” within the period of 12 months from the day the council member was elected, unless a prescribed exemption applies:

- Understanding Local Government;
- Serving on Council;
- Meeting Procedures;
- Conflicts of Interest; and
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets.

All units and associated costs will be paid for by the Shire and completed within the 12 months following election.

The training is valid for 5 years.

Additionally, the Shire will publish, on the Shire’s website, training undertaken by all Elected Members within one month after the end of the financial year pursuant to the Local Government Act 1995.

It is Council’s preference that the training is undertaken via the eLearning method which is the more cost-efficient form of delivery. It is acknowledged however that there may be Elected

Members who prefer to receive training face-to-face and/or opportunities to attend training which is being delivered in the region or in the Perth metropolitan area.

ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional development of Elected Members is an important activity of the Shire to ensure that its decision-making is of the highest standard and is the product of informed and ethical debate by well trained and committed Elected Members acting in the best interest of all of the community. Elected Members are encouraged to nominate to attend other conferences or training opportunities to enhance and broaden their knowledge of local government issues to support the community.

ELIGIBLE FORMAL TRAINING EVENTS

The formal training events to which this policy applies is limited to those conducted by, or organised by, any of the following organisations or individuals:

- The West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA);
- Local Government Professionals WA;
- Accredited training organisations offering training which directly related to the role and responsibilities of Elected Members;
- Information sessions organised by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; or
- Seminars, training and/or information sessions provided by individuals with a demonstrably strong knowledge of local government in Western Australia.

The following are examples of other conferences or training opportunities as described above:

- National General Assembly of Local Government;
- WA Local Government Week;
- Special “one off” conferences sponsored by WALGA or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on important local government issues;
- Annual conferences of major professions of local government;
- The Annual Road Congress;
- Conferences which advance the development of Elected Members in their role as Councillors; or
- Conferences of organisations on which an Elected Member has been elected or appointed as a delegate.

PROCEDURES

Approval of Professional Development Considerations for approval of the training or professional development activity include:

- The costs of attendance including registration, travel and accommodation, if required;
- The Budget provisions allowed and the uncommitted or unspent funds remaining;
- Any justification provided by the applicant when the training is submitted for approval;
- The benefits to the Shire of the person attending;
- Identified skills gaps of elected members both individually and as a collective;
- Alignment to the Shire’s Strategic Objectives; and
- The number of Shire representatives already approved to attend.

Consideration of attendance at training or professional development courses, other than the online Council Member Essentials, which are deemed to be approved, are to be assessed as follows:

- Events for the Shire President must be approved by the Deputy Shire President, in conjunction with the CEO; and
- Events for Councillors must be approved by either the Council or the Shire President, in conjunction with the CEO.

Travel Arrangements All booking arrangements for other conferences and training for Elected Members are coordinated through the Chief Executive's Office.

Elected Members should note that the Local Government Act 1995 precludes an Elected Member to pre-spend Shire funds. Any airline travel for an Elected Member is to be booked at economy level and booking arrangements are to be reviewed upon any improved discount offer being identified. Any upgrade to Business Class is permissible provided the Council member funds the difference in cost.

Other than to amend departure times, tickets provided to representatives of the Shire shall not be exchanged, downgraded or rebated. Tickets or bookings may not be altered to include personal travel that is not part of the scheduled conference itinerary.

The proposed duration of another conference or training attendance together with travel time and planned supplementary pre or post conference activities relevant to the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley will be notified to Council or the Chief Executive Officer for confirmation and/or amendment prior to the delegate's departure for the other conference or training.

EXPENSES

Expenses relating to other conferences and training as approved, will be paid direct by the Shire. Expenses may include the following items:

- Air fare;
- Travel insurance;
- Conference registration;
- Copy of conference proceedings;
- Room accommodation;
- Reasonable phone utilisation;
- Reasonable laundry expenses; and
- Meals in the hotel where registered if these are not provided during the course of the conference. Incidental expenses include:
 - Phone calls made outside the accommodation premises and for the purposes of the conference and/or Council business;
 - Travel to and from the conference venue; and
 - Travel to and from all airport destinations.

REPORTING AND PUBLISHING

All Elected Members attending any other conference or training are expected to report to Council on the benefits achieved by attending and should make the conference papers available to other Councillors.

A record of conferences or other training attended by Elected Members will be maintained by the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer is to prepare a report each financial year on prescribed professional development training completed by Elected Members in the financial year.

This report is to be published on the Shire official website within 1 month after the end of the financial year to which the report relates.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 5.128 the Local Government is to adopt a Policy for continuing professional development.

RISK

Risk: Failure to develop appropriate, meaningful policies which enable the administration to perform in an effective and efficient way.

Control: Review of Council Policies in line with Council Policy Management Policy and legislative requirements.

DOCUMENT AND VERSION CONTROL

Responsible Directorate		Officer of the CEO	
Responsible Officer		Chief Executive Officer	
Statutory References		Local Government Act 1995	
Related Documents		POL-1005 Code of Conduct for Council Members Committee Members and Candidates for Local Government Elections POL-1001 Elected Member Allowances and Entitlements	
Amendment History (Adoption and last 3 amendments)			
Version	Date Issued - Resolution Number	Item #	Description of Change
1.0	23/02/2021 - 118381	12.2.3	Council Adoption
1.1	01/11/2023 – CEO009	--	Reference Updates as per POL-1014 Policy Management (previously CP-CNC-3144)
Date of Next Review		November 2021	