



POLICY - Continuing Professional Development for Elected Members

PURPOSE

To ensure that Elected Members of the Shire of Laverton 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 Laverton.

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 Laverton 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 Laverton.

It is policy that – Elected Members of the Shire of Laverton 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 Officer.

Elected Members should note that the Local Government Act 1995 precludes an Elected Member to pre-spend Shire funds.

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 Laverton 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 and when not available then expenses can be recouped with receipts.

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:

- ❖ 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.

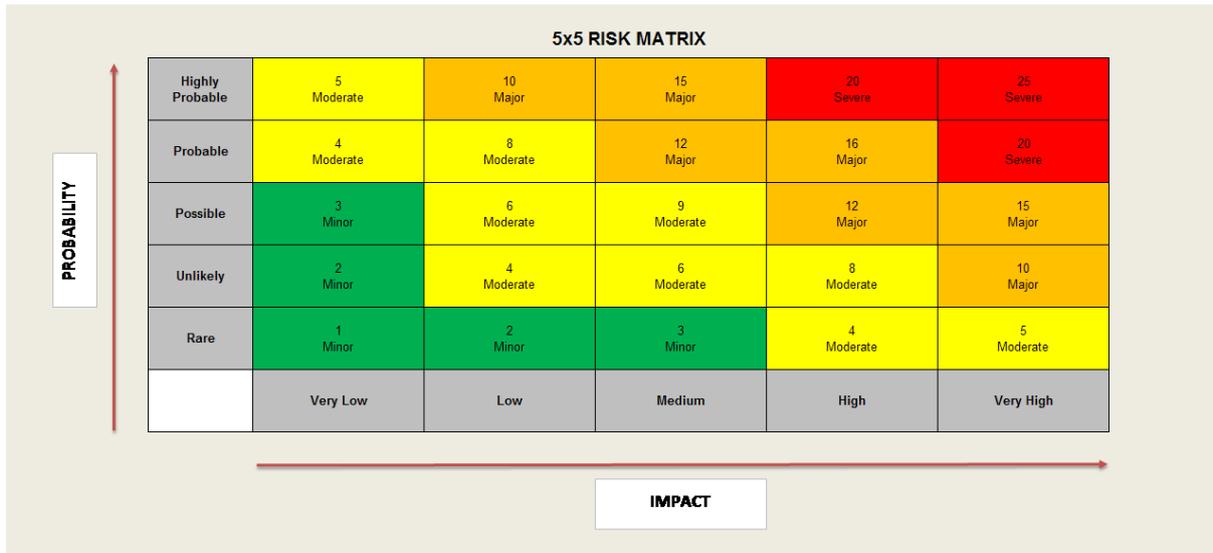
APPLICATIONS

This policy applies to Elected Members of the Shire of Laverton.

RISK

Risk: Failure to develop appropriate, meaningful policies which enable the administration to perform in an effective and efficient way. – Consideration on the risk is Low.

Control: Review of Council Policies in line with Council Policy Management Policy and legislative requirements. – Consideration on the risk for this policy is Low.



Document Control

Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Relevance Section	Governance
Legislative Requirement	S5.128(1) Local Government Act 1995
Council Meeting Held & Adopted, Resolution	
Review Dates & Resolution	
Next Review Date	