

COUNCIL POLICY

Attendance at Events for Elected Members, Chief Executive Officer and Employees

Policy No: 4.8

Policy Subject: Attendance at Events for Elected Members, Chief Executive Officer and Employees

Objective: The Shire of Katanning is required under the *Local Government Act 1995* to approve and report on attendance at events for Elected Members and the Chief Executive Officer. The purpose of this policy is to outline the process associated with attendance at an event.

This policy addresses attendance at any events, including concerts, functions or sporting events, whether free of charge, part of a sponsorship agreement, or paid by the local government. The purpose of the policy is to provide transparency about the attendance at events of Council members, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other employees.

Attendance at an event in accordance with this policy will exclude the gift holder from the requirement to disclose a potential conflict of interest if the ticket is above \$300 (inclusive of GST) and the donor has a matter before Council. Any gift received that is \$300 or less (either one gift or cumulative over 12 months from the same donor) also does not need to be disclosed as an interest.

NB:

- If an Elected Member receives a ticket in their name, in their role as an Elected Member, of \$300 or greater value, they are still required to comply with normal gift disclosure requirements.
- Whilst the law permits gifts greater than \$300 to be accepted by the Chief Executive Officer (but not other employees), in their role with the Shire, the Chief Executive Officer and all other employees, by operation of this Policy, are prohibited from accepting any gift greater than \$300, unless from the Shire as the organiser of the event, or as a gift pursuant to Section 5.50 of the Local Government Act 1995 (gratuity on termination).
- If the Chief Executive Officer or an employee receives a ticket in their name, in their role as an employee, of between \$50 and \$300, they are required to comply with normal gift disclosure requirements and the Code of Conduct re notifiable and prohibited gifts.
- An event does not include training, which is dealt with separately via Council Policies 4.4 and 4.5.

- Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as diminishing the role of the Chief Executive Officer in approving attendance at activities or events by other employees that in the opinion of the CEO, are appropriate, relevant and beneficial to the Shire of Katanning and its employees.

Definitions

District: is defined as the Great Southern Region of Western Australia.

Elected Members: includes the Shire President and all Councillors.

In accordance with Section 5.90A of the *Local Government Act 1995* an event is defined as a:

- Concert
- Conference
- Function
- Sporting event
- Occasions prescribed by the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Acronyms

- CEO - Chief Executive Officer
- GST - Goods & Services Tax
- LGIS - Local Government Insurance Services
- WALGA - Western Australian Local Government Association

Scope:

This policy applies to Elected Members, the Chief Executive Officer and all employees of the Shire of Katanning (the Shire) in their capacity as an Elected Member or employee of the Shire.

Elected Members, the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Managers and employees occasionally receive tickets or invitations to attend events to represent the Shire to fulfil their leadership roles in the community. The event may be a paid event, or a ticket/invitation may be gifted in kind, or indeed it may be to a free/open invitation event for the community in general.

Pre-Approved Events

In order to meet the policy requirements tickets and invitations to events must be received by the Shire (as opposed to in the name of a specific person in their role with the Shire).

Note: Individual tickets and associated hospitality with a dollar value above \$500 (inclusive of GST and if relevant, travel) provided to the Shire are to be referred to Council for determination.

The Shire approves attendance at the following events by Elected Members, the Chief Executive Officer and employees of the Shire:

- (a) Advocacy, lobbying or Members of Parliament or Ministerial briefings (Elected Members, the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management only);
- (b) Meetings of clubs or organisations within the Shire of Katanning;
- (c) Any free event held within the Shire of Katanning;
- (d) Australian or West Australian Local Government events;
- (e) Events hosted by Clubs or Not for Profit Organisations within the Shire of Katanning to which the Shire President, Elected Member, Chief Executive Officer or employee has been officially invited;
- (f) Shire hosted ceremonies and functions;
- (g) Shire hosted events with employees;
- (h) Shire run tournaments or events;
- (i) Shire sponsored functions or events;
- (j) Community art exhibitions within the Shire of Katanning or District;
- (k) Cultural events/festivals within the Shire of Katanning or District;
- (l) Events run by a Local, State or Federal Government;
- (m) Events run by schools and universities within the Shire of Katanning;
- (n) Major professional bodies associated with local government at a local, state and federal level;
- (o) Opening or launch of an event or facility within the Shire of Katanning or District;
- (p) Recognition of Service events within the Shire of Katanning or District;
- (q) RSL events within the Shire of Katanning or District;
- (r) Events run by WALGA, LGIS or a recognised and incorporated WA based local government professional association;
- (s) Katanning Art Gallery events; and
- (t) Where Shire President, Elected Member or Chief Executive Officer representation has been formally requested.

All Elected Members, the Chief Executive Officer and employees with the approval of the CEO or their respective Executive Manager, are entitled to attend a pre-approved event.

If there is a fee associated with a pre-approved event, the fee, including the attendance of a partner, may be paid for by the Shire out of the Shire's budget by way of reimbursement, unless the event is a conference which is dealt with under clause 4 of this policy.

If there are more Elected Members than tickets provided, then the Shire President shall allocate the tickets.

Approval Process

Where an invitation is received to an event that is not pre-approved, it may be submitted for approval prior to the event for approval as follows:

- Events for the Shire President may be approved by the Deputy Shire President;
- Events for Councillors may be approved by the Shire President;
- Events for the Chief Executive Officer may be approved by the Shire President; and
- Events for employees may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or their respective Executive Manager.

Considerations for approval of the event include:

- Any justification provided by the applicant when the event is submitted for approval.
- The benefit to the Shire of the person attending.
- Alignment to the Shire's Strategic Objectives.
- The number of Shire representatives already approved to attend.

Where an Elected Member has an event approved through this process and there is a fee associated with the event, then the cost of the event, including for attendance of a partner, is to be paid out of the Refreshments and Receptions budgets.

Where the Chief Executive Officer or employee has an event approved through this process and there is a fee associated with the event, then the cost of the event is to be paid for out of the Shire's relevant budget line.

Non-Approved Events

Any event that is not pre-approved, is not submitted through an approval process, or is received personally is considered a non-approved event.

- If the event is a free event to the public then no action is required.
- If the event is ticketed and the Elected Member, Chief Executive Officer or employee pays the full ticketed price and does not seek reimbursement, then no action is required.
- If the event is ticketed and the Elected Member, Chief Executive Officer or employee pays a discounted rate, or is provided with a free ticket(s), with a discount value, then the recipient must disclose receipt of the tickets (and any other associated hospitality) within 10 days to the Chief Executive Officer (or President if the CEO) if the discount or free value is greater than \$50 for employees, other than the Chief Executive Officer, and greater than \$300 for Elected Members and the CEO.

Conference Registration, Bookings, Payment and Expenses

Shall be dealt with by Council Policies:

- 4.2 Reimbursement of elected member expenses
- 4.4 Councillor Training & Professional Development
- 4.5 Attendance at Local Government Conference

Dispute Resolution

All disputes regarding the approval of attendance at events are to be resolved by the Shire President in relation to Elected Members and the CEO in relation to other employees.

Procedures:

Organisations that desire attendance at an event by a particular person(s), such as the President, Deputy President, Elected Member, Chief Executive Officer or particular officer of the Shire, should clearly indicate that on the offer, together what is expected of that individual, should they be available, and whether the invite / offer or ticket is transferable to another Shire representative.

Free or discounted Invitations / Offers or Tickets that are provided to the Shire without denotation as to who they are for, are be provided to the Chief Executive Officer and attendance determined by the Chief Executive Officer in liaison with the Shire President, based on relative benefit to the organisation in attending the event, the overall cost in attending the event, inclusive of travel or accommodation, availability of representatives, and the expected role of the relevant Elected Member or employee.

Forms and Templates

The Shire of Katanning Declaration of Gifts/Contributions to Travel Form is required to be completed and lodged within 10 days If the gift is provided in their name due to or as part of their role with the Shire of Katanning as follows;

- If the gift is provided to the Elected Member and the discount or free value is over \$300, inclusive of GST, with the Chief Executive Officer;
- If the gift is provided to the Chief Executive Officer and the discount or free value is over \$300, inclusive of GST with the Shire President; and
- If the gift is provided to an employee, other than the Chief Executive Officer, and the discount or free value is over \$50, inclusive of GST, with the Chief Executive Officer.

Resolution No: Ordinary Council OC29/20

Resolution Date: 24 March 2020

Amended:

Source: Council and Elected Members

Date of Review: October annually

Review

Responsibility: Executive Manager Corporate & Community