

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 26 October 2022

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Fullwood Room, Dunedin Centre, Dunedin

Sandy Graham Chief Executive Officer

Inaugural Council PUBLIC AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

MayorMayor Jules RadichDeputy MayorCr Sophie Barker

Members Cr Bill Acklin Cr David Benson-Pope

Cr Christine Garey
Cr Carmen Houlahan
Cr Cherry Lucas
Cr Jim O'Malley
Cr Steve Walker
Cr Kevin Gilbert
Cr Marie Laufiso
Cr Mandy Mayhem
Cr Lee Vandervis
Cr Brent Weatherall

Cr Andrew Whiley

Senior Officer Sandy Graham, Chief Executive Officer

Governance Support Officer Lynne Adamson

Lynne Adamson Governance Support Officer

Telephone: 03 477 4000 Lynne.Adamson@dcc.govt.nz www.dunedin.govt.nz

Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.





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1 OPENING

Mana whenua will open the meeting with a Mihi Whakatau.



REPORTS

WELCOME BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - SANDY GRAHAM



DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

To be made and attested as required by Section 7, Clause 14 of the Local Government Act 2002:

- a) The Mayor(The Mayor to occupy the Chair).
- b) Councillors



WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

Welcome by the Mayor Page 7 of 38



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIRING COUNCILLORS

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report records its thanks to Aaron Hawkins and Rachel Elder for the service given by them in their terms in office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Records** its sincere thanks to Aaron Hawkins for the loyal and conscientious service he has given to the Dunedin community as a Councillor for the six years from 2013 2019, and as Mayor for the three years from 2019 2022.
- b) **Records** its sincere thanks to Rachel Elder for the loyal and conscientious service she has given to the Dunedin community as a member of the Dunedin City Council for six years during the period 2016 2022.

Signatories

Author: Sharon Bodeker - Acting Manager Governance		Sharon Bodeker - Acting Manager Governance
	Authoriser:	Jules Radich - Mayor

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIRING COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report records its thanks for the service given by retiring Community Board members for their terms in office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Records** its sincere thanks to the following retiring Community Board members for their loyal and conscientious service given to the Dunedin community.

Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board

Martin Dillon 1997 - 2022

West Harbour Community Board=

Jacqueline Ruston 2019 – 2022

Signatories

Author:	Sharon Bodeker - Acting Manager Governance
Authoriser:	Sandy Graham - Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR THE 2022 - 2025 TRIENNIUM

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report provides Councillors with formal details of the new Committee structure and Chairs and Deputy Chairs. It also details my choice of Deputy Mayor.
- The delegations for each Committee will be re-written to reflect the structure and will be presented to the January 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) Notes the appointment of Cr Sophie Barker as Deputy Mayor.
- b) **Notes** the new Committees in Attachment A to this report.
- c) **Notes** the appointment of the Chairs, Deputy Chairs and various Councillor appointments to those Committees, Subcommittees and Community Boards.
- d) Invites Rūnaka to identify two representatives from Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki Rūnaka and Ōtākou Rūnaka (one from each Rūnaka), to be the representative members on the Infrastructure Services Committee.
- e) Invites Rūnaka to identify two representatives from Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki Rūnaka and Ōtākou Rūnaka (one from each Rūnaka), to be the representative members on the Strategy and Engagement Committee.
- f) **Notes** the updated Committee Structure and Delegations Manual will be presented to the January 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) provides the Mayor with the powers to:
 - Appoint the Deputy Mayor
 - Establish Council Committees and
 - Appoint Chairs and Deputy Chairs to those Council Committees.

DISCUSSION

- 4 I intend to exercise the powers provided by the Act as follows:
- 5 I appoint Cr Sophie Barker as Deputy Mayor.
- 6 I establish the following Committees as committees of the whole:
 - Civic Committee a)
 - b) **Community Services Committee**
 - **Customer and Regulatory Committee** c)
 - d) **Economic Development Committee**
 - Finance and Council Controlled Organisations Committee e)
 - f) Infrastructure Services Committee
 - Strategy and Engagement Committee g)

Committee	Chair	Deputy Chair
Civic	Cr Bill Acklin	Cr Marie Laufiso
Community Services	Cr Marie Laufiso	Cr Mandy Mayhem
Customer and Regulatory	Cr Carmen Houlahan	Cr Andrew Whiley
Economic Development	Cr Andrew Whiley	Cr Christine Garey
Finance and CCOs	Cr Lee Vandervis	Cr Cherry Lucas
Infrastructure Services	Cr Jim O'Malley	Cr Brent Weatherall
Strategy and Engagement	Cr Sophie Barker	Cr Kevin Gilbert

- 7 In the previous triennium mana whenua has representatives on two standing committees. It is particularly timely, with the Strategic Framework Refresh project underway and the development of a Māori Strategic Framework, a Māori Capability plan and a Māori Engagement plan to continue to utilise the skill, expertise and mana of the two Rūnuka to provide strategic oversight of this work.
- 8 Mana whenua preference is to continue to have two representatives on each of the two identified Council Committees to ensure that there is equal representation of each of the two Rūnaka on both Committees. It would also ensure the possibility of Rūnaka developing capacity by mentoring younger Kai Tahu members into governance roles.
- 9 Requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) require this to be reconsidered by the new Council.
- 10 If Council agrees, Rūnaka will be invited to identify representatives from Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki Rūnaka and Ōtākou Rūnaka, to be the representative members on the two committees.



- The Audit and Risk Subcommittee is reconfirmed with Warren Allan Chair and Janet Copeland as Deputy Chair. The Office of Auditor General guidelines suggest independent members and an independent Chair on the Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the appointments meet those guidelines. The Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee are the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Finance and CCO committee and Cr Christine Garey.
- 12 I further establish the following Subcommittees:
 - a) Grants Subcommittee
 - b) Hearings Subcommittee.
- 13 Cr Marie Laufiso is appointed as the Chair of the Grants Subcommittee. The Councillor members of the Grants Subcommittee are Cr Sophie Barker, Cr Andrew Whiley, Cr Bill Acklin, Cr Cherry Lucas, and Cr Mandy Mayhem.
- 14 Cr Jim O'Malley is appointed as the Chair of the Hearings Subcommittee. Current Councillors who hold RMA certification will continue to be members and Cr Cherry Lucas will be added to this Subcommittee. Once the Delegations are finalised, other Councillors may be used for non-RMA hearings.
- 15 I have made the following Councillor appointments to Community Boards:

Community Board	Councillor Appointment		
Mosgiel Taieri Community Board	Cr Cherry Lucas		
Otago Peninsula Community Board	Cr Andrew Whiley		
Saddle Hill Community Board	Cr Kevin Gilbert		
Strath Taieri Community Board	Cr Bill Acklin		
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board	Cr Jim O'Malley		
West Harbour Community Board	Cr Mandy Mayhem		

These appointments reflect the discussions I have had with each Councillor and where possible, recognise their areas of interest.

NEXT STEPS

- 17 If Council agrees to include mana whenua membership on the Strategy and Engagement Committee and the Infrastructure Services Committee, staff will contact both Rūnaka and ask they identify representatives for the two Committees.
- 18 The full delegations for the Committee structure will now be finalised by staff for adoption at the January 2023 Council meeting.

Signatories

Authoriser:	Jules Radich - Mayor
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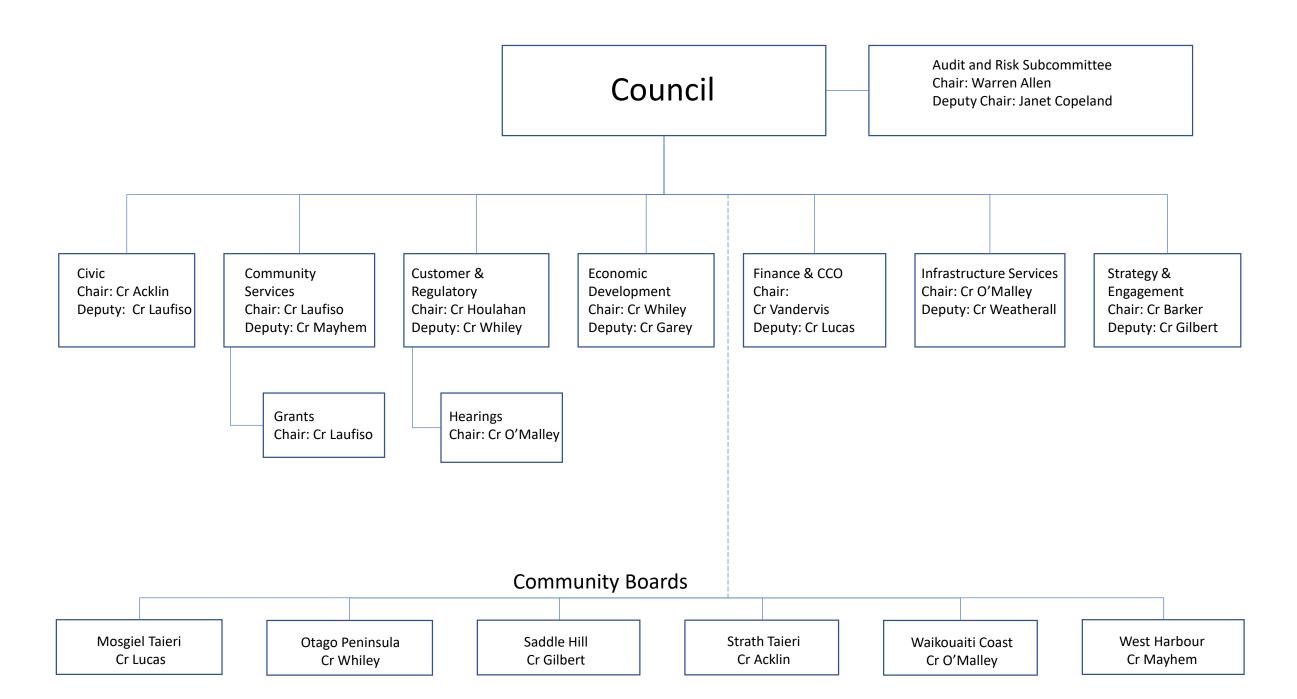
Attachments

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Attachment A



Committee Structure





APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DEPUTY MAYOR

Department: Civic and Executive Leadership Team

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There are occasions when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are out of Dunedin at the same time, and it is necessary to have an elected member designated to deal with any issues that arise during these times.
- I would like to appoint an Acting Deputy Mayor to act during any joint absences for this triennium.
- 3 As this is an administrative report, there are no options or Statement of Consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Appoints** Councillor Andrew Whiley as Acting Deputy Mayor for any joint absences of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor during this triennium.

DISCUSSION

I believe it is prudent to have a Councillor designated to fill the role of Acting Deputy Mayor to cover any joint absences of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This has been the practice in previous trienniums and is necessary in case any matters arise during periods of joint absences that require political input but are not within the jurisdiction of any particular Committee Chair.

OPTIONS

5 Not applicable.

Signatories

Authoriser: Jules Radich - Mayor

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



ELECTED MEMBER REMUNERATION FOR THE 2022 - 2025 TRIENNIUM

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) gives the Remuneration Authority (the Authority) the responsibility for setting remuneration for local government elected members.
- The Authority allocates a base pay for each councillor, along with a pool for remunerating additional responsibilities, to a system of allocating a governance pool (the pool) to each council. The pool provides the total amount that can be paid in remuneration to councillors, excluding the Mayor, whose remuneration has been determined directly by the Authority. This change takes effect following the election.
- The purpose of this paper is to give consideration to the allocation of the pool to remunerate councillors, and to update the current Rules for Recovery of Expenses (the Rules).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) Approves annual remuneration of \$112,619 for the Deputy Mayor.
- b) Approves annual remuneration of \$91,382 for Chairs of Standing Committees.
- c) **Approves** annual remuneration of \$80,442 for Deputy Chairs of Standing Committees.
- d) **Approves** annual remuneration of \$64,353 for Councillors.
- e) **Notes** the Rules for Recovery of Expenses.
- f) **Notes** the proposed remuneration levels and Rules for the Recovery of Expenses will be forwarded to the Remuneration Authority for approval.

BACKGROUND

- The Authority allocates a base pay for each councillor, along with a pool for remunerating additional responsibilities, to a system of allocating a governance pool to each council.
- From 1 July 2022 until the new council assumes office following the election, an interim determination applied, and was based on a system of allocating a base pay for each councillor, along with a pool for remunerating additional responsibilities.

6 Following the election, a new pool-based approach has come into effect. Councillors will be paid a minimum allowable remuneration of \$64,181 pa until a determination is made on how the pool is to be allocated.

The Authority advised that the pool for the DCC councillors, excluding the Mayor, would be \$1,191,826.00. The minimum remuneration payable to a Councillor as per the determination is \$64,181 pa. This leave a balance of \$293,292 which the determination requires, must be fully allocated.

DISCUSSION

- 7 This report discusses how to allocate the remainder of the pool.
- 8 The Council's recommendations to the Authority must include a remuneration rate for the base councillor position and rates for all positions that hold additional responsibility.
- 9 The proposed remuneration is detailed in the table below but can be summarised as follows.
- 10 The role of Deputy Mayor has significant additional responsibilities, and it is recommended that this role is remunerated at a ratio of 1.75 when compared to the base Councillor remuneration.
- 11 The new committee structure has seven standing committees which all have a Chair, and a Deputy Chair. The proposal is that Chairs are remunerated at a ratio of 1.42 when compared to base Councillor remuneration.
- 12 Deputy Chairs will be remunerated at a ratio of 1.25 when compared to base Councillor remuneration.
- 13 While the minimum base Councillor remuneration is \$64,181, the proposal is that this base is increased to \$64,353 to recognise the additional duties that all Councillors will have including roles as Deputy Chairs, Councillor representatives on Community Boards and Councillor representatives on a considerable number of external organisations.
- 14 These additional responsibilities will be fully detailed in the report to the Authority as they require justification for the level of remuneration that Council intends paying.

Position	Number	Ratio to	Base Rem	Additional	Total Rem	Total
		base		Rem	per	Annual Rem
		rem			Councillor	
Deputy	1	1.75	\$64,353	\$48,265	\$112,619	\$ 112,619
Mayor						
Chair	6	1.42	\$64,353	\$27,028	\$91,382	\$ 548,291
Deputy	5	1.25	\$64,353	\$16,088	\$80,442	\$ 402,209
Chair						
Councillor	2	1.00	\$64,353	0	\$64,353	\$ 128,707
TOTAL						\$1,191,826

15 This proposal fully allocates the pool as required by the determination. I believe it is a fair representation of the responsibilities of each of the outlined positions.



OPTIONS

- The Council has no option but to allocate the full pool of \$1,191,826 and the proposal in the report does that. Council is free to consider alternative options for allocating the pool, but any alternative must ensure full allocation and be able to be justified to the Authority.
- 17 The Council is also required to have the Rules. These have been updated to reflect current practice and modern communications and are attached. These will be forwarded to the Authority, who is required to confirm them.

NEXT STEPS

- 18 Both the remuneration rates and the Rules will be forwarded to the Authority by Wednesday 16 November 2022, to ensure that the proposal put forward by the Council can be considered and a determination can be made pre-Christmas.
- 19 Regardless of the determination date, all remuneration rates decided by Council will be backdated to take effect from the day following the day that the Council makes a formal decision on remuneration.

Signatories

Authoriser:	Jules Radich - Mayor

Attachments

Title♣ARules for Recovery of Expenses22



SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS			
Fit with purpose of Local Government			
This decision enables democratic local decision	making and actio	n by, and on b	pehalf of communities.
Fit with strategic framework			
	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy			
Economic Development Strategy			
Environment Strategy			
Arts and Culture Strategy			
3 Waters Strategy			
Spatial Plan			
Integrated Transport Strategy			
Parks and Recreation Strategy			
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	\boxtimes		
Māori Impact Statement			
This has not been assessed in preparing this re	port.		
Sustainability			
The level of remuneration being proposed is at is aimed to provide a more sustainable incomelected members.			
LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastr	ucture Strategy		
There are no implications as the increase in the remuneration pool was included in the Annual Plan.			
Financial considerations			
The increase in remuneration was included in t	he Civic budget		
Significance			
The decision is considered low in terms of the	Council's Significa	nce and Engag	ement Policy
Engagement – external			
There has been no external engagement.			
Engagement - internal			
There have been discussions with Councillors a	bout possible leve	els of remuner	ation.
Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.			
There are no identified risks.			
Conflict of Interest			
There are no identified conflicts of interest			
Community Boards			
Community Board remuneration is dealt with s	eparately by the A	Authority and	is not part of the pool.





RULES FOR THE RECOVERY OF EXPENSES AND CHILDCARE

The table below details the resources available to elected members, and the types of expenses for which members may seek reimbursement. The process to follow when seeking reimbursement is set out beneath the table, on page five.

Position	Expense Type	Description
Mayor	Car	 The Mayor has the option of: being provided with a Council car with unrestricted private use, offset by an adjustment in salary approved by the Remuneration Authority; or being provided with a Council car for Mayoral use only. This option means the car can be driven home and garaged by the Mayor (providing he/she has an office set up in the home), but does not permit any private use. The car can also be used by other officers.
Mayor, Deputy Mayor and	Landline and Broadband Connection	up to \$ 800 per annum for broadband connection.
Councillors	Conferences/Council Business	Actual and reasonable registration, travel, accommodation, meal and related incidental expenses incurred by members in attendance at conferences and approved Council business on behalf of the Council, held both within New Zealand and overseas, provided: • the related expenditure can be accommodated within the Civic budget • approval to attend the conference has been given by the Mayor and Manager Governance
	Training/Seminars	Actual and reasonable registration, travel, meal and related incidental expenses incurred by members attending training or seminars for the purpose of professional development provided: • the expenditure can be accommodated within the relevant activity budget • approval to attend the training has been given by the Mayor. • Note – this is for actual travel costs (petrol/diesel for example). Mileage is not payable for conference attendance.

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Position	Expense Type	Description
	Computing Equipment/Laptops	Option of either: Provision of an iPad Pro (for electronic agendas) including full support and applications necessary for Council business, and A Dell Laptop with Windows 10.
	Mobile phone	DCC phone:
		Provision of an Apple iPhone 13 or a Samsung S22 mobile phone and corporate plan (data, texts and voice) including full support and applications necessary for Council business or
	Mobile Phone Expenses	If providing own phone then:
	(Own Phone)	Up to \$500 per annum (\$ 41.66 per month) to cover council generated calls, texts and data through mobile phones.
	Stationery	Supply of reasonable amounts of paper, letterhead, business cards and envelopes and printer consumables for Council business.
		Reimbursement of ICT consumables such as paper and ink cartridges of up to \$200 during the term of the determination.
	Car Parks	Provision of a single car park (currently in Harrop St).
Community Board Chairpersons	Car Parks	Access to a Council car park (currently in Harrop St) for use on Council business.
	Mobile Phone Expenses	\$500 per annum (\$41.66 per month) to cover Council generated calls, tests and data through mobile phones.
Community Board Members	Parking Expenses	Reimbursement of car parking expenses related to Community Board Meetings, Working Party or other Committee meetings held outside the Board area during business hours, on receipt of a signed claim accompanied by a receipt.
	Conferences/Community Board Business	Actual and reasonable registration, travel, accommodation, meal and related incidental expenses incurred by members in attendance at conferences and approved Community Board business on behalf of the Community Board, held both within New Zealand and overseas, provided:
		The related expenditure can be accommodated within the Civic budget



Position	Expense Type	Description
		Approval to attend the conference has been given by the Board or the approval by the Mayor. Note — this is for actual travel costs (petrol/diesel for example). Mileage is not payable for conference attendance.
	Community Board Conference and Community Board forums	The Council will cover the accommodation, travel and registration costs for one Community Board Member (per Community Board) to attend the Conference or Forum when it is held South Island, and two Community Board members in total to attend the conference or forum when they are held in the North Island.
	Training/Seminars	Actual and reasonable registration, travel, meal and related incidental expenses incurred by members attending training or seminars for the purpose of professional development provided: • the expenditure can be accommodated within the relevant activity budget
		approval to attend the training has been given by the Mayor and the Manager Governance.



Position	Expense Type	Description
All Elected Mil Members	Mileage	Reimbursement of mileage will be paid for all travel to and from meetings at the Dunedin City Council Offices and Community Board Venues in excess of the threshold distance.
		Mileage is payable for all travel in excess of the threshold distance. The threshold distance is 50 km per day.
		Mileage will be paid on the following basis:
		For a petrol or diesel vehicle
		• 79 cents per km for the first 14,000 km of eligible travel then
		27 cents per km for travel in excess of 14,000 km
		For a petrol hybrid car
		79 cents per km for a petrol hybrid car for the first 14,000 km of eligible travel then
		16 cents per km for travel in excess of 14,000 km
		For an electric vehicle
		79 cents per km for the first 14,000 km of eligible travel then
		9 cents per km for travel in excess of 14,000 km
		Where a Councillor is determined to be eligible for mileage, mileage will be calculated and paid based on the meeting schedule and meeting attendance. All other mileage will be paid to eligible members on receipt of a completed and signed mileage claim.
	Use of Public Transport, Micromobility Vehicles or Bicycles	Reimbursement of actual and reasonable costs incurred by members who use public transport, micromobility vehicles and bicycles for travel on local authority business, upon production of receipts or satisfactory.
	International Travel	All elected representatives of the Dunedin City Council will travel by economy class subject to the inclusion of a 24-hour recuperation period in each individual's itinerary where any flight sector exceeds nine hours.



Position	Expense Type	Description
	Air Points	Should any elected representative of the Dunedin City Council accrue sufficient air points as a direct result of travel paid for by the Dunedin City Council, then these air points may be used to upgrade that individual's travel class from economy on international travel for the Dunedin City Council. Should such an upgrade occur, the requirement for a 24-hour recuperation period may be waived.
	Sister City	Elected representatives visiting Sister Cities by invitation as part of an approved delegation will have their costs met at the discretion of the Council on a case-by-case basis. The Council will not meet the air travel costs of their partner.
	Childcare Allowance	A member is eligible to be paid a childcare allowance for a child if: The member is a parent or guardian of the child, or is a person who usually has responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and The child is aged under 14 years of age; and In the childcare is provided by a person who is not a parent of the child or a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of the member; and Does not ordinarily reside with the member; and The member provides evidence satisfactory to the local authority of the amount paid for childcare.
		 The childcare allowance will not exceed more than \$6,000 per annum, per child.



REIMBURSEMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS – PROCESS TO FOLLOW

The procedures for reimbursement are as follows:

- 1. Reimbursements will be made via the payroll system. The procedure is:
 - a) A reimbursement claim form is to be completed by the claimant. (These are available from Payroll or the Governance Support Officers. The claim form is to set out the reason for the expenditure, and the amount).
 - b) Where GST is to be claimed this must be supported by tax invoices.
 - c) In any event, the claim form must be supported by invoices or evidence of the amount, details of the goods or services etc. Should the expense be one for which no invoice can be obtained, a note explaining this can be attached in lieu of an invoice.
 - d) All amounts claimed are to be in New Zealand currency. Where foreign currency is involved, each invoice must have written on it the NZD amount which is being claimed, together with the exchange rate used. Note that the exchange rate to be used is that which applied to the actual transaction.
 - e) The reimbursement claim form is to be completed and approved by the Manager Governance who will provide the details of the general ledger code to which the amount is to be charged.
 - f) The claim will be forwarded to Payroll and the reimbursement will be included in the next payroll payment to the elected member.
- 2. All reimbursement claim forms will be held in one file in the Payroll Section.
- Elected members should claim expenses such as mileage, vehicle usage and use of own residence through their tax returns and <u>not</u> by seeking reimbursement from Council. However, some mileage expenses (as detailed in the table above) will be reimbursed via the Payroll system.

INTERNAL CONTROL

An Expenditure Officer will carry out random checks on reimbursement claim forms.

Approved at 27-7-2021 Council meeting



MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A meeting schedule is included for consideration in accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 21 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2 As this is an administrative report, there are no options or summary of considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) Adopts the meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2022 year.
- b) **Notes** that a meeting schedule for the 2023 year will be prepared for consideration at the Council meeting on 13 December 2022.
- c) **Notes** that the Community Boards will consider and confirm their own meeting schedules.

DISCUSSION

3 A proposed meetings schedule for the remainder of 2022 is set out below:

Council	
Council	Tuesday 8 November, 10.00 am
Council	Tuesday 29 November, 10.00 am
Council	Tuesday, 13 December, 10.00 am
Community Boards	
Inaugural Mosgiel Taieri Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 9.30am
Inaugural Strath Taieri Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 10.30am
Inaugural Otago Peninsula Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 11.30am
Inaugural Saddle Hill Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 1.30pm
Inaugural Waikouaiti Coast Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 2.30pm
Inaugural West Harbour Community Board	Wednesday, 2 November, 3.30pm



The meeting schedule for 2023 will be developed and presented to the 13 December 2022 Council meeting following consultation.

Signatories

Author:	Lynne Adamson - Governance Support Officer
Authoriser:	Sharon Bodeker - Acting Manager Governance

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION - BRIEFING FOR THE INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Clause 21 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that at the inaugural meeting of the Council and Community Boards following the triennial election, the Chief Executive Officer must provide a general explanation of the following legislation:
 - a) The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987;
 - b) The Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968;
 - c) Sections 99, 105 and 105A of the Crimes Act 1961;
 - d) The Secret Commissions Act 1910; and
 - e) The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013.
- 2 As this is an administrative report, there are no options or statement of considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the advice regarding key legislation that applies to members of Council, its Committees and Community Boards.

DISCUSSION

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

- This Act concerns the participation of the public in meeting processes, and access to official information held by the Dunedin City Council.
- The Act is based on the principle that public participation in democratic processes is paramount and information will be made available unless there is a good reason to withhold it.
- Nearly all information held by local authorities and elected members conducting Council business is deemed to be official information. This may include information stored by way of tape recordings, computer, email, text messages or other electronic communications if it



- concerns Council-related business. If it concerns the conduct of Council business, it is official information even if it is held on a personal device.
- Requests for access to official information are made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (commonly called a LGOIMA request). Requests for personal information from an individual about that individual are made under the Privacy Act 1993.
- Requests may be written or oral, although written requests are encouraged. Council has a statutory duty to help people in making requests for information and must make a decision as to whether the information will be released no later than 20 working days after the request is received. The Council can, if appropriate, extend the 20 working day period.
- 8 Requests for official information or information requested under the Privacy Act are handled by officials. Requests for official information should be made by:
 - a) Using the online form at http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/your-council/official-information; or
 - b) Emailing officialinformation@dcc.govt.nz.
- 9 Responses to requests made by elected members are circulated to all elected members.

Refusal of Information Requests

- The Act sets out a number of conclusive and good reasons why requests for official information may be refused. Unless one of these grounds for refusal applies, the information must be released.
- 11 Reasons for refusal are specified in sections 6, 7 and 17 of this Act and include:
 - a) Protecting the privacy of natural persons;
 - b) Protecting information which is subject to an obligation of confidence;
 - c) Enabling a local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities;
 - d) Enabling a local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations);
 - e) Maintaining legal professional privilege; and
 - f) Ensuring the maintenance of the law or the detection of offences.
- Good reasons for refusal are also subject to a "public interest" test. Even if the information sought falls within one of the refusal categories, it must be released where the withholding of the information is outweighed by other considerations rendering it desirable in the public interest that the information be released.
- 13 If a request is refused the Council must give the requester:
 - a) The reason for its refusal;





- b) The grounds in support of that refusal; and
- c) Advice as to the right to apply to the Ombudsman to seek a review of the refusal.

Meetings

- 14 This Act requires Council to prepare agendas and other reports for Council and Committee meetings and to make them available a minimum of two working days in advance of the meeting date and time. It also requires that the Council meetings be held in public, unless there are grounds for the matter to be considered with the public to be excluded.
- 15 All meetings must be advertised in accordance with s46(1) and s46(2) of LGOIMA. Meetings must be advertised not more than 14 days or less than five before the end of each month, except that if the meeting is to occur after the 21st day of the month it may be advertised not more than 10 or less than five working days before the day on which it is to be held.
- 16 Any meetings not advertised in accordance with s46(1) and s46(2) of LGOIMA will be extraordinary meetings and public notice given as provided for in s46(3) and s46(4). This means that notice is given as soon as practicable with an indication of the general nature of the business. However, meetings will not be invalid due to not being advertised in accordance with s46. There is provision in s46(6) for meetings to be advertised after the event.
- In the event of it being necessary to hold an extraordinary meeting, s46(4) will apply. This 17 provides for such notice as is reasonable in the circumstances with the business to be transacted described.
- 18 The Act provides that the public and media have the right of access to all meetings of the Council, committees, subcommittees (with the power to decide) and Community Boards unless the meeting resolves to exclude the public. The grounds for excluding the public and the media from a meeting can only be those provided in the Act and essentially are the same grounds as for withholding official information. However the public may be excluded where the subject matter of the discussion is one in respect of which a right of appeal exists to any Court or Tribunal.
- 19 A resolution to exclude the public is required. The motion must state the subject of the "non public" matter and the specific reason provided in the Act and be put while the public is still present. A full explanation of the grounds to exclude the public is contained in Appendix 1 of the Standing Orders.
- 20 Even where a meeting has resolved to exclude the public, a person can request a copy of the minutes of the meeting. That request must be treated in the same way as a request for official information, and a decision to refuse may be subject to review by an Ombudsman.
- 21 The release of publicly excluded information by members without authority is prohibited under the Council's and the Community Boards' Standing Orders. Any request for information or intention to release publicly excluded information should be referred to the Chief Executive Officer in the first instance.

Adding matters to the agenda

22 The Chief Executive Officer is solely responsible for the agenda for Council meetings. The Chief Executive Officer may include or withdraw items on an agenda.



- Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed may not be dealt with unless resolved by the meeting and after an explanation is provided of why the matter cannot wait until the next meeting. Items not on the agenda may be brought by a report of the Chief Executive Officer or the Chairperson.
- If the matter is a minor matter relating to the general business of the Council or Community Board, then it may be discussed without the meeting having resolved to do so, provided that at the beginning of the meeting (and while the meeting is open to the public) the chair explains that the item will be discussed. However, no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

Maintenance of Order at Meetings

- 25 Chairpersons at meetings may require members of the public to leave the meeting if the behaviour of the person concerned is likely to prejudice or continue to prejudice the orderly conduct of the meeting. If the member of the public refuses to leave they may be removed by an officer of the Council or a constable.
- 26 Councillors or Community Board members whose conduct prevents the orderly conduct of the meeting may be directed to leave by the Chairperson under Standing Orders.

Oral and Written Statements are Privileged

- The law recognises that there are occasions where the making of an oral statement at a meeting of a local authority or the publication of information should be the subject of an immunity from Court proceedings such as defamation.
- Information published in an agenda or report is to be treated as privileged, unless the publication was predominantly motivated by ill will or improper advantage. Oral statements made at meetings in accordance with the standing orders adopted by the Council are also privileged, unless the statement is proved to be predominantly motivated by ill will or the maker of the statement took improper advantage of the occasion of publication.

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 and Conflicts of Interest

- 29 The purpose of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA) is to:
 - Prevent preferential treatment from the local authority for people holding public office;
 and
 - Ensure that decision-makers are not affected by personal motives when they participate in local authority matters.
- 30 The law on managing conflicts of interest has been developed to achieve two objectives:
 - That decisions are made based on the relevant information and arguments, not ulterior motives or prejudices; and
 - 2) People affected by a decision have trust and confidence in the process, particularly the fairness of the process.



The Disqualification from Office "Rule"

- 31 Unless prior approval of the Auditor General (or some other specified exception) applies, LAMIA disqualifies elected and appointed members of Council from office where they are "concerned or interested" in contracts with the Council that exceed a cumulative value of \$25,000 (inclusive of GST) in any financial year. Contracts include any sub-contracts.
- If a member breaches the \$25,000 (inclusive of GST) limit, that member is disqualified from holding office and, if they continue to act, may be prosecuted and fined.
- 33 Generally a person will be concerned or interested in a contract or other matter where:
 - That person or their spouse separately or together hold 10% of the issued capital of the company or a controlling company; and/or
 - The member or spouse is a shareholder of the company or controlling company and either the member or spouse is a managing director or general manager or equivalent.
- Retrospective approval from the Office of the Auditor-General can only be given in limited circumstances and so prior approval should always be sought at the first opportunity.
- It is your responsibility to keep track of contracts or subcontracts in which you are concerned or have an interest, and to ensure that pre-approval for the transaction is sought from the Auditor-General at the first opportunity if the total amount of payment exceeds the \$25,000 (including GST) limit in one financial year.

The Participation "Rule"

36 LAMIA prohibits members of the Council, a Committee or Community Board voting on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public.

Pecuniary Interests

- A pecuniary interest is: "whether, if the matter were dealt with in a particular way, discussion or voting on that matter could reasonably give rise to an expectation of a gain or loss of money for the member concerned." In addition, if your spouse has a pecuniary interest you are deemed to have the same interest.
- 38 A pecuniary interest via a company arises where:
 - That person or their spouse separately or together hold 10% of the issued capital of the company or a controlling company; and/or
 - The member or spouse is a shareholder of the company or controlling company and either the member or spouse is a managing director or general manager or equivalent.
- Where uncertainty exists, the member must adopt a "lowest risk" approach. In most instances, this will mean withdrawing from discussion and voting.
- 40 A pecuniary interest may exist even where an organisation is a not for profit agency such as sporting, cultural or charitable associations. However, pecuniary interests may arise where such decision-makers hold membership at a golf club occupying land leased from the local authority when the lease rental has a consequence for the size of the members' subscription or other fees.



Any member who contravenes the prohibition against discussing or voting on a matter in which they have a pecuniary interest commits an offence liable to a fine. Upon conviction the member is disqualified from holding office and an extraordinary vacancy is created.

Non Pecuniary Interests

- 42 A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where:
 - "...a fair-minded observer reasonably thinks that a member of the decision-making body might not bring an impartial mind to the decision, in the sense that he or she might unfairly regard with favour (or disfavour) the case of a party."
- 43 Therefore non-pecuniary interests can be actual interests or perceived interests.

Actual Conflict of Non-Pecuniary Interest

- 44 A close relationship or involvement between the elected member and an individual or organisation affected by the matter for decision can mean that there is an actual conflict of a non-pecuniary interest.
- Example: if the elected member is an office holder in the club or strongly identified with the club, or if the decision will result in a benefit to the club.

Perceived Conflict of Non-Pecuniary Interest

- The roles of a member may also intersect with other responsibilities held such that a perception of bias cannot be avoided.
- 47 Examples:
 - Statements or conduct by the member may indicate that they have made up their mind before hearing all the information relevant to the decision.
 - If the elected member is a Justice of the Peace who sat in the District Court to hear and determine traffic infringements and that person is seeking a decision from Council, the appearance of a conflict of interest could not be avoided if that person participated in the Council decision-making. It would be inappropriate for such a person to be the decision-maker in a matter where the Council is the informant or prosecuting agency.

Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)

- 48 The fact of being a CCO director will not usually prevent a member from participating in local authority matters concerning the CCO especially if the role gives the member specialised knowledge that it would be valuable to contribute.
- 49 However, the participation rule applies in circumstances where there is a conflict between your duty as a member of the local authority and your duty to act in the interests of the other organisation.
- An example may be if the Council is considering a change in the mode of delivery of one of its services that could affect the financial position of a CCO.
- The appointment of Councillors to be directors of CCOs will not be a matter in respect of which any member will be prohibited from discussion and voting.



However, in matters relating to the setting of fees payable to the directors of CCOs, council members who are directors of any of the CCOs concerned would have a direct pecuniary interest and the prohibition would apply. For new CCOs, when the directors have not yet been appointed, all Councillors would have an indirect pecuniary interest. In this situation, the Council would need to apply to the Auditor-General for a declaration to enable members to determine the fees.

Declaring Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests and abstention from voting and discussing

- Members are under a duty to declare to the meeting their interest. Their abstention from discussion and voting must be recorded in the minutes.
- The prohibition against discussing and voting on a matter does not apply in certain situations, such as:
 - a) Members' remuneration where the maximum rate has already been fixed;
 - b) Election or appointment of any member to a Council, or Community Board, office notwithstanding that remuneration is payable;
 - c) The preparation, approval, or review of a district plan, unless the matter relates to any variation or change or departure from a district plan or to the conditional use of land.

Exemptions from the Auditor General

- The Audit Office has the power to declare that the prohibition shall not apply in respect of any particular matter if the Office is satisfied the prohibition would impede the business of the Council or that it is in the interest of the electors that the prohibition not apply. An exemption cannot be given retrospectively applications must be made before the member participates.
- The booklet, published by the Audit Office entitled "Guidance for members of local authorities about the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968", was distributed to all elected members and it is strongly recommended that new elected members read this document carefully and existing elected members refresh their knowledge. Members who misplace their copy should contact the Governance Support Team as replacement copies can always be provided.

Sections 99, 105 and 105A of the Crimes Act 1961

- 57 Councillors and Community Board Members come within the definition of an "official" in section 99 of the Crimes Act. It is an offence against this section to seek or obtain a reward for performing one's official duties as a Councillor or Community Board Member.
- Section 105 of that Act provides that every official is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years who, whether within New Zealand or elsewhere, corruptly accepts or obtains, or agrees or offers to accept or attempts to obtain, any bribe for himself or any other person in respect of any act done or omitted, or to be done or omitted, by him or her in an official capacity.
- 59 Section 105A provides it is an offence carrying a term of imprisonment of up to seven years, for an official to use any information acquired by him or her in an official capacity to obtain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or a pecuniary gain for himself or herself, or any other person.



60 Example: a breach of this provision could be proved if an elected member, knowing that land was to be re-zoned, invested in the purchase of that land before the proposal had been publicly notified.

Secret Commissions Act 1919

- This Act upholds the principle that persons holding positions of trust such as members of Council, Committees or Community Boards should not make a profit from holding office.
- The Act provides that elected members and officers are "agents" of the Council and that every agent commits an offence who corruptly accepts or obtains or solicits, for themselves or for any other person, any gift or other consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or not doing any act in relation to the Council's affairs, or for having shown favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Council's affairs.
- Any agent who diverts, obstructs or interferes with the proper course of the Council's business, or fails to use due diligence in the execution of such business with intent to obtain for themselves or any other person any gift or other consideration shall be deemed to have corruptly solicited a consideration.
- While "gift" is not defined, "consideration" is. It includes discounts, commissions, rebates, bonuses, deductions, percentages, employment and money (including loans).
- Section 5 of the Act provides that an agent, who makes a contract on behalf of the Council, must disclose to the Council any pecuniary interest in the contract. This provision is similar to that contained in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.
- Also, it is an offence to advise the Council with intent to induce it to enter into a contract with a third person, and receive any gift or consideration from the third person, without disclosing to the Council the fact of payment of the gift or other consideration.
- Upon conviction for any offence under the Act an agent is liable to a fine or two years imprisonment and would be disqualified from holding office.

Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013

- 68 Under the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, elected members are in a similar position to company directors if the Council were to issue financial products, such as equity or debt securities, under its borrowing powers.
- The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 imposes on Members the same responsibilities as company directors whenever Council offers securities (debt or equity) to the public. Members may be personally liable if investment documents such as a disclosure statement contain untrue statements and may be liable for criminal prosecution if the requirements of the Act are not met. They may be personally liable for civil action or criminal prosecution if the requirements of the Act, such as keeping an audited register of financial products issued, are not met.
- 70 The Act also prohibits any Member who has information about a listed company that is not generally available to the market, from trading in that company's shares or from disclosing that information. Therefore, if elected members become aware of inside information, care must be taken not to use it or divulge it to other people.



71 The penalties for certain offences under this Act (false or misleading statements in disclosure documents – 10 years; or insider trading – five years) are such that if a Member were convicted, that conviction would result in a disqualification from holding office.

Signatories

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Authoriser:	Sandy Graham - Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.