



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy

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Relevant legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , sections 252 and 253 <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i> , sections 217 and 403
Related policies/procedures/guidelines	<i>OLG, Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW (2009)</i> OLG Circular 09-36, Guidelines for Payment of Expenses and Facilities OLG Circular 05, 08 Legal assistance for Councillors and Council Employees Code of Conduct Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct
Related forms	Councillor Expenses Claim Form

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Policy Summary

This policy takes effect on 1 January 2023 and enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to help them undertake their civic duties.

It ensures accountability and transparency and seeks to align Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and complies with the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW*.

The policy sets out the maximum amounts Council will pay for specific expenses and facilities. The main expenses and facilities are summarised in the table below. Additional costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of these maximum amounts are considered a personal expense that is the responsibility of the Councillor. All monetary amounts are exclusive of GST.

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
General travel expenses	\$750 per Councillor \$750 for the Mayor Note: allowances for the use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award	Per year
Interstate, overseas and long-distance intrastate travel expenses	\$2,000 total for all Councillors	Per year
Accommodation and meals	As per the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, adjusted annually	Per meal/night
Professional development	\$2,500 per Councillor	Per year, except in the first 12 months of a Council term where the second year's allowance can be expended
Conferences	\$30,000 total for all Councillors	Per year
ICT equipment	\$8,000 per Councillor	Per term The permissible ICT equipment allowance in the final 12 months of the term is to be a maximum of \$2,500 and only for the replacement or repair of existing equipment.
ICT usage	\$4,200 per Councillor	Per year
Carer expenses	\$40 per hour per Councillor (\$12,000 total per year for all Councillors)	As required for attendance at official business

Home office expenses	\$1,800 per Councillor	Per year, except in the first 12 months of a Council term where the second year's allowance can be expended
Parking permits	One Councillor Parking Permit per Councillor	Per term
Access to facilities in a Councillor common room	Provided to all Councillors	Not relevant
Name badge	One per Councillor	Per term
Council vehicle with fuel card and Councillor Parking Permit,	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Reserved parking space at Council offices	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Furnished office	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Number of exclusive staff supporting Mayor	Two full-time staff	Not relevant

Part A – Introduction

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Waverley Council.
- 1.2. The community is entitled to know the extent of expenses paid to Councillors, as well as the facilities provided.
- 1.3. The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the facilities and support that are available to Councillors to assist them in fulfilling their civic duties.
- 1.4. Council staff are empowered to question or refuse a request for payment from a Councillor when it does not accord with this policy.
- 1.5. Expenses and facilities provided by this policy are in addition to fees paid to Councillors. The minimum and maximum fees a Council may pay each Councillor are set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as per section 241 of the Act and reviewed annually. Council must adopt its annual fees within this set range.

2. Policy objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of this policy are to:
 - Enable the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors while undertaking their civic duties.
 - Enable facilities of a reasonable and appropriate standard to be provided to Councillors to support them in undertaking their civic duties.
 - Ensure accountability and transparency in reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors.

- Ensure facilities and expenses provided to Councillors meet community expectations.
- Support a diversity of representation.
- Fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities.

3. Principles

3.1. Council commits to the following principles:

- **Proper conduct:** Councillors and staff acting lawfully and honestly, exercising care and diligence in carrying out their functions.
- **Reasonable expenses:** providing for Councillors to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred as part of their role as Councillor.
- **Participation and access:** enabling people from diverse backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those in carer roles and those with special needs to serve as a Councillor.
- **Equity:** there must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for all Councillors.
- **Appropriate use of resources:** providing clear direction on the appropriate use of Council resources in accordance with legal requirements and community expectations.
- **Accountability and transparency:** clearly stating and reporting on the expenses and facilities provided to Councillors.

4. Private or political benefit

4.1. Councillors must not obtain or seek to obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

4.2. Private use of Council expenses, equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time.

4.3. Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council.

4.4. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where substantial private use occurs, Councillors must reduce their claim by the approximate percentage of private use or reimburse Council.

4.5. Campaigns for re-election are considered to be a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered to be a political interest during a re-election campaign:

- Production of election material.
- Use of Council resources and equipment for campaigning.
- Use of official Council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit.
- Fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

Part B – Expenses

5. General expenses

- 5.1. All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. Allowances for general expenses are not permitted under this policy.
- 5.2. Expenses or facilities not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid, reimbursed or provided except in extenuating circumstances and only where approved by the General Manager in consultation with the Executive Manager, Governance.

6. Specific expenses

General travel arrangements and expenses

- 6.1. All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport.
- 6.2. Each Councillor may be reimbursed up to a total of \$750 per year, and the Mayor may be reimbursed up to a total of \$750 per year (in addition to the use of the Mayoral vehicle; see section 10 of this policy), for travel expenses incurred while undertaking official business or professional development. This includes reimbursement for:
 - Public transport fares.
 - The use of a private vehicle or hire car.
 - Parking costs for Council and other meetings.
 - Tolls.
 - Taxi fares/ride-share. Upon request, a maximum of four Cabcharge tickets will be issued by the Governance department to a Councillor at any one time. No further tickets will be issued until all receipts associated with previously issued tickets have been submitted to the Governance department.
- 6.3. Allowances for the use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the vehicle allowance rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award.
- 6.4. Councillors seeking reimbursement for use of a private vehicle must set out the date, distance and purpose of travel being claimed.

Interstate, overseas and long-distance intrastate travel expenses

- 6.5. This clause has been deleted.
- 6.6. In accordance with section 4 of this policy, Council will scrutinise the value and need for Councillors to undertake overseas travel. Councillors should avoid interstate, overseas and long-distance intrastate trips unless direct and tangible benefits can be established for Council and the local community. This includes travel to sister and friendship cities.
- 6.7. Total interstate, overseas and long-distance intrastate travel expenses for all Councillors will be capped at a maximum of \$2,000 per year. This amount will be set aside in Council's annual budget.

- 6.8. Councillors seeking approval for any interstate and long-distance intrastate travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, the General Manager prior to travel.
- 6.9. Councillors seeking approval for any overseas travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, a full Council meeting prior to travel.
- 6.10. The case should include:
- Objectives to be achieved in travel, including an explanation of how the travel aligns with current Council priorities and business, the community benefits which will accrue as a result, and its relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
 - Who is to take part in the travel.
 - Duration and itinerary of travel.
 - A detailed budget including a statement of any amounts expected to be reimbursed by the participant/s.
- 6.11. For interstate and long-distance intrastate journeys by air of less than three hours, the class of air travel is to be economy class.
- 6.12. For interstate journeys by air of more than three hours, the class of air travel may be premium economy.
- 6.13. For international travel, the class of air travel is to be premium economy if available. Otherwise, the class of travel is to be economy.
- 6.14. Bookings for approved air travel are to be made through the General Manager's office.
- 6.15. For air travel that is reimbursed as Council business, Councillors will not accrue points from the airline's frequent flyer program. This is considered a private benefit.

Travel expenses not paid by Council

- 6.16. Council will not pay any traffic or parking fines or administrative charges for road toll accounts.

Accommodation and meals

- 6.17. This clause has been deleted.
- 6.18. Council will reimburse costs for accommodation and meals while Councillors are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside metropolitan Sydney.
- 6.19. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses within Australia are to be consistent with those set out in Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.
- 6.20. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses outside Australia are to be determined in advance by the General Manager, being mindful of clause 6.19.
- 6.21. Councillors will not be reimbursed for alcoholic beverages.

Refreshments for Council-related meetings

- 6.22. Appropriate refreshments will be available for Council meetings, Council committee meetings, Councillor briefings, approved meetings and engagements, and official Council functions as approved by the General Manager.
- 6.23. As an indicative guide for the standard of refreshments to be provided at Council related meetings, the General Manager must be mindful of Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.

Professional development

- 6.24. Council is committed to supporting the continued professional development of Councillors. To this end, Council will set aside \$2,500 per Councillor per year to facilitate professional development. In the first 12 months of a Council term, the second year's allowance can be expended.
- 6.25. In the first 12 months of a Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors which considers any guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the ongoing professional development funding.
- 6.26. Annual membership of professional bodies will only be covered where the membership is relevant to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties, the Councillor actively participates in the body and the cost of membership is likely to be fully offset by savings from attending events as a member.
- 6.27. Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the General Manager outlining the:
- Details of the proposed professional development.
 - Relevance to Council priorities and business.
 - Relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
- 6.28. In assessing a Councillor request for a professional development activity, the General Manager must consider the factors set out in clause 6.27, as well as the cost of the professional development in relation to the Councillor's remaining budget.

Conferences

- 6.29. Council is committed to ensuring its Councillors are up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the community, and local government in NSW.
- 6.30. Council will set aside a total amount of \$30,000 annually in its budget to facilitate Councillor attendance at conferences, including the Local Government NSW Annual Conference, the National General Assembly of Local Government and other similar forums where Councillors are attending on behalf of Council. This allocation is for all Councillors and includes seminars held at conferences. The General Manager will ensure that access to expenses relating to conferences and seminars is distributed equitably.

- 6.31. Approval to attend a conference is subject to a Council resolution or a written request to the General Manager. In assessing a Councillor request, the General Manager must consider factors including the:
- Relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties
 - Cost of the conference in relation to the total remaining budget.
- 6.32. Council will meet the reasonable cost of registration fees, transportation (including any long-distance travel) and accommodation associated with attendance at conferences approved by the General Manager. Council will also meet the reasonable cost of meals when they are not included in the conference fees. Reimbursement for accommodation and meals not included in the conference fees will be subject to clauses 6.18–6.21.

Information and communications technology (ICT) expenses

- 6.33. Council will reimburse Councillors for expenses associated with:
- ICT equipment up to a limit of \$8,000 per term for each Councillor, including:
 - o Computers (desktops/laptops) and tablets.
 - o Printers and scanners.
 - o Mobile phones.
 - o Accessories, e.g. keyboards, mice, hard drives, headphones, cases.
 - o Maintenance, support and insurance of ICT equipment.
 - o Any other ICT equipment approved by the General Manager in consultation with the Executive Manager, Governance.
 - The permissible ICT equipment allowance in the final 12 months of the term (e.g. September to August inclusive) is to be a maximum of \$2,500 and only for the replacement or repair of existing equipment.
 - ICT usage up to a limit of \$4,200 per year for each Councillor, including:
 - o Phone plans.
 - o Internet/data plans.
 - o SIM cards.
 - o Software and software subscriptions.
 - o Cloud storage.
 - o Newspaper subscriptions (digital and/or hard copy).
- 6.34. Reimbursements will be made only for ICT equipment and services used for Councillors to undertake their civic duties, such as:
- Receiving and reading Council business papers.
 - Relevant phone calls and correspondence.
 - Diary and appointment management.
- 6.35. This clause has been deleted.

Special requirement and carer expenses

- 6.36. Council encourages wide participation and interest in civic office. It will seek to ensure Council premises and associated facilities include provision for:
- Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or an elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member.
 - Councillors with a disability.
- 6.37. Transportation provisions outlined in this policy will also assist Councillors who may be unable to drive a vehicle.
- 6.38. In addition to the provisions above, the General Manager may authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties.
- 6.39. Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or an elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member will be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to a maximum of \$40 per hour for attendance at official business (\$12,000 total per year for all Councillors).
- 6.40. Childcare expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years where the carer is not a relative.
- 6.41. In the event of caring for an adult person, Councillors will need to provide suitable evidence to the General Manager that reimbursement is applicable. This may take the form of advice from a medical practitioner.

Home office expenses

- 6.42. In addition to ICT expenses (clauses 6.33–6.35), each Councillor may be reimbursed up to \$1,800 per year for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, including:
- Stationery.
 - Printer ink cartridges.
 - Desks and chairs.
 - Filing cabinets.
- 6.43. In the first 12 months of a Council term, the second year's allowance can be expended.

7. Insurances

- 7.1. In accordance with section 382 of the Act, Council is insured against public liability and professional indemnity claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this policy.
- 7.2. Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his or her civic duties, or exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor. All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.

- 7.3. Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by Council's insurers, whether defended or not.
- 7.4. Appropriate travel insurances will be provided for any Councillors travelling on approved interstate and overseas travel on Council business.

8. Legal assistance

- 8.1. Council may, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:
- A Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
 - A Councillor defending an action in defamation, provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Act and the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
 - A Councillor for proceedings before an appropriate investigative or review body, provided the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act and the matter has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review and the investigative or review body makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.
- 8.2. In the case of a code of conduct complaint made against a Councillor, legal costs will only be made available where the matter has been referred by the General Manager to a conduct reviewer and the conduct reviewer has commenced a formal investigation of the matter and makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.
- 8.3. Legal expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising out of the performance by a Councillor of his or her functions under the Act are distinguished from expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising merely from something that a Councillor has done during his or her term in office. For example, expenses arising from an investigation as to whether a Councillor acted corruptly would not be covered by this section.
- 8.4. Council will not meet the legal costs:
- Of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstances.
 - Of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation.
 - For legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor.
- 8.5. Reimbursement of expenses for reasonable legal expenses must have Council approval by way of a resolution at a Council meeting prior to costs being incurred.

Part C – Facilities

9. General facilities for all Councillors

Facilities

- 9.1. Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors to assist them to effectively discharge their civic duties:
- A Councillor common room appropriately furnished to include computers, a printer/scanner, accessories, phones and pigeon-holes/lockers.
 - A Councillor Parking Permit, which entitles the holder to park in all Resident Parking Scheme areas, Council Authorised spaces and metered spaces for an unlimited time without payment, including Queen Elizabeth Drive and Park Drive, Bondi Beach, and Bronte Cutting.
- 9.2. Councillors may book meeting rooms for official business in a specified Council building at no cost. Rooms may be booked through a specified officer in the Mayor's Office or other specified staff member.
- 9.3. The provision of facilities will be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.
- 9.4. On request, Council will also provide the following to Councillors each year:
- E-letterhead, to be used only for correspondence associated with civic duties.
 - Business cards up to a value of \$150 per year.
 - One name badge per Councillor.
- 9.5. This clause has been deleted.

Administrative support

- 9.6. Council will provide administrative support to Councillors to assist them with their civic duties only. Administrative support may be provided by staff in the Mayor's Office or by a member of Council's administrative staff as arranged by the General Manager or their delegate.
- 9.7. As per section 4 of this policy, Council staff are expected to assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

10. Additional facilities for the Mayor

- 10.1. Council will provide to the Mayor a maintained vehicle to a similar standard of other Council vehicles, with a fuel card and Councillor Parking Permit. The vehicle will be supplied for use on official business, professional development and attendance at the Mayor's Office.
- 10.2. This clause has been deleted.

- 10.3. The Mayor's expenses budget or annual fee will be reduced to cover the cost of any private travel calculated on a per kilometre basis by the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award.
- 10.4. A parking space at Council's offices will be reserved for the Mayor's Council-issued vehicle for use on official business, professional development and attendance at the Mayor's Office.
- 10.5. Council will provide the Mayor with a furnished office and meeting space, including a computer (desktop/laptop), printer/scanner, accessories and phone.
- 10.6. In performing his or her civic duties, the Mayor will be assisted by a small number of staff providing administrative and secretarial support, as determined by the General Manager.
- 10.7. The number of exclusive staff provided to support the Mayor and Councillors will not exceed two full-time equivalents.
- 10.8. As per section 4 of this policy, staff in the Mayor's Office are expected to work on official business only, and not for matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

Part D – Processes

11. Approval, payment and reimbursement arrangements

- 11.1. Expenses should only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- 11.2. Approval for incurring expenses, or for the reimbursement of such expenses, should be obtained before the expense is incurred.
- 11.3. Up to the maximum limits specified in this policy, approval for the following expenses may be sought after the expense is incurred:
 - General travel.
 - Carer.
 - ICT equipment and ICT usage. However, Councillors should consult the IT department before purchasing ICT equipment to achieve best value for money and to ensure that adequate security, maintenance and insurance are provided.
 - Home office.
- 11.4. Final approval for payments made under this policy will be granted by the General Manager or Executive Manager, Governance.

Direct payment

- 11.5. Council may approve and directly pay the cost of conferences, professional development and ICT equipment, with the amount deducted from the relevant Councillor expenses budget.

Reimbursement

11.6. All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred:

- Must be made on the prescribed form, supported by appropriate receipts and tax invoices as evidence of goods/services purchased and paid for.
- Should be submitted monthly, where possible, to the Governance department (see also clause 11.15).

Advance payment

11.7. This clause has been deleted.

11.8. This clause has been deleted.

11.9. This clause has been deleted.

11.10. This clause has been deleted.

Notification

11.11. If a claim is approved, Council will reimburse the Councillor through accounts payable within a month of the approval.

11.12. If a claim is refused, Council will inform the Councillor in writing that the claim has been refused and the reason for the refusal.

Reimbursement to Council

11.13. If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy:

- The amount will be deducted from elsewhere in the Councillor's expenses budget, or
- Council will invoice the Councillor for the expense, and the Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense within 14 days of the invoice date.

11.14. If the Councillor cannot reimburse Council within 14 days of the invoice date, they are to submit a written explanation to the General Manager. The General Manager may elect to deduct the amount from the Councillor's annual fee.

Time frame for reimbursement

11.15. Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within six months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved except in extenuating circumstances and only where approved by the General Manager in consultation with the Executive Manager, Governance. To assist end-of-year financial processes, all outstanding expenses should be submitted no later than two weeks following the financial year end.

Carry-over

- 11.16. Unexpended monetary amounts do not carry over year to year unless otherwise specified in this policy.

Yearly allowances

- 11.17. All yearly allowances commence on 1 July each year and are allocated each financial year.
- 11.18. In the first year of a term (e.g. from September to 30 June), a full year's allowance will be allocated.
- 11.19. In the final financial year of a term (e.g. from 1 July to August inclusive), the yearly allowance will be allocated on monthly basis.

Term allowances

- 11.20. Where the frequency of an expense or facility is specified 'per term', this equates to a four-year term. Where a term is longer or shorter than four years, the allocation will be adjusted on a monthly basis.

12. Disputes

- 12.1. If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the General Manager.
- 12.2. If the Councillor and the General Manager cannot resolve the dispute, the Councillor may submit a notice of motion to a Council meeting seeking to have the dispute resolved.

13. Return or retention of facilities

- 13.1. All unexpended facilities and/or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or Mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.
- 13.2. Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment obtained under this policy, they must purchase the equipment from Council. The General Manager will determine an agreed fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.
- 13.3. The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors under clause 13.2 will be recorded in Council's annual report.

14. Publication

- 14.1. This policy will be published on Council's website.

15. Reporting

- 15.1. Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required by the Act and Regulation.

- 15.2. Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council meeting every six months and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

16. Auditing

- 16.1. The operation of this policy, including claims made under the policy, will be included in Council's audit program and an audit undertaken at least every two years.

17. Breaches

- 17.1. Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager.
- 17.2. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

Part E – Appendices

Appendix 1 – Related legislation, guidance and policies

Relevant legislation and guidance

- *Local Government Act 1993*, sections 252 and 253.
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, sections 217 and 403.
- OLG, *Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW* (2009).
- OLG Circular 09-36, Guidelines for Payment of Expenses and Facilities.
- OLG Circular 05, 08 Legal assistance for Councillors and Council Employees.

Related Council policies

- Code of Conduct.
- Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.

Appendix 2 – Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this policy:

Term	Definition
<i>appropriate refreshments</i>	Means food and beverages, excluding alcohol, provided by Council to support Councillors undertaking official business
<i>Act</i>	Means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW)
<i>clause</i>	Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this policy

<i>Code of Conduct</i>	Means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council or the Model Code if none is adopted
<i>Councillor</i>	Means a person elected or appointed to civic office as a member of the governing body of Council who is not suspended, including the Mayor
<i>General Manager</i>	Means the General Manager of Council and includes their delegate or authorised representative
<i>incidental private use</i>	Means use that is infrequent and brief and use that does not breach this policy or the Code of Conduct
<i>long-distance intrastate travel</i>	Means travel to other parts of NSW of more than three hours duration by private vehicle
<i>maximum limit</i>	Means the maximum limit for an expense or facility provided in the text and summarised in the policy summary
<i>official business</i>	Means functions that the Mayor or Councillors are required or invited to attend to fulfil their legislated role and responsibilities for Council or result in a direct benefit for Council and/or for the local government area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of Council and Committees. • Meetings of committees facilitated by Council. • Civic receptions hosted or sponsored by Council. • Meetings, functions, workshops and other events to which attendance by a Councillor has been requested or approved by Council.
<i>professional development</i>	Includes a seminar, conference, training course, program, event, or other education/development opportunity relevant to the role of a Councillor or the Mayor that may further their professional development, as well as membership of professional bodies
<i>Regulation</i>	Means the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i> (NSW)
<i>this clause has been deleted</i>	Means the clause from the Office of Local Government template from June 2017 has been deleted from Waverley's policy as it was not applicable to Waverley. This phrase has been used as replacement text to preserve the numbering throughout the policy
<i>year</i>	Means the financial year (i.e. the 12-month period commencing on 1 July each year), unless otherwise specified in this policy