



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



APPENDIX 14  
ATTACHMENT 1  
*Local Government  
Act 1995 Review*  
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVIEW ►► DELIVERING FOR THE COMMUNITY

# **Guidelines for Local Government CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination**

***Local Government (Administration) Amendment  
Regulations 2021***

**February 2021**

# Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	1
<b>Part 1 – Recruitment and Selection</b> .....	2
Principles.....	2
Recruitment and Selection Standard .....	2
Recruitment and Selection Standard continued .....	3
Guidelines .....	3
Recruitment and selection process .....	3
Advertising.....	4
Selection panel and independent person .....	4
Independent human resources consultant.....	5
Council’s responsibilities .....	6
Creating Diversity.....	6
Due Diligence.....	7
Selection .....	8
Employment contract .....	9
Appointment.....	9
Confidentiality .....	10
CEO induction.....	10
Principles.....	11
Performance Review Standard .....	11
Guidelines .....	11
Employment contract and performance agreement.....	11
Performance Criteria.....	12
Performance review panel.....	13
Independent consultant.....	13
Assessing performance.....	13
Addressing performance issues .....	14
Confidentiality .....	15
<b>Part 3 – Termination</b> .....	16
Principles.....	16
Termination Standard .....	16
Guidelines .....	16
Reason for termination.....	16
Opportunity to improve and mediation.....	18
Termination report.....	18

Confidentiality .....	18
Disclaimer .....	18

## Preface

The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* includes a requirement for model standards covering the recruitment and selection, performance review and termination of employment of local government Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). These reforms are intended to ensure best practice and greater consistency in these processes between local governments.

The accompanying guidelines outline the recommended practice for local governments in undertaking these processes. These guidelines will assist local governments in meeting the model standards prescribed in the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021*.

The standards and guidelines have been developed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (Department), in consultation with representatives from the Public Sector Commission, the Ombudsman, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Professionals WA (LGPro). The Department gratefully acknowledges the participation and contribution of these representatives.

The Department notes that the content of these guidelines does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the organisations or individuals that have been consulted.

# Part 1 – Recruitment and Selection

One of the fundamental roles of the council is the employment of the local government's CEO. The CEO is responsible for implementing the council's strategic vision and leading the local government administration.

## Principles

A local government must select a CEO in accordance with the principles of merit, equity and transparency. A local government must not exercise nepotism, bias or patronage in exercising its powers. Additionally, a local government must not unlawfully discriminate against applicants. Section 5.40 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act) lists a number of general principles of employment that apply to local governments.

### Recruitment and Selection Standard

The minimum standard for recruitment and selection will be met if:

- S1.1** The council has identified and agreed to the qualifications and selection criteria necessary to effectively undertake the role and duties of the CEO within that particular local government context.
- S1.2** The council has approved, by absolute majority, the Job Description Form (JDF) which clearly outlines the qualifications, selection criteria and responsibilities of the position. The JDF is made available to all applicants.
- S1.3** The local government has established a selection panel to conduct the recruitment and selection process. The panel must include at least one independent person who is not a current elected member, human resources consultant, or staff member of the local government.
- S1.4** The local government attracts applicants through a transparent, open and competitive process (this is not necessary for vacancies of less than one year). The local government must advertise a vacancy for the position of CEO in the manner prescribed.
- S1.5** The local government has assessed the knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills of all applicants against the selection criteria.
- S1.6** The local government has verified the recommended applicant's work history, qualifications, referees and claims made in their job application.
- S1.7** The appointment is merit-based, with the successful applicant assessed as clearly demonstrating how their knowledge, skills and experience meet the selection criteria.

## **Recruitment and Selection Standard cont.**

- S1.8** The appointment is made impartially and free from nepotism, bias or unlawful discrimination.
- S1.9** The council has endorsed by absolute majority the final appointment.
- S1.10** The council has approved the employment contract by absolute majority.
- S1.11** The local government re-advertises the CEO position and undertakes a recruitment and selection process after each instance where a person has occupied the position for ten (10) consecutive years.

## **Guidelines**

### **Recruitment and selection process**

The council of the local government should act collectively throughout the recruitment and selection process. To uphold the integrity of the process, the council must resist any attempt to influence the outcome through canvassing or lobbying.

The local government should carefully consider the role of the CEO. This includes the CEO's legislated powers and functions and their role as the head of the administrative arm of the local government. In determining the selection criteria for the position of CEO, it will be important for a local government to consider the needs of the community and the specific skills and experience that will be required of the CEO in that particular local government. The competencies the council looks for in its CEO should reflect the council's strategic community plan.

Once the essential skills and experience which form the selection criteria for the position have been established, the local government must set out the selection criteria (essential and desirable) and the responsibilities of the position in a Job Description Form (JDF). If emphasis is placed on certain selection criteria, this should be highlighted in the JDF so that applicants are aware of this. For example, some level of project management experience will usually be an important criterion, but if the local government is undertaking a major development such as a new recreation centre, added emphasis may need to be given to this criterion.

The JDF must be approved by an absolute majority of the council.

## **Advertising**

The local government should ensure that applicants are clearly informed about the application process, such as the application requirements, the closing date for applications and how applications are to be submitted. It is essential that this process is transparent and that each step in the process is documented. Associated records must be kept in a manner consistent with the *State Records Act 2000 (WA)*.

It is a requirement that a local government is to give Statewide public notice if the position of CEO becomes vacant. Statewide public notice must contain:

- details of the remuneration and benefits offered;
- details of the place where applications are to be submitted;
- the date and time applications close;
- the duration of the proposed contract;
- a web address where the JDF can be accessed;
- contact details for a person who can provide further information; and
- any other relevant information.

In order to attract the best possible pool of applicants for the position of CEO, it is recommended that local governments use a diverse range of advertising methods, mediums and platforms (in addition to the advertising requirement under section 5.36(4) of the Act). For example:

- advertising on the local government's website;
- posting on online jobs boards (e.g. SEEK);
- sharing the advertisement via professional networks; and
- undertaking an executive search.

A local government must publicly advertise the CEO position if the same person has remained in the job for 10 consecutive years. This requirement does not prevent the incumbent CEO from being employed for another term, provided they are selected in accordance with the standards for recruitment and selection.

## **Selection panel and independent person**

Local governments are required to establish a selection panel to conduct and facilitate the recruitment and selection process. The selection panel should be made up of elected members (the number of which is determined by the council) and must include at least one independent person. The independent person cannot be a current elected member, human resources consultant, or staff member of the local government. Examples of who the independent person could be include:

- former elected members or staff members of the local government;
- former or current elected members (such as a Mayor or Shire President) or staff members of *another* local government;
- a prominent or highly regarded member of the community; or
- a person with experience in the recruitment of CEOs and senior executives.

The panel are responsible for assessing applicants and making a recommendation to council regarding the most suitable applicant or applicants. The essence of the role of an independent panel member is to bring an impartial perspective to the process and reduce any perception of bias or nepotism.

It is essential that prior to a person's appointment to a selection panel they are informed of the duties and responsibilities of their role and that of the panel. It is recommended that local governments develop a policy or terms of reference to facilitate this process that incorporate the standards for recruitment at Division 2 of the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations (No.2) 2020*. A policy should include important information that outlines:

- The primary functions of the panel;
- Roles and responsibilities panel members;
- Composition of the panel;
- Duration of term;
- Desirable criteria for appointment to the panel;
- A requirement that panel members sign a confidentially agreement and agree to the duties and responsibilities of their role; and
- Any other information the local government deems necessary for the panel to effectively carry out their role.

### **Independent human resources consultant**

A local government should seek independent advice from a human resources consultant where the council lacks the capacity or expertise to facilitate the recruitment and selection process (or any aspect of it). A member of the human resources team within a local government must not be involved in the recruitment of a new CEO.

The consultant should not be associated with the local government or any of its council members. The consultant can be an independent human resources professional, recruitment consultant, or recruitment agency.

An independent human resources consultant can provide advice to the selection panel on how to conduct the recruitment process, or a local government may engage a consultant to support it in undertaking certain aspects of the recruitment process, such as one or more of the following:

- development or review of the JDF;
- development of selection criteria;
- development of assessment methods in relation to the selection criteria;
- drafting of the advertisement;
- executive search;
- preliminary assessment of the applications;
- shortlisting;
- drafting questions for interview;
- coordinating interviews;
- preparing the selection summary assessment and recommendation;



- arranging for an integrity check and/or police clearance; and
- assisting the council in preparing the employment contract.

The consultant is not to be directly involved in determining which applicant should be recommended for the position, their role is not one of decision-maker.

It is recommended that rigorous checks be conducted on any independent consultants before they are engaged to ensure they have the necessary skills and experience to effectively assist the council. Local government recruitment experience may be beneficial but is not a requirement.

The independent human resources consultant must be able to validate their experience in senior executive recruitment and appointments. It is important to note that if the local government uses a consultant or agency to assist in finding applicants, they will require an employment agent licence under the *Employment Agents Act 1976* (WA).

A good independent human resources consultant will bring expertise, an objective perspective and additional human resources to what is a complex and time-consuming process. Given the time and effort involved in finding a competent CEO, and the cost of recruiting an unsuitable CEO, there can be a good business case for spending money on a human resources consultant.

If a decision is made to engage an independent human resources consultant, it is imperative that the council maintains a high level of involvement in the process and enters into a formal agreement (contract) with them. In order to manage the contract efficiently, and ensure an effective outcome, regular contact with the consultant is required during the recruitment process. As with any contractor engagement, the local government must ensure their procurement and tender processes comply with the Act and the procurement policy of the local government.

### **Council's responsibilities**

A human resources consultant cannot undertake the tasks for which the council is solely responsible. An independent consultant cannot and should not be asked to:

- Conduct interviews: This should be done by the selection panel. However, council may decide to interview applicants recommended by the selection panel. A consultant can provide support with interviews, providing advice on the recruitment and selection process and writing up recommendations. The consultant may also arrange referee reports and checks of applicants.
- Make the decision about who to appoint to the position of CEO: Only the council can make this decision, drawing upon advice from the selection panel.
- Negotiate the terms and conditions of employment: Noting that the consultant should be able to provide advice on remuneration constraints and other terms and conditions.

### **Creating Diversity**

In order to ensure all applicants are given an equal opportunity for success, selection methods need to be consistent and objective. In a structured interview, each applicant should have the opportunity to answer the same primary questions with follow-up questions used to illicit further detail or clarification. Behavioural-based interview

questions are objective and gauge the applicants' suitability, reducing biases in assessment (see examples below).

Basing a selection decision on the results of a number of selection methods can help to reduce procedural shortcomings and ensure the best applicant is chosen. Psychometric, ability and aptitude testing are considered to be valid, reliable and objective. While applicants with extensive experience and reputable education may appear to be more qualified, an objective assessment of each person's ability and personal traits can help to provide a clearer picture of the applicant.

Where possible, it is recommended that local governments ensure diversity on the selection panel. This may be achieved by ensuring gender, ethnicity, age and experiential diversity is represented on the panel. Diversity is also a consideration when selecting an independent person for the selection panel, particularly where there is a lack of diversity on the council. A diverse selection panel will assist in making quality decisions regarding suitable applicants.

Individuals are often unaware of biases they may have. For this reason, it is helpful for the selection panel to undertake training about unconscious biases. Awareness of unconscious biases assists individuals in preventing those biases from interfering in their decision making. For example, if there are considerable discrepancies in the assessment scores between two panel members, discussion will be required to ensure bias has not influenced these scores. Allowing team members to acknowledge and recognise prejudices is essential to managing those biases. The following biases should be addressed:

- "Similar-to-me" effect - if interviewers share the same characteristics with the applicants or view those characteristics positively, they are more likely to score them highly;
- "Halo" effect – interviewers may let one quality (such as race, gender, looks, accent, experience, etc.) positively or negatively affect the assessment of the applicant's other characteristics.

## **Due Diligence**

It is essential that the local government ensures that the necessary due diligence is undertaken to verify an applicant's qualifications, experience and demonstrated performance. This includes:

- verifying an applicant's qualifications such as university degrees and training certificates;
- verifying the applicant's claims (in relation to the applicant's character, details of work experience, skills and performance) by contacting the applicant's referees. Referee reports should be in writing in the form of a written report, or recorded and verified by the referee;
- requesting that an applicant obtains a national police clearance as part of the application process; and
- ensuring no conflicts of interests arise by looking to outside interests such as board membership and secondary employment.

A council may wish to contact a person who is not listed as an applicant's referee,

such as a previous employer. This may be useful in obtaining further information regarding an applicant's character and work experience, and verifying related claims. The applicant should be advised of this and be able to provide written comments to the council.

A search of social media and whether an applicant has an online presence may also assist in identifying potential issues. For example, an applicant may have expressed views which are in conflict with the local government's values. This should be made clear in the application information. To ensure the integrity of the recruitment process, a council must act collectively when performing due diligence.

## **Selection**

Once the application period closes, the selection panel, or consultant on behalf of the selection panel, must assess applications and identify a shortlist of applicants to be interviewed.

In shortlisting applicants for the interview phase, the selection panel should consider the transferable skills of applicants and how these would be of value in the role of CEO. The selection panel should not overlook applicants who do not have experience working in the local government sector.

It is important that the assessment process is consistent for all applicants. For example, each applicant is asked the same interview questions which are related to the selection criteria and each are provided with the same information and undertake the same assessments.

Elected members should declare any previous association with an applicant or any potential conflict of interest at the time of shortlisting if they are part of the selection panel. Similarly, if the interviews involve the full council, the elected member should make an appropriate declaration before the interviews commence. If the potential conflict of interest is significant or a member's relationship with an applicant may result in claims of nepotism, patronage or bias, the council may need to consider whether to exclude the elected member from the process. The decision should be documented and recorded for future reference.

Selecting an applicant should be based on merit; that is, choosing an applicant that is best suited to the requirements of the position and the needs of the local government. This involves the consideration and assessment of applicants' skills, knowledge, qualifications and experience against the selection criteria required for the role. As part of the selection process, a council may consider it appropriate for each of the preferred candidates to do a presentation to council.

The appointment decision by the council should be based on the assessment of all measures used, including:

- assessment technique(s) used (e.g. interview performance);
- quality of application;
- referee reports;
- verification and sighting of formal qualifications and other claims provided by the applicant; and
- other vetting assessments used (e.g. police checks, integrity checks, etc.).

## **Employment contract**

In preparing the CEO's employment contract, the council must ensure the contract includes the necessary provisions required under section 5.39 of the Act and associated regulations.

Section 5.39 of the Act provides that a CEO's employment contract must not be for a term exceeding five years. The term of a contract for an acting or temporary position cannot exceed one year.

Further, the employment contract is of no effect unless it contains:

- the expiry date of the contract;
- the performance review criteria; and
- as prescribed under regulation 18B of the Administration Regulations, the maximum amount of money (or a method of calculating such an amount) to which the CEO is to be entitled if the contract is terminated before the expiry date. The amount is not to exceed whichever is the lesser of:
  - the value of one year's remuneration under the contract; or
  - the value of the remuneration that the CEO would have been entitled to, had the contract not been terminated.

It is recommended that the council seeks independent legal advice to ensure that the contract is lawful and able to be enforced. In particular, advice should be sought if there is any doubt as to the meaning of the provisions of the contract.

Councils should be aware that CEO remuneration is determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal and the remuneration package may not fall outside the band applicable to the particular local government.

The CEO's employment contract should clearly outline grounds for termination and the termination process in accordance with the standards in regulations.

The council of the local government must approve, by absolute majority, the employment contract and the person they appoint as CEO.

## **Appointment**

A decision to make an offer of employment to a preferred applicant must be made by an absolute majority of council. If the preferred applicant accepts the offer and the proposed terms of the contract without negotiation, there is no further requirement for council to endorse the applicant and the contract. However, if there is a process of negotiation to finalise the terms and conditions of the contract, council is required to endorse the appointment and approve the CEO's employment contract by absolute majority. In both instances, the employment contract must be signed by all parties.

The council should notify both the successful individual and the remaining unsuccessful applicants as soon as possible before publicly announcing the CEO appointment.

The successful applicant should not commence duties with the local government as CEO until the employment contract has been signed.

The unsuccessful applicants (including those not interviewed) should be notified of the outcome of their application. It is recommended that the local government creates a template letter for unsuccessful applicants that can be easily personalised with the applicants' details and sent out quickly.

The council should keep a record of their assessment of the unsuccessful applicant(s) and provide the unsuccessful applicant(s) with the opportunity to receive feedback on their application, or interview performance if they were granted an interview. Should an unsuccessful applicant request feedback, it is recommended that a member of the selection panel provides this. If a recruitment consultant is used, they may undertake this task.

### **Confidentiality**

The local government should ensure that all information produced or obtained during the recruitment and selection process is kept confidential. This includes applicants' personal details, assessment details, the selection report and outcome of the process. This ensures privacy requirements are met and maintains the integrity of the process. It is recommended that selection panel members and councillors sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that they are aware of their obligations.

### **CEO induction**

Local governments should ensure that they provide the CEO with all of the necessary information on the local government's processes, policies, procedures and systems at the commencement of the CEO's employment.

New CEOs are eligible to participate in the Local Government CEO Support Program which is a joint initiative of the Department and LG Pro to provide mentoring and general support to those appointed to the position of CEO in a local government for the first time. The program runs for six to nine months from the time a CEO is appointed and involves the CEO being matched with a mentor that best meets their needs.

The program provides the CEO with an opportunity (through meetings and on-going correspondence) to discuss a wide range of issues with their appointed mentor in the strictest confidence. The program is aimed at addressing the individual needs of the CEO. Examples of issues that may be covered include the following:

- Role of the CEO
- Governance
- Strategic and long-term planning
- Legislative framework
- Relationships and dealing with council members
- Risk management
- Resource management
- Managing the business of Council
- Family considerations

# Part 2 – Performance Review

## Principles

The standards regarding CEO performance review are based on the principles of fairness, integrity and impartiality.

### Performance Review Standards

The minimum standard for performance review will be met if:

- S2.1** Performance criteria is specific, relevant, measurable, achievable and time-based.
- S2.2** The performance criteria and the performance process are recorded in a written document, negotiated with and agreed upon by the CEO and council.
- S2.3** The CEO is informed about how their performance will be assessed and managed and the results of their performance assessment.
- S2.4** The collection of evidence regarding performance outcomes is thorough and comprehensive.
- S2.5** Assessment is made free from bias and based on the CEO's achievements against documented performance criteria, and decisions and actions are impartial and transparent.
- S2.6** The council has endorsed the performance review assessment by absolute majority.

## Guidelines

Section 5.38 of the Act provides that, for a CEO who is employed for a term of more than one year, the performance of a CEO is to be reviewed formally at least once in every year of their employment.

In addition to this minimum requirement, it is recommended that the council engages in regular discussions with the CEO regarding their performance against the performance criteria, including progress and ways that the CEO can be supported. Any changes to the CEO's performance agreement such as changes to the performance criteria should also be discussed, and agreed to, between the council and the CEO, as the matter arises.

### Employment contract and performance agreement

Section 5.39, of the Act requires the employment contract to specify the performance criteria for the purpose of reviewing the CEO's performance. This will include ongoing permanent performance criteria. A local government may wish to have a separate additional document called a "performance agreement" which includes the

performance review criteria in the employment contract, additional criteria (e.g. the performance indicators in relation to specific projects) and how the criteria will be assessed. The performance agreement should be negotiated and agreed upon by the CEO and the council. The performance agreement may also set out the CEO's professional development goals and outline a plan to achieve these goals.

## **Performance Criteria**

Setting the performance criteria is an important step. One of the CEO's key responsibilities is to oversee the implementation of council's strategic direction, and so it is important to align the CEO's performance criteria to the goals contained in the council's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan. Accordingly, as these plans are updated, the CEO's performance criteria should be updated to reflect the changes.

In leading the administrative arm of a local government, the CEO is responsible for undertaking core tasks, the achievement of which will contribute to the effectiveness of the council. It is important that the outcomes associated with these tasks are measurable and clearly defined. These could be in relation to:

- service delivery targets from the council's Strategic Community Plan;
- budget compliance;
- organisational capability;
- operational and project management;
- financial performance and asset management;
- timeliness and accuracy of information and advice to councillors;
- implementation of council resolutions;
- management of organisational risks;
- leadership (including conduct and behaviour) and human resource management; and
- stakeholder management and satisfaction.

Performance criteria should focus on the priorities of the council and, if appropriate, can be assigned priority weighting in percentages. The council and CEO should set goals related to target outcomes for future achievement in the performance criteria. Goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based.

Following the determination of the performance criteria and goals, the council will need to determine how to measure the outcomes of each criteria. It is important to relate performance indicators to the selection criteria used in selecting the CEO. For example, if the CEO has been selected due to their financial experience and ability to improve the local government's finances, indicators regarding improved revenue and reduced expenses are obvious starting points.

Considering the context within which the local government is operating is important. For example, if a significant financial event occurs, such as a downturn in the economy, financial performance indicators will likely need to be adjusted. It is important that such contextual factors are given appropriate weighting and that goals are flexible to allow regular adjustment. Adjustments may be initiated by either the CEO or the council. Councils need to be realistic in terms of their expectations of a CEO's performance and provide appropriate resources and support to facilitate the

achievement of performance criteria.

### **Performance review panel**

It is recommended that the council delegates the CEO performance review to a panel (e.g. comprising certain council members and an independent observer). The panel has a duty to gather as much evidence as possible upon which to base their assessments. The role of the review panel includes developing the performance agreement in the first instance, conducting the performance review and reporting on the findings and recommendations of the review to council. It is also recommended that council develop a policy to guide the performance review process. A policy might include the composition of the panel, primary functions, the role and appointment of an independent consultant, and the responsibilities of review panel members.

### **Independent consultant**

If a council lacks the resources and expertise to meet the expected standard of performance review, the council should engage an external facilitator to assist with the process of performance appraisal and the development of the performance agreement. The local government should ensure that the consultant has experience in performance review and, if possible, experience in local government or dealing with the performance review of senior executives. The consultant should not have any interest in, or relationship with, the council or the CEO.

With guidance from the performance review panel, a consultant can facilitate the following tasks:

- setting performance criteria;
- preparing the performance agreement;
- collecting performance evidence;
- writing the performance appraisal report;
- facilitating meetings between the performance review panel;
- assisting with the provision of feedback to the CEO;
- formulating plans to support improvement (if necessary); and
- providing an objective view regarding any performance management-related matters between the concerned parties.

### **Assessing performance**

It is a requirement of the regulations that the process by which the CEO's performance will be reviewed is documented and agreed to by both parties. Council and the CEO must also agree on any performance criteria that is in addition to what is specified in the CEO's contract of employment. The option to include additional criteria for performance review purposes by agreement provides a degree of flexibility for both parties in response to changing circumstances and priorities.

It is essential that CEO performance is measured in an objective manner against the performance criteria alone. It is important that reviews are impartial and not skewed by personal relationships between the review panel and the CEO. Close personal relationships between the panel members and the CEO can be just as problematic as extremely poor relationships. Evidence of CEO performance may come from an array of sources, many of which the CEO themselves can and should provide to the



council as part of regular reporting. These sources include:

- achievement of key business outcomes;
- interactions with the council and progress that has been made towards implementing the council's strategic vision;
- audit and risk committee reports;
- workforce metrics (e.g. the average time to fill vacancies, retention rate, information about why people leave the organisation and staff absence rate);
- incident reports (e.g. results of occupational health and safety assessments, the number and nature of occupational health and safety incident reports, and the number and nature of staff grievances);
- organisational survey results;
- relationships (e.g. with relevant organisations, stakeholder groups, and professional networks); and
- insights from key stakeholders (this could be done by way of a survey to obtain stakeholder input).

It is important that, in addition to looking at the achievement of key performance indicators (KPIs), the council considers the following:

- How the CEO has achieved the outcomes. In particular, whether or not their methods are acceptable and sustainable.
- The extent to which current performance is contingent upon current circumstances. Has the CEO demonstrated skills and behaviours to address and manage changes in circumstances which have affected his or her performance? (for example, the impact of COVID-19.)
- What the CEO has done to ensure the wellbeing of staff and to maintain trust in the local government.

The council should consider the attention the CEO has given to ensuring equal employment opportunity, occupational health and safety, privacy, managing potential conflicts of interest, and complying with procurement process requirements.

### **Addressing performance issues**

Once the CEO's performance has been assessed, it is essential that any areas requiring attention or improvement are identified, discussed with the CEO and a plan is agreed and put in place to address these. The plan should outline the actions to be taken, who is responsible for the actions and an agreed timeframe.

The performance review panel must decide on an appropriate course of action that will address the performance issue. This may include professional development courses, training, counselling, mediation, mentoring or developing new work routines to ensure specific areas are not neglected. The performance review panel should then arrange for regular discussion and ongoing feedback on the identified performance issues, ensuring improvements are being made.

It is important to keep in mind that a local government falling short of its goals is not always attributable to the CEO. External factors may have resulted in initial performance expectations becoming unrealistic. Failure to meet performance criteria does not necessarily mean the CEO has performed poorly and, for this reason,

performance and outcome should be considered separately. Where ongoing issues have been identified, the council will need to take a constructive approach and seek to develop the CEO's competency in that area.

While there are obligations on the council to manage the CEO in regard to their performance, when it extends into potential wrongdoing (misconduct), the council should be referring the matter to the Public Sector Commission or Corruption and Crime Commission. This provides an independent process to follow and ensures probity, natural justice and oversight of allegations.

### **Confidentiality**

The council must ensure that accurate and comprehensive records of the performance management process are created. Any information produced must be kept confidential.

## Part 3 – Termination

### Principles

The standards for the termination of a local government CEO's employment (other than for reasons such as voluntary resignation or retirement) are based on the principles of fairness and transparency. Procedural fairness is a principle of common law regarding the proper and fair procedure that should apply when a decision is made that may adversely impact upon a person's rights or interests.

#### Termination Standards

The minimum standards for the termination of a CEO's contract will be met if:

- S3.1** Decisions are based on assessment of the CEO's performance as measured against the documented performance criteria in the CEO's contract.
- S3.2** Performance issues have been identified as part a performance review (conducted within the preceding 12 months) and the CEO has been informed of the issues. The council has given the CEO a reasonable opportunity to improve and implement a plan to remedy the performance issues, but the CEO has not subsequently remedied these issues to the satisfaction of the local government.
- S3.3** The principle of procedural fairness is applied. The CEO is informed of their rights, entitlements and responsibilities in the termination process. This includes the CEO being provided with notice of any allegations against them, given a reasonable opportunity to respond to those allegations or decisions affecting them, and their response is genuinely considered.
- S3.4** Decisions are impartial and transparent.
- S3.5** The council of the local government has endorsed the termination by absolute majority.
- S3.6** The required notice of termination (which outlines the reasons for termination) is provided in writing.

### Guidelines

#### Reasons for termination

The early termination of a CEO's employment may end due to:

- poor performance;
- misconduct; or
- non-performance or repudiation of contract terms.

There is a difference between poor performance and serious misconduct. Poor performance is defined as an employee not meeting the required performance criteria or demonstrating unacceptable conduct and behaviour at work, it includes:

- not carrying out their work to the required standard or not doing their job at all;
- not following workplace policies, rules or procedures;
- unacceptable conduct and behaviour at work;
- disruptive or negative behaviour at work;
- not meeting the performance criteria set out in the employment contract and/or performance agreement unless these are outside the CEO's control;
- not complying with an agreed plan to address performance issues;
- failing to comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* and other relevant legislation;
- failing to follow council endorsed policies.

Serious misconduct can include when an employee:

- causes serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of another person or to the reputation or revenue of the local government; or
- behaves unlawfully or corruptly; or
- deliberately behaves in a way that's inconsistent with continuing their employment.

Examples of serious misconduct can include:

- matters arising under section 4(a), (b) and (c) of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*;
- theft;
- fraud;
- assault;
- falsification of records;
- being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at work; or
- refusing to carry out appropriate and lawful resolutions of council.

Misconduct is also defined in section 4 of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* (WA). Under this Act, misconduct can be either serious or minor and the obligation to notify the Public Sector Commission (PSC) or the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) is paramount.

Termination on the basis of misconduct is covered by employment law. A local government should seek independent legal, employment or industrial relations advice prior to a termination. A council should also seek independent advice during the termination process including advice on the relevant employment legislation affecting CEO employment and the application of that legislation to their specific circumstances. This will ensure that a council complies with employment law during the entire termination process.

A local government is required to endorse the decision to terminate a CEO's employment by way of an absolute majority decision. A local government must certify that the termination was in accordance with the adopted standards in regulations.

## **Opportunity to improve and mediation**

If a CEO is deemed to have been performing poorly, the council must be transparent and inform the CEO of this. It is important that the CEO is given an opportunity to remedy the issues within a reasonable timeframe as agreed between the CEO and the council. The council should clearly outline the areas in need of improvement, and with the CEO's input, determine a plan to address any issues. If a plan for improvement is put in place and the CEO's performance remains poor, then termination may be necessary. If a local government decides to terminate the employment of the CEO it must have conducted a performance review in the previous 12 months in accordance with section 5.38 of the Act.

Where the concerns or issues relate to problematic working relationships or dysfunctional behaviour, it is recommended that a council engages an independent accredited mediator to conduct a mediation between the parties. A mediation session may be useful in assisting parties to understand and address issues before the situation escalates to a breakdown in the working relationship (which affects the ability of the CEO to effectively perform their duties) and the subsequent termination of the CEO's employment.

## **Termination report**

The council should prepare a termination report which outlines the reasons for termination, the opportunities and assistance provided to the CEO to remedy any issues, and an explanation of the CEO's failure to do so. Council must provide prior opportunities and support to the CEO to assist them in remedying the issues which form the basis of the termination. It is a requirement of the regulations that council must provide written notice to the CEO outlining the reasons for their decision to terminate. In addition, council must certify that the termination of the CEO's employment was carried out in accordance with the standards set out in regulations.

## **Confidentiality**

Local governments should ensure that the termination process is kept confidential. The CEO is to be informed of their rights and entitlements. Notice of termination of employment is required to be given in writing. Where possible, the news of termination of employment should also be delivered in person. The CEO should be provided with a letter outlining the reasons for, and date of, the termination of their employment.

Before making any public announcements on the termination of the CEO, a council should ensure that the entire termination process is complete, including that the CEO has been informed in writing of the termination.

## **Disclaimer**

It is outside the scope of these guidelines to provide legal advice, and local governments should seek their own legal advice where necessary. Guidance as to legal requirements and compliance in relation to the termination of employment is provided by the Fair Work Commission at [www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au), the Fair Work Ombudsman at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) and the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission at [www.wairc.wa.gov.au](http://www.wairc.wa.gov.au).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS (No.2) 2020 – EXPLANATORY NOTES**

These regulations will bring into effect **section 22** of the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019*.

In particular, the following will take effect: sections 5.39A, 5.39B & 5.39C.

<b>Section in Amendment Act</b>	<b>Section in LG Act</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Section 22</b>	<b>5.39A 5.39B 5.39C</b>	Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination. Adoption of Model Standards Policy for temporary employment or appointment of CEO.
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Amends</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Regulation 18A – Vacancy in position of CEO or senior employee to be advertised (Act s.5.36(4) and 5.37(3))	18A <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i>	Regulation 18A(1) is being amended to align with the new State-wide public notice provisions. If the position of CEO, or of a senior employee, becomes vacant the local government must give State-wide public notice of the position in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act (sections 5.36(4) and 5.37(3)).  Regulation 18A(2)(da) provides that the State-wide public notice must include a website address where the job description form (JDF) for the position can be accessed.
Regulation 18C – Selection and appointment process for CEOs.	18C <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Repealed</i>	Regulation 18C is being repealed. The prescribed model standards for CEO recruitment and appointment outlined at Division 2 (Clauses 3-14) of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020</i> replace 18C.  Local governments are required to determine the selection criteria for the position of CEO prior to a recruitment process being undertaken. The local government must approve by a resolution of an absolute majority of council, a job description form which sets out the duties and responsibilities of the position (5(2)(a)) and details the selection criteria (5(2)(b)).

		<p>A position vacancy must be advertised in accordance with 5.36(4) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> and 18A of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i>. A JDF form must also be made available on the local government's official website.</p> <p>As part of the process of selection, a panel must be established to conduct the recruitment and selection process. The selection panel must be made up of council members and at least one independent person who is not a current councillor or employee of the local government. The independent person should have experience in the recruitment and selection of CEO's and / or senior executives. It is the role of the selection panel to recommend one or more suitable applicants to the position of CEO based on the selection criteria outlined in the JDF.</p> <p>A final decision to make an offer of appointment to the position of CEO must be made by an absolute majority of council. The resolution must also approve the proposed terms of the contract.</p> <p>Appointment of the successful applicant to CEO must also be made by an absolute majority decision of council after negotiation of the final contract terms between the successful applicant and the local government and following the applicant's acceptance of the offer.</p>
<p>Regulation 18D – Performance review of CEO, local government's duties as to</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 - 18D Repealed</i></p>	<p>Regulation 18D is being repealed. The prescribed model standards for performance review outlined at Division 3 of the of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020</i> (clauses 15-19) replace 18D.</p> <p>Local governments are required to review the performance of a CEO annually in accordance with section 5.38 of the Act. Division 3 sets out the process for performance review, including establishing the performance criteria upon which to base the review and the requirement to endorse the performance review by absolute majority on its completion.</p> <p>The CEO must be notified of the results of the performance review, including any issues identified in relation to the performance of the CEO, and how the local government proposes to address and manage those issues.</p>

<p>Regulation FA – Prescribed model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination (Act s.5.39A(1)).</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – 18FA is a new clause.</p>	<p>Regulation 18FA sets out the model standards for local governments in relation to the recruitment, performance review and termination of employment of a local government CEO.</p>
<p>Regulation 18FB – Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO recruitment (Act s.5.39B(7))</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – 18FB is a new clause.</p>	<p>Regulation 18FB requires local governments to certify that they have adopted the standards under section 5.39B of the Act. 18FB applies in relation to the recruitment and appointment of a local government CEO.</p> <p>A copy of the resolution to appoint the CEO in accordance with the adopted standards must be provided to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries within 14 days of the decision to appoint.</p>
<p>Regulation 18FC – Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO termination (Act s.5.39B(7)).</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – 18FC is a new clause</p>	<p>Regulation FC requires a local government to certify that they have adopted the standards under section 5.39B of the Act. 18FC applies in relation to the termination of a CEO's employment contract.</p> <p>If a local government makes the decision to terminate the employment of the CEO, it must certify that the CEO's employment contract was terminated in accordance with the adopted standards for termination as outlined in regulations.</p>
<p><b>Division 2 – Standards for recruitment of CEOs</b></p> <p>Regulation 4 – Application of Division</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – Reg 4 replaces 18C.</p>	<p>Regulation 18C of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> is repealed. Instead, Regulation 4 applies in relation to Division 2 - the recruitment and selection process of a local government CEO.</p> <p>Division 2 does not apply in the event that the position of CEO is to be filled by a person in a prescribed class or in relation to the renewal of the CEO's contract, unless the CEO has been employed for a period of 10 or more consecutive years and a period of 10 or more years has elapsed since a selection and recruitment process was carried out</p>



		For the purposes of 5.36(5)(a), a person in a prescribed class includes a person who is and will continue to be employed by another local government and is contracted for a period of less than five years, or the person will be acting in the position of CEO for a period of less than one year.
Regulation 5 – Determination of selection criteria and approval of job description form.	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 5 is a new clause.</i>	<p>Regulation 5 deals with determining the selection criteria for the position of CEO. It is a requirement that the local government base the selection criteria on the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications necessary to effectively perform the role and responsibilities associated with the position.</p> <p>The local government must approve (by absolute majority) a job description form (JDF) that sets out the duties and responsibilities of the position and the selection criteria.</p>
Regulation 6 – Advertising Requirements	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 6 is a new clause.</i>	Regulation 6 deals with advertising the position of CEO where the position becomes vacant or the incumbent has held the position for 10 or more consecutive years. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act (s 5.36(4)) that upon the position of CEO becoming vacant, it must be advertised in a manner prescribed. Regulation 18A of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> sets out the requirements for State-wide advertising.
Regulation 7 – Job description form to be made available by local government.	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 7 is a new clause.</i>	Regulation 7 requires a local government to provide a copy of the JDF to a person upon request. The local government must either provide the web address where the JDF can be downloaded or alternatively if the person is unable to access the website, email a copy, or send a hard copy in the post.
Regulation 8 – Establishment of selection panel for appointment of CEO.	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 8 is a new clause.</i>	Regulation 8 requires a local government to establish a selection panel to conduct the selection and recruitment process for appointment of a person to the position of CEO.

		<p>The selection panel must comprise of council members and at least one independent person who is not a councillor nor an employee of the local government.</p> <p>It is recommended that the independent person or persons have relevant experience in the recruitment and selection of CEO's and / or senior executives. It is the role of the selection panel to recommend one or more suitable applicants to the position of CEO based on the selection criteria outlined in the JDF.</p> <p>It is at the discretion of the local government to determine the number of people on the selection panel.</p>
<p>Regulation 9 – Recommendation by selection panel.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 9 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>It is the role of the selection panel to recommend a preferred applicant or applicants for appointment to the position of CEO. Regulation 9 requires the selection panel to make an assessment of each applicant's ability to perform the role of CEO based on their knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills as measured against the selection criteria outlined in the JDF.</p> <p>If the selection panel considers none of the applicants suitable for appointment to the position, they must advise the local government of that fact.</p> <p>If the selection panel considers none of the applicants suitable for appointment to the position of CEO, they may recommend changes be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria.</p> <p>The selection panel must act in an impartial and transparent manner and in accordance with the principles set out in section 5.40 of the Act.</p> <p>The selection panel is responsible for ensuring that any applicant or applicants they recommend for appointment have demonstrated they meet the selection criteria and have had their qualifications verified. The selection panel must exercise due diligence in verifying referees, work history, skills and any other claims made by the applicant.</p>

<p>Regulation 10 – New process to be commenced if no suitable applicants.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 10 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>If the selection panel finds that none of the applicants are suitable to be appointed to the position of CEO, they must advise the local government in accordance with 9(2)(b).</p> <p>Regulation 10 requires the recruitment and selection process to be undertaken again if the selection panel advises the local government it considers none of the applicants to be suitable for appointment to the position of CEO.</p> <p>Unless the selection panel recommends changes be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria, clause 5 does not apply. In this instance, the original JDF previously approved by the local government (under clause 5) is the JDF form for the purposes of the new recruitment and selection process.</p>
<p>Regulation 11 – Offer of appointment to position of CEO.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 11 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 11 requires the decision to make an offer of employment to an applicant to the position of CEO to be made by an absolute majority of council.</p> <p>The council must approve making the offer of employment to the preferred applicant and the proposed terms of the contract to be entered into.</p>
<p>Regulation 12 – Appointment to position of CEO</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 12 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 12 deals with the appointment of the successful applicant to the position of CEO subsequent to the offer of appointment having been made, the final terms of the contract agreed to and the applicant accepting the offer of employment.</p> <p>The appointment of the successful applicant to the position of CEO by the local government must be made by an absolute majority of council. Council must endorse the appointment and approve the terms of the negotiated contract.</p>

<p>Regulation 13 – Recruitment to be undertaken on expiry of certain CEO contracts.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 13 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 13 applies if a local government CEO has held the position for a period of 10 or more consecutive years upon expiry of the CEO’s contract. Regulation 13 also applies if a period of 10 or more consecutive years has elapsed since a recruitment and selection process for the position has occurred and the incumbent CEO has notified the local government that they wish to have their contract of employment renewed upon its expiry.</p> <p>Subclause 13(2)(a)(ii) is drafted to allow for the possibility that a CEO who has, for example, held office for 10 years and has their contract renewed for another 5-year term following the recruitment and selection process. In that case, clause 13(2)(a)(ii) will operate to ensure that another 10 years can pass before another recruitment process is required. In the absence of clause 13(2)(a)(ii), when the renewed term came to an end, the CEO would have held the position for 15 consecutive years and clause 13(2)(a)(i) would operate to require a process to be undertaken.</p> <p>The local government must carry out the recruitment and selection process before expiry of the incumbent CEO’s contract.</p> <p>The incumbent CEO may have their contract of employment renewed upon expiry if they are selected in accordance with the recruitment and selection process at subclause (3).</p>
<p>Regulation 14 – Confidentiality of information</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 14 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 14 requires confidentiality to be observed by the local government as part of the process of recruitment and selection. Information obtained as part of this process must only be used for, or in connection with, recruitment and selection.</p>
<p><b>Division 3 – Standards for review of performance of CEOs</b></p> <p>Regulation 15 sets out the standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the review of the performance of CEOs.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 15 replaces regulation 18D which is repealed.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 18D is repealed. Division 3 effectively deals with the requirement to consider the performance review of the CEO in accordance with section 5.38 of the Act.</p>

<p>Regulation 16 – Performance review process to be agreed between local government and CEO.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 16 is a new clause.</i></p>	<p>Regulation 16 requires the local government and the CEO to agree on the process for performance review and any performance criteria that are additional to those specified in the contract. For example, the local government and the CEO may wish to include additional performance criteria after 1 or 2 years into a contract term as circumstances and priorities change.</p> <p>The process for performance review must be consistent with clauses 17 (Carrying out a performance review), 18 (Endorsement of the performance review) and 19 (CEO to be notified of the results of the performance review).</p> <p>The process for performance review and the selection criteria upon which the review will be based must be set out in a written document.</p>
<p>Regulation 17 – Carrying out a performance review</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 17 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 17 deals with how a review of a CEO's performance must be carried out. A performance review must be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner. It must also be comprehensive, and evidence based. The CEO's performance must be measured against the performance criteria as specified in the CEO's contract and any other performance criteria as agreed and set out in the documented performance review process.</p>
<p>Regulation 18 – Endorsement of performance review by local government</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 18 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 18 requires that a performance review is endorsed by an absolute majority of council upon completion.</p>
<p>Regulation 19 – CEO to be notified of results of performance review</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 19 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 19(a) requires a local government to notify the CEO of the results of the performance review in writing. If the review identifies any performance issues, the local government must outline how it proposes to address and manage those issues.</p>

		The local government must notify the CEO of the results of the performance review after it has been endorsed by an absolute majority of council.
<p><b>Division 4 – Standards for termination of employment of CEOs.</b></p> <p>Regulation 20 – sets out the standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 20 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 20 provides an overview of Division 4 – Standards for termination of employment of CEOs.</p>
<p>Regulation 21 – General principles applying to any termination.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 21 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 21 outlines the general principles that must apply to any termination of a CEO's employment contract. Decisions relating to termination of employment must be made in an impartial and transparent manner.</p> <p>A CEO must be afforded procedural fairness in relation to the process for termination of employment. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) being informed of their rights, entitlements and responsibilities;</li> <li>b) notification of any allegations against the CEO;</li> <li>c) being given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations;</li> <li>d) and genuinely considering any response provided by the CEO to the allegations.</li> </ol>
<p>Regulation 22 – Additional principles applying to termination for performance related reasons.</p>	<p><i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 22 is a new clause</i></p>	<p>Regulation 22(1) applies if the local government proposes to terminate the employment of a CEO based on the CEO's work-related performance.</p> <p>Subclauses 22(2)(a)-(d) and 22(3) require that a CEO's employment must not be terminated unless the local government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• previously identified any issues with the CEO's performance as part of the performance review process;</li> <li>• informed the CEO of the performance issues;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• given the CEO reasonable opportunity to address and implement a plan to remedy the performance issues;</li> <li>• determined that the CEO has not remedied the performance issues to the satisfaction of the local government; and</li> <li>• 22(3) reviewed the performance of the CEO within the preceding 12 months in accordance with 5.38(1) of the Local Government Act.</li> </ul>
Regulation 23 – Decision to terminate.	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 23 is a new clause</i>	Regulation 23 requires that a decision to terminate the employment of a CEO must be made by an absolute majority of council.
Regulation 24 – Notice of termination of employment.	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 – Reg 24 is a new clause</i>	Regulation 24 requires that a local government must provide notice in writing of the decision to terminate the employment of a CEO. Written notice must include the local government’s reasons for termination.

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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LG301

Local Government Act 1995

**Local Government (Administration)  
Amendment Regulations 2021****SL 2021/14**

Made by the Governor in Executive Council.

**1. Citation**

These regulations are the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021*.

**2. Commencement**

These regulations come into operation as follows —

- (a) regulations 1 and 2 — on the day on which these regulations are published in the *Gazette*;



- (b) the rest of the regulations — on the day on which the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* section 22 comes into operation.

**3. Regulations amended**

These regulations amend the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

**4. Regulation 18A amended**

- (1) In regulation 18A(1) delete “is to advertise the position in a newspaper circulating generally through the State” and insert:

must give Statewide public notice of the position

- (2) In regulation 18A(2):

- (a) delete “An advertisement referred to in subregulation (1) is to” and insert:

The Statewide public notice must

- (b) after paragraph (d) insert:

- (da) a website address where the job description form for the position can be accessed; and

**5. Regulations 18C and 18D deleted**

Delete regulations 18C and 18D.

**6. Regulations 18FA to 18FC inserted**

After regulation 18F insert:

**18FA. Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination (Act s. 5.39A(1))**

Schedule 2 sets out model standards for local governments in relation to the following —

- (a) the recruitment of CEOs;
- (b) the review of the performance of CEOs;
- (c) the termination of the employment of CEOs.

**18FB. Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO recruitment (Act s. 5.39B(7))**

- (1) In this regulation —  
*adopted standards* means —
  - (a) the standards adopted by a local government under section 5.39B; or
  - (b) if the local government has not adopted standards under that section, the standards taken under section 5.39B(5) to be the local government's adopted standards.
- (2) This regulation applies if —
  - (a) a local government employs a person in the position of CEO of the local government; and
  - (b) the local government's adopted standards in relation to the recruitment of CEOs apply to the employment.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the person is employed in the position of CEO, the local government must, by resolution\*, certify that the person was employed in accordance with the local government's adopted standards in relation to the recruitment of CEOs.

\* Absolute majority required.

- (4) The local government must give a copy of the resolution to the Departmental CEO within 14 days after the resolution is passed by the local government.

**18FC. Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO termination (Act s. 5.39B(7))**

- (1) In this regulation —  
*adopted standards* has the meaning given in regulation 18FB(1).
- (2) This regulation applies if a local government terminates the employment of the CEO of the local government.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the CEO's employment is terminated, the local government must, by resolution\*, certify that the CEO's employment was terminated in accordance with the local government's adopted standards in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.

\* Absolute majority required.

- (4) The local government must give a copy of the resolution to the Departmental CEO within 14 days after the resolution is passed by the local government.

7. **Schedule 2 inserted**

After Schedule 1 insert:

**Schedule 2 — Model standards for CEO  
recruitment, performance and termination**

[r. 18FA]

**Division 1 — Preliminary provisions**

1. **Citation**

These are the [*insert name of local government*] *Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination*.

2. **Terms used**

(1) In these standards —

*Act* means the *Local Government Act 1995*;

*additional performance criteria* means performance criteria agreed by the local government and the CEO under clause 16(1)(b);

*applicant* means a person who submits an application to the local government for the position of CEO;

*contract of employment* means the written contract, as referred to in section 5.39 of the Act, that governs the employment of the CEO;

*contractual performance criteria* means the performance criteria specified in the CEO's contract of employment as referred to in section 5.39(3)(b) of the Act;

*job description form* means the job description form for the position of CEO approved by the local government under clause 5(2);

*local government* means the [*insert name of local government*];

*selection criteria* means the selection criteria for the position of CEO determined by the local government under clause 5(1) and set out in the job description form;

*selection panel* means the selection panel established by the local government under clause 8 for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.

(2) Other terms used in these standards that are also used in the Act have the same meaning as they have in the Act, unless the contrary intention appears.

**Division 2 — Standards for recruitment of CEOs**

3. **Overview of Division**

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the recruitment of CEOs.

**4. Application of Division**

- (1) Except as provided in subclause (2), this Division applies to any recruitment and selection process carried out by the local government for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.
- (2) This Division does not apply —
  - (a) if it is proposed that the position of CEO be filled by a person in a class prescribed for the purposes of section 5.36(5A) of the Act; or
  - (b) in relation to a renewal of the CEO's contract of employment, except in the circumstances referred to in clause 13(2).

**5. Determination of selection criteria and approval of job description form**

- (1) The local government must determine the selection criteria for the position of CEO, based on the local government's consideration of the knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills necessary to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of the position of CEO of the local government.
- (2) The local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve a job description form for the position of CEO which sets out —
  - (a) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and
  - (b) the selection criteria for the position determined in accordance with subclause (1).

**6. Advertising requirements**

- (1) If the position of CEO is vacant, the local government must ensure it complies with section 5.36(4) of the Act and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A.
- (2) If clause 13 applies, the local government must advertise the position of CEO in the manner referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A as if the position was vacant.

**7. Job description form to be made available by local government**

If a person requests the local government to provide to the person a copy of the job description form, the local government must —

- (a) inform the person of the website address referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A(2)(da); or
- (b) if the person advises the local government that the person is unable to access that website address —
  - (i) email a copy of the job description form to an email address provided by the person; or

- (ii) mail a copy of the job description form to a postal address provided by the person.

**8. Establishment of selection panel for employment of CEO**

- (1) In this clause —  
*independent person* means a person other than any of the following —
  - (a) a council member;
  - (b) an employee of the local government;
  - (c) a human resources consultant engaged by the local government.
- (2) The local government must establish a selection panel to conduct the recruitment and selection process for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.
- (3) The selection panel must comprise —
  - (a) council members (the number of which must be determined by the local government); and
  - (b) at least 1 independent person.

**9. Recommendation by selection panel**

- (1) Each applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills must be assessed against the selection criteria by or on behalf of the selection panel.
- (2) Following the assessment referred to in subclause (1), the selection panel must provide to the local government —
  - (a) a summary of the selection panel's assessment of each applicant; and
  - (b) unless subclause (3) applies, the selection panel's recommendation as to which applicant or applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO.
- (3) If the selection panel considers that none of the applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO, the selection panel must recommend to the local government —
  - (a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position be carried out in accordance with these standards; and
  - (b) the changes (if any) that the selection panel considers should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria.
- (4) The selection panel must act under subclauses (1), (2) and (3) —
  - (a) in an impartial and transparent manner; and
  - (b) in accordance with the principles set out in section 5.40 of the Act.

- (5) The selection panel must not recommend an applicant to the local government under subclause (2)(b) unless the selection panel has —
  - (a) assessed the applicant as having demonstrated that the applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills meet the selection criteria; and
  - (b) verified any academic, or other tertiary level, qualifications the applicant claims to hold; and
  - (c) whether by contacting referees provided by the applicant or making any other inquiries the selection panel considers appropriate, verified the applicant's character, work history, skills, performance and any other claims made by the applicant.
- (6) The local government must have regard to, but is not bound to accept, a recommendation made by the selection panel under this clause.

**10. Application of cl. 5 where new process carried out**

- (1) This clause applies if the local government accepts a recommendation by the selection panel under clause 9(3)(a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO be carried out in accordance with these standards.
- (2) Unless the local government considers that changes should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria —
  - (a) clause 5 does not apply to the new recruitment and selection process; and
  - (b) the job description form previously approved by the local government under clause 5(2) is the job description form for the purposes of the new recruitment and selection process.

**11. Offer of employment in position of CEO**

Before making an applicant an offer of employment in the position of CEO, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve —

- (a) the making of the offer of employment to the applicant; and
- (b) the proposed terms of the contract of employment to be entered into by the local government and the applicant.

**12. Variations to proposed terms of contract of employment**

- (1) This clause applies if an applicant who is made an offer of employment in the position of CEO under clause 11 negotiates with the local government a contract of employment (the *negotiated contract*) containing terms different to the proposed terms approved by the local government under clause 11(b).

- (2) Before entering into the negotiated contract with the applicant, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve the terms of the negotiated contract.

**13. Recruitment to be undertaken on expiry of certain CEO contracts**

- (1) In this clause —  
*commencement day* means the day on which the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021* regulation 6 comes into operation.
- (2) This clause applies if —
  - (a) upon the expiry of the contract of employment of the person (the *incumbent CEO*) who holds the position of CEO —
    - (i) the incumbent CEO will have held the position for a period of 10 or more consecutive years, whether that period commenced before, on or after commencement day; and
    - (ii) a period of 10 or more consecutive years has elapsed since a recruitment and selection process for the position was carried out, whether that process was carried out before, on or after commencement day;
  - and
  - (b) the incumbent CEO has notified the local government that they wish to have their contract of employment renewed upon its expiry.
- (3) Before the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment, the local government must carry out a recruitment and selection process in accordance with these standards to select a person to be employed in the position of CEO after the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment.
- (4) This clause does not prevent the incumbent CEO's contract of employment from being renewed upon its expiry if the incumbent CEO is selected in the recruitment and selection process referred to in subclause (3) to be employed in the position of CEO.

**14. Confidentiality of information**

The local government must ensure that information provided to, or obtained by, the local government in the course of a recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO is not disclosed, or made use of, except for the purpose of, or in connection with, that recruitment and selection process.

**Division 3 — Standards for review of performance of CEOs****15. Overview of Division**

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the review of the performance of CEOs.

**16. Performance review process to be agreed between local government and CEO**

- (1) The local government and the CEO must agree on —
  - (a) the process by which the CEO's performance will be reviewed; and
  - (b) any performance criteria to be met by the CEO that are in addition to the contractual performance criteria.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), the process agreed under subclause (1)(a) must be consistent with clauses 17, 18 and 19.
- (3) The matters referred to in subclause (1) must be set out in a written document.

**17. Carrying out a performance review**

- (1) A review of the performance of the CEO by the local government must be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The local government must —
  - (a) collect evidence regarding the CEO's performance in respect of the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria in a thorough and comprehensive manner; and
  - (b) review the CEO's performance against the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria, based on that evidence.

**18. Endorsement of performance review by local government**

Following a review of the performance of the CEO, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, endorse the review.

**19. CEO to be notified of results of performance review**

After the local government has endorsed a review of the performance of the CEO under clause 18, the local government must inform the CEO in writing of —

- (a) the results of the review; and
- (b) if the review identifies any issues about the performance of the CEO — how the local government proposes to address and manage those issues.



## **Division 4 — Standards for termination of employment of CEOs**

### **20. Overview of Division**

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.

### **21. General principles applying to any termination**

- (1) The local government must make decisions relating to the termination of the employment of a CEO in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The local government must accord a CEO procedural fairness in relation to the process for the termination of the CEO's employment, including —
  - (a) informing the CEO of the CEO's rights, entitlements and responsibilities in relation to the termination process; and
  - (b) notifying the CEO of any allegations against the CEO; and
  - (c) giving the CEO a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations; and
  - (d) genuinely considering any response given by the CEO in response to the allegations.

### **22. Additional principles applying to termination for performance-related reasons**

- (1) This clause applies if the local government proposes to terminate the employment of a CEO for reasons related to the CEO's performance.
- (2) The local government must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the local government has —
  - (a) in the course of carrying out the review of the CEO's performance referred to in subclause (3) or any other review of the CEO's performance, identified any issues (the *performance issues*) related to the performance of the CEO; and
  - (b) informed the CEO of the performance issues; and
  - (c) given the CEO a reasonable opportunity to address, and implement a plan to remedy, the performance issues; and
  - (d) determined that the CEO has not remedied the performance issues to the satisfaction of the local government.
- (3) The local government must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the local government has, within the preceding 12-month period, reviewed the performance of the CEO under section 5.38(1) of the Act.

**23. Decision to terminate**

Any decision by the local government to terminate the employment of a CEO must be made by resolution of an absolute majority of the council.

**24. Notice of termination of employment**

- (1) If the local government terminates the employment of a CEO, the local government must give the CEO notice in writing of the termination.
- (2) The notice must set out the local government's reasons for terminating the employment of the CEO.

N. HAGLEY, Clerk of the Executive Council.

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**City of Joondalup**

**Model Standards For**

**CEO Recruitment,**

**Performance and Termination**

## Table of Contents

<b>Division 1 — Preliminary provisions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Citation.....	3
2. Terms used .....	3
<b>Division 2 — Standards for recruitment of CEOs .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3. Overview of Division.....	3
4. Application of Division .....	3
5. Determination of selection criteria and approval of job description form .....	4
6. Advertising requirements.....	4
7. Job description form to be made available by <b>the City</b> .....	4
8. Establishment of selection panel for employment of CEO .....	4
9. Recommendation by selection panel.....	5
10. Application of cl. 5 where new process carried out .....	5
11. Offer of employment in position of CEO .....	5
12. Variations to proposed terms of contract of employment .....	6
13. Recruitment to be undertaken on expiry of certain CEO contracts.....	6
14. Confidentiality of information .....	6
<b>Division 3 — Standards for review of performance of CEOs .....</b>	<b>6</b>
15. Overview of Division.....	6
16. Performance review process to be agreed between <b>Council</b> and CEO.....	7
17. Carrying out a performance review.....	7
18. Endorsement of performance review by <b>Council</b> .....	7
19. CEO to be notified of results of performance review.....	7
<b>Division 4 — Standards for termination of employment of CEOs .....</b>	<b>7</b>
20. Overview of Division.....	7
21. General principles applying to any termination .....	7
22. Additional principles applying to termination for performance-related reasons.....	8
23. Decision to terminate.....	8
24. Notice of termination of employment .....	8

## Model Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination

These *City Model Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination* are in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

### Division 1 — Preliminary provisions

#### 1. Citation

These are the **City** *Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination*.

#### 2. Terms used

(1) In these standards —

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1995*;

**additional performance criteria** means performance criteria agreed by the **Council** and the CEO under clause 16(1)(b);

**applicant** means a person who submits an application to the **City** for the position of CEO;

**City** means the City of Joondalup, being a local government established as a body corporate under section 2.5 of the Act;

**contract of employment** means the written contract, as referred to in section 5.39 of the Act, that governs the employment of the CEO;

**contractual performance criteria** means the performance criteria specified in the CEO's contract of employment as referred to in section 5.39(3)(b) of the Act;

**Council** means the Council of the City;

**job description form** means the job description form for the position of CEO approved by the **Council** under clause 5(2);

**selection criteria** means the selection criteria for the position of CEO determined by the **Council** under clause 5(1) and set out in the job description form;

**selection panel** means the selection panel established by the **Council** under clause 8 for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.

(2) Other terms used in these standards that are also used in the Act have the same meaning as they have in the Act, unless the contrary intention appears.

### Division 2 — Standards for recruitment of CEOs

#### 3. Overview of Division

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the **City** in relation to the recruitment of CEOs.

#### 4. Application of Division

(1) Except as provided in subclause (2), this Division applies to any recruitment and selection process carried out by the **City** for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.

(2) This Division does not apply —

(a) if it is proposed that the position of CEO be filled by a person in a class prescribed for the purposes of section 5.36(5A) of the Act; or

(b) in relation to a renewal of the CEO's contract of employment, except in the circumstances referred to in clause 13(2).

## 5. Determination of selection criteria and approval of job description form

- (1) The **Council** must determine the selection criteria for the position of CEO, based on the **Council's** consideration of the knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills necessary to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of the position of CEO of the **City**.
- (2) The **Council** must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the Council, approve a job description form for the position of CEO which sets out —
  - (a) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and
  - (b) the selection criteria for the position determined in accordance with subclause (1).

## 6. Advertising requirements

- (1) If the position of CEO is vacant, the **City** must ensure it complies with section 5.36(4) of the Act and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A.
- (2) If clause 13 applies, the **City** must advertise the position of CEO in the manner referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A as if the position was vacant.

## 7. Job description form to be made available by the City

If a person requests the **City** to provide to the person a copy of the job description form, the **City** must —

- (a) inform the person of the website address referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A(2)(da); or
- (b) if the person advises the **City** that the person is unable to access that website address —
  - (i) email a copy of the job description form to an email address provided by the person; or
  - (ii) mail a copy of the job description form to a postal address provided by the person.

## 8. Establishment of selection panel for employment of CEO

- (1) In this clause —  
**independent person** means a person other than any of the following —
  - (a) a council member;
  - (b) an employee of the **City**;
  - (c) a human resources consultant engaged by the **City**.
- (2) The **Council** must establish a selection panel to conduct the recruitment and selection process for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.
- (3) The selection panel must comprise —
  - (a) council members (the number of which must be determined by the **Council**); and
  - (b) at least 1 independent person.

## **9. Recommendation by selection panel**

- (1) Each applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills must be assessed against the selection criteria by or on behalf of the selection panel.
- (2) Following the assessment referred to in subclause (1), the selection panel must provide to the **Council** —
  - (a) a summary of the selection panel's assessment of each applicant; and
  - (b) unless subclause (3) applies, the selection panel's recommendation as to which applicant or applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO.
- (3) If the selection panel considers that none of the applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO, the selection panel must recommend to the **Council** —
  - (a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position be carried out in accordance with these standards; and
  - (b) the changes (if any) that the selection panel considers should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria.
- (4) The selection panel must act under subclauses (1), (2) and (3) —
  - (a) in an impartial and transparent manner; and
  - (b) in accordance with the principles set out in section 5.40 of the Act.
- (5) The selection panel must not recommend an applicant to the **Council** under subclause (2)(b) unless the selection panel has —
  - (a) assessed the applicant as having demonstrated that the applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills meet the selection criteria; and
  - (b) verified any academic, or other tertiary level, qualifications the applicant claims to hold; and
  - (c) whether by contacting referees provided by the applicant or making any other inquiries the selection panel considers appropriate, verified the applicant's character, work history, skills, performance and any other claims made by the applicant.
- (6) The **Council** must have regard to, but is not bound to accept, a recommendation made by the selection panel under this clause.

## **10. Application of cl. 5 where new process carried out**

- (1) This clause applies if the **Council** accepts a recommendation by the selection panel under clause 9(3)(a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO be carried out in accordance with these standards.
- (2) Unless the **Council** considers that changes should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria —
  - (a) clause 5 does not apply to the new recruitment and selection process; and
  - (b) the job description form previously approved by the **Council** under clause 5(2) is the job description form for the purposes of the new recruitment and selection process.

## **11. Offer of employment in position of CEO**

Before making an applicant an offer of employment in the position of CEO, the **Council** must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the Council, approve —

- (a) the making of the offer of employment to the applicant; and

- (b) the proposed terms of the contract of employment to be entered into by the City and the applicant.

## 12. Variations to proposed terms of contract of employment

- (1) This clause applies if an applicant who is made an offer of employment in the position of CEO under clause 11 negotiates with the **Council** a contract of employment (the **negotiated contract**) containing terms different to the proposed terms approved by the **Council** under clause 11(b).
- (2) Before entering into the negotiated contract with the applicant, the **Council** must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the Council, approve the terms of the negotiated contract.

## 13. Recruitment to be undertaken on expiry of certain CEO contracts

- (1) In this clause —  
**commencement day** means the day on which the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021* regulation 6 comes into operation.
- (2) This clause applies if —
  - (a) upon the expiry of the contract of employment of the person (the **incumbent CEO**) who holds the position of CEO —
    - (i) the incumbent CEO will have held the position for a period of 10 or more consecutive years, whether that period commenced before, on or after commencement day; and
    - (ii) a period of 10 or more consecutive years has elapsed since a recruitment and selection process for the position was carried out, whether that process was carried out before, on or after commencement day;
  - and
  - (b) the incumbent CEO has notified the **Council** that they wish to have their contract of employment renewed upon its expiry.
- (3) Before the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment, the **City** must carry out a recruitment and selection process in accordance with these standards to select a person to be employed in the position of CEO after the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment.
- (4) This clause does not prevent the incumbent CEO's contract of employment from being renewed upon its expiry if the incumbent CEO is selected in the recruitment and selection process referred to in subclause (3) to be employed in the position of CEO.

## 14. Confidentiality of information

The **City** must ensure that information provided to, or obtained by, the **City** in the course of a recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO is not disclosed, or made use of, except for the purpose of, or in connection with, that recruitment and selection process.

## Division 3 — Standards for review of performance of CEOs

### 15. Overview of Division

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the **City** in relation to the review of the performance of CEOs.



**16. Performance review process to be agreed between Council and CEO**

- (1) The Council and the CEO must agree on —
  - (a) the process by which the CEO's performance will be reviewed; and
  - (b) any performance criteria to be met by the CEO that are in addition to the contractual performance criteria.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), the process agreed under subclause (1)(a) must be consistent with clauses 17, 18 and 19.
- (3) The matters referred to in subclause (1) must be set out in a written document.

**17. Carrying out a performance review**

- (1) A review of the performance of the CEO by the Council must be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The Council must —
  - (a) collect evidence regarding the CEO's performance in respect of the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria in a thorough and comprehensive manner; and
  - (b) review the CEO's performance against the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria, based on that evidence.

**18. Endorsement of performance review by Council**

Following a review of the performance of the CEO, the Council must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the Council, endorse the review.

**19. CEO to be notified of results of performance review**

After the Council has endorsed a review of the performance of the CEO under clause 18, the City must inform the CEO in writing of —

- (a) the results of the review; and
- (b) if the review identifies any issues about the performance of the CEO — how the Council proposes to address and manage those issues.

**Division 4 — Standards for termination of employment of CEOs**

**20. Overview of Division**

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the City in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.

**21. General principles applying to any termination**

- (1) The Council must make decisions relating to the termination of the employment of a CEO in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The Council must accord a CEO procedural fairness in relation to the process for the termination of the CEO's employment, including —
  - (a) informing the CEO of the CEO's rights, entitlements and responsibilities in relation to the termination process; and
  - (b) notifying the CEO of any allegations against the CEO; and
  - (c) giving the CEO a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations; and

- (d) genuinely considering any response given by the CEO in response to the allegations.

**22. Additional principles applying to termination for performance-related reasons**

- (1) This clause applies if the **Council** proposes to terminate the employment of a CEO for reasons related to the CEO's performance.
- (2) The **Council** must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the **Council** has —
  - (a) in the course of carrying out the review of the CEO's performance referred to in subclause (3) or any other review of the CEO's performance, identified any issues (the **performance issues**) related to the performance of the CEO; and
  - (b) informed the CEO of the performance issues; and
  - (c) given the CEO a reasonable opportunity to address, and implement a plan to remedy, the performance issues; and
  - (d) determined that the CEO has not remedied the performance issues to the satisfaction of the **Council**.
- (3) The **Council** must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the **Council** has, within the preceding 12-month period, reviewed the performance of the CEO under section 5.38(1) of the Act.

**23. Decision to terminate**

Any decision by the **Council** to terminate the employment of a CEO must be made by resolution of an absolute majority of the Council.

**24. Notice of termination of employment**

- (1) If the **Council** terminates the employment of a CEO, the **City** must give the CEO notice in writing of the termination.
- (2) The notice must set out the **Council's** reasons for terminating the employment of the CEO.