



**PROCEDURES FOR
STRATEGY SESSIONS,
BRIEFING SESSIONS AND
COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

STRATEGY SESSIONS

The following procedures for the conduct of Strategy Sessions were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

INTRODUCTION

The modern role of Council is to set policy and strategy, and provide goals and targets for the local government (the City). The employees, through the Chief Executive Officer, have the task of implementing the decisions of Council.

A well-structured decision-making process that has established protocols will provide the elected body with the opportunity to:

- have input into the future strategic direction set by Council
- seek points of clarification
- ask questions
- be given adequate time to research issues
- be given maximum time to debate matters before Council,

and ensures that the elected body is fully informed to make the best possible decisions for the City of Joondalup community.

PURPOSE OF STRATEGY SESSIONS

Strategy Sessions will involve Elected Members, employees as determined by the Chief Executive Officer and, where appropriate, external advisors and provide the opportunity to exchange information and ideas for the development of the City of Joondalup.

Strategy Sessions will generally involve projects or matters that are in the early planning stages and are some time away from being presented to Council for consideration of a formal decision. During Strategy Sessions:

- the Chief Executive Officer seeks input from Elected Members as the research and further drafting concepts for the report progress
- Elected Members are fully informed on matters to enable decisions to be made in the best interests of the City
- Elected Members represent the views of the community in matters.

The input through open and free-flowing exchange of ideas and the willingness to contribute to the Strategy Sessions will provide invaluable direction to the Chief Executive Officer for the research and eventual report on the matter.

PROCEDURES FOR STRATEGY SESSIONS

The following procedures will apply to Strategy Sessions that are conducted by the City.

- 1 Strategy Sessions will be closed to the public and all agendas and supporting material, including presentations will be deemed Confidential.
- 2 Where considered appropriate to ensure Elected Members are fully informed on a matter, the proponent for a proposal listed on the agenda may be invited to attend a Strategy Session to provide a presentation, and will be present for so much of that session that applies to their proposal.
- 3 Where a proponent has provided a presentation to a Strategy Session, a report on the matter raised during the presentation will not be progressed to the next scheduled meeting of Council unless agreed to by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 4 Dates and times for Strategy Sessions will be set well in advance where practicable.
- 5 The Chief Executive Officer will ensure timely written notice and a confidential agenda for each Strategy Session will be provided to all Elected Members.
- 6 The Mayor is to be the Presiding Member at the Strategy Sessions. If the Mayor is unable or unwilling to assume the role of Presiding Member, then the Deputy Mayor may preside at the Strategy Session. If the Deputy Mayor is unable or unwilling, those Elected Members present may select one from amongst themselves to preside at the session.
- 7 The Presiding Member at the commencement of each Strategy Session shall:
 - (a) advise Elected Members that there will be no debate on any matters raised during the session
 - (b) ensure that the relevant employee, through liaising with the Chief Executive Officer, provides a detailed presentation on matters listed on the agenda for the session
 - (c) encourage all Elected Members present to participate in the session and the sharing and gathering of information
 - (d) ensure that all Elected Members have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the session
 - (e) ensure the time available for the session is liberal enough to allow for all matters of relevance to be identified.
- 8 Elected Members, employees and relevant consultants shall disclose their interests on any matter listed for the Strategy Sessions. When disclosing an interest the following is suggested:
 - (a) Interests are to be disclosed in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007* and the City's Code of Conduct.

- (b) Elected Members disclosing a financial interest will not participate in that part of the session relating to the matter to which their interest applies and shall depart the room.
 - (c) Employees with a financial interest in a matter may also consider it appropriate to depart the room when the matter is being considered, however there is no legislative requirement to do so.
- 9 Elected Members have the opportunity to request matters to be included on the agenda for consideration at a future Strategy Session by:
 - (a) a request to the Chief Executive Officer
or
 - (b) a request made during the Strategy Session.
- 10 A record shall be kept of all Strategy Sessions. As no decisions are made at a Strategy Session, the record need only be a general record of the items covered but shall record any disclosure of interests as declared by individuals. A copy of the record is to be forwarded to all Elected Members.

BRIEFING SESSIONS

The following procedures for the conduct of Briefing Sessions were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

INTRODUCTION

The modern role of Council is to set policy and strategy, and provide goals and targets for the local government (the City). The employees, through the Chief Executive Officer, have the task of implementing the decisions of Council.

A well-structured decision-making process that has established protocols will provide the elected body with the opportunity to:

- have input into the future strategic direction set by Council
- seek points of clarification
- ask questions
- be given adequate time to research issues
- be given maximum time to debate matters before Council,

and ensures that the elected body is fully informed to make the best possible decisions for the City of Joondalup community.

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING SESSIONS

Briefing Sessions will involve Elected Members, employees as determined by the Chief Executive Officer and external advisors (where appropriate) and will be open to the public.

Briefing Sessions will provide the opportunity for Elected Members to be equally informed and seek additional information on matters prior to the presentation of such matters to the next ordinary meeting of Council for formal consideration and decision.

PROCEDURES FOR BRIEFING SESSIONS

The following procedures will apply to Briefing Sessions that are conducted by the City:

- 1 Briefing Sessions will be open to the public except for matters of a confidential nature. The guide in determining those matters of a confidential nature shall be in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- 2 Dates and times for Briefing Sessions will be set well in advance where practicable, and appropriate notice given to the public.
- 3 The Chief Executive Officer will ensure timely written notice and an agenda for each Briefing Session will be provided to all Elected Members, members of the public and external advisors (where appropriate).

- 4 The Mayor is to be the Presiding Member at Briefing Sessions. If the Mayor is unable or unwilling to assume the role of Presiding Member, then the Deputy Mayor may preside at the Briefing Session. If the Deputy Mayor is unable or unwilling, those Elected Members present may select one from amongst themselves to preside at the Briefing Session.
- 5 There is to be no debate among Elected Members on any matters raised during the Briefing Session.
- 6 Relevant employees of the City will be available to make a presentation or respond to questions on matters listed on the agenda for the Briefing Session.
- 7 All Elected Members will be given a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the Briefing Session.
- 8 The Presiding Member will ensure that time is made available to allow for all matters of relevance to be covered.
- 9 Elected Members, employees and relevant consultants shall disclose their interests on any matters listed for the Briefing Session. When disclosing an interest the following is suggested:
 - (a) Interests are to be disclosed in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007* and the City's *Code of Conduct*.
 - (b) Elected Members disclosing a financial interest will not participate in that part of the session relating to the matter to which their interest applies and shall depart the room.
 - (c) Employees with a financial interest in a matter may also consider it appropriate to depart the room when the matter is being considered, however there is no legislative requirement to do so.
- 10 A record shall be kept of all Briefing Sessions. As no decisions are made at a Briefing Session, the record need only be a general record of the items covered but shall record any disclosure of interests as declared by individuals. A copy of the record is to be forwarded to all Elected Members.
- 11 Elected Members have the opportunity to request the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report on a matter they feel is appropriate to be raised and which is to be presented at a future Briefing Session.

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following procedures for the conduct of Public Question Time at Briefing Sessions were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

Questions asked verbally

- 1 Members of the public are invited to ask questions at Briefing Sessions.
- 2 Questions asked at a Briefing Session must relate to a matter contained on the agenda.
- 3 A register will be provided for those persons wanting to ask questions to enter their name. Persons will be requested to come forward in the order in which they are registered, and to give their name and full address.
- 4 Public question time will be limited to two minutes per member of the public, with a limit of two verbal questions per member of the public.
- 5 Statements are not to precede the asking of a question during public question time. Statements should be made during public statement time.
- 6 Members of the public are encouraged to keep their questions brief to enable everyone who desires to ask a question to have the opportunity to do so.
- 7 Public question time will be allocated a minimum of 15 minutes. Public question time is declared closed following the expiration of the allocated 15 minute time period, or earlier if there are no further questions. The Presiding Member may extend public question time in intervals of 10 minutes, but the total time allocated for public question time is not to exceed 35 minutes in total.
- 8 Questions are to be directed to the Presiding Member and shall be asked politely, in good faith, and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or to be defamatory on a particular Elected Member or City employee. The Presiding Member shall decide to:
 - accept or reject any question and his/her decision is final
 - nominate an Elected Member and/or City employee to respond to the question or
 - take a question on notice. In this case a written response will be provided as soon as possible, and included in the agenda of the next Briefing Session.
- 9 Where an Elected Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is:
 - asking a question at a Briefing Session that is not relevant to a matter listed on the agenda
 - or
 - making a statement during public question time,they may bring it to the attention of the Presiding Member who will make a ruling.

- 10 Questions and any responses will be summarised and included in the agenda of the next Briefing Session.
- 11 It is not intended that question time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the *Local Government Act 1995* or the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act 1992). Where the response to a question(s) would require a substantial commitment of the City's resources, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will determine that it is an unreasonable impost upon the City and may refuse to provide it. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

Questions in Writing – (Residents and/or ratepayers of the City of Joondalup only).

- 1 Only City of Joondalup residents and/or ratepayers may submit questions to the City in writing.
- 2 Questions must relate to a matter contained on the agenda.
- 3 The City will accept a maximum of five written questions per City of Joondalup resident/ratepayer. To ensure equality and consistency, each part of a multi-part question will be treated as a question in its own right.
- 4 Questions lodged by the close of business on the working day immediately prior to the scheduled Briefing Session will be responded to, where possible, at the Briefing Session. These questions, and their responses, will be distributed to Elected Members and made available to the public in written form at the meeting.
- 5 The Presiding Member shall decide to accept or reject any written question and his/her decision is final. Where there is any concern about a question being offensive, defamatory or the like, the Presiding Member will make a determination in relation to the question. Questions determined as offensive, defamatory or the like will not be published. Where the Presiding Member rules questions to be out of order, an announcement to this effect will be made at the meeting, including the reason(s) for the decision.
- 6 The Presiding Member may rule questions out of order where they are substantially the same as questions previously submitted and responded to.
- 7 Written questions unable to be responded to at the Briefing Session will be taken on notice. In this case, a written response will be provided as soon as possible and included on the agenda of the next Briefing Session.
- 8 A person who submits written questions may also ask questions at a Briefing Session and questions asked verbally may be different to those submitted in writing.
- 9 Questions and any response will be summarised and included in the agenda of the next Briefing Session.

- 10 It is not intended that question time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the *Local Government Act 1995* or the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act 1992). Where the response to a question(s) would require a substantial commitment of the City's resources, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will determine that it is an unreasonable impost upon the City and may refuse to provide it. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

DISCLAIMER

Responses to questions not submitted in writing are provided in good faith and as such, should not be relied upon as being either complete or comprehensive.

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT TIME

The following procedures for the conduct of Public Statement Time at Briefing Sessions were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

- 1 Members of the public are invited to make statements at Briefing Sessions.
- 2 Statements made at a Briefing Session must relate to a matter contained on the agenda.
- 3 A register will be provided for those persons wanting to make a statement to enter their name. Persons will be requested to come forward in the order in which they are registered, and to give their name and full address.
- 4 Public statement time will be limited to two minutes per member of the public.
- 5 Members of the public are encouraged to keep their statements brief to enable everyone who desires to make a statement to have the opportunity to do so.
- 6 Public statement time will be allocated a maximum time of 15 minutes. Public statement time is declared closed following the 15 minute allocated time period, or earlier if there are no further statements.
- 7 Statements are to be directed to the Presiding Member and are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on a particular Elected Member or City employee.
- 8 Where an Elected Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is making a statement at a Briefing Session, that is not relevant to a matter listed on the agenda, they may bring it to the attention of the Presiding Member who will make a ruling.
- 9 A member of the public attending a Briefing Session may present a written statement rather than making the statement verbally if he or she so wishes.
- 10 Statements will be summarised and included in the notes of the Briefing Session.

PROCEDURES FOR DEPUTATIONS

- 1 Prior to the agenda of a Briefing Session being discussed by Elected Members, members of the public will be provided an opportunity to make a deputation at the Briefing Session.
- 2 Members of the public wishing to make a deputation at a Briefing Session may make a written request to the Chief Executive Officer by 4.00pm on the working day immediately prior to the scheduled Briefing Session.
- 3 Deputation requests are to be approved by the Presiding Member and must relate to matters listed on the agenda of the Briefing Session.
- 4 Other requirements for deputations are to be in accordance with clause 5.10 of the *City of Joondalup Meeting Procedures Local Law 2013* in respect of deputations to a committee.

RECORDING OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRIEFING SESSION

Proceedings of the Briefing Session shall be electronically recorded for administrative purposes only, except for matters of a confidential nature. The guide in determining those matters of a confidential nature shall be in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following procedures for the conduct of Public Question Time were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

Where a meeting of a committee is open to the public the procedures for public question time and public statement time apply. In this regard these procedures are amended by substituting "Council" with "Committee" to provide proper context.

Questions asked verbally

- 1 Members of the public are invited to ask questions at Council Meetings.
- 2 Questions asked at an Ordinary Council meeting must relate to a matter that affects the City of Joondalup. Questions asked at a Special meeting of Council must relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.
- 3 A register will be provided for those persons wanting to ask questions to enter their name. Persons will be requested to come forward in the order in which they are registered, and to give their name and full address.
- 4 Public question time will be limited to two minutes per member of the public, with a limit of two verbal questions per member of the public.
- 5 Statements are not to precede the asking of a question during public question time. Statements should be made during public statement time.
- 6 Members of the public are encouraged to keep their questions brief to enable everyone who desires to ask a question to have the opportunity to do so.
- 7 Public question time will be allocated a minimum of 15 minutes and may be extended in intervals of up to 10 minutes by resolution of Council, but the total time allocated for public questions to be asked and responses to be given is not to exceed 35 minutes in total. Public question time is declared closed following the expiration of the allocated time period, or earlier than such time where there are no further questions.
- 8 Questions are to be directed to the Presiding Member and shall be asked politely, in good faith, and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on a particular Elected Member or City employee. The Presiding Member shall decide to:
 - accept or reject any question and his/her decision is final
 - nominate a member of the Council and/or City employee to respond to the question
 - or
 - take a question on notice. In this case a written response will be provided as soon as possible, and included in the agenda of the next Council meeting.

- 9 Where an Elected Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is:
- asking a question at a Council meeting, that does not relate to a matter affecting the City
or
 - making a statement during public question time,
- they may bring it to the attention of the Presiding Member who will make a ruling.
- 10 Questions and any response will be summarised and included in the minutes of the Council meeting.
- 11 It is not intended that question time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the *Local Government Act 1995* or the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act 1992). Where the response to a question(s) would require a substantial commitment of the City's resources, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will determine that it is an unreasonable impost upon the City and refuse to provide it. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

Questions in Writing – (Residents and/or ratepayers of the City of Joondalup only)

- 1 Only City of Joondalup residents and/or ratepayers may submit questions to the City in writing.
- 2 Questions asked at an Ordinary Council meeting must relate to a matter that affects the City of Joondalup. Questions asked at a Special meeting of Council must relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.
- 3 The City will accept a maximum of five (5) written questions per City of Joondalup resident/ratepayer. To ensure equality and consistency, each part of a multi-part question will be treated as a question in its own right.
- 4 Questions lodged by 9.00am on the day immediately prior to the scheduled Council meeting will be responded to, where possible, at the Council meeting. These questions, and their responses, will be distributed to Elected Members and made available to the public in written form at the meeting.
- 5 The Presiding Member shall decide to accept or reject any written question and his/her decision is final. Where there is any concern about a question being offensive, defamatory or the like, the Presiding Member will make a determination in relation to the question. Questions determined as offensive, defamatory or the like will not be published. Where the Presiding Member rules questions to be out of order, an announcement to this effect will be made at the meeting, including the reason(s) for the decision.
- 6 The Presiding Member may rule questions out of order where they are substantially the same as questions previously submitted and responded to.

- 7 Written questions unable to be responded to at a Council meeting will be taken on notice. In this case, a written response will be provided as soon as possible and included on the agenda of the next Council meeting.
- 8 A person who submits written questions may also ask questions at a Council meeting and questions asked verbally may be different to those submitted in writing.
- 9 Questions and any response will be summarised and included in the minutes of the Council meeting.
- 10 It is not intended that question time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the *Local Government Act 1995* or the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act 1992). Where the response to a question(s) would require a substantial commitment of the City's resources, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will determine that it is an unreasonable impost upon the City and may refuse to provide it. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

DISCLAIMER

Responses to questions not submitted in writing are provided in good faith and as such, should not be relied upon as being either complete or comprehensive.

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT TIME

The following procedures for the conduct of Public Statement Time were adopted at the Council meeting held on 19 November 2013:

- 1 Members of the public are invited to make statements, either verbally or in writing, at Council meetings.
- 2 Statements made at an Ordinary Council meeting must relate to a matter that affects the City of Joondalup. Statements made at a Special meeting of Council must relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.
- 3 A register will be provided for those persons wanting to make a statement to enter their name. Persons will be requested to come forward in the order in which they are registered, and to give their name and full address.
- 4 Public statement time will be limited to two minutes per member of the public.
- 5 Members of the public are encouraged to keep their statements brief to enable everyone who desires to make a statement to have the opportunity to do so.
- 6 Public statement time will be allocated a maximum time of 15 minutes. Public statement time is declared closed following the 15 minute allocated time period, or earlier than such time where there are no further statements.
- 7 Statements are to be directed to the Presiding Member and are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on a particular Elected Member or City employee.

- 8 Where an Elected Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is making a statement at a Council meeting, that does not relate to a matter affecting the City, they may bring it to the attention of the Presiding Member who will make a ruling.
- 9 A member of the public attending a Council meeting may present a written statement rather than making the statement verbally if he or she so wishes.
- 10 Statements will be summarised and included in the minutes of the Council meeting.