



CITY OF PERTH

Elected Member Questions Register

Ordinary Council Meeting – 10 December 2024

Item 12.1

	Councillor	General Manager	Question	Response
1.	Cr Goncalves	GMCD	<p>Regarding the 3 largest sponsorship items: major events, events, and arts and culture sponsorships.</p> <p>Is there any reason why these budgets have stayed static and why we haven't accounted for inflation or increases?</p>	<p>Sponsorship and grants are a discretionary spend that deliver outcomes aligned with multiple City priorities. Balancing this is carefully considered and feedback was sought from Elected Members at the EMES held on 18 November 2024 prior to endorsement at Council. The total sponsorship and grant allocation is considered in the broader context of the City's annual budget and spending priorities, Long Term Financial Plan, and Council Policy 2.3 Strategic Financial Planning and Budgeting (Section 15. Provisional Allocations – Discretionary Funding).</p>

Item 16.2

	Councillor	General Manager	Question	Response
1.	Cr Goncalves	CFO/EDGS	<p>Where exactly are we budgeting these expenses and my next question is why is it included in our remuneration area for the purposes of the financial statement rather than a travel budget statement itself?</p> <p>Are there two different budget pools or line-items that we fund travel from? How can the public interpret these different line items to have a clear idea of travel expenditure and be confident they know what the Lord Mayor travel budget and spending is specifically as well as for all elected members?</p>	<p>There are not two different budget pools to fund elected member travel.</p> <p>Elected member expenses are budgeted in the Council Affairs service budget in a single cost centre for elected member travel.</p> <p>In 2023/24 this budget amounted to \$59,000.</p> <p>For budgeting purposes, it is not apportioned by individual elected member (i.e. there is only one budget for travel.)</p> <p>For the purposes of the Annual Financial Statement disclosure (which was the basis of the question), elected member expenses (including allowances, meeting attendance fees and travel) are required to be disclosed in the Related Parties Transactions – elected members disclosure note (Note 19 (a)) within the Financial Statements.</p> <p>The statutory reporting format provided uses the term ‘Elected Member Remuneration’. This combines all the elected member expenses as described above and was required to be reported this way by the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation No. 44.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor role will always have the higher expenses as the role is the principal spokesperson for the City in accordance with s2.8(d) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>; and s10 of the <i>City of Perth Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>In 2023/24, total elected member expenses were \$603,813 versus a budget of \$601,774.</p>

Item 16.4

	Councillor	General Manager	Question	Response
1.	Cr Goncalves	CEO	<p>The act says IF the circumstances apply (office is vacant or deputy is unavailable or unwilling). These are the two instances of which we can decide to appoint another councillor. My question is have we filled those two provisions? In my interpretation we are exceeding the limits of the Act in that it provides only those two examples where we can utilise that provision.</p> <p>Are we utilising a provision beyond the scope of the act when the two conditions provided for by the Act are not fulfilled?</p>	<p>Incorrect, this provision is not being used beyond the scope of the Act. This was discussed at the Elected Member Engagement Session held on 2 December 2024.</p> <p>Council, being aware that the Lord Mayor is not going to be available (s. 5.35) can appoint an elected member to perform the functions of the Lord Mayor during that time (in the absence of the DLM).</p> <p>The decision of Council clearly states that this approval is to operate solely if the required conditions of section 5.35 of the Act are satisfied (i.e. the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor are unable to perform the functions of the role).</p> <p><i>“That Council <u>APPOINT</u> Councillor Liam Gobbert to perform the functions of the Lord Mayor if both the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor are unavailable, unable, or unwilling to perform the functions of the Lord Mayors role:</i></p> <p><i>a. For the period from the 1 February 2025 until either:</i></p> <p><i>i. the 1 April 2025, if the Office of the Lord Mayor does not become vacant following the State Election 2025; or</i></p> <p><i>ii. the successful election of a new Lord Mayor, if the Office of the Lord Mayor does become vacant following the State Election 2025,</i></p> <p><i>whichever event happens first.”</i></p>