

Councillor expenses for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018

Background

The allowance paid to Councillors is set by the State Government and is currently \$196,931 for the Lord Mayor, \$98,465 for the Deputy Lord Mayor and \$46,240 for Councillors. Councillors also receive an additional 9.5% being an amount equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee.

Significant demands and expectations are placed on Councillors of City of Melbourne in carrying out their civic and statutory functions. In carrying out their policy development, representation and communication roles, Councillors accept a range of responsibilities in representing a capital city government and its community and stakeholders at a local, national and international level.

As part of these responsibilities, Councillors also represent the Council on a range of external organisations and advisory bodies. The demands and level of expectations on Councillors in these roles is significant and varies from organisation to organisation depending on specific structure, purpose and objectives. In some instances, remuneration or fees for services as board members, directors or similar roles on the organisations is offered. These are paid to Council with the exception of those associated with positions gained through a separate election or selection process conducted by an external organisation. In these circumstances, a Councillor may retain the fees.

The Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines provide a broad overview of how the Council provides assistance and support to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors in carrying out their role and official duties as Councillors.

As part of Council's commitment to open government, Council has resolved that details of Councillor expenses in the following categories be released on a regularly basis and be accessible on the Council's web site.

Expense categories

1. Conferences, functions and training*

This category covers registration fees associated with attendance by Councillors at local conferences, functions, seminars and one-off or short-term training courses. These are normally held by local government related organisations, professional bodies and institutions, educational institutions and private sector providers on areas and events which impact on the role of Councillors and the City in general. This category also includes memberships and subscriptions to bodies and organisations whose activities are relevant to role of Councillors and a capital city council.

2. Travel Local*

This category covers costs associated with assisting Councillors in meeting the transport costs incurred in attending meetings, functions and other commitments within and outside the municipality. This comprises use of taxi service, reimbursement for use of private vehicle while conducting Council business, car parking fees, access to bicycles, the provision of car parking permits, e-tags and use of Council fleet vehicles as described in the Councillor Expenses & Resources Guidelines. This category also comprises costs associated with accommodation and incidentals incurred when travelling on Council business in outer metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

3. Communication

This category covers communication costs associated with ensuring that Councillors are accessible and are able to communicate with constituents, stakeholders, other Councillors, Council officers and family members while conducting Council business. This category comprises costs associated with use of mobile phones, home phones, internet services and cards to mark cultural occasions and the festive season.

4. Functions external to Town Hall*

In some cases, Councillors may need to use external hospitality services when conducting Council business outside Council offices. In doing so, Councillors seek reimbursement for expenses incurred. These expenses comprise costs associated with the provision of meals, refreshments and other entertainment (for Councillors and their guests) considered appropriate to the nature of Council business being conducted.

5. Carer expenses

The Council will reimburse the cost of necessary carer expenses incurred by Councillors in the course of carrying out their duties. This covers child care and other forms of care needed to support immediate family members

** Costs incurred under these categories may include those relating to the participation of partners in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines*

Schedule of expenses for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018

Category	Lord Mayor Sally Capp	Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood	Total
1. Conferences, functions and training	-	\$540.91	\$540.91
2. Travel – local	\$212.55	\$3,618.80	\$3,831.35
3. Communication	\$1,894.09	\$543.06	\$2,437.15
4. Functions external to Town Hall	\$18.20	-	\$18.20
5. Carer expenses	-	-	-
Total expenses	\$2,124.84	\$4,702.77	\$6,827.61

Schedule of Councillor expenses for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018

Category	Cr Jackie Watts	Cr Kevin Louey	Cr Cathy Oke	Cr Rohan Leppert	Cr Philip Le Liu	Cr Nicholas Reece	Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley	Cr Susan Riley	Cr Beverley Pinder	TOTAL
1. Conferences, functions and training	\$50.00	-	-	-	\$476.64	-	-	\$119.63	\$81.82	\$728.09
2. Travel - local	\$541.69	\$55.00	\$238.52	\$572.84	\$436.73	\$53.19	\$18.00	\$638.13	\$361.27	\$2,915.37
3. Communication	\$294.54	\$2,179.90	\$155.44	\$492.42	\$722.27	\$1,119.39	\$619.26	\$591.66	\$301.52	\$6,476.40
4. Functions external to Town Hall	\$101.36	-	-	-	-	-	\$55.46	-	\$30.15	\$186.97
5. Carer expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	\$987.59	\$2,234.90	\$393.96	\$1,065.26	\$1,635.64	\$1,172.58	\$692.72	\$1,349.42	\$774.76	\$10,306.83

Lord Mayor's credit card transactions

In accordance with the resolution of the Future Melbourne Committee on 8 March 2016, outlined below is the following:

1. Non-Council business related transactions incurred on the Lord Mayor's corporate credit card which have been refunded to Council.
2. Council business related transactions incurred on the Lord Mayor's personal credit card for which the Lord Mayor has been reimbursed.

(Note: The Lord Mayor was issued a corporate credit card on 5 June 2018.)

Corporate credit card

Expense type	Amount
N/A	N/A

Personal credit card

Expense type	Amount
N/A	N/A

Travel register – Interstate and international travel costs incurred by Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors

For full details of costs incurred by Councillors while travelling interstate and overseas on Council business, please refer to the travel register also published on a quarterly basis on [Council's web site](#)¹. The register provides details of travel undertaken including a total cost that covers fares, accommodation, conference registration, sustenance and other incidental costs associated with travel.

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004* requires a Council must make available for public inspection documents containing prescribed material including the maintenance of a travel register containing details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months.

¹ <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/governance-transparency/council-information/registers-inspection/pages/allowances-and-expenses.aspx>