

Chief Executive Office

Nil

Item 9 Motions on Notice

MN01-11/22 Cr Wright - Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Monthly Engagement Report

File Ref: 14553V014 – 22/408531
Author: Cr Wright
Action Officer: Director, Corporate Strategy & Performance
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: 1

Issue

To propose that Council receive a regular report of meetings and functions attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of Council.

Background

It is noted that some WA Local Authorities including City of Rockingham and City of Gosnells receive a regular report of public engagements, meetings and functions attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Detail

It is proposed that in the interests of transparent and accountable local government Council should at its Ordinary Council Meetings receive a report of meetings and functions attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor during the preceding month.

The report, which it is suggested could be laid out as per the template in Attachment 1, should include the date and a brief description of:

- Meetings with Residents' and community groups;
- Functions attended on behalf of Council;
- Community events;
- Meetings with developers;
- Conferences and travel;

and any other events or meetings to be undertaken by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor as prescribed in the *Local Government Act*.

Council would be requested to formally NOTE the report.

Benefits of supporting this approach include:

- More transparent local government;
- Fostering a better team environment;
- Council is aware of functions that we are being represented at;
- Provide members of the public with an opportunity to ask questions and better understand what the role of the Mayor is and what it entails.

Noting that should this proposal be supported by Council, this is totally voluntary for the Mayor/Deputy Mayor to do and is not legally or lawfully required. Ethically it would support our strategic priority of being a responsibly and ethically managed local government.

Consultation

Nil

Comment

Nil

Statutory Compliance

Nil

Strategic Implications

The proposal aligns with the following objective within the Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031:

7 ~ A well governed and managed City that makes informed decisions, provides strong community leadership and valued customer focused services

7.2 - Responsibly and ethically managed

Risk Management Considerations

There are no existing Strategic or Corporate risks within the City's existing risk registers which relate to the issues contained within this report.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Moved Cr Wright, Seconded Cr Baker

That Council:-

- 1. REQUESTS the Mayor/Deputy Mayor provide this report to Council every month for NOTING purposes; and**
- 2. NOTES the suggested report template shown at Attachment 1.**

Procedural Motion

Moved Cr Huntley, Seconded Cr Miles

That the Motion be deferred to be discussed at a Forum in 2023.

For the motion: Cr Huntley, Cr Miles, Cr Sangalli and Cr Wright

Against the motion: Mayor Aitken, Cr Baker, Cr Cvitan, Cr Herridge, Cr Parker, Cr Rowe and Cr Treby

Procedural Motion

Moved Mayor Aitken, Seconded Cr Rowe

That Cr Treby be given an extension of time to speak.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to Amend

Moved Cr Miles

To delete the word "Council" and add the words "the Wanneroo Wrap" in recommendation 1.

1. REQUESTS the Mayor/Deputy Mayor provide this report to ~~Council~~ *the Wanneroo Wrap* every month for NOTING purposes; and

MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

The Substantive Motion was put and

LOST
3/8

For the motion: Cr Baker, Cr Miles and Cr Wright

Against the motion: Mayor Aitken, Cr Cvitan, Cr Herridge, Cr Huntley, Cr Parker, Cr Rowe, Cr Sangalli and Cr Treby

Cr Treby requested as per 8.2 (3) of the Standing Orders Local Law 2021 that the following be minuted.

Cr Baker - "As such, there is no such thing as a secret meeting between a Mayor or Deputy Mayor with a developer or any person in respect of Council business".

Cr Rowe requested as per 8.2 (3) of the Standing Orders Local Law 2021 that the following be minuted.

Cr Wright - "The code around ethical governance is our role as leaders of the community to be able to have that transparency and trust and I don't think we have that around this table."

Administration Comment

Administration notes that from a governance perspective there is no head of power to require the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to provide a report of their meetings and functions attended, nor any enforceable consequence should the report not be provided.

Regarding the preparation of the report, Administration notes that except in specific cases the required information will not be held by the City. For this reason Administration will not be able to undertake the preparation of the report, which task would need to be a responsibility of Council itself.

It is also noted that it is not commonly the case that reports are presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting for noting, as there is no decision for Council to make in these instances. The only regular exception to this is the Warrant of Payments report, the noting of which is a statutory requirement.

Under the City's strategic priority of responsible and ethical management, confidentiality and protection of personal information of persons meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be a primary consideration in the preparation of any such report. Unless the report is to be so generic in its content as to be of only limited value, arrangements would need to be put in place to communicate and gain explicit consent for a person's or organisation's details to be included in the report and the record of the Council Meeting where it is presented.

Administration notes that transparency in relation to Council activities is normally interpreted to apply to decision-making. If transparency in the context of this proposal is to be interpreted more broadly as applying to activities such as those listed, there is a potential argument to the effect that all Councillor engagements, not just those of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, should be recorded and reported.

Attachments:

1. [Attachment 1 - Mayors Report Template](#) 22/414239

