

10 things to know about being a council member

1

Local government council ▶ a council is a government that makes collective decisions in the best interests of all the people in the council's area.

2

Eligibility ▶ you need to be eligible to be a council member and you can be disqualified, such as if you become bankrupt or no longer live in the council area or you are absent without permission from 2 meetings in a row.

3

Working together ▶ council makes decisions as a collective (together). You may put a different view to the meeting but once council has made that decision as a councillor you are bound to uphold it.

4

Strategic decision making ▶ as a council member you are responsible for strategy, policy and planning during council meetings. Operational matters, such as staff management and service provision, are the responsibility of the CEO.

5

Legal duties ▶ as a council member you have a responsibility to ensure council is meeting its legal responsibilities. In particular, duties and responsibilities of council are outlined under the *Local Government Act 2019* and other legislation, such as the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*.

6

Code of Conduct ▶ the Code of Conduct outlines the values and standards that council members must follow and guides behaviour and decision-making in performing council duties.

7

Conflict of interest ▶ Council members are required to submit an annual return of interests, register gifts and benefits and declare any conflicts of interest in relation to decision-making.

8

Relationship with Council CEO ▶ the council is responsible for supporting, developing and managing the CEO. The Chairperson (Mayor or President) leads this relationship.

9

Professional development ▶ as a council member you will be required to undertake training about your responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2019* within 12 months of being elected.

10

Allowances ▶ as a council member you will be entitled to allowances (payments) to support your role as a representative. The allowances covers preparation and research, attendance at meetings and committees, representation of the council and undertaking professional development opportunities.