

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE****AO007-19 MOTION ON NOTICE - TRANSPARENCY IN DECISION MAKING**

**FILE NO:** 15/5/2  
**PREVIOUS MIN:**

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Councillor Ken Dorsey has given notice that he would move the following motion at this meeting:-

***“THAT Council consider any extraordinary personal request for funding for Councillors in open session.”***

**COUNCILLOR’S COMMENTS**

- 1) Complete transparency and open debate on Councillor request in a public arena
- 2) We were elected by the people on the basis that we should be honest and transparent at all times
- 3) We are the people’s representatives spending their collective money, they should be aware in real time of our expenditure

We are not a benevolent society, we are stewards of ratepayer’s money and funding should be limited to benefitting the community. The real question that should be debated is this (the expenditure) in the best interest of the city? If so how? Is the cost reflective of the benefit?

If it can be argued that personal development, attendance at conferences, overseas trips are in the interest of the city, Council can make that determination in public based on the above criteria.

In the interest of transparency, all expenditure on Councillors that is not under the guise of recurrent expenditure be debated in open Council.

**GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

It is standard practice for all requests for Councillors’ professional development be considered in open session.

A motion to this effect is not necessary as such items must already go in open session unless a specific confidential reason applies under the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, regulation 15(2).

Whether the expenditure might be considered recurrent or not is irrelevant.

It appears that the motion on notice relates to Council's consideration of such a matter in closed session in December 2018. This request for professional development support was required to be considered in closed session due to the fact that the party delivering the training program had specifically embargoed the announcement of all successful applicants for the program until the New Year when the announcements would be made. However, in order to commit to the program, a decision on funding was required for the applicant, prior to the embargo being lifted.

Therefore, regulation 15(2)(g) applied, requiring the matter to be considered in closed session.

*(g) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential*

The Report was provided addressing the relevant matters and providing Council the opportunity to make its own determination.

The December Report stated:

*"Requests for professional development support would normally appear in Open Session but this report has been placed in Closed Session, due to the fact that the announcement of participants for 2019 are embargoed by [REDACTED] until February 2019."*

Once the embargo is lifted, a copy of the resolution of Council will be provided in the General Manager's Open Session Report.

Total expenditure incurred by each Councillor is disclosed in Council's Annual Report, in accordance with the Aldermen's Expenses and Allowances Policy CP-CBS-SG-001.