

Council Policy

Publications by Individual Councillors Policy

Objective

Council recognises the right of an individual Councillor to hold an opinion that is different from that of the majority of the Council. Council also recognises that any Councillor has a right to publish information.

The objective of this policy is to ensure that any document, which can be construed as being an official Council publication, contains accurate information that represents Council's corporate stance on any given issue.

The policy also aims to ensure that where an individual Councillor, or Councillors, has a contrary opinion to Council's corporate stance, the publication clearly identifies this to be the case. The overriding objective is to ensure that public confidence is not lost in the Town of Bassendean or local government in general.

Strategy

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer shall approve any publication that purports to represent the corporate view of Council prior to release. It is recognised that the Local Government Act 1995 specifically empowers the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to speak on behalf of the Council.

Should an individual Councillor or group of Councillors wish to release a document that expresses an opinion that does not represent that of the Council then the publication shall clearly and prominently state this to be the case.

At all times documents shall be clear, unambiguous and accurate in terms of facts used. Where statements are presented as facts the source of the facts shall be acknowledged.

The document shall not reflect adversely on Council as a body corporate, an individual Councillor, an officer of Council, a member of the public or any other organisation.

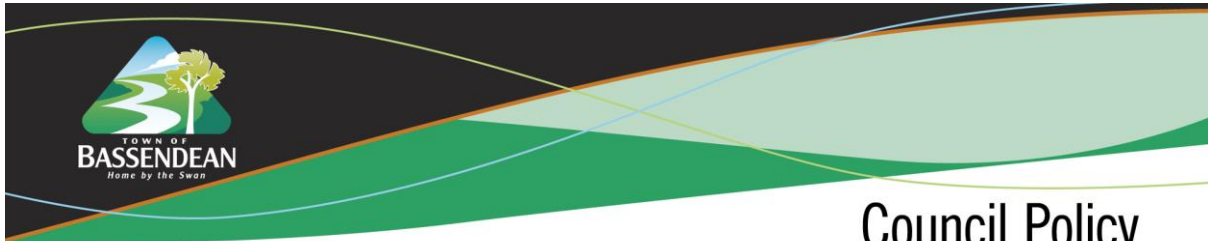
Guidelines for Councillor Publications

All publications shall be duly authorised in accordance with the Local Government Act Electoral Provisions as though the publication were an election publication.

Publications shall not commit the Council to actions or obligations, which the Council as a body must decide.

All material distributed by a Councillor which seeks feedback from residents shall be directed to the private address of the Councillor unless authorised by the Chief Executive Officer to have responses forwarded to the Council Administration Office.

To exercise caution in using Social Media to ensure that in their communications they do not act contrary to the General Principles and Ethical Standards, or breach the Code of Conduct requirements.



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The misuse of information, or confidential information, gained as a council member or committee member, employee to cause detriment to the Town or another person or to gain directly or indirectly an advantage for another person, applies to communications by Social Media as well and could result in prosecution under Section 5.93 of the Local Government Act 1995 which carries penalties of \$10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

Application

This policy has no effect to any publication associated with an election, which is covered by the Local Government Act.

This policy applies to all other publications including, but not limited to, printed material, newspaper, radio and television publications, social media and verbal presentations to community groups or meetings.

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rest with the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer. The Policy is to be reviewed every three years.

<p>Policy Type: Strategic Policy</p> <p>Link to Strategic Community Plan: Good Governance</p>	<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Last Review Date: January 2018 Version 2</p> <p>Next Review due by: January 2018</p>
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