

Questions taken on notice

13 September 2022



At Council meetings, questions from the public and from Councillors are sometimes taken 'on notice', meaning that an answer cannot be provided at the meeting itself. When an answer is available, it is provided direct to the questioner, and is also published here.

As well as the full response, the text below includes a summary of the question and the answer provided at the meeting. A recording of the Council Meeting (including Question Time and Councillor Questions Without Notice) is available on Council's website for four years following the meeting.

Response to question from Voula Allimonos

Question

What was the status of Council's Fraud and Corruption Policy and Control Plan in the period from 2017 to 2020?

Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

Subsequent response

The Group Manager People and Culture subsequently provided the following information:

While we cannot provide specifics about the controls we had in place at that time (most of which remain in place today), I can provide a high level overview.

Council's Fraud and Corruption Policy and Procedure was first adopted in June 2011, and was then reviewed four years later and adopted again in November 2015. The intention at that time was to undertake a mid-term review in November 2017, before a more comprehensive review in November 2019 (in line with our standard four-yearly policy review cycle).

While a decision was taken that the formal mid-term review was not required (as the identified fraud risk on Council's risk register had not changed materially), the fraud and corruption management framework was added to Councils internal audit plan for 2018, with a view to undertaking the audit ahead of the planned 2019 policy review.

This audit proceeded in March/April 2019. The review of the Fraud and Corruption Policy and Procedure then took place as planned, with a new Fraud and Corruption Policy and Control Plan adopted in July 2020.

It should be noted that while many of Council's policies are reviewed quadrennially, they do not formally sunset and remain in force until an updated policy is adopted. This process allows for minor delays in review processes.

Response to question from Dorothy James

Question

What protocols does Council have in place, and what policies and procedures exist for public meetings?

Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

Subsequent response

The Senior Governance Advisor subsequently provided the following information:

Council Meetings are primarily governed by Council's Governance Rules, which set out the meeting procedures and the specific rules which operate during different parts of the meeting. The rules also provide a mechanism for raising a 'point or order' – which is the process that can be used where the rules are contravened.

Further, Councillors are bound at all times by the Councillor Code of Conduct, which provides behavioural standards taken from the Local Government Act 2020. Where breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct are alleged by a Councillor, they are able to trigger the dispute mechanism process set out in the Code itself.

Lastly, Council has recently adopted the Commitment to Respectful Community Relationships. This document provides, among other things, for a safe and respectful environment for both Councillors and members of the community – including at Council and other public meetings.
