

City of Greater Geraldton Council Policy

4.32 BEHAVIOUR COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Leadership

OBJECTIVES

To establish Terms of Reference for the Behaviour Complaints Committee of the City of Greater Geraldton.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy applies exclusively to the City of Greater Geraldton Behaviour Complaints Committee.

POLICY DETAILS

1. Committee Function

The Behaviour Complaints Committee is a Committee of Council established in accordance with s.5.8 of the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) for the purpose of dealing with Behaviour Complaints made under Division 3 of the City of Greater Geraldton's Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates (Code of Conduct).

The extent of authority provided to the Behaviour Complaints Committee is specified in the relevant Delegated Authority, and includes:

- Dismissing a behaviour complaint in accordance with clause 13 of the Code of Conduct and providing reasons for any such dismissal.
- Making a Finding as to whether an alleged complaint has or has not occurred, based upon evidence from which it may be concluded that it is more likely that the breach occurred than it did not occur [clause 12(3) of the Code of Conduct].
- Determining reasons for such a Finding.
- Where a Finding is made that a breach has occurred, determining:
 - o To take no further action; or
 - o Prepare and implement a plan to address the behaviour of the person to whom the complaint relates.

The extent of authority of the Behaviour Complaints Committee is limited by Condition of the Delegated Authority.

2. Membership

The Complaints Committee is a Committee of Council Members only in accordance with s.5.9(2)(a) of the Act.

Membership of the Behaviour Complaints Committee will comprise of 5 Council Members, appointed by Council in accordance with s.5.10 of the Act. In addition, at least 5 Council Members will be appointed as Deputy Committee Members in accordance with s.5.11A of the Act.

The Delegated Authority Condition prescribes that if an appointed Committee Member is identified in the Complaint as either the Complainant or the Respondent, they are to recuse themselves from the Committee's Function by providing an apology. They are to be replaced for the duration of the handling of the subject Complaint by a Deputy Committee Member, selected by the Presiding Member of the Committee.

3. Meeting Schedule

Meetings are to be scheduled as required by the CEO or Behaviour Complaints Officer in consultation with the Committee Presiding Member.

4. Delegated Authority

The Behaviour Complaints Committee will act under Delegated Authority in accordance with s.5.16 of the Act. The delegation is recorded in the City of Greater Geraldton Register of Delegations to Committees.

It is a Condition of Delegated Authority that the Behaviour Complaints Committee will be unable to exercise delegated authority if the Complainant or Respondent attend as a Complaints Committee Member.

5. Committee Governance

Complaints Behaviour Committee meetings are required to:

- be called and convened by the CEO, as required, in consultation with the Committee's Presiding Member;
- include public question time [Admin.r.5]
- make the Committee Notice Papers and Agenda publicly available [s.5.94(p), s.5.96A(f)], with the exception of agenda content that relates to that part of the meeting which will be closed to members of the public under s.5.23(2) [Admin.r.14]; and
- make Committee minutes publicly available [s.5.94(n), s.5.96A(h)], with the exception of Minutes content that relates to that part of the meeting which was closed to the public or was determined as confidential under s.5.23(2).

KEY TERM DEFINITION

City is City of Greater Geraldton

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing this policy

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates

Council Policy 4.30 Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaints Management

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

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POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Office of the CEO		Chief Executive Officer	Biennial	2026
Version	Decision Reference		Synopsis	
1.	CEOXX	25/06/2024	Policy Review	