

Expectations of Councillors

So what do councillors actually do?

Councillors need to demonstrate effective leadership if their communities are to meet challenges and develop long-term vision and goals that guide the future of the municipality.

Personal characteristics and attributes that the community expects from its councillors include:

- Honest and ethical behaviour
- Motivated to perform the role
- Reliable
- Knowledgeable about the community
- Influenced by community concerns
- Good communication.

Councillors are required to participate in a wide variety of activities, both as an elected representative of the community and as a member of the governing body of council. These include:

- Responding to requests, explaining actions and defending council decisions
- Advocating issues and balancing competing obligations
- Debating issues and decision making
- Developing the Council plan and reporting back
- Budget and financial overview
- Supporting economic development
- Consideration of development applications
- CEO Performance review

The Local Government Act requires councillors to perform their duties with a high level of probity, especially when dealing with matters that may affect their material well-being. The community is entitled to expect that:

- The business of the council is conducted with efficiency, effectiveness and impartiality;

The councillor will attend all meetings of council (except where leave of absence has been obtained) and vote on all matters except when prohibited from doing so.