

This charter document defines the membership, authority, purpose, operational guidelines, responsibilities and resources of the Town of Cottesloe Audit Committee, established by Council pursuant to division 1A, section 7.1A of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* (the Regulations).

1. Name

The name of this Committee is 'Town of Cottesloe Audit Committee'. All references to 'Committee' in this charter mean 'Town of Cottesloe Audit Committee'.

2. Establishment

This Committee is established under the provisions of the Act, particular division 1A, section 7.1A.

3. Guiding Principles

This Committee is established with the guiding principles prescribed in the Act, the Regulations and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

4. Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to:

- Guide and assist the local government in carrying out its financial management and audit functions.
- Monitor and advise the Chief Executive Officer in reviews conducted into financial management and audit systems and procedures.
- Oversee the implementation of any resulting Council recommendations so as to support better decision-making, greater accountability to the community and ensure a more efficient and effective Local Government.

5. Terms of Reference

Under section 16 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, an audit committee has the following functions —

- (a) to guide and assist the local government in carrying out —
 - (i) its functions under Part 6 of the Act; and
 - (ii) its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management;
- (b) to guide and assist the local government in carrying out the local government's functions in relation to audits conducted under Part 7 of the Act;
- (c) to review a report given to it by the CEO under regulation 17(3) (the **CEO's report**) and is to —

- (i) *report to the council the results of that review; and*
- (ii) *give a copy of the CEO's report to the council;*
- (d) *to monitor and advise the CEO when the CEO is carrying out functions in relation to a review under —*
 - (i) *regulation 17(1); and*
 - (ii) *the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 regulation 5(2)(c);*
- (e) *to support the auditor of the local government to conduct an audit and carry out the auditor's other duties under the Act in respect of the local government;*
- (f) *to oversee the implementation of any action that the local government —*
 - (i) *is required to take by section 7.12A(3); and*
 - (ii) *has stated it has taken or intends to take in a report prepared under section 7.12A(4)(a); and*
 - (iii) *has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under regulation 17(1); and*
 - (iv) *has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 regulation 5(2)(c);*
- (g) *to perform any other function conferred on the audit committee by these regulations or another written law.*

Under section 14(3A) of the Regulations, the Audit Committee:

- (3A) *The local government's audit committee is to review the compliance audit return and is to report to the council the results of that review.*

6. Membership

Pursuant to division 1A, section 7.1A of the Act:

- (2) *The members of the audit committee of a local government are to be appointed* by the local government and at least 3 of the members, and the majority of the members, are to be council members.*
*Absolute majority required.
- (3) *A CEO is not to be a member of an audit committee and may not nominate a person to be a member of an audit committee or have a person to represent the CEO as a member of an audit committee.*
- (4) *An employee is not to be a member of an audit committee.*

Any non-elected member (community representative) appointed to the Committee shall have qualifications and/or professional experience that will enhance the expertise available to Elected Members serving on the Committee.

Vacancies for the community representatives will be advertised in the local papers, the Town of Cottesloe webpage and notice boards. Council will then select and appoint new members.

Community representation is valid for two years, until the person resigns, the Committee is disbanded or the next Ordinary Council Election, which ever happens first. Nothing prevents an existing member re-nominating.

7. Meetings

7.1 Annual General Meeting

Nil

7.2 Committee Meetings

Meetings shall be held not more frequently than every two months, unless a special meeting of the Committee is called for a specified purpose.

7.3 Quorum

The quorum for any meeting of this Committee shall be 50 percent of members as endorsed by Council at the time of the meeting.

7.4 Voting

Shall be in accordance with section 5.21 of the Act, with all members endorsed as voting members entitled and required to vote, subject to the provisions of the Act which deal with Financial and Proximity Interests.

7.5 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting shall be recorded and prepared as per the provisions of section 5.22 of Act.

The content of the minutes shall be in accordance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* section 11.

The content of minutes of a meeting of a council or a committee is to include —

- (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and*
- (b) where a member enters or leaves the meeting during the course of the meeting, the time of entry or departure, as the case requires, in the chronological sequence of the business of the meeting; and*
- (c) details of each motion moved at the meeting, the mover and the outcome of the motion; and*
- (d) details of each decision made at the meeting; and*
- (da) written reasons for each decision made at the meeting that is significantly different from the relevant written recommendation of a committee or an employee as defined in section 5.70 (but not a decision to only note the matter or to return the recommendation for further consideration); and*
- (e) a summary of each question raised by members of the public at the meeting and a summary of the response to the question; and*
- (f) in relation to each disclosure made under section 5.65 or 5.70 in relation to the meeting, where the extent of the interest has also been disclosed, the extent of the interest.*

If the Committee resolves, the minutes may include a table of ‘action items’, summarising the agreed actions.

7.6 Who acts if the presiding member is unavailable

Shall be in accordance with section 5.14 of the Act.

7.7 Meetings

Meetings shall be generally open to the public as per the provisions of section 5.23 of the Act.

7.8 Public Question Time

As the Committee has no delegated powers (section 5.24 of the Act), there is no specific provision for public question time.

7.9 Members' Conduct

Council Members of the Committee shall be bound by the following

- The provisions of section 5.65 of the Act;
- Town of Cottesloe *Standing Orders Local Law 2012*;
- Town of Cottesloe Code of Conduct;
- *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*; and
- Regulation 34C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*,

with respect to their conduct at meetings and their duty of disclosure.

Elected Members and Officers of the Town of Cottesloe will be bound by these provisions, relating specifically to their participation in the Committee, at all times.

7.10 Secretary

The Chief Executive Officer (or their nominated representative) shall undertake the following secretarial duties;

- Prepare and distribute meeting papers as required
- Attend and record the Minutes of the meeting
- Provide the administrative support required to present the outcomes of the meeting to Council for consideration where required.

7.11 Presiding Member

The members (voting) will elect a presiding member and deputy member at the first meeting after these positions become vacant for any reason. The voting on and appointment of the presiding member and deputy member shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 5.12 of the Act.

7.12 Meeting attendance fees

Nil

8. Delegated Authority

This committee has no delegated authority.

9. Endorsement

This Charter was endorsed by the Town of Cottesloe Council at its meeting on 29 October 2019.