

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the Shire of Kellerberrin's commitment to a zero tolerance approach to misconduct, fraud and corruption.

This policy also establishes the Shire's commitment to maintaining high standards of professional and ethical conduct by supporting strategies that prevent, detect and respond to misconduct, fraud and corruption.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy is applied to the Shire of Kellerberrin and its elected members and employees.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

### ***IAP2***

The International Association for Public Participation is an international organisation advancing the practice of public participation. IAP2 supports people who implement or participate in public decision-making processes.

### ***Community engagement***

Refers to the range of opportunities for involving people, in a meaningful way, in the decisions that affect their lives; it needs to be a purposeful and planned process.

### ***Community***

Includes individuals or groups who live, work, play, study, visit, invest in, or pass through the Shire of Kellerberrin local government area.

### ***Good governance practice***

Effective processes for making and implementing decisions.

## 4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This policy links to key goal area;

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny

## 5. POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises that Community engagement is the cornerstone to good governance practice and key to the long term prosperity of the community. Council is therefore committed to transparent, two-way communication and appropriate consultation to inform of opportunities and decisions that affect the current and future needs of the Kellerberrin community.

This commitment is founded on the core values identified by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) which are:

- being open and transparent about the decision-making process and the challenges and opportunities to be met;
- seeking to involve those community members potentially affected by, or interested in, a decision as early as possible in the decision-making process;
- ensuring that the purpose of our engagement is clear and relevant, and that the level of engagement is appropriate to the decision being made (not over or under engaging);
- ensuring that the methods used are well suited to generate highly-effective and inclusive community engagement from a broad section of the community;
- providing information that is clear, easy to understand, and accessible to the community;
- incorporating the Community's views into the decision-making process to the agreed level of participation and reporting back to the community how their input was considered and influenced the decision; and
- evaluating our community engagement processes to continually improve our approach to community engagement.

Statutory public notices and regulatory compelled or recommended community consultations notwithstanding, this community engagement may occur for:

- major and strategic projects
- policy, plan and strategy development
- service delivery programs and
- capital works

Where practicable the policy should be applied at the scoping phase of the above listed occurrences or when a reviewing or adding a service level, activity or infrastructure construction. Community engagement is the responsibility of all Council staff and contractors.

In planning a Community engagement process, Council will determine at which level to engage, the nature and methods of the engagement and what corresponding commitment is to be made to the community and/or stakeholders.

Furthermore, the level of engagement that is selected is to govern how feedback from the Community is used at Council and within Council's decision-making process. Such decision-making processes may be influenced by several factors such as financial and resource considerations, political directives and environmental and social concerns. As such if a difference occurs between the level of engagement and the Council's final decision, the reasons will be clearly stated.

There is no 'one-size fits all' approach to community engagement activities and a variety of methods are likely to be required to cater for the different purposes of engagement as well as the broad range of groups and individuals in the community.

The conduct of Community engagement is the responsibility of all Council service areas, teams and employees as appropriate to their role and function. To ensure the effective application of community engagement across the Shire of Kellerberrin, Community engagement guidelines tools; and templates are developed.

## **6. RELATED LEGISLATION/ DOCUMENTATION**

Local Government Act 1995

Shire of Kellerberrin Strategic Community Plan

## **7. REVIEW DETAILS**

Council Adoption	Date	June 2020	Resolution #	MIN 090/20
Previous Adoption	Date	August 2018	Resolution #	MIN 015/18