

19.2 NOTICE OF MOTION: COUNCILLOR-STAFF INTERACTION POLICY**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DEBRA JUST – GENERAL MANAGER****MEETING DATE: 27 MARCH 2017**

Purpose of Report

Councillor Hooper has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion.

Motion

That Council not incur any cost or engage an external consultant to develop or amend or consult on a Councillor-Staff Interaction Policy (the cost of which was informally advised to some Councillors by the Mayor & GM to be \$10,000) as the development of a Councillor-Staff Interaction Policy at this time would be a waste of time and ratepayers money when a decision on the amalgamation of Council with North Sydney Council and Mosman Council is imminent.

Background

Nil provided.

General Manager's Comments

"Councillors' Access to Information and their Interaction with Staff Policy" is an existing Council policy that has been in place since 1997.

The objectives of the current policy are to provide a process for Councillors to access Council records and information; guidance on Councillors' meetings with applicants and correspondents; and guidance on Councillors' access to Council buildings and their interaction with staff.

While the policy has had some revisions since 1997, there is a need to make clearer the connection of this policy to the latest version of Council's Code of Conduct which itself covers similar ground (under Part 6 "Relationship between Council officials") and the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. There is also a need for a general update, removal of redundant provisions and terminology, as well as the opportunity to further clarify Councillors' interaction with each other and with staff. These desired changes have emerged in discussions about the policy with and between Councillors.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider the Notice of Motion from Councillor Hooper.