



Statement of Business Ethics

Overview

The Statement of Business Ethics provides guidance for all sectors of the community when conducting business with the Town of East Fremantle. It outlines the Town's ethical standards and our expectation that goods and service providers will comply with these standards in all their dealings with the Town. This Statement also outlines what goods and service providers can expect of the Town.

Our key business principles

Ethics and integrity

The Town and its employees shall observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in undertaking purchasing activities and act in an honest and professional manner. All parties will be treated equitably, consistently, impartially and fairly.

Best value for money

The Town will procure goods and services that offer the best value for money. Best value for money does not automatically mean the lowest price. Rather the Town will balance all relevant factors including initial cost, whole-of-life cost, quality, reliability and timeliness in determining true value for money.

Transparency and accountability

All purchasing activities shall comply with relevant legislation, regulations and the Town's policies and be free from bias. Full documentation and accountability will be taken for purchasing decisions to ensure the efficient, effective and proper expenditure of public monies.

Sustainability

The Town is committed to sustainable procurement and where appropriate shall endeavour to design tenders and quotations to provide an advantage to goods, services and/or processes that minimise environmental and negative social impacts. Sustainable considerations will be balanced against best value for money outcomes.

What you can expect from the Town

The Town will ensure that all its policies, procedures and practices relating to tendering, contracting and the purchase of goods and services are consistent with industry leading practice and the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Our employees are bound by the Town's Code of Conduct and purchasing policy. When doing business with the private sector, Town employees are accountable for their actions and are expected to:

- Use public resources effectively and efficiently.
- Deal with all individuals and organisations in a fair, honest and ethical manner.
- Avoid any conflicts of interests (whether real, perceived or potential).
- Town will provide Purchase Order Numbers when engaging suppliers
- Never seek to gifts or personal benefit, whether directly or indirectly, from the Town's procurement processes or any other aspect of the Town's operations.

In addition, all Town procurement activities are guided by the following core business principles:

- All suppliers (whether invited to make a submission through tender or through direct quotation process) will be treated with impartiality and fairness and given equal access to information to assist with quotations, tendering or supply.
- All procurement activities and decisions will be fully and clearly documented by the Town to provide an efficient audit trail and to allow for an effective performance review of contracts.
- All contracts that involve services to the public will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Town's Disability Access and Inclusions Plan (DAIP) 2016-2020.
- Energy-efficient equipment, products containing recycled materials and environmentally friendly products will be purchased wherever reasonably possible taking into account best value for money considerations.
- Tenders will not be called unless the Town has a firm commitment to proceed to contract although the Council reserves the right not to proceed with any tender or quotation so advertised.
- The Town will not disclose confidential or proprietary information.

What we ask of you

The Town requires all private sector providers of goods and services to observe the following principles when doing business with the Town:

- Comply with all Australian Laws.
- Act ethically, fairly and honestly in all your dealings with the Town
- Gain an understanding of the Town's policies, guidelines and procedures relating to purchasing, including an understanding of this Statement (all available on the Town's website).
- Provide accurate and reliable advice and information when invited or required.
- Declare actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interests as soon as you or your employees become aware of the conflict.
- Take all reasonable measures to prevent the disclosure of confidential Town information.
- Do not engage in any form of collusive practice, including offering Town employees or Elected Members inducements or incentives designed to improperly influence the conduct of their duties.
- Do not discuss Town business or information in the media.
- Assist the Town to prevent unethical practices in business relationships by reporting such practices.

Why is compliance important?

By complying with the Town's Statement of Business Ethics, you will be able to advance your business objectives and interests in a fair and ethical manner. As all Town suppliers of goods and services are required to comply with this Statement, compliance will not disadvantage you in any way.

You should also be aware of the consequences of not complying with the Town's ethical requirements when doing business with the Town. Improper or unethical conduct could lead to termination of contracts or loss of future work with the Town. Overall any business reputation can also be detrimentally effected if corrupt and criminal behaviour is made public.

Complying with the Town's business principles will also prepare your business for dealing with the ethical requirements of other local governments and public sector agencies should you choose to do business with them.

Guidance notes

Incentives, gifts and benefits

The Town's employees and Elected Members do not expect to receive, or be the recipients of gifts, benefits or incentives as a result of our business relationship with goods or service providers. Goods and service providers are requested to refrain from offering such incentives, gifts or benefits to employees or Elected Members. The Town's Code of Conduct provides for the type of incentives, gifts and benefits that can be received by Elected Members and employees. If wanting to give a gift, please check with the proposed recipient as to whether a gift can be accepted, or alternatively view the Town's Code of Conduct.

Conflicts of interest

All Town employees and Elected Members are required to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest. The Town extends this requirement to all Town business partners, contractors and suppliers.

Confidentiality

All Town information must be treated as confidential unless otherwise indicated. The Town will maintain appropriate confidentiality and not disclose proprietary information unless legally obligated to do so.

Safety

The Town of East Fremantle strives for continuous improvement while creating a strong safety and health culture within all aspects of Town activities. This commitment to safety is the Town's highest priority and will not be compromised. All employees, including volunteers and contractors, are required to take all reasonable care to ensure their own safety and that of others in the workplace.

Communication between parties

All communications should be clear, direct and accountable to minimise the risk of perception of inappropriate influence being brought to bear on the business relationship. Canvassing of Elected Members during a tender process will disqualify bids from further consideration and contact with Elected Members during work for the Town is prohibited unless expressly authorised by the Town.

Use of Town equipment, resources and information

All Town equipment, resources and information should only be used for its proper official purpose.

Contracting employees

All contracted and sub-contracted employees are expected to comply with this Statement. If you employ sub-contractors in your work for the Town, you must make them aware of this Statement. All contractors and sub-contractors will be required to undertake an annual induction process prior to commencing business with the Town.

Secondary Employment

Employees are not permitted to engage in private work with any person that has an interest in a proposed or current contract with the Town.

Intellectual property rights

In business relationships with the Town, parties will respect each other's intellectual property rights and will formally negotiate any access, license or use of intellectual property.

Who to contact?

If you have any questions regarding this Statement or to provide information about suspected corrupt conduct, please contact the Town either directly by letter, phone, fax or email at the following or through the Town's website at www.eastfremantle.wa.gov.au:

Chief Executive Officer

Town of East Fremantle
PO Box 1097
East Fremantle WA 6959



Phone (08) 9339 9339

Persons reporting corrupt behaviour or misconduct are protected by the Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003 and other "Whistleblower" protection laws such as the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003. These laws protect persons disclosing corruption-related matters from reprisal or detrimental action and ensure disclosures are properly investigated and dealt with.