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1. Statement

At the discretion of Council, a reward may be offered, via public notice, for information that leads to the conviction of offenders who steal or vandalise Ipswich City Council (Council) assets or perpetrate an offence of a Local Law.

2. Purpose and Principles

Local Law 1 (Administration) 2013 provides Council with the power to offer a reward for information leading to the conviction of, or finding of guilt in relation to, a person for:

- a. an offence involving damage to, or theft of, property of Council or under the control of Council; or
- b. An offence against a local law.

The amount of the reward, and the conditions on which it is payable, will be made by a resolution of Council.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable
- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

4. Regulatory Authority

Local Law 1 (Administration) 2013

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

Council acknowledges that members of the community can often provide valuable information to the Queensland Police Service when a crime has been committed. This policy has been formulated to provide Council with a mechanism to offer a reward, via public notice, when the crime involves Council assets. Council assets include all things owned or under the control of Council including buildings, machinery, open space areas and landscaping.

An advertised reward may be paid following a successful court conviction.

Should multiple persons provide information, the apportioning of payments will be based on the value of the information received and is at the sole discretion of Council.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

When Council becomes aware that an offence has occurred, an investigation will be undertaken by an officer of the relevant department.

The officer will provide a report to their General Manager who will be responsible for formulating an action plan including an estimate of costs to remediate the issue/replace assets

Based on the estimated costs, it may be considered that a reward for information is warranted. If so, a briefing note is to be prepared for consideration by the Executive Leadership Team for endorsement of a report to Council. The report is to contain:

- Details of the offence.
- Outcome of the investigation.
- Estimated costs to remediate/replace asset/s.
- Recommendation for the amount of reward to be offered.

Once a decision to proceed is adopted, the reward will be offered by public notice in the local newspaper which will be coordinated by the Media and Engagement Branch (Coordination and Performance Department).

The General Manager of the relevant department, or nominee, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, will be responsible for the continued progression of this matter up to completion of prosecution and payment of the reward in line with this policy.

8. Key Stakeholders

The following stakeholders will be consulted as a result of any review to this standard:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Leadership Team

Ineligibility to Apply for a Reward

Elected members, council employees or contractors, members of the Queensland Police Service or persons convicted of being illegally involved in any activity relating to the offence will not be eligible for a reward under the provisions of this policy.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Council will be proactive in seeking out information that leads to the conviction of an offender by offering a reward, of an appropriate amount, to encourage residents to be vigilant of the activities in their community.

In order for a person to be eligible for consideration of a reward for information:

- A conviction needs to be recorded against the offender.
- In the opinion of Council, at its sole discretion, the applicant did not knowingly allow the alleged offender to commit the act in order to obtain a reward.

10. Definitions

'Council Property' as described in this policy is any land, building or other structure and equipment owned or under the control of Ipswich City Council.

'Vandalism' as described in this policy is damage to, or unauthorised interference with, Council property.

'Theft' as described in this policy is the act or an instance of stealing Council property including the receiving of stolen Council property.

11. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Corporate Services) is the policy owner and the Corporate Governance Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.