1. **Policy Statement**

Open and transparent Council meetings underpin representative democracy and ensure public confidence in Council's decision-making processes. Informal gatherings, where appropriate, provide a valuable opportunity to enhance the decision-making processes by providing opportunities for Council members to become better informed on issues and seek further clarification.

Section 90(8) of the Local Government Act allows informal gatherings to be held provided that the discussion does not lead to a decision, or effectively obtain a decision, on a matter that would ordinarily be dealt with at a Council meeting.

Council has resolved that its operational policy and procedure surrounding the conduct of Informal Gatherings will be incorporated as part of its Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures, refer to Council Policy Number 6.8.

2. **History**

Policy was adopted by Council at its 26 July 2016, refer Item 13.2.1 at page 2016/259