

### **6.3. MM03: GIPA Requests - Impacts on Council Resources**

Councillors will be aware that the community can request access to Council documents not published on our website via an informal or formal application under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, generally known as GIPA.

It has come to my attention that Council is experiencing an unprecedented number of GIPA applications and that if requests continue at this rate, Council would need to commit additional resources to manage them.

I am therefore recommending that Council staff be asked to provide a report outlining:

- the number of Informal and Formal GIPA requests received during this current term of Council;
- the topics of the GIPA applications; and
- the level of complexity/resource intensity of each request and the average processing time.

I propose that this report be presented to the Governance and Finance Committee so that Councillors have time to consider the information provided.

As Council's revenue has fallen due to COVID-19, I believe it would be beneficial for Councillors to understand the number and type of requests being lodged in case some information could be permanently released via the website. This information could also inform the Information Sessions currently being run as part of Council's community engagement strategy and allow the information sessions to cover areas of most interest to the community.

#### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** a report be prepared for the Governance and Finance Committee outlining the number of Informal and Formal GIPA requests received since 1 October 2017.
- 2. THAT** the report identify the source of all GIPA applications, including the number submitted by Councillors.
- 3. THAT** the report identify topics of the GIPA applications, the level of complexity/resource intensity of each request and the average processing time.
- 4. THAT** the report identify whether there is information that could be provided on the Council website or disseminated via Information Sessions to the community or Councillors to reduce the number of requests.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**