

Title	FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE		
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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust ('GMCT' or 'the Trust') Finance & Investment Committee ('the Committee') is a formally constituted Committee of the Trust under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003* (the Act) and reports directly to the Trust.

The Committee has an advisory role assisting the Trust in fulfilling its statutory and fiduciary responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of the Act). Establishment of this Committee is a statutory requirement under section 18B (1)(a)(i) of the Act.

Nothing in this Charter limits any powers or responsibilities of the Trust.

2 Objectives & Powers

2.1 Objective

Provide advice and make recommendations to the Trust on matters relating to:

- appropriate, prudent, sustainable and efficient use of investment funds;
- maintenance of sufficient funds to meet the perpetual maintenance obligations;
- the accuracy and veracity of regular financial reports;
- approval of the financial aspects of business cases for major projects;
- compliance with financial and financial reporting obligations to third parties and relevant internal policies; and
- other financial matters as requested by the Trust.

2.2 Executive Powers

The Committee's role is to make recommendations to the Trust; accordingly, it does not have the executive powers to commit the Trust or management to implement its recommendations, except in relation to the approval of certain policies as determined by the Trust (by resolution or as listed in this Terms of Reference).

The Committee shall have direct access to and seek any explanation and additional information, or independent and expert advice, it requires in undertaking its oversight and advisory responsibilities.

3 Responsibilities

The specific duties of the Committee in relation to its role and responsibilities are:

3.1 Business and Financial Performance

- a. Review capital and operating budgets and forecasts for recommendation to the Trust.

- b. Review regular activity and financial performance reports and ensure management responses and actions are appropriate.
- c. Review key financial reports being Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement
- d. Provide oversight to the planning of major capital projects, including the funding and timing of projects proposed for inclusion in the long-term financial plan
- e. Review financial aspects of business cases for major capital works projects, and make recommendations to Trust regarding these projects
- f. Provide oversight to the management of major capital projects, particularly in terms of budgetary and timeframe compliance.
- g. Review cash flow projections

3.2 Financial Risk Management and Compliance

- a. Review status of funding for perpetual maintenance, in line with the Trust's Perpetual Maintenance Policy.
- b. Monitor investment activity compliance with the GMCT's Investment Management Policy.

3.3 Investment Management

- a. Assess the appropriateness of GMCT's Investment Management Policy and Guidelines in the context of relevant Victorian government directions, and review these documents at least annually.
- b. Monitor and advise on GMCT's investment strategy, based on current and future operational and capital needs.
- c. Set the principles by which fund managers must operate and review their performance on a periodic basis.
- d. Review the performance of investment advisers at least once each financial year, and review their appointment at least once every three years.

3.4 Policies

The Trust may delegate to the Finance & Investment Committee the power to approve certain policies as determined by the Trust (by resolution or as listed in this Terms of Reference).

3.5 Responsibilities of the Chair

The Chair of the Committee holds both a leadership and relationship management role. The Chair:

- leads the Committee in the conduct of its responsibilities and discharge of its duties
- leads the Committee in ensuring effective governance of the Committee and the achievement of the Committee Responsibilities
- interprets Trust policy as required
- in consultation with the CEO or Chief Financial Officer, sets the meeting agenda of the Committee and oversees the provision of adequate information to the Committee and Trust
- leads an effective relationship with the CEO and Executive
- leads an effective relationship with each Committee Member, and
- Acts on other related matters.

4 Membership

4.1 Composition

- a. Membership of the Committee shall be determined by the Trust and consist of at least three (3) and no more than six (6) members.
- b. An external independent and non-executive member may be appointed at the discretion of the trust.
- c. The Committee Chair:
 - must be appointed directly by the Trust for a term of three (3) years and may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Trust;
 - must be a Trust Member; and
 - may not be the Trust Chair.

4.2 Skills & Qualities of Committee Members

- a. Committee members should:
 - have a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences in the context of the GMCT's business, financial and investment risk profile;
 - be financially literate with at least one (1) member having recognised investment and financial expertise; and
 - have a strong understanding of the Trust's business processes; organisational structure and policies; and operations, including its planning, control and service delivery methods;
- b. At the time of appointment, each member shall be assessed as being independent from any business or other relationship that, in the opinion of the GMCT, would materially interfere with the exercise of their judgment as a member of the Committee.
- c. Members must immediately advise the Committee Chair of any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest that arise during their membership of the Committee and may not vote on any matter where the Committee agrees that there is a conflict of interest.

4.3 Terms and Vacancies

- a. Each time the Minister appoints new members to the Trust, or reappoints existing members to the Trust, the Trust Chair will review the membership of the Committee and recommend to Trust, any proposed amendments. Committee members will be appointed on annual basis by the Trust, subject to Committee composition requirements and eligibility.
- b. A Committee member may resign from the Committee, in writing, and addressed to the Trust Chair at any time.
- c. The Trust may remove a member of the Committee at any time, if deemed necessary.
- d. The Trust must appoint a person to fill a vacancy in the membership within three (3) months of the vacancy arising.

4.4 In Attendance

The following officers should attend Committee meetings:

- a. Chief Executive Officer.
- b. Chief Financial Officer (Executive Sponsor).
- c. Executive Management or Finance Personnel (per item as required and as determined by the Chief Executive Officer).
- d. Chief Governance Officer (including role as minute-taker).

Other members of management, or parties external to the GMCT, may be invited by the Committee Chair to attend any meeting of the Committee or part thereof, as a resource or in an advisory capacity following consultation with the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer.

Non-members of the Committee may be asked to withdraw for all or part of any meeting as appropriate.

5 Meetings of the Committee

5.1 Frequency

- a. Meetings shall be held generally on a monthly basis (excluding January, July, August and December) and more frequently if deemed necessary. FIC members to attend an annual joint meeting with the Audit & Risk Management Committee in July and August to review end-of-year financials.
- b. Committee Chair may call a meeting of the Committee if so requested by a member of the Committee or by the Trust Chair.
- c. Meetings may be called or held using any technology determined by the Committee Chair.

5.2 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of not less than two (2) Committee members, who must be GMCT Trust members.

5.3 Meeting Papers

Meeting papers will be delivered electronically via secure software and tablets or email or other methods as required.

5.4 Decision-making and Voting

- a. Decisions shall be reached by consensus, or majority vote if required.
- b. Each Committee member is entitled to one (1) vote.
- c. The Committee Chair does not have a casting vote.
- d. Any Trust member may attend a meeting of the Committee of which they are not a member, for discussion of particular areas of interest to that Trust member. However, the Trust member has no voting entitlement. Trust members who are not Committee members will also receive Committee papers and notices for their information.

5.5 Committee Member's Attendance

- a. Committee members are expected to attend at least 75% of Committee meetings.

5.6 Agendas

- a. The Committee Chair is responsible for the development of the Agenda for Committee meetings, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer Chief Financial Officer and Chief Governance Officer.
- b. Items for Agenda shall be advised by Committee members at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date, unless otherwise agreed.
The Agenda shall be circulated together with relevant meeting papers, in electronic form to Committee members and Trust members five (5) days prior to the meeting date, unless otherwise agreed.
- d. Meeting agendas are to be structured throughout the year to ensure that each responsibility of the Committee is addressed.

5.7 Minutes

- a. Proceedings, findings and recommendations of all Committee meetings must be minuted.
- b. Draft Minutes shall be provided to the Committee Chair for review no later than forty eight hours (48), following the meeting date, unless otherwise agreed. Once received from the Committee Chair, minutes will then be distributed to other Committee members within forty eight (48) hours.
- c. Minutes must be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair once formally confirmed at its subsequent meeting.

6 Confidentiality

All members and attendees shall be subject to the confidentiality requirements of the GMCT.

7 Lobbying

- a. The Trust members who are Committee members are subject to restrictions on past or present lobbying activity under VPSC Code of conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities.
 - The Trust members who are Committee members must not engage in any lobbying activity including activities undertaken in other jurisdictions that may relate to the functions of the public entity.
 - The Committee must confirm at the start of each board meeting that Trust members on the Committee are not engaged in such activity. Any independent members of the Committee are not strictly subject to the Code, but are required by GMCT to declare any lobbying activity that may relate to the functions of GMCT.
- b. Lobbying activity, defined in the Victorian Government Professional Lobbyist Code of Conduct, includes any contact with a Government Representative to influence decision-making, including policies, legislation, planning, and grants.

- c. Activities described in subclause 9(b) are exempt from being considered lobbying if the Committee member:
 - Is a board director or statutory office holder governed by the Directors Code of Conduct, and
 - Is acting in their capacity as a director on behalf of the public entity board.

8 Reporting

- a. The Committee shall report to the Trust after each meeting through its meeting minutes and/or a presentation to the ordinary Trust Meeting by the Committee Chair.
- b. The Committee's role, composition, and achievements shall be included in the Trust's Annual Report, together with a statement that the Committee has observed its Terms of Reference.
- c. The Committee's Terms of Reference shall be available on the Trust website at all times.

9 Performance Review

The Committee will conduct an annual evaluation of its performance and functions and report to Trust on the outcome with any recommended changes to the Committee's role or Terms of Reference as appropriate. The Committee may also conduct an evaluation of its performance at the conclusion of each meeting.

10 Document Review

The Committee shall review and reassess its Terms of Reference annually following Trust self- assessment review and confirmation of Trust Memberships to ensure it remains relevant, is meeting the needs of GMCT, and to address any emerging issues.

11 Committee Terms of Reference History

Date	Details of Change
2010	Updated
2015	Reviewed and Updated
April 2016	Reviewed and updated to new policy template.
Nov 2016	Reviewed, updated and approved by Trust
Feb 2018	Reviewed, updated and approved by Trust
Nov/Dec 2018	Reviewed, updated and approved by Trust
Sept 2020	Reviewed to reflect new organisation structure; additions to Objectives and Powers and Responsibilities; changes to Membership with independent member being discretionary; change to meeting frequency to be generally monthly; change to Terms of Reference review period to be annual not two-yearly
March 2022	Reviewed and updated
March 2023	Reviewed and minor update to roles as per revised org structure
March 2024	Updated to include changes to Code of conduct for directors of Victorian public entities.
June 2025	One minor change made. Resubmitted for approval in line with the annual review cycle