

PART 4

SECTION 39

***COUNCIL
PROCEDURE RULES***

Council Procedure Rules

1. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

- (1) The annual meeting of the Council must be held as provided by the Local Government Act 1972 on a date and at a time fixed by the Council.
- (2) Other meetings of the Council shall be held at such other days as the Council may fix.
- (3) An extraordinary meeting of the Council may be called at any time by the Chairman or the Monitoring Officer.
- (4) An extraordinary meeting of the Council may also be called provided that at least 5 Members have signed a requisition to that effect and have passed that to the Chairman of the Council. If, at the expiry of 7 days from the receipt of the request the Chairman fails to call the requested extraordinary meeting within 14 days then any 5 Members (which can be the same Members as made the initial request) may call an extraordinary meeting of the Council to which the Proper Officer shall so arrange.
- (5) The date, time and place of meetings will be determined by the Proper Officer.
- (6) The Proper Officer will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Rules and current regulations. The Proper Officer will send a summons by post or electronic means to every member of the Council or leave it at their usual place of residence. The summons will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted and will be accompanied by such reports as are available.

2. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

- (1) The election of the Chairman of the Council shall be the first business to be transacted at the annual meeting of the Council.
- (2) The Council shall at the annual meeting appoint, by election, a Vice-Chairman.
- (3) The Chairman of the Council shall, if present, preside at a meeting of the Council and, if the Chairman is absent, the Vice-Chairman shall, if present, preside. If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent a Member appointed, by election, by those present shall preside.
- (4) Any power or duty of the Chairman of the Council in relation to the conduct of a meeting may be exercised by the Member presiding at a meeting.

- (5) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will hold office for the municipal year and shall not be removed from office unless they resign, or are disqualified by law from remaining as a Councillor or if there is a change in the administration of the Council, whereupon a Member may move that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be removed and that a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman be nominated and appointed. For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman cannot be removed by a motion of “no confidence” or other similar motion.

3. QUORUM

No business shall be dealt with at a meeting of the Council unless one quarter of the whole number of Members of the Council is present. If there is no quorum the meeting must be adjourned immediately and any remaining business postponed either to a time fixed by the Chairman at the adjournment or if no time is fixed, the next ordinary meeting.

4A. ORDER OF BUSINESS - ANNUAL MEETING

- (1) In a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, the Annual Meeting will take place within 21 days of the retirement of the outgoing Councillors. In any other year, the Annual meeting will take place in March, April or May:
 - (a) To elect a person to preside if the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council is not present;
 - (b) To elect the Chairman of the Council;
 - (c) To appoint, by election, the Vice-Chairman of the Council;
 - (d) To approve the minutes of the last meeting;
 - (e) To receive any announcements from the Chairman and/or Head of the paid service;
 - (f) To elect the Leader of the Council for 4 years (as appropriate);
 - (g) To receive notification from the Leader of the Council of the number and identity of Cabinet Members, their Portfolios and the allocation of responsibilities for leading on the Local Area Agreement blocks.
 - (h) To receive the acceptance of office from the Leader of the Opposition;

- (i) To receive notification from the leaders of the political groups to which seats on the Shadow Cabinet have been allocated of their appointments to the Shadow cabinet;
 - (j) To receive notification from the Leader of the Opposition of the Portfolios of the members of the Shadow Cabinet and the allocation of responsibilities in respect of the Local Area Agreement blocks;
 - (k) To appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee (referred to as a Scrutiny Committee), a Standards Committee, a Licensing and Public Protection Committee, a Planning Control Committee and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate;
 - (l) To receive and adopt any changes to the Constitution and decide which Committees and other bodies to establish for the municipal year;
 - (m) To decide the size and terms of reference for those Committees for the municipal year and other bodies including any such scheme for substitute Members;
 - (n) To appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees provided that advance notification of any Political Group's proposed Chairman, Vice-Chairman and membership has been circulated by the Proper Officer to all Members at least 24 hours prior to the Annual Meeting.
 - (o) To decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the current legislation;
 - (p) To appoint to Committees those Councillors named by the Group Leader.
 - (q) To appoint representatives to outside bodies provided that Group Leaders have submitted their nominations to the Proper Officer at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting. The submitted nominations shall be circulated to Members of the Council at the meeting and no amendments shall be permitted once the nominations are received by the Proper Officer.
 - (r) To agree the scheme of delegation or such part of it as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree;
 - (s) To consider any other business set out in the notice convening the meeting.
- (2) The order of business may be changed, insofar as it is statutorily possible, at the discretion of the Chairman or by motion passed without discussion. The motion need not be in writing.

4B. ORDER OF BUSINESS - ORDINARY MEETINGS

The order of business at every meeting of the Council shall be:-

- (a) To choose the person to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent;
- (b) To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
- (c) To deal with any deputations or public questions received in accordance with the Council's approved schemes;
- (d) To receive any announcements from the Chairman and/or Head of the paid service;
- (e) In the event of the Leader being removed following a vote of 'no confidence' or a change in administration, to elect a Leader of the Council;
- (f) In the event of any change to the composition of the Cabinet (including the Leader), to receive notification from the Leader of the Council of the number and identity of Cabinet Members, their Portfolios and the allocation of responsibilities for leading on the Local Area Agreement blocks;
- (g) In the event of a change in the leader of the Opposition, to receive the acceptance of office from the Leader of the Opposition;
- (h) In the event of any change to the composition of the Shadow Cabinet to receive notification from the leaders of the political groups to which seats on the Shadow Cabinet have been allocated of changes to their appointments to the Shadow cabinet and to receive notification from the Leader of the Opposition of the portfolios of the Shadow Cabinet Members, and the allocation of responsibilities in respect of the Local Area Agreement blocks;
- (i) In the event of any change in the Chair or Vice-Chair of a Committee, to appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair to such Committee.
- (j) In the event of any change in named membership of a Committee by a Group Leader, to appoint the newly named Member(s).
- (k) To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting;

- (l) To answer questions asked under Rule 8;
- (m) To consider reports and recommendations of the Cabinet, Committees and Panels;
- (n) To consider motions under Rule 6 in the order in which notice has been received;
- (o) To consider other business, if any specified in the summons.
- (p) The order of business may be changed, insofar as it is statutorily possible, at the discretion of the Chairman or by motion passed without discussion. The motion need not be in writing.

5. MINUTES

- (1) The Chairman will move that the minutes of the previous Council meeting be signed as a correct record.
- (2) No discussion shall take place on these minutes, except as to their accuracy. The Chairman shall sign the minutes when they have been agreed.
- (3) Extraordinary Meetings shall not be used to sign minutes. Minutes of Council Meetings shall only be approved by the Annual Meeting or an ordinary meeting of the Council.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) **Delivery of Notice of Motion**

- (a) Notice of a motion other than one referred to in Rule 7 must be given in writing and signed by the Member(s) giving notice. It must be delivered to the Proper Officer at least ten calendar days before the meeting of the Council at which it is to be considered;
- (b) The Proper Officer must ensure a record is kept of notices of motion received. Members are entitled to see this record.

(2) **Motions to be set out in Summons**

The summons to a meeting of the Council must set out motions in the order in which they have been received unless they have been withdrawn in writing or relate to a later meeting.

(3) **Motions not Moved**

Unless postponed with the consent of the Council a motion in the summons which is not moved (by the person who has given notice or a Member on his behalf) is deemed to be withdrawn.

(4) **Automatic Reference to Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee**

If the subject matter of any motion of which notice has been duly given comes within the province of the Cabinet or any Committee or Sub-Committee, it shall formally be moved and seconded and stand referred without discussion to the next (where practicable) Cabinet or to such Committee or Sub-Committee or to such other Committee or Sub-Committee as the Council may determine for consideration and report; provided that the Chairman may, if the Chairman considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.

(5) **Scope of Motions**

Every motion shall be relevant to some matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the district.

(6) **Mover of Motion may attend Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee**

A Member of the Council who has moved a motion which has been referred to the Cabinet or any Committee or Sub-Committee shall have notice of the meeting at which it is proposed to consider the motion. The Member shall have the right to attend the meeting and if the Member attends shall have the opportunity of explaining the motion, but shall not have a right to vote upon that motion unless the Member is by appointment a Member of the Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee considering the motion.

7. **MOTIONS WHICH MAY BE MOVED WITHOUT NOTICE**

The following motions and amendments may be moved without notice:-

- (1) appointment of a Chairman of the meeting at which the motion is made;
- (2) motions relating to the accuracy of the minutes;
- (3) that an item of business specified in the summons has precedence;
- (4) a motion by the Chairman of the Council (or Member presiding) that a deputation or public question be allowed in accordance with the approved schemes;
- (5) refer the item or motion to the Cabinet or a Committee or Sub-Committee;

- (6) appointment of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Members thereof arising from an item mentioned in the summons to the meeting;
- (7) receipt of reports and adoption of recommendations of the Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees Panels or Officers and any consequent resolutions;
- (8) that leave be given to withdraw a motion;
- (9) extending the time limit for speeches;
- (10) amendments to motions;
- (11) that the Council proceed to the next business;
- (12) that the question be now put;
- (13) that the debate be now adjourned;
- (14) that the Council do now adjourn;
- (15) suspending Rules in accordance with Rule 31;
- (16) the Chairman (only) may move that a Member named under Rule 11 be not further heard or that he/she leaves the meeting;
- (17) giving consent of the Council where the consent of the Council is required by the Constitution;
- (18) a motion under the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

(1) On reports of the Cabinet or Committees

A member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or portfolio Lead or the Chairman of a Committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a Committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.

(2) Questions on notice at full Council

Subject to Rule 8(4), a member of the Council may ask:

- the Chairman;

- a member of the Cabinet;
- the Chairman of any Committee or Sub-Committee, Panel or other Body

a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the area.

(3) **Questions on notice at Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels**

Subject to Rule 8, a member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel may ask the Chairman of it a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the area and which falls within the terms of reference of that Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel.

(4) **Notice of questions**

A member may only ask a question under Rule 8.2 or 8.3 if either:

- (a) they have given at least 10 calendar days notice in writing of the question to the Proper Officer; or
- (b) the question relates to urgent matters, and they have the consent of the Chairman of the Council to the question being asked provided that such request is received not less than four hours before the start of the meeting. The relevant Portfolio Holder, Leader or Committee Chairman shall respond at the Council meeting.

(5) **Response**

An answer may take the form of:

- (a) a direct oral answer;
- (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- (c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later and within a reasonable time to the questioner.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET, COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- (1) The minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees, Community Forums and Panels shall be submitted to Council.

- (2) The Chairman shall move that all such minutes be received and noted by Council and will call each page in turn.
- (3) In respect of their Cabinet/Portfolio/Committee/Panel (or on behalf of an absent Leader, Portfolio Holder or Chair) the Forum's relevant Portfolio Holder/Chair may make the Council aware of an item included in the minutes of the Cabinet, Committee Panel or Forum within their purview.
- (4) Questions on matters in the minutes may be asked of the Leader/Chair/Portfolio Holder by Council Members and the Leader, relevant Chair/Portfolio Holder shall respond to the question.
- (5) A Member of the Council may speak on any particular paragraph of the minutes at such time as it is actually before the Council, whether or not the Member moved anything in relation to the paragraph. All remarks shall be confined to the subject matter of the paragraph on which the Member speaks and the Member shall not, subject to Rule 10(6) be entitled to speak twice on any one paragraph.
- (6) Any recommendations of the Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee, Panel or Community Forum which requires a decision by Council shall be considered as a separate agenda item on the Council agenda.

10. RULES OF DEBATE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

(1) No speeches until motion seconded

No speeches may be made after the mover has moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

(2) Right to require motion in writing

Unless notice of the motion has already been given, the Chairman of the Council may require it to be written down and handed to him/her before it is discussed.

(3) Seconder's speech

When seconding a motion or amendment, a Member may reserve their right to speak until later in the debate.

(4) Content and length of speeches

Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order. No speech may exceed 10 minutes without the consent of the Chairman of the Council.

(5) **Only one member to stand at a time**

A member when speaking shall stand and address the Chairman. If two **or** more members rise, the Chairman shall call on one to speak; the other or others shall then sit. While a member is speaking the other members shall remain seated, unless rising to a point of order.

(6) **When a member may speak again**

A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:-

- (a) on an amendment moved by another member;
- (b) to move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke;
- (c) if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another member, to speak on the main issue (whether or not the amendment on which he/she spoke was carried);
- (d) in exercise of a right of reply;
- (e) on a point of order or personal explanation.

(7) **Alteration of motion**

- (a) A member may amend a motion of which he/she has given notice with the consent of the meeting. The meeting's consent by way of a vote will be signified without discussion.
- (b) A member may amend a motion which he/she has moved without notice with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified by way of a vote without discussion.
- (c) Only amendments under Rule 10(7)(a) are permitted.

(8) **Amendments to motions**

- (a) An amendment to a motion must be relevant to the motion and will either be:-
 - (i) to refer the matter to an appropriate body or individual for consideration or reconsideration;
 - (ii) to leave out words;
 - (iii) to leave out words and insert or add others; or

- (iv) to insert or add words

as long as the effect of (ii) to (iv) is not to negate the motion.

- (b) Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of in accordance with Rule 15.
- (c) If an amendment is not carried, other amendments to the original motion may be moved.
- (d) If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.
- (e) After an amendment has been carried, the Chairman of the Council will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
- (f) No amendments to the motions may be moved in respect of the Council, determination of the Budgetary Framework as specified in Part 4, Section 41.

(9) **Withdrawal of motion**

A member may withdraw a motion which he/she has moved with the consent of the seconder. No member may speak on the motion after the mover has withdrawn the motion.

(10) **Right of reply**

- (a) The mover of the motion (or substantive motion) has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
- (b) If an amendment is moved, the mover of the amendment has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it;

(11) **Motions which may be moved during debate**

When a motion is under debate, no other motion may be moved except the following procedural motions:

- (a) to withdraw a motion;
- (b) to amend a motion;
- (c) to proceed to the next business;

- (d) that the question be now put;
- (e) to adjourn a debate;
- (f) to adjourn a meeting;
- (g) that the meeting continue beyond five hours in duration;
- (h) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules;
- (i) to not hear further a member named under Rule 11.3 or to exclude them from the meeting under Rule 11.4; and
- (j) a requisition for a named vote under Rule 15.5.

(12) **Closure motions**

- (a) A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another member:
 - (i) to proceed to the next business;
 - (ii) that the question be now put;
 - (iii) to adjourn a debate; or
 - (iv) to adjourn a meeting;
- (b) If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded and the Chairman thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he or she will give the mover of the motion or the amendment the right of reply and then put the original motion to the vote without further debate or discussion.
- (c) If a motion that the question be now put is seconded and the Chairman thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote without further debate or discussion. If it is passed he/she will give the mover of the motion or the amendment the right of reply before putting the motion to the vote.
- (d) If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chairman thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving any right of reply and without further debate or discussion.
- (e) Items of business not dealt with prior to the meeting being adjourned shall be considered at the re-convened meeting of Council which shall take place 10 calendar days following the decision to adjourn.

(13) **Points of Order and Personal Explanations**

- (a) A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Chairman will hear the argument immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The Member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken without which the alleged breach shall be disregarded. Unless the Member refers explicitly to the relevant Rule of Procedure or law they shall not be heard.
- (b) A Personal Explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech made by that Member which may have been misunderstood in the present debate and to provide clarification. The ruling of the Chairman on these matters will be final.
- (c) In both (a) and (b) above the Member must AT THE START of their address refer to the Rule of Procedure, law or matter of Personal Explanation they wish to raise.

11. **CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**

(1) **Standing to speak**

When a member or member of the public speaks at full Council they must stand (unless they are disabled from doing so) and address the meeting through the chairman. If more than one member stands, the chairman will ask one to speak and the others must sit. Other members must remain seated whilst a member is speaking unless they wish to make a point of order or a point of personal explanation.

(2) **Chairman standing**

When the Chairman stands during a debate, any member speaking at the time must immediately stop and sit down. The meeting must be silent.

(3) **Member not to be heard further**

If a member persistently disregards the ruling of the chairman by behaving improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business, the Chairman at his or her absolute discretion may move that the member be not heard further for the remainder of that item. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

(4) **Member to leave the meeting**

If the member continues to behave improperly after such a motion is carried, the chairman may move that either the member leaves the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

(5) **General disturbance**

If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks necessary.

12. DISTURBANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (1) If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chairman shall issue a warning. If the member of the public concerned continues the interruption, the Chairman shall order the removal of that person from the Council Chamber.
- (2) In case of general disturbance in any part of the Chamber open to the public, the Chairman shall order that part to be cleared.

13. SUSPENSION OF SITTING

If the business of the Council be not disposed of at the expiration of the fifth hour after commencement of the meeting, the Chairman shall ask for an immediate vote to be taken of the Members present as to whether they desire to proceed with the remaining business. If the Members decide to adjourn they shall fix upon a date when the adjourned meeting shall take place or, if no date and time is fixed, the remaining business will be included in the agenda for the next ordinary meeting.

14. RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION

No motion to rescind any resolution passed by the Council within the preceding six months and no motion or amendment to the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding six months shall be proposed unless notice is given in accordance with Rule 6 and bears the names of at least fourteen Members of the Council. When any such motion or amendment has been disposed of by the Council it shall not be open to any Member to propose a similar motion within a further period of six months. This Rule shall not apply to motions moved following a recommendation of a Committee to the Council.

15. VOTING

(1) **Majority**

Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put.

(2) **Chairman's casting vote**

If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the chairman will have a second or casting vote. There will be no restriction on how the chairman chooses to exercise a casting vote.

(3) If the Chairman chooses not to exercise their casting vote and an equality of vote remains, the motion shall fall.

(4) **Show of hands**

Unless a recorded vote is demanded the Chairman will take the vote by show of hands, or if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.

(5) **Named vote**

If, before a vote is taken, a Member so requests and is supported by at least six other Members (support being signified by Members rising in their places) then the vote on any issue must be by a roll call. In this event the way each Member present votes or abstains as the case may be must be recorded.

(6) **Recorded Vote**

Prior to the vote being taken (and where no named vote has been requested) at least 6 Members of Council (indicating their support by rising in their place) may request that the numbers of votes for, against and abstentions be recorded in the minutes.

(7) **Right to require individual vote to be recorded**

Where any member requests it immediately after the vote is taken, their vote will be so recorded in the minutes to show whether they voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting.

(8) **Voting on appointments**

If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new

vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

16. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- (1) Members must sign the attendance book for every meeting at which they are present. This shall be the responsibility of every Member.

17. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

- (1) Members shall, at the annual meeting, in conjunction with the appointment of Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies, also appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen thereof.
- (2) If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a Chairman for that meeting must be appointed by the other Members of the Committee, Sub-Committee or other body present at that meeting.

18. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

All agenda, reports and other documents and all proceedings of Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies shall be subject to the Access to Information provisions.

19. REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Where a Committee, Sub-Committee or other body of the Council so wishes it shall, as necessary or appropriate, produce schemes to allow the public to attend meetings so as to:

- (a) make representations and/or
- (b) provide information to assist the Committee, Sub-Committee or other body in its consideration or determination of a particular matter.

20. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Council and every Committee appointed by the Council may appoint Sub-Committees for purposes to be specified by the Council or Committee. Except where powers or duties are delegated to a Sub-Committee by the Council or a Committee to expedite decisions or whose acts in pursuance of any statutory enactment

need not be submitted to the Committee for approval, no act of a Sub-Committee shall have effect until approved by the Committee.

21. QUORUM OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Except where authorised by the Council, business shall not be transacted at a meeting unless at least one quarter of the whole number of Members is present.

22. RULES TO APPLY TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

The Council's Rules relating to Rules of Debate, Voting and Interests of Members will apply to meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies except:-

- (1) that Members or officers need not stand when speaking; and
- (2) that Members may speak more than once with the permission of the Chairman of the meeting. These Rules will not apply to the Cabinet.

23. RECORDING APPARATUS AT MEETINGS

The following provisions shall have effect at any meeting of the Council, or a Committee or a Sub-Committee thereof.

- (1) No person shall use in the Council Chamber or room in which such meeting shall be held or have in the person's possession or control:-
 - (a) any camera or other apparatus capable of making a photographic or other pictorial record for subsequent use;
 - (b) any radio transmitting apparatus, recording machine or other apparatus capable of recording speech for subsequent use;
 - (c) any mobile phone or similar application;

(unless the previous permission of the Chairman or other person presiding at the meeting has been obtained which permission may be given subject to conditions as to user or otherwise).

- (2) Any person who brings into or controls, in the Council Chamber or other room in which such a meeting is held, any apparatus referred to in paragraph (1) above and does not comply with the requirements of that paragraph shall be treated, whether the person is a Member of the Council or of the public (including the press), as having committed a breach of order.

24. VARIATION AND REVOCATION OF RULES

Any motion moved, without a report, to add to, vary or revoke these Rules shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council whereupon the Monitoring Officer will present a report to the Council on the proposed changes. .

25. SUSPENSION OF RULES

The Council can suspend the provision of these Rules in respect of any business at the meeting at which its suspension is authorised subject to the Monitoring Officer advising whether or not such suspension is permitted in law. However, no motion to suspend these Rules can be moved without notice under Rule 6 unless at least two-thirds of the whole number of the Council are present. This Rule does not apply to Rule 5 or Rule 15(5), (6) and (7).

26. RULES TO BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS

A printed copy of these Rules shall be given to each Member of the Council upon delivery to the Proper Officer of the Members' declaration of acceptance of office on the Members being first elected to the Council.

27. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The ruling of the Chairman of the meeting as to the construction or application of any of these Rules or as to any proceedings shall not be challenged and shall be final.

Scheme for Receiving Questions from the Public at the Ordinary Meetings of the Council

- (a) The public may ask questions at any ordinary meeting of the Council so long as:-
- (i) Written notice of a question is received by the Chief Executive no later than midday on the Monday in the week before the meeting. The question will be recorded in such a way as can be inspected by any Member of the Council or a Member of the public.
 - (ii) Questions will be heard in the order in which notice was received. The question and the name(s) of the person(s) attending the meeting to ask the question will be included on the summons for the meeting.
 - (iii) Every question must be about something for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the area and must be addressed to the Chairman of the Council.
 - (iv) Any questions which are not dealt with will be heard at the next meeting or following meetings in the order in which notice was received.
 - (v) The questioner is a resident of the district or conducts their business within the district.
 - (vi) If, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Council, the subject of the question has not been the subject of a question asked within the last six months or is on a relevant issue or matter arising from that question.
- (b) Public questions shall be the first item on the Council Meeting Agenda after confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting and any statutory business to be transacted.
- (c) If the questioner is not present in person to ask the question, then the question will not be dealt with.
- (d) The questioner shall ask the question as submitted and shall not otherwise address the meeting.

- (e) The Chairman of the Council will then call upon the Council Leader, or appropriate Portfolio Leader to reply.
- (f) There will be no debate on either the question or the reply.
- (g) One supplementary question as a response to the reply to the first question will be permitted to which a reply may also be given. No further question or debate will be allowed on the matter.

Scheme for Receiving Deputations at the Ordinary Meetings of the Council

- (a) Deputations may be received at any ordinary Council meeting of the Council so long as:-
- (i) Written notice of a deputation is received by the Chief Executive no later than midday on the Monday in the week before the meeting. It must give the subject of the deputation and will be recorded in such a way as can be inspected by Members of the Council and Members of the public.
 - (ii) Deputations will be heard in the order in which notice was received. The name(s) of the organisation(s) or person(s) attending and the subject of every deputation will be included on the summons for the meeting.
 - (iii) Every deputation must be about something for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the area.
 - (iv) Any deputations which are not dealt with will be heard at the next meeting or following meetings in the order in which notice was received.
 - (v) There can be no more than five people in a deputation all of whom shall be residents of the district or conducts their business within the district. Two of these may speak and the speeches, including the reading of any written material must not last longer than five minutes.
 - (vi) The subject of the deputation has not been the subject of a Council decision made within the last six months or is on a relevant issue or matter arising from that decision.
- (b) Deputations shall be the first item on the Council Meeting Agenda after confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting and any statutory business to be transacted.
- (c) After a deputation has addressed the Council, Members of the Council may ask questions of the deputation. Questions and answers must not last longer than ten minutes in total.

- (d) If at the conclusion of questions and answers it is considered the subject matter should be discussed by the Council at that meeting a Member may move 'That the subject matter of the deputation be discussed' whereupon the Chairman shall put the motion without further discussion. If the motion is carried, the subject matter shall be discussed at the conclusion of any other non-confidential business on the agenda. However, if the subject matter is such that it introduces an item of business not included in the agenda it shall not be considered unless the Chairman of the meeting under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the Minutes, is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.
- (e) If the subject matter is not discussed as aforesaid at the Council meeting, the matter shall stand referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee for consideration.

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK