

# **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

~~(Approved by Council on 4 June 2014)~~

## **(A) Meetings of the Council**

### **1. Annual Meeting of the Council**

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

#### **(1) Timing and Business**

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 May. Within those limits the date, time and venue may be proposed by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and will be determined by the Council.

At the Annual Meeting the agenda will be as follows:

#### **CIVIC AND PROCEDURAL**

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Italic

- (a) choose a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent;
- (b) elect the Mayor;
- (c) appoint the Deputy Mayor;
- (d) approve as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council;
- (e) receive any announcements from the Mayor and the Chief Executive
- (f) following a local election (other than a by-election) receive the report of the Chief Executive upon:
  - a) The result of the elections of Councillors to the Wards of the Council
  - b) The acceptance of office of Councillors elected

#### **ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Italic

- (g) elect the Leader of the Council and determine his/her term of office (as necessary);

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS**

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Italic

- (h) appoint, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this Rule the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Standards Committee and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions (as set out in Part 3, of this Constitution);
- (i) agree the scheme of delegation or such part of it as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree (as set out in Part 3 of this Constitution);
- (j) approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year;

- (k) consider any other business set out in the notice convening the meeting; and
- (l) no other business will be considered at the Annual Meeting other than in exceptional circumstances to be determined by the Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive.

(2) **Selection of Councillors on Committees**

At the Annual Meeting, the Council will:

- (i) decide the size and terms of reference for those Committees to be established for the municipal year;
- (ii) decide, when relevant, the allocation of seats and substitutes to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules;
- (iii) receive nominations from Group Business Managers of Councillors to serve on each Committee;
- (iv) determine representation on outside bodies and where appropriate political ratios;
- (v) elect Chairs and appoint Deputy Chairs (where appropriate) of the Council's Committees for the ensuing municipal year. If the Council does not make these appointments, Committees may appoint their own Chair and Deputy Chair (where appropriate) subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Council;
- (vi) appoint to those Committees and outside bodies except where appointment to those bodies has been delegated by the Council or is exercisable only by the Cabinet.

| 2. **~~Time and Place of~~ Ordinary and Additional Meetings of Council, ~~and~~ Notice of and Summons to Meetings**

*Dates of Council Meetings*

- (1) All meetings of the Council, with the exception of:
  - any called as Extraordinary Meetings; or
  - changes made to meeting dates as proposed by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and agreed by Council during the municipal year,

shall be held on dates fixed by the Council at the Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

*Extraordinary Meetings*

- (2) Those listed below may request the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring to call Council meetings in addition to ordinary meetings:
  - (a) the Council by resolution;

- (b) the Mayor, following consultation with the Chief Executive or following a written requisition signed by five Members of the Council;
- (c) the Chief Executive, the monitoring officer and section 151 officer;  
or
- (d) any five Members of the Council if they have signed a requisition presented to the Mayor and he/she has refused to call a meeting or has failed to call a meeting within seven days of the presentation of the requisition;

And any petitions, deputations or questions considered at the HEA Cabinet meeting before such Extraordinary meeting will be limited to the issue being considered at such meeting

#### *Venue and Start Time*

- (3) All ordinary meetings of the Council will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Huddersfield, or at such other times and places as may be agreed in respect of particular meetings by the Mayor and the Leader of the Council or on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

#### *Council Summons*

- (4) The date, time and venue for each Council meeting will be shown in the summons for the meeting which will be issued by the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring at least 5 clear days before a meeting. The summons will specify the business to be transacted and will be accompanied by reports where appropriate.

#### *Chair of Meeting*

- (5) Any power or duty of the Mayor in relation to the conduct of a meeting shall be exercised by the Deputy Mayor or in their absence the person elected to preside at the meeting.

### **3. Budget Meeting**

The Council may specify that one meeting will solely be the Council's budget meeting. At that meeting the only items will be to agree the budget, the capital programme and the level of Council tax for the following financial year, together with any issues connected with the budget and anything else which the Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive considers appropriate for inclusion.

### **4. Quorum of Council**

- (1) The quorum for a Council meeting shall be one quarter of the total number of the Members of the Council.
- (2) If there is not a quorum at a meeting, then consideration of any items of business not dealt with shall be adjourned to a date and time to be chosen by

the Mayor at the time when the meeting is adjourned or to the next meeting of the Council.

## 5. Order of Business

- (1) There shall be two types of ordinary meeting of the Council,
- one which focuses on **Holding the Executive to Account** and
  - one which focuses on **Key Discussions**.

The designation of each Council meeting shall be set (and published) at the start of the municipal year by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders, but may be changed during the course of the year by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders if it is considered necessary for the efficient operation of the Council, provided that no less than four ordinary meetings are designated as **Holding the Executive to Account**.

The content and running order of the business to be transacted at each ordinary meeting of Council may be altered in advance by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and Group Leaders if it is considered necessary or appropriate for the efficient operation of the Council.

The following items shall be included in all ordinary meetings of the Council in the order shown:

### PROCEDURAL

- a) To choose a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent.
- b) Announcements by the Mayor or the Chief Executive.
- c) To receive apologies.
- d) To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council.
- e) To receive declarations of interest.

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

### DECISION MAKING

- f) To deal with any matters expressly referred by Cabinet or a Committee to Council for approval.
- (2) In addition to those items at (1) of this Rule, the following items shall be included in meetings designated as **Holding the Executive to Account** meetings (provided that there is sufficient such business at any one meeting), and such business shall follow on from that set out in (1) of this Rule as follows:

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

## **CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- g) To deal with written questions by Members to the following under Rule 12:
- Chairs of Committees, **Sub Committees and Panels**
  - Spokespersons of Joint Authorities and External Bodies (as defined at Rule 13)
- h) To hear reports from Cabinet members in accordance with Rule 13.
- i) To deal with questions to Cabinet members generally, or in relation to minutes of Cabinet put to Council for information or to hear statements from Cabinet members in accordance with Rule 13.

## **MEMBER MOTIONS**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- j) To consider motions issued under Rule 14, if any, in the order which they have been received by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

## **GENERAL**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- k) Other matters for consideration by Council including reports back on Resolutions from previous Council meetings **and action regarding any deputations or petitions received by Council**
- l) To deal with any business expressly required by statute to be dealt with by the Council
- (3) In addition to those items at (1) of this Rule, the following items shall be included in meetings designated as **Key Discussion Meetings** (provided that there is sufficient such business at any one meeting) and such business shall follow on from that set out in (1) of this Rule as follows:

## **KEY ISSUES**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- m) To receive presentations and/or reports on key issues and debate the same in accordance with Rule 18 (23).

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- n) To receive reports from Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee and its panels and to hold a debate in accordance with Rule (18 (22))

## **MEMBER MOTIONS**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- o) To consider motions issued under Rule 14, if any, in the order which they have been received by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

## **GENERAL**

Formatted: Font: Not Italic

- p) Other matters for consideration by Council including reports back on Resolutions from previous Council meetings ~~and action regarding any deputations or petitions received by Council.~~
  - q) To deal with any business expressly required by statute to be dealt with by the Council.
- (4) The order of items (f) to (h) or (i) (as appropriate) or (f) to (m) or (n) (as appropriate in the case of Key Discussion Meetings) may be changed or any of the items omitted at any one meeting:
- a) by the meeting by means of a motion passed without discussion;
  - b) by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor.
- (5) Any discussion falling within (p\_m) above shall begin no later than 7:00 pm irrespective of whether the business before it on the agenda has concluded, ~~that~~ such other business shall resume once the key discussion issue is complete.

## 6. Limitation of Business

The items of business for consideration at the Council meeting will be limited to those set out in the agenda for the meeting, with the exception of:-

- (a) items of business required by these Rules to be dealt with at the meeting or
- (b) items of urgent business for which the Mayor and Chief Executive shall have prior notice and which the Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive considers appropriate for discussion at the meeting.

## 7. Minutes

### *Correct Record*

- (1) The Mayor shall put the motion "that the Minutes of the previous meeting or meetings be approved and signed as a correct record."

### *Accuracy*

- (2) No discussion shall take place on those Minutes except on their accuracy, and any questions on their accuracy shall be raised by motion. After any questions on the Minutes have been dealt with the Mayor shall sign the Minutes.

### *Submission to Council*

- (3) The Minutes of each Council meeting (including Extraordinary Council meetings convened in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972) shall be presented to the next scheduled Council meeting for approval.

## 8. Announcements by the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and Chief Executive

- (1) No discussion shall take place on any announcement made by the Mayor or Chief Executive.
- (2) Any Member may propose that the subject matter of any announcement be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel and such a motion, on being seconded, shall be put to the vote immediately.

## 9A. Presentation of Petitions /Deputations and Questions to 'Holding the Executive to Account Cabinet' ~~on Council day~~ (HEA Cabinet)

There shall be a meeting of Cabinet (Holding the Executive to Account) convened to take place for at least an hour immediately before each meeting of Council (other than the Annual ~~M~~meeting, ~~or the~~ Budget ~~M~~meeting or any Extraordinary Meetings) at which it will consider :

- (1) any petitions and deputations on which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the area of Kirklees in accordance with Rules 9 and 10;
- (2) any questions from the public in accordance with Rule 11; and
- (3) any questions by Members to the Leader or Cabinet Members in accordance with Rule 12

~~These meetings of cabinet shall be called Cabinet (Holding Executive to Account) meetings ("HEA Cabinet meeting").~~

## 9. Presentation of Petitions by Members of the Council

### *Presentation of Petitions*

- (1) Petitions on issues on which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the area of Kirklees may be presented by a Member or any member of the public to the HEA Cabinet meeting referred to in Rule 9A before any meeting of the Council (except the Annual Council meeting or the Budget Meeting) or an appropriate Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel meeting.
- (2) When a petition is received at a ~~HEA Cabinet~~ meeting ~~prior to a Council meeting~~ no discussion shall take place on the item.

### *Referral of Subject Matter*

- (3) The Chair may direct that the subject matter of a petition be referred to an appropriate Assistant Director for investigation and report to Cabinet or an appropriate Committee.

## 10. Deputations

### *Receiving of Deputations*

- (1) Deputations on issues on which the Council has powers or duties or which



affect the area of Kirklees may be received at any meeting of a HEA Cabinet meeting referred to in Rule 9A, ~~before a Council meeting (except the Annual Meeting or the Budget Meeting)~~ or at any meeting of an appropriate Committee, or Sub-Committee. The Chair in consultation with the Chief Executive shall have discretion to decide whether or not to ~~receive~~ hear the deputation.

- (2) ~~Those Members of the public~~ wishing to make a deputation to ~~a the HEA Cabinet~~ meeting should give notice in writing at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting to the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring, indicating their intention to make the deputation and ~~an outline~~ ing of the substance of it.
- (3) The Chair shall have the discretion to hear a deputation for which the appropriate notice has not been given. The Chair shall also have the discretion to limit the number of deputations which may be received, ~~at a HEA Cabinet meeting prior to an Ordinary Council meeting~~ together with the time allowed for each deputation, particularly in relation to deputations concerning the same subject matter.

#### *Deputations which will not be received*

- (4) A deputation will not be received if the Chief Executive considers that it includes references to the following:
  - (a) Matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive are likely to involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
  - (b) Information relating to complaints made under statutory provisions which have not been finally dealt with.
  - (c) Information concerning the merit of applications or other matters currently before the Council, Cabinet or a Committee, Sub-committee, Panel or Officers for determination in respect of which the Council is under a duty to act quasi judicially.
  - (d) Information of a personal nature or which is defamatory, offensive, frivolous, repetitive or vexatious.

~~(5)~~ Deputations with the sole or predominant purpose of promoting any company's or individual's own business interests or financial position will not be permitted.

~~(5)~~ (6) If the Chair is of the opinion that the deputation is of a personal nature, or that in the interests of the Council it is undesirable or is otherwise out of order, he or she shall not allow the deputation to be put.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 2 cm, No bullets or numbering

#### *Size of Deputation and Speech*

- (6) The deputation shall not exceed five persons. Only one person shall speak, and the speech shall not exceed five minutes.
- (7) When a deputation is received at a ~~HEA Cabinet~~ meeting, no discussion shall take place on the item but the relevant Cabinet Member shall respond to the deputation. The Cabinet Member's response shall not exceed five minutes.

- (8) The Chair shall have the discretion to allow any other Cabinet Member to respond to a deputation ~~in exceptional circumstances if appropriate~~. For example, in order to respond to personal attacks made during the course of a deputation. Such response shall not exceed five minutes.

*Referral of Subject Matter*

- (9) The Chair may direct that the subject matter of a deputation be referred to an appropriate Assistant Director for investigation and report to Cabinet or an appropriate Committee.

**11. Questions by Members of the Public at HEA Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee and Panel meetings**

*Who Can Ask A Question?*

- (1) At a HEA Cabinet meeting (~~as referred to in Rule 9)~~~~A prior to a Council meeting~~ any Member of the public resident in Kirklees may subject to the provisions of this Rule ask, the Leader, or any Members of Cabinet, a question on any issue which comes within that individual's area of responsibility and which affects the area of Kirklees. They may also, subject to the provisions of this Rule, ask that a question be referred to the Mayor or any Chairs of a Committee or any joint authority spokesperson and the Mayor, Chair or joint authority spokesperson shall respond within a reasonable period of time to such question.

Formatted: Font: 11.5 pt, Font color: Black

At any ~~C~~committee, ~~S~~sub-~~C~~committee or ~~P~~panel meeting, any such Member of the public may similarly ask the Chair of that body a question on any issue over which that body has any powers or duties.

*When Questions Cannot Be Asked*

- (2) Questions may not be asked at the HEA Cabinet meeting before:-
- (a) the Annual Council Meeting
  - (b) the Budget Meeting ;f
- or during the period from:
- (c) the announcement of a General Election to polling day (inclusive) or
  - (d) the publication of the notice of ordinary elections for the Council to polling day (inclusive).

*Questions Which Will Not Be Answered*

- (3) Questions will not be answered if the Chief Executive considers that they include references to the following:-

- (a) Matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive are likely to involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (b) Questions relating to complaints made under statutory provisions which have not been finally dealt with.
- (c) Questions about the merit of applications or other matters currently before the Council, Cabinet or a Committee, Sub-Committee, Panel or Officers for determination in respect of which the Council is under a duty to act quasi judicially.
- (d) Questions of a personal nature or which are defamatory, offensive, frivolous, repetitive or vexatious.

#### *Questions To Be Within Terms of Reference*

- (4) The Chair or Leader may decline to answer a proposed question if in his or her opinion it is not within the terms of reference of the Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel concerned or is not relevant to the functions of the Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel concerned.

#### *Time Allowed for Questions*

- (5) The period allowed for the asking and answering of public questions at any one meeting shall not exceed 15 minutes. Any Member of the ~~HEA Cabinet, Committee or Panel meeting~~ may move an extension of this period should there be questions unanswered. Such a motion shall be moved and seconded and be put without discussion. At any one meeting no person may ask more than two questions and no more than two questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation. A questioner may also put one supplementary question to the Member for each original question asked. Any question which cannot be dealt with during public question time will be dealt with by a written answer.

#### *Answers to Questions*

- (6) The Member to whom the question has been put may nominate another Member to answer (if that Member agrees).

The Member to whom the question has been put may not refuse to answer the question.

An answer may take the form of:

- (a) a direct oral answer; or
- (b) a reference to a publication, where the desired information is contained in a publication of the Council, the Cabinet or a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel

- (c) a written answer where the reply to the question cannot conveniently be given orally.

#### *Recording in Minutes*

- (7) The Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring shall record in the Minutes of the meeting the question(s) and the name of the respondent.

#### *Questions Ruled Out of Order*

- (8) If the Chair is of the opinion that the question is of a personal nature, or that in the interests of the Council it is undesirable or is otherwise out of order, he or she shall not allow the question to be put. This right of refusal also applies to the Chair at a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel meeting.

#### *Referral of Subject Matter*

- (9) In the case of **public** questions presented to **Council-HEA Cabinet** meetings, there shall be no discussion on the question or the answer but a Member may propose that the subject matter of the question be placed on the Agenda for the next ordinary meeting of Cabinet or an appropriate Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel. Such a motion shall be moved and seconded and put without discussion.

#### *Mayor's Discretion*

- ~~(10) The Mayor shall have the discretion not to allow public questions to be asked where they relate to the same subject matter as a deputation that has earlier been received at the same Ordinary Council meeting.~~

## **12. Written Questions by Members**

(for procedure see Rules 5(2) (j) and 9A)

The Exemptions as set out at CPR 11 (3) also apply to this Rule (CPR 12)

The following provisions shall apply to written questions by Members which must be received by the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring by 10.00 a.m. on the working day before the Council meeting. (In the case of written questions to the Leader or a **M**ember of Cabinet the questions will be considered at the HEA Cabinet **as** referred to in Rule 9A and ~~the rest of this Rule 12 shall be read accordingly for such questions. As set out below~~)

- (1) Any member of Council may put a written question to the Leader of the Council, a member of the Cabinet, a Chair of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel or a spokesperson of a Joint Committee or External Body, as defined at Rule 13 (4). Subject to the Mayor's/Chair's discretion, a 3 minute time limit applies for individual questions to be put.
- (2) The Mayor/Chair in consultation with the Chief Executive may determine that a question shall not be put where the question is substantially the

same as a question put at a meeting of the Council/HEA Cabinet within the preceding six months or the question appears defamatory, vexatious or requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (3) Priority will be given to questions submitted previously to Cabinet or any Cabinet Committee which have not been answered at the relevant meeting due to time constraints.
- (4) Following consideration of any questions arising from Rule 12 (1) above, questions will be timetabled in the order which they are received by the Governance Team.
- (5) If a Member who has submitted a question in accordance with ~~this~~ Rule 12 is not present at the meeting at the time when the question(s) submitted is/are due to be put to a Member the question(s) will fall.
- (6) The Member to whom the question has been put shall give an oral answer at the Council/HEA Cabinet meeting or may nominate at any time before or during a meeting another Member to answer if that Member agrees.
- (7) An answer may take the form of:
  - (a) a direct oral answer; or
  - (b) a reference to a publication of the Council which contains the desired information; or
  - (c) a written answer circulated to all Members within 7 days of the Council/HEA Cabinet meeting.
- (8) The period allowed for written questions at any one meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes. A 5 minute time limit shall apply for individual responses to questions. The same time limit shall also apply to individual responses to supplementary questions, subject in both cases to the Mayor's discretion to increase the time allowed for responses in appropriate circumstances.
- (9) Where written questions are not addressed within the above timescale, then the question will be referred to the next relevant Cabinet / Committee / Sub-Committee / Panel meeting for reply. Any such questions will only be responded to if the Member who put forward the original question to the Council meeting is in attendance at the Cabinet / Committee / Sub-Committee / Panel meeting to ask the question or if the Member, within 7 days of the Council/HEA Cabinet meeting, has requested a written response to his / her question. Written questions to spokespersons of Joint Authorities or any Other Bodies not dealt with within the above timescale will be answered by means of a written reply within 7 days of the meeting and be circulated to all Members of the Council.
- (10) When an answer to a written question has been given, the Member who asked it may ask one supplementary question relating to the same topic. Such a supplementary question must follow straight on from the Member's answer to the original question. In circumstances where the responding

Councillor has elected, pursuant to Rule 12(76)(c), to provide a written answer to a question, no supplementary question will be permitted.

- (11) A written question, as well as any supplementary question, must be relevant to the Terms of Reference or powers or duties of Cabinet or of the relevant Committee / Sub-Committee / Panel / Joint Committee or External Body or affect the area of Kirklees and should not be of a personal nature or one which is defamatory, offensive, frivolous, repetitive or vexatious.
- (12) The Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring shall record in the Minutes of the meeting the question(s) and the name of the respondent. This will not include any supplementary question and the answer thereto. Supplementary questions and answers will be recorded ~~and held by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring until the time of the next Council meeting and made available for any Member who wishes to make a written record of a particular supplementary question and answer. as part of the webcast and held on the public webcast facility for a period of 12 months.~~

### 13. Procedure at Council Meetings in Relation to Reports and/or Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

- (1) *Minutes for Information / Reports which require approval*
  - (i) Any matter expressly referred to Council by Cabinet or a Committee for determination shall be dealt with first.
  - (ii) Minutes of meetings of Cabinet and Committees shall be presented to Council meetings for information as a basis for questioning and comment. There shall be no need for any motion or vote to receive them. If the minutes are not considered due to lack of time they shall be deemed to have been presented to Council and will not, therefore, require resubmission.
- (2) *Questions / Comments on Cabinet Minutes*
  - (i) The Minutes of Cabinet shall be submitted to Ordinary meetings of the Council followed by those of the Cabinet Committee ~~– Local Issues. s in alphabetical order.~~
  - (ii) Prior to the start of questions to Cabinet Members, ~~a-Portfolio Holders~~ may make a report, not exceeding 10 minutes in length per Cabinet Member, setting out his / her Portfolio Plan for the municipal year, or on progress against that Plan. Comments and statements by Cabinet Members shall not exceed 30 minutes in duration. All Cabinet Members will be required to make Council aware of their Portfolio Plan at the start of the municipal year either verbally or in writing circulated to all Members and to report on progress against that Plan at least once in the municipal year.

- (iii) Questions may be asked by any Member of any Cabinet Members whether on a specific matter contained within the minutes or any matter generally which is in the portfolio of the Cabinet Member. There is no restriction on the number of questions Members may ask within the allotted time but each individual Member is only permitted to ask one question together with one supplementary question at any one time.
  - (iv) Any member may, in addition to or instead of exercising their rights under Rule 13(2)(iii), comment once for a maximum of five minutes on any item within the Cabinet minutes presented to the meeting.
  - (v) The portfolios will appear in alphabetical order on the Agenda and questions will be addressed to the Cabinet Member whose portfolio is at the top of the list. Once questions to that Cabinet Member have been completed, his or her portfolio will fall to the bottom of the list and questions will be addressed to the second, third etc., until the allotted time is completed whereupon the portfolio of the Cabinet Member being questioned will fall to the bottom of the list. At the next meeting the list will begin where it ended at the previous meeting, subject to the portfolio which is the subject of a progress report to the meeting being at the top of the list. During this item Members will have the opportunity to question Cabinet Members (and other Members appearing on the schedule) on meetings/discussions with external organisations. Any such question will be answered immediately in the manner provided for in Rule 13(4).
  - (v) Subject to 5(i) of this Rule, Cabinet members will have a right of reply before questions are put to the Cabinet member next in alphabetical order.
  - (vi) In circumstances where the Leader has no specific portfolio allocated to him/her the Agenda will provide that he/she heads the list of Cabinet Members for the purposes of Rule 13(2)(v). Once questions to the Leader have been completed he/she will fall to the bottom of the list and questions to Cabinet Members with specific portfolios will proceed in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13(2)(v).
- (3) *Questions / Comments on Committee Minutes*
- (i) The Minutes of other Committees submitted to Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be set out in alphabetical order.
  - (ii) Any Member may comment on any item within the Committee minutes presented to the meeting
  - (iii) Any Member may ask the chair of the relevant Committee a question upon any item within that Committee's Terms of Reference .
  - (iv) The Chair of Cabinet, a Cabinet Committee or Cabinet Member or the Chair of a Committee may make a statement at the time that the report/Minutes is/are considered on any matter within the Terms of Reference or which is relevant to the function of Cabinet or that Committee, or which is a matter of importance.

(4) *Questions to Chairs of Committees/Sub-Committees/Panels, Lead Members of Standing Scrutiny Panels and Spokespersons of Joint Committees and External Bodies*

(The Exemptions as set out at CPR 11 (3) also apply to this Rule (CPR 13))

Formatted: Font: Italic

- (i) Any Member may ask the Chair of the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee/Panel or the Lead Member of a Standing Scrutiny Panel a question upon any item within the Terms of Reference of that Committee/Sub-Committee/ Panel or Standing Scrutiny Panel (as applicable). Any Member may also ask a question of the relevant spokesperson for any of the Joint Committees or external bodies (including regional and sub-regional bodies) identified in Rule 13(4)(ii).
- (ii) For the purposes of this Rule, questions may be asked of spokespersons or representatives of the following Joint Committees or External Bodies:
- (a) Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing
  - (b) Kirklees Active Leisure
  - (c) West Yorkshire Combined Authority (and its Committees)
  - (d) West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
  - (e) West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
  - (f) West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee
  - (g) ~~Leeds City Region Leaders Board~~

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm

(The Council's Monitoring Officer may update the above list as appropriate).

(5) *Time Permitted*

- (i) ~~The time permitted for consideration of comments and questions on Minutes to Cabinet members shall be a maximum of 60 minutes (such period to commence upon the conclusion of any Portfolio Holder's report made under Rule 13(2)(iii)) and for comments and questions to Chairs of Committees / Sub-Committees / Panels and representatives on outside bodies shall be a maximum of 30 minutes, provided that there is provision under Rule 5 for consideration of issues under Rule 13 at that meeting.~~

Subject to the time limit for speaking set out in CPR 13 (2) the maximum time permitted for consideration of matters in CPR (1)-(3), including comments and questions on Minutes to Cabinet members shall be a maximum of 60 minutes, (such period to commence upon the conclusion of any Portfolio Holder's report made under Rule 13(2)(iii)) and the time permitted for comments and questions to Chairs of Committees / Sub-Committees / Panels and representatives on outside bodies shall be a maximum of 30 minutes, provided that there is provision under Rule 5 for consideration of issues under CRP 13.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 3 cm



## **14. Notices of Motion**

### *Submission of Motions*

- (1) Every notice of motion (with the exception of those proposed in accordance with Rules 15, 18(16) and 19) shall be submitted in writing and delivered to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring by 9.00 a.m. on the sixth working day before the date of the Council meeting. Each motion must be signed by not less than two Members of the Council.

### *Recording of Motions*

- (2) The Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring will record the date and time of receipt of each motion in a register. This register shall be open to inspection to every Member of the Council.

### *Motions Which Have Revenue Effects*

- (3) No Motion may have the effect of increasing the expenditure or reducing the revenue of the Council other than in the form of a reference to Cabinet or the appropriate Committee for consideration. (This provision does not apply for the setting of the Council Tax).

### *Relevance*

- (4) Every motion shall be relevant to some matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which affects the area of Kirklees.

### *Motions Not Accepted*

- (5) If notice is given of any motion which, in the opinion of the Chief Executive is out of order, illegal, irregular or improper, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor shall determine whether to accept its inclusion on the agenda. If a motion is not deemed acceptable the Chief Executive shall inform the Members who gave notice of the item.

### *Withdrawal*

- (6) A Member who has given notice of motion may subsequently withdraw by writing to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

### *Inclusion on Council Agenda*

- (7) The Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring shall set out in the agenda for each Council meeting the motions received and accepted in the order they were received. A Member may, at the time when a motion is delivered to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring also give written notice of a request for the motion to be considered as a later item on the Council agenda.

### *Moving of Motions*

- (8) If a motion set out in the summons is not moved either by the Member who gave notice or by another Member on their behalf, it shall be treated as withdrawn and shall not be considered again without fresh notice. Alternatively, the Council may consent to postpone consideration of a motion to the next meeting.

### *Receipt of Amendments*

- (9) Any proposed amendment to a motion which has been included in the summons for a meeting, shall be delivered to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring in accordance with the following timescales:-
- (a) by 10.00am on the day of Council if the meeting is to start at ~~6~~5.00 p.m. or
  - (b) by 2.00 p.m. on the day before a Council meeting which is to start in a morning.

### *Motions on Identical Subjects*

- (10) Where motions have been submitted to Council by different groups which relate to the same subject matter, then the movers shall be given the opportunity to agree a composite motion by 2.00 p.m. on the second working day before the date of the Council meeting. Notice of the composite shall be given to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring who will notify the groups or individual Members to allow them to consider the proposals.

### *Alterations to Motions and Amendments*

- (11) Alterations to the wording of any motion or amendment (made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18:11) may be made with the agreement of the Members moving and seconding the motion or amendment and with the meeting's consent' provided that when such alterations are agreed copies shall be made available. Only alterations which could be made as an amendment may be made.
- (12) With the exception of those moved under (5) of this Rule, no motion made under this Rule may be voted on unless there has been a debate.

## **15. Motions and Amendments Which May Be Moved Without Notice**

The following motions and amendments may be moved without notice:

- (1) Appointment of a Chair of the meeting at which the motion is moved.
- (2) Questioning the accuracy of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council.
- (3) To change the order of business in the Agenda.

- (4) Reference to Cabinet a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel for further consideration.
- (5) Appointment of Leader or a Committee, or Member thereof arising from an item on the Agenda for the meeting.
- (6) That leave be given to withdraw a motion.
- (7) Motions and amendments in respect of urgent business under Rule 6.
- (8) That the Council proceed to the next business.
- (9) Motions under Rule 11(5) and 11(9) as to questions by electors at Council Meetings.
- (10) Amendments to any motion to approve the recommendations of Cabinet or a Committee.
- (11) That the question be now put.
- (12) Amendments to any Motion except amendments to notices of motion pursuant to Rule 14(8) and (9) or where notice is required under Rule 19.
- (13) That the debate be now adjourned.
- (14) That the Council do now adjourn.
- (15) Adoption of reports of Officers and any consequent resolutions.
- (16) Suspending these Rules in accordance with Rule 47.
- (17) Motion to exclude the public.
- (18) That a Member named under Rule 21 be not heard further or leave the meeting.
- (19) Giving consent or leave of the Council where the consent or leave of the Council is required by these Rules.
- (20) That the subject matter of an announcement made by the Mayor, or the Chief Executive under Rule 8 be referred to Cabinet or the appropriate Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel.
- (21) Motions under Rule 16 to continue a Council meeting after 9.00 p.m.
- (22) That the Council do now adjourn for discussion in smaller groups or in some other form.

## **16. Termination and Adjournment of Meeting**

- (1) The Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, may adjourn the meeting at any time.

- (2) A meeting of the Council (except the Annual Meeting) shall terminate at 9.00 p.m. unless a Member moves a motion that the meeting shall continue until (i) a later time (to be specified in the motion) or (ii) the conclusion of the business of the meeting. If the motion is seconded it shall be put to the meeting without comment.
- (3) If the motion is passed the meeting shall continue until the time specified or until the conclusion of the business of the meeting.
- (4) At 9.00 p.m. or such later time as the Council has agreed, the Mayor shall have discretion to grant an additional period of time to allow the item under consideration at that time to be concluded. Otherwise, the Mayor shall
  - a) allow no further points of order to be raised by any other Member.
  - b) interrupt the discussion of the item being considered by the meeting.
  - c) allow the proposer of the motion then under consideration a maximum of five minutes to reply to the debate unless he/she seeks leave to withdraw the motion.
  - d) put (without discussion) all of the questions necessary to dispose of that motion, unless the motion is withdrawn.
  - e) put (without discussion) all of the questions necessary to complete the consideration of any reports of Cabinet or any Committee, which are on the Agenda for the meeting, unless the Member appointed to preside in any such body (or a person on his/her behalf) indicates a wish to the contrary.
- (5) Any Motion given under Rule 14 not considered at an Ordinary Council meeting due to time constraints shall automatically be deemed withdrawn unless the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring receives written confirmation (from the Member or Group who submitted the Motion) by 5pm on the fifth working day following that Council meeting that the Motion should be rolled over for consideration at the next Ordinary Council meeting.
- (6) Where proceedings are in progress either at 9.00 p.m. or at a later time (specifically agreed by the Council in accordance with a motion to that effect), the provisions of Rule 24(3) as to recorded votes shall not apply.
- (7) Following any processes outlined above, the Mayor shall finally close the meeting.

## **17. Opposition Priority Business**

- (1) This Rule applies where there is a majority group of members of the Council.
- (2) A minority group may require that any one item of business placed on the Agenda for any Council meeting be treated as opposition priority business. Such a requirement will only be considered if the Leader of that Group has submitted it in writing to the Chief Executive at least seven days before the Council meeting.

- (3) Where the Chief Executive receives more than one such request for a meeting, he/she shall decide which shall be selected so as to ensure that as far as is possible each minority group's share of opposition priority business reflects the relative size of those groups in the period from the last Annual Meeting of the Council.
- (4) Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring shall indicate on the Agenda which item of business (if any) is to be treated as opposition priority business.
- (5) If consideration of an item of opposition priority business has not begun two hours after the start of the meeting it will be brought forward and considered immediately after the conclusion of the item of business then under discussion.

## **18. Rules of Debate**

### *Motions and Amendments*

- (1) A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. Unless notice of the motion or amendment has already been submitted in accordance with Rules 14 and 19, the Mayor may also require that it be written out and handed to him/her before it is discussed further or put to the meeting.
- (2) Members when seconding a motion or amendment may, if they then declare their intention to do so, reserve their right to speak until a later period in the debate on the motion or any amendment.

### *Seconders Speech*

- (3) The Member seconding the motion or amendment and reserving the right to speak shall further indicate to the Mayor during the debate when he/she wishes to speak.

### *List of Names of Those Wishing to Speak*

- (4) During the debate Members should indicate their wish to speak by use of their individual voting console. The Mayor shall have absolute discretion to alter the order of those wishing to speak and may close the list at any time. This provision does not apply to:
  - the Mayor
  - the mover of the original motion
  - the seconder of the original motion who has reserved the right to speak
  - Members rising on a point of order or to provide a personal explanation
  - persons moving motions and amendments under Rule 15

#### *Addressing the Mayor*

- (5) Unless the Mayor indicates otherwise, a Member must stand and address the Mayor while speaking. If two or more Members rise, the Mayor shall request one to speak and the other(s) to be seated. While a Member is speaking the other Members shall remain seated and be silent, unless rising on a point of order or in personal explanation.

#### *Content and Length of Speeches*

- (6) No speech of a Member of the Council in moving a motion to adopt the report of Cabinet or a Committee, or a motion under Rule 14 shall exceed 10 minutes and no other speech on any item before Council shall exceed 5 minutes, except:-
  - (a) by consent of the Council, or
  - (b) the Leader's annual budget speech on the setting of the amounts of Council Tax.

#### *Additional Time For Speeches*

- (7) If the Mayor is of the opinion that the subject matter is of special importance or the Member requests additional time, the Mayor may permit the Member to continue for as long as the he/she allows.

#### *When a Member May Speak Again - Adoption of Reports*

- (8) On a motion to adopt the report of Cabinet or a Committee, a Member may speak once in general regarding the report. In addition, he/she may move or second or speak to one amendment only on each item in the report requiring a decision by the Council.

#### *When a Member May Speak Again - Other Motions*

- (9) On any other motion a Member shall speak only once whilst the motion is the subject of debate. A Member may also move, second or speak to one amendment. If consideration of an amendment begins before a Member has had the opportunity to speak on the motion he/she may still exercise the right to speak on the motion.

#### *Exceptions to Speaking Only Once*

- (10) The requirement that a Member shall only speak once shall not prevent a Member from speaking:
  - (i) in exercise of a right to reply,
  - (ii) on a point of order,

- (iii) by way of personal explanation.

#### *Amendments to Motions*

- (11) An amendment shall be relevant to the motion and shall be either:
  - (a) to refer a subject of debate to Cabinet or a Committee, for consideration or reconsideration;
  - (b) to leave out words;
  - (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;
  - (d) to insert or add words;

The omission, insertion or addition of words must not have the effect of blocking the motion which is under consideration by the Council. In addition the amendment must not have the effect of increasing the expenditure or reducing the revenue of the Council other than in the form of a referral to Cabinet or the relevant Committee for consideration. (This provision does not apply for the setting of the Council Tax).

#### *Discussion of Amendments*

- (12) Except where the voting procedure in Rule 24(6) applies only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time and no further amendment shall be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of. However, the Mayor may permit two or more amendments to be discussed together if he/she considers that this would be helpful in the circumstances. Where two or more amendments are discussed together they shall be voted upon in the order in which they were moved.

#### *Motion as Amended*

- (13) If an amendment is lost, other amendments may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

#### *Withdrawal of Motion/Amendment*

- (14) A motion or an amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the consent of the seconder and of the Council (which shall be decided upon without debate). No Member may speak on it after the proposer has been granted permission for its withdrawal.

#### *Right of Reply*

- (15) The proposer of a motion shall have the right to reply at the close of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote. If an amendment is moved, the proposer of the original motion shall have also the right to reply at the close of such debate on the amendment, and shall not

otherwise speak on the amendment. Such a reply shall be confined to matters raised in the debate on the motion or amendment, as the case may be. The proposer of an amendment shall have no right to reply to the debate on the amendment. However where an amendment is carried the proposer of that amendment (now the substantive motion) shall have a right of reply at the close of the debate on any subsequent amendment.

#### *Motions which may be moved during debate*

- (16) When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:-
- (a) to amend or withdraw the motion;
  - (b) to adjourn the meeting;
  - (c) to adjourn the debate;
  - (d) to proceed to the next business
  - (e) that the question be now put;
  - (f) that a Member be not further heard on the item of business before the Council;
  - (g) by the Mayor under Rule 21(2);
  - (h) to exclude the public;
  - (i) to withdraw or amend proceedings in accordance with paragraph (14) of this Rule.

#### *Closure Motion*

- (17) A Member may move without comment at the conclusion of a speech of another Member "That the question be now put", "That the debate be now adjourned" or "That the Council do now adjourn". If such a motion is seconded, the Mayor shall proceed as follows:-

- (a) On a motion "that the question be now put" ~~the~~ The Mayor shall put this motion to the vote, unless he or she is of the opinion that the matter before the meeting has not been discussed sufficiently. If the motion "that the question be now put" is voted on and carried, the Mayor will allow the proposer of the original motion the right to reply under paragraph (15) above before putting the motion under discussion to the vote.
- (b) On a motion "to adjourn the debate or meeting". The Mayor shall put the motion for an adjournment to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right to reply, if he or she is of the opinion that the matter before the meeting has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be discussed at that meeting.

#### *Point of Order and Personal Explanation*

- (18) A Member may rise on a point of order or in personal explanation, and shall be entitled to be heard immediately. A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of one of these Rules or the law and the Member shall specify the Rule or the law and the way in which it has been broken. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a speech by the Member in the Council meeting which may appear to have been



misunderstood in the present debate. A personal explanation may not be made in any other circumstances and in particular reference in a speech to another Member does not give that Member any right of personal explanation except in circumstances specified above.

- (19) The ruling of the Mayor on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

*Relaxation by the Mayor of Rules of Debate*

- (20) Before the start of the debate on any item or motion the Mayor may determine, after consultation with the Chief Executive, that any of the requirements of this Rule shall be relaxed or waived during the debate on that item or motion.

*Mayor's Authority*

- (21) Whenever the Mayor rises during a debate, a Member who is standing and speaking shall sit down and the Council shall be silent. Afterwards, a Member may continue his or her speech unless the Mayor determines otherwise.
- (22) The time permitted for consideration of scrutiny reports under Rule 5 (3) ~~(19)~~ shall be a maximum of 60 minutes.
- (23) The time permitted for consideration of key issues shall be a maximum of 60 minutes
- (24) The time permitted under (22) and (23) of this Rule may be extended at the discretion of the Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive.

*Mayor's Casting Vote*

- (25) The Mayor, or in their absence, the person presiding at the Council meeting, shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

**19. Motion to Make Statutory Calculations and to set Amounts of Council Tax**

*Motion referred from Cabinet*

- (1) At least 14 days before the date fixed for calculating the amounts required under Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, and setting the amounts of Council Tax, the Chief Executive shall distribute to all Members of the Council the motion which has been proposed by the Cabinet for the Council, together with the draft Revenue Budget.

*Motion distributed by ~~Chair of Cabinet~~ the Leader*

- (2) If the Cabinet is not able to recommend a motion ~~for to~~ the Council meeting, the ~~Chair of Cabinet~~ Leader shall distribute to all Members of the Council at least 14 days in advance a motion to be presented to the Council meeting together with the draft Revenue Budget. This motion must be presented in the names of the Chair of the Cabinet and be supported by at least two other Members of the Council.

## Amendments

- (3) An amendment to a motion proposed under paragraph (1) above, cannot be moved unless it has been approved by the Chief Executive at least 7 days prior to the date of the Budget Meeting. at least 7 days notice has been given in writing. The nNotice of ~~for~~ such an amendment must be delivered to the Chief Executive and must specify the terms of the proposed amendment and the effect which it will have on the draft Revenue Budget.

Amendments to the ~~B~~udget ~~M~~otion cannot be accepted unless the Chief Executive is satisfied, upon the advice of the Director of Resources, that the proposed amendment is financially sound and sustainable.

## Notification of Amendments

- (4) The Chief Executive shall inform ~~the Leader of the Council and the Leader of each Opposition Group~~ all Members of the Council of any amendment/s received.

## ~~Debating the Motion~~ Submission of Further Motions and Amendments

- (5) (i) The Mover of any Amendment to the Budget Motion shall speak for no longer than ten minutes, or for the same time taken by the Mover of the Budget Motion, whichever is the longer.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 2 cm

(ii) If a motion or an amendment described in paragraph (1), (2) and (3) above is not carried at the Council meeting, further motions and amendments may be moved and seconded without notice for consideration and determination. Copies of these additional motions or amendments must be made available to each Member of the Council by the mover or seconder before any debate begins.

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0 cm

(iii) In the event that an amendment is approved, thereby becoming the substantive motion, this resolution shall become the Council's budget and no further amendments shall be debated or voted upon.

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0 cm

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0 cm, Tab stops: 2 cm, Left

## Limitations

- (6) The introduction of a new motion or amendment on the day of the Council meeting by a Political Group represented on the Council will not be permitted unless it gave notice of a motion or an amendment under paragraph (1), (2) and (3) above for inclusion on the summons for the meeting.

## Recording of Votes relating to Council Tax etc.

- (7) Immediately after any vote is taken at a Budget Decision Meeting of the Council on any decision or amendment relating to the approval of the General Fund Revenue, or the statutory calculation for the setting of the Council Tax. there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against

the decision or who abstained from voting,

(8) For the purposes of Rule 19 (7)

a) "Budget Decision" means a meeting of the Council at which it:

(i) makes a calculation (whether originally or by way of substitute) in accordance with any of sections 31A, 31B, 34 to 36A, 42A, 42B, 45 to 49, 52ZF, 52ZJ of the Local Government Finance Act 1992(b); or

(ii) issues a precept under Chapter 4 of the Part 1 of that Act;

and includes a meeting where making the calculation or issuing the precept as the case may be was included as an item of business on the agenda for that meeting; and

~~b) references to a vote are references to a vote on any decision related to the making of the calculation or the issuing of the precept as the case may be.~~

## **20. Motion affecting persons employed by the Council**

If a question arises at a meeting of the Council on the appointment, promotion, dismissal, salary, superannuation or conditions of service, or as to the conduct of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council has determined whether or not the public and press shall be excluded.

## **21. Members Conduct**

### *Member not be heard*

(1) If at a Council meeting any Member of the Council (in the opinion of the Mayor) persistently disregards the ruling of the Mayor or behaves irregularly, improperly, offensively or obstructs the business of the Council, the Mayor or any other Member may move "That the Member named be not heard further on the item of business before the Council". If the motion is seconded it shall be determined without discussion.

### *Member to leave the meeting*

(2) If the named Member continues his or her misconduct after a motion under paragraph (1) above has been carried, the Mayor shall either move "That the Member named do leave the meeting" (in which case the motion shall be put and determined without seconding or discussion), or adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she considers necessary.

### *General Disturbance*

(3) In the event of general disturbance which in the opinion of the Mayor renders the despatch of business impossible, the Mayor may decide to adjourn the meeting of the Council for as long as he/she considers necessary.

### *Mayor's Power to Adjourn*

- (4) The provisions of this Rule do not limit the Mayor's power to adjourn the meeting at any time under Rule 16(1).

## **22. Disturbance by the Public**

If members of the public interrupt the proceedings of any meeting, the Mayor shall warn them regarding their conduct. If they continue the interruption, the Mayor shall order their removal from the room. In case of general disturbance in any part of the room open to the public, the Mayor shall order that part to be cleared.

## **23. Previous Decisions and Motions**

### *Motion to rescind a previous decision*

- (1) No motion to rescind any decision taken within the preceding six months, and no motion or amendment with the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding six months, shall be proposed unless notice has been given in accordance with Rule 14 and has been signed by at least 10 Members of the Council. When any such motion or amendment has been disposed of by the Council, no similar motion may be proposed within a further period of six months.

### *Motion similar to the one previously rejected - exceptions*

- (2) This Rule shall not apply to motions moved on a recommendation of Cabinet or a Committee, or to motions or amendments moved in accordance with Rule 19.

## **24. Voting**

### *Show of Hands / Voting Equipment*

- (1) Voting at Council meetings shall be as directed by the Mayor, either by a show of hands or by use of the electronic voting equipment unless a Ballot is agreed under paragraph (5). Where a recorded vote is taken under paragraphs (3) and (4) below, then the result of the vote shall be recorded by the process under paragraph (4) below.

### *Casting Vote*

- (2) The Mayor, or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or the Chair at the time the vote is taken shall have a second or casting vote.

### *Recorded Vote*

- (3) Any Member of the Council may request that a recorded vote be taken on an item to record how each Member present at the meeting intended or decided to vote. This request for a recorded vote will only be acceptable if it is supported by at least five other Members and is made before the Mayor has announced the result of the vote.

### *Ballots*

- (4) The vote will take place by ballot at the request of any Member supported by at least five other Members. The Mayor/Chair will announce the numerical result of the ballot immediately the result is known.

*Right to require individual votes to be recorded*

- (5) At any meeting of the Council a Member may require that his or her decision in voting for or against or abstaining on an item on the Agenda be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. This will be effective only if it is proposed by the Member before the Mayor has announced the result of the vote.

*Voting on Appointments (including Mayor and Leader)*

- (6) If there are more than two persons nominated for any appointment to be filled by the Council (including the election of the Mayor and the Leader) and there is no overall majority vote in favour of one person, the following procedure will apply. The name of the person who has received the least number of votes will be struck off the list of nominations and a fresh vote will be taken. This procedure will continue until a majority vote is given in support of one of the persons nominated.

## **25. Failure to Attend Meetings**

- (1) In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor attends no meetings of the Authority for six months the Chief Executive will tell the Council (unless the Member has been granted leave of absence by the Council). The Council will consider whether the absence was caused by some reason approved by them. If they are not satisfied about the cause of the failure, the Member will cease to be a Member of the Council.
- (2) For the purpose of this Rule a meeting of the Authority shall include:-
  - \* the Council, Cabinet or any Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel; or
  - \* any Joint Committee or Joint Board which has Council functions delegated to it;
  - \* any other body at which the Member represents the Council.

## **26. Interests of Members which are not Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

- (1) Any Member who has an interest which is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as described in paragraph 5 of the Council's Code of Conduct in any matter shall comply with the requirements of that Code in respect of that interest ("Other Interest").
- (2) A Member of the Council may declare in a register kept by the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring his/her membership of any organisation which requires details of its aims, duties or membership to be kept secret. This register will be open to public inspection during office hours.

## **27. Interpretation of these Rules**

The ruling of the Mayor, after consultation with the Chief Executive, as to the construction or application of any of these Rules, or as to any proceedings of the Council shall be final.

## **(B) Members and Officers Etc**

### **28. Leaders and Business Managers**

- (1) Members of the Council may be chosen by each of the political groups on the Council to act as the Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Business Managers of those groups.
- (2) The names of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Business Manager appointed by a political group represented on the Council shall be notified to the Chief Executive. The powers of a Leader shall also be exercisable by the Deputy Leader in the absence of the Leader.

### **29. Inspection of Documents**

- (1) A Member of the Council may, for the purposes of his/her duty as a Councillor, on application to the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring, inspect any document which has been considered by the following subject to the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and the Local Government Act 2000 being met in relation to items determined as exempt information:

Council  
a Committee  
a Sub-Committee  
a Panel

For the same purposes a Member may also request that he or she be supplied with a copy of the document. This will be provided if it is practicable.

- (2) Members should not inspect or request a copy of any document relating to a matter in which they have a prejudicial interest as defined in the Council's Code of Conduct. The Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring may decline an application from a Member to inspect a document which would be protected by privilege arising from the relationship of solicitor and client in the event of legal proceedings.
- (3) Copies of all reports and minutes associated with the following meetings shall be kept by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and the Local Government Act 2000.

Council  
a Committee  
a Sub-Committee  
a Panel

These shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Council during office

hours subject to the provisions of those Acts being met in relation to items determined as exempt information.

- (4) The Chief Executive or any Officer of the Council may decline a Member's request to inspect a document, if it contains confidential information. The only exceptions to this rule will be if the Member has a legal right to inspect a document or has obtained the consent of the Cabinet (for matters within its remit) or the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee (for all other matters).
- (5) Rights in respect of documents under the control of the Cabinet are set out in Rules 24 and 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

### **30. Orders Regarding Works; Inspection of Lands, Premises, etc.**

A Member of the Council shall not issue any order regarding any works which are being carried out by or on behalf of the Council. In addition he or she shall not claim, by virtue of being a Member of the Council, any right to inspect or to enter upon any land or premises which the Council has the power or duty to inspect or enter.

### **31. Representation of the Council on Other Bodies**

If any Member of the Council is nominated or appointed by or on behalf of the Council to serve as a Member of another body, the appointment shall stand until the next Annual Meeting of the Council or until the first meeting thereafter of the Cabinet or Committee making the nomination or appointment unless:

- (a) the constitution of the other body makes different provisions, or
- (b) the Council (or the Cabinet, in the case of nominations made by it) at any other time resolves otherwise.
- (c) the Member resigns from the outside body by the method required by the body or, if none, by notifying in writing to the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring.

### **32. Interest of Officers in Contracts**

The Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring shall keep a register to record the details of any Officer of the Council who has given notice of a pecuniary interest in a contract as described by Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972. This register shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Council during office hours.

### **33. Third Party Recording<sup>1</sup> of Committees, Boards and Panels**

- (1) The Council wants to be open and transparent in the way in which it conducts its decision-making.
- (2) Recording is allowed at all meetings of the authority<sup>2</sup> to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings.

---

<sup>1</sup> This includes both video and audio recording.

<sup>2</sup> Including full Council, committees (boards and panels) established by full Council.

- (3) Filming or other recording of all meetings of the authority, whilst those meetings are to the public, is permitted<sup>3 4</sup>.
- (4) Those wishing to record proceedings should, as a courtesy, inform the chair (or clerk) of the meeting of their intentions to record prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- (5) Recordings may only be taken overtly from the area designated for the public and;
  - a. Recording devices must be in silent mode;
  - b. No flash or additional lighting is permitted;
  - c. Recordings must be taken from one fixed position and must not obstruct others from observing proceedings.
- (6) The Chair of a meeting has the authority to instruct that recordings be stopped where<sup>5</sup>:
  - a. The press and public have been excluded from the meeting due to the nature of (exempt or confidential) business being discussed;
  - b. There is public disturbance or a suspension/ adjournment of a meeting;
  - c. The recording has become disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the meeting;
  - d. Continued recording is against the wishes of an individual<sup>6</sup>.

#### **34. Confidentiality of Meetings and Recording of Proceedings**

- (1) The Council's meetings will be held in public unless the Access to Information Procedure Rules permit the public to be excluded. Those Rules also deal with public access to documents.
- (2) Any person attending a meeting may take written notes of the proceedings.
- (3) A Member or employee of the Council shall not disclose to any person any document or any matter contained in any document which is marked "Confidential" or "not for publication" except with the permission of the Council, Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel which considered the item, or if the person concerned has a legal right to inspect the document.

### **(C) Relating To Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels Etc**

#### **35. Appointment of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels**

- (1) The Council at its Annual Meeting will establish those Committees which are required by law and such other Committees as are deemed necessary to carry out the work of the Council during the municipal year. The Council may at any other time establish new Committees, which are considered necessary

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with any regulations relating to such matters.

<sup>4</sup> All agendas will indicate that records may be made at the meeting by third parties; signage will also be displayed indicating this.

<sup>5</sup> In all cases recording equipment must be switched off.

<sup>6</sup> Where members of the public raise an objection to being recorded, then those individuals will not be filmed. However continued audio recording will be permitted where the contributions are material to the resolutions to be made.



to carry out the work of the Council.

- (2) The Council subject to any statutory provision:-
- (i) shall not appoint any Member of a Committee so as to hold office later than the next Annual Meeting of the Council;
  - (ii) may at any time dissolve a Committee, or alter its membership.
  - (iii) shall not appoint the Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Council or any Members of the Cabinet as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or its Panels.

#### Appointment of Sub-Committees, Panels etc

- (3) At the first meeting of a Committee in the municipal year, it shall establish such Sub-Committees or Panels as are considered necessary. Committees subject to any statutory provision,
- (i) shall not appoint any Member of a Sub-Committee or Panel so as to hold office later than the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
  - (ii) may at any time dissolve a Sub-Committee or Panel or alter its membership, and
  - (iii) may delegate to any such Sub-Committee or Panel any power or duty delegated to the Committee by the Council.
- (4) A Committee may establish other Sub-Committees or Panels at any time in the municipal year.

#### Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels etc.

- (5) The Members on each Committee, or Sub-Committee or Panel shall (so far as legally required) be selected by each of the Political Groups represented on the Council, on the basis of their proportional representation at the date that the Committee, or Sub-Committee, or Panel is appointed.

#### Proportional Representation of Political Groups not to apply

- (6) The Council may determine that proportional representation shall not apply to any Committee, and any Committee may make a similar determination with respect to any of its Sub-Committees or Panels subject to compliance with the requirements of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

#### Substitute Members

- (7) At the Annual Meeting of the Council a panel of substitute Members will be established, to be available to replace Members of Committees, and Sub-Committees, (except the Health and Well-being Board, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, ~~the Budget Advisory Board~~, the Overview

and Scrutiny Panels, District Committees, Employee Relations Sub Committee, the Standards Committee and the Standards Sub-Committee) at each meeting during the municipal year as and when required. The names of those Members included on the panel of substitutes will be placed on every notice for a relevant Committee, or Sub-Committee meeting.

Changes to the Substitute Panel and Members of a Committee, Sub-Committee and Panel

- (8) The Business Manager to each Group shall provide the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring within nine days of notice of
- (i) any change(s) to the names of those Members included on the panel of substitutes approved by the Annual Council Meeting.
  - (ii) any change(s) to the membership of a Committee or Sub-Committee, which do not involve a member of that substitutes panel.

Notice of Substitutes cannot be revoked

- (9) After notice of a substitution has been given for a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel meeting it cannot be revoked. Once a Committee or Sub-Committee, or Panel has begun the Member who has been substituted will only be entitled to attend the meeting as an observer. If a Committee or Sub-Committee or Panel meeting is adjourned the change(s) in membership will stand for the purpose of the reconvened meeting.

Membership of a Sub-Committee or Panel to include persons who are not Members of the parent Committee

- (10) The membership of a Sub-Committee or Panel may include persons who are not Members of the Committee by which the Sub-Committee or Panel was appointed.
- (11) Except in cases required by law, or permitted by law and agreed by the appointing body, no co-opted member of any Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel shall be entitled to vote on any matter considered by it.

**36. Observer Attendance by Councillors at Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels**

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) below a Councillor who is not a Member of a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel may attend any meeting as an observer. That Councillor shall have the same speaking rights as any Member of that Committee Sub-Committee or Panel. The Councillor cannot:-
- (a) speak on any item considered in the private session of the meeting.
  - (b) attend for any item of business in which he or she has a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Co-optees ("the Code") unless an appropriate dispensation has been granted by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

- (c) attend for any item of business on the Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel agenda which personally relates to them as a Councillor or otherwise.
  - (d) remain in a meeting of the Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel after receiving advice from the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring that he or she should be excluded from the meeting.
  - (e) retire with a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel which is exercising a quasi judicial or administrative function when it is considering its decision.
- (2) Any Member attending a meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel shall under the Agenda Item of "Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees etc." identify themselves as an observer.
- (3) Councillors who attend a Planning Committee or Sub-Committee but who:
- (a) Are not members of that Planning Committee or Sub-Committee; or
  - (b) Are members of that Planning Committee or Sub-Committee but who have indicated that they will not be voting on an application because, for example, they believe that they may have predetermined it or wish to make representations rather than participate in the determination of the application

shall be entitled to speak once for a maximum of five minutes.

### **37. Attendance by Members of the Public - Permission to Speak**

Any member of the public attending a meeting of the Council (with the exception of the Annual Meeting or the Budget Council) a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel (or any other meeting open to the public) may, with the permission of the Mayor/Chair, speak on any item of business to be transacted at that meeting. That person shall not be permitted to remain in the meeting when consideration is being given to confidential or exempt information.

### **38. Appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees/Panels, Lead Members of Scrutiny Panels and Appointments to Outside Bodies, etc**

- (1) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, the Council will -
- (i) appoint the Chairs and if considered appropriate the Deputy Chairs of Committees. In default of such appointments by the Council, every Committee, shall be empowered to make the appointment subject to confirmation by the Council;
  - (ii) appoint the Lead Members of the Standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels;
  - (iii) appoint the Members of Outside Bodies, except where membership is appointable by the Cabinet or a Committee, and

- (iv) agree the dates of meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees, and Panels for the Municipal Year. The alteration of a date may be determined by the respective Chair in consultation with the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring provided that 7 days notice of the revised date can be given.
- (2) The Council may at any other time appoint the Chairs (and if considered appropriate the Deputy Chairs of Committees) and the Lead Members of Scrutiny Panels, for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
- (3) At the first meeting of each Committee in the Municipal Year the Chair and if considered appropriate Deputy Chair of its Sub-Committees or Panels shall be appointed for that year.
- (4) Any Committee shall when appointing a Sub-Committee, or Panel under Rule 35(4), also appoint a Chair and if considered necessary a Deputy Chair.
- (5) In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair or Lead Member of the Scrutiny Panel ( where appropriate) from a meeting, a Chair shall be chosen for the duration of that particular meeting or until the official Chair, Deputy or Lead Member (as recognised by Council) arrives. The Chair, Deputy Chair or Lead Member (as appropriate) will then assume the Chair when the item under discussion at the time of his or her arrival has been dealt with.
- (6) The Chair and Deputy Chair of every Committee, Sub-Committee/ Panel and the Lead Member of each Scrutiny Panel shall be a Member of the Council.
- (7) A Member of a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel may resign membership and the Chair or Deputy Chair of a Committee, Sub-Committee/Panel/ Sub-Group or the Lead Member of a Scrutiny Panel, may resign office by giving notice in writing to the Chief Executive. Any such resignation shall take effect on the date of receipt of the notice.
- (8) The removal from office of the Chair or Deputy Chair of a Committee may only be agreed by the Council on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee. The removal from office of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or any Lead Member of a Scrutiny Panel may only be agreed by Council on the recommendation of that Committee. Only the Committee which appointed a Sub-Committee or Panel may remove the Chair or Deputy Chair of that Sub-Committee or Panel from office.
- (9) No Member of the Cabinet may be appointed as Chair of ~~an~~ Appeals Panel, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, the Licensing and Safety Committee, an Planning Area Sub-Committee, ~~or the~~ Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (or as a Lead Member of a Scrutiny Panel), or Standards Committee.

### **39. Quorum of Committees, Management Boards, Sub-Committees and Panels**

- (1) Except where ordered by the Council, or authorised by statute, business shall not be transacted at a meeting of any Committee, unless at least one third of

the number of the body are present.

- (2) Except where ordered by the Council, or authorised by statute or by the Committee which has appointed it, business shall not be transacted at a meeting of any Sub-Committee or Panel unless at least one third of the number of the Sub-Committee or Panel are present.
- (3) If the Chair declares there is not a quorum present then the meeting will adjourn immediately. Remaining business will be considered at a date and time fixed by the Chair. If no such date is fixed the business will be considered at the next meeting.
- (4) Where a Committee or Sub-Committee sits to consider an appeal, only those Members who are eligible to attend shall count for the purpose of a quorum.
- (5) No quorum may be less than two Members.
- (6) Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels shall be entitled to meet and transact business prior to the appointment of Co-opted Members.
- (7) Co-opted Members of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel shall only be counted for the purposes of a quorum at a meeting, if the Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel has no delegated powers and can only make recommendations.

#### **40. Meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels and Agenda Papers**

- (1) Every scheduled meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel shall be summoned by the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring through the issue of a notice for the meeting where practical at least 7 days prior to the meeting. The items of business for consideration at the meeting will be set out in the Agenda for the meeting. No additional items of business will be allowed unless the Chair for the meeting determines that they are urgent.
- (2) The Leader of each Political Group (or in his/her absence the Deputy Leader of each Group) shall notify the Chief Executive, in writing, not less than 14 days before the date of the intended meeting to which the item should be submitted of any item(s) which he/she wishes to include on the Agenda of any Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council. The notification shall include such information as is necessary to enable the Chief Executive to determine whether the subject matter requires consideration by the Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel. The Chief Executive shall determine the appropriate body to which the item shall be referred and notify the Group Leader (Deputy Group Leader) of the date of that meeting which shall be the next available meeting. Any item which, in the opinion of the Chief Executive is out of order, illegal, irregular or improper shall not be accepted and the decision of the Chief Executive shall be final.
- (3) The Chair (or Deputy Chair) of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel with the approval of the Leader of the Council, may instruct the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring to call a meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel at any time.

- (4) An additional meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel can be summoned if the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring receives a request in writing from at least half of the Members of the Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel to do so. Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring in consultation with the Chair may also summon a special meeting upon any emergency. The summons for such meetings shall set out the business for the meeting and no other items of business will be considered.

#### **41. Procedure Rules to apply to Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels**

Procedure Rules 9, 10, 11, 15 and 18 (except those parts which relate to speaking more than once) 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 34 shall, with any necessary modifications, apply to meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels.

#### **42. Voting in Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels**

- (1) Voting at a meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel shall be by a show of hands or by use of the electronic voting equipment, where appropriate. Alternatively the Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel may require the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring to take a vote by ballot on any motion or amendment which is put to the meeting.
- (2) The Chair at a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel meeting shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
- (3) If there are more than two persons nominated for any appointment to be filled and there is no overall majority in favour of one person the following procedure will apply. The name of the person (or persons, if equal) who has received the least number of votes will be struck off the list of nominations and a fresh vote will be taken. This procedure will continue until a majority vote is given in support of one of the persons nominated.
- (4) At any meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel (including joint bodies etc.) a Member may require that his or her decision in voting for or against a question (or his or her abstention from voting) be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. Such a requirement must be proposed by the Member immediately after the vote is taken.
- (5) At any meeting of a Strategic Planning Committee or a Planning Sub-Committee, ~~the Chair may propose that a recorded vote is taken on an item. This proposal for a recorded vote will only be effective if it is supported by at least two other Members of the Committee or Sub-Committee and is made before any votes have been cast. a recorded vote of decisions on Planning Applications shall take place.~~

#### **43. Working Parties, etc**

- (1) Any Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel may establish a Working Party or Sub-Group (which may include Officers) to undertake a detailed study of any matter(s). A Working Party or Sub-Group shall not have delegated powers and shall not constitute a formal Sub-Committee.

- (2) The terms of reference for any Working Party or Sub-Group shall state their objectives and dates etc. for reporting on their findings.
- (3) The Chair (and Deputy Chair) of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel responsible for establishing a Working Party or Sub-Group if not appointed in their own right, shall be entitled to attend and speak at all meetings.

#### **44. Reports to Council**

- (1) The Chair may request the Assistant Director - Legal, Governance and Monitoring to include in the report of a Committee, a reference to any particular matters which were considered in the meeting.
- (2) In accordance with the Agenda for the Council meeting.
  - (a) The Chair of a Committee, (or in their absence any other Member of the Committee) shall propose a motion to seek the Council's approval on any matter expressly referred by the Committee, to Council for determination.
  - (b) The Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or any other Member of the Council) shall propose a motion to seek the Council's approval to the receipt of any report of a meeting of Cabinet or any Committee.

#### **45. Reports of Sub-Committees and Panels**

A report of the proceedings of a Sub-Committee or Panel meeting shall be presented to the next convenient meeting of the parent Committee or Cabinet.

### **(D) Miscellaneous**

#### **46. Variation and Revocation of Procedure Rules**

- (1) Any motion to add to, vary or revoke these or any other Procedure Rules shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- (2) Paragraph (1) of this Rule shall not apply to any review of Procedure Rules proposed at the Annual Meeting of the Council or to a specific recommendation by the Cabinet or a Committee to the Council to add to, vary or revoke any Procedure Rules.

#### **47. Suspension of Procedure Rules**

- (1) At any meeting a motion may be moved to suspend the use of any of the preceding Procedure Rules for any item(s) of business included on the Agenda for that meeting.
- (2) A motion to suspend Procedure Rules shall not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the Members of the Council, Committee, Sub-

Committee or Panel are present.

#### **48. Standards of Conduct in Public when representing the Council**

Members have an obligation when taking part in Council and Committee meetings etc, held in public to comply with the protocol on standards of conduct in public approved by the Standards Committee and incorporated in Part 5 of the Constitution.

#### **49. Appointment of Leader or Mayor Other than at Annual Meetings of Council**

- (1) In the event that the Leader of the Council resigns part way through his or her term of office, or is incapacitated (to such an extent that they are no longer able to reasonably carry out their duties and responsibilities as Leader) or otherwise dies in office the Deputy Leader will act as Leader of the Council in accordance with Article 7 of the Council Constitution until such time as an election takes place and a new Leader of the Council is successfully elected. Such an election shall take place at the next possible meeting of Council or at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council convened for such a purpose.
- (2) In the event that the Mayor resigns from office part way through his or her term of office or otherwise dies in office the Deputy Mayor shall act in his or her place for the remainder of the Mayors term of office.

#### **50. Relevant Definitions**

“Municipal Year” ~~means~~ defines the period between each meeting of Annual ~~Meetings of the~~ Council, which ~~will~~ normally take place during ~~in~~ May.

“Group Leaders” ~~means the~~ is the term referring to the Leader of each political Group which is represented on the Council. leaders of each recognised political Group from time to time of the Council.

“Key Discussions” is the description of format for a presentation followed by a discussion and debate which takes place ~~over 60 minutes~~ at ordinary meetings of the Council which are designated as Key Discussion meetings.