

APPENDIX K

Section 1 – The Council

Types of meetings

1. ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

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. The matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting shall be

- (a) Electing a Mayor and appointing a Deputy Mayor
- (b) Approve the minutes of the last meeting;
- (c) Receive official announcements;
- (d) Electing the Executive Leader of the Council for the ensuing four year period
- (e) Receive a report from the Leader on the appointment of the Deputy Leader and other Members of the Executive
- (f) Receive a report from the Leader about the delegation of executive functions
- (g) Noting the appointment as Leader of the Opposition of the Leader of the largest political group other than the group of which the Leader of the Council is a member;
- (h) Appointing the Chairman and membership of Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other regulatory bodies and approving their respective terms of reference
- (i) Appointing representatives to Outside Bodies unless the appointment is an Executive function or has been delegated by the Council
- (k) Agree the Council Calendar of meetings
- (l) Reports from other Committees and Officers as required to in the proper discharge of functions delegated by Council

2. ORDINARY MEETINGS

2.1 The matters to be considered at an Ordinary Council meeting shall be;

Part 1 - Statutory formalities/Announcements (15 minutes)

- 1 Elect a member to preside if the Mayor is absent
- 2 Prayer
- 3 Minutes of last meeting
- 4 Official announcements
- 5 Declarations of interest
- 6 Any business remaining from last meeting

Part 2 - Question Time (30 minutes or until 7.45 p.m. whichever is longer)

7. Questions to the Leader and Cabinet

Part 3 – Business for Debate (90 minutes)

8. Business items in the order in which notice has been given

9. **Administration Business Item (30 minutes)**

Matters proposed by the political group led by the Leader of the Council and any other political group which acknowledges that it has combined with it to form a political administration.

10. **Opposition Business Item (30 minutes)**

Matters proposed by the other political groups,

In the absence of agreement between the opposition political groups, the time available in this part of the meeting will be allocated pro rata to the number of Members in each group.

(Break – 15 minutes)

11. **Non-Executive Business Item (30 minutes)**

Matters proposed by non-Executive Members..

If there is more than one business item for debate and in the absence of an agreement between the non-Executive Members, Council will decide the item of business for debate.

Part 4 - Statutory Council Business (30 minutes)

12. Petitions for Debate (20 minutes). A petition organiser (up to 5 minutes) and Members responding (up to 15 minutes)
13. Reports from Cabinet
14. Reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees
15. Reports from other Council Committees
16. Reports of Officers
17. Questions to Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

3. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Mayor may call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council at any time
- 3.2 Five Members of the Council may also request the Mayor to call an Extraordinary Meeting. The meeting must be called within seven days of the notice being present to the Mayor, although there is no time limit by which the meeting must take place.
- 3.3 If the Mayor refuses, or does not call the meeting within seven days, any five Members may themselves call an Extraordinary Meeting.
- 3.4 The only business permitted at an extraordinary meeting is that which appears in the summons.

4. BUDGET COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 4.1 The Council shall hold a Budget meeting at time, date and place fixed by the Council to approve the budget and Council Tax for the ensuing financial year. Only Parts 1 (Statutory Formalities/Announcements) and 4 (Statutory Council Business) will apply to the Budget meeting.

5. ROLE OF MAYOR.

- 5.1 At the meeting of the Council, the Mayor, if present shall preside.
- 5.2 If the Mayor is absent from a meeting of the Council then the person appointed by the Mayor as Deputy Mayor shall preside.
- 5.3 If the Mayor or Deputy Mayor are absent from the meeting of the Council, another Councillor chosen by the Councillors present shall preside.
- 5.4 The ruling of the Mayor or person presiding at the meeting concerning the interpretation or application of these standing orders shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council.

9. VARIATION

The following order of business may not be changed:

- 9.1 To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business

The order of any other business may be varied:

- 9.2 By the Mayor at his or her discretion either at or before the meeting; or
- 9.3 By a Business Item put forward, seconded, and carried without discussion, by a majority of members at the meeting. No written notice of the Business Item is required.

10. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council at any of its meetings may suspend any standing order provided that:

- 10.1 Either due notice has been given, or Council agrees that it is a case of urgency, and
- 10.2 The Business Item to suspend a standing order is moved, seconded and carried without discussion by a majority of the members of the Council present and voting.

RULES THAT APPLY TO THE WHOLE OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS

11. VALIDITY OF BUSINESS ITEMS, AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- 11.1 Every Business Item, amendment and question shall be relevant to matters within the Council's powers or duties or which affect the borough. The Mayor shall, if need be, give a ruling as to whether the Business Item is relevant.
- 11.2 If the Head of Governance has any doubts about any Business Item, amendment or question for the agenda for reasons of propriety, he or she may refer it to the Mayor.
- 11.3 If the Mayor considers the Business Item, amendment or question to be vexatious,

irrelevant, or otherwise improper, the Head of Governance will return it to the Member who submitted it. The Head of Governance will explain to the Member in writing why it will not be included on the agenda circulated for the meeting.

12. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR BUSINESS ITEMS AND AMENDMENTS

An amendment must be relevant to a Business Item on the agenda and shall be to either:

- 12.1 refer a subject of debate to a committee for consideration or re-consideration; or
- 12.2 change the words (including deleting or adding words) but such changes must not merely have the effect of negating the Business Item before the Council (i.e. ...'to delete all words after Council and replace with')
- 12.3 No member may submit more than one amendment to a particular Business Item or report on the agenda.
- 12.4 If requested by the Mayor, the mover of a Business Item or amendment shall put it in writing and hand it to the Mayor before it is discussed or put to the vote. This standing order does not apply to Business Items or amendments where notice has been given in accordance with these standing orders

13. ALTERATIONS TO BUSINESS ITEMS OR AMENDMENTS

- 13.1 A Member may amend a Business Item in their name by submitting the amendment in writing to the Head of Governance by 10.30am the day before the meeting.
- 13.2 After the deadline referred to at 13.1 above, a Member may only move an amendment to a Business Item in their name orally from the floor.

14. WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS ITEMS AND AMENDMENTS

- 14.1 The Member who has submitted a Business Item can withdraw the item prior to its consideration.

15. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS WHICH MAY BE MOVED WITHOUT NOTICE

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

- 15.1 appoint a Chairman of the meeting;
- 15.2 question the accuracy of the minutes;
- 15.3 move that an item of business in the summons takes precedence;
- 15.4 appoint a committee (including its members, a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and members having related specified duties);
- 15.5 agree to hear oral representations;
- 15.6 give leave to withdraw a Business Item;
- 15.7 extend the time limit for speeches;
- 15.8 move that "the question be now put" (to the vote);
- 15.9 move that "the debate be now adjourned";

- 15.10 move that "the Council do now adjourn";
- 15.21 exclude or to re-admit the press and public under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972;
- 15.22 move that a member be not further heard;
- 15.23 deal in public with a staff matter;
- 15.24 give consent of the Council where consent is required by these standing orders;
- 15.25 grant urgent action powers.

16 BUSINESS ITEMS WHICH MAY BE MOVED DURING DEBATE AND CLOSURE BUSINESS ITEMS

When a Business Item is under debate no other Business Item shall be moved except:

- 16.1 To amend the Business Item;
- 16.2 Motion moved by the Mayor or another member that a member:
 - (a) "be not further heard";
 - (b) "must leave the meeting";
- 16.3 Motion to exclude the press and public
- 16.4 Closure Business Items as follows:
 - A member may move without comment, at the conclusion of a speech of another member;
 - (c) "That the question be now put";
 - (d) "That the debate be now adjourned"; or
 - (e) "That the Council do now adjourn".

If the motion is seconded, the Mayor shall put the motion to the vote without further discussion.

- 16.5 If the Council agree "that the question be now put", the mover of the Business Item will retain his or her right of reply before the Business Item is put to the vote.

18 DIVISION AND VOTING

18.1 Division bell

When the mover of an original Business Item is called by the Mayor to speak in response to any debate or amendment, but not on the adoption of a cabinet or committee report, the Head of Governance shall arrange for a bell to be rung.

19. VOTING

- 19.1 All Business Items and amendments shall be determined by a show of hands except where otherwise provided by law or in these standing orders. However, the Mayor may use his/her discretion if the feeling of the meeting is clear, subject to any Member of the Council being able to request a formal vote.
- 19.2 Members must be seated in the Chamber when voting and while the vote is being recorded.

20 MEMBER'S DISSENT

- 20.1 If, immediately after a vote is taken, a member requests his or her vote to be recorded, the Head of Governance will record in the minutes whether that member:
- (a) cast his or her vote for or against the question; or
 - (b) abstained from voting.

21 DIVISION

- 21.1 If following a vote, ten members rise in their place and demand a formal division, the Head of Governance shall call over the names of all the members, and record and enter in the minutes those:
- (a) voting for or against the Business Item or amendment;
 - (b) abstaining from voting; and
 - (c) absent from the meeting when the division was taken.
- 21.2 The voting at the division shall take the place of the voting indicated by a show of hands.

22. VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS

Where more than two persons are nominated for any position to be filled by the Council, and there is no majority of votes in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be deleted from the list. Further votes will then be taken on the same basis until a majority is given in favour of one person.

23. QUESTION TIME

- 25.1 In part 2 of the meeting the Leader of the Council and other members of the Cabinet will answer questions from any member of the Council. In the absence of the appropriate member of the Cabinet the question may be answered by another Cabinet member. The Head of Governance will consult the Cabinet on which Cabinet member questions should be referred to.
- 25.2 Questions will be put to the appropriate Cabinet member in the order in which they are received by the Head of Governance, except that questions shall be ordered so that a question from one political group is followed by a question from another group until all groups have placed one question each. This sequence shall be maintained until all questions have been dealt with or the time limit for question time is reached.
- 25.3 Any Member wishing to ask a question must deliver by e-mail, to be received by the Head of Governance by 10.30am ten working days before the day of the meeting.
- 25.4 The Head of Governance shall keep a register recording the date and time the question was received. Any member of the Council may inspect the record.
- 25.5 The Leader/Cabinet Member may agree to answer a question of which notice has not been given, if it relates to urgent business and has been discussed with him/her before the meeting.
- 25.6 All questions must relate to the Council's powers or duties or matters that affect the borough or its residents.

- 25.8 Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.
- 25.9 An answer will take the form of a written reply circulated two working days before the meeting but the Mayor may allow an oral elaboration from the appropriate Cabinet member. In the absence of the appropriate Cabinet member an oral elaboration may be allowed from another member of the Cabinet.
- 25.10 One supplementary question and answer will be allowed on the same subject from the same members.
- 25.11 The time allowed for questions will be 30 minutes. At the end of that time the Mayor will allow an oral reply to a supplementary question commenced before the expiry of the time limit and then bring this part of the meeting to a close. The Mayor has the right to prevent any member asking or giving a protracted supplementary question or answer.

GENERAL RULES THAT APPLY TO PART 3 & 4 OF THE MEETING

26. Rules of Debate

- 26.1 The rules of debate at the meeting are as follows:
- 26.2 Each Business Item will be dealt with in turn in the order set out on the agenda. The Business Item need not be seconded. The Member moving the Business Item, or another member of that group, will open the debate. The Leader of each of the other groups, or another member of their group, will then have an opportunity to comment. and at the end of the time allowed the Mayor will bring this part of the debate to an end, whether or not all those entitled have spoken or completed their speeches.
- 26.3 For reports of the Cabinet, (except for Budget & Council Tax) Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Leader/Chairman of the relevant committee, or another member of the Cabinet/Committee, will move reception of the report and adoption of the recommendations. This report need not be seconded. The leader of each of the other groups, or another member of their group, will then have an opportunity to comment on the recommendation, and at the end of the time allowed the Mayor will bring this part of the debate to an end, whether or not all those entitled have spoken or completed their speeches
- 26.3 Amendments may be moved by those speaking in the first part of the debate. The Mayor will then invite other Members to move amendments. After all the amendments have been debated the Business Item will be debated. Then the Member who opened the debate, or his/her nominee, has the right to respond.
- 26.4 At the end of debate the Mayor will put each amendment to the vote in turn. If an amendment is carried it alters the substantive Business Item.
- 26.5 The Mayor will then put the item to the vote.

27. Time For Debate

- 27.1 The time allowed will be set out in the timetable. Each of the first three speakers under Rule 33.2 may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. All subsequent speakers will be limited to a maximum of 4 minutes. At the end of that period of time the Mayor will bring that part of the meeting to a close, whether or not every member wishing or entitled to speak is speaking or has spoken, and whether or not all the business for that part of the meeting has been dealt with. The Mayor will then put the remaining items of business

for that part of the meeting to the meeting in turn, and the Council will decide and if necessary vote on each of them without debate.

- 27.2 The Mayor may at any time move that more time be allowed for a debate than is shown on the timetable, that an amendment, Business Item or recommendation be put to the vote without further debate, or that the order of business be varied. This Business Item from the Mayor need not be seconded, and will be immediately put to the vote without debate.
- 27.3 The mover of an original Business Item shall have a right of reply at the close of the debate on the Business Item, immediately before it is put to the vote. If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original Business Item also has a right of reply at the close of the debate on each amendment, but must not otherwise speak on the amendment. At the end of the debate, the Mayor will call on the original mover of the Business Item to exercise his or her final right to reply.
- 28.1. **Administration and Opposition Business Items**
- 28.2 Business Items must consist of comments or requests addressed to the Executive. They must address broad policy issues and relate to the Council's powers or duties or matters that affect the Borough or its residents.
- 28.3 Business Items may not promote a policy initiative which has been rejected, or negate a policy initiative that has been agreed by Council or the Executive in the six months before the meeting.

29. Non-Executive Business Items

- 29.1 Any Member may put a Business Item on the agenda for an ordinary meeting of the Council, except the meeting that deals with the Budget and Council Tax. The Member must give written notice to the Head of Governance at least six clear working days before the meeting. Any Business Item delivered after 4pm will be recorded as received on the next working day. The Business Item must be signed by the member and sent by email by the Member or his/her group's political assistant or Group Secretary.
- 29.2 The Head of Governance shall keep a record of the date the notice was received and any member of the Council may inspect the record.
- 29.3 The Head of Governance shall set out in the summons for the meeting all Business Items in order of receipt.
- 29.4 Once the Business Item is on the agenda, any Member may move the Business Item at the meeting. If the Business Item is not moved it shall be treated as withdrawn, unless the Council agrees to postpone it.
- 29.5 If the Member's Business Item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it will be referred to the Cabinet or an appropriate Council Committee or sub-Committee for consideration and any necessary action. (However, if the proposer has specifically

asked in his or her notice for the Business Item to be voted on at that Council meeting it will be voted on without discussion).

- 29.6 A Member who has a Business Item on the agenda may submit a further Business Item by 10.30am on the last working day before the meeting asking for the Business Item to be withdrawn and referred to the Cabinet or an appropriate council committee. The member must sign the Business Item and deliver it to the Head of Governance by hand, post, fax or e-mail.

RULES THAT APPLY TO PART 4 OF THE MEETING

31. Questions on Cabinet/committee reports

A member may ask the Leader/Chairman of a committee, or a member moving the reception of the report of the committee, any question on it whilst it is being considered. Notice of the question should be given to the Leader/Chairman, or any member moving the report, where practicable. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer.

32. Questions to Council representatives on Outside Bodies

- 32.1 At an ordinary meeting, a member, who has given 21 clear working days written notice to the Head of Governance, may ask any question about the activities of a company or outside body to any member or officer who has been appointed or nominated to the outside body.

(Sub-section 71(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - Section 41, Local Government Act 1985 - G.P. Dec. 21/10/85-5)

- 32.2 The member or officer may decline to answer if the question would disclose information about the outside body that has been communicated to him or her in confidence.

- 32.3 An answer may take the form of:

- (a) an oral or written answer (officers will invariably give written answers); or
- (b) a reference to a Council publication; or
- (c) a holding reply where it is not possible to give an immediate response. A written response must be circulated to members when the information is available.

- 32.4 No discussion shall be permitted about any question or the reply to it.

- 32.5 Questions and answers will be recorded.

33. Procedure for Cabinet's budget report

- 33.1 The Leader, or in his/her absence any other member of the Cabinet, must move a Business Item for the report to be received. The mover may speak for five minutes.

- 33.2 If the Business Item is approved, the recommendations in the report shall be moved for reception by each page number being called out.

- 33.4 The Chairman of the Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee may speak for five minutes.

- 47.4 If a member has submitted notice of an amendment on a particular item, the Mayor will invite him or her, or another member, to move the amendment. If the amendment is seconded, the mover of the amendment may speak for five minutes when moving the amendment. His or her seconder may also speak for four minutes or, on request, later in the debate. If the amendment is not moved, it shall be treated as having been withdrawn.
- 47.5 Only one amendment may be moved, discussed and voted on at any one time.
- 47.6 After all the amendments to the report have been dealt with in this way, the whole report shall be moved for adoption, subject to any amendments agreed at the meeting. The Business Item must be seconded and voted on without further discussion.