

Standing Orders fFor Council, Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings

Approved by Council 21 August 2024

Aberdeen City Council Standing Orders for Council, Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and the Council's Scheme of Governance.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between these Standing Orders and legislation, the legislation shall prevail.

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Policy Author	Lynsey McBain, Committee Services Officer

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FIRST COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING AN ELECTION

THE STATUTORY MEETING

1. CALLING OF STATUTORY MEETING

- 1.1 In a local government election year, the Council will hold its first meeting within 21 days of the election, on a date set by the Chief Officer - Governance.

2. TERMS OF BUSINESS

- 2.1 The Returning Officer, whom failing such Councillor as the meeting may select, will chair the meeting until the Lord Provost is elected.
- 2.2 The agenda will include the following business:
- 2.2.1 Receipt of notice of election of Councillors;
 - 2.2.2 Election of Lord Provost, Depute Provost, Leader or Co-Leaders, and Depute Leader of the Council;
 - 2.2.3 Appointment of a Convener and Vice Convener(s) for Committees of the Council;
 - 2.2.4 Appointment of Members to Committees;
 - 2.2.5 Nomination or appointment as the case may be of representatives to Boards, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies; and
 - 2.2.6 Approval of Senior Councillor allowances.
- 2.3 Where Standing Orders refer to the Leader of the Council, this will include reference at all times to Co-Leaders, if appointed.
- 2.4 Where any function in terms of the Standing Orders is attributed to the Leader of the Council, the Co-Leaders will determine who will undertake it and notify the Chief Executive on request.
- 2.5 There will be no more than one appointment made to the roles of:
- ◆ Lord Provost;
 - ◆ Depute Provost;
 - ◆ Depute Leader (if appointed); and
 - ◆ Convener.
- 2.6 The Convener and Vice Convener of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee must be members of the opposition unless the opposition choose not to nominate members to either or both of those roles.
- 2.7 Any External Member appointed by Council to any Committee or Sub-Committee will have full voting rights on all matters considered relevant by the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee, unless otherwise agreed by Council.
- 2.8 An External Member will remain as a member of the Committee or Sub-Committee until the next ordinary election of Councillors, subject to their right to resign or their removal by the nominating body.
- 2.9 An External Member will be expected to comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct.
- 2.10 The Lord Dean of Guild of the Burgesses of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen attends meetings of the Council on behalf of the Guildry of Burgesses and is expected to comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

3.1 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 3.1.1** When nominating or appointing Members to any office or position where there are a greater number of candidates than vacancies, the decision will be taken by a vote.
- 3.1.2** A Member will be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies.
- 3.1.3** A Member must not vote more than once for any one candidate in any ballot.
- 3.1.4** In addition to the nominator and seconder, Members may speak in support of their own candidacy for a maximum of 5 minutes.

3.2 VOTING IN THE CASE OF ONE VACANCY

- 3.2.1** Where only one vacancy requires to be filled and one candidate has an absolute majority of votes cast, that candidate will be declared elected, nominated or appointed, as the case may be.
- 3.2.2** Where only one vacancy requires to be filled and there are only two candidates and the vote results in a tie, the candidate to be removed will be determined by lot, using a method decided upon by the Clerk.
- 3.2.3** Where there are more than two candidates and the first vote does not produce an absolute majority in favour of any candidate, the candidate with fewest votes will be removed, and a fresh vote will take place between the remaining candidates.
- 3.2.4** This process will continue until one candidate has a majority of votes cast.
- 3.2.5** Where there is an equal number of votes for the candidates with fewest votes, an extra vote will be taken between those candidates.
 - 3.2.5.1** The name of the candidate with the fewest votes will be removed from the process.
 - 3.2.5.2** If an equal number of votes remains, the candidate to be removed will be determined by lot using a method decided upon by the Clerk.

3.3 VOTING IN THE CASE OF TWO OR MORE VACANCIES

- 3.3.1** Where there is more than one vacancy and the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, the following method of voting shall apply:-
 - 3.3.1.1** The number of candidates matching the number of vacancies that receive the highest number of votes cast will be duly elected, nominated or appointed, as the case may be.
 - 3.3.1.2** Where there is an equal number of votes between two or more candidates, and where their respective proportion of the votes cast does not allow them to automatically take up a vacancy, an extra vote will be taken between those candidates. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes cast will be duly elected, nominated or appointed, as the case may be.
- 3.3.2** In the event that Standing Order 3.3.1.2 still produces an equality of votes, the decision will be by lot using a method decided upon by the Clerk.

3.3.2.1 The first named candidate drawn will be elected, nominated or appointed, as the case may be, followed by the second named candidate, should there be more than two candidates with an equality of votes.

3.3.2.2 This process will continue until the number of candidates amounts to the same number of vacancies.

4. DURATION OF APPOINTMENTS

4.1 Each appointment made under Standing Order 3 will stand until the next local government election, unless and until:

4.1.1 a Member resigns from that appointment; or

4.1.2 a Member is removed by the Council as set out in Standing Order 5; or

4.1.3 in the case of a Leader, the Council agrees to that Member being a Co-Leader with another Member.

5. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

5.1 Any Member elected or appointed as Lord Provost, Depute Provost, Leader or Co-Leaders of the Council, Depute Leader of the Council, or as Convener or Vice Convener can only be removed from office by a resolution by Full Council following a Notice of Motion submitted at least three weeks prior to the Council meeting in accordance with Standing Order 12. For the avoidance of any doubt, for the purposes of this Standing Order 5, such removal of a Member means removal against the wishes of that Member.

5.2 Any such Notice of Motion will form the first item of business at the next Full Council meeting.

5.3 Any such Notice of Motion can only be heard by Full Council and, for the avoidance of doubt, not by the Urgent Business Committee.

5.4 Following debate, a proposal as to whether to remove from office the office bearers detailed at Standing Order 5.1 will be voted on and decided by simple majority.

5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, there will be a casting vote in the event of there being no overall majority.

5.6 Where the Council agrees to remove a Co-Leader from their role, the removal from office will only apply to the named Member.

5.6.1 The remaining Co-Leader will be determined to be the Leader of the Council, unless Council appoints a replacement Co-Leader.

6. APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS

6.1 The processes which apply to the appointment and employment of Chief Officers are set out at Appendix 3 to this document.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7. ORDINARY MEETINGS

- 7.1 Meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees will be held in line with the meeting timetable as approved by the Council.
- 7.2 No meetings will be held on a Saturday or Sunday or on public holidays observed by the Council.
- 7.3 It will be within the discretion of the Convener of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee to cancel, or advance or postpone to another date and/or time, an ordinary meeting if in his/her opinion, acting reasonably, there is a good reason for so doing and provided that this reason is communicated to the relevant membership as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 7.4 Where an item is deferred or referred to another meeting of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee then, unless otherwise expressly specified, this will be to an ordinary meeting thereof.

8. SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 8.1 A special meeting of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee may be called at any time by its Convener, subject to Standing Order 10.1.
- 8.2 A special meeting may also be called by at least a quarter of the Members of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee.
 - 8.2.1 In such instances a special meeting will be held within ~~14~~fourteen days of a written request (requisition) being received by the Chief Officer - Governance. For the avoidance of any doubt, such a meeting may be adjourned by the convener and the date to which it is adjourned may be within or after that 14 day period.
 - 8.2.2 The written request should specify the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting and must be signed by at least a quarter of the Members of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee. Members should use any template form which may from time to time be provided for this purpose by the Chief Officer – Governance. If the written request does not specify the business of the meeting, then the Members must, at least three ~~C~~clear ~~D~~ays before the meeting, provide the Chief Officer – Governance with a notice signed by those Members which specifies the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting. Irrespective of when such specification of business is provided, no other items of business may be transacted at the meeting.
- 8.3 It will be within the discretion of the Convener of the Council, a Committee or a Sub-Committee to cancel, or advance or postpone to another date and/or time, a special meeting called in terms of Standing Order 8.1 if in his/her opinion, acting reasonably, there is a good reason for so doing and provided that this reason is communicated to the relevant membership as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 8.4 It will be within the discretion of the Convener of the Council, a Committee or a Sub-Committee to cancel, or advance or postpone to another date and/or time, a special meeting called in terms of Standing Order 8.2 if in his/her opinion, acting reasonably, there is a good reason for so doing and provided that each member who signed the written request in terms of Standing Order 8.2.2 has indicated their agreement to this course of action and that the reason is communicated to the relevant membership as soon as reasonably practicable. Any such decision to advance or postpone is subject to

[the 14 day time period in Standing Order 8.2.1.](#)

- 8.5 [The date and time of a special meeting called under Standing Order 8.1 or 8.2 will be fixed by the Chief Officer – Governance following consultation with the relevant Convener.](#)

9. PLACE OF MEETINGS AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION

- 9.1 All meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees will, unless otherwise determined by the Chief Officer - Governance in consultation with the Convener, take place in the Town House.
- 9.2 In terms of section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees may (as well as being conducted by all members being present together in a pre-determined place) be conducted in any other way in which each member is enabled to participate although not present with others in such a place - but only on the direction of the relevant convener, whom failing, the relevant deputy convener. [References elsewhere in these Standing Orders to Members being “present” at a meeting, and to meeting rooms, are to be read in light of section 43 and the kinds of remote or online participation which it permits.](#)

10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- 10.1 At least ~~six~~[seven](#) Clear Days before a meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee, the time and place of the meeting will be published at the Council's offices.
- 10.1.1 Standing Order 10.1 does not apply to the Urgent Business Committee nor the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 10.1.2 Standing Order 10.1 does not apply to special meetings called in terms of Standing Order 8.2. At least three Clear Days before such a special meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee, the time and place of the meeting will be published at the Council's offices.

10.2 A Summons to attend the meeting including the list of business to be transacted at the meeting will be delivered:-

10.2.1 by post to a Member's normal place of residence;

10.2.2 to such other address as a Member may specify; or

10.2.3 by email to an address provided by the Council.

10.3 If a Summons is not sent to or received by any Member, the meeting will still be valid.

11. ORDER OF BUSINESS

11.1 Council Meetings

11.1.1 At an ordinary meeting of Council, the business shown on the agenda will (unless otherwise determined by the Convener) proceed in the following order:-

11.1.1.1 Admission of Burgesses

11.1.1.2 Notification of Urgent Business

11.1.1.3 Determination of Exempt Business

11.1.1.4 Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

11.1.1.5 Deputations

11.1.1.6 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) of Council

11.1.1.7 Referrals from Committees

11.1.1.8 Business Planner

11.1.1.9 Council Business

11.1.1.10 Notices of Motion

11.1.1.11 Exempt / Confidential Business

11.2 Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings

11.2.1 At an ordinary Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, the business shown on the agenda will usually (unless otherwise determined by the Convener) proceed in the following order:

11.2.1.1 Notification of Urgent Business

11.2.1.2 Determination of Exempt Business

11.2.1.3 Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

11.2.1.4 Deputations

11.2.1.5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

11.2.1.6 Committee Planner

11.2.1.7 Notices of Motion

11.2.1.8 Referrals from Council, Committees and Sub-Committees

11.2.1.9 Committee Business (to be set out as per Committee Terms of Reference)

11.2.1.10 Exempt / Confidential Business

OPERATION OF COUNCIL, COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 12.1 A Member can submit a Notice of Motion to Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 12.2 Notices of Motion must be submitted to the Clerk in writing at least three weeks prior to the meeting.
 - 12.2.1 The Clerk will then be responsible for collating the views of the relevant Director(s), Chief Officer - Governance, Chief Officer - Finance and any other relevant Chief Officer(s) or external partner(s), in terms of competency and any other relevant feedback and presenting these to the Member.
- 12.3 Following the conclusion of the consultation set out in Standing Order 12.2, the final written motion must be submitted by the Member to the Clerk by 12 noon two weeks prior to the meeting, along with any relevant correspondence.
- 12.4 Precise deadlines for all Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings will be made available to Members on the internal website.
- 12.5 Prior to a Notice of Motion appearing on an agenda, the Convener will determine competency. Notices of Motion shall appear on the agenda in chronological order, according to when they were submitted to the Clerk in terms of Standing Order 12.2.
- 12.6 A Notice of Motion will be determined incompetent if:-
 - 12.6.1 The judgement of the relevant Director(s) or Chief Officer(s) is that the matter is already being pursued. In such circumstances, the Member may only resubmit the motion after a period of six months from the date of submission of the Notice of Motion;
 - 12.6.2 The terms of the motion would, in the opinion of the Chief Officer – Governance, be likely to result in a breach in law;
 - 12.6.3 The motion proposes expenditure or would lead to the loss of income and does not identify a source of funding; or
 - 12.6.4 A motion in similar terms has already been submitted for the same meeting by another Member.

but will not be determined incompetent solely on the ground of not complying with a Standing Order if it is seeking suspension of that Standing Order.
- 12.7 If the Convener rules the motion incompetent, it will not appear on the agenda for the meeting.
- 12.8 If the motion is ruled incompetent, the Member may submit a revised version, subject to adhering to the process outlined in Standing Orders 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3 above.
- 12.9 A Notice of Motion submitted to the Clerk outwith the deadlines referred to in Standing Orders 12.2 and 12.3 above, can only be accepted onto the agenda at the discretion of the Convener, whether prior to or at the meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 12.10 Standing Order 12.9 does not apply to any Notice of Motion submitted under Standing Order 5.1 (Removal from Office of Lord Provost, Depute Provost, Leader or Co-Leaders, Depute Leader of the Council or Convener or Vice Convener).
- 12.11 When submitting a Notice of Motion, outwith the deadlines referred to above, the Member will be required to specify why the motion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

- 12.12 If a Member who has submitted a Notice of Motion is absent from the meeting when the motion is due to be considered, the motion will not be considered at that meeting but will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 12.13 If the Member is absent on the second occasion, the motion will fall.
- 12.14 If a Member is not a member of the Committee or Sub-Committee where their motion is to be considered, they will be invited to the meeting to move or speak to the motion and sum up; however they will not be entitled to vote on the matter.
- 12.15 Members are permitted to submit joint notices of motion, however the 10 minute time limit for moving the motion will remain unchanged, which can be split between any or all of the Members who submit the joint motion.
- 12.16 A Member can make minor alterations to their motion at the meeting, with the consent of the Convener.
- 12.17 Any motion proposing a nomination for Freedom of the City must be signed by at least 23 Members of the Council. As regards the decision itself, section 206(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 states that *"A local authority may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the authority the notice of which specifies the proposed admission as an item of business, admit to be honorary freemen of their area persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent service to their area"*.

13. REPORTS BY OFFICERS

- 13.1 Reports to the Council, Committees or Sub-Committees will be in the name of the Chief Executive, Directors, Statutory and Chief Officers or by the Council's Internal or External Auditors; or by a representative of Police Scotland or the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 13.2 Reports must be provided in draft to the following for consultation in accordance with the published timetable:
 - 13.2.1 Chief Officer - Finance
 - 13.2.2 Chief Officer - Governance
 - 13.2.3 Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning
 - 13.2.4 Chief Executive
 - 13.2.5 Clerk
 - 13.2.6 Co-Leaders (for reports to Council and the Finance and Resources Committee – and, upon the Co-Leaders' request, any other reports)
 - 13.2.7 Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee
 - 13.2.8 Convener and Vice Convener of Council or the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee
 - 13.2.9 Executive Lead for their respective committee
- 13.3 Reports must also be provided in draft to the following officers for consultation, in cases where the report contains matters within their professional remit:-
 - 13.3.1 Chief Officer – Children's Social Work & Family Support
 - 13.3.2 Chief Officer – People & Citizen Services

- 13.3.3** Chief Officer – Commercial & Procurement Services
 - 13.3.4** Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord
 - 13.3.5** Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration
- 13.4** Standing Orders 13.2 and 13.3 do not apply to planning or licensing applications where there are no draft reports and separate statutory consultation procedures apply.
- 13.5** A report author must consult the local Members of a ward where the report contains proposals which if implemented, would have a significant local impact on that particular ward.
- 13.6** Where an initial report is prepared as a result of a Notice of Motion having been considered, the report author must consult the Member(s) who submitted the Notice of Motion.
- 13.7** A report will only be submitted for consideration by the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee where the Clerk, Chief Officer – Finance and the Chief Officer – Governance have responded to the consultation on that report.
- 13.8** Subject to Standing Orders 13.9 to 13.12 below, final reports to be included on an agenda for a meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee must be submitted to the Clerk as specified in the timetable published by the Chief Officer - Governance.
- 13.9** If a report not listed on the agenda is submitted after the agenda for the meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee has been published; the Convener must give authority for the report to be added to the agenda.
- 13.10** If a report listed on the agenda is submitted after the agenda has been published but more than three Clear Days before the meeting, no Late Docquet will be required.
- 13.11** If a report is submitted after the agenda has been published but less than three Clear Days before the meeting, the relevant Director or Chief Officer must submit a Late Docquet to the Clerk explaining why the report is late and the special circumstances which require the report to be considered as a matter of urgency.
 - 13.11.1** In terms of Standing Order 36.3, the Docquet must also be signed by the Convener who will specify why the report should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.
 - 13.11.2** Standing Order 13.11 does not apply to the Licensing Committee, Urgent Business Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 13.12** Any officer listed under Standing Order 13.1 will have the authority to withdraw his/her report from the agenda, following consultation with the Co-Leaders.
- 13.13** Where the Council, a Committee or a Sub-Committee has instructed the bringing of a report to a particular meeting, the relevant Director may postpone same to a later meeting where the original date cannot be met, provided the relevant Convener has been consulted. The reason for the delay and the later meeting date shall be minuted at the meeting to which the instruction related.

14. DEPUTATIONS

- 14.1 Every request for a deputation must be ~~in writing and~~ received by the Clerk at least two ~~Clear Working Days~~ before the meeting to which it relates, and followed up in writing if the request is made verbally. Any documentation that a deputation may wish to circulate to the Committee must be submitted along with the deputation request. Should such documentation not be submitted with the request, it will be for the Convener to determine if the document is circulated.
- 14.1.1 For example, for a meeting on a Thursday, requests must be received by the end of the Monday; and for a meeting on a Tuesday, requests must be received by the end of the previous Thursday.
- 14.2 In the event that a report has not been published in time to enable a deputation request to comply with the deadline set out in Standing Order 14.1, deputation requests may still be submitted and put on to the agenda.
- 14.2.1 In such instances, Standing Order 14.1 would require to be suspended at the meeting for the deputation to be heard.
- 14.3 The request must relate to a report on an agenda.
- 14.4 The request must state the report on which the deputation wants to be heard and the action (if any) the deputation would like the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee to take in relation to the report.
- 14.5 The following deputation requests are not competent:-
- 14.5.1 Deputations which fail to comply with Standing Order 14.1;
- 14.5.2 Deputations which relate to reports containing confidential information (see Standing Order 22);
- 14.5.3 Deputations which relate to the annual budget;
- 14.5.4 Deputations which relate to a petition;
- 14.5.5 Deputations which relate to a planning or licensing application;
- 14.5.6 Deputations which relate to matters that have alternative formal or statutory procedures for representation (which may include, but are not restricted to, the Council's proposed sale or let of a property which has been subject to a closing date and the Council's proposed tendering of goods, services or works);
- ~~14.5.7~~ 14.5.8 Deputations which relate to a Notice of Motion which does not have an accompanying report; and has not yet been moved.
- ~~14.5.7~~ 14.5.8 Deputations which contain or relate to complaints or allegations against officers, individual elected members or identifiable members of the public.
- 14.6 Subject to Standing Order 14.2 (late publication of reports), if a deputation request is determined to be incompetent, it will not be put on the agenda.
- 14.7 Deputations cannot consist of more than three people.
- 14.8 No individual may form part of more than one deputation on the same matter.
- 14.9 A competent deputation request will be placed on the agenda for the relevant meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 14.9.1 If a deputation is deemed to be competent, it will be heard at the meeting, unless a Member moves a procedural motion to determine otherwise.

- 14.10 If, having heard the deputation, the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee defer consideration of the report, no further request will be accepted from the same body or individuals in relation to the matter unless a new report containing substantially different information is submitted to a future meeting.
- 14.11 Competency in respect of Standing Orders 14.3, 14.5 and 14.10 will be determined by the Convener.
- 14.12 If a report on which a deputation has been heard is referred to another meeting of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee, in order for the same body or individuals to be heard, a fresh request for a deputation must be submitted.
- 14.13 Deputations will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their case, irrespective of the number of speakers.
- 14.14 Following the conclusion of the deputation, Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the deputation for a maximum of ten minutes.
- 14.14.1 No questions can be asked of officers during this time period, and no debate or discussion will take place until the report is considered as part of the agenda.

15. PETITIONS

- 15.1 A petition complying with the [agreed criteria](#) and having received at least 100 valid signatures will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the relevant committee.
- 15.2 The petitioner will be invited to explain their petition at the relevant committee and will have a maximum of ten minutes to present their case, following which Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the petitioner for a maximum of ten minutes.
- 15.3 The petitioner can be supported by up to two other individuals but the ten minute limit will be the same.
- 15.4 A Council officer will then have the opportunity to present their case for a maximum of ten minutes, following which Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the officer for a maximum of ten minutes.
- 15.5 There are three options for the committee to consider.
- 15.5.1 Take no action and advise the lead petitioner of the Committee's reasoning.
- 15.5.2 Agree that the matter be the subject of a report to the relevant Committee(s).
- 15.5.3 Refer the matter to a relevant organisation with or without a recommendation.

16. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

- 16.1 Subject to Standing Orders 12.14, 16.2 and 16.3, any Member will be entitled to attend any Committee or Sub-Committee meeting of which they are not a member and will be entitled to ask questions ~~or~~ and address the meeting prior to motions and amendments being moved, such address to be for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- 16.1.1 The Member may not propose or second any motion or amendment, enter the debate or vote.
- 16.2 A Member cannot be present at a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee for which they are not a member when all of the following three conditions apply:-
- 16.2.1 The press and public have been excluded from the meeting; and

- 16.2.2 The meeting is likely to involve the taking of a decision which may affect the interests of any person or body following a hearing; and
- 16.2.3 The person or body has a right in terms of the law, Standing Orders or other administrative procedure, to be heard at that meeting in person or through a representative, for example the Appeals Sub-Committee or Licensing Committee.
- 16.3 In respect of the following, Members will only be entitled to make representations through, as applicable, the formal statutory process or other procedure agreed by Council, Committee or Sub-Committee:
 - 16.3.1 quasi-judicial matters;
 - 16.3.2 individual housing allocation decisions; or
 - 16.3.3 reviews to be undertaken by the Community Asset Transfer Review Sub-Committee.
- 16.4 Prior to sitting as a member or a substitute of the Pensions Committee and the Appeals Sub-Committee, a Councillor must have undertaken the required training.-
- ~~16.4~~16.5 Prior to sitting as a member or a substitute of any Committee or Sub-Committee, a Councillor must have undergone any necessary checks under the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme or such equivalent or replacement scheme as may apply from time to time.-

17. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- 17.1 Members or Groups will be entitled to nominate substitutes to attend meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees on their behalf, providing those substitutes have received relevant training as determined by the Council.
- 17.2 Bodies appointing External Members shall be permitted to appoint a named substitute for their substantive Member, providing those substitutes have received relevant training as determined by the Council.

18. FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS

- 18.1 Subject to section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend any meeting of the authority, the Chief Executive must report this to Council, unless leave of absence has been granted to the Member.
- 18.2 If the Council is not satisfied as to the cause of the failure to attend, the Member will cease to be a Member of the Council.
- 18.3 The Member will not cease to be a Member of the Council if the absence is due to the Member having been suspended by the Standards Commission.
 - 18.3.1 No report from the Chief Executive is required in these circumstances.

19. CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

- 19.1 At any meeting of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the chair will be taken by the Convener, or where the Convener is absent, the Vice Convener, who will be addressed as 'Convener' in accordance with Standing Order 25.2.
 - 19.1.1 In the event that there is more than one Vice Convener, it will be for those Members to determine which of them will chair the meeting.
 - 19.1.2 In the event that no agreement is reached between those Members, the decision will be taken by means of a procedural motion.

- 19.1.3** In the absence of both Convener and Vice Convener(s), the Members present will appoint a Convener.

20. QUORUM

- 20.1** The quorum of Council, Committees and Sub-Committees will be one quarter of the total number of members of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee, or three members, whichever is the higher.

21. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS BY CHIEF OFFICERS

- 21.1** All meetings will normally have advice available from the Chief Officer – Finance and the Chief Officer - Governance.
- 21.2** The attendance of all other officers is at the discretion of the appropriate Chief Officer, taking into account the business of the meeting and the Working Time Regulations 1998.

22. EXEMPT AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 22.1** Agendas and reports containing Confidential Information will contain a declaration that the report is 'Not for Publication' because it contains Confidential Information as described in Appendix 1 to the Standing Orders.
- 22.2** Agendas and reports containing Exempt Information (exempt items) will contain a declaration that the report is 'Not for Publication' because it contains Exempt Information as described in Appendix 2 to the Standing Orders.
- 22.3** The public may be excluded from a meeting when an item of business is being considered, if it is likely that, if the public were present, Exempt Information would be disclosed.
- 22.4** The public must be excluded from a meeting when an item of business is being considered and it is likely that, if the public were present, Confidential Information would be disclosed to them in breach of an obligation of confidence.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

- 23.1** Members must adopt the 3-stage approach (Connection – Interest – Participation) set out in section 5 (Declaration of Interests) of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.
- 23.2** A Member will declare their interest as early as possible in meetings. Where they have declared an interest, they must withdraw from the meeting room (including from any public gallery). They must not participate in any way in those parts of meetings where they have declared an interest. If the meeting is being held online, the member must retire to a separate breakout room or leave and re-join after the discussion on the matter has concluded. It is not sufficient for them to turn off their camera and/or microphone for the duration of the matter.
- 23.3** When making a declaration, a member should provide enough information for those at the meeting to understand why they are making a declaration.
- 23.4** Members should consider whether it is appropriate for transparency reasons for them to state publicly in the meeting where they have a connection, which they do not consider amounts to an interest. Such a statement is referred to in these Standing Orders as a "transparency statement".

24. INTRODUCING REPORTS

- 24.1** The Convener may identify that a report requires introduction from an officer, or a representative of an external organisation, following which, Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of officers or an external representative. Any introduction and questions for an external representative should be undertaken prior to asking questions of officers.

24.2 To promote the effective management of the meeting, Members ~~should~~must (wherever reasonably possible) seek clarification or advice on any points from officers, and submit questions, in advance of the meeting.

24.3 When, in the opinion of the Convener, Members have had a reasonable opportunity to ask questions, the Convener will move to determination of the matter.

25. SPEAKING AT MEETINGS

25.1 When addressing Members, Trade Union Advisers, officers, deputations or representatives of external partners at meetings, no Member or officer should use the first name of the person being addressed.

25.2 When referring to or addressing the Convener, Members, Trade Union Advisers and officers should address the Convener as 'Lord Provost', 'Convener' or 'Chair' as appropriate.

25.3 When referring to or addressing a Member, Members, Trade Union Advisers and officers should address the Member as Councillor.

26. ORDER OF DETERMINATION etc

26.1 If consensus cannot be reached on an item, the order of debate will be as follows:-

26.1.1 Motion moved and seconded

26.1.2 Amendment(s) moved and seconded

26.1.3 Debate

26.1.4 Summing up for the amendment(s)

26.1.5 Summing up for the motion

26.1.6 Vote

26.2 Any Member wishing to speak at any meeting will address the Convener and restrict their remarks to the item of business before the meeting through:-

26.2.1 Asking questions, which can include asking questions of officers on a motion or amendment before it is moved, except where these are proposing budgets.

26.2.2 Moving, seconding or supporting a motion or any relative amendment

26.2.3 Moving or seconding a Procedural Motion; and

26.2.4 Raising a Point of Order

26.3 Advisers to the Staff Governance Committee and external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee will be entitled to raise a Point of Order, ask questions and participate in any debate, but will not be entitled to move a motion or amendment, nor participate in any vote.

27. POINTS OF ORDER

27.1 A Point of Order is a verbal objection made to the Convener that a statement or proposed procedure or action at the meeting may be in breach of the law, Standing Orders or the Councillors' Code of Conduct or the Member-Officer Relations Protocol.

27.2 Any Member may raise a Point of Order at any point in the meeting, and must specify which Standing Order, law (i.e. legislative provision; or rule or principle of common law) or section of the Councillors' Code of Conduct or Member-Officer Relations Protocol will be, or has been, breached.

27.3 The Convener will decide how the Point of Order will be dealt with.

28. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- 28.1 A Procedural Motion is a motion on the procedure being proposed or undertaken at the meeting, including, but not restricted to:-
- 28.1.1 Moving exempt business to the public section of the agenda;
 - 28.1.2 Proposing a change to the minute;
 - 28.1.3 Proposing that an item or items on the business planner be considered at an earlier date or deferred to a later date;
 - 28.1.4 Proposing that an item or items be referred to another Committee or directly to full Council with the exception of referrals under Standing Order 34.1;
 - 28.1.5 Proposing that no further debate or questioning take place;
 - 28.1.6 Proposing the suspension of a Standing Order;
 - 28.1.7 Proposing an alternative method of voting; and
 - 28.1.8 Proposing that a planning site visit be undertaken.
- 28.2 A Procedural Motion has to be moved and seconded, and Members will then vote on whether to support or oppose it.
- 28.3 When a Procedural Motion has been moved and seconded, it will be put immediately to the vote, without any debate.
- 28.4 If a Procedural Motion is not seconded, it will fall and this will be recorded in the minute.
- 28.5 Except where the Procedural Motion is to suspend Standing Orders in terms of Standing Order 41, for a Procedural Motion to be successful, it requires a simple majority of the vote.
- 28.6 Immediately following the vote, procedural motions may be referred to the relevant Committee or the Council for a decision in terms of Standing Order 34.1.

29. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- 29.1 Where a motion and amendments are proposed in relation to a Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, Members must provide a copy of the proposed wording to the Clerk by 12 noon on the second working day prior to the meeting (i.e. by 12 noon on the preceding Thursday in the case of a Monday meeting):
- 29.1.1 Where motions and amendments relate to reports which have been circulated with less than 3 days' notice, Members ~~should~~must provide a copy of the proposed wording to the Clerk as soon as reasonably practicable and, if possible, by 12 noon on the second working day prior to the meeting.
 - 29.1.2 Motions and amendments which do not comply with Standing Order 29.1 or 29.1.1. can only proceed with the consent of the Convener. But for the avoidance of any doubt, a motion or amendment to the effect that the report recommendations be approved in their entirety, or that no action be taken on the item of business, is permitted at any time prior to (or during) the meeting without requiring to provide proposed wording to the Clerk beforehand and without requiring the consent of the Convener.
 - 29.1.3 For the avoidance of any doubt, Standing Order 29.1 does not apply to Quasi-Judicial items of business.
- 29.2 Any motion or amendment in respect of the budget must be submitted to the Chief Officer – Finance (section 95 officer) and dealt with in accordance with the Budget Protocol or the Housing Revenue Account Budget Protocol, which Protocols ~~is~~are deemed to be

incorporated herein.

- 29.3 The Clerk will then be responsible for collating the views of the following officers, in terms of competency, accuracy and any other relevant feedback, and presenting these to the Member:
- 29.3.1 the relevant Director(s);
 - 29.3.2 Chief Officer – Governance;
 - 29.3.3 Chief Officer – Finance; and
 - 29.3.4 other relevant Chief Officer(s) or external partner(s).
- 29.4 Motions and amendments submitted in accordance with Standing Order 29.1 ~~and 29.2~~ will be circulated to all Members (of Council, the Committee or Sub-Committee) by 4pm on the working day at least one hour prior to the relevant meeting, providing they have been finalised ~~and determined by the Convener to be competent.~~
- 29.5 The Convener will have the prior right to the motion, except:-
- 29.5.1 Where he/she waives this right and allows another Member to have the prior right to the motion;
 - 29.5.2 Where a written Notice of Motion submitted by a Member is moved; or
 - 29.5.3 Where the Council is meeting to consider its annual budgets, in which case the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee will have the prior right to the motion. Following the moving of each budget, the spokesperson of the biggest Opposition Group will have the right to propose an amendment; or
 - 29.5.4 Where a special meeting is called by at least a quarter of the Members of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee under Standing Order 8.2, but only where the Convener was not among those Members calling that meeting and the motion was submitted to the Clerk in writing by 12 noon on the second working day prior to the meeting-24 hours before that meeting.
- 29.6 When moving any motion or amendment, a Member will provide its terms in full, which will then require to be seconded by another Member who, if speaking, must speak in support of that motion or amendment.
- 29.6.1 No Member will speak in support of a motion or amendment until it has been seconded.
 - 29.6.2 Any Member who has moved or seconded a motion or amendment will not be entitled to enter the debate.
- 29.7 All motions and amendments must be relevant to the item of business on the agenda. By way of example, a motion or amendment is unlikely to be relevant if it is only distantly or indirectly connected or related to the item in question – all the more so if it is proposing that major or significant action be taken.
- 29.8 All amendments must differ from the motion and from each other substantially.
- 29.9 The Convener will offer any relevant officer an opportunity to address the meeting on the competency, relevancy or implications of any motion or amendment.
- 29.10 A motion or amendment is incompetent if it would require the incurring of expenditure or would lead to the loss of income and the source of funding is not identified.
- 29.11 A motion or amendment which identifies the source of funding as the Council's reserves will not be competent without advice being provided to the meeting by the Chief Officer - Finance.

- 29.12 A motion or amendment is incompetent if its terms would, in the opinion of the Chief Officer - Governance, be likely to result in a breach in law.
- 29.13 The Convener will determine whether a motion or amendment is competent and relevant, and may seek advice from officers in this regard. If an officer's advice to a member on the competency (which, for the avoidance of any doubt, includes lawfulness, relevancy and accuracy) of a motion or amendment submitted by that member is not accepted by that member, the Clerk will send the motion or amendment to the Convener for the Convener to determine competency and will inform the Convener that such advice has not been accepted.
- 29.14 A motion or amendment moved but not seconded, or which has been ruled by the Convener to be incompetent will not be put to the vote but will be recorded in the minute.
- 29.15 If a motion or amendment is withdrawn, the mover and seconder can move or second and speak in support of a further motion or amendment.
- 29.16 No Member will speak more than once (except on a Point of Order, by asking a question or by moving a Procedural Motion) in a debate, except for the Members who moved the motion / amendment(s), who will have the right to sum up.
- 29.17 In respect of the motion which proposes any element of the Council annual budgets, the Council Leader will have the right to sum up.
- 29.18 A Member can make minor alterations to their motion or amendment, with the consent of the Convener.
- 29.19 When there is only one amendment to the motion, the vote will be taken between the motion and the amendment.
- 29.19.1 Whichever is carried will be the resolution of the meeting.
- 29.20 Where there is more than one amendment to the motion, a vote will be taken between the last two amendments, and this process will be repeated until only one amendment remains.
- 29.20.1 A vote will then be taken between the motion and the remaining amendment.
- 29.20.2 Whichever is carried by majority will become the resolution of the meeting.
- 29.21 If an amendment proposes that no decision be taken, the first vote will be between it and the motion.
- 29.21.1 If the amendment is carried, the meeting will proceed to the next item of business.
- 29.21.2 If the amendment is not carried, it will be eliminated from the amendments which, with the motion, will be voted on in the usual way.
- 29.22 The processes outlined above will not apply to the Appointment Panel, unless this is agreed by Members of the Panel.

30. TIME ALLOWED FOR SPEAKING

- 30.1 Moving a motion or amendment – 10 minutes
- 30.2 Seconding a motion or amendment – 5 minutes
- 30.3 Speaking in debate – 5 minutes
- 30.4 Summing up – 5 minutes
- 30.5 Moving a Council budget – 30 minutes
- 30.6 Seconding a Council budget – 10 minutes



30.7 Summing up a Council budget – 10 minutes

31. CLOSURE OF DEBATE

- 31.1 After eight or more Members have spoken (including the movers and seconders of motions and amendments), any Member who has not spoken can move as a Procedural Motion that no further debate take place.
- 31.2 If the Procedural Motion is agreed, the movers of the original motion and amendment(s) will have the right to sum up and the matter will thereafter be put to the vote.
 - 31.2.1 In respect of the motion which proposes any element of the Council annual budget, the Council Leader will have the right to sum up.
- 31.3 If the Procedural Motion is defeated, the debate will continue.
- 31.4 Subsequent Procedural Motions that no further debate take place can be made after a further three Members have spoken.

32. METHOD OF VOTING

- 32.1 Votes will be taken by means of the electronic voting system at Council, and by roll call at Committees or Sub-Committees. If a Member is participating remotely (online) in terms of Standing Order 9.2, they should have their camera on to vote by roll call. Subject to Standing Orders:
 - 32.1.1 (Votes in Respect of Two or More Vacancies); and
 - 32.1.2 (Motion by a Member for an Alternative Method of Voting).
- 32.2 Votes in respect of two or more vacancies may be taken by roll call.
- 32.3 A Member can move that an alternative method of voting is used, such as roll call or show of hands, by means of a Procedural Motion.
- 32.4 The Clerk will conduct the vote.
 - 32.4.1 No one will interrupt the proceedings (except to draw attention to an omission in the calling of a Member's name or to a Point of Order) until the result of the vote has been announced.
- 32.5 With the exception of Standing Order 41.1 (Suspending Standing Orders), a simple majority of those present and voting will decide the result of any vote between motions and amendments.
- 32.6 Subject to Standing Order 33.1 (Quasi-Judicial Items of Business), a Member who is absent when their name is called will be entitled to vote if they enter the meeting before the result of the vote is announced.
- 32.7 In the event of a tied vote, the Convener will have the casting vote, except where the vote relates to the appointment of a Member to any particular office.
 - 32.7.1 If the Convener chooses not to exercise their casting vote, lots will be drawn using a method decided upon by the Clerk.
- 32.8 Any Member wishing to record their dissent against the decision after a vote should do so immediately after the result has been announced, and this will be recorded in the minute.
- 32.9 Votes taken by means of the electronic voting system at Council will be published on the Council website as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 12 noon on the next working day following the day of the vote. The details of individual votes may be provided earlier on request.

- 32.10 It is acknowledged that Members may from time to time, at their own discretion, enter into arrangements with one another in order to take account of the situation of Members who are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and who are therefore unable to vote at Council meetings. Such arrangements are not governed by these Standing Orders or any other part of the Council's Scheme of Governance and will not be monitored or enforced by Council officers.

33. QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 33.1 Where the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee is required to determine an item of business which is of a Quasi-Judicial nature, a Member must be present in the meeting room for the duration of the item. If a Member is participating remotely (online) in terms of Standing Order 9.2, they must leave their camera on for the duration of the item so that they can be seen by the other meeting participants for such duration.
- 33.2 If a Member has left the room at any point during discussion of the item, they will not be permitted to participate in the determination of the item, nor any vote.

34. REFERRALS

- 34.1 Immediately following a vote at Committee or Sub-Committee, at least one-third of the membership of the Committee or Sub-Committee may refer the matter to the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee for a decision (see Glossary for calculation), provided that they state a reason for referral; but subject always to the right of the Convener of the Committee or Sub-Committee first mentioned to determine that the matter may not be referred.:-
- 34.1.1 With the exception of items of business which are of a Quasi-Judicial nature, a Member does not require to have participated in the initial vote to participate in a referral.
- 34.2 Subject to Standing Orders 34.3 and 34.4, should the matter be referred in terms of Standing Order 34.1, the Clerk will then arrange for the matter to be referred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, or the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee, for determination. For referrals to Council, where the next Council meeting is in the opinion of the Leader too late for the matter to be appropriately dealt with, the matter can instead be considered at a meeting of the Urgent Business Committee. Matters may not be referred to special meetings of the Council, Committees or Sub-Committees.
- 34.3 Standing Orders 34.1 and 34.2 [~~Referrals~~]-will not apply to any proceedings relating to:-~~---~~
- 34.3.1 The appointment of or retirement of staff;
- 34.3.2 Grievance or disciplinary appeals by staff;
- 34.3.3 School attendance;
- 34.3.4 Bursaries;
- 34.3.5 Admission of any particular child to school;
- 34.3.6 Provision of school transport for any particular child;
- 34.3.7 The granting of any licence, registration or certificate;
- 34.3.8 Assumption of parental rights or adoption in the case of any individual; ~~or~~
- 34.3.9 Aids and adaptations to premises for the benefit of social work clients;~~;~~ or:-
- 34.3.10 Legal matters which would, in the opinion of the Chief Officer – Governance, be prejudiced or inappropriately interfered with, delayed or interrupted by such referral.

34.4 Where an item is referred to a meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee (whether or not such referral is under Standing Order 34.1), and it is not possible for the item to be open to the public for inspection at least three Clear Days before the meeting, the referring Committee or Sub-Committee must specify why the item should be considered as a matter of urgency.

34.4.1 The Convener of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee to which the item is referred will then determine whether it is added to the agenda.

35. MINUTES

35.1 The Clerk will prepare the minutes of meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees and any other meetings at which Members are represented, as may be determined by the Chief Officer - Governance.

35.2 The minutes will record the names of the Members who attended the meeting and will contain a summary of the business of the meeting as determined by the Clerk.

35.3 The Convener and Vice Convener will normally propose and second the minute as a true record unless either were not present, in which case any Member present at the meeting can either propose or second the minute as a true record.

35.4 At the meeting, if any Member challenges the accuracy of the minute, they can move a Procedural Motion that a correction is made.

35.5 Any corrections to the minute will be outlined in the subsequent minute.

35.6 Any discussion around the approval of the minute cannot extend to opening up discussion of the substantive issues detailed in the minute.

36. POWERS OF CONVENER

36.1 To preserve order and ensure that Standing Orders are followed.

36.2 To decide on the order of business and matters of competency and relevancy, unless otherwise specified.

36.3 To accept urgent business onto the agenda in terms of ~~s~~Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

36.3.1 The reason(s) why the matter must be considered urgently will be recorded in the minute of the meeting.

36.4 To ensure that all Members are given the opportunity to speak and to decide on the order in which they speak.

36.5 To rule on all Points of Order.

36.6 To adjourn the meeting at any time for any reason, and to determine the length of the adjournment.

36.7 When the Convener begins to speak, all other Members must stop speaking.

36.8 It will be within the discretion of the Convener of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee to cancel, or advance or postpone to another date and/or time, an ordinary meeting if in his/her opinion, acting reasonably, there is a good reason for so doing and provided that this reason is communicated to the relevant membership as soon as reasonably practicable.

36.9 The decision of the Convener on all matters in Standing Order 36 will be final.

37. BEHAVIOUR

- 37.1 All Members must behave respectfully at any meeting and should not behave in a manner that is improper, offensive or deliberately obstructs the business of the meeting.
- 37.2 All Members are bound by the Councillors' Code of Conduct and are responsible for complying with it at all times, including regulating their own behaviour. Members will also be expected to observe the Member-Officer Relations Protocol.
- 37.3 If a member of the public interrupts any meeting, the Convener may issue a warning to the person creating the disturbance or may order them to leave the meeting.
- 37.4 If there is general disturbance during any part of the meeting, the Convener may order that the public leave the meeting.

38. SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

- 38.1 If any Member disregards the authority of the Convener, obstructs the meeting or, in the opinion of the Convener, acts in an offensive or disruptive manner at a meeting, the Convener may move, as a Procedural Motion, that the Member be suspended for the remainder of the meeting.
- 38.2 If seconded, the motion will be put to the vote immediately.
- 38.3 If the Procedural Motion is carried, the suspended Member will leave the meeting room immediately.
- 38.4 If the Procedural Motion is not carried, the Convener may call for an adjournment in the meeting.

39. FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND RECORDING OF MEETINGS

- 39.1 Other than the live webcasting or recording of Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings by Aberdeen City Council, any video or sound recordings or broadcasting of meetings by any other means, or the taking of any photographs, will be at the Convener's discretion.

40. LENGTH OF MEETINGS

- 40.1 The Convener can call a break in proceedings at any time. Breaks in proceedings should be called on a regular basis and in consultation with the Executive Lead.
- 40.2 Meetings will not last longer than six hours (said duration does not includeing, for the avoidance of doubt, any break(s) in proceedings). For example, if a meeting begins at 10.00am, and has one break of 30 minutes, it shall not continue beyond 4.30pm. — ~~irrespective of the number and duration of any breaks.~~
- 40.3 If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the Convener, following consultation with the Clerk, will determine the time and date that the meeting will resume. For the avoidance of any doubt, the adjournment of a meeting does not extend the original deadlines (e.g. for submitting motions, amendments or deputation requests) applicable to that meeting.

41. SUSPENDING STANDING ORDERS

- 41.1 Any Standing Order may be suspended at any meeting with the agreement of at least two-thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote (see Glossary for calculation).
 - 41.1.1 This will be done by means of a Procedural Motion.
- 41.2 The Member must specify which Standing Order they are proposing to suspend.

42. ALTERING PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 42.1 It will not be competent for the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee to alter or reverse a previous decision within a period of six months. For the avoidance of any doubt, a Convener's decision under Standing Order 7.3 to cancel, or advance or postpone to another date, an ordinary meeting does not amount to such an alteration or reversal.
- 42.2 Standing Order 42.1 does not apply:-
- 42.2.1 where a Notice of Motion to that effect has been submitted and is set out in the published agenda;
 - 42.2.2 where the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee approves a recommendation contained in a report to alter or reverse a previous decision; or
 - 42.2.3 to ongoing negotiations between the Council and any other party.
- 42.3 Where a Notice of Motion, a motion or an amendment seeks suspension of Standing Order 42.1, the procedural motion seeking such suspension will be determined first. Only if the procedural motion is successful will the proposal to alter or reverse the decision in question be subject to further consideration at that meeting.

43. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

- 43.1 Non-material amendments can be made to the Standing Orders by the Chief Officer - Governance, following consultation with the Co-Leaders, without the requirement to report to Council.
- 43.1.1 Such amendments will be notified to all Members once completed.
- 43.2 Material amendments to the Standing Orders, including the removal or addition of Standing Orders, may only be approved after consideration of a report to the Council by the Chief Officer - Governance.

44. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

- 44.1 The Standing Orders will be subject to annual review by the Chief Officer - Governance.

45. MONITORING OFFICER

- 45.1 A Monitoring Officer's report may be required where any proposal, decision or omission by the Council may breach or has breached the law or any statutory code of practice.

46. MEMBER ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

- 46.1 The additional rights of access to documents for Members are as set out in Appendix 4 to the Standing Orders, in the Member-Officer Relations Protocol and in the Procedure Note for Elected Members Accessing Information.

COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

47. DELEGATION AND APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 47.1 The Council may appoint or disband Committees for any purpose at any time, and will delegate or refer to these Committees any matter it thinks fit.
- 47.2 Committees may appoint or disband Sub-Committees for any purpose at any time, and will delegate or refer to these Sub-Committees any matter they think fit.
- 47.3 Matters referred or delegated to Committees or Sub-Committees will be set out in the Terms of Reference.
- 47.4 Committee and Sub-Committee remits may be amended only after consideration of a report to Council or the appropriate parent Committee by the Chief Officer – Governance.
- 47.5 Except where prohibited by law, each Committee and Sub-Committee can delegate any of its delegated functions to officers.
- 47.6 Where a matter for consideration is not specifically referred to in the Terms of Reference, it will be competent for it to be considered by the Committee or Sub-Committee with the most relevant Terms of Reference, as determined by the Chief Officer - Governance.
- 47.7 The Council may, at any time, deal with any matter falling within the Terms of Reference of any Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 47.8 Similarly, a Committee may, at any time, deal with any matter falling within the Terms of Reference of any of its Sub-Committees.
- 47.9 The Council will set the membership for each Committee and, in doing so, should have regard to the political composition of the Council. Where there is a change to the political composition of the Council during a local government election term, the Chief Officer – Governance will bring a report on Committee places to the next ordinary Council meeting and this report will form the first item of business at that meeting. Such a report will recommend that the Council set the membership for each Committee but will not recommend any particular compositions or numbers for Committees.
- 47.10 Committees will set the membership for each Sub-Committee and in doing so should have regard to the political composition of the Council.
- 47.11 Members of Sub-Committees who are not Members of the parent Committee will be provided with relevant training where required.
- 47.12 The Council may establish Working Groups with no delegated powers for such functions deemed necessary, consisting wholly of Councillors or otherwise.
- 47.13 On behalf of the Council, each Committee and Sub-Committee can appoint representatives to outside bodies which provide services linked to, or associated with, the remit of that Committee or Sub-Committee.

GLOSSARY

AGENDA

A list of business to be considered at Council, Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings.

AMENDMENT

Where a motion has been put forward in respect of an item on the agenda, a Member may move an alternative proposal. The motion and amendment will then be debated and a vote taken between the two.

CALCULATION OF QUARTER OR ONE-THIRD / TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERS

If the figure is not a whole number it will be rounded up. This is to ensure that a quarter, one-third or two-thirds will always be met.

CHIEF OFFICER - FINANCE

Where this document refers to the Chief Officer - Finance, it should be noted that this may also refer to his/her nominated officer.

CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

Where this document refers to the Chief Officer - Governance, it should be noted that this may also refer to his/her nominated officer.

CLEAR DAYS

For example, where notice is given on a Monday of a meeting to take place on the following Tuesday, this amounts to seven Clear Days' notice (i.e. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday) if a letter is posted on Monday advising of a meeting on Friday, it gives 3 clear days' notice (i.e. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). Saturday, Sunday and public holidays are included within the definition of Clear Days.

CLEAR WORKING DAYS

To be construed in accordance with the above definition of Clear Days. Saturday, Sunday and public holidays are not Working Days.

CLERK

The Committee Officer with responsibility for the administration of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee.

COMMITTEE

A Committee of the Council appointed in accordance with Standing Orders.

COMMITTEE PLANNER

A document containing outstanding and pending business that is placed on the agenda for each meeting.

COMPETENCY


For the avoidance of any doubt, references in this document to competency include considerations of lawfulness, relevancy and accuracy.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

See Appendix 1 to this document.

CONVENER

The Chair of the Committee. Where 'Convener' is referred to in this document, this will also include the Lord Provost. It will also include the Vice Convener, or Depute Provost (for meetings of the Full Council),



where the Convener or Lord Provost is unavailable. For the avoidance of any doubt, only a member of a Committee or Sub-Committee may be the Convener or Vice Convener thereof.

COUNCIL

Where 'Council' is referred to in this document, it refers to meetings of the Full Council unless the context otherwise requires.

DEPUTATION

A request submitted by a member of the public to address a Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meeting in respect of a report on a published agenda.

DEPUTE PROVOST

The Vice Convener of Full Council. The Depute Provost will act as Chair in the absence of the Lord Provost.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

See Appendix 2 to this document.

EXTERNAL MEMBER

A representative appointed to any Committee or Sub-Committee from outwith Aberdeen City Council who may have full voting rights.

GROUP

A number of Councillors who form a group. A group cannot be composed of a single member.

GROUP LEADERS

The leaders of the individual political groups.

LATE DOCQUET

A document which must accompany any reports that are not available for inspection by members of the public at least three Clear Days before a meeting. This contains the reason for lateness, an explanation of why the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee requires to consider the report as a matter of urgency, and is signed by the Director and Convener. The Convener has ultimate discretion as to whether or not the item should be considered.

LORD PROVOST

The Convener of the Council. The Lord Provost is the civic head of the Council.

MINUTE

A summary of decisions from any Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meeting prepared by the Clerk. This will not be a verbatim record.

MOTION

An initial proposal of action submitted by a Member in respect of an item of business on an agenda.

NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Such amendments may include the change of title for a particular post referred to in the Standing Orders, or an error in the text.

NOTICE OF MOTION

A request submitted by a Member in advance of or at a meeting of Council, Committee or Sub-Committee which may be placed on the agenda for an issue to be discussed and for a decision to be made.

QUASI-JUDICIAL

Where the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge, and is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action.

QUORUM

The minimum number of Members at a Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meeting who must be present for valid transaction of business.

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL IMPACT

In relation to a particular ward, this means in the opinion of the relevant Chief Officer, a significant impact on:

- ♦ roads or traffic arrangements within that ward;
- ♦ buildings or facilities within that ward; or
- ♦ the natural environment of that ward.

SUB-COMMITTEE

A Sub-Committee of any Council Committee appointed in accordance with Standing Orders.

SUMMONS

A calling notice advising Members of the date, time and location of a Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meeting.

VICE CONVENER

The Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Convener will act as Chair in the absence of the Convener (see Standing Order 19).

Appendix 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 DEFINITION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

In accordance with section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Confidential Information means:

- ♦ information furnished to the authority by a Government department upon terms (however expressed) which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public; and
- ♦ information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment or by the order of a court.

In either case the reference to the obligation of confidence is to be construed accordingly.

Appendix 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

SCHEDULE 7A

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: EXEMPT INFORMATION

DESCRIPTIONS OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

(INCLUDING QUALIFICATIONS)

EMPLOYEE/OFFICE HOLDER:

1. Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under, the authority.

OCCUPIER:

2. Information relating to any particular occupier or former occupier of, or applicant for, accommodation provided by or at the expense of the authority.

RECIPIENT OF COUNCIL SERVICE:

3. Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the authority.

RECIPIENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

4. Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any financial assistance provided by the authority.

PARTICULAR CHILD:

5. Information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of any particular child or where any particular child is subject to a compulsory supervision order or interim compulsory supervision order (as defined respectively in sections 83 and 86 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011) information relating to the order. "Child" means a person under the age of 18 and any person who has attained that age and is in attendance as a pupil at a school.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF PARTICULAR PERSON:

6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2(1) of the Companies Act 2006) or similar legislation.

SOCIAL WORK RELATING TO A PARTICULAR PERSON:

7. Information relating to anything done or to be done in respect of any particular person for the purposes of any of the matters referred to in section 27(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (providing reports on and supervision of certain persons).

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE ON CONTRACTS:

8. The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services if and so long as disclosure to the public of the amount there referred to would be likely to give an advantage to a person entering into, or seeking to enter into, a contract with the authority in respect of the property, goods or services, whether the advantage would arise as against the authority or as against such other persons.

CONTRACTUAL TERMS:

9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services if and so long as disclosure to the public of the terms would prejudice the authority in those or any other negotiations concerning the property or goods or services.

TENDER FOR CONTRACT:

10. The identity of the authority (as well as of any other person by virtue of paragraph 6 above) as the person offering any particular tender for a contract for the supply of goods or services.

LABOUR RELATIONS:

11. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or officeholders under, the authority if and so long as disclosure to the public of the information would prejudice the authority in those or any other consultations or negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter arising as mentioned in that paragraph.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS:

12. Any instructions to counsel and any opinion of counsel (whether or not in connection with any proceedings) and any advice received, information obtained or action to be taken in connection with –
 - a. any legal proceedings by or against the authority, or
 - b. the determination of any matter affecting the authority (whether, in either case, proceedings have been commenced or are in contemplation).

STATUTORY NOTICES ETC:

13. Information which, if disclosed to the public, would reveal that the authority proposes –
 - a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment if and so long as disclosure to the public might afford an opportunity to a person affected by the notice, order or direction to defeat the purpose or one of the purposes for which the notice, order or direction is to be given or made.

CRIME:

14. Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

INFORMANT:

15. The identity of a protected informant.

Appendix 3

PROTOCOL FOR APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS

1. The Chief Executive, all Directors and Chief Officer posts at second tier level or above will be appointed by an Appointment Panel. In setting the membership of the Panel, the Council shall have regard to the political composition of the Council.
 - 1.1 Meetings of the Appointment Panel will be arranged by the Chief Officer – Governance.
 - 1.2 Group Leaders will provide the Chief Officer – Governance with the names of Members to sit on the Panel
 - 1.3 The Panel will be chaired by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee unless otherwise agreed by the Members on the Appointment Panel.
 - 1.4 Only those Members who participate in the shortlisting of candidates can participate in the interview and selection process.
 - 1.5 The Chief Executive, Chief Officer – People & Citizen Services and any officer nominated by the Chief Executive will be entitled to be represented at any interview or meeting relating to the appointment of Chief Officers.
2. The above process does not apply to Chief Officer posts in respect of the Integration Joint Board, which will be in line with the process set out in the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Scheme.
3. There will be a period of at least seven days between the date a vacancy is advertised and the closing date for the receipt of applications.
4. The Panel responsible for making the appointment will draw up a shortlist of suitably qualified applicants who will then be called for interview.
5. Meetings dates for the Appointment Panel will be set by the Chief Officer – Governance, following consultation with the Chairperson.
 - 5.1 It will be within the discretion of the Chairperson to cancel, advance or postpone an ordinary meeting to another date if in his/her opinion, acting reasonably; there is a good reason for so doing.
6. The quorum for the Appointment Panel will be one quarter of the total number of members of the Panel, or three members, whichever is the higher.
7. The list of applicants for any appointment will be treated as confidential and only the name of successful candidates will be recorded in the minutes of the Appointment Panel.
8. The determinations of the Panel will not be recorded in the minute.
9. The Chairperson will have the casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Appendix 4

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973, SECTION 50F

1. Any document which is in the possession or under the control of a local authority and contains material which relates to any business to be transacted or proceedings at a meeting of –
 - a. the authority or of a committee or sub-committee of the authority;
 - b. a statutory committee appointed by the authority or any sub-committee of that committee, or
 - c. a relevant body, any member of which was appointed by the authority, or of a committee, sub-committee or relevant body of such a bodyshall, subject to subsection (2) below, be open to inspection by any member of the authority and, in the case of a committee, sub-committee or relevant body, by any other member of the committee or sub-committee.
 2. Where it appears to the proper officer that a document discloses exempt information of a description for the time being falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to this Act, subsection (1) above does not require the document to be open to inspection.
 3. The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (2) above -
 - a. by adding to the descriptions of exempt information to which that subsection refers for the time being; or
 - b. by removing any description of exempt information to which it refers for the time being.
 4. Any statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (3) above shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
 5. The rights conferred by this section on a member of a local authority are in addition to any other rights he may have apart from this section.
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Appendix 3