

2.1 Council Procedure Rules

The following Procedure Rules shall apply to meetings of full Council.

Agenda for Ordinary Meetings of Council

The agenda for ordinary meetings shall be to:-

- elect a person to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not present;
- receive any apologies for absence;
- receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- receive any announcements from the Chairman of the Council and/or the Leader;
- to report any petitions and requests to address the Council on an item on the agenda, or to receive an address, from an organisation, which is of importance to the District;
- consider any other business or motions which the Chairman has decided are urgent and which are not included in the agenda;
- approve the minutes of the last meeting;
- receive minutes from the Executive, a report from the Leader of the Council containing details of Executive decisions taken since the last meeting which were not included in the published Executive Work Programme; receive a record of decisions made by Executive Lead Members and minutes from Council Committees
- receive questions including written questions and answers submitted by Members, questions to the Leader of the Council (including any matters arising from the minutes of Executive) and questions to Committee Chairmen on Committee minutes
- consider motions of which notice has been given in the order in which they have been received;
- consider and resolve any issues called in to the Council in accordance with the Constitution;
- receive reports from the Executive and Council's Committees and receive questions and answers on those reports;
- consider any other business on the agenda;
- if necessary, pass a resolution to exclude the public for any items involving the likely disclosure of exempt or confidential information
- receive any minutes and reports from the Executive and Committees as appropriate containing exempt or confidential information and receive questions and answers on any of those minutes and reports
- consider any other exempt or confidential business on the agenda

The Chairman, or the meeting by resolution, may vary the order of business.

Annual Council Meeting

The annual meeting will take place within 21 days of the retirement of the outgoing councillors, on a date to be decided by the Council as part of its overall programme of meetings.

The agenda for the Annual Council Meeting will be to:-

- receive apologies for absence;
- receive any declarations of interest;
- approve the Minutes of the last meeting;
- receive any announcements from the Chairman;
- elect the Chairman of Council;
- elect the Vice-Chairman of Council;
- note the results of the District Elections, if held, and the constitution of Political Groups and Group Leaders and elect the Leader of the Council if required
- conduct any business concerning the establishment of and appointments to the Executive including receiving confirmation of the appointment of Deputy Leader and the allocation of functions to Lead Members by the Council Leader;
- conduct any business concerning the establishment of and appointments to:
 - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - the Standards Committee;
 - such other Committees as the Council consider appropriate.
- consider any other business set out in the agenda for the meeting;
- if necessary, pass a resolution to exclude the public for any items involving the likely disclosure of exempt or confidential information
- receive any Minutes and reports from the Executive and Committees as appropriate containing exempt or confidential information and receive questions and answers on any of those minutes and reports
- consider any other exempt or confidential business on the agenda

Appointment of Committees

Appointments to Committees shall hold office no later than the next Annual Council Meeting. The Council shall at the Annual Meeting

- decide which Committees to establish for the municipal year
- decide the number of members to serve on each Committee
- decide allocation of seats to Political Groups
- decide which Committees the Substitute Member scheme will or will not apply to
- except where the appointment to Committees is exercisable only by the Executive, appoint members to Committees in accordance with the wishes of Political Groups subject to statutory requirements
- appoint, as appropriate any Substitute members to Committees

The Council:-

- may at any time dissolve or, on the nomination of any of the political groups, alter the membership of a Committee;
- may at any time modify or revoke the powers or duties of any Committee.
- shall ensure that every Member serves on at least one Committee unless any Member shall signify his wish to forego such right.
- may, at any time, decide that Members of a particular Committee or Sub-Committee may not serve as Members or Substitutes of another specified Committee or Sub-Committee, in view of the conflict of interest which would arise from serving on both Committees or Sub-Committees.

Receiving of Minutes and Executive Lead Member Decisions by Council

The Minutes of the Executive Committees and Executive Lead Member Decisions shall be submitted to Council at the first opportunity. The Leader of the Council, or in their absence another Member of the Executive, shall formally propose the adoption of the minutes with one proposal to cover all Executive minutes and Lead Member decisions and a further proposal to cover all other committee minutes.

Questions may be asked on the minutes to Committee Chairmen and Executive Lead Members, and additionally to the Leader of the Council on any matter within the remit of the Council. Such questions shall be clearly stated and will be answered without discussion. The Member putting the question may ask a supplementary question providing it is relevant to the reply and does not introduce any new matter.

Recommendations from Committees

Recommendations requiring the approval of Council shall be presented to Council by the way of a report giving the background to the recommendation. Questions may be asked, statements made in debate and amendments proposed.

Written Questions

A Member may ask the Leader of the Council, Executive Lead Member, or Committee Chairman any question or make a statement relating to the business of the meeting or portfolio for which they are responsible

Questions and statements must be received by the Head of Law and Governance before noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

The Head of Law and Governance shall arrange for received questions and statements and a response to be printed and circulated at the commencement of the meeting.

A Member who has received a written reply to a question may ask a supplementary question provided it is relevant to the reply and does not introduce any new matter. The Member to which the question was addressed may reply to such supplementary question or may undertake to reply in writing.

Determination of Planning Applications

A Planning application may be referred to full Council for determination where a notice, or an e-mail from a known or recognised source, signed by one third or more of Members has been received by the Head of Law and Governance.

A Planning application may only be referred to full Council on the grounds that it is of such special significance to the District that it ought to be determined by full Council and if it has already been considered by Planning Committee or an Officer under their delegated authority and no decision notice has been issued.

The Chief Executive shall place the item on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of Council. If there is no convenient ordinary meeting at which the application could be considered, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, shall call an Extraordinary meeting of Council at which the application will be considered.

Council shall consider a report prepared by the appropriate Officer and circulated to all Members with the agenda. Officers shall be able to address the meeting of Council to present the report, answer any questions and to advise Members on the application of planning policy.

The Chairman of Planning Committee (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman or other committee members) which would have otherwise determined the application shall propose a motion in respect of the referred matter for Council to debate.

The motion proposed as above shall be duly seconded as required by the normal rules of debate. Amendments may be moved on the motion as regulated by the rules of debate, but it shall not be possible to propose or amend a motion so as to refer the planning application in question to any Committee or Sub-Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate upon the motion, the Chairman of Planning Committee or, in default, the Vice-Chairman of that Committee, shall reply and shall strictly confine himself/herself to answering the previous speakers, and shall not introduce any new matter.

Where the Council, is minded to approve or refuse an application contrary to policy / recommendation, clear planning reasons for doing so shall be identified at the meeting by the proposer of the motion to the satisfaction of the Chairman before the vote is taken on whether to grant or refuse planning permission.

Any Member of the Council participating in the determination of a planning application by full Council, must receive training in planning matters in accordance with the adopted Planning Code of Conduct prior to the relevant Council meeting.