

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, 3rd December, 2020
at 4.30 pm

**Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for
the public to view on [WestNorfolkBC on You
Tube](#)**



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX
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Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk** which will commence at **4.30 pm** on **Thursday, 3rd December, 2020** via **Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on [WestNorfolkBC on You Tube](#)** to transact the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Gore
Chief Executive

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 October 2020 (previously circulated).

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's communications and announcements.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any items of business which in the opinion of the Mayor are urgent.

7. DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS RELATING TO SECOND HOMES AND EMPTY DWELLINGS FOR 2021/2022 (Pages 7 - 11)

8. MATTERS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 12 - 13)

Cabinet recommendations from 22 September 2020 not dealt with at council on 15 October 2020

CAB168 Revised Revenue Budget 2020-21

CAB170 Scrutiny and Executive Protocol

9. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive petitions and public questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

10. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1 to receive reports from Cabinet Members in the following order and under Standing Order 11.2 (a) Members of the Council may ask questions of the Cabinet Member on their reports and Portfolio areas:

(Councillors are reminded that this is a question and answer session not a debate.)

1) **Business Development - Councillor G Middleton** (Pages 14 - 17)

2) **Climate Change & Commercial Services - Councillor P Kunes** (Pages 18 - 19)

3) **Development - Councillor R Blunt** (Pages 20 - 24)

4) **Environmental Services & Public Protection - Councillor S Dark** (Pages 25 - 28)

5) **Housing - Councillor A Lawrence** (Pages 29 - 32)

6) **Project Delivery - Councillor P Gidney** (Pages 33 - 37)

7) **Deputy Leader and Culture, Heritage and Health - Councillor Mrs E Nockolds** (Pages 38 - 40)

8) **Leader and Resources - Councillor B Long** (Pages 41 - 43)

11. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order 11.2 (b), Members of the Council may ask any questions of the Chair of any Council Body (except the Cabinet).

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

(Members are reminded this is a debate, not a question and answer session)

To consider the following recommendations to Council:

1) **Cabinet - 22 September 2020 and Cabinet Members Decision - 27 October 2020** (Pages 44 - 114)

CAB171 – Review of Standing Orders and Articles
Cabinet Members Decision on Standing Orders amendments.

Council is invited to consider the proposed amendments to Standing Orders and Articles which are attached with the agenda.

2) **Cabinet: 17 November 2020** (Pages 115 - 116)

CAB193: Statement of Licensing Policy
CAB194: Covid 19 Response and Recovery Plan
CAB197: Scheme of Delegation

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

To consider the following Notice of Motion (6/20), submitted by Councillor S Squire:

This council acknowledges that care leavers are particularly vulnerable and can be at risk of jeopardising their housing tenancies, as they do not have the ability to draw upon the support and experience that family members can provide.

Therefore this council agrees to build upon the joint housing protocol with Norfolk County Council to prioritise care leavers for housing, and the council tax discounts for care leavers, by also extending the “Care & Repair” service to Care Leavers in the Borough up until their 25th Birthday.

To consider the following Notice of Motion (7/20) submitted by Councillor J Rust:

This Council believes the way to develop a strong, resilient and successful local economy is through all residents having the opportunity to reach their full potential and supports moves to increase these chances through initiatives such as the School of Nursing.

As such this Council wishes to express its support of government policy that puts the reskilling of workers at the heart of their economic recovery plans after the pandemic. The Government's announcement to fully fund entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification delivered through the National Skills Fund is to be applauded.

Therefore, this Council is deeply concerned at the suggestion of the Department of Education to end Government funding to the Union Learning Fund which is open to all workers, union and non union members alike.

Therefore, this Council resolves to raise this undermining of Government

policy with local Members of Parliament and encourage them to call on the Department of Education not to proceed with the withdrawal of funding.

To consider the following Notice of Motion (8/20) submitted by Councillor A Kemp:

Decent Homes for Residents

This Council understands the importance of affordable housing space standards in all new housing. So that all rooms are of a decent size for residents and so housing meets housing need.

The Council will therefore draw up and enforce a Room Standards Policy. If Planning Applications do not meet our affordable housing space standards, the Local Planning Authority will not recommend their approval.

Lorraine Gore
Chief Executive

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

Council Meeting – 3 December 2020

DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS RELATING TO SECOND HOMES AND EMPTY DWELLINGS FOR 2021/2022

1. Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2003 gives billing authorities the power to determine the discounts for second homes and long-term empty dwellings. Section 11 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 gives billing authorities powers to determine discounts for further classes of empty dwellings. Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 gives billing authorities powers to set a higher amount of council tax for long term empty dwellings. The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 allows billing authorities to further increase the amount of council tax for long term empty dwellings from 1 April 2019. The council has to approve its determination afresh for each class of dwelling for each financial year.

2. Current Position

- 2.1. The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 prescribe the following classes of dwelling:

2.1.1. **Class A** – a chargeable dwelling:

- (a) which is not the sole or main residence of an individual;
- (b) which is furnished; and
- (c) the occupation of which is prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.

Class A dwellings are commonly known as **Second Homes with an Occupancy Restriction**.

The reduction for Class A dwellings for 2020/2021 is 0% with an exemption for the period of the occupancy restriction.

2.1.2. **Class B** – a chargeable dwelling

- (a) which is not the sole or main residence of an individual;
- (b) which is furnished; and
- (c) the occupation of which is not prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.

Class B dwellings are commonly known as **Second Homes**.

The reduction for Class B dwellings for 2020/2021 is 0%.

2.1.3. **Class C** – a chargeable dwelling which is:

- (a) which is unoccupied; and
- (b) which is substantially unfurnished

Class C dwellings are commonly known as **Empty Dwellings**

The reduction for a Class C dwelling for 2020/2021 is 0%.

2.1.4. **Class D** – a chargeable dwelling

- (a) which has satisfied the requirements of (b) for fewer than 12 months
- (b) which is vacant; and
 - i. requires or is undergoing major repair work to render it habitable
 - ii. is undergoing structural alteration
 - iii. has undergone major repair work to render it habitable if fewer than six months have elapsed since the date on which the alteration was substantially completed and the dwelling has continuously remained vacant since that date
- (c) for the purpose of (b) ‘major repair work’ refers to structural repair work
NB once the 12 month time limit has expired dwellings in Class D fall to be treated as dwellings in Class C

Class D dwellings are commonly known as **Uninhabitable Dwellings**.

The reduction for a Class D dwelling for 2020/2021 is 25% for the 12 month maximum period. Once the 12 months expire a reduction of 0% applies.

2.2. Class A and Class B dwellings do not include any dwelling which consists of a pitch occupied by a caravan or a mooring occupied by a boat. Neither do they include any dwelling where a qualifying person in relation to that dwelling is a qualifying person in relation to another dwelling which for him/her is job-related.

2.3. Long Term Empty Dwelling Levies

2.4. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 allows billing authorities to increase the amount of council tax payable in respect of a long term empty dwelling by a specified percentage of not more than 50% up to 31 March 2019.

2.5. The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 allows billing authorities to increase this to 100% from 1 April 2019 for properties empty for more than two years. The Act further allows billing authorities to increase the amount of council tax payable by 200% for properties empty for longer than five years from 1 April 2020, and by 300% for properties empty longer than 10 years from 1 April 2021.

2.6. The Act defines a Long Term Empty Dwelling as ‘a dwelling that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least two years’. Any period of occupation of fewer than six weeks is discounted when establishing the continuous two year period.

2.7. The Act also allows Central Government to prescribe classes of dwelling exempt from the Long Term Empty Dwelling levy. The Council Tax

(Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 prescribe the following classes of dwelling to which the levy will not apply:

2.7.1. **Class E** – a chargeable dwelling which would be the sole or main residence of a person but is empty because that person is resident in Ministry of Defence accommodation by reason of their employment.

2.7.2. **Class F** – a chargeable dwelling which is an annexe of a main dwelling but is being used as a part of that dwelling.

2.8. The additional levy for long term empty dwellings for 2020/2021 is 100% for properties empty for more than two years, and 200% for properties empty for more than five years. Dwellings falling into Class E and Class F are exempt from the Long Term Empty Dwelling Levy.

3. Proposals

3.1. The levels of discount for 2020/2021 are shown above. Council agreed on 29 November 2018 that the increased long term empty levies as shown at paragraph 2.5 would be implemented for future years. The levy rates at section 6 paragraph 5 of the recommendations reflect these changes.

3.2. In accordance with statutory council tax reductions, any period of occupation of fewer than six weeks will be disregarded when calculating the maximum time a reduction can be awarded for, and when calculating the start date of any levy payment. The occupier will still be charged the occupied council tax rate for the time they live in the dwelling, but the clock will not be reset when they leave if they have been in occupation for fewer than six weeks.

3.3. A Discretionary Hardship fund of £10,000 has been provided for in the Financial Plan. The recommendation is that individual applications continue to be determined by the Revenues and Benefits Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance and the relevant Ward Member.

3.4. The regulations stipulate these determinations must be published in at least one local newspaper within 21 days of Council agreement.

4. Policy Implications

4.1. The decision is a continuation of the council's policy on Council Tax discounts and enacts the Council's decision of 29 November 2018 regarding the empty property levies.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Increasing the long term levy rates for 2021/2022 could result in an initial increase in the taxbase. However, as the changes are intended to bring

long term empty properties back into use, if the policy is successful this will not be a permanent increase. For this reason the increases have not been included in the taxbase calculations. All other discounts are reflected in the taxbase as shown below.

6. Recommendations:

Under Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as enacted by Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2003, Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as enacted by Section 11 and Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and in accordance with the provisions of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 the Council determines:

- 1. That the council tax discount for Second Homes defined as being within Class A of the Regulations is set at 0% for 2021/2022;**
- 2. That the council tax discount for Second Homes as defined by Class B of the Regulations is set at 0% for 2021/2022;**
- 3. That the council tax discount for Empty / Unfurnished dwellings defined as being within Class C of the Regulations is set at 0% for 2021/2022;**
- 4. That the council tax discount for Uninhabitable dwellings defined as being within Class D of the Regulations is set at the following for 2021/2022:**
 - a. 25% for 12 months starting on the day the dwelling becomes uninhabitable; then**
 - b. 0% once the 12 month period has expired;**
- 5. That the Levy rate for Long Term Empty Dwellings as defined in the Regulations is set as follows for 2021/2022:**
 - a. 100% for properties empty between two and five years,**
 - b. 200% for properties empty longer than five years, and**
 - c. 300% for properties empty longer than ten years;**
- 6. That any period of occupation of fewer than six weeks shall be disregarded when calculating the maximum period of a reduction or the start date of the Levy;**
- 7. That delegated authority be given for individual applications under s13a Local Government Finance Act 1992 be determined by the Revenues and Benefits Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance and the relevant Ward Member/s.**

- 8. In accordance with Section 11A(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as enacted by Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012, these determinations shall be published in at least one newspaper circulating in West Norfolk before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determinations.**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM CABINET ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

CAB168 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2020-21

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Assistant Director – Resources presented her report which explained that following the last monitoring report update to Cabinet, officers were asked to carry out a more detailed review of their budgets in order to identify plans to reduce the potential overspend in 2020/21 arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and report back to the September Cabinet meeting with recommendations for action. The report set out a proposal for revisions to the budget for 2020/21 which was the outcome of that work along with a number of proposed actions to further close the estimated budget gap.

The revised budget would also reflect the additional costs incurred by the Council in the response phase to the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional funding that had been received from central government.

The revised budget provided a funded budget for 2020/21 that incorporated budgets to meet the additional costs of COVID-19 to enable effective budget monitoring. There was still an expectation that a draw on the General Fund Reserve balance would be needed to fund the budget which was based on a prudent level at this time. The report set out the council's progress towards Financial Plan priorities for 2020/21 in the period 1 April to 31 July 2020.

In presenting the report the Assistant Director stressed that the report and recommendations did not take into account the effect of a second wave of covid restrictions and their knock on effects.

Councillor Nockolds stressed the need to support the vulnerable members of the community, and the need to use the reserves for this purpose.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That the savings set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved
- 2) That the revised revenue budget for 2020/21 set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved

Reason for Decision

To align budgets in response to the COVID pandemic and ensure effective budget monitoring can take place during 2020/21

CAB170 SCRUTINY AND EXECUTIVE PROTOCOL

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which presented a draft Protocol which was designed to assist Members of the Policy Review and Development Panels and the Cabinet by defining the relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny and the role of Cabinet Members in the Scrutiny process.

The Protocol had been prepared in response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities ("the Statutory Guidance"). This was statutory guidance which Local Authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions.

The draft Protocol was presented to all three Panels and was supported.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That the draft Protocol attached to the agenda be recommended to Full Council for approval as drafted.
- 2) That the operation of the Protocol be reviewed after 12 months of operation.

Reason for Decision

To respond to the Statutory Guidance and promote a good working relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

3 December 2020

Cllr Graham Middleton - Cabinet Member for Business Development

For the period September to November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

This month has seen much emphasis on delivering the final town investment plan to government. However 2nd lockdown has brought much concern to west Norfolk business. I'd like to urge all business to apply for the new round of government support grants, if you meet the criteria. We will continue to actively support business where we can throughout this difficult time.

- High Street HAZ – agreed at the special cabinet. The purpose of this is to 1. Help re-purpose vacant underused shops including upper floors, 2. Help create opportunities for people to live in the town centre 3. Preserve/ save highly architecturally valuable heritage assets (shop facades). Historic England have asked us to confirm interest from key 3rd party investors that we are proposing to work with (Broadland HA and Freebridge HA) on residential conversion work. When we have done this a 4 year agreement will be signed and with £1.6m investment package. Commence work early next year, it is aligned with other funding streams and opportunities for re-purposing the town centre.
- FHSF – still expect to hear this month as they have mentioned November.
- Towns Fund – submission of TIP at the end of October. Will expect to hear by the end of the year or early January. Given the success of the Town Deal Board and levels of community engagement it is agreed that we will continue with co-ordinating the Board and seek to build on the public/ private partnership we have established.

Item	Status	ERDF Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (Borough wide)	Norfolk Tourism Support Package Allocation (Borough wide)	Town Deal Accelerated Funding (KL only)
Small Business Grant Fund	Funds closed		£ 45,000.00	
Adaption Business Fund	Funds closed		£ 45,000.00	

Digital Signage	Underway	£ 47,000.00	£ 70,000.00		
Traditional Signage (safe tourism, safe reopening /consumer confidence messaging)	Underway	£ 3,000.00	£ 7,000.00		
Staff resource, Cleaning Products & Waste facilities (compactable bins for Hunstanton)	Underway		£ 103,000.00		
Heacham Toilets refurb contribution	Subject to other match funding		£ 10,000.00		
Outdoor seating	Underway		£ 25,000.00		
Street Furniture/Public Realm Improvements	KL Public Realm Action Plan underway		£ 55,000.00	£ 152,472.00	
Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely (signage, pavement markers, bollard	Underway	£ 31,500.00			

covers etc)				
Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.	Underway	£ 20,000.00		
Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely (temporary planters, hand sanitisers)	Installed in majority of locations where requested	£ 30,000.00		
Developing Action Plan -Invest West Norfolk Business & Consumer Confidence Survey	Completed July 2020	£ 3,200.00		
Total		£ 134,700	£ 361,461	£ 152,472

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

BID
R&D Panel
Portfolio session with exec Director
Cabinet
Cabinet briefing
Portfolio session with various officers
Town deal board

Public realm

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

3 December 2020

COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CO2 REDUCTION, BIO DIVERSITY AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

For the period 15th October 2020 to 3rd December 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Climate Change and CO2 reduction.

I have had an excellent on line meeting with representatives from:- Klimate concern, Fenland and West Norfolk Friends of the Earth, Nature Volunteer Network, Greenpeace and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Climate Psychology Alliance, and Stop Ecocide.

We discussed a large range of issues including Tree planting, biodiversity, habitat preservation and CO2 reduction measures, from better home insulation to encouragement of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV's).

I have agreed to hold regular meetings with these groups.

I have had several briefings from Officers to "bring me up to speed" with the excellent work the Borough Council is already working on (such as Tree planting and the re-fit program) to move forward our aim to become Net Zero.

I was delighted that the Prime Minister has brought forward the ending of Petrol and Diesel new vehicle sales to 2030. This will have a major impact on Air Quality throughout the Borough.

Cremations and Burials

I am very pleased to report that numbers have returned to "normal" levels.

Gayton Road Cemetery.

Feasibility studies are being carried out on other options for Cemetery provision in the King's Lynn area, I have no update on this as the officers dealing with this are currently working on Covid measures.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Football club car parking

I am pleased to report that this project is now out to Tender.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet

Portfolio briefing: -Climate Change, Car parks, Crematorium and Cemeteries and IT.
Corporate performance panel
R&D Panel
E&C Panel
Cabinet Briefing
Conservancy Board.
IDB
Climate change meetings as detailed above.
All of the above meetings held on line.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

3rd December 2020

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

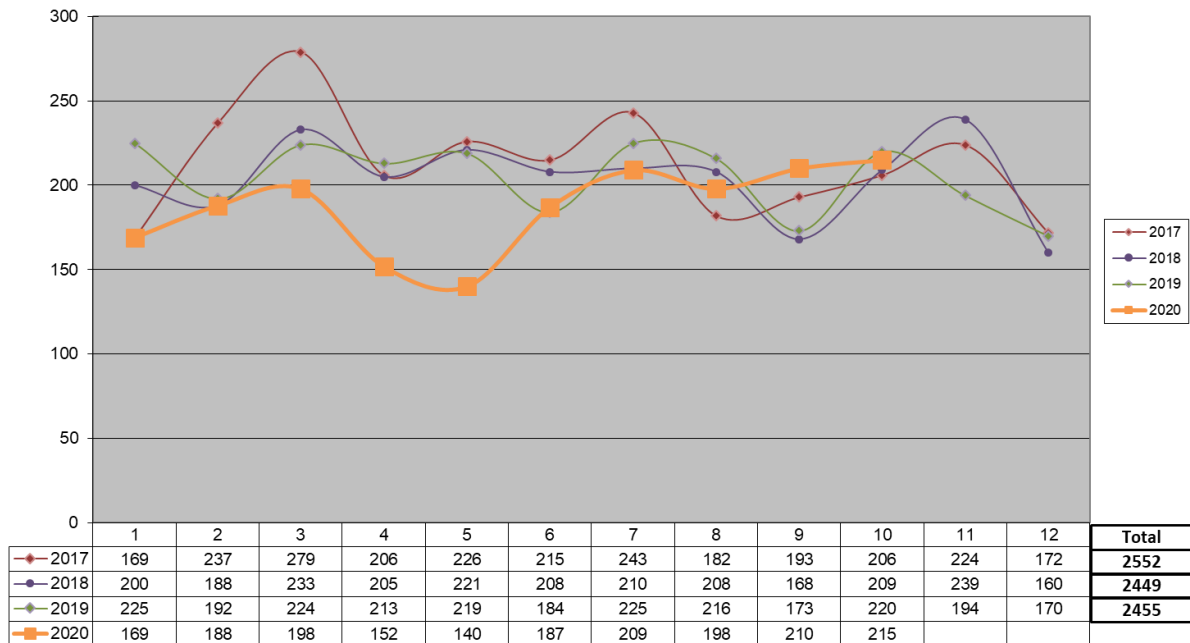
For the period from 2 October 2020 to 20th November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

The volume of applications received continues to be high, October was the highest month this year so far.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Major and Minor dwelling applications received comparison

	1/1/18 – 11/11/18	1/1/19 – 11/9/19	1/1/20 – 11/11/20
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	21	26	17
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	340	379	241

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

Revenue income

Income for 2020/21

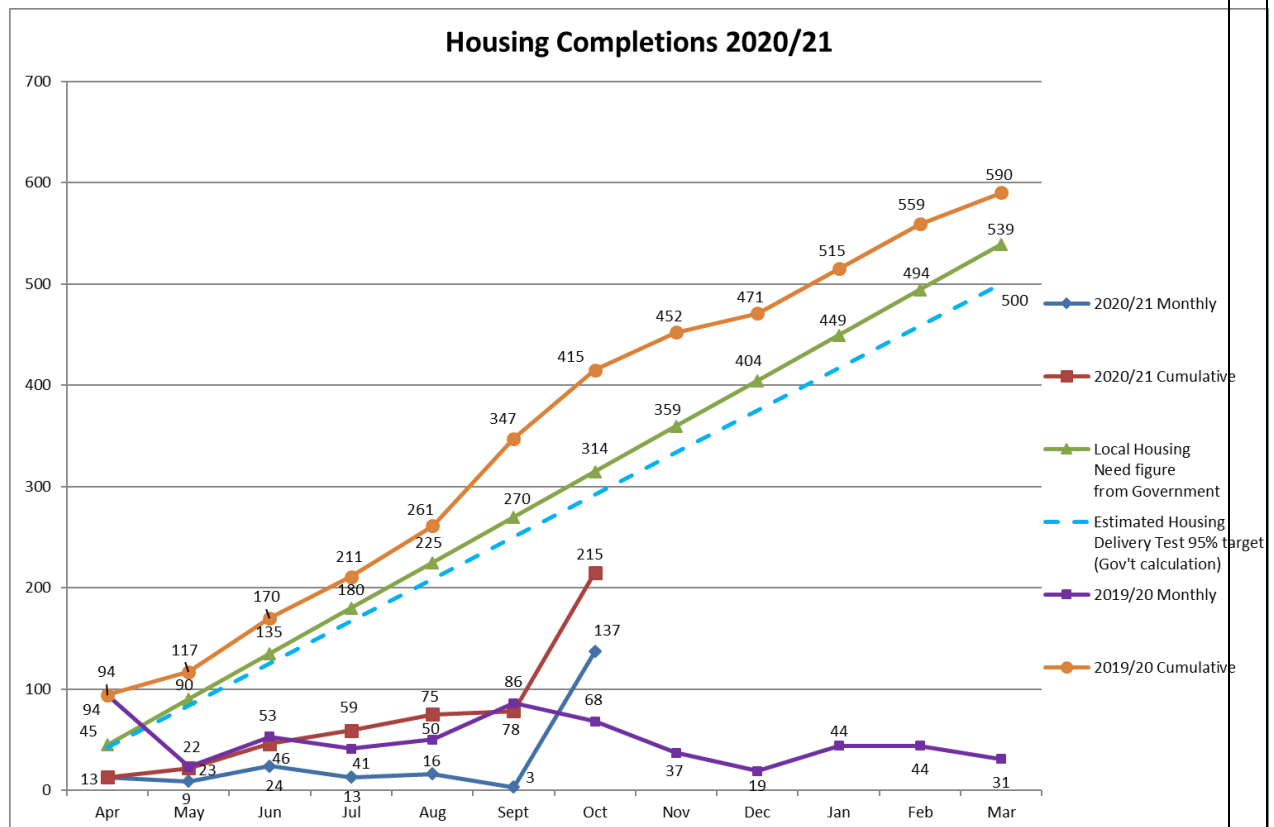
Projected	Actual	Variance
Apr - Oct	Apr - Oct	
£678,796	£822,878	+ £144,082

Housing Completions

Completions are still considerably lower in comparison to the same time last year. 215 completions between April and October compared to 415 for the same period in 2019.

A high number of completions are reported in October, 137. A combination of resources being available to check all sources of data in more detail and the fact construction sites commenced again after the first Covid lockdown.

We continue to wait to see if the Government will announce if the Local Housing Need figure will be reduced to reflect the impacts of Covid-19.



Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/1/20 – 31/10/20

	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning appeals	26	12
	68%	32%
Enforcement appeals	4	1
	80%	20%

The national average for planning appeals allowed is around 34%.

Local Plan review Update

Good progress is being made to finalise the document (and supporting documentation) to enable consideration and agreement by Cabinet and Council.

- The Local Plan Task Group will be holding a meeting on 2 December to finalise changes to the policies in the draft Plan.
- Supporting information in the form of the Sustainability Appraisal is being finalised.
- Other material including; the Viability Assessment; Habitats Regulation Assessment Report; and Duty to Co-operate Statement are in final preparation.
- Initial preparations are being made to put the document into our consultation system.
- This is a priority piece of work for the Council

Neighbourhood Plans Update

Activity has not only continued with this significant area of work but has intensified over the last few months. Within the Borough there are in the region of 33 parish/town councils involved in the Neighbourhood Plan process. Below is summary of some of those that are reaching crucial stages:

Awaiting referendum due to pandemic:

- **Holme next to sea:** passed examination, can be given full weight in decision making process. Awaiting referendum due to pandemic
- **Upwell:** passed examination, can be given full weight in decision making process. Awaiting referendum due to pandemic

In progress:

- **Brancaster review:** This one of the first reviews in the country, finishing the regulation 16 consultation stage on Monday 23rd November- examination taking place shortly after.
- **Thornham:** Completed the examination stage- now in the decision-making stage soon as to whether it can go to referendum.
- **Tilney All Saints:** Currently in the consultation reg. 16 stage running until Mon 28th Dec (examination follow new year)
- **Castle Acre:** Currently in the consultation reg. 16 stage running until Mon 21st Dec (examination follow new year)
- **Hunstanton:** Health check completed soon will submit for reg.16 consultation
- **Heacham:** Health check completed, preparations will take place on drafting NP and then will be submitted for reg.16 consultation
- **Terrington St John:** Soon may be at a stage to go to their reg.16 consultation stage
- **Others which have progressed significantly:** Gayton and Stoke Ferry
- **New ones that have started and we have been in discussion with this year:**

Watlington, Marshland St. James

- **Exploring their options:** Walpole

Meetings Attended (via Teams Zoom and Youtube)

Portfolio Meetings,
Planning Committee
Planning Committee Sifting
Local Plan Task Group
Cabinet
Cabinet Briefings and Updates
Cabinet Sifting
Regeneration and Development Panel
Corporate Performance Panel
Various Meetings with Officers

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

3 December 2020

COUNCILLOR STUART DARK MBE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

For the period 15th October 2020 to 23rd November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Following Full Council on the 15th October 2020 the Leader communicated I was joining his Cabinet as the Portfolio lead for Environmental Services and Public Protection, with Democratic Services circulating a list to members of the functions and teams I became responsible for.

This is my first report to Full Council following that appointment.

I have commenced and am continuing a series of meetings with relevant senior staff and the Chief Executive to brief myself in on Department's/Team's functions, challenges, performance, and budgets.

This has, by the time of this Full Council meeting, included 'virtual meetings' with officers leading the Borough's collection services and Environmental Health.

However, with the Borough's response to Covid-19 being one of my areas of responsibility and with a rising national, regional and local infection rate and the announcement of a 4 week national 'circuit breaker' lockdown at the end of October with associated new restrictions, it has been both right and necessary that this serious challenge has been my main focus in the short period I have been in post, in terms of protecting the residents of West Norfolk and supporting our brilliant but affected businesses and I thank all members for the support they have given me in this.

To this end, I have worked with the Chief Executive, senior council officers and Cabinet colleagues to ensure core Council services continue to be delivered effectively, new priorities and issues are addressed as part of the tiered multi-agency response (national, regional and local) and clear guidance and support is offered.

I have, with the assistance of officers, reinstated weekly updates to all Borough Councillors on key Borough Covid-19 developments and activities, along with links to useful resources/data and ensured these have been circulated to all Parish and Town Council contacts (their current 'remote working' contacts checked by Dem. Services to ensure delivery) for their

information and passing on. These regular updates have been complimented by specific contact as and when a significant issue/development occurs.

I have made myself readily available to Councillors and others with specific questions, concerns or feedback following this regular sharing of information.

I therefore appreciate that most of which follows is already known to fellow Councillors and whilst I apologise to them for having to re-read it in summary here, I am mindful this is a public document report to Full Council and some members of the public may be reading of this activity for the first time....

Public awareness and support – With the guidance changing and local infection rates significantly on the increase as we went in to national ‘lockdown’ it was important to increase public understanding of the new safeguards and to gain high levels of awareness/support and to get this activity underway promptly and continue to reinforce it during the 4 weeks to have maximum impact on behaviours, local infection rates, illnesses and hospitalisations and what ‘tier’ we as a region might emerge into. This communication plan included holding an early, widely reported, press conference with Norfolk’s Director of Public Health, the region’s MP, the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council and follow up radio interview; co-ordinated messaging across all social media platforms throughout the entire 4 week period and more recently (following my and Officers being on a virtual meeting with NCC and West Norfolk’s school heads) the provision of support materials/banners etc for schools.

Public reassurance and ‘open’ business support – The Council has updated its site with the new guidance for businesses and proactively engaged or responded to businesses allowed to remain open or adapting to ‘delivery’ or ‘click and collect’. A complimentary tiered physical approach has been put in place focussed initially on support and awareness raising, with enforcement only as a last resort, utilising a combination of SIA accredited ‘Covid Marshalls’, Council EHO Officers, Council Officers re-deployed from other duties, Alive Leisure staff who would have otherwise not been occupied and more recently the very welcome addition of 15 ‘uniform services’ course students from the College of West Anglia. These teams have operated in all the high footfall shopping areas to provide support and a reassuring presence including Downham Market, Kings Lynn Town Centre and Hunstanton and have deployed to other specific locations based on request or identified need.

As in the previous ‘lockdown’ the Council has tried to support smaller retailers, by promoting ‘shop local’ on its social media outputs and having LILY host a directory of local businesses still open and the goods and services they provide. This facility has been cascaded out to Councillors, Town and Parish councils to increase its usage.

Support to businesses required to ‘close’ or suffering limitations to trading- The Council has moved promptly to set up the process for efficiently paying out the Business Support Grant money provided by central government and for businesses to register interest for the imminent discretionary grant. This

process will be being administered by the same team which paid out grants of just under £40M to c.3000 West Norfolk businesses during the first 'lockdown' incorporating the experience and best practice gained. As with all other aspects of its Covid-19 activity, the Council is being proactive here to ensure as many eligible businesses are aware of these grants as possible and signposting clearly how to access them.

Testing facilities – For several weeks officers have been working closely with public health and partners to identify and make ready a static Covid-19 Testing Site for West Norfolk. This is now completed and operational, increasing the local region's testing capability significantly.

Supporting the vulnerable – Norfolk County Council Adults and Children's Services alongside Public Health retain primacy for supporting the Care sector and our Schools. The Borough Council continues to assist these agencies wherever it can and sits with them on regular Prioritisation, Tasking and Co-ordination meetings. One such area where the council provides support is through Lily offering assistance and befriending to those isolated or in need.

The Council does have specific responsibility with regard to supporting the homeless, falling under Cllr Lawrence's Cabinet Portfolio. I am aware that significant work has been undertaken here and that this will be covered by his report.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

I consider there are two main areas of activity in my portfolio over the coming weeks:

Preparing with Officers and partner agencies Covid-19 plans, activities and messages to support public safety and businesses and delivering these as we emerge from the national lockdown and out in to a tiered response over December and the holiday period. This will necessarily be fast-paced and according to prevailing guidance and circumstances. Given the very welcome news re potential vaccines and their possible rollout this may well include also supporting Public Health and partners with organising/delivering this key work.

Continuing to engage and drive other areas of my new portfolio.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Regular and irregular meetings with the Chief Executive, Communications Officers, relevant responsible Council Officers and partners with regard to the Borough's Covid-19 response.

Separate Meetings with Collection Services and EHO managerial staff.

Scheduled meetings associated with Cabinet.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL
3 December 2020

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Homechoice

Figures for October are as follows –

There were

188 New applications/Change in circumstance

1062 Live applications

3 Emergency

153 High band

339 Medium band

567 low band

There were 28 properties let

Next Steps Accommodation Programme-Funding Programme

The Council submitted a funding application on 20th August for funding to support efforts to accommodate people who had been accommodated during the 'Get Everyone in' - the government led drive at the start of the Pandemic to get people off the streets. Both bids have been successful. Under one of the bids a West Norfolk Housing First Project which includes intensive wrap around support for up to six rough sleepers with complex needs providing support within their own self-contained accommodation will be delivered by March 2021. This project will be delivered in partnership with Broadland Housing Association and a commissioned support provider. This will allow us to provide long term accommodation with intensive, personalized support to the most entrenched and complex rough sleepers within our borough.

Under the second bid Broadland Housing Association will secure ten flats within Kings Lynn to be provided as move on accommodation for people

leaving 24/7 supported hostel accommodation. Under this model tenants will continue to receive support in sustaining tenancies and finding permanent accommodation. This process could take up to two years to ensure that people are properly supported and prepared to move on to independent accommodation.

Welfare Cabins

The Borough Council has procured fourteen welfare cabins to accommodate rough sleepers in self-contained accommodation at various sites around King's Lynn. Security and ongoing support by the Purfleet Trust and the Outreach Service (Sanctuary Housing) is also being provided. The welfare cabins are intended to be occupied for a short period of time whilst alternative longer-term accommodation is sought.

The Winter Night shelter

The Winter Night shelter opened on 6th Nov 2020 at St Johns Vicarage in King's Lynn. We have been working closely with Churches Together who provide and manage the Winter Night shelter. As a result of the pandemic and having taken advice from Ministry of Housing Communities Local Government (MHCLG) and Public Health England the Winter Night shelter has had to make changes in how their provision is being provided. In previous years the Winter Night shelter has opened from 1st November – 31st March with shared 'dormitory' type accommodation for up to 23 rough sleepers throughout the night. However, given shared accommodation is strongly discouraged due to the risk of infection from Covid19 and the requirement for self-isolating the Winter Night shelter is only able to accommodate up to 6 people this year at any one time in self-contained rooms. The Winter Night shelter has evolved the Night shelter service into providing the accommodation to its guests 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The new venue is warm and welcoming. It has not been easy though and there have been some difficult compromises on the original purpose and objectives of the charity. Robust referral, triage and move on procedures have been put in place. Pathways have also been developed to move people on into longer term accommodation. The Housing Options team actively work with the Winter Night shelter, accommodation providers and wider partners to move rough sleepers into longer term sustainable

accommodation.

Reid Way

Broadland Housing Association has submitted a planning application for 7 self-contained, single storey modular units on Council owned land at Reid Way. The units will be used primarily as temporary accommodation for families. Subject to receiving planning consent the units could be completed as soon as March 2021. The application is due to be considered by Planning Committee on 7th Dec 2020. This project aligns with the objectives set out in the Councils Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024. Given the increase in homelessness due to the economic and social impacts of Covid 19 along with potential further increases with the lifting of the moratorium on evictions, the project has been accelerated to provide much needed family accommodation. The Planning application can be viewed on the planning portal using **ref 20/01274/F**.

Meetings Attended

Full Council
Cabinet sifting
Cabinet Briefings
Portfolio Meetings
Various Telephone Calls and Teams With Cabinet and Officers

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL
3RD DECEMBER 2020

COUNCILLOR PETER GIDNEY -

CABINET MEMBER FOR PROJECT DELIVERY

For the period from October to 23rd November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Enterprise Zone

Infrastructure:

Officers had a productive meeting with Norfolk County Council (NCC infrastructure project team) and EDP ('Environmental Design Practice', services consultant) 09.10.20. Meetings are now diarised with NCC on a fortnightly basis to maintain momentum (EDP will attend as and when required) next meeting being 02.12.20.

NCC have submitted the proposed site wide drainage design to the local Internal Drainage Boards for approval. NCC have been in dialogue with the drainage boards throughout the design development so securing the formal consent should be relatively straightforward.

Spec Build Units:

Final discussions and looking to formally contract with our selected contractor RG Carter for the delivery of Plots A1 and A2 (Phase I). They recently provided an updated tender figure – including a value engineering schedule which looks agreeable to the project team. A meeting was held with Procurement is arranged for the week of the 30.10.20 to discuss next steps. A follow up meeting with R G Carter took place on 10.11.20.

Appointment of Architects (AHR) to progress designs and tender Plots A3 and A4 (Phase II) with a view to the construction of these overlapping or following on from the delivery of Plots A1 and A2.

Procurement involved as the appointment is via the 'Braintree District Council Framework'.

Oversite preparatory works:

Landscape contractor has been appointed/ employed to undertake the vegetation clearance on the site – this work was recently commenced but progress will depend on weather conditions.

A topographical survey was recently completed for the site to update recent

changes in site levels following Anglian Water's rising main replacement works.

We had a further meeting with EDP week of 12.11.20 they have confirmed:

Electric: applications requested for new connections and diversions, receipt of quotation for diversions.

Gas: applications for new connections requested awaiting quotes.

Water: applications for new connections requested awaiting quotations – investigating existing services and drainage.

The application for the discharge of the landscaping condition has been submitted and due to be determined on or before the 10.12.20 – again there has been dialogue between the project team and our Planning Department in developing the landscaping strategy prior to submission.

The draft documentation for the groundwork / earth-works strategy has been through a first review and will be issued to Norfolk County Council for comment. Procurement has been placed on notice, scheduled, to tender this piece of work as soon as possible. The work will address site levels ahead of spec build and infrastructure contractors commencing on site. Looking to commission WSP to supervise and monitor these works.

The permanent diversion of the bridleway has been secured – we are now submitting an application to temporarily divert the existing route of the bridleway to enable construction of the infrastructure and spec units – once construction is complete the bridleway will revert to the newly approved route.

Enquiries:

Dialogue with Potential Occupier no 1 continues in respect of Plot B2.

Dialogue with Potential Occupier no 2 continues in respect of Plot C4.

Dialogue with Potential Occupier no 3 continues in respect of occupation of first phase speculative office space.

Housing Projects

NORA Phase 4 now started and on site.

Hunstanton Bus Station

To be determined by the Planning Committee on the 7th December (grant aid of £799,680 is time limited), scheme includes a new Library for NCC.

Hunstanton Southend Road Car Park

To be determined by the Planning Committee on the 7th December (grant aid of £520,000 is time limited).

Salters Road

So far, an agreement in principle to build as an '100 % Affordable scheme' for Freebridge (Cabinet report to be presented early next year).

Other Projects

Future High Streets Fund

Projects: St Georges Guildhall, Town Centre Housing & Parking, South Gate Gateway, Multi User Community Hub.

Decision Timescale: we were initially told Autumn for a decision by government but appears to be slipping. We have not received any further update from Government since we sent in the clarifications requested in October.

Towns Fund

Projects: Creative Hub, Active & Clean Connectivity, Riverfront first phase, Town Centre Repurposing, King's Lynn Youth & Retraining Pledge, Innovation & Collaboration Incubator.

Decision Timescale: Initial feedback from government due before Christmas, Heads of Terms to be signed by 31/03/21.

High Street HAZ

Final HS HAZ Board sign off and contract waited for signing. Project Officer recruitment underway with a view to start the scheme early 2021.

Chapel Street HAZ

Informal meeting was had between Officers and Civic Society.
Meeting planned for later in December subject to attendees' diaries.

Public Realm Action Plan

Funding approved under the accelerated Towns Fund. Graeme Massie Architects appointed to prepare wider public realm strategy which will form the spatial strategy and important place making component to coordinate and maximise the public realm alongside the other planned investment from FHFS & Towns Fund. Also includes preparation of design of schemes for immediate delivery with the funding already secured.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.
As per forward timetable
3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled
October 11 with EN Portfolio meeting 20 West Winch Stakeholders Meeting 21 Portfolio Meeting 26 Special Cabinet Meeting 28 Cabinet Briefing November 2 Cabinet Sifting 4 Marriott's Warehouse + 3 5 Cabinet / Management Team 11 Cabinet Briefing 13 NALC Green/ Carbon Reduction for PC's 14 Cabinet Meeting 17 Cabinet Briefing 20 Portfolio with EN 23 Council Briefing: Housing Delivery Test & Action Plan 23 South Quay, Boal Quay and the Public realm action plan

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

3rd December 2020

**COUNCILLOR MRS EA NOCKOLDS
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURS, HERITAGE & HEALTH**

For the period from October 15th to December 3rd 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

LILY resources have increased with staff from AWN and NCC Library staff. This does enable more clients being contacted via the telephone, although the team have been trained to assist with the doorstep visits contacting the 'Track and Trace' clients as well. At the same time they are able to provide support to people who are struggling with the physical and emotional effects of being isolated, or in quarantine. If a person or household needs more intensive support it is followed up upon return to the office. Before the recent lockdown, LILY marketing materials had been redesigned to reflect the changes due to Covid 19. They inform clients that instead of face to face visits, contacts will be made via the telephone or on-line until safe to do otherwise. LILY staff are working in partnership with CAB to help people who are digitally isolated. Digital isolation is causing issues for some people as so much information is on-line and therefore some clients are finding themselves socially isolated as well particularly, as the LILY Advisors are unable to meet clients face to face at the moment. LILY grants have been repackaged and re-branded as 'Covid Grants', to pay for essential items. They are designed to help existing groups to reconvene when the Covid situation becomes safe to do so.

Prior to the recent lockdown LILY staff worked with COWA on a promotional video for LILY to highlight loneliness in younger people. The video will be released soon to High Schools, Youth Advisory Boards and other groups who are involved with young people.

Our Housing team within the District Discharge project are still working virtually with the medical staff at the QE Hospital. The majority of the patient referrals are for housing adaptations. Pre-elective surgery patients who are waiting for hip or knee surgery are contacted before the operation in case they are in need during the waiting of their delayed surgery due to the Covid restrictions.

Across the year from March onwards the Tourism Dept has increased partnership working with Visit Norfolk, Visit East of England and the new Norfolk and Suffolk partnership, 'Unexplored England' to better understand the regions tourism business support needs and align our messaging to both businesses and the general public. As a direct result of this new partnership a region-wide marketing plan worth £350,000 was awarded to the group for boosting tourism business in our region across September and October.

The grant was sourced from the Government via Visit Britain. The 'Unexplored England' marketing has been abandoned until the new restrictions from the ease of Lockdown 2 is known. The Dept. has also become a member of the New Anglia LEP, NALEP, Visitor Economy Group to share best practice and to input on the forthcoming LEP Tourism Recovery Plan for our region. To measure how our local tourism industry has been adapting these last few months and how they will adapt in the future, a Norfolk Tourism Business Survey has gone live and our Tourism Dept. will be sending out the link to it via the 'Visit West Norfolk' e-newsletter to over 500 local tourism/hospitality businesses.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

We are working jointly with NCC with a tourism project named EXPERIENCE, funded through European Regional Development Fund. The project is to attract visitors in the off-peak season, between October and March through a new experimental tourism approach. The project is being developed across six areas in England and France.

The Sail the Wash project, funded from the Coastal Communities Fund, has seen the completion of the extension of the KL pontoons. Preparation is now being worked on in readiness for the new season in 2021. The Wash has been surveyed and mapped to update all navigational charts and at the same time formalising the anchorage points around the coastline. The new website has been developed which will eventually connect all partners, Boston, Wells, Fosdyke and all associated harbours on both sides of the Wash. The Sutton Bridge capital works are not quite completed. The full promotional package will be launched early 2021. The Environment Agency are working on a project to promote the inland waterways.

Due to lockdown the 'Drawdown' projection which gave suggestions of reversing climate change has been postponed. Collusion are inviting artists to apply for a new commission to create new contemporary art work which includes large scale outdoor projection with interactive elements in Kings Lynn. The new artwork, named 'Resolution', is expected to take place during March 2021. Within the project will be activities for children and young people at Primary Schools, COWA and other groups such as Guides, Scouts and Museum groups with the aim of involving 700 young people. There will be 3 interactive games designed for the projector on the Greyfriars Tower, in the gardens and at the Customs House. The next project, 'Manifesto', will be designed by young people which will result in being projected March 2022. Funding has been received from the Arts Council, NALEP, N&N Festival and BCKL&WN, KL BID, NCC and Audrey Muriel Stratford Trust.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom.
Portfolio meetings with;

Lorraine Gore Chief Executive
Duncan Hall Assistant Director and HAZ Programme Manager
Martin Chisholm Assistant Director and all Open Space Managers
John Greenhalgh Assistant Director including District Direct and LILY staff
Special Cabinet
Local Cultural Education Partnership, 'PEACH'
Environments and Community panel
Towns Fund Board
Visit Norfolk Board
Visit East of England Webinar
Experience Tourism Project Ideas Session .
Alive West Norfolk Board meeting
Public Realm Tour with Officers & Consultants
Collusion Art Group
Regeneration & Development Panel
Corporate Performance Panel
Internal Drainage Board
Rural Services Health & Social Care Network Sub-Group
KL Festival Board
Fairstead Surgery Engagement Forum

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**3rd December 2020****COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**For the period 15th October 2020 to 23rd November 2020**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.****Cabinet Positions**

Following our last Full Council meeting I have asked Cllr. Stuart Dark MBE to join my Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Public Protection, this will allow Stuart to continue work he had started with regards to the Council's response to Covid pandemic.

In addition to this, after our adoption of our policy position on Climate Change and Carbon reduction I have added responsibility for this to Cllr. Paul Kunes' portfolio. Details reflecting these changes are outlined within the amended scheme of delegation.

Covid 19 Pandemic Response

As outlined above the operational element for the pandemic has moved to the new Portfolio held by Cllr Dark. However I still attend the Norfolk Covid 19 Leaders engagement board along with District, County Councils and other partners including the NHS. At the time of writing new cases in West Norfolk as reported at this meeting to be in decline. I must however reiterate the messages for people to stay safe by Washing Hands, Covering Face where needed maintaining social distance. In addition I repeat my previous thanks to all Keyworkers including those at the Borough Council for their continued efforts at this time.

Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board.

As an appointee to the KLIDB, I felt it important to update the Council on progress on the new pumping station at St Germans. The scheme is the largest project of this type currently in production in the UK. It offers improved capacity and flood protection for approximately 3000 homes and is due to cost circa £26m. Partly funded by flood grant in aid it is the Environment Agency's largest single contributor to flood risk mitigation.

Despite Covid and adverse weather conditions it is still running close to agreed budgets and to time. There is still some local disruption on the nearby road into St Germans, but local engagement with the contractors and the

community is good.

Recycling Rates	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Norfolk - countywide	43.2%	45.8%	46.7%	45.8%	43.5%	44.4%
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	41.9%	44.3%	45.7%	46.4%	42.1%	42.5%
Breckland Council	37.3%	39.9%	40.3%	40.1%	37.4%	38.8%
Broadland District Council	46.8%	50.6%	50.9%	50.0%	48.2%	49.6%
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	26.7%	31.2%	33.3%	31.9%	29.0%	30.0%
North Norfolk District Council	41.4%	41.8%	41.9%	41.6%	39.3%	40.8%
Norwich City Council	35.0%	38.3%	38.3%	37.7%	38.3%	39.4%
South Norfolk Council	40.4%	43.6%	44.9%	42.9%	41.3%	42.5%
England	44.8%	44.3%	44.9%	45.2%	44.7%	Not yet available

Norfolk Waste Partnership

Prior to the change of portfolios as set out above I had covered the Environment Portfolio and one meeting that I had agreed to attend was the Norfolk Waste Partnership. It was good to receive a presentation on proposed changes being brought forward from Government on the future of waste and likely implications to District & Country Councils. Including the potential for mandatory collection of food waste and "free" collection of garden waste.

It is however worthy of note that West Norfolk has fared well with its recycling performance as set out in the table below against other Norfolk authorities. Highest percentages achieved in 2016-2018 were skewed by good years for garden waste collections. Given that the same service is provided across Norfolk (save for food waste) it should be possible to achieve the highest levels of recycling as per Broadland DC across all of Norfolk.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Tax Base 2021.

The start of the budget setting process for next financial year has already commenced with the setting of the tax base. The number of Band D equivalent properties has raised from last year, however new housing completions have not been as many as anticipated in previous predictions due in part to Covid and its effects on building sector. In addition there is a reduction for each case taken out of the base for Council Tax benefit.

The figure will now be used in our budget calculations.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled
In addition to my usual round of portfolio and Cabinet meeting I have also attended the following: Kings Lynn Towns Fund Board Meeting Meeting with Labour Group Leader Norfolk Covid-19 Engagement Boards Meeting ref Tax Base setting for 2021 Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board Meetings Press Briefing with West Norfolk Media -Covid-19. Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Independent Group Leaders Meeting Meeting with Police ref SNAP meetings Meeting with North Norfolk DC ref. Norfolk Coast Partnership Norfolk Waste Partnership

Recommendations from Cabinet on 22 September and cabinet members decision of 27 October 2020 to Council.

CAB171 **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND ARTICLES**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Monitoring Officer presented a report on the draft amendments to the Standing Orders and Articles within the Borough Council's Constitution following on from the meetings with Group Leaders and the representative for the Independent Group.

The proposed changes were attached to the report with the amendments shown as 'tracked changes' in the documents.

In discussing the proposed amendments, Cabinet requested that the Monitoring Officer prepare some further amendments on the following matters:

- The setting of a time limit of questions at council of portfolio holders of 30 mins and the Leader of 15 mins. Those questions to be allocated in the order of largest opposition Group, smaller opposition group, then the Administration.
- That whilst the normal appointments to Chairs would remain with Annual Council, if there are vacancies during the course of the year, Council be able to appoint a replacement, nominated by the Leader as is the case for annual council.
- That once a decision is taken to continue to sit after 3hours of a meeting, a further vote is taken each hour thereafter.

It was proposed that the Leader be invited to agree the amended wording prior to the amended documents being submitted to Council.

RESOLVED: That Monitoring Officer be requested to draft further amendments and submit to the Leader for decision in time for submission to Council on the following areas:

- The setting of a time limit of questions at council of portfolio holders of 30 mins and the Leader of 15 mins. Those questions to be allocated in the order of largest opposition Group, smaller opposition group, then the Administration.
- That whilst the normal appointments to Chairs would remain with Annual Council, if there are vacancies during the course of the year, Council be able to appoint a replacement, nominated by the Leader as is the case for annual council.
- That once a decision is taken to continue to sit after 3hours of a meeting, a further vote is taken each hour thereafter.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft amendments to the Standing Orders and Articles attached to the report be recommended to Full Council for approval, subject to the further amendments as set out in the minute which will be submitted directly to Council.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council's Constitution remains fit for purpose, reflects existing legislation and best practice

To take into account the comments of Cabinet members at the meeting.

Further amendments

Further amendments were published by the Leader on 27 October 2020. These were considered at the Corporate Performance panel on 11 November 2020,

1) The Panel supported the draft amended revisions to Standing Orders 29 and 33.

2) The Panel recommended an amendment to Standing Order 11 as set out below:

That Cabinet defer the recommendation on Standing Order 11 until the three Group Leaders have had the opportunity to discuss the changes and an agreement reached.

Council is therefore invited to consider the amended Standing Orders and Articles as attached.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

Part 4

STANDING ORDERS

(draft amendments)

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS**

Adopted 25 November 2010
Panel amendments agreed 28 July 2011
Standards Amendments by Monitoring Officer Feb 2013
Amendments agreed 27 March 2014
Amendments 27 November 2014
Amendments June 2015
Amendment 24 Sept 2015
Amendment April 2016
Amendment 30 June 2016
Panel Amendment 25 Jan 2018

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STANDING ORDERS

PROCEDURAL RULES

FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS

STANDING ORDER: DEFINITIONS

1. The Interpretation Act, 1978 shall apply to the interpretation of these standing orders as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. In these Standing Orders, unless the context otherwise demands, the following terms have the meaning assigned to them:

“Access Regulations” means the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000. Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Informations) England Regs 2012.

“Appropriate Executive Member” means one or more Executive Member(s) acting under powers delegated to [him/her/them](#)/them or who appear(s) most nearly to have responsibility for the services or policy areas to which the matter in hand relates.

“Call in period” means the period of five clear working days after the day that the Record of Decisions of the Executive or of an Executive Member is sent to Members of the Council within which a Member can ask for a decision of the Executive or the Executive Member to be reviewed in accordance with Standing Order 12.

“Chair” means the Chair of the Appropriate Committee or in [his/her/their](#) absence the Vicechairman.

“Chief Executive” means the Chief Executive or any officer authorised by [him/her/the Chief Executive](#) to act in [his/her/their](#) capacity in relation these Standing Orders.

“Chief Finance Officer” means the officer responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the 1972 Act.

“Chief Officer” means:

(a) For the purpose of Part 5 of the Standing Orders (Appointment and Discipline of Staff):

- (i) The Chief Executive
- (ii) The Head of Paid Service
- (iii) The Chief Finance Officer
- (iv) The Monitoring Officer
- (v) A statutory chief officer and a non statutory chief officer as mentioned in Section 2 of the 1989 Act.

Any reference to the appointment or purported appointment of a Chief Officer includes a reference to the engagement or purported engagement of an officer under a contract of employment; and

(b) In any other case, a statutory or non-statutory Chief Officer as mentioned in Section 2 of the 1989 Act.

“Consultation Procedure” means the procedure by which Chief Officers may consult with one or more specified members before exercising a delegated power or duty, in accordance with the Scheme of delegation.

“Council” means The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and unless the context otherwise states shall apply equally to the Cabinet, any Portfolio members or Committee or Board of the Council.

“Disciplinary Action” means any action occasioned by alleged misconduct which, if proved, would according to the usual practice of the Council be recorded on the officers personal file and includes any proposal for dismissal of an officer for any reason other than early retirement, redundancy or ill health or infirmity of mind or body, but does not include failure to renew a contract of employment for a fixed term unless the authority has undertaken to renew such a contract.

“Employee” means an employee of the authority or a paid officer of the authority.

“EU” means European Union.

“Cabinet” means the Leader of the Council and members of the Council appointed by the Leader to be its Executive under Section 15 of the 2000 Act and, except where the context otherwise admits, includes:

- (i) any Committee of the Cabinet; and
- (ii) the appropriate Portfolio Holder

“Executive Functions” means all of the function and duties of the Council other than those specifically reserved to the Council for approval or specifically delegated to a Committee (whether by resolution of the council or operation of law) or to an Officer. ~~The Functions of Cabinet~~

“Portfolio Holder” means any member of the Cabinet also known as the Executive, including The Leader of the Council.

“Forward Plan” means the plan maintained by the Council under Regulations 13 and 14 of the Access Regulations, which contains details of key decisions (within the meaning of those Regulations) to be made over the ensuing four months.

“Head of the Authority's Paid Service” means the person designated as such under section 4 of the 1989 Act..

“Leader of a Political Group” means the leader of a political group as defined in the Local Government (Committees etc) Regulations 1990.

“Leader of the Council” means the Executive Leader of the Council for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2000 and includes the Deputy Leader, if appointed, where the Leader of the

Council is for any reason unable to act.

“Mayor” includes a reference to the Deputy Mayor where for any reason the Mayor is unable to act and, where applicable, to the Person Presiding.

“Meeting” means a meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee Board or Task Group as the case may be and includes a Remote Meeting, i.e. a reference to a Meeting also includes a reference to a Remote Meeting, where the definition for a Remote Meeting is met

“Member” means in relation to the Council, a member of the Council; and in relation to any Committee or Sub-Committee, a person appointed as a Member of that Committee or Sub Committee, whether or not entitled to vote; but shall not include any person who is a member of the Council only by virtue of Section 3(3) or Section 5(2) of the 1972 Act (Mayor and Deputy Mayor to remain members until replaced).

“Monitoring Officer” means the officer designated under Section 5(1) of the 1989 Act.

“Number of Members” means, in relation to the Council, the number of persons who may act at the time in question as Members of the Council; and in relation to a committee or the executive, the number of persons who may act at the time in question as voting members of that body.

“Openness Regulations” means The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014
“Scrutiny and Overview Committee” means a Committee appointed by Council under Section 21 of the 2000 Act

“Person Presiding” means the Mayor or Chair, as the case may be, or other person entitled, or appointed, to take the chair at any meeting,

“Petition” means a formal request to the Council signed by not less than 250 persons relating to a matter within the jurisdiction or sphere of influence of the Council.

“Political Group” means a political group as defined in the Local Government (Committees etc.) Regulations 1990.

“Portfolio Holder” means the Cabinet Member where delegated responsibilities cover the matter under consideration

“Remote Meeting” means a Meeting where one or more of the attendees is attending by remote means in accordance with these Standing Orders, including but not exclusively by way of accessing the Meeting through an electronic, digital or virtual location or platform such as an internet location, web address, web based platform or conference call telephone numbers. “Remote attendance” and “remote means” shall be construed in the same way.

“Standards Committee” is the Committee appointed by the Council for the purposes of Sections 53 and 54 of the 2000 Act.

“Supervising Chief Officer” means the Chief Officer or any other officer nominated by him/her/them in writing who has the responsibility for the performance of a particular Contract.

“The 1972 Act” means the Local Government Act 1972.

“The 1989 Act” means the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

“The 2000 Act” means the Local Government Act 2000.

“The 2020 Regulations” means the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

“Without Comment” means in relation to the moving, seconding or putting of a motion, without any person speaking except to indicate the wording of the motion, the fact that it is being moved, seconded or put, or (in the case of the Person Presiding) the effect of adopting the motion.

3. Where a notice or any other papers are to be sent or otherwise addressed to a Member under these Standing Orders or any enactment, they shall be sent to that Member’s Council email address save where exceptions are agreed by the Chief Executive.

4. For the purposes of these Standing Orders:

4.1 A Meeting is not limited to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place.

4.2 The place of a Meeting held, or to be held, can include more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

4.3 A Meeting is open to the public where public access to the Meeting is possible through remote means including (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live streaming.

5. For all purposes of these Standing Orders, the terms “notice”, “summons”, “agenda”, “report”, “written record” and “background papers” when referred to as being a document that is:

5.1 “open to inspection” shall include for these and all other purposes as being published on the Council’s website; and

5.2 to be published, posted or made available at offices of the Authority shall include publication on the Council’s website.

1 Application of Standing Orders

Extracts from the statutes

*Subject to the provisions of the 1972 Act, a local authority may make Standing Orders for the regulation of their proceedings and business and may vary or revoke any such orders.
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, par 42)*

*Standing Orders may be made as respects any committee of a local authority by that authority or as respects a joint committee of two or more local authorities by those authorities with respect to the quorum, proceedings and place of meeting of the committee or joint committee (including a sub-committee)
(Local Government Act 1972 s 106)*

The Secretary of State may by regulations require relevant authorities subject to such variation as may be authorised by the regulations

(a) to incorporate such provision as may be prescribed in the regulations in Standing Orders for

regulating their proceedings and business; and

(b) to make or refrain from making such other modifications of such Standing Orders as may be so prescribed.

(Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s 20 (1)).

1.1 These Standing Orders shall be used to regulate the conduct of any meeting of the Council (Cabinet, Committees, Sub Committees, Panels, Boards, delegated decisions of Cabinet)

1.2 The ruling of the Person Presiding at any meeting as to the construction or application of any of these Standing Orders shall not be challenged at that meeting.

1.3 Where any of these Standing Orders provides for, or requires, the giving of notice in writing to any person, such notice may be given by e-mail or by facsimile.

2 Suspension of Standing Orders

2.1 The ruling of the Person Presiding at any meeting as to the construction or application of any of these Standing Orders shall not be challenged at that meeting.

2.2 Subject to paragraph 2.3 of this Standing Order, and to the extent permitted by any Act of Parliament, Standing Orders other than this one may be suspended.

[Draft amendment:

2.2 Subject to paragraph 2.3 of this Standing Order, ~~and to the extent permitted by any Act of Parliament, Standing Orders other than this one~~ and any Standing Order that is a mandatory statutory requirement may be suspended.

[Clean version:

2.2 Subject to paragraph 2.3 of this Standing Order, Standing Orders other than this one and any Standing Order that is a mandatory statutory requirement may be suspended.]

...]

2.3 Standing Orders shall only be suspended in exceptional circumstances if a motion to suspend is moved and supported by a majority of the members who are present at any meeting of the Council or a meeting at which the motion is moved.

2.4 If any motion to suspend any Standing Orders is passed then, unless Council expressly determines otherwise, those Standing Orders shall remain suspended only until the completion of the item of business that immediately follows the motion to suspend.

2.5 The proposer and seconder of any motion to suspend any Standing Orders shall be minuted and the Standards Committee may require them to explain their reasons.

3 Amendment to Standing Orders

3.1 Standing Orders may be amended only by a meeting of the Council and to the extent permitted by any Act of Parliament.

3.2 Every Member of the Council shall be provided with a printed copy of these Standing Orders when

members first declare acceptance of office or whenever they are amended.

[Draft amendment:

3.1 Standing Orders may be amended only by a meeting of the Council after consideration by the Cabinet and to the extent permitted by any Act of Parliament.

3.2 Every Member of the Council shall be provided with a printed copy of these Standing Orders when members first declare acceptance of office or whenever they are amended.

[Clean version:

3.1 Standing Orders may be amended only by a meeting of the Council after consideration by the Cabinet and to the extent permitted by any Act of Parliament.

3.2 Every Member of the Council shall be provided with a printed copy of these Standing Orders when members first declare acceptance of office ~~or whenever they are amended.~~]
...]

4 Meetings of the Council

Extracts from the Statute

A principal council may in every year hold such meetings as they may determine. Those meetings shall be held at such hour and on such days as the council may determine (Local Government Act 1972, sch 12, para 2 as amended by the 2020 Regulations)

Meetings of a principal council shall be held at such place, either within or without their area as they may direct. (Local Government Act 1972, sch 12, para 4)

In respect of a reference in any enactment to a meeting of a local authority, that authority may, as they may determine—

(a) *hold such meetings and at such hour and on such days; and*

(b) *alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings,*

without requirement for further notice. (The 2020 Regulations, reg 4)

A member of the executivemay not be elected as the Chair or vice-Chair of the Council. (Local Government Act 1972, ss 3 and 5)

4.1 Meetings of the full Council (“the Council”) shall be conducted in accordance with these Standing Orders except to the extent that they are suspended under the procedure that is set out by Standing Order 2.

4.2 An Annual Meeting of the Council may be held in each year commencing from 1 April on a date to be decided by the Council. The Annual Meeting may only be held where (i) called by the Mayor or (ii) following a resolution calling for an Annual Meeting being passed at an ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Council.

4.3 An Annual Meeting shall transact the following business only:

(a) The election of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, who shall be respectively Chair and Vice Chair of the Council.

(b) Conveying the Council's appreciation of the work carried out by the retiring Mayor and Deputy Mayor and their consorts.

(c) Appointing Members to Council Bodies (other than the Cabinet).

(d) Appointing the Chair of the Cabinet (who shall be Leader of the Council) for a four year period following the elections and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of other Council Bodies unless they appoint their own Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

(e) Considering such other urgent business as the Chief Executive has to report.

4.4 The Council will also hold Ordinary Meetings to carry out its general business on such dates as the Council shall fix.

4.5 Extraordinary Meetings of the Council may also be called at any time by the Mayor (or deputy mayor in his/her/their absence) and shall be held, within two weeks, whenever the Chief Executive receives requests for one to be held from five or more Members of the Council.

4.6 Meetings of the Council shall be held at such place as it provides notice of. A reference to the place of a Meeting may include more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers. The place of a Meeting may be comprehensively notified as "Remote Meeting on [specified technological platform]". Notice of the time and place of each Meeting shall be published on the Council's website.

4.6A If an election or emergency occurs the Chief Executive may, after consulting with such of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and Leaders of the Political Groups as can conveniently be contacted, vary any arrangement agreed by the Council under this Standing Order.

4.7 No extraordinary Meeting shall be called unless it is proposed to transact business at the Meeting that, in accordance with the relevant enactments and these Standing Orders, may be transacted at that meeting.

4.8 If the Chair is made aware during a Remote Meeting that the public cannot access the Remote Meeting through remote means, due to any technological or other failure of provision, then the Chair shall adjourn the meeting immediately, as the Remote Meeting can no longer be validly held. If the provision of public access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If a date is not fixed, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

4.9 If the Democratic Services Manager is made aware before a Remote Meeting that the public will not be able to access the Remote Meeting through remote means, the Democratic Services Manager may delay the commencement of the Remote Meeting. If the provision of public access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the Remote Meeting will be cancelled and the items of business of the cancelled Remote Meeting shall be considered at a newly convened Meeting or will be considered at the next ordinary Meeting as applicable.

4.10 If a Member is deemed to have left a Remote Meeting pursuant to paragraph 6.5 of these Standing Orders and later rejoins the Remote Meeting, the Chair shall determine whether that Member is precluded from contributing to the debate or voting on any item of business during which they were not

in remote attendance pursuant to paragraph 6.5 of these Standing Orders. The Chair shall take into account (not exclusively or explicitly) the nature of the meeting, the length of absence, the nature of the evidence or debate missed and the presence or not of a written report.

4.11 If the Chair determines, a Remote Meeting may be adjourned for no more than 10 minutes to allow an attendee of the Remote Meeting to leave the Remote Meeting and immediately rejoin, where it is identified that there is a poor quality connection that is adversely affecting the conduct of the Remote Meeting.

5 The chairing of meetings

Extracts from Statutes

At a meeting of a principal council the Chair, if present, shall preside.

If the Chair is absent from a meeting of a principal council, then

(a) except in Greater London, the vice-Chair of the council, if present, shall preside.....If,

(b) in the case of a principal council outside Greater London, both the Chair and vice Chair of the council are absent from a meeting of the council;....

*Another Member of the Council, chosen by the members of the Council present shall preside.
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para. 5)*

5.1 If the Mayor is absent from a meeting of the Council, the Deputy Mayor shall chair the meeting.

5.2 If it is necessary to choose a Member of the Council to preside in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Chief Executive shall call for a motion that a Member of the Council, who is not a member of the Cabinet, to be named shall take the Chair.

5.3 Any power or duty of the Mayor in relation to the conduct of the meeting may be exercised by the person presiding at the meeting.

5.4 If either or both of the Chair and Vice Chair of a Meeting or a Task Group are absent from a meeting of such a Body, the members of that Body who are present at the meeting shall elect a member to act as Chair and/or a Vice Chair for that meeting before any other business is transacted.

5.5 The Chair and Vice Chair of a Task Group may be appointed by the meeting which established it, in default of which they will be appointed at the first meeting of the Task Group by its members.

6 Quorum

Extracts from the Statute

*(Subject to the following provision), no business shall be transacted at a meeting of a principal council unless at least one quarter of the whole number of members of the council are present.
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 6)*

Where more than one third of the members of a local authority become disqualified at the same

time, then, until the number of members in office is increased to not less than two-thirds of the whole number of members of the authority, the quorum of the authority shall be determined by reference to the number of members of the authority remaining qualified instead of by reference to the whole number of members of the authority,
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 45)

6.1 If, during any Meeting of the Council or a Task Group, the Chair, after causing the Number of Members present to be counted, declares that there is not a quorum present (1/4 of the number of members of the meeting) and/or not less than 3 members in any event, the Meeting shall stand adjourned for fifteen minutes.

6.2 If, after fifteen minutes, the Chair after again causing the Number of Members Present to be counted, declares that there is still no quorum and/or not less than 3 members present, the Meeting shall end.

[Draft amendment:

6.1 Any Meeting shall be quorate providing that:

6.1.1 at least one quarter of the total number of Members of the Council Body that is meeting are present; and

6.1.2 in any event, at least three Members of the Council Body that is meeting are present

6.2 If, during any Meeting ~~of the Council or a Task Group~~, the Chair, after causing the number of Members present to be counted, declares that there is not a quorum present (as defined in Standing Order 6.1 above) ~~1/4 of the number of members of the meeting~~ and/or ~~not less than 3 members in any event~~, the Meeting shall stand adjourned for up to fifteen minutes.

6.3 If, after the adjournment of a Meeting for fifteen minutes under Standing Order 6.2 above, the Chair after again causing the number of Members Present to be counted, declares that there is still no quorum ~~and/or not less than 3 members present~~, the Meeting shall end for the reason of being non-quorate.

[Clean version:

6.1 Any Meeting shall be quorate providing that:

6.1.1 at least one quarter of the total number of Members of the Council Body that is meeting are present; and

6.1.2 in any event, at least three Members of the Council Body that is meeting are present

6.2 If, during any Meeting, the Chair, after causing the number of Members present to be counted, declares that there is not a quorum present (as defined in Standing Order 6.1 above), the Meeting shall stand adjourned for fifteen minutes.

6.3 If, after the adjournment of a Meeting for fifteen minutes under Standing Order 6.2 above, the Chair after again causing the number of Members Present to be counted, declares that there is still no quorum, the Meeting shall end for the reason of being non-quorate.]

...]

6.3 Notwithstanding any provision in these standing orders that notices of questions or motions shall lapse, the consideration of all business which is on the agenda of a Meeting brought to an end under the previous paragraph, and which has not been completed before the Meeting is brought to

an end, shall be postponed to the next meeting of the Council, whether ordinary or extraordinary, insofar as allowed by law.

6.4 A Member in remote attendance is present and attends a Meeting, including for the purposes of the Meeting's quorum, if at any time all three of the following conditions are satisfied, those conditions being that the Member in remote attendance is able at that time:

6.4.1 to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the other Members in attendance;

6.4.2 to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the Meeting; and

6.4.3 to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the Meeting.

6.5 A Member in remote attendance will be deemed to have left the Meeting where, at any point in time during the Meeting, any of the conditions for remote attendance contained in 6.4.1 – 6.4.3 above are not met, in which case:

6.5.1 If the Chair declares there is no longer quorum present the Meeting shall be adjourned for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance of a Member contained in 6.4 above to be re-established; or

6.5.2 If quorum is not affected, the remaining business of the Meeting shall continue to be transacted unless the Chair determines that the Meeting shall be adjourned for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance of a Member contained in 6.4.1 - 6.4.3 above to be re-established.

7 Business which may be transacted at any meeting

7.1 Except as provided by paragraph 7.2 of this Standing Order, notice of the business to be transacted at a meeting shall be given to all Members of the Council at least five days before the date of the meeting (not including the day on which the notice is sent to each Member and the day of the meeting).

7.2 Items of business may be considered at a meeting notwithstanding that five clear days' notice of that business has not been given if, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, special circumstances exist which require that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency and the meeting, without debate, consents.

7.3 Whenever business is transacted in accordance with Standing Order 7.2, the Chair of the Meeting shall be required to specify the special circumstances that require the item to be considered as a matter of urgency, and those matters shall be recorded in full in the minutes of the meeting.

8 Order of Council business

Extract from the Statutes

Five clear days at least before a meeting of a principal council.

(a) notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published at the Council's offices, and where the meeting is called by Members of the Council the notice shall be signed by those members and shall specify the business to be transacted thereat.

(b) a summons to attend the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted thereat, and signed by the proper officer of the council, shall.....be left at or sent by post to the usual place of resident of every member of the council.

(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 4(2))

An item of business may not be considered at a meeting of a principal council unless either

(a) a copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is open to inspection by members of the public....for at least five clear days before the meeting or, where the meeting is convened at shorter notice, from the time the meeting is convened; or

(b) by the reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

(Local Government Act 1972, s 100B(4))

Want of service of a summons on any member of the Council shall not affect the validity of the Meeting.

(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 4(4)).

Except in the case of business required by statute to be transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Council and other business brought before that meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Standing Order 6, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Council other than that specified in the summons.

(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12 para 4(5)).

8.1 The first item of business shall be to consider whether to approve as a correct record, and sign, the minutes of the preceding meeting(s) of the Council.

8.2 Unless any resolution is passed to vary it, the remaining business shall be dealt with in the following order:-

(a) Declarations of interest

(b) Any formal communications written or received by the Mayor.

(c) Any business expressly required by statute to be done.

(d) Urgent matters as defined by Standing Order 7.

(e) Any business that remains from the previous meeting.

(f) Questions and petitions submitted by members of the public under Standing Order 9.

(g) Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 11.

(h) Business referred to the Council under the "call-in" procedures of Standing Order 12.

(i) Reports and recommendations from Council Bodies.

(j) Any other matters considered by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor needing immediate consideration.

(k) Notices of motion made in accordance with Standing Order 14.

[Draft amendment:

8.2 Unless any resolution is passed to vary it, the remaining business shall be dealt with in the following order:-

(a) Declarations of interest

(b) Any formal communications written or received by the Mayor.

(c) Any business expressly required by statute to be done.

(d) Urgent matters as defined by Standing Order 7.

(e) Any business that remains from the previous meeting.

(f) Questions and petitions submitted by members of the public under Standing Order 9.

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Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 11.

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Business referred to the Council under the “call-in” procedures of Standing Order 12.

(i) Reports and recommendations from Council Bodies.
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(j) Any other matters considered by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor needing immediate consideration.

Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 11.

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[Clean version:

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(h) Any other matters considered by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor needing immediate consideration.

(i) Notices of motion made in accordance with Standing Order 14.

(j) Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 11.]

...]

~~9 Please see Petition Scheme (agreed at full Council June 2010) which supersedes this Standing Order.~~ Public question time and petitions at meetings of the Council

9.1 Remote Attendance by Members of the Public

9.1.1 A member of the public entitled to attend a Meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting is in remote attendance at any time if all three of the following conditions are satisfied, those conditions being that the member of the public in remote attendance is able at that time:

9.1.1.1 to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, Members in attendance;

9.1.1.2 to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any other members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and

9.1.1.3 to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.

9.1.2 A member of the public in remote attendance will be deemed to have left a Meeting where, at any point in time during the meeting, any of the conditions for remote attendance contained in 9.1.1 above are not met. In such circumstance the Chair may, as they deem appropriate:

9.1.2.1 adjourn the meeting for a short period to permit the conditions for remote attendance contained in 9.1.1 above to be re-established;

9.1.2.2 suspend consideration of the item of business in relation to the member of public's attendance until such time as a following item(s) of business on the agenda have been transacted and the conditions for the member of the public's remote attendance have been re-established or, on confirmation that this cannot be done, before the end of the meeting, whichever is the earliest; or

9.1.2.3 continue to transact the remaining business of the meeting in the absence of the member of the public in remote attendance.

9.2 Public question time

9.1.1 At each meeting of the Council, a period not exceeding thirty minutes shall be allowed for persons not being members of the council having an interest in the Borough to ask questions about:-

(a) the Council's policies; or

(b) the work of the Council in respect of any matter or issue affecting the Borough.

9.1.2 The Chief Executive shall not allow any questions that, in his opinion:-

(a) relate solely to the questioner or their family;

(b) contain any defamatory, confidential or exempt material or would require a response that might be defamatory or require the disclosure of confidential or exempt material;

(c) relate to specific applications for planning permission or for licences; or

(d) relate to individual Members or Officers of the Council or an individual member of the public.

9.1.3 Electors who wish to ask questions under this standing order must submit them in writing to the Chief Executive before 5pm of the third day before the day of the meeting at which they are to be put or presented.

9.1.4 The receipt of questions under this Standing Order shall be recorded in a register in the order in which they are received and they will be presented to the Council in that order. The register shall be open to inspection by members of the public.

9.1.5 The Chief Executive shall write to each person whose question is entered into the register kept in accordance with paragraph 9.1.4 and confirm:-

(a) whether their question may be asked;

(b) the date, time and place of the meeting at which the question may be asked;

(c) the procedure for asking their question and receiving an answer; and

(d) their position in a list of the persons whose questions have been accepted.

9.1.6 The questions that may be asked under this Standing Order shall not appear on the agenda of the meeting at which they are to be asked, but will be notified separately to each Member of the Council, the press and members of the public who attend that meeting.

9.1.7 The person who submits a question under this Standing Order shall normally ask it. However, the Mayor may allow that person to be accompanied by a friend and allow the friend to ask the question.

9.1.8 A question that is asked under this Standing Order shall be addressed to the Mayor and shall be answered by any Member or Officer of the Council nominated by them. An answer may take the form of:-

(a) a direct oral response; or,

(b) in exceptional cases, where an oral reply cannot be given conveniently, by a written answer, which shall be given to the questioner within 7 days of the date of the meeting or such longer period as the Mayor may allow. In every case where an oral response is not given, the Mayor will state that an oral response would be inconvenient and the reasons for this, which will be minuted.

9.1.9 Every questioner may ask a supplementary question once their first question has been answered but no exchange (including the time taken to ask and answer a supplementary question) shall be permitted to exceed a total of 5 minutes.

9.1.10 Any question that is accepted under paragraph 9.1.5 of this Standing Order, but cannot be asked at the meeting because of lack of time, shall be answered in writing by a Member or Officer of the Council within 7 days of the meeting. The person responsible for answering the question shall be announced by the Mayor at the end of each Public Question Time.

9.1.11 Every question shall be asked and answered without there being any debate of that matter by the Council.

9.3 Petitions

9.3.1 The Council will accept paper petitions either sent or presented to us. The Council will also accept online petitions, using our petition tool on our website. The Council can accept petitions which are emailed to us, or created using other petition software, but only if the names, addresses and the email addresses of the people who have signed the petition are attached.

[Draft amendment:

9.3.1 The Council will accept

~~9.3.1.1 paper petitions either sent or presented to us;~~ ~~The Council will also accept~~
~~9.3.1.2 online petitions, using our petition tool on our website;~~ ~~The Council can~~
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[Clean version:

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9.3.1.1 paper Petitions either sent or presented to it;

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9.3.1.3 Petitions which are emailed to us, or created using other petition software, but only if the names, addresses and the email addresses of the people who have signed the Petition are attached.]

...]

9.3.2 In order to meet the requirements of the Council's Petition Scheme, a petition must contain a minimum of 250 signatures.

9.3.3 The Council will not deal with petitions that:

(a) Include a matter which in our opinion is vexatious, abusive or contains otherwise inappropriate comments eg containing swearing or other insults or anything that is false or potentially defamatory.

(b) Do not comply with data protection, libel, equalities and anti-discrimination legislation.

(c) Concern employment matters for Borough Council staff.

(d) For issues, such as planning and licensing decisions or council tax banding and nondomestic rates, there is already an established way for communities to have their say, so these are not included in our petition scheme.

(e) Are substantially the same as a similar petition considered by the Council in the preceding 12 months.

9.3.4 The Council reserves the right not to take action on:

(a) Party political material.

(b) Information which may be protected by an injunction or court order.

(c) Material which is potentially confidential, commercially sensitive, or which may cause personal distress or loss.

(d) Any commercial endorsement, promotion of any product, service or publication.

(e) The names of individual officials of public bodies, unless they are part of the senior management of those organisations.

(f) The names of family members of elected representatives.

(g) The names of individuals, or information where they may be identified, in relation to criminal accusations.

(h) Language which is intemperate, provocative, racist, sexist, homophobic etc.

(i) Petitions that are similar to and/or overlap with an existing petition or petitions.

(j) Has previously been dealt with as a petition within the last 12 months.

(k) Statements that don't actually request any action.

(l) Working that is impossible to understand.

(m) Statements that amount to advertisements.

(n) Petitions which are solely intended to be humorous.

(o) Issues for which a petition is not the appropriate channel (eg correspondence about a personal issue).

(p) Freedom of Information or Environment Information requests or requests that may result in a breach of the General Data Protection Regulation or the Data Protection Act 2018.

(q) During politically sensitive periods, such as just before an election, if it is considered that a

petition contains politically controversial material, the Council may decide not to accept a petition, or defer its consideration until after the election. If this is the case, the Council will explain the reasons and the revised timescale which will apply.

9.3.5 Where the number of signatures exceeds 2,500, a petitioner may request that a relevant Executive Director attends a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel to give evidence and answer questions. Panel members will ask the questions at the meeting, but the petitioner will be able to suggest questions to the Chair of the Panel by contacting the relevant Democratic Services Officer at least 2 working days before the meeting.

9.3.6 If a petition is presented to the Council containing the signatures of 5,000 or more persons, it will trigger a debate by full Council. This will usually take place at the next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting.

9.3.7 If the petition organiser at 9.2.6 above wants to present their petition to a meeting of the Council, or would like their Councillor or someone else to present it on their behalf, they should contact the Democratic Services Office at least 10 working days before the meeting to arrange this.

9.3.8 When the petition is presented to the Council, the elector who submitted it (or their nominee) shall be entitled to speak in support of the petition, for up to 5 minutes. The petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. A decision will be made on how to respond to the petition at this meeting. This could be:

- (a) To take the action the petition requests.
- (b) Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate.
- (c) To commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant panel or committee.
- (d) Where the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

[Draft amendment:

9.3.5 Where the number of a Petition presented to the Council contains more than 2,500 signatures exceeds 2,500, the person who presented the a pPetitioner to the Council or such other person as signatories to the Petition may nominate by agreement ('the Petition Organiser') may request that a relevant Executive DirectorSenior Officer attends a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel relevant to the subject matter of the Petition to give evidence and answer questions. Panel members will ask the questions at the meeting, but the pPetitioner Organiser will be able to suggest questions to the Chairman of the Panel by contacting the relevant Democratic Services Officer at least 2 working days before the meeting.

9.3.6 If Where a pPetition is presented to the Council containing the more than 5,000 signatures of 5,000 or more persons, it will trigger a debated by full Council ('the Petition Debate'). Theis Petition Debate, which will last for a maximum of 30 minutes, will usually take place at the next meeting when the Petition is first presented to full Council, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration the Petition Debate will then take place at the following meeting.

9.3.7 If a Petition is required to be debated by full Council under Standing Order 9.3.6 and the pPetition eOrganiser at 9.2.6 above wants to present their pPetition to athe meeting at which the Petition Debate will take placeof the Council, or would like to nominate their Councillor or

someone else to present it on their behalf, they should contact the Democratic Services Office at least 10 working days before the meeting to arrange this.

9.3.8 ~~When~~ **If the Petition Organiser wishes their Petition to be presented to the Petition Debate under Standing Order 9.3.7 then, immediately before the pPetition Debate, is presented to the Council, the elector who submitted it the Petition Organiser** (or their nominee) shall be entitled to speak in support of the pPetition, for up to 35 minutes. ~~The petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. A~~ **At the conclusion of the Petition Debate a decision will be made on how to respond to the pPetition at this meeting.** This could be:

- (a) To take the action the pPetition requests.
- (b) Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the Petition dDebate.
- (c) To commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant panel or committee.
- (d) Where the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

[Clean version:

9.3.5 *Where a Petition presented to the Council contains more than 2,500 signatures, the person who presented the Petition to the Council or such other person as signatories to the Petition may nominate by agreement ('the Petition Organiser') may request that a relevant Senior Officer attends a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel relevant to the subject matter of the Petition to give evidence and answer questions. Panel members will ask the questions at the meeting, but the Petition Organiser will be able to suggest questions to the Chair of the Panel by contacting the relevant Democratic Services Officer at least 2 working days before the meeting.*

9.3.6 *Where a Petition presented to the Council contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated by full Council ('the Petition Debate'). The Petition Debate, which will last for a maximum of 30 minutes, will usually take place at the meeting when the Petition is first presented to full Council, although on some occasions this may not be possible and the Petition Debate will then take place at the following meeting.*

9.3.7 *If a Petition is required to be debated by full Council under Standing Order 9.3.6 and the Petition Organiser wants to present their Petition to the meeting at which the Petition Debate will take place, or would like to nominate their Councillor or someone else to present it on their behalf, they should contact the Democratic Services Office at least 10 working days before the meeting to arrange this.*

9.3.8 *If the Petition Organiser wishes their Petition to be presented to the Petition Debate under Standing Order 9.3.7 then, immediately before the Petition Debate, the Petition Organiser (or their nominee) shall be entitled to speak in support of the Petition, for up to 5 minutes.. At the conclusion of the Petition Debate a decision will be made on how to respond to the Petition. This could be:*

- (a) *To take the action the Petition requests.*
- (b) *Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the Petition Debate.*
- (c) *To commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant panel or committee.*
- (d) *Where the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.]*

...]

9.3.9 The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the Council's website.

(Local Government, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Scheme approved by Council 24 June 2010)

10 Debates involving interested organisations on matters of interest to the wider community of the Borough

10.1 The Council may promote a debate on a matter of interest to the wider community of the Borough involving the participation of representatives of other organisations under a procedure that will be determined by the Council from time to time.

11 Questioning of the Chairs of Council bodies and members of the Cabinet

11.1 Every Member of the Cabinet shall present a report to each Ordinary Meeting of the Council on matters of interest for which they have responsibility that have arisen since the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

11.2 A Member of the Council may then, without first giving notice, ask:-

(a) any Member of the Cabinet questions about:

i) each separate item in the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet being presented to the meeting in question; and

ii) any other matter within their remit.

(b) and thereafter the Chair of any Committee, Sub-Committee, Board, Panel but not Task Group (other than the Cabinet) questions about work of their Committee/Panel.

[Draft amendment:

11.2 Subject to Standing Order 11.2A below, Aa Member of the Council may then, without first giving notice, ask:-

(a) any Member of the Cabinet two questions about:

i) each separate item in the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet being presented to the meeting in question; and the report presented to the Council by that Member of the Cabinet under Standing Order 11.1;

ii) any other matter within their remit.

(b) and thereafter the Chair of any Committee, Sub-Committee, Board, Panel but not Task Group (other than the Cabinet) one questions about the work of their Committee/Panel.

[Clean version:

11.2 Subject to Standing Order 11.2A below, a Member of the Council may then, without first giving notice, ask:

11.2.1 any Member of the Cabinet two questions about:

i) the report presented to the Council by that Member of the Cabinet under Standing Order 11.1;

ii) any other matter within their remit.

11.2.2 and thereafter the Chair of any Committee, Sub-Committee, Board, Panel but not Task Group (other than the Cabinet) one question about the work of their Committee/Panel.]

...]

11.2A The procedure for putting questions under Standing Order 11.2.1 shall be as follows:

11.2A.1 The period of time for putting questions and receiving responses shall not exceed 30 minutes for all Cabinet Members, excluding the Leader.

11.2A.2 The period of time for putting questions and receiving responses to the Leader shall not exceed 15 minutes.

11.2A.3 The order of putting questions shall commence with one Member from the largest opposition group, proceeding in descending order to the smallest opposition group, followed by a Member from the ruling group. This order shall repeat until the time for questions has elapsed or there are no more questions to be put.

11.3 The Mayor may disallow, re-direct or postpone any question asked under this Standing Order.

11.4 A Member who is asked a question under this Standing Order may decline to answer it, make a written answer (which shall be provided to every Member within 7 days of the meeting) or may refer the question to another appropriate Member.

11.5 Every question arising under Standing Order 11 shall be asked and answered without debate but any Member who receives an oral answer may ask one supplementary question of the Member who answered provided, in the opinion of the Mayor, it does not introduce a new matter.

12 The calling-in of Cabinet recommendations and executive decisions

12.1 Any Cabinet decision, delegated Cabinet Member's decision or Cabinet recommendation to the Council, may be presented for call-in to the Corporate Performance Panel.

12.2 In this Standing Order, what applies to a recommendation or decision applies to a part of one.

12.3 No recommendation or decision shall be called-in unless: (i) at least four members of the Council give notice in writing to the Chief Executive of their desire to effect a call-in; and (ii) such notice:

(a) is supported by each Member who desires to call-in a recommendation or decision; and

(b) is delivered to the Chief Executive before twelve noon of the fifth working day after the one on which the recommendation or decision was published; and

(c) specifies the recommendation or decision, or part thereof, which it is intended should be the matter of a call-in; and

(d) specifies the ground(s) upon which it is desired to call-in any matter under this Standing Order.

12.4 Provided the Chief Executive is satisfied that a notice of call-in complies with paragraph 12.3, he/she/they will then determine whether or not the call-in is sufficiently valid to pass to the Corporate Performance Panel for consideration (in the absence of the Chief Executive this responsibility will fall to the Council's Monitoring Officer). In assessing the validity of the call-in, regard shall be had to the following:

- (a) Is the decision against a declared policy or budget provision of the Council?
- (b) Is the decision contrary to the views of a key partner authority to the Borough?
- (c) Has a relevant, material matter been overlooked or not been considered in reaching the decision ~~or has a relevant, material matter been overlooked in reaching the decision?~~
- (d) Have the views of Members requesting the call-in been fairly taken into account in arriving at the decision, so making a call-in unnecessary?
- (e) Is the decision likely to cause distress, harm or significant concern to a local community or to prejudice individuals within it?
- (f) Is the matter one which has already been subject to consultation or debate with relevant interested parties so making further debate through Scrutiny unnecessary?
- (g) Is the advice contrary to the advice of the relevant professional institution?
- (h) Is there clear evidence of a breach of procedure?

12.5 If the Chief Executive (or Monitoring Officer) subsequently determines not to advance the call-in, he/she/they will promptly inform the proposer and supporters of the call-in of his/her/their decision and the reasons for it.

12.6 If it is determined that the call-in is sufficiently valid (in accordance with paragraph 12.4 above) then the Chief Executive (or Monitoring Officer) will direct the Scrutiny Officer to promptly e-mail a summary of the call-in to the Chair of the Corporate Performance Panel.

12.7 Once formal notification of a valid call-in has been received, the Chair of the Corporate Performance Panel shall request that any additional information, if required beyond that contained within the report supporting the recommendation(s) / decision(s), be suitably collated to facilitate meaningful consideration of the matter by the Corporate Performance Panel. This information should be appropriately distributed in advance of the Committee meeting at which the call-in is to be considered and debated in accordance with Standing Order 15.

12.8 Upon conclusion of the debate the Corporate Performance Panel will decide upon one of the following two courses of action:

- (a) support the Cabinet/ Cabinet Member's recommendation(s) or decision(s). In this case the recommendation(s) or decision(s) will, respectively, be free to pass to Council as they originally stood, or, be available for immediate implementation; or,
- (b) uphold the call-in.

12.9 If the Panel upholds the call-in it may then take one of three courses of action:

(a) report to Council, Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet Member requesting that the Cabinet/Cabinet Member's/officer amend or substitute the recommendation(s) or decision(s); or,

(b) if the issue is considered urgent or straightforward, formulate a counter-recommendation or amendment; or,

(c) investigate the matter further at another meeting within thirty working days (beginning with the day after the issue of the notification of the call-in) and then follow the same process as set out above (12.8-12.10)

12.10 The Cabinet/Cabinet Member may amend, substitute or withdraw any recommendation or decision in respect of any matter that has been called-in under paragraph 12.3 of this Standing Order.

12.11 Decisions or recommendations that are amended or substituted in advance of the call-in being considered will then be subject to a renewed call-in period as if the decision/recommendation had been made for the first time. However, if the original proposers of the call-in still wish to call-in the recommendation or decision, after amendment or substitution by the Cabinet/Cabinet Member/officer, the Chief Executive will make a decision as to whether the matter may be considered/debated at the originally scheduled meeting or whether a new call-in process/schedule will need to be instigated.

12.12 No decision of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member that is called in under paragraph 12.3 of this Standing Order shall be acted upon (even if it is amended, substituted or withdrawn) until the call-in is either ended by the Corporate Performance Panel or approved by the Council.

12.13 When the Corporate Performance Panel resolves that a call-in shall be ended, the recommendation or decision (as amended or substituted) shall proceed as if no call-in had been made.

12.14 If the Corporate Performance Panel:-

(a) does not end a call-in within 30 days from the date of the decision which has been called in (and the recommendation or decision remains in dispute); or

(b) refers a call-in directly to Council under paragraph 12, the Council shall determine whether to approve the recommendation or decision that has been called-in or to revoke, vary, amend and/or remit it back to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for further consideration.

12.15 Urgent Decisions

If the Cabinet is proposing to take a Key Decision as an Urgent Decision – and therefore not subject to call in – No such recommendation or decision shall be called-in if the Leader of the Council, after first obtaining notice in writing that the recommendation or decision proposed must be acted on urgently; and that failure to do so would substantially prejudice the interests of the residents of the Borough or the Borough itself; obtains agreement from the Chair of the Corporate Performance Panel, or in his absence the Vice Chair of Corporate Performance Panel, or in their absence the Mayor and in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, that the matter must be acted on urgently without the availability of call in. The Leader of the Council shall report quarterly to Council details of any decisions acted on urgently in the preceding quarter. NB: Non Key Decision Urgent Decisions may be taken without this process providing the reasons for it are given by the Chair or decision maker.

(S 15 & 16(Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

12.16 Any matter which is a function of the Cabinet and has been exercised by one or more Cabinet Members, may, subject to clause 12.3, be called in provided that the matter, once determined, may not subsequently be called in once the initial decision has been made and the call-in process has expired (regardless of whether or not the matter was called-in) unless in the opinion of the Chief Executive on the advice of the Monitoring Officer, the matter has substantially changed since it was first decided.

Orders on Key Exceptions moved here from SO30.5 et seq for ease of reference:

For Exceptions see Standing Order 30.5.

12.17 Key Decisions

Subject to Standing Order 12.16 no key decision may be taken unless:-

(a) notice of the proposed key decision has been published in the Forward Decision List

(b) At least 28 clear days have elapsed since the publication of the notice of key decisions

(c) Notice of the meeting or intended decision making has been given

(d) Five working days following the making of the decision have elapsed and no call-in has been received in accordance with standing order 12.3 above

(Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information) England Regs 2012)

12.18 General Exception for the Key Decision Requirements

If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the Forward Plan, the decision may still be taken if:

(a) the Chief Executive has informed the Chair of The Corporate Performance Panel, in writing, by notice, of the matter upon which the decision is to be made;

(b) Notice is given of the details of the decision to be made and the reasons why it is impracticable to give 28 days notice.

(c) at least five clear days have elapsed between notice being given and the decision being taken.

...]

13 Motions and amendments that may be moved without notice

13.1 Motions and amendments may be moved and applications made without notice provided that they relate to:-

(a) the appointment of a temporary Chair of a meeting which has none present.

(b) the accuracy of a minute.

(c) the order of item(s) of business.

(d) the referral of any matter to another meeting for consideration and/or determination..

- (e) the appointment of members that arises from any item of business at a meeting.
- (f) a recommendation to Council.
- (g) permission to withdraw a motion or amendment.
- (h) permission to extend the length of a speech.
- (i) the amendment of a motion.
- (j) any procedural motion under Standing Order 15.
- (k) a motion to suspend any Standing Orders under Standing Order 2.
- (l) a motion to exclude the press and public under section 100A and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (m) a motion proposing that a Member, whom it names for disorderly conduct under Standing Order 25, be not further heard or do leave the meeting.
- (n) a motion that authorises the exercise of any statutory duty or power which in the opinion of the Council ought to be exercised as a matter of urgency.
- (o) a motion to obtain any consent of the Council that may be required under these Standing Orders.

[\(p\) the referral of any matter to a specified Council Body for consideration and/or determination under Standing Order 14.6 \(b\)](#)

14 Notices of motions which ~~may not~~can only be moved without notice

14.1 A Member may propose a motion for debate by Council provided it is relevant to some matter in relation to which this Council has powers or duties or which affects the Borough.

14.2 A Member who wishes to move a motion which may only be moved with notice shall give notice in writing to the Chief Executive. The notice shall:-

- (a) state the motion that the Member desires to move in such a way that it is clear what the member is proposing.
- (b) be delivered to the Chief Executive at least seven clear days before the date of the meeting of the Council at which it is proposed to debate the motion.
- (c) state the date of the meeting at which Council is to be invited to debate the motion if it is not the next ordinary meeting for which it is eligible.

14.3 Upon the receipt of such a notice, it shall be stamped with the date and time of its receipt and, provided the Chief Executive is satisfied that it complies with paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2, the full text of the motion shall be entered in a register of motions, which shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Council.

14.4 Motions shall be entered in the register specified in paragraph 14.3 in the order in which they are received by the Chief Executive.

14.5 The Chief Executive shall advise a Member, who sent in a notice that does not comply with this Standing Order, in what way it fails to do so.

14.6 After a formal seconding, and before the debate of any motion notified under this Standing Order, the Council shall decide whether it will be debated immediately or by Council at a later date and, if the meeting decides the motion will not be debated then, which Council Body it shall be referred to for consideration and/or determination.

[Draft amendment:

14.6 After a formal seconding, and before the debate of any motion notified under this Standing Order, the Leader may propose and the Council shall debate and decide whether the motion notified under this Standing Order will be :

(a) whether it will be debated immediately or by Council at a later date; and, if the meeting decides the motion will not be debated then, which

(b) referred to a specified Council Body it shall be referred to for consideration and report back to Council;/_or

(c) referred to a specified Council Body determination.

[Clean version:

14.6 After a formal seconding, and before the debate of any motion notified under this Standing Order, the Leader may propose and the Council shall, following debate, decide whether the motion notified under this Standing Order will be:

(a) debated by Council at a later date; or

(b) referred to a specified Council Body for consideration and report back to Council;/_or

(c) referred to a specified Council Body for determination.]

14.7 A Member, shall be permitted to speak in support of the motion at the meeting of the Council Body at which it is debated, but shall not vote on the matter unless they are a member of that Meeting.

14.8 If a Motion is referred, under Standing Order 14.6 to a Council body, and if that body is empowered by the constitution to make a decision, it will in any event return the motion to Council for further consideration, should Council so decide at the time of referral

SEE APPENDIX 1

15 Rules of debate

A - Moving and disposing of motions and amendments

15.1 In these Standing Orders “the substantive motion” means any motion under debate that appears on the agenda or arises from it.

15.2 The debate of a motion shall begin by the substantive motion being proposed and seconded and no motion shall be debated unless and until it has been proposed and seconded.

15.3 However, when a report contains more than one recommendation, members of the reporting body shall move and second the adoption of all of them. The Member proposing the adoption of the report may assign any of their rights of reply to other members of that Body nominated by them. Otherwise it will be debated normally.

15.4 Any Member who desires to propose an amendment to a substantive motion which has been seconded shall then propose their amendment, but no amendment to a motion shall be debated further until it has been proposed and seconded.

15.5 An amendment to a substantive motion, including one that has been amended, shall not introduce a new issue and shall be limited to omitting words from, adding words to, or substituting words in the substantive motion; and it shall not have the effect of negating the substantive motion.

15.6 If an amendment under paragraph 15.5 of this Standing Order is seconded, the amendment shall be debated until no other Member wishes to speak or a procedural motion curtailing debate is passed. No amendment shall be moved to an amendment.

15.7 If an amendment is passed the motion (as amended) shall become the substantive motion.

15.8 The Person Presiding shall not permit a further amendment to be moved or debated until a preceding amendment has been dealt with.

15.9 After all amendments have been dealt with, the substantive motion (incorporating any amendments which have been passed) shall be debated until no other Member wishes to speak or a procedural motion curtailing debate is passed.

15.10 A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of their seconder and of the Council (which shall be given without debate) and no member may speak upon it after the mover has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission has been refused.

B-The conduct of Members during debate

15.11 If two or more members wish to speak at once, the Mayor/[Chair](#) shall call on one to speak.

15.12 Members shall speak only once about the motion or the amendment which is then under debate with the exception of the Planning Committee where a Member seeks to raise a new point

15.13 No speech shall exceed five minutes except with the consent of the Council.

15.14 A Member who moves a motion may make the following speeches:-

(a) to open the debate on the substantive motion; and,

(b) to exercise a right of reply at the close of the debate on the substantive motion; and,

(c) to exercise a right of reply at the close of any debate on any amendment to the substantive motion.

15.15 A person other than the mover of a motion may make the following speeches:-

(a) to second, or speak on, the substantive motion; and

(b) to speak on any amendment (including proposing or seconding an amendment).

A Member, who seconds a motion or an amendment by stating that they are doing so formally, remains eligible to speak later in the debate.

15.16 A Member who moves an amendment (including any amendment which becomes part of a substantive motion) has no right of reply at the end of the debate on that amendment (or at the end of the debate on the substantive motion).

15.17 The Mayor/Chair shall call the attention of the Council to continued irrelevance, tedious repetition, or where a question is being asked, failure to put the question expediently and may disallow, re-direct or postpone consideration of any matter raised under these Standing Orders.~~rule such matters to be disorderly conduct.~~

C- Special procedural motions for ending a debate or meeting

15.18 While a motion is being debated, no other motion (other than an amendment) shall be proposed except for any of the following motions which vary normal procedure:-

(a) a motion “that the question now be put”, which, if passed, will curtail the debate and cause a vote to be held on the motion or amendment under consideration;

(b) a motion “that the Council proceed to next business”, which, if passed, will cause the meeting to proceed to the next item of business without completing the item under debate;

(c) a motion to “adjourn the debate”, which, if passed, postpones further debate on the motion under consideration to a later date as the Mayor or Chair shall direct.

(d) a motion “that the meeting be adjourned”, which, if passed, will result in the meeting being adjourned and any matter that is being debated, but has not been voted on when this motion is passed, being considered at a later date as the Mayor or Chair shall direct.

15.19 Any of the procedural motions listed in paragraph 15.18 of these Standing Orders:-

(a) shall be voted on without debate.

(b) may be disallowed by the Chair if they consider the motion to have been moved prematurely so that, if passed, it would operate to curtail proper debate.

15.20 A motion “that the question now be put” may only be moved by a Member who has not spoken previously on the item of business that would be affected. If such a motion is passed, before any “question” is put to the vote as a consequence, the Chair shall invite the member whose

substantive motion would be affected to reply to the debate before their motion is put to the vote.

15.21 A motion “that the Council proceeds to next business” may only be moved by a Member who has not spoken previously on the item of business that would be affected. Before that procedural motion is put to the vote, the Chair shall invite only the Member whose motion or amendment would be left undecided to speak on the procedural motion.

15.22 A Member may raise a point of order if they become aware of any breach of these Standing Orders, the Council’s Constitution or the law. This must specify which Standing Order, or provision in the Council’s Constitution has been breached or the point of law that has arisen. The ruling of the Chair of a meeting on a point of order, or as to the conduct of the meeting of the Council or a Council Body or subsidiary body, shall not be challenged during that meeting.

15.23 A Member may raise and pursue a point of personal explanation if, and only so far as, it is necessary to remedy any manifest misunderstanding by a speaker of any part of a statement they have made on the matter under debate.

D- Disorderly conduct by Members of the Council

15.24 A Member who persistently disregards the ruling of the Chair of any Meeting, or who behaves irregularly, improperly, or offensively, or who willfully obstructs the business of any such Meeting, shall be guilty of disorderly conduct.

15.25 If a motion under paragraph 13.1(m) of these Standing Orders is put and passed in a meeting, any Member who is so named shall not be heard further in any debate during the remainder of that meeting.

15.26 If a Member does not comply with a motion that is passed under paragraph 15.25 of this Standing Order, the Chair of the meeting shall:-

(a) if the motion was for the Member not to be further heard, move “that the Member do leave the meeting” and that motion shall be put and determined without being seconded and without debate; or,

(b) ask the member to leave the meeting room for the remainder of the meeting, or

(c) adjourn the meeting for such period as they think fit.

15.27 If a Member does not comply with any motion that is passed under paragraph 15.26(a) or (b) of this Standing Order, or continues to disrupt a meeting that reconvenes after a motion under paragraph 15.26(c) has been passed, the Chair may order such action as is necessary to be taken to secure the removal of that Member from the meeting and prevent their re-entry.

15.28 The Chair of the meeting shall report to the Standards Committee any motion that is passed under paragraphs 13.1(m) or 15.26 and any action occurring under paragraph 15.27 of these Standing Orders.

E- Disorderly conduct in meetings by members of the public

15.29 No Member of the public shall interrupt proceedings, behave in a disorderly manner or breach the Protocol relating to the Openness Regulations during a meeting.

15.30 Any member of the public who interrupts a meeting behaves in a disorderly manner or breaches the Protocol relating to the Openness Regulations shall be warned by the Chair of the meeting to stop that behaviour and, if they do not, the Chair may, without any motion being put or seconded or debated:-

- (a) Adjourn the meeting for as long as they consider necessary; and/or,
- (b) Order such action as is necessary to be taken to remove the offending person from the meeting and prevent their re-entry.

F - General disturbance of any meeting

15.31 The Chair of any meeting may adjourn that meeting, for as long as they consider necessary, without any motion being put or seconded and without debate if, in their opinion, the behaviour of persons who are present (whether Members of the Council or not) makes it impossible to carry on business in an orderly manner.

15.32 Where the Chair of any meeting invokes this Standing Order because of the conduct of any Member of the Council, they shall may report the matter to the Standards Committee.

G - Call-in debating procedure

15.33 On receiving valid notice of a call-in under Standing Order 12, the Corporate Performance Panel should follow the steps outlined below (a-f) in debating the subject matter:

- (a) The Proposer of the call-in and his/her/their supporters address the Corporate Performance Panel about the call-in and why it should be upheld;
- (b) The Panel Members receive a submission from the relevant Portfolio Holder;
- (c) The Panel Members receive submissions from Officers;
- (d) The Panel Members receive submissions from members and, at the discretion of the Chair, other interested parties.
- (e) The Panel debates the call-in (in accordance with this Standing Order) during which they may question or seek further information from any of the four parties referred to in (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.
- (f) The Proposer shall exercise a right of reply after the debate.

15.34 Following the debate, the Panel will decide (in Accordance with Standing Order 12) either to support the Cabinet/Officer's/Cabinet Member's recommendation(s)/decision(s), or, to uphold the call-in.

H – General applicability of rules of debate

15.35 These rules of debate may be applied to meetings of Council Bodies, including Task Groups but excluding the Licensing Committee, the Licensing and Appeals Board and their sub-committees, to the extent that the Chair of that meeting considers appropriate.

16 The minuting of meetings

Extracts from the Statutes

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of a local authority shall....be drawn up....and signed at the same or next suitable meeting of the authority by the Chair, and any minute purporting to be so signed shall be received in evidence without further proof.

Until the contrary is proved, a meeting of a local authority a minute of whose proceedings has been made and signed in accordance with (these provisions) shall be deemed to have been duly qualified.

For the purposes of (the foregoing provisions) the next suitable meeting of a local authority is their next following meeting or, where standing orders made by the authority in accordance with regulations under Section 29 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provide for another meeting of the authority to be regarded as suitable, either the next following meeting or that other meeting.

(Local Government Act, 1972, sch 12 para 41(1), (3) and (4))

Until the contrary is proved, where a minute of any meeting of [a committee of local authority (including a joint committee) or a sub-committee of any such committee] has been made and signed in accordance with these provisions, the committee or sub-committee shall be deemed to have been duly constituted and to have had power to deal with the matters referred to in the minute, the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held and the members present at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly qualified.

(Local Government Act, 1972 sch 12 para 44(2))

(Note: see also Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000)

16.1 In accordance with paragraph 8.2 of these Standing Orders, the Mayor or the Chair of any meeting shall put the question, "do Members agree that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record"

16.2 There shall be no discussion about the minutes, except on a motion under paragraph 13.1(b) of these Standing Orders, which shall be confined solely to the question of whether the minute has been recorded accurately.

16.3 In the absence of any motion under Standing Order 13.1(b), or as soon as any such motion has been decided, the Mayor or the Chair of any Meeting shall sign the minutes as a true record of the business transacted at the previous meeting.

16.4 The minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council shall be approved and signed at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

16.5 The minutes of all meetings shall be made available to every Member of the Council, and the signed copies of all such minutes shall be bound together in a book and retained by the Chief Executive as a public record.

17 Voting

Extracts from the statutes

Subject to the provisions of any enactmentall questions coming or arising before a local authority shall be decided by a majority of the members of the authority present and voting thereon at a meeting of the authority.

Subject to those provisions, in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12 para 39)

[The foregoing provisions] shall apply in relation to a committee of a local authority (including a joint committee) or a sub committee of such a committee as they apply in relation to a local authority.

(Local Government Act 1972, sch 12, para 44)

17.1 All matters on which a vote is taken shall be decided by the majority of the Members present at a Meeting and voting on them except that, where there is an equality of votes, the Chair may give a casting vote irrespective of whether or not they voted in the first instance,

17.2 Except as provided by paragraph 17.3 and 17.3A of this Standing Order any vote shall be determined by a show of hands.

17.3 With the support of at least 3 other Members, and by indicating to the Chair of a meeting immediately before a vote on any matter is taken, a Member of the Council may require that the vote be recorded to show whether each Member present voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting - provided that when, in the opinion of the Chair of that meeting, a recorded vote under this Standing Order is demanded frivolously or vexatiously, the Chair may put the question of whether the vote should be recorded to the meeting without it being seconded or debated; and this Standing Order may not be invoked on such a vote.

17.3A At a Remote Meeting, and unless a recorded vote is required pursuant to 17.3 above, the Chair will take the vote:

17.3A.1 by use of electronic voting system(s); or

17.3A.2 by the affirmation of the meeting if there is no dissent; or

17.3A.3 by roll-call and the number of votes for or against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be recorded.

17.4 Council Tax and Budget Setting meeting

Immediately after any vote [on the budget](#) is taken at a budget decision meeting of the authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting.

17.5 Immediately after a vote on any matter, a Member may require that the way in which they voted on that matter is recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

17.6 Where a vote is required on a motion to appoint or elect to a position and there are more candidates than positions, then for each position the clerk shall announce the name of the candidates and shall then invite each member present to indicate their chosen candidate. At the end of the process the Clerk shall announce the number of voters for each candidate and the one with the most votes shall be appointed.

18 Signing of the attendance book

Extracts from the statutes

*The names of members present at a meeting of a local authority shall be recorded.
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 40)*

*(The foregoing provision) shall apply in relation to a committee of a local authority (including a joint committee) or a sub-committee of any such committee as [it applies] in relation to a local authority.
(Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 44(1))*

18.1 Every Member of the Council attending any Meeting of the Council or a Council Body of which they are a member shall sign their name in the attendance book or on a sheet provided for that purpose.

19 Rescinding a preceding resolution

19.1 No motion to or which would have the effect to rescind or reverse a resolution of the Council shall be considered by the Council, within a period of six months from the date of that resolution, unless it is moved in accordance with Standing Order 14 and the notice of motion is supported in writing by at least twenty-seventeen Members of the Council or one third of the number of members of the meeting who made the resolution, whichever is the lower number.

19.2 The “resolutions” covered by paragraph 19.1 of this Standing Order include decisions in respect of any notice of motion, or any amendment of a notice of motion (whether or not such motion or amendment was passed), as well as any other decision taken in exercise of the Council’s functions.

19.3 Once a motion has been moved with the support required in 19.1, no further motion shall be introduced by that means, in respect of substantially the same subject matter, for a period of six months from the day when the motion was moved.

19.4 This Standing Order shall not apply to matters that are called in under Standing Order 12 ~~Interest of Members and Officers in contracts and other matters~~.

20 Interests of Members and Officers in contracts and other matters

Extracts from the Statutes

s.117(1) Local Government Act 1972 – Disclosures by Officers of interest in contracts

(1) If it comes to the knowledge of an officer employed, whether under this Act or any other enactment, by a local authority that a contract in which he has any pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect (not being a contract to which he is himself a party), has been , or is proposed to be, entered into by the authority or any committee thereof, he shall as soon as practicable give notice in writing to the authority of the fact that he is interested therein.

For the purposes of this section an officer shall be treated as having indirectly a pecuniary interest in a contract or proposed contract if he would have been so treated by virtue of section 95 above had he been a member of the authority.

20.1 A Member of the Council who is present at a Meeting and has any interest pursuant to the Council’s code of conduct in a matter that is the subject of consideration by the Meeting shall declare the nature of that interest with an explanation at the start of the Meeting or at the earliest available opportunity and if that interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest shall withdraw from the

Meeting including from the public gallery while the matter is under consideration unless a dispensation has been granted to that Member by the Council's Standards Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the responsibility of individual Members to determine whether or not they have an interest. Failure to declare is a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct and may result in a referral to the Council's Standards Committee.

20.1A Where a Member is required to leave a Remote Meeting as a result of 20.1 above, the means of remote attendance is to be severed whilst any discussion or vote takes place in respect of the item or items of business on which the Member may not participate.

20.2 The Monitoring Officer shall maintain a Register of Member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. This shall be open to inspection by any member of the public and published on the Council's website.

20.3 The Monitoring Officer shall record in a book to be kept for the purpose particulars of any notice of interest given by an employee of the Council under section 117 of the 1972 Act or paragraph (1). The book shall, during ordinary office hours of the authority, be open for inspection by any member.

20.4 Where an officer submits a report to a meeting on a matter in which he/shethey haves declared an interest under section 117 of the 1972 Act or Paragraph (1), he/shethey shall state that such declaration has been, made and give brief details of it, in a separate paragraph at the commencement of the report.

20.5 Where any officer advises orally a meeting on a contract, grant, proposed contract or other matter and has declared an interest in the matter, whether under the requirements on section 117 of the 1972 Act, or of paragraph (1), he/shethey shall remind the meeting orally of that interest, and the reminder shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

21 Canvassing of and recommendations by Members

21.1 Canvassing of Members of the Council, directly or indirectly, with regard to any appointment by the Council, shall disqualify the candidate concerned from that appointment; and it shall be the duty of any Member of the Council so canvassed to report that fact to the Chief Executive. The essence of this paragraph of this Standing Order shall be included in every advertisement inviting application for appointments and in every form of application.

21.2 A Member of the Council shall not solicit, for any person, any appointment to the Council's employment, but this shall not preclude a Member from giving a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience, or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.

22 Relatives of Members or Officers

22.1 An applicant for any appointment by the Council, who knows that they are related to any Member or senior Officer of the Council, shall inform the Chief Executive of such a relationship when making their application.

22.2 An applicant who fails to disclose such a relationship shall be disqualified from appointment and, if appointed, shall be liable to dismissal without notice. Every Member and senior Officer of the Council shall disclose any relationship, known to them to exist between them and any person they know is an applicant for an appointment by the Council, to the Chief Executive.

22.3 The essence of this Standing Order shall be included in every form of application.

22.4 For the purposes of this Standing Order, “senior Officer” means an Officer graded on Performance Grades SM1-4 and 5 and 6; and “relationship” means being their partner or their own or their partner’s parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts, nephews or nieces.

23 Staff establishment and the filling of vacancies

23.1 All vacancies, unless they are to be filled by promotion or transfer from within the Council, or unless the Council determines otherwise, shall be publicly advertised and filled by open competition arising from that advertisement.

23.2 No step shall be taken to advertise or fill a vacancy for any post designated as that of a chief officer (as defined in the Local Authority (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993) until such time as the Cabinet has determined whether that post is necessary ~~and the terms and conditions upon which it should be held.~~

23.3 When the Council proposes to appoint such a chief officer, and it is not proposed to appoint that person from a pool limited to officers who are employed by the Council, the Council shall:-

(a) cause to be prepared, for its approval, a statement specifying the duties attaching to that post and any qualification or qualities required of any person who desires to be appointed to it;

(b) cause arrangements to be made for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it; and

(c) cause arrangements to be made for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph 23.3(a) of this Standing Order to be sent to any person who requests a copy of it.

23.4 When a post has been advertised in accordance with this Standing Order, the authority shall invite all qualified applicants for the post to attend for interview, or select a short list of such qualified applicants and invite all those included on the short list to attend for interview.

23.5 When no qualified person has applied to fill a vacancy in the opinion of the Executive Director in which a vacancy has been advertised (or, if a vacancy is for an Executive Director or more senior officer, in the opinion of the Appointments Board), the Council shall make further arrangements for the advertisement of the post in accordance with this Standing Order.

23.6 Every appointment to a second tier officer post or one more shall be made by the Appointments Board or a panel of the Board, except the Head of Paid Service which shall be made by the whole Board and shall then be immediately notified to all Members of the Cabinet, each of whom shall have a time limited opportunity to object which if exercised shall halt the appointment procedure where upon a special meeting of the Cabinet shall be convened to determine the next steps.

23.7 The Officer Employment Rules (required by Article 12.10) are those parts of Standing Orders 20 – 24 which relate to employees.

23.8 The posts designated as chief officers (as required by Article 12.02) shall be those indicated in Part 7 of the Constitution.

24 ~~Disciplinary action against Statutory Appointees~~ Dismissal

24.1 Statutory Appointees: The Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Monitoring Officer, and the Authority's 151 Officer (normally the Executive Director, Finance and Resources) will be subject to disciplinary action only as a result of an Independent Officer's appointment, review, and subsequent recommendation to the Authority. This will be by means of submitted report, and Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 will apply. In the following paragraphs of this Standing Order:

(a) "the 2011 Act" means the Localism Act 2011;

(b) "chief finance officer", "disciplinary action", "head of the authority's paid service" and "monitoring officer" have the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001;

(c) "independent person" means a person appointed under section 28(7) of the 2011 Act;

(d) "relevant independent person" means any independent person who has been appointed by the authority or, where there are fewer than two such persons, such independent persons as have been appointed by another authority or authorities as the authority considers appropriate.

(e) "local government elector" means a person registered as a local government elector in the register of electors in the authority's area in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts;

(f) "the Panel" means a committee appointed by the authority under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purposes of advising the authority on matters relating to the dismissal of relevant officers of the authority;

(g) "relevant meeting" means a meeting of the authority to consider whether or not to approve a proposal to dismiss a relevant officer; and

(h) "relevant officer" means the chief finance officer, head of the authority's paid service or monitoring officer, as the case may be.

24.2 A relevant officer may not be dismissed by the authority unless the procedure set out in the following paragraphs is complied with.

24.3 The authority must invite relevant independent persons to be considered for appointment to the Panel, with a view to appointing at least two such persons to the Panel.

24.4 Subject to paragraph 24.5 of this Standing Order the authority must appoint to the Panel such relevant independent persons who have accepted an invitation issued in accordance with paragraph 24.3 of this Standing Order in accordance with the following priority order:

(a) a relevant independent person who has been appointed by the authority and who is a local government elector;

(b) any other relevant independent person who has been appointed by the authority;

(c) a relevant independent person who has been appointed by another authority or authorities.

24.5 An authority is not required to appoint more than two relevant independent persons in accordance with paragraph 24.4 of this Standing Order but may do so.

24.6 The authority must appoint any Panel at least 20 working days before the relevant meeting.

24.7 Before the taking of a vote at the relevant meeting on whether or not to approve such a dismissal, the authority must take into account, in particular:

(a) any advice, views or recommendations of the Panel;

(b) the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and

(c) any representations from the relevant officer.

24.8 Any remuneration, allowances or fees paid by the authority to an independent person appointed to the Panel must not exceed the level of remuneration, allowances or fees payable to that independent person in respect of that person's role as independent person under the 2011 Act.

24.9 Councillors will not be involved in the dismissal of any Officer below Chief Officer except where such involvement is necessary (e.g. as a witness) for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct; the Council's disciplinary procedures allow a right of appeal to an independent senior officer of the Council in respect of dismissals.

25 Custody of the Seal

25.1 The Common Seal of the Council shall be kept in a safe place in the custody of the Legal Services Manager or such other Officer designated for the purpose by them.

26 Sealing of documents

26.1 The Common Seal of the Council shall not be affixed to any document unless either [i] the sealing has been expressly authorised by a decision of the Council (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer to whom, the Council has delegated that power) - or [ii] it is necessary to give effect to such a decision of the Council or one made by its delegated authority.

26.2 The Common Seal shall be attested by the Legal Services Manager or an officer authorised by them, except that the Mayor or Deputy and the Chief Executive may additionally attest any document that is executed for special civic or ceremonial occasions.

26.3 A record of every sealing of a document shall be made and consecutively numbered in a book kept for the purpose and shall be signed or initialed by the Officer sealing the document.

27 Authentication of documents for legal proceedings

27.1 Where production of any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings on behalf of the Council, it shall be signed by the Legal Services Manager unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, or the Council gives the necessary authority to some other person for the purpose of such proceedings.

28 Inspection of documents

Extracts from Statutes

The Access to Information rules which apply to Council meetings and committees of the Council in

executive and alternative arrangement constitutions are set out in section 100A-H and schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

28.1 Every Report will set out a list of those documents (called background Papers) relating to the subject matter of the report which in the opinion of the author:

(a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and

(b) which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report but does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information and in respect of executive reports, the advice of a political advisor.

28.2 Subject to paragraph 30.3 of these Standing Orders, a Member of the Council may inspect any document that is within the possession, power or control of the Council provided it is reasonably necessary for the discharge of their duty; and they shall, if they so request, be provided with a copy of any document that they are entitled to inspect.

(a) Members shall be entitled to see all documents relied on by the Cabinet acting together or as Cabinet Members, once a decision has been made, unless the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the disclosure of a document would disclose exempt information of a type which may be excluded at law.

(b) Members of a Policy Review and Development Panel may, in addition to rights contained in (a) above be entitled to a copy of any document in the possession or control of the Cabinet that contain material relating to business transacted at a private meeting, a public meeting, a decision made or a key decision made by an officer under delegated powers.

28.3

(a) Public inspection of background papers:

The Council will make available for public inspection for four years after the date of the meeting one copy of each of the documents on the list of background papers.

(b) Summary of Public's Rights:

A written summary of the public's rights to attend meetings, report on proceedings and publish results (all in accordance with the Openness Regulations) and to inspect and copy documents must be kept and available to the public at the Council Offices.

(c) Exclusion of access by the public to reports:

If the Monitoring Officer thinks fit, the Council may exclude access by the public to reports which ~~in his or her opinion~~ relate to items during which, the meeting is not likely to be open to the public. Such reports will be marked "not for publication" together with the category of information likely to be disclosed.

29 Membership and constitution of Council bodies

Extracts from the statutes

Neither—

(a) a local authority executive, nor

(b) a committee of a local authority executive.

is to be regarded as a body to which section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) applies

(Section 9GC Local Government Act 2000)

The chair and the vice-chair of the Borough Council shall, unless they resign or become disqualified, continue on office until their successors become entitled to act as chair and vice-chair of the Borough Council, as appropriate.

During their terms of office, the chair and the vice-chair of the Borough Council shall continue to be a member of the council notwithstanding the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the retirement of councilors

(Section 3 and 5 Local Government Act 1972)

29.1 The Annual Meeting of the Council shall appoint the Chair and Vice Chair and each member of the following Bodies with the exception of :

- It shall appoint the Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet for a four year period at the first Annual meeting following the Borough Council elections. The Leader of the Council will then appoint the Vice-Chair and Cabinet on an annual basis.
- The Vice Chairs of the Policy Review and Development Panels and Audit Committee will be appointed by the Body at its first meeting of the Municipal year

Scrutiny and Overview Bodies

Policy Review and Development Panels:	Up to 12 members
Corporate Performance Panel	Politically proportional with Vice-Chairs appointed by the Panel
Regeneration and Development Environment and Community Audit Committee	9 Members (Politically Proportionate)

Cabinet and Boards

Cabinet	up to 10 Members (Leader of the Council is appointed for a four year period at the first Annual Council meeting following the Borough Council elections) (<i>Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007</i>). The <u>Neither the Cabinet nor any Committee appointed by the Cabinet are is not</u> required to be Proportional.
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~~Deputy Cabinet Members To be appointed by the Leader~~

Appointments Board	9 Members (Politically Proportional)
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<u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>9 Members (Politically Proportional)</u>
Planning Committee	18 Members (Politically Proportional)
Licensing and Appeals Committee	15 Members (Politically Proportional)
Licensing Committee	15 Members (Politically Proportional)
Standards Committee	7 Members (Politically Proportional) (plus up to 2 non-voting Parish reps and an Independent Person)

29.2 No Member of the Council shall retain any appointment beyond the next Annual Meeting of the Council unless re-appointed to that Body at the next Annual Meeting (with the exception of the Leader, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council as set out above).

29.2A In the event the Chair of a Council Body (excluding Council and Cabinet) resigns or the Chair is otherwise permanently vacated, the Council may appoint a new Chair before the next Annual Meeting.

Task Groups

29.3 The Council, Cabinet and any Policy Review and Development Panel may establish temporary Task Groups to undertake, and report back on, work within the remit of the body that established them.

29.4

(a) Members of Task Groups will be appointed having regard to political balance unless the leaders of each registered political group agree that this rule be disapplied.

(b) Group nominations for Task Groups membership will be made to the Chief Executive who is authorised to appoint them.

29.5 A Task Group shall remain constituted until the body which established it, or the Council, resolves that it has completed its task.

29.6 If a Task Group appointed by the Council or Cabinet or a Policy Review and Development Panel is to do any of the following things, these may be specified in its terms of reference:-

- (a) meet in public,
- (b) hold public hearings,
- (c) have a Councillor membership other than five or not complying with proportionality,
- (d) have non-members of the Council as non-voting members,
- (e) commission research,
- (f) complete its work by a certain date, or

(g) be able to define the scope of its own work.

[Draft amendment:

29.5 A Task Group shall remain constituted until the body which established it, or the Council, resolves that it has completed its task. Task Groups shall in law be Committees of the Council. The terms of reference of Task Groups shall be specified by the body appointing them as shall their duration or the event on which they shall cease to meet.

29.6 If a Task Group appointed by the Council or Cabinet or a Policy Review and Development Panel is to do any of the following things, these may be specified in its terms of reference:-

- (a) meet in public,**
- (b) hold public hearings,**
- (c) have a Councillor membership other than ~~five-six~~ not complying with proportionality,**
- (~~b~~d) have non-members of the Council as non-voting members,**
- (~~e~~e) commission research, or**
- ~~(f) complete its work by a certain date, or~~**
- (~~f~~g) be able to define the scope of its own work.**

[Clean version:

29.6 If a Task Group appointed by the Council or Cabinet or a Policy Review and Development Panel is to do any of the following things, these may be specified in its terms of reference:-

- (a) have a Councillor membership other than six,**
- (b) have non-members of the Council as non-voting members,**
- (c) commission research, or**
- (d) be able to define the scope of its own work.]**

29.7 When any scrutiny and overview body is considering the performance or proposals of a person, or of a body which included any of its members; such person or members shall not take part in that consideration in the capacity of members of the scrutiny body.

29.8 Informal Working Groups (scrutiny and overview function)

For the avoidance of doubt, Informal Working Groups are not formal Council Bodies or Task Groups. They are solely chosen, controlled by, and report directly back to their respective Policy Review and Development Panels. Political proportionality or issues of vacancies and substitutions should not be an issue.

Any work undertaken through Informal Working Groups should only be regarded as approved duties, with respect to traveling expenses, only with the prior approval of the respective Panel's Chairman.

29.9 Any formal meeting of a Council Body, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups, shall be attended, supported and recorded by a proper Officer of the Council

30 Access to Information and Meetings

30.1 Business shall be transacted by the Council and Council Bodies in public unless they resolve to consider in private any matter that is confidential or any information which is exempt within the meaning of Schedule 12A of Part I of the Local Government Act 1972. Officers holding statutory appointments as set out in Standing Order 35 are entitled to attend any meeting of the Cabinet.

30.2 Agenda, reports and other documents of Council bodies shall be held in confidence by Members and Officers of the Council until they are published by the authority of the Chief Executive. Notice shall be given at least five clear days in advance of any meeting by posting details of the meeting at King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn and wherever possible on the Council's website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk. Late or additional reports which are available for public inspection shall be available to the press and public at the same time it becomes available to members.

30.3 No Member or Officer shall ever disclose documents or the contents of documents that are "exempt" or contain confidential information, as defined by paragraph 30.1 of this Standing Order, to any person who is not a Member or an Officer of the Council other than with the permission in writing of the Monitoring Officer

30.4 If any matter that is raised at a meeting of the Council or a Council Body or subsidiary body when meeting in public, involves the appointment, promotion, dismissal, salary, superannuation, conditions of service or conduct of any identifiable person currently or formerly employed by the Council; that matter shall not be further discussed until the meeting has determined whether the public should be excluded.

~~30.5 Subject to Standing Order 12.16 no key decision may be taken unless:-
(Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information) England Regs 2012)
(a) notice of the proposed key decision has been published in the Forward Decision List
(b) At least 28 clear days have elapsed since the publication of the notice of key decisions
(c) Notice of the meeting or intended decision making has been given
(d) Five working days following the making of the decision have elapsed and no call-in has been received in accordance with standing order 12.3 above~~

30.6 General Exception for the Key Decision Requirements

~~If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the Forward Plan, the decision may still be taken if:~~

~~(a) the Chief Executive has informed the Chairman of The Corporate Performance Panel, in writing, by notice, of the matter upon which the decision is to be made;~~

~~(b) Notice is given of the details of the decision to be made and the reasons why it is impracticable to give 28 days notice.~~

~~(c) at least five clear days have elapsed between notice being given and the decision being taken.~~

~~[Now set out at Standing Orders 12.17 and 12.18]~~

30.7 Record of individual decision

As soon as reasonably practicable after an Executive decision has been taken by an individual member of the Executive or a key decision has been taken by an officer, he/she/they will prepare, or instruct the proper officer to prepare, a record of the decision, a statement of the reasons for it and any alternative options considered and rejected.

30.8 Special Urgency

If the general exception rule is impracticable, the decision can be taken if the decision maker has received the permission of the Chair of the Corporate Performance Panel or, if he or she is/they are unable to act, the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, and a notice has been published stating that a decision is urgent and the reasons why it cannot reasonably be deferred.

31 Special Meetings

31.1 A special meeting of a Council Body, including Cabinet and any Committee, Task Group, Panel and Informal Working Group:-

(a) may be called by the Chair of that meeting at any time; and

(b) shall be called on notice being given in writing to the Chief Executive by a quarter of the members of that meeting stating that they desire a meeting.

31.2 The Chief Executive shall summon each relevant Member to a Special Meeting, under paragraph 31.1 of this Standing Order, with a notice served at least five days before the date of the meeting (not including the day on which the notice is sent to each Member and the day of the meeting) which shall set out the business to be considered, and no business other than that mentioned in the notice shall be considered at that meeting.

32 Vacancies and substitutions on Council bodies and task groups

32.1 The Chief Executive shall appoint a Member, nominated by a political group to fill a casual vacancy that falls to be filled by that particular political group, provided the leader of that group has:-

(a) consulted with the Members of the group; and,

(b) communicated the name of the person nominated to the Chief Executive and/or the Democratic Services Office; and,

(c) the Member nominated under paragraph 32.1(b) is not precluded from being a member of that Council Body or Task Group by any rule of law or of the Council.

32.2 Subject to the following conditions, when a Member is unable to attend any meeting, a substitute registered in the same political group as the nominating political group may attend in their place.

(a) The substitutes will be temporary members, appointed by the Chief Executive on the authority of the Council, and the member substituted for will be suspended from the relevant membership for the period of substitution. Once commenced, the substitution shall continue throughout the meeting and throughout consideration of any item of its business which is adjourned.

(b) The Chief Executive/Democratic Services Officer must be notified in writing by the Member who will be absent or by the Leader of their political group. Unless the reason for the absence arises too late

to permit this (in which case the maximum notice possible must be given), this notification shall be given at least 24 hours before the meeting.

32.3 Whenever appointments of Members are not made on the first occasion when they might be, the Chief Executive shall make such appointments on the basis of balloting members of the body entitled to make the appointment. If the vacancy falls within the proportion of places due to a particular political group, balloting shall initially be restricted to the members of that political group. Only if that fails to fill a vacancy, will a further ballot be conducted open to relevant Members of all political groups or none.

33 Duration of Council meetings

~~33.1 A Meeting including a Meeting of a Task Group which has sat continuously for three hours shall be adjourned automatically unless the majority of members present vote to continue to sit. Unless the majority of Members present vote for the Meeting to continue, any Meeting that has lasted for 3 hours will adjourn immediately. Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If they do not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary Meeting.~~

~~33.2 The motion for voting to continue a Meeting at 33.1 above shall be for an extension of the duration of the Meeting for a period of one hour, unless the Chair proposes a different period of time. Upon the expiry of this or any other extension, the Meeting shall adjourn immediately unless the majority of Members vote for a further extension of the Meeting. Any such motion to further extend the duration of the Meeting beyond the first extension shall be limited to no more than one hour, as determined by the Chair.~~

34 Rights of non-members to attend meetings of Council bodies

34.1 Every Member of the Council shall have the right to attend any Meeting including Task Groups. A Member exercising this right shall inform Democratic Services no later than two hours before the commencement of the Meeting of their intention to attend.

34.2 Every Member of the Council shall have the right to speak at any Meeting including Task Groups subject to the provisions as to declarations of interest, provided that they shall, inform Democratic Services at least two hours before the Meeting of their intention to do so and on what items they wish to be heard.

34.3 The minutes of the Meeting shall record the name of any Member of the Council who is present at the Meeting under this Standing Order, any item on which they spoke, and shall include a summary of what they said.

[Draft amendment:

34.1 Every Member of the Council shall have the right:

(a) to attend any meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups; ~~and also the right~~

(b) to speak at any meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups, except, for the purposes of this Standing Order, the Licensing Committee, the Licensing and Appeals Board and the Planning Committee, and subject to;

(i) the expiry of any statutory time limits within which representations must be made in relation to the issue or issues under consideration;

(ii) the provisions as to declarations of interest

provided that they shall, inform man of the meeting Democratic Services one clear working day before the meeting commences and no later than one hour before the meeting commences of their intention to do so attend and to speak, as appropriate, before the Meeting specifying on what items they wish to be heard, before the meeting commences, and in any event prior to any decision being made on the matter.

34.2 Any Member of the Council speaking at a meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups, under this Standing Order must, in any event, conclude what they wish to say in relation to the issue or issues under consideration prior to any decision being taken on that issue or issues.

34.32 The minutes of the Meeting shall record the name of any Member of the Council who is present at the meeting under this Standing Order, together with any item on which they spoke, and shall include a summary of what they said.

34.4 For the purposes of this Standing Order the right to speak at:

(a) Cabinet is limited only to a right to make a statement, subject to the discretion of the Chair;

(b) Scrutiny and Overview Bodies includes the right to ask questions;

(c) Any other Council Bodies, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups, includes the right to contribute to the debate of the item on which they wish to be heard

[Clean version:

34.1 Every Member of the Council shall have the right:

(a) to attend any meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups; and

(b) to speak at any meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups, except, for the purposes of this Standing Order, the Licensing Committee, the Licensing and Appeals Board and the Planning Committee, and subject to:

(i) the expiry of any statutory time limits within which representations must be made in relation to the issue or issues under consideration;

(ii) the provisions as to declarations of interest

provided that they shall, inform Democratic Services one clear working day before the meeting commences and no later than one hour before the meeting commences of their intention to attend and to speak, as appropriate, specifying on what items they wish to be heard.

34.2 Any Member of the Council speaking at a meeting of a Council body, including Task Groups, under this Standing Order must, in any event, conclude what they wish to say in relation to the issue or issues under consideration prior to any decision being taken on that issue or issues.

34.3 The minutes of the Meeting shall record the name of any Member of the Council who is present at the meeting under this Standing Order together with any item on which they spoke.

34.4 For the purposes of this Standing Order the right to speak at:

(a) Cabinet is limited only to a right to make a statement, subject to the discretion of the Chair;

(b) Scrutiny and Overview Bodies includes the right to ask questions;

(c) Any other Council Bodies, including Task Groups and Informal Working Groups, includes the right to contribute to the debate of the item on which they wish to be heard]

35 Statutory appointments

35.1 The following posts shall be designated for the purposes of Article 12.02 of this Constitution, sections 113 to 115 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and shall be held by separate individual officers.

(a) The Head of the Paid Service

(b) The Monitoring Officer.

(c) The Chief Financial Officer

36 Recording or broadcasting meetings

36.1 The Openness Regulations require that any person attending a meeting open to the public (including Councillors) must, as far as is practicable, be afforded reasonable facilities for reporting (whether by filming, photographing or audio recording) and may use any communication method (including social network methods) to publish or otherwise share the results of their reporting activities.

36.2 "Reporting" means

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings
- using any other means for enabling a person who is not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

36.3 The Council is not required to permit oral reporting or commentary at a meeting as it takes place if the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

36.4 The Council has published and adopted a Protocol relating to the adoption and operation of the Openness Regulations and this can be viewed at the end of this Constitution (Appendix 2)

37 Approval of draft plans, strategies, estimates and amounts submitted to the Council by the Cabinet

[Extracts from the statutes](#)

["plan or strategy" means—](#)

(a) a plan or strategy of a description specified in column (1) of the table in Schedule 3 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (functions not to be the sole responsibility of an authority's executive), as amended from time to time;

(b) a plan or strategy for the control of a relevant authority's borrowing or capital expenditure; or

(c) any other plan or strategy whose adoption or approval is, by virtue of regulation 5(1) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (discharge of executive functions by authorities) as amended from time to time, a matter for determination by a relevant authority;

(Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 Regulation 2)

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

(b) estimates of other amounts to be used for the purposes of such a calculation;

(c) estimates of such a calculation; or

(d) amounts required to be stated in a precept under Chapter IV of Part I of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 Para 6, Part 2, Schedule 2)

37.1 Where the Cabinet submits a:-

(a) plan or strategy prescribed by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 ("the regulations") to the Council for approval by the Council; or

(b) any estimate or amount prescribed under Paragraph 6 of Part II of [Schedule 2](#) to the regulations and the Council wishes to amend, approve or adopt the plan or strategy, or object to any estimate or amount, it must inform the Leader of the Council of any objections to the plan or strategy or estimate or amount.

37.2 Where an objection is received under this standing order the Cabinet must consider the objection within such period as shall be specified by the Council (being not less than 5 working days beginning with the date that the Leader received the objection) and the Leader of the Council may either amend the plan or strategy or a revision of the estimates or amounts or inform the Council of the reasons why the Cabinet disagrees with the Council's objections.

37.3 The Council must take account of the amendments made by the Cabinet to a plan or strategy and any reasons why the Cabinet disagrees with the Council's objections when it amends, approves or adopts a plan or strategy or before it makes a calculation in accordance with sections 32 to 37 or 43 to 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 or issues a precept under Chapter IV of Part 1 of that Act.

38 Decisions by Cabinet Members

38.1 Wherever a decision is to be made by a Cabinet Member, a report must be produced in writing setting out all of the required information before any decision can be taken.

38.2 A copy of the report with a note must be sent to the Democratic Services Manager, Management

Team and The Monitoring Officer, 5 clear days before the date on which the decisions is to be taken. The report will then be placed on the intranet/internet or otherwise made available to members of the Council and unless confidential or exempt to members of the public.

38.3 The Cabinet Member can either attend the Council Offices and make the decision on the given day, or may return the completed form, signed off, to the Head of Service responsible via the email system, a copy should also be sent to the Democratic Services Manager.

38.4 The decision may be wholly within the Cabinet Members decision making powers, or part of all may be a recommendation to Council. This must be made clear in the report. Recommendations to Council will then be placed on the next Council Agenda and moved by the Leader at Council.

38.5 A Cabinet Member may decide to refer the matter to a full meeting of Cabinet for decision. In which case the matter will be placed on the agenda of the next ordinary meeting of Cabinet.

38.6 Once a Cabinet Member has made a decision it will be placed on the intranet and made available for call-in in accordance with Standing Order 12. Members will be notified that a decision has been taken.

APPENDIX 1

DIAGRAM TO SHOW THE STAGES OF MOTION, AMENDMENT AND DECISION

(1) **MOTION** moved and seconded

↓

(2) **DEBATE ON MOTION**

↓ → → → **NO AMENDMENT** move to (6)

(3) **AMENDMENT** moved and seconded

↓

(4) **DEBATE ON AMENDMENT**

↓

when debate finishes

↓

(5) **MOVER OF ORIGINAL MOTION INVITED TO
REPLY TO DEBATE ON AMENDMENT**

↓

VOTE ON AMENDMENT

↓ **IF CARRIED** - MOTION AS AMENDED IS OPEN FOR DEBATE

↓ **IF LOST** - ORIGINAL MOTION IS OPEN FOR DEBATE

(Any number of amendments can be moved and dispensed with in the way **ONE AT A TIME**)

↓

(6) **DEBATE**

↓

(7) **WHEN DEBATE FINISHED MOVER OF ORIGINAL MOTION (1) TO REPLY TO DEBATE**

↓

(8) **VOTE ON MOTION (ORIGINAL OR AS AMENDED)**

↓

IF CARRIED – DECISION

IF LOST - NO DECISION – Matter open for further proposal or stands as a **NO DECISION** item.

IF EQUALITY OF VOTES - NO DECISION

An amendment will not be valid if it is a direct negative or if it introduces a new issue unrelated to the terms of the motion.

Appendix B

Protocol for Reporting and Commentating on public Council Meetings Agreed at 27 November 2014 Council

I. Introduction.

(a). By virtue of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (“the Openness Regulations”), members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of the Council, the Executive and all other Committees and meetings to which the public have access.

(b). Reporting is not permitted where the public have been excluded from a particular meeting, or part of a meeting as permitted by law (for example to protect confidential information) and other restrictions apply to protect those individuals who do not wish to be recorded.

(c). For the purposes of the Openness Regulations, “reporting” means:

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting.
- using any other means for enabling persons not present at the meeting to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting orally or in writing, so that a report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present (note however that in accordance with paragraph 2.(d)(iii) below there is to be no **oral** reporting or commentary on a meeting as it takes place by a person present at the meeting).

(d). Any person attending a meeting (including Councillors) must, so far as is practicable, be afforded reasonable facilities for reporting and may use any communication method (eg the Internet), including social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter , to publish, post or otherwise share the results of their reporting activities. Subject to this Protocol, publication and dissemination may take place in the meeting or afterwards.

2. The Protocol.

The following Protocol sets out how reporting and commentating will be managed by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk (“the Council”).

(a). Although there is no requirement so to do, it would be very helpful to the Council if persons wishing to record proceedings (or any part thereof) would notify the Councils Democratic Services Team (telephone number) in advance of the meeting. That will assist the Council to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate the requirements of those wishing to record.

(b). At the start of the meeting, the Chair~~man~~ will remind all present that recordings may be made in accordance with the Openness Regulations.

(c). The Chair~~man~~ will make it clear that whilst the Council respects the right to record and communicate, the right must be exercised reasonably and having regard to the need for the orderly conduct of business at the meeting.

(d). To ensure that this objective is achieved, the following criteria will be adopted:

(i). Persons should remain seated whilst they are recording. Walking around the meeting room whilst recording will not be permitted.

(ii). If other members of the public present express a wish not to be filmed or photographed whilst they are speaking, this request should be respected.

(iii) No oral reporting or commentary of the meeting be permitted on the meeting as it takes place by any person who is present at the meeting. This restriction is imposed to avoid noise which could otherwise disrupt the meeting.

(iv) If in the opinion of the Chair~~man~~, any other behaviour or activity is taking place which in his/hert opinion is preventing the orderly conduct of business at the meeting (for example, the use of flash photography), the Chair~~man~~ will exercise his/hert discretion to adjourn the meeting.

(v) To avoid the possibility of accidents, the Council will not permit the use of electric sockets for electronic equipment

(e). Persons recording are reminded that the right to record whole (or part) of a meeting, extends only to those meetings (or part thereof) that the public are entitled to attend. If the public is lawfully excluded from the meeting at any stage (for example because confidential information is being discussed), the right to record immediately comes to an end for the whole of the period that the meeting is in “private” session.

PART 2

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

Article 1 — The Constitution

Purpose of the Constitution

- 1.01 The purpose of the Constitution is to regulate how the Borough Council operates. In particular:
- (a) to enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the Borough in partnership with local people and organisations;
 - (b) to encourage the active involvement of local people in the processes of local government decision-making;
 - (c) to help councillors represent local people more effectively;
 - (d) to create effective means for decision-makers to be held to account publicly;
 - (e) to ensure that no one directly involved in a decision will then scrutinise how that decision was reached;
 - (f) to ensure those responsible for making decisions are clearly identifiable by local people and will explain the reasons for those decisions; and
 - (g) to provide a means of improving the quality of services provided to the community.

Powers of the Council

- 1.02 The powers and duties of the Council must all be exercised in accordance with relevant law (which is sometimes summarised in context for convenience) and the additional rules in this Constitution.
- 1.03 The Constitution of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk consists of the main Articles in this document and all its appendices (called Parts 1 to 5).

Choosing Options within the Constitution

- 1.04 Where the Constitution allows the Council to choose between different courses of action, it will always be the duty of the Council to choose that option which it considers best serves the purposes listed above.

Article 2 — Members of the Council

Composition and Eligibility

- 2.01 The Council consists of 6255 members, called councillors. They are elected by the voters in areas which are created as Borough Wards in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission and approved by the Secretary of State and which is reviewed periodically.

2.02 To be eligible to hold the office of councillor, a person must be registered to vote in the Borough or must live or work in it.

Election Time and Term of Office

2.03 The regular election of councillors will ordinarily be held on the first Thursday in May in 2019⁵ and every fourth year after that.

Roles and Functions of Councillors

2.04 The main functions of councillors are:

- (a) together to decide on the most important policies and carry out major local government functions;
- (b) to work for the good government of the Borough and actively encourage local people and organisations to be involved in decision making;
- (c) to represent effectively the interests of their wards and of individual people;
- (d) to deal fairly with the people they represent;
- (e) to take part in the management of the Council's operations; and
- (f) to maintain the highest standards in the conduct of Council business

Rights and Duties of Councillors

2.05 Subject to legal safeguards, councillors have rights of access to documents, information, land and buildings held by the Council so far as is necessary to perform their functions properly.

- (a) Except with the permission of the Council, councillors must not give out information which is given to them in confidence to anyone not entitled to have it.
- (b) Confidential information is defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution and is limited by law.

2.06 At all times, councillors must obey the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk [Members' eCode of eConduct](#) and [Member/Officer Protocols](#) ~~code of councillor-officer relations~~ which are set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

2.07 Councillors are entitled only to those financial allowances set out in a scheme in Part 5⁶ of this Constitution. The [scheme-allowances](#) must be reviewed by the Council at least annually. The published advice of an independent panel must be considered by the Council in deciding [or reviewing](#) this scheme.

Article 3 — Citizens and the Council

Citizens' Rights

3.01 Citizens have the following rights.

- (i) Voting and petitions.

Citizens on the electoral register for the Borough have the right to vote and to sign a petition, including one to require a referendum to be held on having a Mayor, elected directly by local citizens, who would have the executive powers as defined in this Constitution.

(ii) Information.

Citizens have rights to information which are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. They may:

- (a) attend meetings of the Council and its committees/panels/boards except when information is likely to be disclosed which it is lawful and desirable for the Council to treat as confidential;
- (b) attend meetings of the Cabinet when key decisions are being considered;
- (c) find out what key decisions will be taken by the Cabinet and when;
- (d) see reports which are presented to the Council and the Cabinet (and the background papers) and records of decisions made; and
- (e) inspect the Council's financial accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

(iii) Participation.

Citizens have the right to participate in the Council's processes in a range of ways set out in the relevant parts of the Council's Rules of Procedure in Part 4 of this Constitution.

(iv) Complaints.

Citizens have the right to complain:

- (a) through a procedure of the Council itself (appended);
- (b) to the local government 'ombudsman', if not satisfied after using the Council's own complaints procedure; and
- (c) to the Council's Monitoring Officer about any breach of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's [Members' Code of Conduct](#).

Article 4— The Council

Functions of the Council

4.01 The Council itself will normally perform the following functions and only exceptionally and when it is lawful, will it delegate them to any committee or officer

- (a) adopting and changing the Constitution;
- (b) approving or adopting the Council's policy framework and the budget
- (c) subject to the urgency procedure in Part 4 of this Constitution, making decisions about any matter which has been delegated to others and which the decision maker is intending

to make in a way which would be contrary to the policy framework or not wholly in accordance with the budget;

- (d) election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- (e) deciding who shall be the Leader of the Council (for a four year period) ;
- (f) deciding and amending the terms of reference for Council's main committees, their composition and appointing their members annually;
- (g) appointing councillors to other Council bodies and ensuring that such bodies are politically balanced as required by law;
- (h) appointing representatives to outside bodies except in cases where this function has been delegated by the Council;
- (i) adopting and reviewing a members' allowances scheme under Article 2;
- (j) changing the name of the area;
- (k) conferring or revoking the title of honorary alderman or the freedom of the borough;
- (l) making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting byelaws and promoting or opposing the making of local or personal Bills in Parliament;
- (m) all the functions set out in Part 3 of this Constitution which by choice the Council has decided should be performed by itself rather than by the Cabinet; and
- (n) any other matters which, by law, must be decided by the Council.

Definitions

(i) **Policy framework** The policy framework includes the following plans, schemes and strategies (this is not an exhaustive list):-

- Local Plan
- Corporate Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Risk Management Strategy
- Health and Safety Strategy
- Equality Strategy
- Asset Management Plan
- Procurement Strategy

(ii) **Budget** The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, the Council tax base, setting the council tax, and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of limits on flexibility within the expenditure allocations (virement).

Council Meetings

4.02 There are three types of Council meeting:

- (a) annual meetings;
- (b) ordinary meetings; and

- (c) extraordinary (“special”) meetings;

and they must be conducted in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Responsibility for functions

- 4.03 Part 3 of this Constitution sets out the responsibilities for the Council's functions which are not reserved for the Council itself to perform and not delegated to the Cabinet to perform.
- 4.04 Subject to Article 13.04, the Council shall follow the Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Article 5— The Mayor and the Chairing of the Council

- 5.01 The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor will be elected by the Council at its annual meeting. The Mayor or, if unavailable, the Deputy Mayor, will have the following responsibilities:
 - (a) to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
 - (b) to chair meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the people of the Borough;
 - (c) to help to make Council meetings a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the people of the Borough and for members who are not in the Cabinet to be able to hold Cabinet members to account;
 - (d) to promote public involvement in the public life of the Borough;
 - (e) As the ‘first citizen’ of the Borough, the Mayor is accorded ceremonial precedence over everyone in the Borough (unless we have a member of the Royal Family visiting) and is seen as a symbol of authority, depicted by the robe, chains of office, sword and the mace. The Mayor attends functions throughout the Borough and, by taking the Council's message and themes into the community, greatly assists the Council's social, community and economic aims.

Article 6 - Scrutiny and Overview Committees

Structure of the scrutiny and overview function

- 6.01 The Council's Scrutiny and Overview responsibility is fulfilled through the combined functionality of the Policy Review and Development Panels
 - (a) The Corporate Performance Panel shall scrutinise and may directly challenge the Cabinet and delegated decision-makers.
 - (b) The Policy Review and Development Panels shall ~~work both i.)~~ work reactively to review existing policy and its delivery; ~~and ii.)~~ work proactively to develop revised or new policy and review the forward Decisions; ~~and iii.)~~ Scrutinise Decisions taken after 30 days have lapsed.
 - (c) The Panels may have any matter included for discussion on the agenda of a relevant Scrutiny and Overview Body.

- (d) Other non-executive members (i.e. those not sitting on a Policy Review and Development Panel) may put any matter for discussion forward for inclusion on a relevant Scrutiny and Overview agenda. In such instances, inclusion of the matter is at the discretion of the relevant Scrutiny and Overview body's Chair~~man~~ and Vice-Chair~~man~~, in consultation with the relevant officers. The decision, on whether to approve inclusion or not, then being reported under Chair~~man~~'s Correspondence at the body's next meeting. The following factors would be influential in arriving at such a decision:
 - i.) the appropriateness of the item to the relevant Panel's/ Committee's remit;
 - ii.) any similar items that may already be on work programmes/ schedules;
 - iii.) existing workloads and priorities (these would not preclude the item from consideration but may affect the scheduling of such consideration).
- (e) The Opposition may place 1 item onto any Panel agenda where it will be discussed~~placed on the work programme and scheduled for discussion~~.

6.02 Subject to Article 13.04, scrutiny and overview bodies shall follow the Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4 of this Constitution relating to overview and scrutiny.

Role of the Policy Review and Development Panels

- 6.03 The Council will appoint Policy Review and Development Panels (complying with the rules about political proportionality under sections 15-17 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989) and describe what they will do and how they will do it in accordance with the terms of reference in its Rules of Procedure.
- 6.04 Policy review and development work should, where possible, be carried out through the relevant Policy Review and Development Panels as part of the Scrutiny and Overview function within the Council.
- 6.05 Policy Review and Development Panels are the principal vehicle for assisting the Council and the Cabinet in the review and development of policy (including budget policy). To this end they may:
 - (a) call on other councillors and senior Council officers to share their views and experience relevant to the policy under consideration;
 - (b) encourage participation by members of the public, relevant outside organisations and other local authorities; and
 - (c) within the Council's arrangements and budget, commission or conduct inquiry, research and consultation in analysing policy issues and options.
 - (d) liaise with external organisations to enhance collaborative working
- 6.06 In addition to the general power of scrutiny under article 6.01(a), the Corporate Performance Panel shall:
 - (a) within 30 days of the decision scrutinise decisions, and recommendations to Council made by members on the delegated authority of the Council or in implementation of policy by the Cabinet provided that there shall be one opportunity only to ~~close~~ scrutinise in respect of any decision or group of decisions; (NB after 30 days of a decision being made, any requisite review becomes the responsibility of the relevant Policy Review and Development Panel)

- (ba) consider subject to Standing Order 12.6 all 'called in' decisions and recommendations to Council and decide whether to refer the outcome to Council or the Cabinet within 30 days.
- (cb) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any of their functions.
- (de) report annually to the full Council on the work that they have completed during the preceding 12 months.
- (ed) be directly accountable to, and subject to the direction of, the full Council

6.07 With respect to the matters they choose to examine within their individual remits, the Policy Review and Development Panels will generally:

- (a) consider matters affecting the Borough or local people;
- (b) review the performance of the Council specifically in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets or particular services.
- (c) undertake post implementation reviews of major projects and significant policy changes and the introduction of new policies.
- (d) monitor the medium term Financial Plan
- (e) assist in advancing the development of effective policy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and communities of King's Lynn and West Norfolk;
- (f) question members of the Cabinet and senior officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with Directorate plans and targets over time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (g) review the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the relevant Policy Review and Development Panel about their activities and performance;
- (h) question and gather evidence from any other willing person.
- (i) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any of their functions.

Article 7 - The Cabinet

Role

7.01 The Council's Executive body shall be known as the Cabinet and shall carry out all functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council or are prohibited from being an Executive function at law.

Composition

7.02 The Cabinet shall consist of not more than ten members including its Chair who is Leader of the Council. The Leader shall determine the number of other Councillors to be Cabinet Members and appoint them, one as Vice Chair~~man~~. The Leader shall hold office for up to a four year period,

appointed at the first Annual Meeting following the Borough Council ~~E~~lections until the Annual meeting immediately following ~~those the next Borough Council~~ elections (*Local Government and Public Interest in Health Act 2007*), unless the Council resolves to remove them from the position or until their resignation .

Proceedings of the Cabinet

- 7.03 Subject to Article 13.04, the proceedings of the Cabinet shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4 of this Constitution relating to executive functions.

Responsibility for functions

- 7.04 Part 3 of this Constitution sets out who will be responsible for each of the Council's executive functions known as the Scheme of Delegation, which may be performed by the Cabinet as a whole, a Cabinet committee, a Cabinet Member, Council officers or a combination of any of these.
- 7.05 Other Cabinet Members shall be appointed by the Leader and shall hold office until removed from office by the Leader, until resignation or until the Cabinet Member ceases to be a Member, which ever shall be the sooner. Cabinet Members each hold a Portfolio as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and this sets out the functions delegated to each portfolio holder and the limitations on that delegation.
- 7.06 The Leader may appoint Deputy Cabinet Members, the role and responsibilities of which are set out below:

Purpose

To assist and work with the designated Cabinet Member with their responsibility for allocated portfolios.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To assist the designated Cabinet Member in shaping and developing the strategic priorities of the Council as it relates to the allocated portfolio.
2. To assist the designated Cabinet Member in monitoring performance in specified areas relating to the allocated portfolio.
3. Where appropriate and where permissible under the Council's Constitution to represent the designated Cabinet Member at meetings or visits.
4. The role of Deputy Cabinet Member does not allow any use of Cabinet Members delegated powers or responsibilities.

Article 8 —Other Boards and Committees of the Council

Regulatory and other Boards

- 8.01 The Council will appoint the following Committee and Boards to perform the functions set out in Part 3 of this Constitution as being their responsibility. They will operate within the remits and terms of reference and subject to the relevant Rules of Procedure set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

- (a) Standards Committee
- (b) Planning Committee
- (c) Licensing and Appeals Board
- (d) Licensing Committee
- (d) Appointments Board
- (e) Audit Committee

Article 9 - Task Groups

Task Groups

9.01 The Council, the Cabinet and any Council body may establish temporary Task Groups to undertake specific work within the remit of the body which establishes them and to report to that body. Policy Review and Development Panels may establish joint Task Groups. Task Groups may not be authorised to exercise the powers of the Council. Task Groups shall operate until they have completed their tasks unless they are disbanded sooner by the Bodies which established them.

Composition

9.02 Unless the Leader of each registered Political Group agrees to the contrary, Task Groups will be appointed in accordance with the rules on political proportionality contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and having regard to Councillors' particular interests, expertise and willingness to participate.

9.03 For the purpose of making appointments in compliance with Article 9.02³, a register of councillors' interests, expertise and willingness to participate shall be maintained.

9.06 Informal Working Groups (Scrutiny and Overview Function)

Instead of introducing an additional formal body to the process, through setting up a Task Group (with its accompanying demands on time and valuable resources), Policy Review and Development Panels may find it expeditious to carry out basic research (evidence gathering and preliminary analysis) through the use of what are termed Informal Working Groups:

- (a) these Working Groups are not formal Council Bodies but are simply subsets of a Policy Review and Development Panel (including other invitees as the Panel sees fit) which will work quickly and informally, within tight terms of reference defined by their respective Panel, to effect evidence gathering and preliminary analysis. The responsible Panel will then formally consider these findings and develop them (with further research as necessary) into a full report and recommendations.
- (b) The use of Informal Working Groups should simply be seen as a semi-structured means of quickly moving review-type work forward. They present Policy Review and Development Panels with an opportunity to: [i] make the most of Councillors interests and experience; [ii] draw in other interested/experienced Councillors; and, [iii] invite in external experts or possibly other members of the public with a direct stake or experience in the subject matter. Members and those outside of the authority may be more inclined to be involved in an apparently less bureaucratic approach.

Article 10 - Area Committees and Forums

4The Council has a King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee which is made up of King's Lynn Councillors. It acts as a consultative body and considers matters relating specifically to King's Lynn.

Article 11 — Joint Arrangements

Arrangements to promote Well Being

11.01 In order to promote the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough, and if it considers that to do so will serve the purposes of the Constitution in Article 1, the Council may:

- (a) make arrangements or agreements with any person or body;
- (b) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person or body; and
- (c) exercise on behalf of such a person or body any of their functions.

Joint Arrangements

11.02 Details of any joint arrangements, including any delegations of the Council's powers to joint committees or joint executive functions, will be included in the Council's scheme of delegation in Part 3 of this Constitution.

11.03 Decisions whether or not to make joint arrangements shall be reserved to the Council or the Cabinet in respect of Joint Executive Functions.

Access to Information

- 11.04 (a) The Public Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution apply.
- (b) If all the Members of a joint committee are Members of the Executive in each of the participating authorities then its access to information regime is the same as that applied to the Executive.
- (c) If the joint committee contains Members who are not on the Executive of any participating authority then the access to information rules in Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply.

Article 12 — Council Employees

Staffing Structure

12.01 The Council may engage such employees as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.

12.02 In Part 4 of this Constitution, the Council will designate the posts held by certain of its employees (a) as chief officers and (b) three separate posts which will be held by 3 separate individuals as including the following roles which are required by Statute:

- (a) Head of the Paid Service.
- (b) Chief Finance Officer.
- (c) Monitoring Officer.

12.03 Such posts will have the functions described in Articles 12.05 — 12.06 below and will have authority to designate appropriate fellow employees as their deputies to undertake their duties if they are not available to perform them.

12.04 The Head of the Paid Service will publish a description of the overall staffing structure of the Council showing the management structure and the deployment of employees. This is set out at Part 7 of this Constitution.

Functions of the Statutory Posts

12.05 The officer designated as the Head of the Paid Service will report to the Council on how the performance of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the numbers and grades of employee required for this, and how they are organised.

12.06 The officer designated as the Monitoring Officer will have the duties of:

- (a) maintaining an up to date authoritative edition of the Constitution;
- (b) after consulting with the Head of the Paid Service and Chief Finance Officer, reporting to the Council (or to the Cabinet in relation to an executive function, or to another Board in relation to functions delegated to it) if they consider that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or has given rise to maladministration. (Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until this report has been considered.);
- (c) contributing to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct;
- (d) conducting investigations including into complaints made about Borough and Parish Councillors and making reports or recommendations in respect of them if necessary to the Standards Committee;
- (e) ensuring that executive decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant background papers, are made publicly available as soon as possible;
- (f) advising whether decisions of the Cabinet are in accordance with the budget and policy framework; and
- (g) providing advice to all councillors on the scopes of powers and authorities to take decisions, and on maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues.

12.07 The officer designated as Chief Finance Officer will have the following duties.

- (a) after consulting with the Head of the Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer, reporting to the Council (or to the Cabinet in relation to an executive function) and to the Council's external auditor if they consider that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or shortfall in income, or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- (b) responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council.
- (c) contributing to the corporate management of the Council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice;

- (d) providing advice and support to all councillors and officers in their respective roles on the scopes of powers and authorities to take decisions, and on maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues; and
- (e) providing financial information to the news media and members of the public.

12.08 The Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer with such ancillary officers, accommodation and other resources as those statutory officers consider are sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

Conduct of Employees and Councillors

12.09 Officers and Councillors shall comply with the [Member/Officer Protocol on Relations between Officers and Members](#) set out in Part 5 of this Constitution and the [Officers' Members' Code of Conduct](#).

Employment

12.10 The recruitment, promotion and dismissal of officers shall comply with the Officer Employment Rules set out in Standing Orders [210](#) to 24 as set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Article 13 - Decision making

Responsibility for decision making

13.01 Part 3 of this Constitution sets out who is responsible under the current arrangements for taking decisions in relation to each of the Council's functions.

Principles of Decision Making

13.02 All decisions on behalf of the Council shall be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- (a) Any action or omission that is authorised by the Council must be intended to have an effect proportionate to the desired effect.
- (b) Decisions should not be made on behalf of the Council without seeking, receiving and having regard to the professional advice of officers.
- (c) Respect must be had for the human rights of all persons involved.
- (d) There should be a presumption in favour of making decisions publicly.
- (e) Whenever practicable, and in any event whenever it is required by law, the Council will seek to consult those having a particular interest in it before making a decision.

Process of Decision Making

13.03 Decisions relating to the functions listed in Article 4.01 shall be made by the Council and not delegated.

13.04 The Council, councillors and officers, when acting as a tribunal or in any quasi-judicial capacity or deciding or considering the civil rights and obligations or the criminal responsibility of any person, shall (rather than simply giving advice) follow a process which respects the requirements of natural justice and fair trial in accordance with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

13.05 Subject to Article 13.04, all persons taking part in decision making on behalf of the Council shall comply with the relevant provisions of Part 4 and of any other relevant parts of this Constitution.

13.06 "Key decisions" are defined as those which are likely:

- (a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is significant or the making of savings which are significant - having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of their effects on people living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.

Significant under (a) above is defined within this Borough as £500,000+ and significant under (b) above is detailed as one third or more of the resident population of a ward.

Withdrawal of Honorary Titles

13.07 The titles of honorary alderman and freedom of the borough (the Honorary Titles) are awarded for eminent service to the Council and Borough, respectively, and are deemed by the Council to be non-political roles. As such, the Council considers that it is inconsistent for the holders of Honorary Titles to be politically active. In the event of the holder of an Honorary Title seeking election to the Council, or to any other local authority or to Parliament, they shall cease to hold the Honorary Title if they are still standing as a candidate immediately following the deadline for withdrawal of candidature. The Democratic Services Manager shall delete the name of the person concerned from the Roll of the relevant Honorary Title and advise that person accordingly.

13.08 Subject to paragraph 13.12 below, the Council may withdraw an Honorary Title from a person, together with the associated rights and privileges. The question as to whether the Honorary Title should be withdrawn shall be put by way of formal notice of motion, which must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer. The motion shall contain the reasons for such withdrawal. The Monitoring Officer shall ensure that the motion is included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the full Council. The formal withdrawal of an Honorary Title from a person shall be confirmed only following a resolution of the Council passed by not less than two-thirds of the councillors present and voting.

13.09 Any holder of an Honorary Title who is the subject of a motion referred to in paragraph 13.08 above shall be entitled, if they wish, to make representations to the Council when the motion is considered, for which they shall have five minutes immediately following the proposer and seconder's speeches. The holder of the Honorary Title shall be granted a right of reply for a further period of five minutes at the end of the debate and before a final decision or vote is taken.

13.10 On the passing of a resolution in accordance with paragraph 13.08 above, the Democratic Services Manager shall delete the name of the person concerned from the Roll of the relevant Honorary Title and advise that person accordingly.

13.11 Notwithstanding paragraph 13.07 above, a person conferred as an honorary alderman and subsequently re-elected as a councillor before the adoption of this protocol by the Council shall be entitled to be known as an honorary alderman once they cease to be a councillor. In all

other cases, any person conferred with an Honorary Title, who is subsequently re-elected as a councillor shall not automatically assume the Honorary Title once they cease to be a councillor. The Council may, however, re-confer the Honorary Title on the person concerned.

13.12 Before the Council considers the formal withdrawal of an Honorary Title from an individual whom, it is alleged, has transgressed this protocol, the Monitoring Officer shall, subject to being satisfied that there is evidence of such transgression, contact them to remind them of the protocol and warning them that they risk censure by the Council and possible withdrawal of their Honorary Title.

Article 14 - Financial and Legal Rules

- 14.01 The Council's financial business shall be regulated by the rules set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.
- 14.02 Every contract made by the Council and all procurements negotiated for the Council shall comply with the rules set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.
- 14.03 Unless any law authorises or requires otherwise, the Legal Services Manager shall be authorised to:
- (a) ~~to~~ institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where they/he/she considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests;
 - (b) ~~to~~ authenticate by signing any document which is necessary for any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the Council;
 - (c) ~~to~~ keep custody of the Common Seal of the Council.
 - (d) ~~to~~ provide evidence of the sealing of any document with the Common Seal of the Borough.
- 14.04 A decision of the Council, the Cabinet or any duly authorised representative, shall be sufficient authority for sealing any document necessary to give effect to that decision.

Article 15 - Review and Revision of the Constitution

Duty to Review the Constitution

- 15.01 The Council shall review the operation of this Constitution to ensure that the purposes and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. Such a review may be initiated by the Council at any time but shall be initiated at least once during the period between regular elections to the Council. In the absence of a resolution so to do by the third anniversary of a regular election, a review shall be deemed to have been initiated on the authority of this Article.
- 15.02 A review may be comprehensive or take the form of a programme dealing separately with particular Articles or Parts. In the latter case, the default provision in Article 15.01 will apply to any Article or Part not reviewed further to a resolution of the Council during the previous three years. Alongside or as part of this process the Monitoring Officer may make recommendations to Council on ways of improving the constitution and in so doing may:-
- Observe different meetings of the council

- Undertake audit trails of decisions
- Respond to issues raised with him/her/them by members, officers or others
- Compare best practice from other authorities and similar bodies

Duty to Monitor the Constitution

15.03 The Council's designated Monitoring Officer, will offer advice to the Council on

- (a) establishing means of monitoring the operation of the Constitution, which will provide evidence when it is required of its success in giving full effect to its purposes and principles, and
- (b) the process to be followed when a reviewing is being undertaken. In formulating this advice, the Monitoring Officer shall take into consideration the guidance published by the relevant government department.

Changes to the Constitution

15.04 **General:** Changes to the Constitution may be made only by the Council after consideration by the Cabinet. The Monitoring Officer may unilaterally approve drafting changes to the Constitution where they correct obvious errors, to take into account changes in legislation or better give effect to the clear intention of the Constitution.

15.05 **Change of form of Executive:** The Council will consult local people before determining whether to change to either an elected mayor and cabinet or an elected mayor and council manager.

Article 16 - Interpretation and Publication of the Constitution

Suspension of the Constitution

16.01 **Limit to suspension:** The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. Provisions within the appended Parts may be suspended to the extent, and in the manner, permitted within each Part. Where a rule reflects the law, suspension of the rule will not affect the force of the law.

16.02 **Procedure to suspend:** A motion to suspend any rules in any Part may not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the whole number of councillor members of the body in question is present. The extent and duration of suspension must be proportionate to the intended result which must take into account the purpose of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

Interpretation of the Constitution

16.03 The ruling of the chair of any formal meeting as to the meaning or effect of this Constitution, or any proceedings of the Council or any part of the Council, shall not be challenged during that meeting. Chairs making rulings must have regard to the purpose of this Constitution set out in Article 1.

Publication

16.04 The officer designated as Head of the Paid Service shall:

- (a) Provide a copy of this Constitution to each councillor on receiving that person's declaration of acceptance of office on being elected to the Council.
- (b) Ensure that it is available for inspection at Council offices, local public libraries and can be purchased by members of the public on payment of a reasonable set fee which shall not exceed the additional cost of making (and if applicable sending) a copy.
- (c) Ensure that the current edition of ~~a summary of~~ this Constitution, as adopted by the Council, is made widely available in the Borough via the Council's Web site.

Definition of Executive Arrangements

16.07 The following elements of this Constitution constitute the "executive arrangements" for legal purposes, together with the arrangements in Part 3 for assigning responsibility for Council functions and the rules in Part 4 which are relevant to each.

- (a) Article 6 Scrutiny and Overview
- (b) Article 7 The Cabinet
- (c) Article 9 Task Groups
- (d) Article 10 Area Committees and Forums
- (e) Article 11 Joint Arrangements
- (f) Article 13 Decision Making

Recommendations to Council from Cabinet on 17 November 2020.

CAB193 **STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Cabinet received a report which explained that the current ‘Statement of Licensing Policy’ was approved by Full Council on the 26th November 2015 and was effective from 7th January 2016. Regulations required that the policy was reviewed every five years and a replacement for our current policy must be in place by the 7th January 2021. The policy had been drawn up in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the current guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Joyce addressed the Cabinet, pleased that the worst gaming machines had been removed from use. He expressed concern about the reliance on the police commenting on applications and being able to respond to complaints, he raised concern about corporate licenses.

The Chair reminded Cabinet that matters outside the local control were a consideration for the national policy, the local policies had to be within the current legislation.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Ryves drew attention to “raves” held under a Temporary Event Notice, where he was reminded that a specific licensing matter was for consideration by the Licensing Committee, not Cabinet. Councillor Ryves then drew attention to the fact that only the police could be invited to comment on a TEN, and asked if others could be included within that. The Senior Licensing Officer explained that it was only possible to include those contained within the legislation.

The Environment and Community Panel had supported the Policy.

RECOMMENDED: That the Council be invited to adopt the revised Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

Reason for Decision

It is a statutory requirement that the Council adopts a Statement of Licensing Policy and review and publish that policy each five year period.

CAB194 **COVID 19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Geoff Hall Executive Director presented a report which explained that the Council adopted a Covid-19 Recovery Strategy for the Authority on 30.6.20. The report detailed the actions that the Council was taking, together with partners where appropriate, to facilitate recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic. It included both

internal actions for the Authority and those that are externally focussed upon the economy and community served by the Council. It was explained that it was clearly a moveable feast with the current Covid restrictions and levels of infection, but this document set out a direction of travel to ensure the Council was in a position to react and to move towards recovery.

Attention was drawn to the work being carried out with partners such as the NCC, Public Health NHS and CCG.

Credit and thanks were given by Cabinet members to the large numbers of staff who had worked for the benefit of the community during the covid restrictions.

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed Recovery Action Plan attached to the report is adopted.

Reason for Decision

To facilitate the achievement of objectives outlined in the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy. Also, to enable the prioritisation and resource allocation necessary to promote recovery from Covid-19, whilst also retaining the ability to react quickly to further peaks, local outbreaks or national initiatives relating to Covid-19.

CAB197 **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report which was brought following changes to the list of portfolio responsibilities, as amendments to the Scheme of Delegation were required so the two documents aligned.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Joyce raised a question on the Legal Services/Monitoring officer powers listed in the delegation and on the Emergency Powers section that the Chief Executive had allocated. It was confirmed that it was not necessarily because the decision was urgent, but that it needed to be made and other circumstances do not permit it.

RECOMMENDED: That the amended Scheme of Delegation be approved.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the scheme of delegation is in line with the portfolio areas of responsibility.