



Gloucester City Council

General Purposes Committee

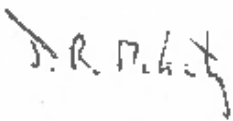
Meeting: Tuesday, 9th November 2021 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Williams (Chair), Taylor (Vice-Chair), S. Chambers, Field, Hilton, Padilla, Pullen and Tracey
Contact:	Democratic and Electoral Services 01452 396126 democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR To note the appointments made by Council at the Annual Meeting on 24 May 2021:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Councillor Williams• Vice Chair – Councillor Taylor
2.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
4.	MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021.
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or• Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers

6.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or• Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings
7.	CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (Pages 11 - 32) To consider the report of the Head of Paid Service concerning proposed changes to the council's Constitution.



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date of Publication: Monday, 1 November 2021

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, "securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

Recording of meetings

Please be aware that meetings may be recorded. There is no requirement for those wishing to record proceedings to notify the Council in advance; however, as a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so is advised to make the Chair aware before the meeting starts.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.



GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MEETING : Tuesday, 12th January 2021

PRESENT : Cllrs. Williams (Chair), Taylor (Vice-Chair), Coole, Field, Hilton, Lewis, D. Norman and Stephens

Others in Attendance

Managing Director

Corporate Director

Business Transformation Manager (Planning)

City Centre Manager

Democratic Services and Elections Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Committee noted the appointments made by Annual Council of Councillor Williams as Chair and Councillor Taylor as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

During Item 7, Councillor Taylor declared a personal interest as grammar schools were mentioned and he is employed at one.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair in due course.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions and deputations.

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6. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Paid Service concerning the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect a change to the functions of full Council and reviews in relation to the Codes of Practice relating to Planning and Licensing.

The Managing Director explained that he chairs an officer Corporate Governance Group that consists of statutory and key officers of the Council. One role of the Group is to review the Constitution and ensure relevant parts of the document had been updated.

The group had asked the Business Transformation Manager (Planning) and the City Centre Manager to review the Codes of Practice relating to Planning & Development and Licensing & Enforcement respectively to ensure the Codes were up to date and in line with best practice. Both officers had presented their proposed amendments for the Committee to consider and recommend to Council for approval.

The Managing Director added that an addition to Council Functions had been proposed as shown on page 16 of the report. Given the recent experience with Saintbridge Trust, it was felt beneficial for matters relating to the functions of the Council acting as a Trustee be explicitly referenced in the Constitution.

The Business Transformation Manager (Planning) outlined the main amendments in the revised version of the Planning and Development Code of Practice. She advised that the current Code had been in place since 2012 but did not reflect the current legislation. Amendments had been made to ensure continuity and the Introduction had been revised to clarify the status in relation to the Councillor Code of Conduct and the Employee Code of Conduct.

Reference to specific development plans had been removed and recent policies now included. The main change had been the inclusion of a Protocol for Planning Site Visits. This had been in place since 2017 and following a Local Government Peer Review, and it was appropriate to include this in the Code of Practice.

Councillor Coole raised concerns that it had been difficult to read the document due to the number of tracked changes that had been made. He asked why each reference made to 'Member' had been changed to 'Councillor'.

The Business Transformation Manager (Planning) advised that this change had been made to ensure consistency throughout the Constitution. She added that discussions had taken place to present Members with a schedule of amendments, however it had been agreed to present the document with tracked changes to allow Members to identify the amendments which had been made.

A number of members of the Committee agreed they found it difficult to fully assess the proposed changes with the amendments set out in the current format. Members requested a clean version of the new Code with the proposed amendments to be circulated, along with the existing version and a further meeting of the Committee be arranged.

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The Business Transformation Manager (Planning) had prepared both versions and would circulate these to the Committee for their approval.

The Corporate Director advised the Committee that the report was due to be presented to Council on 28 January 2021. In light of the timeline, he suggested if upon reviewing the alternative version of the document, Members did not have any objections, that it would not be necessary to have a meeting. If Members had any objections to the proposed amendments an additional meeting could be arranged prior to Full Council. The Chair indicated her support for the proposal.

Councillor Coole enquired on the number of Committee Members required to hold a meeting. The Corporate Director advised that the threshold should be more than one Member. In response to Councillor Coole's concerns about the process, the Corporate Director advised that if the Committee were not in a position to approve the report to Council at the present time, there was nothing to prevent them from agreeing a recommendation that indicated support, subject to considering the proposals in an alternative format. If that resulted in any concerns they could be addressed at a subsequent meeting, but if there were no concerns, the recommendation to Council could stand.

Councillor Coole referred to the addition to Council Functions and questioned how the Council would undertake functions relating to trusts if no rules and procedures were set out in the Constitution.

The Managing Director advised that, in specific reference to the Saintbridge Trust, Councillors had instructed officers to develop a set of governance documents to clarify the Trust's rules and procedures and that any other Trusts might have, or would need, governance to suit their particular requirements. As a result it was not appropriate to set those out in detail in the City Council's constitution.

Councillor Stephens said it would be useful to list the Trusts that the Council are responsible for in the Constitution to avoid any confusion in the future. He agreed that Trustees should be responsible for adopting their own arrangements for governance working.

Councillor Hilton referred to the Introduction on page 19 of the report relating to planning applications determined under delegated powers. He suggested it would be useful to have a reference made in the introduction that highlighted the arrangements around a Ward Councillor's ability to request for a matter to be determined, subject to reasonable planning reasons, by the Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers.

The City Centre Manager presented his report and outlined the amendments made to the Licensing and Enforcement Code of Practice. He advised that minor changes had been made to the document, including around the role of the Ward Members.

Members commented that the revised Licensing & Enforcement Code of Practice had been easier to comprehend and that they were happy for it to be recommended to Council for approval.

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RESOLVED

- (1) That clean copies of the revised and original Planning and Development Code of Practices, be circulated and if two or more Councillors have any issues or concerns with the proposals they indicate their concerns so that the matter(s) can be discussed at a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- (2) That the proposed change to Council Functions regarding trusts be approved
- (3) That a list of the trusts that the Council is responsible for be included in the Constitution.
- (4) That subject to resolution (1) above the revised Planning and Development Code of Practice be adopted and
- (5) That the revised Licensing and Enforcement Code of Practice, be adopted.

7. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS TO AND REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer concerning appointments to Outside Bodies.

The Corporate Director advised that the matter had arisen from the Audit & Governance Committee Work Programme. The Committee had requested a review to be undertaken to examine the Council's operation and effectiveness of appointments to Outside Bodies and if further improvements could be made to the process.

Councillors Wilson, D. Norman and Hampson had met with a number of representatives of Outside Bodies to gather information. A number of Outside Bodies had also been invited to attend the Audit and Governance Committee as part of the review process.

The report covered 3 areas for recommendation. The first finding showed that the City Council did not provide enough guidance and advice to manage the expectations of Outside Bodies and help Members be effective in their role. A draft guidance note had now been produced to help representatives on Outside Bodies. This would be included in the Constitution following the Council's endorsement of the guidance.

The second issue looked into the mechanisms in place to allow Councillors to report back on their work as appointees to Outside Bodies. The findings showed there had been a form of disengagement in this area. Following appointments made at Annual Council and there had been no feedback given on the work undertaken.

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The three new mechanisms proposed consisted of the following:

1. Produce an annual report – a template would be supplied to each representative on Outside Bodies to provide an update on the work they are undertaken
2. Provide a 15 minute slot at Council meetings to allow representatives on Outside Bodies to give an update on their work
3. Open invitation to all Outside Bodies to share their work which can be included in the Members' Bulletin

The Corporate Director referred to paragraph 3.10 of the report relating to the membership on Outside Bodies and outlined the proposed changes to appointments in respect of specific Outside Body.

Councillor Stephens raised concerns due to the substantial changes in the role of Councillors on Outside Bodies and commented this would be unfair to impose restrictions on the existing Members who had taken on the role. He suggested periodic reports should be presented to Overview & Scrutiny rather than Council.

Councillor Hilton commented that allowing a representative from an Outside Body to provide an update at a Council meeting would be beneficial. He referred to Llanthony Secunda Trust and the Gloucester United Schools Charity, which he believed were both important Trusts to retain and suggested these are included in Group B.

Councillor D Norman commented that as a member of the Audit and Governance Committee he had been involved in the process of interviewing a number of outside bodies and representatives. He agreed with Councillor Stephens that the agendas for Council meetings would need to be carefully managed by the Democratic Services Team to ensure space for Outside Body updates unduly extending meetings.

He added that following interviews with the Outside Bodies some expressed views on the role and involvement of Members and how they assisted the organisations. Councillor Norman added that Group Leaders need to ensure they nominate the correct Member who should be able to engage with the Outside Bodies. He added that some Members appointed to the role did not attend one meeting of the organisation.

General Purposes Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the adoption of the draft Guidance and reporting mechanisms and endorse the rationalisation of the range of existing appointments and recommend to Council that the changes are approved and incorporated into the Constitution, subject to the following amendment:

- 1) That Llanthony Secunda Trust and Gloucester United Schools Charity to be moved from Group C to Group B

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The Chair thanked the Audit & Governance Committee and the officers involved for the work undertaken on the report.

**Time of commencement: 6.00 pm hours
Time of conclusion: 6.51 pm hours**

Chair



Meeting:	General Purposes Committee Council	Date:	9 November 2021 18 November 2021
Subject:	Constitutional Changes		
Report Of:	Head of Paid Service		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Jon McGinty, Managing Director		
	Email: jon.mcginity@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel:	396200
Appendices:	1. Schedule of proposed revisions 2. Draft Revised Council Procedure Rules		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To propose changes to the Council Procedure Rules within the Council’s Constitution in respect of questions by the public and elected Members at meetings.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 General Purposes Committee is asked to consider the information contained in the report and make any **RECOMMENDATIONS** to the Council on the proposed changes to the Constitution.

2.2 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** to

- (1) Consider the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee and adopt the proposed changes to the Constitution.
- (2) Note that, as the report proposes to make changes to the Council Procedure Rules, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and 12, the proposed amendments, if agreed, shall stand adjourned until the next ordinary Council meeting.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 Under the emergency coronavirus legislation adopted in 2020, provision was made for meetings of Councils and their committees to be held via video conferencing technology as meetings ‘in person’ were not permitted.

3.2 During this time, if a member of the public wished to ask a question at a meeting, their technological capability was tested and they were given the option of either participating by video, telephone or to have the question read out on their behalf.

Their question was to be submitted in advance of the meeting, regardless of the medium with which they wished to participate so that, in the event of technological failure, the question could still be put.

- 3.3 Members of the public were largely amenable to their question being shared with the relevant Cabinet Member which enabled for fuller answers to be provided. Many also opted for their question to be read out by an officer, in some cases because it was more convenient. Given that these changes were received positively, it is proposed that both are implemented on a permanent basis; a notice period of three clear working days is proposed and members of the public would have the option to have their question read out on their behalf if they are unable to attend the meeting.
- 3.4 It is further proposed that similar changes be made to questions by Members to introduce a notice period for questions asked during the verbal Members' Question Time slot at full Council and Cabinet meetings in order that fuller answers can be given. This would apply to both Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time and Questions to Chairs of Committees and a slightly longer notice period of five clear working days is proposed to take account of the higher volume of questions expected from Members. An exception to the required notice is proposed for questions relating to urgent matters.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the separate provision for Written Questions to Cabinet Members be removed so as not to retain two similar question time facilities.
- 3.6 The remainder of the proposed amendments set out the detail of how the revised question time facilities would work in practice and deal with any consequential impact on other procedure rules. A schedule of the proposed changes is contained in Appendix 1, along with some possible alternatives for consideration, and Appendix 2 shows the revised Council Procedure Rules with tracked changes.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 See Appendix 1 for some alternative options that Members may wish to consider.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 It is good practice to keep the Constitution under periodic review.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and 12, the proposed amendments, if agreed, shall stand adjourned until the next ordinary Council meeting. The changes will be made to the Constitution, which will be republished on the council's website.

8.2 Further reviews and proposed revisions will be made in future to reflect the fact that the Constitution is an evolving document.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 None arising from this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 None arising from this report.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 Not applicable.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 The PIA screen stage considered whether accessibility and engagement with the democratic process would be impacted by the proposed changes and found that allowing members of the public to opt to have their question read out in their absence had the potential to improve accessibility and engagement by removing the barrier created by physical attendance.

12.2 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 Not applicable.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 Not applicable.

Background Documents: None

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Schedule of Proposed Changes to Council Procedure Rules

Questions by the public (Rule 10)

1. Members of the public would be required to give Democratic Services three clear working days' notice of any question that they wish to ask at any Council or committee meeting that has public question time slot. All questions received would be circulated to the appropriate Councillor so that a full answer could be prepared.
2. A member of the public unable to attend a meeting in person could choose to have their question asked on their behalf by the Mayor or an officer.
3. All questions and answers would be delivered verbally at the meeting and a full response must be provided; the current options to provide a written response or respond at the next meeting would be removed.

Questions by Members (Rule 12)

1. The provision to ask questions without prior notice would be replaced with a requirement to give Democratic Services five clear working days' notice of any question that they wish to ask at Council or Cabinet meetings. This would apply to both Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time and Questions to Chairs of Meetings and all questions received would be circulated to the appropriate Councillor so that a full answer could be prepared.
2. In line with current practice, the two Leaders of the Opposition Groups would ask two questions each at the beginning of the slot, irrespective of the order in which questions were received. Thereafter questions would be dealt with in the order they were received, including any further questions from Group Leaders.
3. An exception to the five day notice period would be made for urgent questions, for example if a matter had arisen after the notice period had passed and was of citywide importance. 30 minutes notice would be required for such questions and the Member to whom the question is addressed must agree that it can be asked.
4. Provision would be made for questions relating to exempt or confidential matters to be asked with a requirement for appropriate consideration to be given to excluding the press and public from the meeting while the question is asked and answered.
5. Questions would be asked and answered verbally and would therefore not be published except in the minutes of the meeting. Members would continue to be able to ask one related supplementary question without prior notice. The current option to provide a written response would be removed; a written response may be reasonable in the case of the supplementary question; however, Members are expected to answer as fully as they can during the meeting.
6. Any submitted questions that remain unanswered when the allocated time has passed will be answered in writing, with the response circulated to the Member who submitted the question and published with the minutes of the meeting. This does not prevent the Mayor from using their discretion to extend the allocated time if there are only one or two questions remaining.
7. The existing Written Questions to Cabinet Members slot at Council meetings would be removed as the provisions would be too similar to the proposals for verbal questions and would mean that there were two slots for questions requiring notice.

Consequential Amendments

1. Ordinary Meetings Order of Business – all references to Written Questions to Cabinet Members would be deleted to reflect the removal of this facility.
2. Application to Committees and Sub-Committees – additional sentence would be inserted to apply all parts of Rule 12, except 12.04, to meetings of the Cabinet and specify that the time allocated for questions by members at those meetings would be 15 minutes.

Alternative Options

There are a number of alternative options that Members may wish to consider in respect of the detailed arrangements for the proposed changes to questions, such as:

- Increasing the allocated time slot for verbal questions by Members to compensate for the loss of the written questions slot; 40 or 45 minutes may be suitable.
- Publishing the submitted questions in advance as an addendum to the agenda for the public to view.
- Publishing the answers to the submitted questions on the day of the meeting for Members and the public to view.
- Taking submitted questions and answers as read, with only the supplementary question and answer dealt with verbally. This would potentially allow for more questions to be dealt with in the allocated time.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Introduction

The Council Procedure Rules (Democratic Standing Orders) deal with the operation, procedures and practices related to Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings. These rules include both statutory requirements and locally agreed procedures.

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1. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1.01 Timing and Business

In a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, the annual meeting shall take place within 21 days of the retirement of the outgoing Councillors. In any other year, the annual meeting shall take place in May.

The annual meeting shall:

- (i) elect a person to preside if the Mayor (Chair) or Sheriff and Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chair) of Council are not present;
- (ii) elect the Mayor (Chair) of Council;
- (iii) elect the Sheriff and Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chair) of Council;
- (iv) approve the minutes of the last meeting;
- (v) receive any announcements from the Mayor and/or the Head of Paid Service;
- (vi) receive any declarations of interests from Members;
- (vii) elect the Leader in years when an election has taken place;
- (viii) appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are Executive functions (as set out in Part 3, Table 1 of this Constitution);
- (ix) agree the scheme of delegation or such part of it as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree functions (as set out in Part 3, Table 1 of this Constitution); and
- (x) consider any business set out in the notice convening the meeting.

1.02 Selection of Councillors on Committees and Outside Bodies

At the annual meeting, the Council meeting shall:

- (i) decide which Committees to establish for the municipal year;
- (ii) decide the size and terms of reference for those Committees;
- (iii) decide the allocation of seats [and substitutes] to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules;
- (iv) receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee; and
- (v) appoint to those Committees and outside bodies except where appointment to those bodies has been delegated by the Council or is exercisable only by the Executive.

2. ORDINARY MEETINGS ORDER OF BUSINESS

2.01 Programme of ordinary meetings

The programme of ordinary meetings of the Council will be agreed at an ordinary meeting of Council on an annual basis.

[Note: The programme of ordinary meetings of the Council will normally cover at least an 18 month period]

2.02 Ordinary meetings shall:

- (i) elect a person to preside if the Mayor (Chair) and Sheriff and Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chair) are not present;
- (ii) approve the minutes of the last meeting;
- (iii) deal with any business from the last Council meeting;
- (iv) receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- (v) receive questions from, and provide answers to, the public in relation to matters which in the opinion of the person presiding at the meeting are relevant to the functions of the Council meeting;
- (vi) receive petitions and deputations from the public;

- (vii) receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, Licensing and Enforcement Committee Chair, Planning Committee Chair, Audit and Governance Committee Chair or the Head of Paid Service (time limit 10 minutes in total);
- (viii) receive oral questions from Members, including Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time and Questions to Chairs of Meetings;
- (ix) determine which items of business set out in the summons to the meeting shall be approved without discussion and which items require discussion: after which the Council shall approve those items that can be approved without discussion and then consider the matters reserved for discussion in the following order
 - (a) proposals from the cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
 - (b) reports from the Cabinet
 - (c) reports from the Council's Committees
 - (d) reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (x) an exception to the above rules will apply to the budget meeting of Council by the omission of Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time, and Questions to Chairs of Meetings.

3. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

3.01 Calling Extraordinary Meetings:

Those listed below may request the Head of Paid Service to call Council meetings in addition to ordinary meetings:

- (i) the Council by resolution;
- (ii) the Mayor of the Council;
- (iii) the Monitoring Officer; and
- (iv) any five Members of the Council if they have signed a requisition presented to the Mayor of the Council and he/she has refused to call a meeting or has failed to call a meeting within seven days of the presentation of the requisition.

The business transacted at an extraordinary meeting shall be restricted to the purpose for which the meeting has been called and shall not consider any other business.

4. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

The Council shall, at the Annual Meeting (with the exception of the Cabinet, Licensing and Enforcement Committee, and Planning Committee) appoint such Members as deputies as it feels necessary, subject to the following:-

- (i) one appointed deputy may attend a meeting in place of a Member of that meeting;
- (ii) for the Planning Committee, any named Member from each party group may receive training on planning matters in accordance with the Planning and Development Code of Practice and may attend a meeting in place of a Planning Committee Member who is unable to attend;
- (iii) for the Licensing and Enforcement Committee, any named Member from each party group may receive training on licensing and enforcement matters in accordance with the Probity in Licensing Code of Practice and may attend a meeting in place of a Licensing and Enforcement Committee Member who is unable to attend;
- (iv) a deputy attending a meeting in the place of a Member of that meeting shall:
 - (a) be regarded as a Member of that meeting;
 - (b) be entitled to speak and vote on any matter before the meeting (subject to the requirements relating to Declarations of Interest);
- (v) that the Member or political group shall advise the Head of Paid Service of the name of the appointed deputy by 12 noon two clear working days prior to that

meeting (to ensure the relevant papers are supplied to the substitute Member), provided that in the event of genuine emergencies, the Chair of the relevant meeting, after consultation with the Head of Paid Service, may approve a Member attending as a deputy without such notice being given.

5. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council shall commence at 18.30 hours.

The time and place of other meetings shall be determined by the Head of Paid Service and notified in the Summons.

6. DURATION OF MEETINGS

The length of time of Council meetings shall be limited to three hours, but shall only be closed after three hours if a two-thirds majority of those Members in attendance vote to close the meeting.

The length of time of other meetings (excluding Planning Committee, Licensing and Enforcement Committee and Audit and Governance Committee) shall be limited to two hours unless extended by a two-thirds majority of those Members in attendance.

7. NOTICE OF AND SUMMONS TO MEETINGS

The Head of Paid Service shall give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Rules. At least five *clear* working days before a meeting, the Head of Paid Service will send a Summons authenticated by him or her to every Member of the Council. The Summons will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by such reports as are available.

8. CHAIR OF MEETING

The person presiding at the meeting may exercise any power or duty of the Chair. Where these rules apply to Committee and Sub-Committee meetings, references to the Chair also include the Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees.

9. QUORUM

The quorum of a meeting will be one quarter of the whole number of Members (unless specifically provided for in the terms of reference/constitution of a committee, etc.). During any meeting if the Chair counts the number of Members present and declares there is not a quorum present, then the meeting will adjourn immediately. Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If he/she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

10. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

(1) Subject to the provisions of Rule 2 (Order of Business), at or as soon as reasonably possible after the commencement of business at ordinary meetings of the Council (except the annual meeting), the Cabinet, a Committee, (except the Planning Committee) or a Forum, a period of 15 minutes shall be set aside for members of the public to put questions to the meeting **PROVIDED** that no such question shall be allowed in relation to:

- (i) matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings or
- (ii) matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council officers

(2) Notice of questions must be given by no later than 12 noon, three clear working days before the day of the meeting. Such notice must be in writing or by electronic mail to the Head of Paid Service, c/o Democratic Services, PO Box 3252,

Gloucester, GL1 9FW (e-mail, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk). Each question must be supported by the name and address of the questioner.

- (3) Questions will be dealt with in the order they were received. However priority will be given to Gloucester City Council residents.
- (4) Members of the public shall be allowed to ask one question each. Where not all the time set aside for questions by the public is used, members of the public shall be allowed to ask a second question.
- (5) If a member of the public who has submitted a question is unable to be present at the meeting, the question will be put on their behalf by the Mayor or a Council officer.
- (6) All public questions shall be put to the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair to respond.
- (7) Only one answer shall be given in response to an individual question at a meeting and no debate shall be allowed on the question or the response given.
- (8) The Mayor or Chair shall not allow the same question, or substantially the same question, to that put at a previous meeting of the Council, a Committee, or a Forum within the preceding six months, unless circumstances relating thereto have materially changed.

11. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) All petitions received, including e-petitions, shall be dealt with in accordance with the Council's published petitions scheme (Part 5 – Codes and Protocols).
- (2) Subject to the provisions of Rule 2, after the period set aside for public questions as provided in Rule 10, at all ordinary meetings of the Council (except the annual meeting) the Cabinet, a Committee, (except the Planning Committee) or a Forum, a period of 15 minutes shall be set aside for members of the public to present petitions or make deputations to the meeting **PROVIDED** that no such petitions or deputations shall be allowed in relation to:
 - (i) matters relating to individual Council Officers; or
 - (ii) matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings
- (3) Where any petition is presented or any deputation is made, the Mayor or the Chair shall allow only one member of the public to speak on the matter for a reasonable period not exceeding 3 minutes.
- (4) Where a petition is presented or a deputation is made:
 - (i) at a Council meeting, the Mayor shall refer the matter to the appropriate Cabinet Member or Committee Chair to respond on behalf of the Council;
 - (ii) at a Committee, or Forum meeting, the Chair shall respond.
- (5) Only one response shall be given to a petition or deputation and no debate shall be allowed on the petition, deputation or response.
- (6) At the discretion of the responding Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the subject matter of the petition or deputation may be referred to a future meeting of the Council, the Cabinet, appropriate Committee, or Forum for consideration.
- (7) The Mayor or Chair shall not allow a petition to be presented or a deputation made on the same issue, or substantially the same issue, to that presented or made at a previous meeting of the Council, the Cabinet, a Committee, or a Forum within the preceding six months, unless circumstances relating thereto have materially changed.

12. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

12.01 Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time

That a period of thirty minutes be set aside so that any Member of Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member any question upon

- any matters relating to the Council's administration;
- relating to any report of the Cabinet appearing on the Council's summons;
- a matter coming within their portfolio of responsibilities.

Where there is one opposition Group, the opposition group leader shall have the opportunity to ask the first two questions and where there are two opposition groups, the opposition group leaders shall have the opportunity to ask the first four questions, two questions each respectively. Thereafter, questions will be dealt with in the order they were received including any further questions from opposition group leaders.

12.02 Questions To Chairs of Meetings

That a period of 15 minutes be set aside so that any Member of the Council may ask the Chair of a Committee any question upon any issue in respect of that Committee or in respect of an item shown in the minutes of the Committee after they have been approved by the relevant Committee.

12.03 Notice of Questions

Members may not ask questions unless a written copy of the question has been delivered to the Managing Director, c/o Democratic Services, PO Box 3252, Gloucester, GL1 9FW (e-mail, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk) by 12 noon five clear working days before the meeting; or

The question relates to:

- A matter which the Chair decides is urgent;
- The Member to whom the question is addressed, has agreed; and
- Notification of the question has been given to the Head of Paid Service at least half an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting.

12.04 Exempt or Confidential Information

Unless a Member has first complied with 12.03, they shall not ask any questions or make any statement relating to any decision made by the Cabinet or other Council body, if the statement or decision relates to confidential or exempt information.

Before such a question is asked, the Mayor shall consider inviting the Council to resolve that the meeting, or part of it, shall not be open to members of the public.

12.05 Response

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but a Member may ask one supplementary question to the same person as the original question.

Any submitted questions that remain unanswered when the allocated time period has passed will be answered in writing, with the response circulated to the Member who submitted the question and published with the minutes of the meeting.

12.06 Supplementary Questions

No notice has to be given for the supplementary question, but it must arise directly out of the original question or the reply given to that question. If the supplementary question relates to any decision that relates to confidential or exempt information, then before asking the supplementary question, the Member shall inform the Mayor that is the case. Before the supplementary question is asked, the Mayor of the meeting shall consider inviting the full Council to resolve that the meeting, or part of it, shall not be open to members of the public.

13. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

- (1) Notice of every motion, other than a motion which under Rule 14 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing, signed by the Member or Members of the Council giving the notice (or alternatively by electronic form, provided that the Head of Paid Service is satisfied with proof of identity), and delivered, by noon at least eight clear working days before the next meeting of the Council, to the Head of Paid Service by whom it shall be dated, numbered in the order in which it is received, and entered in a book which shall be open to the inspection of every Member of the Council.

Motions To Be Set Out in Summons

- (2) The Head of Paid Service shall set out in the summons for every meeting of the Council all Motions of which notice has been duly given in the order in which they have been received, unless the Member giving such a notice intimated in writing, when giving it, that they propose to move it at some later meeting, or has since withdrawn it in writing.

Selection of Motions

- (3) Before the start of the Council meeting, Party Leaders will select, by a simple majority vote, which motions listed in the summons will be called for debate.

Motion Not Moved

- (4) If a motion set out in the Summons is not moved either by a Member who gave notice thereof or by some other Member it shall, unless postponed by the consent of the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.

Automatic Reference to the Cabinet or Appropriate Committee

- (5) If the subject matter of any motion of which notice has been duly given comes within the province of a Cabinet portfolio or any Committee, it shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 15, be formally moved and seconded without speeches and thereupon shall automatically stand referred without discussion or debate to the Cabinet, or relevant Committee for consideration and report.

Scope of Motions

- (6) Every motion shall be relevant to some matter in relation to which the Council have powers or duties or which affects the City.

Motions Out of Order

- (7) If it shall appear to the Head of Paid Service that a motion, notice of which has been received, is not relevant to some matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the City, or is otherwise objectionable, the Head of Paid Service shall take the direction of the Chair as to whether or not it shall be placed on the Council summons, and the decision of the Chair thereon shall

be final; but a Member may give oral notice of any motion which has been so ruled out of order, at the meeting at which it would have been submitted had it been on the Council summons, and, if the Council so direct, it shall be placed on the Council summons for the next meeting.

14. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The following motions may be moved without notice:

- (a) to appoint a Chair of the meeting at which the motion is moved;
- (b) in relation to the accuracy of the minutes;
- (c) to change the order of business in the agenda;
- (d) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual;
- (e) to appoint a Committee or Member arising from an item on the Summons for the meeting;
- (f) to receive reports or adoption of recommendations of Committees or officers and any resolutions following from them;
- (g) to withdraw a motion;
- (h) to extend the time limit for speeches;
- (i) to amend a motion;
- (j) to proceed to the next business;
- (k) that the question be now put;
- (l) to adjourn a debate;
- (m) to adjourn a meeting;
- (n) to suspend a particular Council procedure rule;
- (o) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules
- (p) to not hear further a Member named under Rule 22.03 or to exclude them from the meeting under Rule 22.04; and
- (q) to give the consent of the Council where its consent is required by this Constitution.

15. RULES OF DEBATE

15.01 Motions and Amendments

A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded and, unless notice has already been given in accordance with Rule 13, it has been put into writing and handed to the Chair before it is further discussed or put to the meeting. Provided that an amendment to Committee minutes shall be moved only after questions under Rule 12.05 have been answered and before Members speak to the minutes.

In respect of Minutes of a Committee which are before the Council for consideration and which contain resolutions which have been taken under delegated powers, a Councillor may move that a particular Minute is referred back to the Committee for further consideration, provided that any resolution referred to in the Minutes has not already been implemented, and further provided that subsequent debate on the referral back be in accordance with these rules for debate at Council.

15.02 Secunder's Speech

A Member when seconding a motion or amendment may, when doing so, state an intention to reserve the seconding speech until a later period of the debate.

15.03 Only One Member to Stand at a Time

A Member shall rise and speak only when called upon so to do by the Chair. While a Member is speaking the other Members shall remain seated unless rising to a point of order or in personal explanation.

15.04 Content and Length of Speeches and Questions

Speeches of Members or questions shall be directed to the matter under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a point of order. No speech or question shall exceed three minutes in length except

- (i) with the consent of the Council
- (ii) the proposer and seconder of a motion or amendment (limited to five minutes)
- (iii) the mover of a motion or the response by an opposition group leader regarding the annual budget statement or the annual work programme (no time limit).
- (iv) other speeches regarding the annual budget statement or the annual work programme (limited to five minutes)

15.05 When a Member May Speak Again

A Member who has spoken on any motion (save only to ask a question or questions) shall not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (a) to speak once on an amendment moved by another Member;
- (b) if the motion has been amended since they last spoke, to move a further amendment;
- (c) if the Member's first speech was on an amendment moved by another Member, to speak on the main issue, whether or not the amendment on which they spoke was carried;
- (d) in exercise of a right of reply given by paragraph (15.11) or (15.13);
- (e) on a point of order;
- (f) by way of personal explanation.

15.06 Amendments to Motions

An amendment shall be relevant to the motion and shall be either:

- (a) to refer a subject of debate to the Cabinet or a Committee for consideration or reconsideration; or
- (b) to leave out words; or
- (c) to leave out words and insert or add others; or
- (d) to insert or add words;

but an amendment shall not have the effect of negating the motion before Council by being directly contradictory, or contrary to it, or by introducing a new motion. Where some parts of an amendment are negatory and others are not, provided that the spirit of the motion has not been changed by the deletion of the negatory element of the amendment, the remainder of the amendment shall be allowed to stand.

Amendments to Motions on Notice shall be given in writing, signed by the Member proposing the amendment (or alternatively by electronic form, provided that the Head of Paid Service is satisfied with proof of identity), and delivered, by noon on the day of the relevant Council meeting, to the Head of Paid Service who will circulate all amendments received to Group Leaders no later than 3.00pm the same day.

15.07 Amendments to be Dealt with Singly

Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time and no further amendment shall be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of.

Provided that the Chair may permit two or more amendments to be discussed (but not voted on) together if circumstances suggest that this course would facilitate the proper conduct of the Council's business.

15.08 Effect of Amendment if Carried or Lost

If an amendment be lost, other amendments may be moved on the original motion, provided that no amendment shall be moved which is of the same, or substantially similar effect, to the amendment which has been lost. If an amendment be carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the motion upon which any further amendment may be moved, provided such further amendment is not inconsistent, or incompatible, with the alteration of the original motion made by the amendment which has been carried.

15.09 Alteration of Motion

A Member may with the consent of the Council signify without discussion:

- (a) alteration of a motion of which they have given notice; or
- (b) with the further consent of the seconder alter a motion which the Member has moved;

if (in either case) the alteration is one which could be made as an amendment thereto.

15.10 Withdrawal of Motion

A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the Member's seconder and of the Council, which shall be signified without discussion and no Member may speak upon it after the mover has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission shall have been refused.

15.11 Right of Reply

The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the close of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote. If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion shall also have a right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, and shall not otherwise speak on the amendment. The mover of the amendment shall have no right of reply to the debate on the amendment which has been moved.

15.12 Motions which may be Moved During Debate

When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:

- (a) to amend the motion under Rule 15.06;
- (b) to proceed to next business under Rule 15.13(a) below;
- (c) that the question be now put under Rule 15.13(b) below;
- (d) to adjourn the debate or the meeting under Rule 15.13(c) below;
- (e) that the Member named be not further heard on the particular amendment or motion or at the meeting under Rule 22.03;
- (f) by the Chair that a Member do leave the meeting either generally or during consideration of the amendment or Motion before the meeting under Rule 22.04;
- (g) a motion under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, to exclude the public.

15.13 Closure Motions

A Member may move without comment at the conclusion of a speech of another Member, 'That the Council proceed to the next business', 'That the question be now

put', 'That the debate be now adjourned', or 'that the Council do now adjourn', on the seconding of which the Chair shall proceed as follows:

- (a) on a motion to proceed to next business: unless in the Chair's opinion the matter before the meeting has been insufficiently discussed, the Chair shall first give the mover of the original motion a right of reply, and then put to the vote the Motion to proceed to next business (no vote on the issue under debate);
- (b) on a motion that the question be now put: unless in the Chair's opinion the matter before the meeting has been insufficiently discussed, the Chair shall first put to the vote the motion that the question be now put, and if it is passed then give the mover of the original motion his right of reply under paragraph 11 of this Rule before putting that Member's motion to the vote;
- (c) on a motion to adjourn the debate or the meeting: if in the Chair's opinion the matter before the meeting has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be sufficiently discussed on that occasion the Chair shall put the adjournment motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion a right of reply on that occasion. The meeting shall stand adjourned until recalled under the Constitution.

15.14 Points of Order or Personal Explanation

A Member may, with the consent of the Chair, rise on a point of order or in personal explanation, and shall be entitled to be heard forthwith. A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of these Rules or statutory provisions and the Member shall specify the Rule or statutory provision and the way in which it is considered it has been broken. A personal explanation shall be confined to correcting an incorrect statement about themselves or about what the Member has or is reported to have said.

15.15 Chair's Ruling on Point of Order or Explanation to be Final

The ruling of Chair on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall be final and not open to question.

15.16 Respect for Chair

Whenever the Chair rises during a debate a Member or Members then standing shall resume their seat(s) and the Council shall be silent.

15.17 Powers of Chair

At the Chair's discretion, such steps shall be taken as is considered necessary to ensure the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting and the efficient dispatch of business without infringing Members' democratic rights or freedom of speech.

16. PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND MOTIONS

16.01 Motion to Rescind a Previous Decision

A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of Council within the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion is signed by at least ten Members or unless the motion arises from a recommendation to the Council from the Cabinet or a Committee.

16.02 Motion similar to one previously rejected

A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of Council in the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least ten Members. Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no one can propose a similar motion or amendment for six months.

17. URGENT ITEMS

Where there is a need to consider items of urgent business which are not specified in the summons to meeting, the Member or Officer wishing to raise the same shall before the commencement of the meeting discuss the matter with the Mayor, the Group Leaders, the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer and the Mayor's decision as to whether to consider the item shall be conclusive.

18. VOTING

18.01 Majority

Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put.

18.02 Chair's Casting Vote

If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chair will have a second or casting vote.

18.03 Show of Hands

Unless a recorded vote is demanded under Rule 18.04, the Chair will take the vote by show of hands, or if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.

18.04 Recorded Vote

If five Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the Minutes.

18.05 Recorded Votes at Budget Council Meetings

A recorded vote shall take place when the Council makes a calculation of the budget requirement or issues a Council tax precept under relevant sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Such a vote shall be undertaken in accordance with Procedure Rule 18.04.

18.06 Right to Require Individual Vote to be Recorded

Where any Member requests it immediately after a vote is taken, their vote will be so recorded in the Minutes to show whether they voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting.

18.07 Voting on Appointments

If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

19. MINUTES

19.01 Signing the Minutes

The Chair will sign the Minutes of the proceedings at the next suitable meeting. The Chair will move that the Minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a correct record. The only part of the Minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy.

19.02 No Requirement to Sign Minutes of Previous Meeting at Extraordinary Meeting

The business transacted at an extraordinary meeting is restricted to the purpose for which the meeting has been called (Rule 3.01 above). An extraordinary meeting is not, therefore, a suitable meeting for the purposes of Rule 19.01 and the signing of the minutes of the preceding meeting will be deferred to the following suitable meeting.

19.03 Form of Minutes

Minutes will contain all motions and amendments in the exact form and order the Chair put them.

19.04 No Protest Recorded in Minutes

No protest or expression of dissent shall be entered in the Minutes of the Council.

20. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Policy and Governance Manager will record the names of all Members present during the whole or part of a meeting on the attendance sheets to assist with the record of attendance.

21. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Members of the public and press may only be excluded either in accordance with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution or Rule 24 (Disturbance by Public).

22. MEMBERS' CONDUCT

22.01 Standing to Speak

When a Member speaks at Full Council they must stand and address the meeting through the Chair. If more than one Member stands, the Chair will ask one to speak and the others must sit. Other Members must remain seated whilst a Member is speaking unless they wish to make a point of order or a point of personal explanation.

22.02 Chair Standing

Whenever the Chair rises during a debate a Member or Members then standing shall resume their seat(s) and the Council shall be silent.

22.03 Member not to be Heard Further

If a Member persistently disregards the ruling of the Chair by behaving improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business, the Chair may move that the Member be not heard further. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

22.04 Member to Leave the Meeting

If the Member continues to behave improperly after such a motion is carried, the Chair may move that either the Member leaves the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

22.05 General Disturbance

If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chair may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks necessary.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23.01 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as defined by Regulations under the Localism Act 2011 or an "other" as described in paragraph 18 of the Councillor Code of Conduct, they will be required to declare that interest and remove themselves to the public gallery during discussion and voting on the item in which they have an interest. The Chair of any meeting at which such an interest is disclosed shall have discretion to exclude the Member from the meeting during the discussion and voting on the item in which the Member has an interest if the Member's behaviour is

considered by the Chair to be having an undue influence on or attempting to put pressure on the Members voting on that item.

24. DISTURBANCE BY PUBLIC

24.01 Removal of a Member of the Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting room.

24.02 Clearance of Part of Meeting Room

If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chair may call for that part to be cleared.

25. RECORDINGS OF MEETINGS

25.01 The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency and allows filming and recording at its meetings that are open to the public. These arrangements will operate in accordance with the a protocol agreed by the Council and which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution.

26. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

26.01 Suspension

All of these Council Rules of Procedure except Rule 18.02 and 18.04 may be suspended by motion on notice or without notice if at least one half of the whole number of Members of the Council are present. Suspension can only be for the duration of the meeting or for that part of the meeting identified in the motion.

26.02 Amendment

Any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Council Rules of Procedure will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

27. APPLICATION TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

All of the Council Rules of Procedure apply to meetings of Full Council. Only Rules 5-11, 14, 18-26 (but not Rule 22.01) apply to meetings of the Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees, Forums and Working Parties. Rule 12 (but not Rule 12.02) also applies to meetings of the Cabinet, with a period fifteen minutes allocated for Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time.

Rule 12 also applies to meetings of the Cabinet, with a reduced period of fifteen minutes set aside.

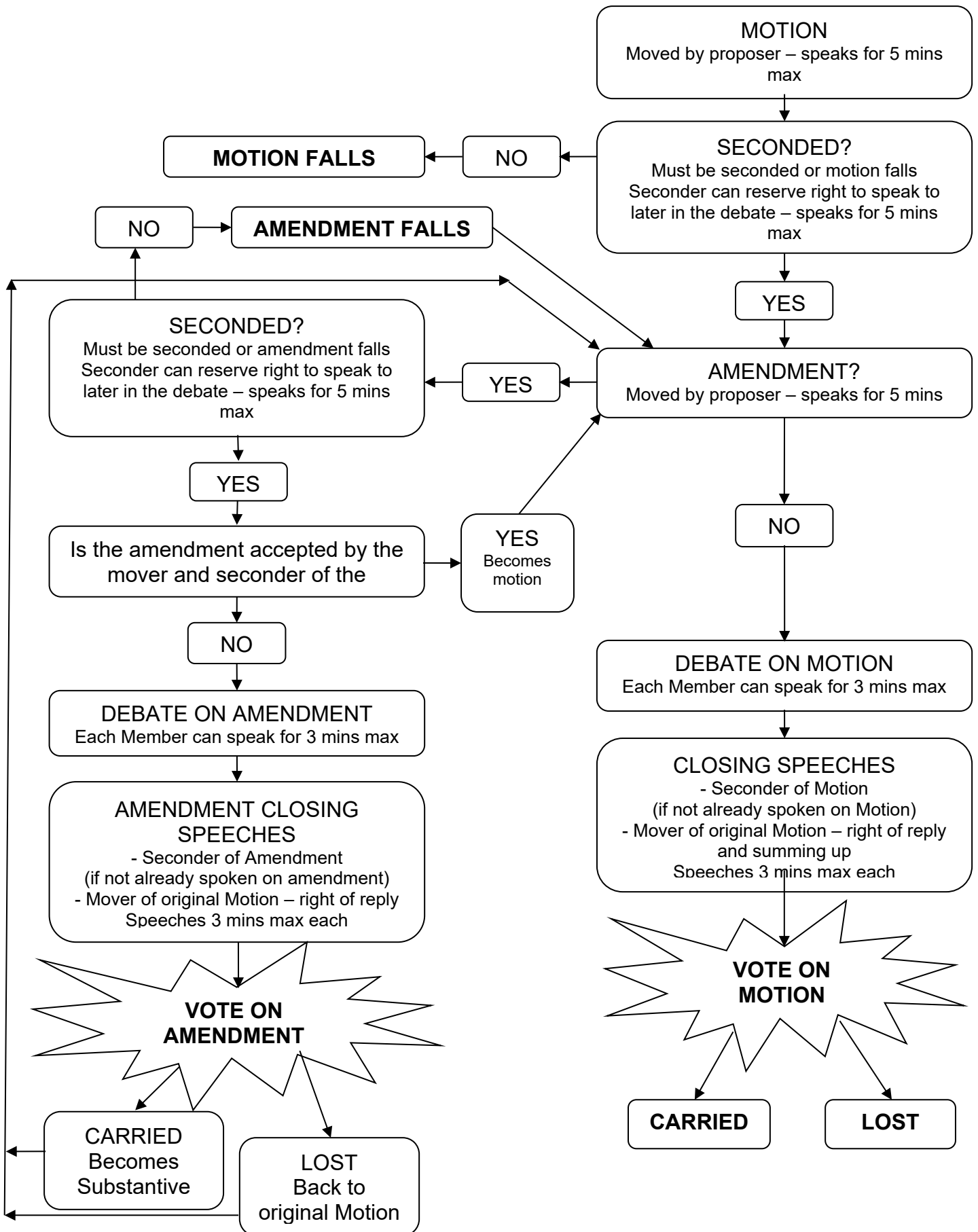
28. ORDER OF SENIORITY OF MEMBERS

28.01 Members of the Council shall rank in order of seniority as follows:

The Mayor
The Sheriff and Deputy Mayor
The Leader of the Council
The Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Members (in alphabetical order)
The Leaders of political groups

Thereafter according to the length of service with the Council (those with the same length of service being ranked in alphabetical order).

29. Council Debate Flowchart



30. Council Budget Flowchart

