

# Standing orders

## October 2020

# **London Councils STANDING ORDERS<sup>1</sup>**

## **INTRODUCTION**

These are the Standing Orders and rules of debate and procedure for the conduct of meetings of the London Councils joint committees. The Standing Orders apply to the London Councils' Leaders' Committee and, wherever appropriate, to the associated joint committees (the Grants Committee and London Councils Transport and Environment Committee), any sectoral joint committees, and any sub-committees (sometimes referred to as 'Panels') and forums of London Councils; and any reference to 'London Councils' is a collective reference to all of them. The Standing Orders have been drawn up having regard to Government best practice, guidance and statutory requirements.

In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Standing Orders and the provisions of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement (which includes the London Grants Scheme) or the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (LCTEC) Governing Agreement, the relevant provision of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement or the LCTEC Governing Agreement shall prevail.

**Revised 13 October 2020**

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as Schedule 6 of London Councils Agreement, 2001

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## **1. MEETINGS**

### **Generally**

- 1.1 Leaders' Committee, its associated joint committees (the Grants Committee and the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC)) and any sectoral joint committees shall each hold a minimum of 2 meetings<sup>2</sup> each year, one of which shall be an annual general meeting.
- 1.2 Subject to 1.1 above, meetings of London Councils shall be called, and the procedure to be adopted at such meetings shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of these Standing Orders.
- 1.3 Any member London Local Authority may give written notice of an item to be placed on the Agenda for any meeting. All notices of items for agendas and reports for circulation with agenda must be received by the Chief Executive not less than ten working days prior to the meeting to which the agenda relates.
- 1.4 Each London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee, its associated joint committees, and any sectoral joint committee, shall be entitled to receive from the Chief Executive sufficient copies of the Agenda, papers and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the joint committees and any Forums and sub-committees thereof.
- 1.5 Deputations shall be entitled, upon prior notification being given to the Chief Executive and at the discretion of the Chair, to attend and address the meeting for not more than ten minutes and to answer questions from members for a further ten minutes.

### **Calling Meetings**

- 1.6 Meetings may be called by:
  - (i) Leaders' Committee, or the associated joint committee or sectoral joint committee by resolution;
  - (ii) the Chair of the relevant joint committee;
  - (iii) a requisition signed by not less than one third of the representatives, delivered to the Chief Executive at least ten working days before the date mentioned in the requisition.

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<sup>2</sup> Any reference to meetings relates to formal, decision making meetings rather than 'for information' meetings

## **Business**

- 1.7 The Summons to any such meeting shall set out the business to be transacted thereat, and no business other than that set out in the summons shall be considered at the meeting unless by 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.

## **Annual Meetings of Leaders' Committee and associated joint committees and sectoral joint committees**

### **Timing and Business**

- 1.8 Leaders' Committee, each associated joint committee and each sectoral joint committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) before the end of July of each year.

The relevant joint committee will at its AGM:

- (i) appoint a Chair and up to three Vice Chairs;
- (ii) approve the minutes of the last meeting of that joint committee;
- (iii) receive the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
- (iv) receive any announcements from the Chair and/or Head of Paid Service;
- (v) appoint such sub committees and forums as considered appropriate to deal with matters which are not otherwise reserved to London Councils, LCTEC, Grants Committee or any sectoral joint committee;
- (vi) decide the size and terms of reference for those sub committees and forums;
- (vii) decide the allocation of seats [and substitutes] to political groups<sup>2</sup> in accordance with the political balance rules, unless the terms of reference (or constitution) of a sub-committee or forum makes specific provision for the make up of its membership;

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<sup>2</sup> Whilst not specifically bound by the legislation that governs this issue in borough councils, London Councils has operated on a similar basis to boroughs in recognising a party group as being one with two or more members which declare themselves as a group with a Leader. In the context of London Councils, members are the members of Leaders' Committee. No other metric - for example the overall proportion of London councillors – is used in determining proportionality among the groups. Current practice is that party groups are able to offer seats to other elected representatives but are under no obligation to do so.

- (viii) approve a programme of ordinary meetings for the joint committee, sub committee or forum for the year;
- (ix) consider any business set out in the notice convening the meeting.

1.9 London Councils Leaders' Committee will also:

- (i) appoint a Deputy Chair;
- (ii) agree the scheme of delegation to officers;
- (iii) receive nominations of Councillors appointed to Committees by the participating London Local Authorities.

1.10 Transport and Environment Committee will also:

- (i) receive a report recommending nominations to outside bodies.

1.11 Grants Committee will also:

- (i) approve any delegations to sub-committees or Officers in relation to the management of the London Grants Scheme.

### **Ordinary meetings**

1.12 Ordinary meetings of Leaders' Committee, the associated joint committees, and any sectoral joint committee, will take place in accordance with a programme decided at the relevant AGM. Ordinary meetings will:

- (i) elect a person to preside if the Chair, Deputy Chair, or Vice Chairs are not present;
- (ii) approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting;
- (iii) receive any declarations of interest from members;
- (iv) receive any announcements from the Chair or the Chief Executive;
- (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 business of the meeting and the submission of which have complied with Standing Order 8;

- (vi) deal with any business from the last meeting;
- (vii) receive and consider reports/presentations from the London Councils sub-committees, forums and associated joint committees and receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
- (viii) receive nominations and make appointments to fill vacancies arising in respect of any sub-committee, forum or outside body for which the joint committee is responsible;
- (ix) receive and consider minutes of meetings, any sub committees and forums which have taken place since the joint committee last met.
- (x) consider motions; and
- (xi) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting.

1.13 The order of business of any associated committee shall be as shall be determined by the joint committee.

1.14 The Chair may at his/her discretion alter the order in which business is taken.

1.15 Leaders' Committee will also receive and consider minutes of meetings, of associated joint committees, any sectoral joint committee, and their sub committees as necessary and relevant to the operation and governance of London Councils.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall appoint its Leader as its representative to London Councils Leaders' Committee.

2.2 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall make an appropriate appointment to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.

2.3 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall make an appropriate nomination to London Councils Grants Committee. Any nominations to Grants Committee must be a Cabinet Member or have appropriate delegated authority from their council.

- 2.4 Each London Local Authority that subscribes to a sectoral joint committee shall make an appropriate nomination to that sectoral joint committee, ensuring that nominees have the appropriate delegated authority.
- 2.5 The Chairs of each of the associated joint committees, any sectoral joint committee, any Forums or any sub-committees of Leaders' Committee shall also be entitled to sit ex officio (but not to vote in such capacity) on Leaders' Committee.
- 2.6 Any Lead Member appointed in respect of any issue by any of the London Councils joint committees shall be entitled to sit ex officio (but not to vote in such capacity) on Leaders' Committee.
- 2.7 London Councils may admit to membership such representatives of such other bodies as it considers appropriate or is required as the result of any legislation to admit from time to time on such terms as shall be agreed with such other bodies. Such representatives shall be entitled to sit ex officio but not to vote in such capacity.
- 2.8 The Chief Executive of each of the London Local Authorities or his/her nominated representative shall be entitled to attend as an observer but not to speak or vote at any meeting.

### **Deputy Representatives**

- 2.9 If the appointed representative of a London Local Authority is unable to be present at a meeting of Leaders' Committee, an associated joint committee or sectoral joint committees, that member authority may be represented by a deputy who shall be duly appointed for the purpose. A deputy attending a meeting shall declare him/herself as such but shall otherwise be entitled to speak and vote as if he/she were a member of that London Councils committee.

### **Elected Officers**

- 2.10 The following shall be the Elected Officers of Leaders' Committee:
- (i) Chair
  - (ii) Deputy Chair
  - (iii) Vice Chairs
- 2.11 The following shall be the Elected Officers of the Transport and Environment Committee:



- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.12 The following shall be the Elected Officers of the Grants Committee:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.13 The following shall be the Elected Officers of any sectoral joint committee:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.14 The following shall be the Elected Officers of any sub-committee appointed by Leaders' Committee, associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chair/Deputy/s

2.15 The overall balance of which shall be such as to ensure proportional representation of party political groupings on London Councils.

2.16 In a year in which there are council elections, the elected officers of London Councils and all its member bodies shall cease to hold office on the day of the council elections and shall cease to be remunerated save that Leaders' Committee may, by agreement, decide to remunerate members for activity in pursuance of the discharge of the business of London Councils under SO 19.2. Notwithstanding, the outgoing Chair shall be able to preside at the subsequent AGM until a new Chair is elected.

### **3 TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS**

3.1 The date, time and place of meetings will be determined by the Chief Executive and notified in the summons.

### **4 NOTICE OF AND SUMMONS TO MEETINGS**

4.1 The Chief Executive will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Rules

4.2 The Chief Executive shall, not less than five clear working days before the intended meetings of Leaders' Committee and any associated joint committee or sectoral joint committee,

circulate a notice thereof to each representative and deputy representative and the Town Clerk/Chief Executive or the nominated officer of every London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee, the associated committees or sectoral joint committee. The notice 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. Where the recipient has given consent for the summons to attend the meeting to be transmitted in electronic form to a particular electronic address (and consent has not been withdrawn), the summons may be sent in electronic form to that address.

- 4.3 Provided that the failure of any such notice to be delivered shall not affect the validity of the meeting or of the business transacted thereat. Provided also that at times it may be necessary to circulate reports in a second despatch or to circulate them at the meeting.

## **5 CHAIR OF MEETING**

- 5.1 At every meeting the Chair if present shall preside. If the Chair is absent the Deputy Chair if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Deputy Chair are absent a Vice Chair if present, shall preside. If neither the Chair, Deputy Chair or a Vice Chair is present the meeting shall elect a chair from one of its members.
- 5.2 For the purposes of these Standing Orders references to the Chair, in the context of the conduct of business at meetings, shall mean the person presiding under this Standing Order.
- 5.3 The person presiding at the meeting may exercise any power or duty of the Chair. Where these rules apply to sub-committee or forum meetings, references to the Chair also include the chair of sub-committees or forums.

## **6 QUORUM**

- 6.1 The quorum shall be one third of, or the number nearest to one third, but not less than three Members (except for the quorum for Audit Committee, which because of both its size and the nature of its business is a special case and therefore is only two) entitled to be present at Leaders' Committee, and any associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees or sub committees of London Councils.
- 6.2 If within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting to commence, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 If, during the meeting, the person presiding, after causing the number of members present to be counted, declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned for fifteen minutes. If, after fifteen minutes there is still no quorum present, the meeting shall be brought to an end and all business not completed before the meeting has been brought to an end shall be postponed to the next meeting, whether ordinary or extraordinary.
- 6.5 If during the meeting any member absents themselves permanently making the meeting inquorate, the meeting will stand adjourned.

## **7 DURATION OF MEETING**

- 7.1 Subject to Standing Order 27 (suspension of Standing Orders) if, after two and a half hours after the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the business on the agenda has not been completed, the meeting of London Councils or any associated committee or sectoral joint committee shall automatically adjourn and any debate then proceeding shall be suspended and all business unfinished shall stand adjourned to the next meeting, unless otherwise directed by the meeting Chair

## **8 DEPUTATIONS**

- 8.1 Deputations shall be entitled, upon prior notification being given to the Chief Executive and at the discretion of the Chair, to attend and address meetings of London Councils for not more than ten minutes and to answer questions from members of London Councils for a further ten minutes.

## **9 MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **Notice**

- 9.1 Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Standing Order 10 or consideration of any matters of urgency brought forward by leave of the Chair, written notice of every motion, signed by at least 5 members, must be delivered to the Chief Executive not later than 10 clear days before the date of the meeting and clear days are deemed to exclude the day of delivery, the day of the meeting and any Sunday. These will be open to public inspection.

## **Motions set out in agenda**

9.2 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

## **Scope**

9.3 Motions must be about matters for which London Councils has a responsibility.

## **10 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

10.1 The following motions may be moved without notice:

- (i) to appoint a chair of the meeting at which the motion is moved;
- (ii) in relation to the accuracy of the minutes;
- (iii) to change the order of business in the agenda;
- (iv) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual;
- (v) to appoint a sub committee or member arising from an item on the summons for the meeting;
- (vi) to receive reports or adoption of recommendations of committees or sub committees or officers and any resolutions following from them;
- (vii) to withdraw a motion;
- (viii) to amend a motion;
- (ix) to proceed to the next business;
- (x) that the question be now put;
- (xi) to adjourn a debate;

- (xii) to adjourn a meeting;
- (xiii) that the meeting continue beyond two and a half hours in duration;
- (xiv) to suspend a particular Standing Order;
- (xv) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules;
- (xvi) to not hear further a member named under Standing Order 17.1 or to exclude them from the meeting under Standing Order 17.2; and
- (xvii) to give the consent of London Councils where its consent is required by this Agreement.

## **11 RULES OF DEBATE**

### **Speakers to Address the Chair**

11.1 All speakers shall address the Chair. All members shall preserve order whilst the speaker is speaking. A speaker shall give way if the Chair rises.

### **No discussion until motion seconded**

11.2 A motion or amendment shall not be discussed until it has been proposed and seconded.

### **Right to require motion in writing**

11.3 Unless notice of the motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him/her before it is discussed.

### **Mover and seconder's speech**

11.4 The mover and seconder of a motion shall be deemed to have spoken thereon. When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

### **Content and length of speeches**

11.5 Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order. The mover of a motion shall be allowed 5 minutes and the seconder and succeeding speakers 3 minutes each. The time limit for speakers may be extended by an affirmative vote of the members.

### **When a member may speak again**

11.6 A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (i) to speak once on an amendment moved by another member;
- (ii) to move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke;
- (iii) if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another member, to speak on the main issue (whether or not the amendment on which he/she spoke was carried);
- (iv) by the mover of an original motion in exercise of a right of reply, and this shall close the discussion.

### **Amendments to motions**

11.7 An amendment to a motion must be relevant to the motion and will either be:

- (i) to refer the matter to an appropriate body or individual for consideration or reconsideration;
- (ii) to leave out words;
- (iii) to leave out words and insert or add others; or
- (iv) to insert or add words;

as long as the effect of (ii) to (iv) is not to negate the motion.

11.8 Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of.

- 11.9 If an amendment is not carried, other amendments to the original motion may be moved.
- 11.10 If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.
- 11.11 After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.

### **Alteration of motion**

- 11.12 A member may alter a motion of which he/she has given notice with the consent of the meeting. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.
- 11.13 A member may alter a motion which he/she has moved without notice with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.
- 11.14 Only alterations which could be made as an amendment may be made.

### **Withdrawal of motion**

- 11.15 A member may withdraw a motion which he/she has moved with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion. No member may speak on the motion after the mover has asked permission to withdraw it unless permission is refused.

### **Right of reply**

- 11.16 The mover of any original motion, but not of any amendment, may reply to the discussion for a period of not more than 3 minutes without introducing new material and this shall close the discussion.
- 11.17 If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.
- 11.18 The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

## **Motions which may be moved during debate**

11.19 When a motion is under debate, no other motion may be moved except the following procedural motions:

- (i) to withdraw a motion;
- (ii) to amend a motion;
- (iii) to proceed to the next business;
- (iv) that the question be now put;
- (v) to adjourn a debate;
- (vi) to adjourn a meeting;
- (vii) that the meeting continue beyond two and a half hours in duration;
- (viii) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules;  
and
- (ix) to not hear further a member named under Standing Order 17.1 or to exclude them from the meeting under Standing Order 17.2.

## **Closure motions**

11.20 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another member:

- (i) to proceed to the next business;
- (ii) that the question be now put;
- (iii) to adjourn a debate; or
- (iv) to adjourn a meeting.



- 11.21 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he or she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply and then put the procedural motion to the vote.
- 11.22 If a motion that the question be now put is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote. If it is passed he/she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply before putting his/her motion to the vote.
- 11.23 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.

#### **Point of order**

- 11.24 A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Chair will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Standing Orders or the law. The member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The ruling of the Chair on the matter will be final.
- 11.25 A speaker may give way to a point of information, and must give way to a point of order if it is accepted by the Chair.

#### **Personal explanation**

- 11.26 A member may make a personal explanation at any time. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Chair on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

#### **Ruling of Chair**

- 11.27 The Chair shall decide all questions of order and his/her ruling upon such questions or upon matters arising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

## **12 PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND MOTIONS**

### **Motion to rescind a previous decision**

- 12.1 A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of London Councils within the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion is signed by at least 5 members.

### **Motion similar to one previously rejected**

- 12.2 A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting in the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least 5 members. Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no one can propose a similar motion or amendment for six months.

## **13 VOTING**

- 13.1 One representative from each London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee and its associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees shall be entitled to vote on behalf of his/her authority in each meeting of Leaders' Committee, either associated joint committee or sectoral joint committees.
- 13.2 Subject to Clause 11.1, 12.1 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement and Standing Order 21.1, and any provisions of this Agreement or the LCTEC Governing Agreement requiring unanimity, questions arising at any meeting of London Councils shall be determined by a show of hands and shall be decided by a simple majority of votes.
- 13.3 At Transport and Environment Committee representatives from Transport for London or any London local authority, shall only be entitled to speak or vote or receive papers in respect of functions which they have delegated to the Transport and Environment Committee and shall not be counted as part of the quorum except in respect of those functions.

### **Equality of votes**

- 13.4 In the case of an equality of votes at the annual meeting and on motions to suspend or amend the Standing Orders under Standing Order 27 at ordinary meetings, each of the party Group Leaders shall have second or casting votes.
- 13.5 Subject to 13.4 above, in the case of an equality of votes at ordinary meetings of London Councils, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote to be exercised in accordance with

13.6 below.

13.6 Where the Chair exercises a casting vote under Standing Order 13.5 above it will be used only for one or more of the following purposes:

- (i) to permit further discussion of an issue;
- (ii) to maintain the status quo;
- (iii) to ensure that London Councils meets any legal obligations or any requirements of the London Councils Agreement or London Councils' Standing Orders.

13.7 On the requisition of any representative made before any vote is taken on a motion or an amendment, and supported by five representatives, the voting shall be recorded so as to show how each representative present and voting voted. The name of any representative present and not voting shall also be recorded.

13.8 Where any member requests it immediately after the 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.

### **Voting on appointments to London Councils Committees**

13.9 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.

## **14 MINUTES**

### **Agreeing the minutes**

14.1 The Chair will move that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

14.2 Where in relation to any meeting, the next meeting for the purpose of agreeing the minutes is a meeting called under paragraph 3 of schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (an Extraordinary Meeting), then the next following meeting (being a meeting called otherwise than under that paragraph) will be treated as a suitable meeting for the purposes of paragraph 41(1) and (2) of schedule 12 relating to agreeing of minutes.

## **Form of minutes**

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

## **15 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

- 15.1 At every meeting, the Clerk to the Meeting will record the attendance of each representative of a member authority and all other representatives present in accordance with Standing Order 2 (Membership).

## **16 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

- 16.1 Members of the public and press may only be excluded either in accordance with the Access to Information Rules or Standing Order 18.

## **17 MEMBERS' CONDUCT**

### **Member not to be heard further**

- 17.1 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.

### **Member to leave the meeting**

- 17.2 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.

### **General disturbance**

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

## **18 DISTURBANCE BY PUBLIC**

### **Removal of member of the public**

- 18.1 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.

## **Adjournment**

- 18.2 In the event of a general disturbance which, in the opinion of the Chair renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, the Chair, in addition to any other power vested in the Chair, may without question adjourn the meeting for such period as in the Chair's discretion shall be considered expedient.

## **19 URGENCY**

- 19.1 If at any time the Chief Executive of London Councils considers that any matter is urgent and should be decided on prior to the next meeting of London Councils, then he/she shall consult the Elected Officers of London Councils. If at least two of the Elected Officers, of whom one will be the Chair, if available, and the other will be from another political party or no party, agree in writing that the matter is urgent and agree on the Chief Executive's recommendation, then the decision shall be taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with such recommendation..
- 19.2 In the event the provisions of Standing Order 19.1 are inoperable following local government elections and there is a need for urgent action, the Chief Executive is authorised to take executive action having consulted as appropriate, such action to be reported to the next meeting of London Councils.
- 19.3 The Elected Officers of London Councils and the Chief Executive may nominate persons to act in their absence for the purposes of this Standing Order.
- 19.4 A copy of the record of a decision taken under this Standing Order shall be kept at the office of the Chief Executive.
- 19.5 All decisions taken under this Standing Order shall be reported to the next meeting of London Councils.
- 19.6 The urgency procedure to be followed by Transport and Environment Committee is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of "Director, Transport & Mobility" for "Chief Executive" and referring to the Elected Officers of the Transport and Environment Committee.

- 19.7 The urgency procedure to be followed by the Grants Committee is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of “the Planning and Strategy Director” for “Chief Executive” and referring to the Elected Officers of the Grants Committee.
- 19.8 The urgency procedure to be followed by the Greater London Provincial Council is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of “the Head of London Regional Employers Organisation” for “Chief Executive” and referring to the Elected Officers of the Greater London Provincial Council.
- 19.9 The urgency procedure for any sectoral joint committees is as in 19.1-19.5 above, referring to the Elected Officers of the appropriate sectoral joint committee and a senior Officer designated by the committee.
- 19.10 The urgency procedure to be followed by any sub-committee appointed by Leaders’ Committee, associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees is as in 19.1 – 19.5 above, referring to the Elected Officers of that sub-committee and the senior officer, designated by that sub-committee.

## **20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 20.1 If a member is present at a meeting of London Councils Leaders' Committee or any of its associated joint committees or any sub-committees or any sectoral joint committee and has a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”) relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, that member must not:
- (i) participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if on becoming aware of the disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business; or
  - (ii) participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.
- 20.2 These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.
- 20.3 It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority’s code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

20.4 In certain circumstances, London Councils may under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011 grant a dispensation to permit a member to take part in the business notwithstanding that the member has a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to that business. These circumstances are where London Councils considers that:

- (i) without the dispensation so great a proportion of London Councils members would be prohibited from participating in that business as to impede London Councils transaction of that business;
- (ii) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups dealing with that business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote;
- (iii) the granting of the dispensation is in the interests of people living in the London Councils' area;<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) without the dispensation each member of the London Councils Executive would be prohibited from participating in the business; or
- (v) it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

20.5 If a member wishes to apply for a dispensation, they must make a written application to be received not less than three working days before the meeting setting out the grounds for the application to the officer responsible for processing such requests.<sup>4</sup>

20.6 A member must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, including membership of any Trade Union that relate to any public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests.

## **21 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

21.1 London Councils Leaders' Committee shall by a majority of at least two-thirds of those representatives present at the meeting and entitled to a vote in respect of each of those functions, approve by no later than 31st January in each year the subscriptions or contributions payable by the London Local Authorities for each of the groups of functions set out in Schedule 2. If London Councils fails to agree by such date the subscriptions or contributions for the ensuing financial year, then that subscription or contribution shall be at

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<sup>3</sup> The London Councils area is that area covered by the London boroughs and the City of London

<sup>4</sup> That person designated by the scheme of delegation, currently (June 2016) the Chief Executive

the same amount as the subscription for the current financial year. The annual budget (including any contingency sum) in respect of any function shall not be exceeded without the prior approval of a two-thirds majority of the representatives of those London Local Authorities who are present at the meeting to which the proposal to exceed the budget is under consideration and authorised to vote.

- 21.2 Contributions to the London Grants Scheme, at schedule 5 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement (as substituted by the variation to that Agreement dated 1 February 2004).
- 21.3 Contributions to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee are as set out in the LCTEC Governing Agreement dated 13 December 2001 (as amended).
- 21.4 Any sectoral joint committee shall approve the subscriptions payable by each London Local Authority subscribing thereto in such a manner as shall be determined by such sectoral joint committee as set out in the London Councils Governing Agreement.

## **22 DELEGATIONS OF FUNCTIONS**

- 22.1 London Councils, its associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees, or sub-committee thereof ~~and any Forum of London Councils~~ may delegate to officers such of their functions as are permissible under statute and may, in relation to any of those functions, require that the exercise of those functions be subject to such conditions as London Councils deems fit to impose, including, where appropriate, prior consultation with the Leading Member on London Councils of each political party or group before taking such action.

## **23 SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TO MEMBERS**

- 23.1 Members of London Councils, its associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees or sub-committee thereof and any Forums of London Councils, shall be entitled to receive from officers such information as they may require in order to enable them to carry out their duties as members of such committee or sub-committee.
- 23.2 In addition, the leading members on London Councils of each political party or group shall be entitled to receive briefings and briefing papers from officers on the same basis as the Chair.



## **24 MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES**

- 24.1 A representative of each political party or group shall be entitled to be notified of and to attend any meeting with an outside body at which a Member of London Councils is present and which has been arranged on behalf of London Councils. (This Standing Order shall not apply to those meetings convened by political advisers.)

## **25 SUB-COMMITTEES, FORUMS ETC OF LONDON COUNCILS**

- 25.1 London Councils shall establish sub-committees to discharge the functions set out in Schedule 2 and such further sub-committees, forums and consultative groups as it considers appropriate.
- 25.2 All or any of the London Local Authorities wishing to delegate a function to London Councils or any sectoral joint committee may request London Councils' consent to the delegation of such function in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 25.3 The terms of reference of any consultative group of London Councils shall be subject to the approval of London Councils.
- 25.4 The Chair and Deputy Chair of London Councils shall be ex-officio members of every and any sub-committee but shall not be entitled to speak or vote at such meetings in that capacity.

## **26 ACCESS TO MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS**

- 26.1 Admission of members of the public to meetings of London Councils, any associated committee, sectoral joint committee any sub-committee thereof and any Forum and access to documents thereof shall be in accordance with the Access to Information legislation in force from time to time.
- 26.2 Applications to film or record meetings of London Councils are requested 48 hours before the meeting. Filming will be permitted in accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and any relevant guidance issued by the government at the relevant time.

## **27 SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

## **Suspension**

- 27.1 Any of these Standing Orders except Standing Orders 13.7, 14.2 and 27.2 may be suspended at any meeting, in respect of any business on the agenda for such meeting, provided that the majority of the representatives of authorities in membership of London Councils or its associated who are present and entitled to vote so decide PROVIDED THAT any suspension hereunder complies with any legislation in force from time to time.

## **Variation and Revocation**

- 27.2 Any addition to, or variation or revocation of these Standing Orders shall be by majority vote of those present and entitled to vote at any meeting of London Councils or its associated committees. Any motion to vary or revoke these Standing Orders shall require confirmation at the next ordinary meeting of London Councils or associated committee as the case may be before the proposed variation or revocation shall have effect PROVIDED THAT any addition, variation or revocation hereunder complies with any legislation in force from time to time.