

COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

Bulletin No: IB/1062

INFORMATION ITEM	Pages
<p>1 Delegated Planning Decisions</p> <p>Delegated planning decisions for the week beginning 11 January 2021 are attached. Contact for enquiries: Jean McPherson, Group Manager: Development Management on jean.mcpherson@crawley.gov.uk.</p>	3 - 4
<p>2 Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders</p> <p>The following documents are attached in relation to Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Crawley Avenue, West Green (ban of right hand turn) (Appendix A). Crawley Avenue Access (westbound) (Appendix B). 	5 - 10
<p>3 Consideration Report: Housing Revenue Account Property Portfolio Rents for 2021/22</p> <p>Consideration report CH/194 by the Head of Crawley Homes is attached.</p>	11 - 12
<p>4 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Significant Operational Decision): Draft Submission Local Plan (Reg. 19.) Employment Land Availability Assessment and Employment Land Trajectory</p> <p>On 25 November 2020, within report PES/367 Cabinet delegated the following to the Head of Economy and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development: (1) Factual amendments to the Local Plan necessary in accordance with national policy and updated evidence for the purposes of clarity; and (2) The approval of the supporting documents for the Local Plan and technical evidence base documents to support the Local Plan through Examination. This Significant Operational Decision is being taken under that delegated authority.</p>	



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Therefore on 15 January 2021 the Head of Economy and Planning took the decision to publish an amended Employment Land Trajectory and a separate Employment Land Availability Assessment and undertake corresponding factual changes to the Submission Draft Local Plan and the draft Sustainability Appraisal.

Full details of this decision can be found on the [Council's website](#).

5 **Amended Virtual Committee Procedure Rules**

13 - 22

The Democratic Services Manager (in light of the vacancy of Head of Legal, Democracy and HR) has taken a decision to approve amendments to the Virtual Committee Procedure Rules. These amendments detail a Principal Petitioner's right to submit a statement to the appropriate meeting of the Council.

In line with the Virtual Committee Procedure Rules, this decision was taken in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governance Committee and the Leader of the Council (as Chair of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member with portfolio holder responsibility for Democratic Services).

A copy of the revised Virtual Committee Procedure Rules is attached.

These revised Rules will take immediate effect and the revised Procedure Rules have also been added to the Constitution.

6 **Press Releases**

Press releases are available at www.crawley.gov.uk/news

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were issued, subject to conditions, under delegated powers for the period 11/01/2021 and 15/01/2021

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Date of Decision	Decision
CR/2020/0578/FUL	UNIT A1, WOOLBOROUGH LANE, NORTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Increase in height of building by 2.5 metres and elevation changes to include a smaller roller shutter door on the east elevation, extended cladding on the north elevation, windows to be removed on the north, west and south elevations and revised fire doors	14 January 2021	PERMIT
CR/2020/0584/OUT	NORTHSIDE, BALCOMBE ROAD, POUND HILL, CRAWLEY	Outline application for veterinary practice with all matters reserved except for access, site layout and parking	12 January 2021	REFUSE
CR/2020/0589/OUT	CAR PARK, STATION WAY, NORTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Outline application for the redevelopment of car park to form mixed use residential with indicative 15 units and commercial scheme	12 January 2021	REFUSE
CR/2020/0626/FUL	26 THE MILLBANK, IFIELD, CRAWLEY	Erection of single storey rear extension and rear dormer	11 January 2021	PERMIT
CR/2020/0684/192	52 FIVE ACRES, NORTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Certificate of lawfulness for single storey side extension following the demolition of the outbuilding	14 January 2021	PERMIT
CR/2020/0726/FUL	RS TRADE COUNTER SITE B2, OLD BRIGHTON ROAD, LANGLEY GREEN, CRAWLEY	Replacement of existing ground floor and first floor windows, alteration to the recessed front entrance doors and reinstatement of the wall following the removal of canopy and doors on the northern elevation	11 January 2021	PERMIT
CR/2020/0797/192	3 MARSHALL ROAD, MAIDENBOWER, CRAWLEY	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension	14 January 2021	PERMIT

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Date of Decision	Decision
CR/2020/0805/192	1 RITCHIE CLOSE, MAIDENBOWER, CRAWLEY	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed garage conversion and loft conversion with rear dormer and front rooflights	15 January 2021	PERMIT
CR/2020/0816/HPA	5 COLWYN CLOSE, BEWBUSH, CRAWLEY	Prior notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 5m depth, and have a maximum height of 2.9m and an eaves height of 2.77m	13 January 2021	PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
CR/2021/0014/CON	ST MICHAELS, CHARLWOOD ROAD, CHARLWOOD, HORLEY, SURREY	Consultation from Mole Valley District Council for erection of 1 no. dwelling following removal of the cabin and detached garage (ref MO/2020/2094/PLA)	13 January 2021	NO OBJECTION
CR/2021/0015/CON	LAND NORTH EAST OF BALCOMBE ROAD ROUNABOUT, BALCOMBE ROAD, TURNERS HILL	Consultation from Mid Sussex District Council for proposed telephone mast and cabinets (ref DM/20/4693)	13 January 2021	NO OBJECTION

Agenda Item 2

The following documents are attached in relation to Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders:

- Crawley Avenue, West Green (ban of a right hand turn) (Appendix A).
- Crawley Avenue Access (westbound) (Appendix B).

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Temporary Ban of a Right Hand Turn, Crawley Avenue, West Green, Crawley, 25th January 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that from the date specified below, West Sussex County Council has temporarily banned a Right Hand Turn to all traffic from Crawley Avenue, West Green onto the access road for Ifield Community College, under Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The temporary ban is scheduled to commence on 25th January 2021 for up to 5 days (It is estimated to be completed on 29th January 2021) and is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Landbuild on behalf of West Sussex County Council undertakes the renewal of VRS in the central reservation.

The restriction will be in place **overnight only** from 19:00 until 06:00

An alternative route will be signed on site but please visit <https://one.network/?tm=120430516> for more details.

Access for emergency service vehicles and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

For information regarding this closure please contact Landbuild on behalf of West Sussex County Council on 07717558933 who will be able to assist with scope of these works.

Dated: 18th January 2021

Matt Davey

Director of Highways, Transport and Planning

West Sussex County Council

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or raise a [highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

Email: ttro@westsussex.gov.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION

CRAWLEY AVENUE ACCESS WESTBOUND, POUND HILL

NOTICE IS hereby given that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, the use of (and parking on) **Crawley Avenue Access Westbound, Pound Hill** from junction with **Crawley Avenue to junction with Balcombe Road** is temporarily prohibited from **01/02/2021 at 09.30 until 01/02/2021 at 15.00**

The restriction will be in place off peak only between 09.30 – 15.00

This closure is necessary to allow **Balfour Beatty to undertake urgent carriageway pothole repairs on behalf of WSCC**

Emergency vehicle, Residential and Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times

The alternative route for traffic will be signed on site

This restriction will be effective for a maximum of 5 days from the start date given above

Any queries about the effect of the closure on traffic using the highway please contact West Sussex County Council on 01243 642105

Any queries about the works please contact **Balfour Beatty on 01243 642105**

Dated **18 January 2021**

Matt Davey
Director of Highways, Transport and Planning

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Agenda Item 3

Crawley Borough Council

Consideration Report for Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Housing

Housing Revenue Account Property Portfolio Rents for 2021/22

Expected Date of Decision 29 January 2021

Report of the Head of Crawley Homes Report number CH/194

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Varying the rent of dwellings held in the Housing Revenue Account is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Housing in consultation with the Head of Corporate Finance.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to present the recommended option.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To implement a CPI +1% increase for social and affordable dwelling rents (with exceptions as detailed in 3.1.2)
- 2.2 To increase shared ownership and hostel rents by CPI+1% (with exceptions as detailed in 3.2.1)

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 Dwelling Rents

- 3.1.1 The previous 1% rent reduction has had a significant impact on the HRA business plan and estimated future borrowing.
- 3.1.2 Historical affordable rents have been significantly reduced by the 1% reduction, whereas newer properties have been set at 80% of market rent (Limited by LHA rates). To mitigate the disparity between these it is proposed to not increase the affordable rent on properties let during the course of 2020/21.

*CPI = 0.50%

	0%	CPI	CPI+1%
Income Target	£45,603,045	£45,820,083	£46,267,794
Less RTB Provision	(£166,061)	(£166,700)	(£168,628)
Add New Rents Estimate	£141,736	£142,444	£143,859
Voids & Re-Let Provision	(£100,802)	(£101,165)	(£102,199)
Projected Income Target	£45,477,918	£45,694,662	£46,140,826

Agenda Item 3

3.2 Shared Owner Rents

- 3.2.1 The Council only has a small portfolio of shared ownership properties. For some time the rents were increased by the Council's general increase for fees and charges which led to the rent element being considerably below the social rent levels. Similarly to affordable rents it is proposed not to increase those let in year (Bridgefield House).

	0%	CPI	CPI + 1%
Income Target:	£429,057	£430,576	£433,615
Less Buybacks:	(£14,015)	(£14,078)	(£14,203)
Projected Income Target	£415,042	£416,498	£419,412

- 3.2.2 It is proposed to increase the rent for these properties as outlined in the table CPI+1%.

3.3 Hostel Rents

- 3.3.1 The Orchards is due to be upgraded during the next financial year and is therefore not included in the income target.

	0%	CPI	CPI + 1%
Income Target	£428,916	£431,060	£435,350
Void Provision	(£92,381)	(£92,843)	(£93,767)
Projected Income Target	£336,535	£338,217	£341,583

3.4 **Other Fees and Charges Summary**

- 3.4.1 All other fees and charges will be reviewed as per the Pricing Strategy to maximise income generation and recover costs.

4. **Implications**

- 4.1 Changes in rental income have a significant impact on the HRA business plan projections and consequentially the Council's ability to both maintain its existing stock, develop new properties and meet future obligations such as the carbon neutral requirement.

5. **Background Papers**

None.

Report author: Karen Dodds, Head of Crawley Homes
karen.dodds@crawley.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

VIRTUAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES

1. SCOPE OF THESE RULES

- 1.1. These Rules apply to all Committee and Sub-Committee meetings of the Council including Full Council, Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission, and Scrutiny Panels and must be read in conjunction with the General Committee Procedure Rules.
- 1.2. The Licensing Sub-Committee Procedure Rules have been rewritten to include the ability to hold Sub-Committee hearings virtually, but regard should still be paid to these Rules when operating Sub-Committee Hearings.

2. OVERVIEW

- 2.1. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations came into force on 4 April 2020. These Regulations allow the Council to hold its Council and Committee meetings virtually until 7 May 2021. Committees can be run wholly virtually, or partly virtually and partly in physical form. If any part of a meeting is held virtually then the Virtual Committee Procedure Rules shall apply and take precedence over the General Committee Procedure Rules.
- 2.2. Virtual Committee meetings will be held through Microsoft Teams Live Events and broadcast via the Council's website. Members of the public and press can view a meeting via a link which will appear on the Committee page of the website 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.
- 2.3. Agendas for Committee meetings will be published via the Council's website in line with normal procedure.
- 2.4. In order for Councillors to be able to attend meetings of the Council remotely, they need not be physically present, provided they are able to hear and be heard by (and where practicable, see and be seen by) other Committee members and members of the public attending remotely or in person.
- 2.5. At the commencement of a meeting the Chair will ask Committee members in turn (alphabetically) to confirm their attendance. This is to ensure that communication between the Chair, Committee, and officers is working correctly and that the meeting is quorate.
- 2.6. Councillors who are members of the Committee or who are presenting a report will receive a link to join the Committee feed. All non-Committee members are also entitled to join the Committee feed and as such may request to join that feed by contacting Democratic Services prior to the start of the meeting; those Councillors will then be dialled into the Committee feed in advance of the meeting. Non-Planning Committee members who have submitted a representation on a planning application as a Ward Councillor must follow the above procedure. Non-Committee members wishing to view discussions relating to exempt or confidential information (Part B items) may only do so through the Committee feed.

Agenda Item 5

NB: For record purposes any non-Committee members present at the meeting (via the Committee feed) will be announced by either the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer. It will be taken that such Councillors do not have any disclosures of interest unless indicated by the Councillor themselves.

- 2.7. Connection issues may nullify Committee members' entitlements to vote on agenda items. See sections 9 (Adjournments) and 10 (Voting).

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 3.1. There will no in-person public question time (PQT) at any Council meeting while virtual Committee meetings are being held.
- 3.2. Public questions to Committees can instead be submitted in writing by **noon two days*** in advance of the meeting by emailing [democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@ Crawley.gov.uk) with the exception of the Full Council where the questions must be submitted by **noon one week**** before the meeting.
- 3.3. There are to be **no** written public questions allowed for Planning Committee, Licensing Sub-Committee or Scrutiny Panel meetings.
- 3.4. All accepted public questions will be published within a supplementary agenda.
- 3.5. Written public questions will be read out (normally by the Chair or by the Democratic Services Officer) during the allocated time at a meeting and will be followed by a response. A written copy of the response will be included within the minutes of that meeting and the questioner will receive an emailed copy of the response given at the meeting. There will be no supplementary questions.

Rules Governing Written Public Questions

- 3.6. The Monitoring Officer shall have the final say as to whether any question received meets the following criteria.
- 3.7. For ordinary meetings of the **Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Audit Committee, Governance Committee and Licensing Committee** the following rules apply to the written question:
- a) The question must be received by **noon two days*** before the scheduled date of the meeting.
 - b) The question should be relevant to any item on the agenda.
 - c) The question must **not** relate to an individual case which should be dealt with under the Council's Complaints Procedure or any other formal appeals procedure.
 - d) The question must **not** be, in essence, the same as a question which has been put to that Committee in the past 6 months.
 - e) The question must **not** be more than 100 words long.
 - f) The Chair of the Committee, at their discretion, may answer the question or invite other Committee members or officers to respond.

Agenda Item 5

3.8. For the **Cabinet** the following rules apply to the written question:

- a) The question must be received by **noon two days*** before the scheduled date of the meeting.
- b) The question should be relevant to the functions of the Cabinet.
- c) The question must **not** relate to an individual case which should be dealt with under the Council's Complaints Procedure or any other formal appeals procedure.
- d) The question must **not** be, in essence, the same as a question which has been put to the Cabinet in the past 6 months.
- e) The question must **not** be more than 100 words long.
- f) The Leader may answer the question or invite the most relevant Cabinet Member(s) or an officer present to respond.

**For example, "noon two days before the meeting" means that questions must be received by noon on Monday for a meeting held on the Wednesday of that week.*

3.9. For **Full Council** the following rules apply to the written question, based on the *Public Written Questions* section set out in the current *Full Council Procedure Rules*:

- a) A question will normally be put to either:
 - The Mayor.
 - A Cabinet Member.
 - The Chair of any Committee.
- b) The question must be received by **noon one week**** before the scheduled date of the meeting.
- c) Where possible, the questions and answers will be published in advance of the meeting via a supplementary agenda on the Council's website.
- d) The Monitoring Officer may reject a question if, in their opinion, it:
 - Is a statement and not a question.
 - Does **not** relate to an issue for which the Council holds responsibility, or which specifically affects the Borough.
 - Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive.
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information or relates directly to an individual's personal circumstances.
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put to a meeting of the Council in the past 6 months.
 - Relates to a specific planning or licensing application.
 - In the case of a written question, it has not been submitted before the defined deadline or is more than 100 words long.

***For example, questions must be received by **noon** on Wednesday for a meeting held on the following Wednesday.*

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

4.1. There are no public speaking rights at any virtual Committees or Sub-Committees with the exception of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item 5

Planning Committee

- 4.2. There will be no right to speak at a virtually held Planning Committee meeting. Instead the applicant, anyone who has submitted a valid written representation on an application, the local Ward Borough Councillors, or any other elected individual (as defined in the Speaking at Planning Committee Procedure Rules (SPCPR)) has the ability to submit a further statement for consideration by the Planning Committee. This replaces the ability to address the Committee during consideration of the application as detailed in the SPCPR.
- 4.3. People wishing to submit a statement must have emailed their statement to [democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@ Crawley.gov.uk) no later than **noon two days*** before the Committee meeting.
- 4.4. The document must be in a Microsoft Word or PDF format, may contain images, and must be no more than 1½ A4 sheets of text and a further 1½ A4 sheets of images. Presentations will not be accepted. Statements will be read out at the Planning Committee meeting (normally by the Democratic Services Officer) and will be allocated a maximum of 3 minutes each.
- 4.5. To try to align with the current SPCPR a limited number of statements will be accepted per application and they will be accepted on a first come, first served basis:
- 3x Objectors (including Objectors on behalf of a group)
 - 3x Applicant, Agent or Supporters, including relevant Cabinet Member/s
 - Ward Borough Councillors
 - Any other elected individual.
- 4.6. The order in which the statements will be presented to the Committee will be as set out in paragraph 6 (Order of Speaking and Time Allocation) of the SPCPR.

**For example, “noon two days before the meeting” means that statements must be received by noon on Monday for a meeting held on the Wednesday of that week.*

Principal Petitioner (Person Who Has Submitted the Petition)

- 4.7. There will be no right to present a petition at virtually held meetings. Instead, once a relevant petition has reached the appropriate number of accepted signatures (as defined in the Petitions Scheme) and the Principal Petitioner has been contacted by a member of the Democratic Services Team to be informed as such, the Principal Petitioner has the right to submit a statement for consideration by the relevant meeting. This replaces their ability to address the meeting at the commencement of the debate on the petition.
- 4.8. The Principal Petitioner must have emailed their statement (in Microsoft Word or PDF format) to [democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@ Crawley.gov.uk) in accordance with the following:

Meeting	Deadline Date	Speech Duration*
Overview & Scrutiny Commission (OSC)	5pm on the (working) day before the meeting <i>(this would normally be on a Friday for a meeting held on the Monday)</i>	3 minutes = no more than 1½ A4 sheets of text

Agenda Item 5

Meeting	Deadline Date	Speech Duration*
Cabinet	5pm on the (working) day before the meeting <i>(this would normally be on a Tuesday for a meeting held on the Wednesday)</i>	3 minutes = no more than 1½ A4 sheets of text <i>(this can be the same submission as used for the OSC or an amended version following the OSC debate)</i>
Full Council	5pm two working days before the meeting <i>(this would normally be on a Monday for a meeting held on the Wednesday)</i>	5 minutes = no more than 2½ A4 sheets of text

* as detailed in the Petitions Scheme

- 4.9. Statements will be read out at the relevant meeting (normally by the Democratic Services Officer).

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

- 5.1. Members of the public and press may only be excluded either in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules relating to exclusion on the grounds of exempt or confidential information (Part B items) or Rule 17 (Disturbance by Public) of the Full Council Procedure Rules/General Committee Procedure Rules.
- 5.2. Any agenda item that requires exclusion of the public under the Access to Information Procedure Rules will be taken as the final item on the agenda. The live stream will be ended for the public and press, and the meeting will continue privately.
- 5.3. Any Committee member participating in a private session of a meeting is required to ensure that that part of the meeting cannot be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location. It is recommended that headphones are worn for such items.

6. COUNCILLORS' CONDUCT AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The general requirements of the Code of Conduct for Councillors still apply. Particular attention should be paid to the following.

- 6.1. Every Councillor present at the meeting shall:
- Treat others with courtesy and respect.
 - Conduct themselves in a way which does not cause offence to others or limit in any way others' ability to participate at the meeting.
 - Only speak when called on by the Chair or speak through the Chair.
 - Be mindful of the background of their video stream as it will be shown throughout the duration of the meeting. Backgrounds should be blurred or a Council-branded background used whenever possible.
 - Ensure that there will be no visible or audible disturbances.
 - Log on to a meeting individually and not share a screen.
 - Notify the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer if they need to leave the meeting, want to raise a procedural motion or are having technical difficulties.

Agenda Item 5

- 6.2. When the Chair speaks during a debate, any Councillor speaking must stop and mute themselves.
- 6.3. If a Committee member wishes to speak during a meeting, they should indicate to the Democratic Services Officer via the agreed approach. Committee members should only speak when called upon and ensure that they are 'live' before they address the Committee. The Chair and Democratic Services Officer on their behalf have discretion as to the order of speakers at any meeting.
- 6.4. A Committee member when speaking shall address the Chair. While a Committee member is speaking others shall remain quiet, normally being muted unless raising a procedural motion or making a personal explanation.
- 6.5. Committee members are asked not to use the Microsoft Teams 'chat' facility during a Committee meeting, except when informing the Democratic Services Officer of connectivity problems. Otherwise, the facility is to be used only by the Chair and the officers present to provide or seek advice.
- 6.6. All Councillors hold a strict responsibility not to share any links to Committee meetings, including with fellow Councillors.

7. SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL

- 7.1. At the request of the Mayor it may be necessary for each political Group to provide a list of Councillors wishing to speak on specific items at a Full Council meeting, which must be sent to Democratic Services prior to the meeting. This would not prevent other Councillors from requesting to speak at the meeting itself, as defined in section 6.3, but the list will ensure that the virtual Full Council meeting runs efficiently.
- 7.2. Any Councillor either seconding a Notice of Motion, Recommendation or an Amendment will not have the ability to reserve their right to speak later in the debate, but must instead make their speech as they second the item.
- 7.3. Notices of Motion may be submitted in line with current procedure set out in the Constitution, as long as the Councillor submitting provides evidence to demonstrate to the Monitoring Officer that the matter is time critical.

8. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

- 8.1. All Committee members will need to declare whether they have an interest in any item of business being considered by the Committee. Committee members shall be called upon in turn to disclose the existence and nature of any interest (personal, prejudicial, or a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest [DPI]).
- 8.2. If a Committee member has a DPI or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda, that Committee member will be required to disconnect from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of that item. Once the item has been discussed and voted upon, the Committee member shall be invited back into the meeting.

Agenda Item 5

9. ADJOURNMENTS

- 9.1. Should the Chair wish to adjourn the meeting for a brief period, the Committee will be notified and advised of the time at which it shall reconvene. Participants should remain connected to the meeting with their microphones muted and their video off.
- 9.2. Where a Committee member has lost connection, the Chair has discretion as to whether to adjourn the meeting for a short period to allow for their connection to be re-established, or to continue to transact the business of the meeting. The Chair is required to ensure the meeting remains quorate.
- 9.3. If a Committee member's connection is lost while in attendance at a **regulatory/quasi-judicial meeting of the Council** (i.e. Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, or Licensing-Sub Committee) and the meeting continues, the disconnected Committee member(s) should vote to **abstain** on the item as they have been unable to hear the consideration of said item.
- 9.4. If technical reasons cause **all participants** to lose connection to a meeting, there will be a temporary adjournment to allow participants to re-connect. If this is not possible, the meeting will be adjourned and the business considered at a future date.
- 9.5. If it becomes clear either that the public feed is not functioning or the public are unable to connect to view the meeting, the meeting will be temporarily adjourned and a fix sought. If the public connection cannot be restored within a reasonable time period, the meeting will be adjourned and the business considered at a future date.

10. VOTING

Entitlement to Vote

- 10.1. Committee members must have been 'present' as defined by section 2.4 and have heard the proceedings (at the absolute minimum) to be able to vote on the item.
- 10.2. If a Committee member loses connection during either a Planning Committee, Licensing Committee or Licensing-Sub Committee, and the meeting continues, that Councillor, even if they reconnect during the item, cannot vote and must **abstain** as they have been unable to hear the full discussion on that item.

Moving and Seconding a Recommendation

- 10.3. During voting all substantive recommendations shall be moved by the Chair and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Committee. If the Chair and/or Vice-Chair are absent, alternative movers and seconders will be sought. Movers and seconders of amendments or alternative recommendations will differ on a case-by-case basis.

Block Voting at Full Council

- 10.4. Block Voting allows the Group Whip (or another individual named in advance) to vote on behalf of their respective Group as a block vote, rather than each Councillor voting individually. Any individual from within their Group still retains the right to use their own vote as an individual and not be included within their Group's block vote. Should a Group propose to use a block vote for an item, the Political Group Leader or Secretary must notify the Mayor via Democratic Services of that intention by midnight the day before the meeting. When no indication has been provided the voting procedure for that item will default to that set out below.

Agenda Item 5

Recorded Voting at all Virtual Meetings

- 10.5. For any Committee held virtually, all voting (with the exception of 10.4) will be held via a recorded vote taken by the Legal Officer/Democratic Services Officer on behalf of the Chair. In accordance with the Full Council Procedure Rules Full Council decisions relating to the Annual Budget and Council Tax will always be taken as a recorded vote.
- 10.6. The exceptions to this are the approving of the minutes of the previous meeting or any other procedural item or where the item's sole recommendation to a Committee is to 'note' the report. The Chair will move the item and it will be presumed agreed, unless a dissenting comment from any Committee member is made.

Connection Issues during Voting

- 10.7. If a Committee member's microphone connection fails during a vote, but they still can hear the officer taking the recorded vote, that Committee member may still vote by showing their vote through the raising of a hand.
- 10.8. If a Committee member's video connection fails during a vote, and the Councillor can still hear the officer taking the recorded vote, that Committee member may still vote by indicating verbally.
- 10.9. If either of the voting connection issues occurs (as defined in section 10.7 or 10.8) during a Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, or Licensing-Sub Committee vote, the Committee Member must also consider section 10.2 which requires a vote to **abstain** be made if they have been unable to hear the full discussion on that item.

11. DURATION OF A MEETING

- 11.1. With the exception of Full Council (see Full Council Procedure Rules), the business of any formal Council meeting should conclude within 4 hours, unless a vote(s) to continue the meeting has been passed.
- 11.2. If the business of the meeting has not been completed within 3 ½ hours, the Chair will call for a vote to extend the meeting for up to 30 minutes. A simple majority is required for the meeting to continue.
- 11.3. If required, following the meeting's initial extension, further votes may be taken to extend the meeting by 30 minute increments.

12. RECORDING AND RETENTION OF THE MEETING

- 12.1. Committee meetings will be live streamed through Microsoft Teams Live Events. Democratic Services will, dependent on technological capability, aim to make a recording of each meeting available on the Council's website. Recordings will be available for six months after the meeting.

Agenda Item 5

13. ADVANCEMENT OF THE VIRTUAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES

- 13.1. There is an expectation that the above Procedure Rules will evolve as technology adapts and as the Council becomes more experienced at holding virtual meetings.
- 13.2. The Chief Executive and/or Democratic Services Manager has the delegation to amend these Procedure Rules in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee and the Leader of the Council, to ensure that the Council's virtual Committees run as efficiently as possible and mirror, where possible, standard committees.

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