

# CONSTITUTION OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

## Part 4.F - Non-Executive Committee Procedure Rules

### 1 Application

- 1.1 Without prejudice to the Licensing, Licensing Sub-Committee, Planning Committee and Planning Sub-Committee Procedure Rules, these Rules shall apply to meetings of all Non-Executive Committees and Sub-Committees established by the Council.

### 2 Appointments

- 2.1 Appointment as a member of a Committee or Sub-Committee shall be limited to the duration of the Council Year or the remainder of it, with the exception of the role of Independent Chair of Audit and Governance Committee, which is a four year term. Vacancies on Sub-Committees arising during the Council year shall be filled by decision of the parent Committee.
- 2.2 Membership of a Statutory Review Board shall be drawn from a Panel of Members appointed for that purpose by the Council. The Monitoring Officer shall have delegated power to constitute a Review Board. The Appointments Committee shall be constituted as and when a Committee is required to make an appointment. Membership of the Licensing Sub-Committee shall be drawn from the membership of the Licensing Committee. The Monitoring Officer shall have delegated power to constitute a Licensing Sub-Committee as and when a hearing under the Licensing Act 2003 or Gambling Act 2005 is required.
- 2.3 With the exception of the Licensing Sub-Committee and Audit and Governance Committee, every Committee and Sub-Committee and Panel, at their first meeting shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of the Council Year. The Licensing Committee shall appoint a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. The Licensing Sub-Committee shall appoint a Chair for the duration of business for which that Sub-Committee is convened. Council will appoint an Independent Chair of Audit and Governance Committee for a four-year term. When meeting to recruit an Independent Chair of Audit and Governance Committee, the role of Chair of Appointments and Disciplinary Committee shall not be held by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for finance.
- 2.4 With the exception of Audit and Governance Committee, in the event of a vacancy to either the Chair or Vice-Chair arising during the Council Year, this shall be filled by election at the first meeting of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee following notification of the vacancy to the Monitoring Officer. In the event of the absence of a Chair and Vice-Chair from a Committee or Sub-

Committee, the representative of the Monitoring Officer shall arrange for the election of a Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

- 2.5 Seats shall be allocated in accordance with the rules governing proportionality, by the Council at its Annual Meeting or at any Ordinary or Extraordinary Meeting as appropriate should a vacancy arise during the Council Year. Except in the case of the Licensing Sub-Committee it shall be in order for a Member to be appointed to a Sub-Committee although they are not a member of the parent Committee. The Monitoring Officer is empowered to make in year appointment to committees after consultation with party whips.
- 2.6 During the Council Year, changes in membership shall be notified either by way of a resignation from the Member concerned or notification from the relevant Group Secretary. The relevant Group Secretary shall also submit a notification of the Member nominated to fill a vacancy arising for a seat allocated to that particular Group. In all cases the notification shall be submitted to the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.7 The Monitoring Officer shall cause an item to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the relevant Committee, or in case of urgency the General Purposes Committee, and the Committee shall resolve that a named Member be appointed to the vacancy.
- 2.8 The Monitoring Officer shall arrange for any Member appointed to the Licensing Committee or its Sub-Committee to receive appropriate training before that Member shall serve as a Member of the Committee or Sub-Committee.

### **3 Powers of the Chair**

- 3.1 The Chair of the meeting shall decide on all matters of order, competence, relevance and interpretation of these Rules. The Chair shall have the power to vary the order of business to give precedence to any item of business. Matters of urgent business shall be taken at the discretion of the Chair if satisfied that the item cannot reasonably be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee. The reports concerning such matters shall explain the reason for urgency.
- 3.2 The Chair shall ensure that the split of business between Parts A and B (i.e. Part B shall constitute that part which is exempt or confidential business) is agreed, if necessary by a majority of the Members present. The Chair shall ensure that Members that wish to speak on any item of business have the opportunity to do so, within the scope of the meeting and within reasonable limits of time. The decision of the Chair as to the general conduct of the meeting shall be final.
- 3.3 The Chair may direct a Member to discontinue speaking if they consider the Member is being repetitive, tedious or irrelevant, uses unbecoming language, or is in some other way breaching the order of the meeting. When necessary, the Chair, having warned the Member shall move that the Member called by name, leaves the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without further debate and if carried the Member shall leave immediately.

- 3.4 In the case of a member of the public disrupting the meeting or if there is a general disturbance, the Chair may order the removal of a person or that the public areas be cleared. Re-admission shall be at the discretion of the Chair.
- 3.5 In the event that a meeting of a non-executive committee (not including Planning or Planning Sub Committee, Licensing or Licensing Sub Committee) has lasted for three hours the Chair shall interrupt the meeting and call for a vote of Members present on whether the meeting shall continue for a further 30 minutes.
- 3.6 If Members decide that the meeting shall not continue, or if there is remaining business after the additional period of 30 minutes, the Chair will decide if any of the remaining business is of sufficient importance to warrant an adjournment of the meeting and if so will declare the meeting adjourned to such date and time (prior to the next ordinary Committee meeting) as they may direct at the time or afterwards.
- 3.7 With the exception of business so specified, the Chair shall put to the vote without further debate all outstanding reports on the agenda.
- 3.8 The Guillotine procedure for Planning and Planning Sub Committee is set out at section 6.8 of Part 4K – Planning and Planning Sub Committee Procedure
- 3.9 The recording/reporting of meetings using any type of audio or visual equipment is permitted subject to the proviso that any such reporting/filming/photography does not become distracting, disruptive or contrary to the good order or conduct of the meeting. Should any such reporting/filming/photography become distracting, disruptive or contrary to the good order or conduct of a meeting, the person/s responsible may be asked by the Chair to terminate this, regardless of the format in which the reporting/filming/photography is taking place.

#### **4 Recommendation to Council**

- 4.1 Any recommendation referred to the Council for approval shall be made by way of a report summarising the matter and setting out the recommendation for the Council to consider. The Report shall be presented to the next convenient Ordinary Council Meeting following the meeting or meetings of the relevant Committee at which the recommendations are made.

#### **5 Agendas and Minutes**

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer shall ensure that an Agenda and Summons for each meeting are dispatched to Members and available to the public in advance of the meeting.
- 5.2 The Monitoring Officer shall ensure that a record is made of the decisions taken at every meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee. The minutes shall also include a record of the Members in attendance, those absent and any apologies received.

- 5.3 The disclosure of any disclosable pecuniary interests not already on a Members' Register of Interest or subject to a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and notified by the Member to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 5.4 All minutes, except those prepared following a meeting of an Appointments and Disciplinary Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee shall be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee to which they relate and shall be open to question as to their accuracy before being signed. The accuracy of the minutes of a meeting shall not be open to question or amendment other than at a meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee concerned.
- 5.5 Minutes shall be made available to Members, the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules at Part 4B of this Constitution.

## **6 Dates and Frequency of Meetings**

- 6.1 The dates of scheduled meetings with the exception of those for the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee and Licensing Sub-Committees shall be as printed in the Council diary. Each Committee or Sub-Committee or the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the relevant Chair may convene meetings on such other dates as they may agree in the light of business to be transacted.
- 6.2 The Planning Committee shall generally meet at three-weekly intervals and the Planning Sub-Committee at six-weekly intervals. The Licensing Committee and its Sub-Committee shall meet as frequently as business requires.
- 6.3 The Chair shall have power to cancel a meeting for lack of business or reschedule a meeting, having observed the courtesy of consulting any member of the Committee or Sub-Committee designated as the Opposition Spokesperson for the Committee or Sub-Committee in question.

## **7 Attendance by Members not appointed to a Committee or Sub-Committee**

- 7.1 The Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee may agree that a Member not appointed to the Committee or Sub-Committee may attend and participate in the debate of an item of business on the grounds that the presence of the Member concerned can be justified. Such a Member shall not have any right to vote in deciding the outcome of the matter under consideration. This provision shall not apply in respect of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

## **8 Quorum**

- 8.1 No business shall be considered at a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee unless there are present either one third of the membership of the Committee or Sub-Committee or 3 members, whichever figure is the greater. If

the meeting is inquorate, it shall be deferred for 15 minutes. If after 15 minutes there is still no quorum, the consideration of any business not transacted shall be held over until the next scheduled meeting or another date fixed by the Chair.

- 8.2 Where the Licensing Sub-Committee is inquorate and it is not possible to appoint a Chair for the duration of the business as provided for in Rule 2.03 above, the Chair of the Licensing Committee or in the absence of the Chair, one of the Vice Chairs, shall be deemed to be appointed as Chair for the purpose of deferring the business to the next scheduled meeting if appropriate, to another date fixed for hearing of the business or to a later time on the date of the scheduled meeting for hearing of the business.

## **9 Rules of Debate**

- 9.1 A Member may indicate their desire to speak by raising their hand, but shall only speak when called by name by the Chair.
- 9.2 Members shall, when speaking, address the Chair and:
- 1 refer to each other as Chair or Member, as the case may be;
  - 2 refrain from using unbecoming language;
  - 3 refrain from comments of a personal nature about another Member;
  - 4 not attribute improper motives to another Member.
- 9.3 Only one motion or amendment may be considered at a time. A motion or amendment once moved and seconded may be withdrawn, only by the mover. No further debate shall take place on a motion or amendment once it has been withdrawn.
- 9.4 Every motion or amendment must be moved and seconded.
- 9.5 An amendment to a motion may be proposed, provided it is seconded and:
- 1 is not moved whilst another amendment is under discussion;
  - 2 does not have the same meaning as one already defeated at the meeting;
  - 3 refers to the subject matter under discussion and does not introduce a new subject.
- 9.6 A Member may raise a point of order by declaring “point of order” identifying the appropriate Procedure Rule number, in which case the Chair shall ask the Member speaking to give way. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Non-Executive Committee Procedure Rules or the law. The Member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The ruling on the Chair on the matter will be final.

- 9.7 A Member may seek to make a personal explanation at any time during the course of another Member's speech if they have been referred to by name or position, by declaring "point of personal explanation", in which case the Chair shall ask the Member speaking to give way. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the Member which may appear to have been misunderstood. The ruling of the Chair on the admissibility of a personal explanation and the time allowed for any personal explanation will be final.
- 9.8 A Member may seek leave from the Chair to clarify a point made in an earlier speech by that Member if it appears from comments made in a subsequent speech that the earlier speech by the Member had been misunderstood. The ruling of the Chair on the admissibility of, and the time allowed for, any clarification will be final.

## **10 Voting**

- 10.1 Unless required otherwise by law, all matters shall be decided by a simple majority.
- 10.2 Where immediately after a vote is taken at a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, if any Member so requires there shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting whether the person cast their vote for or against the question or whether they abstained from voting.
- 10.3 If a demand is made at a meeting by the required number of Members, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. The required number of Members is:
- (a) one third of the Members entitled to vote at the meeting; or
  - (b) where the authority is divided into Political Groups, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the number of seats on the Committee or Sub-Committee allocated to the second largest Political Group among the Members of the Council, whichever is the less.
- 10.4 In the event of an equality of votes on either side, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

## **11 Disclosure of Interests**

- 11.1 Every agenda shall include as an item of business "Disclosures of Interest". Members shall abide by the Members Code of Conduct set out at Part 5I of this Constitution. It is the responsibility of every Member to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest and other registrable interest during the course of a meeting that is not already on their register of interests or subject to a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer and to declare any non-registrable interest. Each disclosure shall be minuted but Members are required to notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosure so minuted in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.