

Standing Orders

NB: this is a simplified version of the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (England) July and further information is available in the full document.

1	Rules of debate at meetings
2	Disorderly conduct at meetings
3	Meetings Generally
a	Meetings shall not take place in premises, which at the time of the meeting, are used for the supply of alcohol unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.
b	The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.
c	The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice
d	Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.
l	Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To 'report' means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present
m	A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.
n	The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.
o	Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chairman of the Council may in his absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chairman of the Council (if there is one).
p	The Chairman of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Council (if there is one), if present, shall preside. If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, a Councillor as chosen by the Councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.
q	Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting.
r	The Chairman of the meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote. (See also standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.)
s	Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a Councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave his vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.
u	A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the code on his right to participate and vote on that matter.
v	No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than 5.
w	If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted.
4	Committees and sub-committees
	<i>See also standing order 1 above</i>
a	Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.

b	The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls finances of the Council.
c	Unless the Council determines otherwise, all members of an advisory committee or a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.

5	Ordinary Council Meetings
a	In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.
b	In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.
c	If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.
d	In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.
e	The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council.
f	The Chairman of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until his successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.
g	The Vice-Chairman of the Council, if there is one, unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.
h	In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chairman of the Council has been elected. The current Chairman of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
i	In an election year, if the current Chairman of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the meeting until a new Chairman of the Council has been elected. He may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chairman of the Council and must give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
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	i In an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chairman of the Council of his acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;

6	Extraordinary meetings of the council, committees and sub-committees
a	The Chairman of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.
b	If the Chairman of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within 7 days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two councillors.

7	Previous resolutions
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8	Voting on appointments
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9	Motions for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the Proper Officer
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10	Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice
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11	Management of information
a	The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.
b	The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Action 1980).

c	The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.
d	Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.

12	Draft Minutes
e	If the Council's gross income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000, it shall publish draft minutes on a website which is publicly accessible and free or charge no later than one month after the meeting has taken place.

13	Code of Conduct and dispensations
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14	Code of Conduct Complaints
d	Upon notification by the District or Unitary Council that councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against him. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.

15	Proper Officer
b	The Proper Officer shall:
i	At least three clear days before a meeting of the council or a committee, Service on councillors by delivery or post at their residences or by email authenticated in such manner as the Proper Officer thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and Provide in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them).
iii	Convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chairman of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office.
iv	Facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors.
v	Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.

16	Responsible Financial Officer
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17	Accounts & accounting Statements
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18	Financial controls and procurement
c	A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds in standing order 18(f) is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).
f	A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £181,302 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £4,551,413 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU.
g	A public contract in connection with the supply of gas, heat, electricity, drinking water, transport services, or postal services to the public; or the provision of a port or airport; or the exploration for or extraction of gas, oil or solid fuel with an estimated value in excess of £363,424 for a supply, services or design contract; or in excess of £4,551,413 for a works contract; or £820,370 for a social and other specific services contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and publishes in OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

19	Handling of staff matters
20	Responsibilities to provide information <i>See also standing order 21</i>
a	In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.
b.	The Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.
21.	Responsibilities under data protection legislation <i>See also standing order 11</i>
b	The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.
c	The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.
d	The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.
e	The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.
f	The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.
22	Relations with the press/media
23	Execution and sealing of legal deeds
	Subject to standing order 23(a), any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.
	<i>(The above is applicable to a Council without a common seal.)</i>
24	Communicating with District & County or Unitary Councillors
25	Restrictions on Councillor activities
26	Standing orders generally