

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES¹

1.0 STATUS, ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- 1.1 Community Committees are appointed by Full Council.
- 1.2 The role of Community Committees is set out in Article 10.
- 1.3 Community Committees may exercise both Executive and Council functions as set out in the Terms of Reference for Committee Committees and the Community Committee Executive Delegation Scheme.
- 1.4 The Local Government Act 2000 provides for the Executive to make arrangements for functions which are the responsibility of the Executive to be discharged by Community Committees. In exercising these functions each Community Committee is accountable to the Executive.
- 1.5 Each Community Committee is accountable to Full Council for the exercise of Council functions within their terms of reference.

2.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

- 2.1 Subject to Rule 2.6 below, the Chair of each Community Committee will be elected, from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
- 2.2 Each political Group² with Members elected within a Community Committee area may put forward a nomination from amongst Members on the Community Committee to Chair the Community Committee. An Independent Member may also put forward a nomination.
- 2.3 All nominations must be notified to the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support by no later than 5pm the working day before the annual council meeting. The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support will give appropriate notice to whips and Independent Members of this deadline.

Unopposed nominations

- 2.4 Where the nomination for the chair of a Community Committee is unopposed, the Member presiding at the meeting will invite those Members of the Community Committee eligible to do so and present at the Council meeting to elect that nominee.

¹ These Procedure Rules should be read in conjunction with Article 10 and the Terms of Reference for Community Committees

² A nomination from a political group must be forwarded by a Whip

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Contested Nominations

- 2.5 Where the Annual Council Meeting is required to consider more than one nomination for the position of Chair, the Member presiding at the meeting will invite those Members of the Community Committee eligible to do so and present at the Council meeting to vote. If no overall majority is achieved³, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration and the vote repeated.
- 2.6 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained by votes cast by those Members of the Community Committee eligible to do so and present at the Council meeting, the vote will be widened to include all Members of Council present. The nominee with the overall majority of votes cast by members of Council will be appointed as the Chair of the Community Committee for the duration of the forthcoming municipal year.

3.0 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Frequency

- 3.1 There shall be at least four ordinary meetings of each Community Committee in each municipal year. A schedule of meetings will be approved by each Community Committee.
- 3.2 Special meetings of a Community Committee may be called in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.

Business to be Transacted

- 3.3 All decisions or recommendations to be made by a Community Committee must be determined at a formal meeting of the Committee.
- 3.4 Community Committees will comply with the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules and the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 3.5 The Community Committee will not deal with an individual's issues or complaints.

Agenda Items

- 3.6 Community Committees shall consider the following business:
 - exclusion of public;
 - appeals against refusal of inspection of documents;
 - late items;
 - declarations of interest if any;

³ The Member presiding at the meeting shall have no casting vote whether in relation to the community committee of which they are a Member or otherwise.

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- apologies for absence;
- additional matters set out on the agenda for the meeting.

4.0 PARTICIPATION

- 4.1 Save for those parts of a meeting where the arrangements for exclusion of the press and public set out in the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules and the Access to Information Procedure Rules apply, all meetings will be held in public⁴.

Co-optees

- 4.2 Co-opted members may participate⁵ in the debate in the same way as Elected Members.
- 4.3 No co-opted member shall be appointed for a period beyond the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Quorum and Substitution

- 4.4 The quorum for a meeting of an Community Committee shall be as set out in the Council Procedure Rules.

Voting

- 4.5 Elected Ward Members are entitled to vote in relation to all business transacted at Community Committee meetings⁶.
- 4.6 Co-optees are non-voting members of the committee.
- 4.7 In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair will have a second, or casting, vote.

Rights to attend and speak

- 4.8 A Community Committee may invite representatives from other organisations to attend Community Committee meetings. These people may speak with the permission of the Chair.
- 4.9 Members of the public present at Community Committee meetings are observers and may speak with the permission of the Chair.

Deputations

⁴ The Recording Protocol: Third Party Recording of Committees, Boards and Panels, set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies.

⁵ Section 102 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a committee, other than a committee for regulating and controlling the finance of the local authority or of their area, may include persons who are not members of the appointing authority. Co-optees will not therefore participate in business of the committee which regulates or controls the finance of the area,

⁶ Save where the Code of Conduct prevents this

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- 4.10 A Community Committee may receive up to three⁷ Deputations, relevant to some matter in relation to which the committee has powers or duties or which affects the committee's area⁸, at any meeting of the Committee.
- 4.11 A request to bring a deputation must be submitted, to the Council's Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support, at least fourteen clear working days in advance of the Community Committee meeting for which permission is sought. The request must include a copy of the proposed deputation speech.
- 4.12 The suitability of the deputation shall be determined by the Director of Communities and Environment. Permission to present the deputation shall be issued by the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support⁹.
- 4.13 A deputation shall consist of at least two and no more than five people, only one of whom shall speak except by permission of the Chair. The deputation may address the Committee for not more than five minutes in duration.
- 4.14 Deputations shall be heard in the same order in which notices were received.
- 4.15 Any Member of the Community Committee may propose that the deputation be or not be received, or that the subject matter be referred to the appropriate Director or Committee. If the proposal is seconded the Chair shall put the proposal to the vote.

⁷ This number may be extended at the discretion of the Chair but shall be fixed in advance of any meeting.

⁸ Deputation requests which relate solely to the interests of an individual or company, or which present, or may appear to present unsubstantiated allegations or claims in respect of an individual, group of individuals, a company or any other body, or are in any way vexatious or otherwise significantly prejudicial to the interests of the Council or the City of Leeds, will not be permitted.

⁹ A deputation shall not be admitted about any matter which has been the subject of deputation in the preceding six months.

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Open Forums

- 4.16 At the discretion of the Chair a period of up to 10 minutes¹⁰ may be allocated at each ordinary meeting of a Community Committee for members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Community Committee. The period of time may be extended at the discretion of the Chair.
- 4.17 No member of the public shall speak for more than three minutes in the open forum, except by permission of the Chair.

Advisory Or Consultative Forums

- 4.18 A Community Committee may establish¹¹ and set terms of reference for one or more¹² area or issue based Community Forums¹³, to act in an advisory or consultative capacity.
- 4.19 Where a Community Committee establishes a Community Forum, the Chair of that Forum must be appointed by the Community Committee¹⁴.
- 4.20 Where disputes arise with regard to the appointment of Chairs of Community Forums these will be referred to the Member Management Committee for resolution.

5.0 DECISION MAKING

- 5.1 Community Committees must make decisions:
- in accordance with all relevant procedure rules¹⁵ within the Constitution;
 - in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework¹⁶;
 - in accordance with the Community Plan for the area and any other relevant strategy or plan approved by the Executive Board; and
 - following consideration of a report from relevant Director or his/her nominee.
- 5.2 A Community Committee, or two or more Community Committees jointly, may refer any matter in relation to its executive functions to the Executive Board for decision.

¹⁰ Which may be extended at the discretion of the Chair

¹¹ The Community Committee shall determine how the membership of the Forum shall be decided.

¹² The total number of forums established and the frequency of meetings will need to be sustainable for the Members, officers of the Council and other service providing agencies, and community representatives.

¹³ A forum may cover the whole of the Committee's area or smaller areas within it, for example, one ward

¹⁴ The committee must ensure that the Chair is appointed with regard to the political balance of the ward to which a forum relates and having regard to the number of ward based Community Forums. Where a political group has the majority of members within a ward, the chair will be appointed from amongst or be a nominee of those Members. Where no political group has a majority, the chair will be appointed by the Community Committee from Members of the ward to which the forum relates or a nominee of those Members.

¹⁵ Council Procedure Rules, Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, Community Committee Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules and Access to information Procedure Rules

¹⁶ Subject to the provisions of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules