
Proposed changes to Standing Orders

(additions shown in bold, italic text with deletions struck through)

Virtual attendance at meetings

3.09(e) ~~When a member is unable or unwilling, for good reason, to attend a meeting of the Council in the chamber due to public health concerns, the Chairman will allow the member to participate virtually via video conferencing, when the facility is available. This will be treated as attendance at the meeting but members attending remotely cannot vote or count for the purpose of calculation of the quorum of the meeting. Members participating remotely may take part in information and non-decision items only, namely the items of business set out in Standing Order 2.23 (d), (e), (i), (j) (save for a vote on any proposition), (k) (save for any decision items or voting required), (n), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t) and (u) (save for any decision items or business requiring a vote).~~

3.09(ef) ***In-person attendance at meetings is expected.*** When a member of a ***Scrutiny*** Committee decides, for good reason, not to attend a meeting of that committee due to personal or public health concerns, ***caring responsibilities, disability, or the need to attend other meetings, they can ask*** the Chairman of the committee ***in advance to*** will allow the member to participate virtually via video conferencing, when the facility is available. This will be treated as attendance but the member does not count for the purpose of the calculation of the quorum for the meeting. The member may not participate in any business for which a vote on a decision is required unless it comprises the recommendations on an item of business of a Scrutiny Committee.

Decisions to cancel meetings

3.09(f) ***The relevant Chairman (or Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence) can agree to the cancellation of a meeting when the agenda has already been issued in exceptional circumstances and on the advice of the Director of Law and Assurance. In such circumstances the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence) will determine whether the meeting should be rearranged or the business rolled forward to the next scheduled meeting.***

Substitutes

Substitutes for Governance Committee

- 6.03 Substitute members are permitted to attend a meeting of the ***Governance and*** Planning and Rights of Way Committees.
- 6.04 The County Council will, at each annual meeting, nominate a panel of ***eight*** substitutes for the Planning and Rights of Way Committee ***and a panel of four substitutes for the Governance Committee, to be appointed in line with political proportionality but including at least one member for each group represented on the Committee.***
- 6.05 If a member is not able to attend a meeting, his or her political party may arrange a substitute by giving appropriate notice to the Director of Law and

Assurance in writing, including the name of the member to attend in his or her place from the appropriate panel of substitutes.

- 6.06 The notice should be given by the appropriate Group Leader, Deputy Group Leader, Group Secretary or Group Chairman to the Director of Law and Assurance by 5.00 p.m. on the day before the meeting if possible and not later than the start of the meeting.
- 6.07 Members appointed as substitutes are in the same position in terms of responsibilities and duties as any other member of the committee, for example in relation to the declaration of any interest they might have.

Substitutes for Scrutiny Committees

- 7.02 Substitute members are permitted to attend a meeting of each Scrutiny Committee to which the member has been appointed as a substitute. They will receive notifications and papers as if they were a member of the relevant Committee.
- 7.03 The County Council will, at each annual meeting, approve a panel of **five** substitutes **for Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee and four** for each of the other Scrutiny Committees. **The panels will be appointed in line with political proportionality but including at least** one member for each political group represented on the relevant Committee.
- 7.04 If a member is not able to attend a meeting, his or her political group may arrange a substitute by giving appropriate notice to the Director of Law and Assurance in writing, including the name of the member to attend in his or her place.
- 7.05 The notice should be given by the appropriate Group Leader, Deputy Group Leader, Group Secretary or Group Chairman to the Director of Law and Assurance by 5.00 p.m. on the day before the meeting if possible and not later than the start of the meeting.
- 7.06 Members appointed as substitutes are in the same position in terms of rights and responsibilities as any other member of the committee, including the duty to declare any interest they might have.

Treatment of motions not reached due to lack of time

- 2.23 The order of business at a meeting of the County Council shall be determined by the Chairman, in consultation with political group leaders. Items of high significance are likely to be prioritised on the agenda. Business may include any of the following, at the Chairman's discretion, and subject to any statutory requirements:
- (k) To deal with business remaining from the last meeting, if any, **excluding notices of motion, which are subject to Standing Order 2.48;**
- 2.48 The Chairman, in consultation with political group leaders, may decide that a motion shall be:
- (a) moved and debated at the next meeting (usually no more than two per

meeting unless the Chairman determines otherwise); or

- (b) deferred so that it can be considered for selection to be moved and debated at the following meeting.

2.49 Any notice of motion not selected for debate after two meetings (not including the February Council meeting where the budget debate takes precedence) will fall away and cannot be resubmitted before six months from the date of the Council meeting for which it was last considered for selection.

Time limit for motion subjects returning for consideration

2.55 A motion cannot be in order if it attempts to rescind, reverse or is inconsistent with any decisions made within the preceding six months, ***or, in the case of a decision arising from or the outcome of a previously debated motion, the four-year Council term.*** The only exceptions are:

- (a) The right of the Leader to challenge a decision of the County Council under Standing Orders 2.67 to 2.71 (Disputes Procedure); ~~and~~
- (b) The notice required in Standing Order 2.45 bears the names of at least a quarter of the County Council in addition to the proposer;
- (c) ***Where the Chairman considers it appropriate to consider its inclusion because of a significant change in circumstance related to the subject matter, in consultation with the Director of Law and Assurance.***

[N.B. This Standing Order is relevant only to motions moved by members at County Council meetings and not to recommendations of committees.]