

# Standing Orders of the Court of Common Council

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## **PART 1 – Introduction**

### **1. Application and Interpretation**

1. Unless otherwise specified, these Standing Orders shall govern the proceedings of:-
  - a. the Court of Common Council;
  - b. Committees and Sub-Committees
2. The person presiding at a meeting of the Court of Common Council (the Lord Mayor) or of a Committee or Sub-Committee (the Chairman) is the final authority as to the interpretation of Standing Orders.
3. For the purposes of these Standing Orders:-
  - a. the term “Lord Mayor”, in the absence of the Lord Mayor, applies to the Locum Tenens;
  - b. the term “Chairman”, in the absence of the elected Chairman, applies to the person taking the Chair of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Party meeting;
  - c. the term “Member” refers to an elected Member of the Court of Common Council (~~or the Court of~~including Aldermen);
  - d. references to Committees include Sub-Committees;
  - e. where there are references to “the Town Clerk”, ~~the Deputy Town Clerk~~, the Assistant Town Clerks or other properly appointed Officer shall be authorised to act in the absence of the Town Clerk or where there is a vacancy in the office of Town Clerk.
  - f. ~~words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender.~~

### **2. Suspension**

1. The Court shall have the power to suspend, alter or abrogate Standing Orders by resolution carried by a majority of the Members present and voting.
2. No Committee or Officer may suspend, alter or abrogate a Standing Order unless given authority by the Court to do so.

### **3. Amendment**

1. Any proposal to amend these Standing Orders shall be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee whose recommendations shall be reported to the Court

for approval. Thereafter, the Town Clerk is authorised to make the necessary amendments.

2. The Town Clerk is authorised, after consultation with the Chamberlain,
  - a. to adjust the financial limits specified in these Standing Orders in line with changes in the value of money;
  - b. to make any consequential amendments to the relevant Standing Orders and report such amendments to the Policy & Resources Committee.

## **PART 2 – Court of Common Council Meetings**

### **4. Access to Meetings**

All meetings are open to the public unless:-

- a. confidential information as defined in Section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 is to be discussed; or,
- b. a resolution has been passed to exclude the public as there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972;

~~save that~~ In respect of non-local authority and non-police authority functions this Standing Order is applied unless the Court of Common Council determines otherwise.

### **5. Notice of Meetings**

Public notice of the time and place of meetings of the Court of Common Council shall be posted in an appropriate place at least five working days before the meeting, or if a meeting is convened at shorter notice, then at the time it is convened.

### **6. Summons**

1. The Town Clerk will issue a Summons, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, for each meeting stating the time at which the Court will meet and the time at which, or after which, any ballots will be conducted.
2. Except in cases of urgency or where circumstances make it impracticable, the Summons and accompanying papers will be sent to Members ~~six~~ five clear working days in advance of the meeting.
3. The Town Clerk has discretion, having regard to the convenience of the Court, to settle the order in which items of business appear on the Summons and, if

necessary, during a meeting with the consent of the Lord Mayor and the agreement of the Court to amend the published order of business.

4. When an Address, Memorial, Petition or Remonstrance to the Throne, or to any Member of the Royal Family, is to be considered, on the advice of the Policy & Resources Committee when appropriate, the item shall be taken immediately after the opening of the Court, following the confirmation of the Minutes and the introduction of any new Members, unless the matter is to be considered with the public excluded when it shall be considered at an appropriate time. No such Address, Memorial, Petition or Remonstrance shall be reconsidered or altered after having been agreed to by the Court.
5. On the occasion of the Lord Mayor taking his seat for the first time, an instruction to Members to wear their gowns will be included in the Summons.

## 7. Quorum

1. The quorum for meetings of the Court is 40 Members, one of whom must be the Lord Mayor and two of whom must be Aldermen.
2. If a quorum is not established within five minutes of the hour-time stated on the Summons, those present may depart.
3. If, during a meeting of the Court, it is the opinion of the Lord Mayor that a quorum has ceased to exist, business will be suspended whilst the number of Members present is counted and the result announced.
  - a. If a quorum exists the business will proceed.
  - b. If a quorum does not exist, the meeting will be dissolved and all remaining business will be adjourned to the next meeting.

## 8. Attendance

1. The names of Members attending the Court shall be recorded as they enter the Court and printed in the Minutes of the meeting.
2. A Member attending the Court for the first time shall:
  - a. before taking his-their seat, be formally called formally into the Court by the Town Clerk and introduced to the Lord Mayor by the Deputy or another Member of his-their Ward;
  - b. be clothed in a mazarine gown by the Remembrancer's representative and conducted to his-their seat.

## 9. Reports

1. When submitting any proposal to the Court, Committees have discretion to circulate a printed report to every Member of the Court ~~before as part of the agenda for~~ the meeting at which it is to be considered.
2. A Sub-Committee ~~or Working Party~~ is not entitled to submit a report to the Court unless it has Terms of Reference approved by the Court which confer the requisite authority on it to do so.
3. A minority of either a ~~Court Committee~~ or Sub-Committee is not entitled to submit a report to the Court.
4.
  - a. A report or decision of a Committee or Sub-Committee may be referred to the Court providing that notice of the referral by not less than 20 Members of the Court is submitted to the Town Clerk by no later than 12 noon, nine working days before the meeting of the Court for inclusion in the Summons.
  - b. A Member seeking to submit a referral on grounds of urgency, notice of which has not been included in the Summons, must inform the Town Clerk of the terms of that referral not less than 60 minutes before the time scheduled for the start of the Court so that the Lord Mayor may rule on the need for urgency.
  - c. No action shall be taken to implement any decision pertaining to the subject of the referral until such time as the Court shall have considered the matter, subject to the proviso that such referral would not preclude a decision being taken and/or implemented that in the opinion of the Town Clerk was necessary for legal reasons or for the efficient conduct of the City Corporation's business.

## 10. Ballots

1. Ballots will be held when:-
  - a. there is more than one Member seeking appointment to a vacancy on a ~~City of London Corporation~~ Committee or to represent the City of London Corporation on an outside body. ~~Members may nominate themselves. Members nominated by others shall be advised by the Town Clerk and requested to confirm or not such nomination. If no response is received, such Member(s) will be considered to be in nomination.~~
  - b. a recommendation is made to appoint an Officer whose appointment is in the gift of the Court;

~~and will be taken together at the time stated on the Summons.~~
2. Before the votes on a matter to be decided by ballot are counted, the Lord Mayor will nominate two Scrutineers who will supervise the counting of votes.

3. For the purpose of casting their votes, Members ~~should~~ must be present in Court when a ballot is called.
4. When one vacancy has to be filled and there are more than two candidates, voters shall mark numbers against candidates' names on ballot papers in order of preference.
  - a. Upon the absence of any candidate achieving 50% of first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first preference votes will be eliminated and their votes reallocated according to their second preference therein.
  - b. Procedure in 10.4(a) is repeated until one candidate has obtained 50% of the votes cast.
  - c. Without prejudice to the foregoing 10.4(a) and (b), the successful candidate will be the first candidate to obtain 50% of the votes cast in the ballot.
5. When two or more vacancies have to be filled, the candidates with the highest number of votes shall be declared to be elected. Where the available terms are of differing lengths, the longest term shall be awarded to the candidate with the highest number of votes, the next longest term to the candidate with the second highest number of votes, and so on. In the event of an equality of votes, terms shall be allocated according to seniority (the longer term to the more senior Member).

## 11. Conduct of Debate

1. Members must stand in their places (if able to do so) to indicate clearly their wish to speak and if two or more Members rise, the Lord Mayor may select one of them to speak, in which case all other Members must be seated.
2. No Member may speak more than twice on the same question other than the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee (or, in ~~his~~ their absence, the Deputy Chairman) to provide a clarification of policy if such be required.
3. The Mover of a Motion may not speak for longer than ten minutes, plus a further ten minutes in reply to the debate, and any subsequent speaker must not speak for more than five minutes on the first occasion and two minutes on the second occasion except with the consent of the Court (such times to include the putting of the Motion or Amendment).
- 3.4. Any Amendment so moved shall relate to the subject matter of the Motion and shall not have the effect of negating the Motion.
- 4.5. Should the Mover of an Amendment to a Motion choose to speak for a second time on the Amendment, they shall be the penultimate speaker (the Mover of the original Motion being the final speaker on the Amendment). In such circumstances, the Mover of the Amendment must not speak for more than five minutes and the Mover of the original Motion must not speak for more than ten

minutes.

5.6. Every Member must confine his—their speech strictly to the Motion or Amendment under discussion or to a point of order or explanation, and must not be repetitious. The ruling of the Lord Mayor on issues of relevance or repetition is final.

6.7. At any time, a Member may raise a point of order or make a personal explanation necessitated by the statement of another Member. Any Member speaking at the time must give way when a point of order or personal explanation is made. The ruling of the Lord Mayor on a point of order or the admissibility of a personal explanation is final.

7.8. Discussion will not be allowed on:-

- a. a Motion to extend the time allowed for the:-
  - length of the meeting of the Court;
  - length of time allowed for consideration of Motions;
- b. the Mover and Secunder of a Motion or Amendment seeking permission to withdraw or amend that Motion or Amendment;
- c. a Motion to adjourn a debate in progress.

8.9. At any time other than when a Motion in the name of a committee is under discussion, a Member who has not spoken on the original Motion may move: *‘That the Court proceed to the next item of business’*. If this is seconded, the Motion to proceed to the next item of business shall be put forthwith and without debate unless the Lord Mayor is of the opinion that the Motion is premature or is in any sense an abuse of the rules of the Court. If the Motion is carried, the item of business which was before the Court when the Motion was moved shall not be re-introduced during the same meeting without the consent of the Court.

9.10. If a Member stands (if able) or otherwise indicates, either while another Member is addressing the Court or, if there is a Motion before the Court, at the conclusion of a speech and moves *‘That the question be now put’*, and this is seconded and carried, that question shall be put forthwith and without debate unless the Lord Mayor is of the opinion that the Motion is premature or in any sense is an abuse of the rules of the Court. In no case shall the Mover be precluded from a right to apply-reply should they elect to exercise it.

10.11. A debate may take place upon a Motion for adjournment of the Court, but will be confined to that subject.

11.12. No Member shall make derogatory personal references or use offensive expressions or improper language to any other Member of the Court or Officers.



## 12. Motions

1. All Motions must relate to matters that are within the powers or duties of the City of London Corporation.
2. All Notices of Motion (other than procedural, those relating to changes of membership of Committees and those to which Standing Order Number 12 (7) applies) must be signed by no fewer than ten Members and be submitted to the Town Clerk by no later than 12 noon, nine working days before the meeting of the ~~court~~Court for inclusion in the Summons.
3. Notices of Motions set out in the Summons shall include the names of the signatories thereto.
4. A Member seeking to move a Motion (other than procedural, those relating to changes of membership of Committees and those to which Standing Order Number 12 (7) applies) on grounds of urgency, notice of which has not been included in the Summons, must inform the Town Clerk, in writing, of the terms of that Motion not less than 60 minutes before the time scheduled for the start of the Court so that the Lord Mayor may rule on the need for urgency.
5. The Mover may, with the consent of the Seconder, at any time, withdraw a Motion of which ~~they~~ has have given notice, at which time discussion of that Motion shall cease.
6. A time limit of not more than 60 minutes will be allowed for the discussion of Motions put forward by Members. After 45 minutes, when a Mover rises to move a Motion at the commencement of a debate ~~they~~ shall be asked whether ~~they~~ wishes to proceed or to have the debate adjourned and carried over to the next meeting. Any Motion so adjourned will be placed first under the item for Motions included on the Summons for the next meeting after any procedural Motions and preceding any Motions not reached within the allotted time.
7.
  - a. ~~no~~ No Motion to rescind or amend any resolution passed within the preceding six months, and no Motion or Amendment to the same effect as one that has been rejected in the preceding six months, or any Motion or Amendment that has been passed over by virtue of Standing Order Number 11 (~~89~~), can be proposed unless notice thereof appears on the Summons and bears the names of at least 40 Members.
  - b. ~~once~~ Once a Motion proposed under Standing Order Number 12 (7)(~~a~~) has been dealt with by the Court, it shall not be open to any Member to propose a similar Motion or Amendment within a further period of six months.

However, this Standing Order will not apply to Motions or Amendments appearing on the Summons in pursuance of a recommendation of a Committee nor to resolutions made under the urgency procedures in Standing Order Number 19.

### 13. Questions

1. A Member may ask the Chairman of a Committee any question:-
  - a. on an item of the Committee's business that is included in the Summons;
  - b. on a matter that is not included in the Summons but in relation to which the Court has powers or duties and which affects the City or the City of London Corporation provided that, except in cases of urgency, notice of the question has been given to the Town Clerk in writing not later than 12 noon, two working days before the meeting.
2. A Member seeking to ask a question without due notice as a matter of urgency must inform the Town Clerk in writing of the terms of the question not less than 60 minutes before the time scheduled for the start of the meeting so that the Lord Mayor may rule on the need for urgency.
3. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, although Chairmen may decline to answer. Questions will normally only be answered if the Member giving notice is present to put their question in person. —In exceptional circumstances, the Lord Mayor may direct that the Town Clerk puts the question on behalf of a Member who is unavoidably absent and where they considers it would be in the interests of the Corporation that the Court hear the Chairman's answers.
4. A Chairman (including the Chairmen of the three Investment Boards of the Investment Committee) may not speak for longer than five minutes in response to any question or supplementary question except with the consent of the Court.
5. A Member may ask no more than three questions (excluding supplementaries) at any meeting of the Court.
6. A Member asking a question may ask one supplementary question, and three other Members may each ask two supplementary questions provided that the supplementary questions arise naturally out of the original question and the answer to it.
7. Any questions that the Town Clerk considers do not relate to matters in which the Court has powers or duties and which do not affect the City or the City of London Corporation will not be allowed.
8. The Town Clerk will, with the consent of the questioner, re-direct a question if they considers it to have been addressed to the Chairman of an inappropriate Committee.
9. A time limit of not more than 40 minutes will be allowed for the putting and answering of questions, including supplementary questions, and it shall not be in order to move for an extension of that time.

10. Questions not dealt with owing to the expiration of the 40 minutes time limit shall be deferred for consideration at the following meeting and shall be put in advance of other questions, or may, with the consent of the questioner, be answered in writing within two working days, a copy of the answer being placed in the Members' Reading Room.
11. The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee shall be given the opportunity to provide the Court with a brief statement at each meeting concerning the key policy and strategic issues affecting the City and the work of the City of London Corporation. A maximum of three Members may ask one questions ~~may be asked~~ in direct response to the Chairman's statement.

## 14. Divisions

1. A Member demanding a Division must stand for that purpose. A Division will not be allowed unless another 12 11 Members (i.e. 12 in total) stand in their places to support the demand.
2. If a Division is allowed, the Lord Mayor will ensure that two Tellers for the affirmative and two for the negative are appointed. ~~–If there are insufficient Members of the Court willing to act as Tellers, no Division will take place.~~
3. If a Division is allowed, the Town Clerk will ring the Division bell and at the expiration of three minutes they will ascertain whether a Division is still demanded. If so, the Bar of the Court will be closed after which no Member may enter or leave the Court except for the purpose of recording his-their vote until the Division has been declared closed.
4. The Town Clerk will repeat the Motion and every Member then present and wishing to vote will cast his-their vote either for the affirmative or the negative (the Lord Mayor voting without leaving the Chair and having the right to a second, casting vote). The Ayes for the question will go through the Bar of the Court to the right of the Lord Mayor and the Noes through the Bar to the left, the votes being recorded at the respective exits. ~~–Members will return to their seats through the central entrance.~~
5. Members wishing to abstain should remain seated and the Lord Mayor will seek confirmation of their intention before accepting a declaration from the Tellers that every Member wishing to vote has done so, after which the Bar of the Court will be re-opened and Members will return to their seats through the central entrance.
6. The Town Clerk will call for the Tellers' reports and declare the result.

## 15. Disorder

1. In the event of disorder or a persistent disregard of the authority of the Chair, and if they considers it necessary in the interests of the Court and the City of London Corporation, the Lord Mayor will ask that there be no further interruption. If the interruption continues, they may:-

a. direct the Member(s) of the Court he considers to be abusing the Court to retire for the remainder of the sitting or for such lesser period as he may decide, any such decision to be final;

a.b. require that a member(s) of the public be removed from the public gallery;

b.c. at any time if they considers it desirable in the interest of order, suspend a sitting or adjourn a meeting of the Court for such time as they may decide.

c.d. ~~require that a member(s) of the public be removed from the public gallery.~~

## 16. Duration

If, after three hours from the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the business has not been concluded, the meeting will adjourn~~close~~, any debate being suspended, and all unfinished business will stand adjourned to the next meeting unless a two-thirds majority of the Members present wish the meeting to continue, and subject to there being a quorum. Items that are so adjourned and which, in the opinion of the Town Clerk, require a decision before the next meeting will be considered in accordance with Standing Order Number 19.

## 17. Minutes

1. The minutes of the Court will be printed and circulated and will include:-
  - a. ~~A~~all Motions and Amendments together with the names of the Movers and Seconders and including the names of Movers of reports.;
  - b. ~~T~~he results of any Ballot (pursuant to Standing Order Number 10).
  - c. The results of any Division (pursuant to Standing Order Number 14).
  - d. ~~T~~he names of any Members presented to Royal and other Distinguished Persons received at Guildhall.
2. The correctness of the minutes will be verified at the beginning of the following regular meeting of the Court.

## 18. Chief Commoner

1. The holder of the Office of Chief Commoner shall be a Member of the Court of Common Council.
2. The Chief Commoner shall be elected by the Court of Common Council at the October meeting each year.
3. The term of office of the Chief Commoner shall be for a period commencing and ending on the date of the first Court of Common Council after the wardmotes each year.
4. A Member is ineligible to seek election as Chief Commoner if they hasve previously served the Office of Chief Commoner.
5. Candidates for election to the Office of Chief Commoner shall be nominated by exactly 10 other Members, nominations to be submitted to the Town Clerk by no later than nine working days before the meeting of the Court for inclusion in the Summons. Submissions must be made in writing and accompanied by the signatures of the 10 Members supporting the candidate's nomination.

6. The Chief Commoner shall be:

- a. an ex-officio Member of the Policy & Resources Committee;
- b. Chairman of all Sub-Committees and Working Parties of the Policy & Resources Committee that are responsible for the provision of City Corporation Hospitality, Members' privileges, Members' facilities (other than Guildhall Club), and Members' training and development.
- c. ineligible to chair any City Corporation Committee other than the Sub-Committees and Working Parties referred to in Standing Order Number 18 (6) (b).

## 19. Decisions between Meetings

1. Between regular meetings of the Court of Common Council, if, in the opinion of the Town Clerk, it is urgently necessary for a decision to be made, then the powers of the Court may, where lawfully possible, be exercised by the Town Clerk. Before exercising this power, they must obtain the comments of:-

- the Lord Mayor
- the Chief Commoner
- the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee
- the Chairman of the Finance Committee

or a nominee of each who shall be, respectively,

- an Alderman
- a Past Chief Commoner still in Common Council
- a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee
- a Member of the Finance Committee

2. Where the recommendation is made by the Policy & Resources Committee or the Finance Committee then the fourth person shall be the Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee or theirs nominee from that Committee.

2.3. Where the recommendation is made jointly by two of the aforementioned committees, then the fourth person shall be the Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee or, if they are also conflicted, another senior Chairman.

4. The Town Clerk's powers only extend to the approval or non-approval of the recommendation placed before ~~him~~ them, not its amendment.

5. Each decision of approval shall be reported to the next regular meeting of the Court with an explanation of the need for the use of this procedure.

6. Each decision of non-approval shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee making the recommendation and that Committee or Sub-Committee may submit the matter for decision by the full Court if this is still feasible. Where a decision of non-approval is in prospect, the Chairman of the recommending Committee or ~~his~~ their representative shall be informed and allowed to make representations in support of ~~his~~ their Committee's decision.

## 20. Petitions

1. Any Petition (other than for grants of money) intended to be presented to the Court must be lodged at the Town Clerk's office, duly endorsed by the Member presenting, not later than 12 noon ~~on the Monday~~ ten working days before the meeting of the Court at which it is proposed to present ~~such the~~ Petition, which from the time of being ~~so~~ lodged shall remain in the custody of the Town Clerk. The wording of the Petition or a summary thereof shall be printed on the Summons for the Court.
2. No Petitioner shall be permitted to address the Court except in reply to questions.

## PART 3 – Committees and Sub-Committees

### 21. Appointment

The annual appointment of Committees of the City of London Corporation will take place at the first regular meeting of the Court which will be held in April.

### 22. Committee Limit

1. Subject to (23) below no Member shall serve on more than eight Committees, be they Ward or Non-Ward Committees;
- 1.2. For the purposes of this Standing Order, the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee and the West Ham Park Committee shall count as one Committee.
- 2.3. This limit shall not apply:
  - ~~a. To the membership of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee and the West Ham Park Committee which will count as one Committee;~~
  - b.a. To membership of the Capital Buildings Committee;
  - c.b. To membership of the Standards Appeals Committee;
  - d.c. If a vacancy on a committee has been advertised on at least two occasions and remains unfilled. In such circumstances, a Member may serve on that committee even though it may cause the limit of 8 to be exceeded ~~in the current year~~ for the remainder of the municipal year.

Service on Committees in an ex-officio capacity does not count for the purpose of this Standing Order.

### 23. Ward Committees

1. Ward Committees comprise at least two Aldermen (regardless of whether the Ward has sides) with five or fewer Members;

2. The Aldermen shall be appointed on the basis of nominations by the Court of Aldermen.
3. The Commoners shall be appointed on the basis of:-
  - a. one Member from each Ward (regardless of whether the Ward has sides) with having five or fewer Members;
  - b. two Members from each Ward (regardless of whether the Ward has sides) with having six or more Members; ~~or,~~
  - c. one Member representing a Ward or Side of Ward that has agreed to pair with ~~that another Member's~~ Ward, which is geographically nearby, for the purpose of representation on one or more Ward Committees;
  - d. up to two Members on the Community and Children's Services Committee from Wards with 200 or more residents.
4. Wards shall choose whether to nominate a Member(s) to serve on each of the several Ward Committees.
5. After consultation with the Members of their Wards, the Deputies of the Ward shall submit the nominations to the Town Clerk subject to the following:-
  - a. the term of office of a Member on a Ward Committee is one year;
  - b. a Member who has served four terms on a Ward Committee, separately or consecutively, is not eligible for appointment for a further term whilst there is a Member of the Ward who has not served and wishes to do so, unless the majority of the Members of the Ward so decide.
6. If a Ward chooses not to nominate a Member(s) to serve on a Ward Committee, the Town Clerk shall notify the vacancy to all Members and seek nominations prior to the appointment being made by the Court.



## **24. Non-Ward Committees**

1. Non-Ward Committees comprise Members elected by the Court for either:-
  - a. a specific term at the end of which, if eligible, the Member must seek re-election; or,
  - b. an indefinite term subject to annual re-appointment by the Court.
2. Any Member wishing to serve must notify the Town Clerk in writing and all applications received will be listed on the Summons for the meeting of the Court at which the appointment is to be made. If necessary, a ballot will take place in accordance with Standing Order Number 10.

## **25. Vacancies**

1. When a vacancy occurs in any Committee, the Member elected to fill it will continue for the remainder of the term of the Member creating the vacancy, and such part of the term will count as a full term for the purposes of Standing Orders Numbers 23 (5) ~~and 29 (3) (a)~~.
2. Prior to the expiry of a completed term of office on a Non-Ward Committee, or when vacancies arise, all Members will be notified by the Town Clerk.

## **26. Terms of Reference**

Each Committee will have Terms of Reference approved by the Court.

## **27. Sub-Committees**

1. The Committees of the City of London Corporation may at any time:-
  - a. constitute, dissolve, or alter the membership of a Sub-Committee set up by them;
  - b. within its terms of reference from the Court, authorise a Sub-Committee to act on behalf of the main Committee;
  - c. appoint a Working Party to consider and report on particular matters but such Working Party shall have no delegated powers.
2. The quorum for a Sub-Committee shall be any three of its Members.

## 28. Joint Committee

In the event of a reference to a Joint Committee of any of the Committees of the Court, the quorum shall be nine, comprising no fewer than three Members of each participating Committee.

## 29. Chairmen

1. Each Committee shall have a Chairman who will:-

- a. preside at every meeting of the relevant Committee at which he is present;
- b. sign the minutes of proceedings of the previous meeting when approved as a correct record;
- c. in case of an equality of votes, have a second casting or casting vote. If the Chairman is unwilling to exercise a second or casting vote the decision shall be taken by lot;
- d. determine all questions of order;
- e. have power, after consultation with the Deputy Chairman, to,
  - convene an additional meeting;
  - vary the date and/or time and/or place of a scheduled meeting;
  - cancel a meeting if, in ~~his~~their opinion, there is insufficient business to warrant the holding of such a meeting or for other reasons.

2. The term of service of ~~Chairman~~Chairmen, subject to annual re-election, is limited as follows:-

Policy & Resources Committee	5 years*
Finance Committee	5 years*
Police Committee	4 years*
Other Committees	3 years*

\*The years to run consecutively.

*(For the purpose of this Standing Order, if a Member is elected to the Chair during the course of the year, a period of service commencing before 1 October shall count as one year; a period of service commencing on or after 1 October shall not count as one year).*

3. A Member is ineligible to seek election as Chairman of a Ward or Non-Ward Committee (other than a specifically appointed Reception Committee) in the following circumstances:-
  - a. ~~If they are already a no Member is eligible to be~~ Chairman of ~~more than one another~~ Committee (Ward or non-Ward) ~~at the same time~~, other than in the case of the following Committees:-
    - Capital Buildings Committee
    - Gresham (City Side)
    - Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee
    - Health & Wellbeing Board
    - Investment Committee
    - Local Government Pensions Board
    - Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee and West Ham Park Committee (which shall have the same Chairman)
    - West Ham Park Committee
  - b. ~~no Member who is~~ If they are resident in, or a tenant of, any property owned by the City of London Corporation ~~is eligible they may not to~~ be Chairman of the Committee or Sub-Committee having control of such property (with the exception of the Community & Children's Services Committee);
  - c. ~~If they are no an~~ ex-officio Member of a Committee ~~is eligible to be Chairman of the Committee~~;
  - d. If they are the Deputy Chairman of the Audit & Risk Management Committee for the time being ~~is ineligible to seek election as Chairman of another Committee (Ward or Non-Ward)~~.
4. At the first meeting of each Committee following the annual appointment, the Town Clerk will read out a list of Members eligible to take the Chair. The names shall be read out alphabetically, subject to the name of the late Chairman being placed last, and each of those Members present will be asked if they isare willing to serve.
5. A Member unable to be present may previously express in writing to the Town Clerk ~~his~~ their willingness to serve.
6. The names of those who are willing to serve will be voted on by Ballot. The successful candidate will require a majority of the votes cast. In the absence of any candidate achieving a majority of votes in the first round of voting:
  - a. the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated;
  - b. if there is more than one candidate securing the fewest but identical number of votes, then a ballot will be held between those candidates to determine which will drop out;
  - c. candidates may also elect to withdraw at this stage;

a.d. a further ballot will be held amongst the remaining candidates and the procedure in (a) to (c) repeated until one candidate has obtained a majority of the votes cast.

7. Ex-officio Members of a Committee are not eligible to vote in the election of Chairman of that Committee other than in the case of the following Committees:-

- Policy & Resources
- Investment (such right being restricted to the Chairman and Deputy/Vice Chairmen of the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees who have ex-officio places on the Committee)
- Capital Buildings Committee (such right being restricted to the Chairmen and Deputy/Vice-Chairmen of the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees who have ex-officio places on the Committee)

### **30. Deputy Chairman**

1. Each Committee, with the exception of the Policy and Resources Committee, shall have a Deputy Chairman who will, in the absence of the Chairman, have the powers, duties and rights of the Chairman.

2. With the exception of the first and fifth year of a chairmanship, The Policy and Resources Committee shall have three Deputyies Chairmen, one of whom shall be designated the Deputy Chairman to exercise the formal responsibilities of that role, with the remaining two Vice Chairmen. in the absence of the Chairman would have the "statutory Deputy Chairman" role, i.e. to approve decisions under the delegated authority procedures, the urgency procedures and to act in place of the Chairman.

3. In the case of all Committees:-

a. the immediate past Chairmen, if in Common Council and if willing to serve, will be Deputy Chairman for the first year upon the election of a new Chairman;

b. if the immediate past Chairman is not in Common Council or is not willing to serve in the office, the Deputy Chairman (or Deputy Chairmen in the case of the Policy and Resources Committee) will be elected in accordance with Standing Order Number 30 (5);

c. when the immediate past Chairman has completed his-their year of office as Deputy Chairman, all the Members of the Committee with the exception of the said Deputy Chairman and those who are ineligible by virtue of Standing Order Number 30 (4), are eligible to seek election as Deputy Chairman.

4. A Member is ineligible to seek election as Deputy Chairman of a Ward or Non-Ward Committee (other than a specially appointed Reception Committee) in the following circumstances:-

- a. ~~no Member who is~~ if they are resident in, or a tenant of, any property owned by the City of London Corporation ~~is eligible to~~ they may not be Deputy Chairman of the Committee or Sub-Committee having control of such property;
  - b. ~~no if they are an~~ ex-officio Member of a Committee ~~they may not is eligible to~~ be Deputy Chairman of that Committee except in the case of the immediate past Chairman for the first year upon election of a new Chairman.
5. At the first meeting of each Committee following the annual appointment, the Town Clerk will read out a list of Members eligible for election as Deputy Chairman (or Deputy/Vice Chairmen in the case of the Policy and Resources Committee). The names shall be read out alphabetically and each of those Members present will be asked if they is-are willing to serve.
  6. A Member unable to be present may previously express in writing to the Town Clerk his-their willingness to serve.
  7. The names of those who are willing to serve will be voted on by Bballot, with the exception of the Policy and Resources Committee. The successful candidate will require a majority of the votes cast. In the absence of any candidate achieving a majority of votes in the first round of voting:
    - a. the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated;
    - b. if there is more than one candidate securing the fewest but identical number of votes, then a ballot will be held between those candidates to determine which will drop out;
    - c. candidates may also elect to withdraw at this stage;
    - d. a further ballot will be held amongst the remaining candidates and the procedure in (a) to (c) repeated until one candidate has obtained a majority of the votes cast.
  8. The election of the three Deputy/Vice Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee shall be undertaken as follows:-
    - Where the number of candidates is less than or matches the number of vacancies (i.e. three) the candidates will automatically be treated as being elected to office.
    - Where there are more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be undertaken with Members indicating their preferred candidate(s). ~~in the case of multiple vacancies,~~ Members can choose not to vote for the maximum number of candidates.

- Once votes have been cast and counted, any candidate having 50% or more of the number of votes will be elected.
- Unless the candidates each secure 50% of the vote, the candidate with the least number of votes will drop-out automatically. If there is more than one candidate securing the least but identical number of votes then a ballot will be held between those candidates to determine which one will drop-out. Other candidates may also elect to withdraw at this stage.
- A further ballot will be held amongst the remaining candidates and any candidate securing 50% or more of the vote will be elected. This process will be repeated until all vacancies are filled.

There may come a point in the process where a candidate or candidates with the least number of votes drops out, leaving a number of candidates that matches the number of vacancies. In those circumstances, no further ballot is necessary as the candidates will automatically be treated as being elected to office (without having to secure 50% of the vote).

The Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the three elected to office, shall decide which of them will be designated as the formal Deputy Chairman with the remaining two being Vice Chairmen.

9. Ex-officio Members of a Committee are not eligible to vote in the election of Deputy Chairman of that Committee other than in the case of the following Committees:-
  - Policy & Resources
  - Investment (such right being restricted to the Chairman and Deputy/Vice Chairmen of the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees who have ex-officio places on the Committee)
  - Capital Buildings Committee (such right being restricted to the Chairmen and Deputy/Vice-Chairmen of the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees who have ex-officio places on the Committee)

### **31. Ward Reception Committees**

1. Unless there are specific reasons for the arrangements for any Corporation hospitality being referred to a Standing Committee, responsibility will be referred to a Ward Reception Committee appointed by the Court.
2. The Town Clerk is authorised to summon the first meeting of the Committee.
3. The appointment of Commoners shall be by rotation within the total membership of the Common Council, and before the appointment of a Ward Reception Committee, the Town Clerk shall notify each Member next on the rota for appointment. If a Member does not wish to serve on the next Ward Reception Committee, the Town Clerk shall liaise with the next Member on the rota to fill the vacancy.

3.4. The appointment of Aldermen shall also be by rotation, comprising two Aldermen above the Chair and four Aldermen below the Chair.

4.5. In the event of an entertainment for which a Ward Reception Committee has been appointed, not taking place, the Aldermen and Commoners serving on that Committee shall be re-appointed on the next available Ward Reception Committee.

5.6. If a Member of a Ward Reception Committee is absent from the Committee when the privileges of Members are being determined by Ballot, the Chairman or the Senior Alderman present shall select for the absent Member.

6.7. A Member is eligible to seek election as Chairman of a Ward Reception Committee in the following circumstances:-

- a. provided they haves completed two years' service on the Court;
- b. provided they is are not an ex-officio Member of the Committee;

8. A Member may chair one Royal or State Ward Reception Committee and one Non-Royal or Non-State Ward Reception Committee, in either order.

7.9. The provisions of Standing Order Number 29 as regards the election of a Chairman shall be applied at the first meeting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Member elected as Chairman will, subject to being in Common Council, continue in that office until the function has taken place.

8.10. If, after the list of Members eligible to serve as Chairman of a Ward Reception Committee has been read, no Member has sought election, a second list shall be read in which all Members of the Committee are eligible.

9.11. The Chief Commoner for the time being will serve as the Deputy Chairman.

## **32. Access to Meetings**

1. All meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees are open to the public unless:-

- a. confidential information as defined in Section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 is to be discussed; or,
- b. a resolution has been passed to exclude the public as there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972;

~~save that~~ In respect of non-local authority and non-police authority functions this Standing Order is applied unless a Committee or Sub-Committee determines otherwise.

2. The filming, photographing or making of audio recordings of meetings will be allowed in accordance with the City of London Protocol on the filming/recording of meetings adopted by the Court in May 2014.

### 33. Notice of Meetings

Public notice of the time and place of meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees will be posted in an appropriate place at least five clear working days before the meeting, or if a meeting is convened at shorter notice, then at the time it is convened.

### 34. Summons

1. The Town Clerk will issue a Summons for each meeting stating the time and place at which the Committee or Sub-Committee will meet and setting out the order of business.
2. Any Committee may be summoned upon the written requisition of a number of its Members not less than the quorum of the Committee, provided they have business to lay before the Committee. Such business will be set out in detail together with the reason(s) why the matter(s) to be raised could not wait until the next regular meeting.
3. A special meeting of a Committee shall not, except in the case of absolute necessity, be called on the same morning or afternoon as that appointed for the regular meeting or another Committee, and under any circumstances the special meeting shall be called at a different time from that of the other Committee.
4. Except in cases of urgency or where circumstances make it impracticable, the Summons and accompanying papers will be sent to Members six-five clear working days in advance of the meeting.

### 35. Attendance

1. Members are entitled to attend meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees of which they are not Members, but must not vote or, without the permission of the Chairman of the meeting, speak on any matter.
2. If a question is referred by the Court to any Committee to examine and report, the Member moving the reference shall be invited to attend the Committee in the event that they are not a Member of that Committee and shall be permitted to take part in any discussion that may arise therefrom, but not vote on the matter.
3. If the Standards Committee or the Standards Appeal Committee, or Sub-Committees thereof, is/are considering the conduct of a Member of the Court or an co-optedex-officio Member in relation to the City of London Corporation's Code of Conduct for Members in non-public session, no Member or co-optedex-officio Member who is not a Member of that Committee or Sub-Committee is permitted to attend the proceedings other than those who have been requested or allowed to attend by the Committee or Sub-Committee.

### 36. Quorum

1. The quorum for each Committee shall be set annually by the Court when the Committees are appointed in accordance with Standing Order Number 21.
2. If the quorum is not established within five minutes of the hour-time stated on the



Summons, the formal meeting will be dissolved and formal consideration of the business adjourned to the next regular meeting unless, in the opinion of the Chairman, a special meeting should be called before that date.

3. If, during a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, a quorum ceases to exist the meeting shall adjourn until a quorum is re-established. ~~and~~ If there is no reasonable likelihood that it will be re-established, the meeting will be dissolved and all remaining business adjourned to the next meeting. Any items that have not been considered by the meeting before its dissolution and which, in the opinion of the Chairman, require a decision before the next meeting will be considered in accordance with Standing Order Number 41.

### 37. Conduct of Debate

1. Every Member must confine ~~his~~ their speech strictly to the Motion or Amendment under discussion or to a point of order or explanation, and must not be repetitious. The ruling of the Chairman on issues of relevance or repetition is final.
2. At any time, a Member may raise a point of order or make a personal explanation necessitated by the statement ~~or of~~ another Member. Any Member speaking at the time must give way when a point of order or personal explanation is made. A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of Standing Orders or statutory provision. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by the Member at the same meeting, which may have been misunderstood. The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order or the admissibility of a personal explanation is final.
3. If a Member stands (or, if unable to do so, indicates otherwise) either while another Member is addressing the Committee or, if there is a Motion before the Committee, at the conclusion of a speech, and moves *'That the question be now put'*, and this Motion is seconded and carried, that question shall be put forthwith and without debate unless the Chairman is of the opinion that the Motion is premature or in any sense is an abuse of the rules of the Committee. In no case shall the Mover be precluded from a right to reply should they elect to exercise it.

### 38. Decisions

Decisions made by Committees will be either unanimous or will represent the view of the majority of those Members present and eligible to vote. The Town Clerk will, if requested, record in the minutes of a meeting the name(s) of any Member(s) dissenting from a majority decision.

### 39. Disorder

In the event of disorder or a persistent disregard of the authority of the Chair, and if they considers it necessary in the interests of maintaining order, the Chairman will ask that there be no further interruption. If the interruption continues, they may:-

- a. direct the Member(s) causing disorder or disregarding ~~his~~ their authority to retire for the remainder of the meeting or for such shorter period as the Chairman may decide. In the event of non-compliance with that instruction,

and with the consent of the majority of the Committee to be shown immediately on a show of hands, the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps for the removal of such Member(s) from the meeting;

- b. require a member(s) of the public to be removed from the meeting.

#### **40. Duration**

If, after two hours from the appointed time for the start of the meeting, the business has not concluded, the meeting will adjourn-close and any unfinished business will stand adjourned to the next meeting unless a two-thirds majority of the Members present wish the meeting to continue, and subject to there being a quorum.

#### **41. Decisions between Meetings**

Between scheduled meetings of each Committee or Sub-Committee, if:

- a. in the opinion of the Town Clerk, it is urgently necessary for a decision to be made~~-or~~; or
- b. the Committee or Sub-Committee have delegated power to the Town Clerk to make a decision~~;~~;

then the powers of the Committee or Sub-Committee may, where lawfully possible, be exercised by the Town Clerk. Before exercising this power, they shall seek and obtain the comments of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee or Sub-Committee or, failing either of them, their nominees. Each action or decision shall be reported to the next regular meeting of the Committee and-or Sub-Committee.

#### **42. Conferences**

1. Members and Officers are authorised to attend events (i.e. conferences, congresses, seminars, meetings, exhibitions etc.) on behalf of the City of London Corporation in accordance with the Business Travel Scheme.
2. The Business Travel Scheme:
  - a. forms part of the Financial Regulations;
  - b. defines the various categories of travel on official business;
  - c. includes a schedule of recognised events attended by Members and/or Officerss approved by the Policy & Resources Committee.

### 43. Outside Bodies

1. A Member shall serve as a representative of the City Corporation on no more than six outside bodies at the same time.
2. Standing Order Number 43 (1) shall not apply to ex-officio appointments to outside bodies including those that apply to the Court of Aldermen.

## PART 4 – Interests

### 44. ~~Personal and Beneficial~~ Interests

1. If a matter for decision is under consideration by the Court, or any Committee thereof, in which a Member has an ~~personal~~ interest ~~they~~ must ~~declare the existence and nature of his interest~~ act in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Members' Code of Conduct.
2. If a matter for decision relating to the City of London Corporation's Housing or Barbican Residential Estates is under consideration by the Court, or any Committee thereof, which relates to land in which a Member has a beneficial interest ~~they~~:-
  - a. must declare the existence and nature of ~~his~~ their interest;
  - b. subject to the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Members' Code of Conduct in relation to interests may speak but not vote thereon.

## PART 5 – Access to Documents

### 45. Access to Documents

1. A Member of the Court is entitled to inspect, or be provided with a copy of, documents belonging to the City that it is reasonably necessary for ~~him~~them to see in order to carry out ~~his~~their duties as a Common Councilman or Alderman. Consistent with this presumption of a Member's entitlement to access documents, a Member has a right of access to all documents relating to business transacted or to be transacted at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee as set out in ~~the~~ Standing Order Number 45 (2) and (3).
2. In respect of the City's local authority and police authority functions a Member has a right of access to all documents relating to business transacted or to be transacted at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee, although if it appears to the Town Clerk that information contained in the documents is exempt information by virtue of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 ~~they~~ he has a discretion to withhold the documents from inspection unless the information relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the City (except in respect of contract negotiations), or the information relates to any noticed imposing requirements on a person or direction the City proposes to make under any enactment, in which case the documents are required to be open to inspection.
3. Standing Order Number 45 (2) shall apply to the City's non-local authority and non-police authority functions and a Member shall have a right of access to all documents relating to business transacted or to be transacted at any relevant meeting of the Court of Common Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee, unless the Town Clerk determines otherwise.
4. Where a request for access to documents is declined by the Town Clerk, the Member may refer the matter to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the appropriate Committee who will consider the advice of the Town Clerk before either granting or refusing the request.
5. A Member has the same right as a member of the public to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and to have that information communicated to ~~him~~them subject to any exemptions on the disclosure of information properly kept confidential.
6. A Member must preserve the confidentiality of any document containing confidential or exempt information that is in ~~his~~their possession.

## **PART 6 – Acts of Common Council**

### **46. Bills and Acts**

1. A Bill for an Act of Common Council shall be printed and circulated to all Members of the Court before it is submitted to the Court.
2. Every Bill shall be submitted to the appropriate Committee(s) for approval and to the Recorder of London for settling before it is submitted to the Court of Common Council and the report of the appropriate Committee (if any) shall be printed and circulated with the Bill.
3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court of Common Council, a Bill for an Act of Common Council shall be read a first and second [time](#) at one meeting of the Court and shall at the next or a subsequent meeting be read a third time and made an Act of Common Council.

## **PART 7 – Parliamentary Legislation**

### **47. Bills and Acts**

1. No active proceedings for or against any Bill in Parliament (beyond such steps in the case of a Private Bill as may be necessary to obtain or preserve a *locus standi*, or the delivery of formal professional retainers) shall be undertaken without the express authority of the Court, save in a case of emergency which shall be reported at the next ensuing Court.
2. It shall be an instruction to the Remembrancer that where in any Act of Parliament it is necessary to mention or describe the Local Authority for the City of London, such Authority shall be stated to be “The Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled”, or “the Common Council”.

## **PART 8 – Finance**

### **48. Resource Allocation, Revenue Estimates and Capital Budgets**

1. Resource allocation plans, revenue estimates and five-year capital budgets shall be prepared annually in respect of the City Fund, City’s Cash and the Bridge House Estates.
2. Resource allocation plans for the subsequent financial year shall be approved by the Policy & Resources Committee, following previous consideration by the Efficiency & Performance Sub-Committee and the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

3. The Policy & Resources Committee shall determine the basis and assumptions to be adopted in the preparation of detailed revenue estimates and capital budgets, together with any provisional resource allocations.
4. The requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential Code shall be complied with, as follows:-
  - a. the Chamberlain, as Chief Financial Officer, shall:
    - report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves allowed for in the budget proposals; and,
    - prepare Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Code.
  - b. Members shall:
    - approve the Prudential Indicators as part of the budget setting process by the Court of Common Council; and,
    - have regard to the Chamberlain's advice regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves.
5. The Chamberlain is required to monitor against the approved Prudential Indicators and report, via the Finance Committee, to the Court of Common Council if they are to be breached.
6. All financial items shall be categorised in accordance with the City's ~~f~~Financial ~~R~~egulations and final determination of any categorisation shall be the responsibility of the Chamberlain and generally applied as follows:-
  - a. recurrent revenue items – analysed between central risk, local risk and recharges;
  - b. one-off revenue projects – analysed between routine revenue projects financed from within existing local risk budgets and supplementary revenue projects financed from one-off augmentations of local risk resources; and,
  - c. capital projects.
7. Detailed revenue estimates for the subsequent financial year, including all recurrent revenue items and routine revenue projects, shall be submitted to each Spending Committee in accordance with the Policy & Resources Committee determination. Concurrently, schedules of supplementary revenue projects, along with five-year capital budgets, shall also be presented to each Spending Committee.
8. The Finance Committee shall present to the Court of Common Council in March of each year the following:-

- a. the revenue estimates;
  - b. the five-year capital budgets and summaries of supplementary revenue projects;
  - c. the annual budget reports in respect of all revenue and capital proposals for the City Fund, City's Cash and the Bridge House Estates, including recommendations as to the Non-Domestic Rate and Council Tax to be levied in the following financial year and the Prudential Code Indicators to apply to the City Fund.
9. No Committee or Officer shall commit the City to expenditure without the approval of the Court of Common Council, unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders. Similar principles shall operate, as appropriate, for income items.
  10. No proposal (other than the grant or renewal of a lease) shall be carried out, or submitted to the Court of Common Council, until the estimated financial effect has first been submitted to and approved by the Finance Committee, unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders.
  11. Where expenditure is necessary for which no provision has been made by the Court but which will be wholly reimbursed by a person or organisation separate from the City, the Chamberlain may authorise such expenditure from a holding account.

## **49. Financial Regulations**

1. The Financial Regulations form part of the City's overall system of financial management, accountability and control and shall be complied with by all City of London Corporation staff.
2. The Financial Regulations are maintained by the Finance Committee.

## **50. Project Management**

1. Approval of the City of London Corporation's programme of projects is the responsibility of the Policy and Resources Committee through its Projects Sub-Committee, which scrutinises individual projects, and the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, which considers the overall programme of project activity and its funding. Decisions about projects are made in conjunction with Spending Committees and the Finance Committee and the Court of Common Council for high value projects.
2. Officers shall ensure that all routine revenue, supplementary revenue and capital projects shall comply with the provisions contained within the City of London Corporation's agreed Project Procedure.

3. The Projects Sub-Committee will periodically review the Project Procedure. Technical adjustments and changes to the Procedure may be authorised by the Policy and Resources Committee.
4. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Projects Sub-Committee, or the Chairman and Deputy Chairman thereof as appropriate, may vary the Project Procedure in relation to individual projects in cases when it is deemed appropriate to do so.
5. The Town Clerk will produce and keep up to date guidance for Officers, in the form of a Project Toolkit, to ensure that the Project Procedure is followed.

## **51. Procurement and Contract Letting**

1. All procurement and contracts activity will be undertaken by Officers in accordance with the City of London Corporation's agreed Procurement Regulations.
2. The Finance Committee will periodically review the Procurement Regulations and may authorise any technical adjustments. Significant changes to the Regulations require the approval of the Court of Common Council.
3. The Chamberlain will produce and keep up to date guidance for Officers to ensure the Procurement Regulations are followed.

## **52. Writing-Off Debts**

1. Any Committee appointed by the Court may agree, with the concurrence of the Chamberlain, to the writing-off of a debt due to the Corporation if satisfied that:-
  - a. the debt is no longer recoverable at law; or,
  - b. the cost to the City of London Corporation of commencing or continuing recovery at law is likely to exceed the amount of the debt or the balance uncollected; or,
  - c. there are reasonable grounds for writing-off the debt subject to the amounts in excess of £10,000 being approved by the Finance Committee.

*(NB. 1. Standing Order Number 52 (1) (c) shall not apply to the Barbican Centre Board*

*N.B. 2. The financial limit for writing-off school fees shall be £3,500 per term).*

2. Each Committee's powers under (1) above are delegated to the relevant Chief Officer where the amount of the debt does not exceed £5,000.



## PART 9 – Property

### 53. Corporate Plans and Strategies

1. The City of London Corporation shall develop and adopt corporate plans and strategies for the management and investment of its property assets as follows:-
  - a. Corporate Asset Management Plans which shall be subject to annual review by the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee and approval by the Policy & Resources Committee;
  - b. Investment Property Strategies which shall be subject to annual reports and regular review (not less than every three years) by the Property Investment Board, Finance and Policy & Resources Committees.
2. The corporate plans and strategies referred to in Standing Order Number 53 (1) shall be based on assumption that all property transactions are on open market terms.
3. All property transactions shall be made in accordance with the corporate plans and strategies referred to in Standing Order Number 53 (1).
4. Any proposed property transactions, including transactions which together form part of a series of transactions, that are not in accordance with the corporate plans and strategies referred to in Standing Order Number 53 (1) or are not based on open market terms shall be subject to the approval of,
  - a. the originating Committee and the Finance Committee;
  - b. the Court of Common Council if required by the parameters set out in Standing Orders Numbers ~~54-55~~, ~~56-57~~ (2), ~~57-58~~ (1)(b), ~~57~~ (2) and ~~58-59~~(3).

### 54. Capital Buildings Committee

Where projects have been referred to, or are within the remit of, the Capital Buildings Committee, decisions in relation to the acquisition and disposal of properties related to the project, including disposal or alternative use of current operational properties to be vacated on completion of the project, shall sit outside of the normal Standing Orders (53-60) governing acquisitions and disposals.

### ~~54~~55. Acquisitions

1. For the purpose of this Standing Order, the following definitions shall apply:-

investment property assets -	properties within the remit of the Property Investment Board that are managed by <u>the</u> City Surveyor as investments yielding <u>Capital-</u> <u>capital</u> and/or revenue returns.
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operational property assets - properties within the day to day control of committees that are held primarily for the provision of operational services by or on behalf of the City of London.

2. Acquisitions of interests in investment property assets shall follow the City's agreed Investment Property Acquisition Procedure and require the following approvals:-

**City Fund:-**

<b>Total Acquisition Costs</b>	<b>Approval by</b>
Less than £5,000,000	Property Investment Board and Finance Committee
£5,000,000 and above	Property Investment Board, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council

**City's Cash and Bridge House Estates:-**

<b>Total Acquisition Costs</b>	<b>Approval by</b>
Less than £5,000,000 (subject to funding being available in the relevant Designated Sales Pool)*	Property Investment Board and Finance Committee
£5,000,000 and above	Property Investment Board, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council

*\*If funding is not available in the relevant Designated Sales Pool the authority approval of the Court of Common Council shall also be required.*

3. Acquisitions of interests in operational property assets shall require the following approvals:-

<b>Total Acquisition Costs</b>	<b>Approval by</b>
Less than £2,500,000	Spending and Finance Committees
£2,500,000 and above	Spending and Finance Committees and Court of Common Council

## **5556. Identification of Property Assets Surplus to Departmental Requirements**

1. Committees are required to consider the effective and efficient use of all operational property assets. This will be monitored by the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee.
2. Where assets are no longer required, in whole or in part, for the provision of operational services for which they are currently held, a report on the circumstances must be made to the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee. This does not apply where lettings are an integral part of the service e.g. market or housing tenancies.

## **5657. Freehold Disposals**

1. Disposals of freeholds subject to 2000 year leases and of former freehold highway land shall be subject to the approval of the Property Investment Board (investment property assets) or the Finance Committee (for non-investment property assets).
2. All other freehold disposals shall require the following approvals:-

<b>Anticipated Receipt</b>	<b>Approval By</b>	
	<b><u>Investment Property Asset</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Investment Property Asset</u></b>
Less than £1,000,000	Property Investment Board	Finance Committee*
£1,000,000 to less than £5,000,000	Property Investment Board and Finance Committee	Finance Committee
£5,000,000 and above	Property Investment Board, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council	Corporate Asset Sub-Committee, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council

*\*Or a Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee, if so delegated*

## 5758. Leasehold Disposals/Surrenders

1. All lettings shall be subject to the following:-

- a. lettings for a period of 25 years or less, including lease renewals and the grant of easements, wayleaves and similar arrangements as well as all rent reviews, shall be solely subject to the approval of the Committee having control of such property or any properly authorised Officer:-
- b. the grant of any lease at less than full rack rental value for a period of 175 years or less (including optional extensions of term) shall require the approval of the Property Investment Board (investment property assets) or the Finance Committee (for non-investment property assets), any premium being subject to the following approvals ~~of the following Committees:-~~

Anticipated Premium Receipt (1)	Approval By	
	<u>Investment Property Asset</u>	<u>Non-Investment Property Asset</u>
Less than £1,000,000	Property Investment Board	Finance Committee*
£1,000,000 to less than £5,000,000	Property Investment Board and Finance Committee	Finance Committee
£5,000,000 and above	Property Investment Board, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council	Corporate Asset Sub-Committee, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council

*\*Or a Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee, if so delegated*

*(1) For the purpose of these Standing Orders 'receipt' means receipt by the City of London Corporation.*

## **5859. Variations**

1. Minor variations (i.e. those which do not affect the open market value of the property) to the terms of ground lease restructurings, disposals, acquisitions and other transactions, or to leases being taken by the City of London Corporation as tenant, and where the variations are necessary to complete the transaction expediently shall be subject solely to the approval of the Committee having control of such property or any properly authorised Officer.
2. Other variations to the terms of an existing lease, tenancy, licence or other agreement relating to property shall be subject to the following approvals:

<u>Variation to lease income</u>	<u>Anticipated Premium Receipt</u>	<u>Approval by</u>
<u>Less than plus or minus 10%</u>	<u>Less than £100,000</u>	<u>Committee controlling the property</u>
<u>More than plus or minus 10%</u>	<u>Less than £100,000</u>	<u>Committee controlling the property and Finance Committee</u>
<u>Less than plus or minus 10%</u>	<u>More than £100,000</u>	<u>Committee controlling the property and Finance Committee</u>
<u>=</u>	<u>More than £5,000,000</u>	<u>Committee controlling the property, Finance Committee and Court of Common Council</u>

~~Any variation to the terms of an existing lease, tenancy, licence or other agreement relating to property which either,~~

~~a. does not affect the value of the income from such lease or tenancy by more than plus or minus 10%; or,~~

~~b. involves a premium receipt of no less than £100,000;~~

~~shall be subject to the approval of the Committee having control of such property.~~

- ~~2. All other variations shall require the additional approval of the Finance Committee unless the premium receipt is £5,000,000 or above in which case the authority of the Court of Common Council shall also be required.~~

## **60. Disposals Subject to Planning Agreements**

When land held by the City of London Corporation as freeholder is approved for ~~the~~ redevelopment subject to a planning agreement under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the following shall be solely subject to the approval of the Committee having control of such property or any properly authorised Officer:-

- a. the inclusion of a condition within any disposal that the freeholder or lease

- holder must adhere to the terms of the planning agreement; and,
- b. consenting to the City Corporation's land being bound by the planning obligations in the planning agreement.

## **PART 10 – Staff**

### **61. Employee Handbook**

The City of London Corporation's employment terms and conditions and the Code of Conduct for employees are contained within the Employee Handbook which is maintained by the Establishment Committee.

### **62. Officers**

1. No person shall be eligible to be appointed or elected by the Court to any paid office if that person:-
  - a. is a Member of the Court;
  - b. has been a Member of the Court within 12 calendar months of the election, unless the paid office or situation has become vacant since the person ceased to be a Member of the Court.
2. If any person holding any place of emolument in the gift or appointment of the Court accepts the office of Common Councilman of the City, his their place shall be immediately vacated.
3. The creation of posts of Grade I or above requires the approval of the appropriate Chief Officer, the Establishment Committee and the Court of Common Council. The re-designation of posts of Grade I and above, where there are no grading implications, must be referred to the Town Clerk or the Service Committee where appropriate.

## **6263. Appointments**

1. All appointments for Chief Officer posts are subject to the Chief Officer Appointment Procedure, subject to the appointment of the following posts being made by the Court of Common Council:-
  - Town Clerk & Chief Executive
  - Chamberlain
  - Commissioner of the City of London Police
  - Comptroller & City Solicitor
  - Remembrancer
2. All appointments for designated Deputy Chief Officer posts are subject to the Chief Officer Appointment Procedure.
3. A Member of the Court shall not request for any person any appointment with the City of London Corporation, but this shall not preclude a Member from giving a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character to the City of London Corporation with or in connection with an application for appointment.
4. Each Member and senior employee of the City of London Corporation shall disclose to the Town Clerk ~~and any~~ relationship known to ~~him-them~~ to exist between ~~him-themselves~~ and any person whom ~~they~~ knows to be a candidate for an appointment with the City of London Corporation. The Town Clerk shall report to the Common Council, the Committee or the Chief Officer making the appointment any disclosure made to him under this Standing Order.

*(N.B. For the purposes of this Standing Order, 'senior employee' means the Chief Officer, ~~his-their~~ deputy, or an employee making the particular appointment, and persons shall be deemed to be related if they are husband and wife or if either of them or the spouse of either of them is the son or daughter or grandson or granddaughter or brother or sister or nephew or niece of the other, or of the spouse of the other, including in each case step or adoptive relationships).*

## 6364. Disciplinary Action

1. In the following paragraphs:
  - a. “Chief Finance Officer”, “Disciplinary Action”, “Head of the Authority’s Paid Service” and “Monitoring Officer” have the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001.
  - b. “Relevant Officer” means the Head of Paid Service (Town Clerk), Chief Finance Officer (Chamberlain) or Monitoring Officer (Comptroller and City Solicitor), as the case may be.
  - c. “Commissioning Chairmen” means the Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee, Finance Committee and Establishment Committee.
  - d. “independent person” means a person appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011.
  - e. “the Panel” means a Committee appointed by the Court of Common Council under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purposes of advising the Court of Common Council on matters relating to the dismissal of Relevant Officers of the City of London Corporation.
  - f. “Relevant Meeting” means a meeting of the Court to consider whether or not to approve a proposal to dismiss a Relevant Officer.
  - g. “The Regulations” mean the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2015.
  - h. “Local Government Elector” means a person registered as a local government elector in the register of electors for the City of London Corporation ~~are~~ in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts.
2. A Relevant Officer may not be dismissed by the City of London Corporation unless the procedure set out in the following paragraphs is complied with.
3. Any complaints regarding ~~the a~~ Relevant Officers will be considered by the Commissioning Chairmen. The Commissioning Chairmen will manage and oversee the investigation of these complaints and determine the appropriate action to take.
4. Where the Commissioning Chairmen consider there is a case to be answered that could result in dismissal, a meeting of the Panel will be convened.
5. If the Commissioning Chairmen then recommend the dismissal of a Relevant Officer, the Regulations require that the decision to dismiss is approved by the Court of Common Council. The Regulations require that the Court of Common Council considers:
  - a. any advice, views or recommendations of a properly appointed Panel (the Statutory Officer Review Panel);
  - b. the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
  - c. any representations from the Relevant Officer.
6. The Court of Common Council must invite relevant independent persons to be considered for appointment to the Panel, with a view to appointing at least two such persons to the Panel. “Relevant independent person” means any



independent person who has been appointed by the Court of Common Council or, where there are fewer than two such persons, such independent persons as have been appointed by another authority or authorities as the Court of Common Council considers appropriate. This role will be fulfilled by the Independent Persons appointed to advise the Standards Committee.

7. The Statutory Officer Review Panel comprises the following Members of the Court of Common Council:
  - The Chief Commoner;
  - Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee;
  - Chairman of Port Health and Environmental Services Committee;
  - Chairman of the Markets Committee;
  - Chairman of the Police Committee;
  - two of the three Independent Persons appointed to advise the Standards Committee.
8. The Regulations state that the Independent Persons must be appointed to the Panel in accordance with the following priority order (subject to such relevant independent persons ~~who~~ accepting the invitation):
  - a. a relevant independent person who has been appointed by the Court of Common Council and who is a local government elector;
  - b. any other relevant independent person who has been appointed by the Court of Common Council;
  - c. a relevant independent person who has been appointed by another authority or authorities.
9. The Court of Common Council must appoint any Panel at least 20 working days before the relevant meeting. In the event that this requirement sets a deadline for appointment of the Panel which falls between the first meeting of the Court of Common Council in any municipal year and the election of the Chairman of any of the Committees specified at Paragraph 7 above, the Chairman of the Committee for the previous municipal year will be considered to continue to serve as the Chairman of the Committee and therefore be appointed to the Panel.
10. The role of the Panel is to review the findings of the disciplinary investigation and report of the Commissioning Chairmen including any representations made by the Relevant Officer. The Panel is then to provide its advice, views or recommendations to the Commissioning Chairmen.
11. Any remuneration, allowances or fees paid by the City of London Corporation to an independent person appointed to the Panel must not exceed the level of remuneration, allowances or fees payable to that independent person in respect of that person's role as independent person under the Localism Act 2011.
12. If dismissal is proposed, the Commissioning Chairmen will report to the Court of Common Council with the findings of the investigation and the advice, views or recommendations of the Panel. The Relevant Officer will have the opportunity to make representations. Any action to dismiss the officer must be agreed through a vote of the Court.

13. Officers shall ensure that consideration of any disciplinary action relating to a Statutory Officer, including possible dismissal, shall comply with the provisions contained within the City of London Corporation's Statutory Officer Disciplinary Procedure.

## **PART 11 – The City Seal**

### **6465. Affixing the Seal**

1. The City Seal shall not be fixed to any document unless:-
  - a. the document has been approved by one of the Law Officers;
  - b. the sealing has been authorised by a resolution of the Court or of a Committee to which the Court has delegated its powers on its behalf.
2. A resolution of the Court (or of a Committee thereof where that Committee has the power) to authorise the acceptance of any tender, the purchase, sale, letting or taking of any property; the issue of any stock; the presentation ~~or petition~~ of any petition, memorial, or address; the making of any rate or contract; or any other matter, shall be a sufficient authority for sealing any document necessary to give effect to the resolution.
3. The affixing of the City Seal shall be attested by the Town Clerk or by ~~his~~their duly appointed representative or by the Comptroller & City Solicitor or by ~~his~~their duly appointed representative.

### **6566. Register of Documents Sealed**

The Town Clerk shall keep a Register recording details of each sealing.