

New and amended Policies – Explanatory Note

Introduction

Following the creation of the Community, Estate Management, and Planning and Highways Committees as a result of the away day discussions, and our agreeing the ToR at the last full council meeting, the next step is to agree how the new structure will work in practice, clarify what each Body can do, and consolidate/simplify some of the Policies.

Policy Guidance and Glossary

This is new and does three things: (a) it moves the definitions out of a number of Policies (in particular the Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations) and puts them in one place, (b) it formalises the Clerk's power to make minor policy amendments without having to go back to Council/etc every time, and (c) it lists all the Policies (etc) and which Body owns them (with some assumptions as to latest versions and ownership).

Standing Orders

Apart from moving the definitions to the Glossary (and amending some defined terms to line up with it), most of the changes flow from introducing the new Scheme of Delegation. In addition, Councillors are now able to attend any meeting where they are not a member of the committee, steering group, etc (with the exception of Personnel Sub), without having to leave for Part II, plus council can now amend committee and outside body membership without it being a specific agenda item in advance.

Code of Conduct

The changes here are minor - moving the definitions to the Glossary and amending some defined terms to line up with it.

Financial Regulations

Apart from moving the definitions to the Glossary, etc, the main change is to move some of the text around to make the order more logical. In addition, a number of amendments flow from the new Scheme of Delegation, plus the Chairman can now authorise any transfer between accounts.

Scheme of Delegation

This replaces five existing sets of ToR. It has a general introduction, plus a number of elements removed from the Standing Orders, followed by the ToR that were agreed at the last council meeting. It includes a listing of the Clerk's powers (something Lynn thought was a good idea to back up the Clerk's powers in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations).

The other change is in the number of meetings (a reduction overall) – partly set out in the Scheme of Delegation, and partly flowing from the Standing Orders and legislation. This is being discussed at F&GP and will then be discussed at the meeting on 13 March.

Delegated Powers

In terms of the power of a Body to act/spend money, the Scheme of Delegation really only clarifies/formalises what we have at present – committees can already spend what is in their tab on the budget spreadsheet (subject to the amount – anything over £25k has to go to council for decision now, and will still have to).

What the Scheme generally, and the ToR specifically, do is to clarify which Body can do what.

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