



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING OF UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

in the
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield
on
Monday 19 May 2025 at 7.00pm
AGENDA

1.0 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

- 1.1 The Town Mayor to receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

2.0 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

3.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

5.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION

6.0 MINUTES

- 6.1 To **RESOLVE** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 7 April 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.
- 6.2 Action list
- 6.3 Forward plan

7.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 7.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) | Environment & Leisure Committee | 14 April 2025 |
| (b) | Plans Committee | 22 April and 12 May 2025 |
| (c) | General Purposes Committee | 28 April 2025 |

8.0 TO REVIEW THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.0 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE UNDER MENTIONED STANDING COMMITTEES

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|
| (a) | General Purposes | (9 Members) |
| (b) | Environment and Leisure | (9 Members) |
| (c) | Plans | (7 Members) |

(The meeting will now adjourn to allow the committees to meet and elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman, following which the meeting will reconvene).

Standing Orders state:-

15.3 - "Chairmen of committees and sub-committees should not serve as Chairmen longer than three consecutive years. Nor should any Member of the Council be Chairman of more than one committee or sub-committee at any one time."

15.4 - "Neither shall the Deputy Mayor be Chairman of a full committee."

10.0 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE UNDER MENTIONED SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE VOICE EDITORIAL PANEL

(Standing Order No. 19.1.8 states that, "*The Chairman or in their absence the Vice-chairman of the committee shall be members of every sub-committee reporting to it unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.*")

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| (d) | Personnel | (5 Members) |
| (e) | Finance | (5 Members) |
| | (Both reporting to the General Purposes Committee) | |

(The meeting will now adjourn to allow the sub-committees to meet and elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman following which the meeting will reconvene.)

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------|
| (f) | The Voice Editorial Panel | (3 Members) |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------|

11.0 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

12.0 TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS TO FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

13.0 TO RATIFY REVISED DOCUMENTATION FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

General Purposes Committee

- (i) Standing Orders
- (ii) Financial Regulations
- (iii) Equality & Diversity Policy

14.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY, AND CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

15.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ASSET REGISTER

16.0 TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES AND ANNUAL FEES

- 17.0 TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2025-26**
- 18.0 TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMPLETE AUDITS UNTIL THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING IN MAY 2026**
- 19.0 TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
(None)
- 20.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS**
(i) Events Working Group (update)
(ii) Ageing Well Forum (update)
(iii) Civic Centre Working Group (none)
- 21.0 TO NOTE THE ENGAGEMENTS OF THE MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND TOWN CRIER**
- 22.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**
(No questions received by the deadline)
- 23.0 TO CONSIDER THE DESIGN OF A NEW BUS SHELTER TO BE INSTALLED ON LONDON ROAD** (ASSOCIATED WITH MOCKBEGGAR FARM DEVELOPMENT)
- 24.0 TO CONSIDER HOW TO RESPOND TO THE DRAFT EAST SUSSEX FREIGHT AND RAIL STRATEGIES CONSULTATION**
- 25.0 UPDATE ON A NEW BANKING HUB FOR UCKFIELD**
- 26.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT**
- 27.0 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 28.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Town Clerk
13 May 2025

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 1.0 and 2.0

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 We received nominations from nine Town Councillors in advance of the meeting for the election of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 1.2 Nominations were invited as per the Standing Orders from all Town Councillors. Once the Town Mayor has been elected, if more than one nomination is received, those who are unsuccessful for Town Mayor will be offered the opportunity to stand for Deputy Mayor.

2.0 Nominations for Town Mayor

- 2.1 The names put forward for nomination for Town Mayor, in alphabetical order, were: Councillor Karen Bedwell
- 2.2 The table below provides the reasons why nominations were submitted for the above individual:

Cllr Karen Bedwell (eight nominations received)	"She's doing a good job"
	"Karen has been an incredible Town Mayor for the past year. Her commitment to the role has been 100%."
	"Karen has demonstrated exemplary leadership in her first year and has shown herself to care deeply for the town council as an organisation, and the residents of our town. These are difficult times for us all, and the council, we need a steady hand at the tiller. To that end I would be honoured to nominate her for a further term."
	"Carry on the good work already started"
	"I would like to see Karen continue in her role as Town Mayor so she can continue her work that she has started on the People need People project."
	"Karen has worked tirelessly in this last year in the role and I would support her standing again"
	"Karen has been an excellent ambassador for our council and community, and I would like to see her continue in this role"
	"Enormous energy, intelligence, and effort in putting the town first."

3.0 Nominations for Deputy Mayor

- 3.1 The two nominations for Deputy Mayor, in alphabetical order, were for: Councillor Spike Mayhew
- 3.2 The table provides the reasons why nominations were submitted for the above individual:

Cllr Spike Mayhew (two nominations received)	"I'd also like to nominate Cllr Mayhew as Deputy Mayor again. He also has given 100% to the role."
	"Cllr Mayhew's long service at Uckfield Town Council has brought knowledge and experience to the role of deputy Mayor and as such would give great support to The Mayors role for 2025/26"

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held
on Monday 7 April 2025 at 7.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. K. Bedwell (Town Mayor)	Cllr. S. Mayhew (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. D. Bennett	Cllr. M. McClafferty
Cllr. B. Cox	Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. D. French	Cllr. D. Manvell
Cllr. V. Frost	Cllr. P. Selby
Cllr. J. Love	Cllr. A. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillors Claire & Chris Dowling
District Councillor K. Williams
1 member of the public
Holly Goring, Town Clerk
Minutes taken by Holly Goring

The Town Mayor, Councillor K. Bedwell, wished to express her condolences to Cllr Val Frost on the recent loss of her husband, on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillor Bedwell also wished to remember former Town Councillor Paul Meakin who very sadly passed away. His funeral took place early March. Some of the Town Councillors attended with the Town Clerk. It was a really lovely service.

The Town Mayor also noted that there had been a nasty accident that past weekend, so wished to send condolences to the families of both parties involved.

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. They were advised that notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration and that the nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest became apparent.

Councillor Manvell enquired as to whether an interest needed to be declared for agenda item 11.0 as the motion called for action from Wealden District Council. This would subsequently affect all District Councillors present – Cox, French and Manvell.

Councillor Bennett declared that he was Chair of the Wealden Line Campaign. On the basis that further background to his motion in agenda item 11 may be required, it was suggested that Councillor Bennett could speak to assist with answering questions on the motion, only, but not vote.

Councillor Macve declared that he was the Town Council representative on the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was a personal interest and it would be prudent to judge the matter when full Council reached that item on the agenda, to ensure the meeting was quorate.

Councillor Bedwell declared an interest in agenda item 10.0. As Chair of Ridgewood Village Hall, the Village Hall Committee would be affected by any change to the Village Green status on Ridgewood Recreation Ground. The Town Mayor would therefore pass this item to the Deputy Mayor to chair, and Councillor Bedwell would remain silent.

2.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION

There were no statements from members of the public.

3.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FC.94.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to enable updates to be provided by County and District Council representatives.

County Councillor Claire Dowling provided an update on highway matters and advised that she would keep the Town Clerk updated on any potential highway works scheduled or planned for the town over the next few months based on the current partial road closure in the upper section of the High Street. For example the proposed works by SGN in Snatts Road had been cancelled.

They were awaiting dates for a couple of surface dressing schemes. Further works were due to be undertaken in Lashbrooks Road to address the quality of previous work completed. This would be undertaken in April 2025. Councillor Love had previously reported evidence of concrete in the drain in Bell Lane. Councillor Love clarified that it was foliage not concrete.

Councillor Dowling also explained the early considerations for devolution, which might inform agenda item 12.0. The five districts and one county council would form a single unitary authority, based on the geography of East Sussex. This was based on the criteria of 500,000 population. If the criteria were to change, they would need to come together to reconsider.

Councillor Macve wished to congratulate East Sussex Highways for works undertaken to make an area around a chamber near to Cedars Close, safe.

Councillor Manvell advised that there was no dropped kerb on the High Street near the partial road closure to assist those with pushchairs or wheelchairs to safely move about.

Councillor Manvell also enquired about lane rental charging. Councillor Dowling advised that the criteria for this meant it could only be applied to around 5-6% of roads in East Sussex. It was intended to reduce utility companies undertaking works at the most sensitive times, to carry out work quicker, and encourage more joined up working between utility companies. The funds received would go back into the pot for roads.

Councillor Selby added that the adjacent car parking bays further up from the Old Maidens Head may need to be closed off to restrict on-street parking whilst any works were undertaken. District Councillor K. Williams advised that prior to the contractor, they would have to meet CDM regulations and consider the safety of the site. The Town Clerk further added that they were closely monitoring the temporary traffic lights and traffic movements, and were informing East Sussex Highways when issues were being experienced.

County Councillor Chris Dowling had received requests from residents in Framfield Road to look at speed reduction initiatives for Framfield Road. He had spoken to the road safety team. The statistics were very low for this area. Having said that the road safety department have offered to put up some temporary 30mph black and yellow signage.

In Ridgewood, he had asked the Highway steward to keep an eye on access to the new development off Lewes Road. He also referred to the temporary traffic lights in Eastbourne Road.

Councillor Bedwell added that she had been advised by those working onsite that the works on Eastbourne Road were already three weeks behind, so were very likely to go past their original nine-week permit.

Councillor Selby added that there was a small sinkhole appearing in a footpath in New Road outside property numbers 20-25.

District Councillor K. Williams advised that the District Council had been successful in defending its position on a Grampian condition relating to sewerage issues on new developments, and the capacity of the system. This decision had national significance, and it was now being added to a number of applications. He believed they may see further challenge down the line, but for now Planning and Legal officers should be congratulated for their hard work.

Councillor Williams referred to the Local Plan, and advised that he had been visiting the larger towns and parishes to discuss the Outdoor Play Space Strategies. Work to sign off the contract for the three leisure facilities in Wealden was nearing completion. It had been delayed due to a couple of legal technicalities. The District Council was also carrying out a detailed review of its asset portfolio.

FC.95.04.25 Members **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Councillor Manvell advised that residents would be moving in shortly to the new Coronation Place development off Southview Drive. He was aware a couple of the Town Councillors had visited the site. These would be homes for local people and the two accessible properties were designed with specific families in mind. The Occupational Therapist had worked with them to design it. Councillor Bedwell agreed, the attention to detail was excellent within the properties.

Councillor Cox updated members about the external review of the direct debit issue that occurred over the Christmas period. The review proved helpful and constructive, and the District Council had already taken on board actions to mitigate similar issues occurring again.

Councillor French echoed the comments on Coronation Place. She was really impressed. The only concern she had was to ensure that the woodland behind the site was well looked after – perhaps signage and education for the new community moving in, would be beneficial.

4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Reed, Ullmann and Ward due to personal commitments, work commitments and sickness, respectively.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 13 January 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

FC.96.04.25 Members **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 13 January 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

5.2 Action List

Members noted the action list. Councillor Selby sought clarity on the wording relating to access to the Victoria Pleasure Ground toilets. The Town Clerk clarified that the action list was purely a reference to the full minutes for the benefit of officers and members, not the full detail.

5.3 Forward plan

Members noted the proposed forward plan for future Full Council meetings.

6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

(a) Plans Committee of the 27 January, 10 and 31 March 2025

FC.97.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committee of the 27 January, 10 and 31 March 2025.

(b) Environment & Leisure Committee – 20 January and 3 March 2025

FC.98.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment & Leisure Committee of the 20 January, and 3 March 2025.

(c) General Purposes Committee of the 3 February and 17 March 2025

FC.99.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of the 3 February and 17 March 2025.

7.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES
(None received).

8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS
(None received).

9.0 TO RATIFY DOCUMENTATION CONSIDERED BY STANDING COMMITTEES:
General Purposes Committee

(i) Management of Sickness Absence Policy – No. 14

FC.100.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision of General Purposes Committee on 17 March 2025 and to adopt the updated Sickness Absence Policy.

(ii) Annual Investment Strategy – No. 45

FC.101.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision of General Purposes Committee on 17 March 2025 and to adopt the Town Council's Annual Investment Strategy.

(iii) Annual Leave Policy – No. 85

FC.102.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision of General Purposes Committee on 17 March 2025 and to adopt the updated Annual Leave Policy.

10.0 TO CONSIDER LEGAL ADVICE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN STATUS OF RIDGEWOOD RECREATION GROUND

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mayhew chaired this item due to the declared interest of the Town Mayor.

Members were presented with legal advice relating to the Village Green status of Ridgewood Recreation Ground. At present a large area but not the full area of Ridgewood Recreation Ground was designated Village/Town Green Status. The area to the east of the recreation ground which currently contained the Mixed Use Games Area (MUGA) and recent orchard planting, was previously allotment land and not part of the Village/Town Green designation.

In planning ahead for the future, the Town Clerk explained within her covering report, that she had sought advice from Solicitors to understand if the shape or positioning of the Village/Town Green Status could be adapted. A large number of homes were being built in the south of Uckfield, and in particular in Ridgewood Village, off both Lewes and Eastbourne Roads. This would be likely to result in increased footfall through open spaces like Ridgewood Recreation Ground. She was also aware that the applicants for the Horsted Pond Farm site, were seeking to utilise the Millennium Green as a SANG, so footway links would be expected between the SANG and New Road/Lewes Road.

All Town Councillors were aware of substantial drainage works being required in the car park, and possibly need to slightly expand or change the shape of the car park in the future, to better accommodate vehicles, and was also aware of a previous planning application by the Village Hall to marginally extend the hall in the future.

It was clarified that any changes to the status were not to encourage building, or use of this recreational space, but merely correct the positioning of the designation on the land which should be protected. At present the designation covered an area which incorporated a building and a car park, which didn't seem appropriate.

To change the positioning of the status could take some time, as it would need to be considered by the Secretary of State. It was therefore important to plan ahead for the future, not just consider the present day. Ridgewood Recreation Ground would remain an important green space for residents in Ridgewood.

Points noted by Town Councillors included:

- (i) if required to register replacement land, could the Millennium Green Trust be approached to see if some of their area could be registered as a Village Green. Members weren't sure if this was possible if it was already registered as a Millennium Green or SANG. The first consideration was the picnic field;
- (ii) based on the legal advice, the scale of the proposed re-positioning would affect the process taken i.e. whether you had to remove altogether and reinstate, or whether you just adjust the current shape;
- (iii) could alternative sites be considered as well such as New Barn, and was this dependent on whether it was in a village or town. Another site to consider registering

was the Dene.

It was proposed to proceed and to start exploring the de-registration of the western side of the recreation ground. This was seconded.

Members suggested a further addition to the proposal, based on conversations to explore options for Millennium Green and The Dene.

It was also noted that 'Ridgewood Village Green' had a much nicer tone to it than 'Ridgewood Recreation Ground.'

FC.103.04.25 With 9 members voting in favour and one member abstaining, it was **RESOLVED** to agree to:

- (i) proceed with exploring the re-positioning of the village green status on Ridgewood Recreation Ground and preserve the correct areas of the open space for the future,
- and;
- (ii) to seek further information on the proposed changes to the Millennium Green (as a SANG) and consider this within the investigations.

11.0 TO CONSIDER A MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR D. BENNETT RELATING TO THE TRACKBED OF THE UCKFIELD TO LEWES RAILWAY LINE

The Chair asked for comments from members, and did suggest that if they felt they required more information to consider the motion, a meeting or presentation could be arranged with the Wealden Line Campaign.

Cllr Manvell felt there was unanimous support for the reinstatement of the railway line. It was referenced within the draft Wealden Local Plan. However he wasn't certain of the ask of the planning department. The current Local Plan referenced track protection and the draft Local Plan also referenced the reinstatement of the railway line. The consultant's feasibility report hadn't yet been received for the Greenway.

Councillor Bennett clarified that in order to fully protect the track bed, track protection would be required from fence to fence (i.e. double track).

Councillor Macve advised that the Railway Line Parishes Committee felt the same. It would need to be a double track down to Lewes and be a proper functioning transport system. It therefore needed to be electrified and be a double track. The Town Clerk clarified that a similar issue had occurred elsewhere. In Scotland they placed a greenway adjacent to the track bed, not on the track bed.

Two proposals were placed on the table:

(i) Councillor Cox supported the motion, but proposed to recommend that a decision be postponed, to enable more information to be obtained. This was seconded by Councillor Manvell.

(ii) Councillor Macve supported Cllr Bennett's motion. This was seconded by Councillor French.

A vote was taken on the first proposal. This resulted in four votes in favour, three votes against, and one member abstaining.

FC.104.04.25 It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a decision be postponed until further information had been received from all parties.

The Town Mayor felt that the two projects were intertwined. The Town Clerk also reminded members that there were two matters here to be considered: improved transport access for the future, and improved pedestrian/cycle links for leisure and recreation.

For the purpose of the minutes. Following the meeting, the Town Clerk was unhappy with the outcome of this item based on the interests first declared by members at the start of the meeting.

Since the meeting a presentation has been given by Mr Hart of the Wealden Line Campaign. Further information would also be obtained from Wealden District Council prior to the meeting of Full Council on 25 June 2025.

12.0 TO CONSIDER THE TOWN COUNCIL'S VIEW ON THE SUSSEX AND BRIGHTON DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

Members were initially uncertain as to whether to provide a response.

FC.105.04.25 Members **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable the County Councillors and District Councillor K. Williams to speak from the audience on this item, briefly.

County Councillor Claire Dowling provided more clarity on the proposals. District Councillor Kelvin Williams added to this in terms of the proposals for local government re-organisation.

FC.106.04.25 Members **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

FC.107.04.25 Members **RESOLVED** for Town Councillors to respond to the consultation individually, but to send a copy of their response to the Town Clerk, to enable the Clerk to create a response on behalf of the Town Council before the deadline.

13.0 TO NOTE THE END OF YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE ON UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

Members noted the report.

14.0 TO REVIEW A SNAPSHOT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND BALANCE SHEET POSITION FOR Q3 OF 2024/25

This would be circulated by the Assistant Town Clerk by email.

15.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Members noted the report.

16.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT

Two deed of grants had been received:

Mrs Jane Beeney

Mrs M. Horsman

FC.108.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** for three councillors to sign the above deeds of grant.

17.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

None received.

18.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None received.

19.0 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, Councillor Bedwell, reminded members of the Mayor's reception on Saturday 26 April. The event would celebrate volunteering and fundraise for the 'People need People' project.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

**ACTION LIST – FOR INFORMATION ONLY
FULL COUNCIL**

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<p><u>FC.105.02.17</u></p> <p><u>FC.95.01.20</u></p>	<p><u>14.0 To sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve</u> Members RESOLVED to sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows and West Park Local Nature Reserves.</p> <p><u>18.0 To sign and seal the Town Council's byelaws for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve</u> Members RESOLVED to: (i) authorise the affixing of the common seal to the byelaws for both Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve and West Park Local Nature Reserve and signing by two named councilors, and; (ii) authorise the Town Clerk for Uckfield Town Council to carry out the necessary procedures and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation.</p>	<p>20.02.17</p> <p>20.01.20</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p><u>FC115.04.19</u></p>	<p><u>9.0 To consider a motion submitted by Councillor Donna French</u> It was RESOLVED to support the motion put forward, and; “reinvestigate the possibility of part funding a traffic warden; entering into a discussion with Hailsham, Crowborough and Polegate, with a view to joint funding a shared traffic warden, employed via Sussex Police.”</p>	<p>08.04.19</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>It was proposed that this matter be brought back to Full Council so members could fully understand the views of individual councillors. This has been delayed until the New Year, due to large agendas related to annual business planning and devolution based matters.</p>
<p><u>FC.30.09.20</u></p>	<p><u>12.0 To review a report by Councillor A. Smith on the need for affordable homes in Uckfield</u> After a detailed discussion, it was RESOLVED to request that the Town Clerk write to the Housing Minister Rt Hon Robert Jenrick with a copy of this report and advise Wealden DC's planning department of these discussions along with neighbouring parish councils.</p>	<p>14.09.20</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>The report would be updated utilising the latest market analysis, affordability and housing market information. It would be presented back to UTC before being sent to MHCLG, and to the Deputy PM.</p>

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<u>FC.55.10.21</u>	Members RESOLVED to approve the motion <i>“Uckfield Town Council supports the increase in the provision of Changing Place Toilets across the country, and will approach East Sussex County Council to understand if they:</i> <i>(i) have submitted an expression of interest to central government to draw down funding to the county of East Sussex, and:</i> <i>(ii) if ESCC have expressed an interest, that Uckfield Town Council lobby for such facilities to be introduced in Uckfield.”</i>	25.10.21	HG	Officers will prepare necessary financial information to understand what’s involved in creating a Changing Place Toilet. Members were asked to consider suitable locations.
<u>FC.63.10.23</u>	<u>13.0 To receive a response from East Sussex County Council to a previous motion submitted requesting the installation of a pedestrian crossing</u> Members RESOLVED to accept the proposed amendment to Councillor Bennett’s original motion and set out to: “maintain this as the ideal site and the path that students were taking to reach school, in order to emphasise the views of the young people. Uckfield Town Council would be very happy to explore the option of community match funding and fund a feasibility study, as the Town Council felt it was important to concentrate on this area, and not further north of the town. It was also suggested that any data or feedback from the feasibility study and associated speed surveys, should reflected in any future updates to the Sustrans report.”	30.10.23	HG	In progress.
<u>FC.76.12.23</u>	<u>11.0 To consider a motion from Councillor D. French</u> After some discussion, members RESOLVED to put forward nominations for the Uckfield Rugby Club, the Family Hub (as Childrens Centres were at risk of closure) and the Highlands Inn (as the last remaining pub in the south of Uckfield and their support to community lunches) as Assets of Community Value.	11.12.23	HG	In progress.
<u>FC.105.02.24</u>	<u>14.0 To consider the issues being experienced with parking at Victoria Pleasure Ground</u> Members RESOLVED to give permission for officers to proceed with the above three proposals for monitoring vehicles parking at Victoria Pleasure Ground, and to also replace signage which emphasised the purpose of the car parking area.	26.02.24	HG	Near completion.

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>FC.115.04.24</u>	<p><u>10.0 To consider current issues with pavement parking and proposals for undertaking a campaign</u></p> <p>With unanimous support, members RESOLVED to approve for the Town Clerk and Marketing & Community Engagement Officer to proceed with a communications campaign around poor parking behaviour.</p>	08.04.24	HG/ WH	In progress.
<u>FC.29.06.24</u>	<p><u>12.0 – To consider a request to review the opening times of the toilet(s) at Victoria Pleasure Ground</u></p> <p>With six votes in favour, and three members against the proposal (including Cllr Selby), members RESOLVED to address this matter through the Town Council's budget setting process which would begin September 2024, to ensure the correct service provision was in place.</p>	26.06.24	SD/HG /JH	Unable to be considered at this time.
<u>FC.44.09.24</u>	<p><u>11. To consider a motion from Councillor Bernadette Reed</u></p> <p>With seven votes in favour, two votes against and two members abstaining from voting, it was RESOLVED for the Town Clerk to nominate Luxford Field Car Park as an Asset of Community Value.</p>	09.09.24	HG	In progress.
<u>FC.49.09.24</u>	<p><u>15.0 To consider the relocation of the substation in Shepherds Way</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED to request that a meeting be arranged onsite with UKPN, to understand what difficulties they were experiencing with the current location and what would be involved with any movement.</p>	09.09.24	Grnds/ TC	We await an update from UKPN on their updated proposals following our site visit.
<u>FC.50.09.24</u>	<p><u>16.0 To consider setting up a working group to establish a Heritage Plaque Project</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED to select Option B, and prepare a localised scheme for Uckfield, with the following members appointed to join a member-led working group (Councillors D. Bennett, D. French, J. Love and B. Reed).</p>	09.09.24	WH	In progress.

<u>Resolution No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date Raised</u>	<u>Action By</u>	<u>Date Complete</u>
<u>FC.63.10.24</u>	<p><u>15.0 To consider a motion from Councillor D. French</u> Members RESOLVED to approve the purchase and installation of a central locked box housing a public access trauma kit on the exterior of the Civic Centre, with plans to look wider in the town, in due course. Research should be undertaken to source funding or partnership working to deliver this project in association with local emergency services as well as the Freemasons, Rotary Club and Uckfield Lions.</p>	21.10.24	HG	In progress.
<u>FC.64.10.24</u>	<p><u>16.0 To consider further expansion of a motion from Councillor B. Reed</u> (i) approve the broadening of the Town Council representative role for the Conservators of Ashdown Forest to also include the Weald to Waves initiative, and (Councillor D. French and Councillor B. Reed); (ii) approve for Councillor Reed to utilise that role to liaise with the relevant agencies involved in the Weald to Waves initiative, and understand what the partner role entails in terms of resource and if a financial contribution is required. Councillor Reed was asked to bring back a report with this information.</p>	21.10.24	BR	In progress
<u>FC.103.04.25</u>	<p><u>10.0 To consider legal advice on the village green status of Ridgewood Recreation Ground</u> With 9 members voting in favour and one member abstaining, it was RESOLVED to agree to: (i) proceed with exploring the re-positioning of the village green status on Ridgewood Recreation Ground and preserve the correct areas of the open space for the future, and; (ii) to seek further information on the proposed changes to the Millennium Green (as a SANG) and consider this within the investigations.</p>	07.04.25	HG	To be progressed.

FULL COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN – 2025

STANDING ITEMS FOR FULL COUNCIL AGENDA	REPORT LEAD
Any written reports from District or County Councillors	District/County Councillors
Minutes from the last meeting	Town Clerk
Action List	Town Clerk
Forward Plan	Town Clerk
Reports from outside bodies	Councillor representatives for NPlan and Gatwick
Reports from working groups	Councillor reps
Signing and sealing of lease agreements	Town Clerk/E&F Mgr
Check for any review of service level agreements	Town Clerk
Check for any urgent consultation panel decisions	Town Clerk
Mayor and Deputy Mayor engagements	Administrative Officer
Cemetery deeds of grant (any prepared are usually left in the box for Full Council)	Senior Administrative Officer

FULL COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN – 2025

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	REPORT/OFFICER
May 2025	Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Town Clerk
	Annual review of Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference	
	Appointments to standing committees and sub-committees	
	Appointments to Outside bodies	
	Appointments to Full Council working groups	
	Approval of revised Standing Orders	
	Approval of revised Financial regulations	
	Approval of revised Equality & Diversity policy of Code of Conduct policy	
	Annual review of Code of Conduct Policy and Civility and Respect Pledge	
	Annual review of Town Council's Fixed Asset Register	
	Annual review of Membership of bodies and annual fees	
	Calendar of meetings for 2025-26	
	Schedule of monthly member audits	
	Proposals for new bus shelter on London Road	
	Draft East Sussex Freight & Rail Strategies Consultation	
	Update on new banking hub	
DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	REPORT OFFICER
June 2025	Internal Audit Report for 2024-25 (for the year ending 31 March 2025)	Asst Town Clerk
	Annual Governance Statement – Section 1 of AGAR	Asst Town Clerk
	Sections 2 & 3 of AGAR and draft financial statements	Asst Town Clerk
	Standing Orders and Direct Debit payments	Asst Town Clerk
	To consider costs of establishing a Changing Places toilet	Town Clerk
	Discussion on the Town Council's viewpoint on parking issues in Uckfield	Town Clerk
	To further consider the Greenway Proposals and rail track bed	Town Clerk
	Snapshot of Budget and Balance sheet position at end of March 2025 (Q4)	Asst Town Clerk
CONFIDENTIAL	Signing of lease agreements for Victoria Pavilion, Cemetery Chapel and Victoria Storage Garage	

FULL COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN – 2025

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	REPORT OFFICER
September 2025	Q1 Progress Update for 2025/26 Annual Priorities	Town Clerk
	Snapshot of Budget and Balance Sheet position at end of June 2025 (Q1)	Asst Town Clerk
CONFIDENTIAL		

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	REPORT OFFICER
October 2025	To note the report of the External Auditor	Town Clerk
	Q2 Progress Update for 2025/26 Annual Priorities	Asst Town Clerk
	Snapshot of Budget and Balance Sheet position at end of September 2025 (Q2)	Town Clerk
	Six monthly review of Fixed Asset Register	Town Clerk
	To review the documentation for the Town Council's Buildings Insurance Renewal	Town Clerk/E&F Mgr
	Calendar of meetings for 2026	Town Clerk
	Initial review of Service Level Agreements	Town Clerk/Asst TC
CONFIDENTIAL		

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	REPORT OFFICER
December 2025	To consider draft content of Strategic Plan 2026-2031	Town Clerk
	To consider draft content of the Annual Plan 2026/27	Town Clerk
	To consider draft content of the Annual Budget 2026/27	Asst Town Clerk
	To consider draft content of the Asset Management Plan 2026-31	Town Clerk
	Calendar of meetings for 2026	Town Clerk
CONFIDENTIAL		

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Issue No.	Date Agreed	Details of amendments
1	26.04.24	Draft presented to Full Council 26.06.24
2	18.07.24	FS.05.07.24 - Review of references to Financial Regulations and financial limits at Finance Sub Committee.
3	09.09.24	FC.45.09.24 - Adoption at Full Council

Scheme of Delegation

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A scheme of delegation enables a local authority to function efficiently and effectively in its day to day operations.
- 1.2 Under the Local Government Act 1972 s101(a), the Town Council has the power to arrange for the discharge of functions to a committee, sub-committee or officer employed by the authority.
- 1.3 Uckfield Town Council holds a set of Standing Orders which are the written rules of the council - determining the conduct, governance requirements and procedures for the town council's meetings – of the full Council, standing committees and sub-committees.
- 1.4 The council has a clear set of terms of reference which outline the areas and responsibilities covered by the Town Council's standing committees. This is set out in appendix A.
- 1.5 The council also has to adhere to a set of financial regulations, which ensure the necessary procedures and internal controls are in place to manage the council's finance and procurement. These should be observed in conjunction with the Council's standing orders.
- 1.6 Without these governing documents and the Council's terms of reference, every decision would have to be taken by the Full Council as powers cannot be legally delegated to individual Councillors or working groups. For the purpose of clarity, working groups are established to investigate and/or review a particular subject or activity then report back to the relevant committee or Council with its findings which may include recommendations. Further information is available in the Town Council's Working Groups policy – policy no. 39.
- 1.7 Being a Town Council with a large asset portfolio, and close attention needed to manage the operations of the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Luxfords Restaurant alongside our outside spaces, it would not be practicable or viable to wait for a Full Council meeting to address specific matters.
- 1.8 Delegated authority will therefore be exercised responsibly to those best placed to manage these responsibilities, and due consideration will be given to public scrutiny, accountability and the best interests of the local community.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 As outlined in our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, some matters cannot be delegated, and can only be determined by resolution of the Council:

2.2 Full Council Functions

The following matters are to be dealt with by the Full Council:

- (i)** Appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in May each year;
- (ii)** Declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence;
- (iii)** Annual review and adoption of the Town Council's standing orders, financial regulations, committee terms of reference, scheme of delegation;
- (iv)** Approval of the Town Council's Annual Budget and setting the Precept in January each year;
- (v)** Approval of the Internal Audit of accounts for financial year end, alongside the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR));
- (vi)** Approval of Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (Accounting statements);
- (vii)** Authorisation of the recommendations of Finance Sub-Committee and General Purposes Committee on borrowing;
- (viii)** Appointments to Standing Committees;
- (ix)** Appointing Town Council representatives to outside bodies;
- (x)** Making of Orders under any statutory powers;
- (xi)** Making, amending, revoking or re-enacting by-laws;
- (xii)** Confirming the appointment of a new Town Clerk, further to recommendations from appointed panel for recruitment;
- (xiii)** All other matters which must, by law, be reserved to the Full Council.

2.3 Delegation to Committees

The remit of the Town Council's standing committees, and sub-committees are specified in the council's terms of reference which are available to view in appendix A.

2.4 Delegation to Officers

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Town Council '*shall appoint such officers as they think necessary for the proper discharge by the authority of such of their or another authority's functions as fall to be discharged by them.*'

The following matters are delegated to the Council's Officers to make decisions on behalf of the Council. These decisions must be exercised in accordance with the law, the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and any approved policy framework and budget.

The Council may at any time, following resolution, revoke any delegated authority.

Officers may decide not to exercise delegated responsibilities and may instead make a recommendation to a Committee or the Council. Similarly where Officers have no delegated power to make a decision they will report the matter to Committee or the Council for a decision.

And, nominated officers can delegate functions to an appropriate staff members, although they retain ultimate responsibility for any decisions made.

No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
1	Allotments	Sign agreements and allocate plots when vacancies arise, in accordance with the waiting list	Senior Administrative Officer
		Carry out inspections of allotment plots and issue warning notices	
		Issue eviction notices in accordance with the Allotment tenancy agreement	Recommendation by Allotment Working Group to E&L Committee
2	Appointments to Standing Committees and Sub-Committees	Nomination and appointment of members to standing committees and sub-committees	Preparation managed by Proper Officer and decision taken by Full Council
3	Appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies	Nomination and appointment of representatives to Outside Bodies	Preparation managed by Proper Officer and decision taken by Full Council
4	Archives and information management	Receive, retain and archive documentation in accordance with the Town Council's retention policy	Proper Officer
5	Asset management	Maintain the Fixed Asset Register	Proper Officer/ Assistant Town Clerk
		Day to day administration and operation of buildings and open spaces, together with routine inspection and control, and instigating building maintenance and repairs within agreed budgets	Estates/Facilities Manager/ Proper Officer

No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
6	Audit	Liaise with Internal and External Auditors	Assistant Town Clerk/Proper Officer
		Select and review internal auditors at the point of renewing the contract	General Purposes Committee
7	By-laws	Receive and certify copies of by-laws made by the Town Council	Proper Officer
8	Cemetery	Sign Deeds of Exclusive Right of Burial, any transfer of deeds	3 x Town Councillors at Full Council
		Approval of 'permission to erect a memorial' application, additional inscriptions and plaques for the Cloistered Wall	Senior Administrative Officer
		Managing enquiries for burial or ashes interment arrangements, along with allocating pre-purchased plots	Senior Administrative Officer
9	Civic Centre	Arranging and managing the Events Programme for the Civic Centre	Hospitality Manager
		Organisation of Civic/prestigious events	Hospitality Manager/Proper Officer
10	Communications	Issue all formal communications on behalf of the Town Council in accordance with the Town Council's Media & Communications Policy	Marketing & Community Engagement Officer/Proper Officer
		Manage the Town Council's website and Civic Centre website and associated social media accounts	Marketing & Community Engagement Officer
		Manage internal communications to staff and corporate messages	Proper Officer/Management Team
11	Consultations	Respond to consultations in accordance with the resolutions of the relevant committee	Proper Officer delegated to committee clerks (Administrative Officer – Plans) (Senior Administrative Officer – E&L Committee) (Assistant Town Clerk/Proper Officer – Full Council/GP)
		Issue consultations to local residents, visitors or businesses	Marketing & Community Engagement Officer/Proper Officer
12	Correspondence	Authorisation to respond immediately to any correspondence requiring or requesting information or relating to previous decision of the Council, but not correspondence requiring an opinion of the Council to be taken	Office staff on behalf of Proper Officer

No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
13	Council meetings	At least three clear working days before a meeting of the Council, or a committee, serve on councillors a signed summons in accordance with the Standing Orders	Proper Officer
		Give public notice of the date, time, place and agenda at least three clear working days before a meeting of the council or committee/sub-committee, in accordance with the Standing Orders	Proper Officer
		Keep minutes and other proper records of council meetings, in accordance with the Town Council's retention policy	Proper Officer
14	Elections/Co-option	To notify Elections Team at Wealden District Council of casual vacancy arising in council membership	Proper Officer
		Arrange for newly elected/co-opted councillors to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms	Proper Officer
		Arrange for newly elected/co-opted councillors to complete Register of Interests and frequent reviews	Proper Officer
15	Emergency Planning	Lead the Council's response in the case of a major emergency, in consultation with East Sussex County Council's Emergency Planning Officers and Wealden DC's Emergency Planning Officer, in accordance with the Town Council's Community Resilience Plan	Proper Officer/ Management Team and appointed lead Town Councillors (currently 4 appointed as of May 2024)
16	Events	Authorise requests for external hirers to facilitate events on Town Council land, or hireable spaces such as those in Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion, and open spaces such as Luxford Field in accordance with the terms and conditions set out.	Management of bookings by Administrative Officers. Authorisation by Estates & Facilities Manager or Proper Officer
17	Expenditure	Budgetary control and authority to spend, in accordance with the Town Council's Financial Regulations and decisions taken by standing committees and Full Council	Management Team
18	Expenditure in an emergency/urgent situation	In cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the Estates & Facilities Manager, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Town Clerk may authorise expenditure on behalf of the council which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement, Health & Safety or other work, subject to a limit of £5,000 (exclusive of VAT). If time allows, the Clerk shall report the action or request for funding to the Urgent Consultation Panel.	Urgent Consultation Panel/Proper Officer

		The outcome of the action taken by senior officers or decision taken by Urgent Consultation Panel, should be reported to the relevant committee.	
No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
19	Finance – Cash flow and payments	The RFO will create online bank payments and transfers which will be authorised by the Proper Officer and two nominated councillors, in accordance with the Financial Regulations	Assistant Town Clerk or Proper Officer in their absence/Councillors on the bank mandate
20	Finance - investments	Invest Council funds in accordance with the Town Council's Financial Regulations, and Annual Investment Strategy	Assistant Town Clerk/ in response to GP Committee recommendation and Full Council ratification
21	Freedom of Information	Response to requests received through Access to Information legislation (Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004)	Proper Officer
22	GDPR	Manage the handling of information in line with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations	Proper Officer delegated to office staff
23	Grants	Receipt of applications and preparation for councillors for annual community grants programme	Administrative Officer
		Consideration of grant applications submitted to the Town Council, in accordance with the Community Grants programme criteria	Finance Sub-Committee to make recommendations, to be reported to General Purposes Committee for ratification.
		Submission of grant applications for external funding	Overseen by Management Team
		Deal with dispensation requests from Members under the Code of Conduct.	Proper Officer
24	Health and Safety	Act as the Town Council's nominated Health & Safety Officer	Estates & Facilities Managers – with delegated responsibilities for checks and compliance to Head Caretaker and Head Groundsman. Overseen by Proper Officer.

		The Estates & Facilities Manager, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Town Clerk may authorise expenditure which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement, Health and Safety or other work, which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for expenditure. This is subject to a limit of £5,000 (exclusive of VAT). If time allows, the Clerk shall report the action or request for funding to the Urgent Consultation Panel. The outcome of the action taken by senior officers or decision taken by Urgent Consultation Panel, should be reported to the relevant committee.	Estates & Facilities Manager/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO /Proper Officer
No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
25	Income generation	Developing income generation activities	Management Team
26	Insurance	Preparation for renewals, and updates to existing policies	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Estates, Facilities Manager/Proper Officer
		Issuing claims on the Council's insurers	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Estates, Facilities Manager/Proper Officer
		Annual review of the Town Council's insurance cover (i) buildings insurance, and (ii) public liability, employer liability and fidelity guarantee	General Purposes Committee
27	Lease agreements	Management of renewal of lease agreements; liaising with commercial estate agent, liaison with tenants/leaseholders, and reporting to members for consideration of terms and draft agreements	Proper Officer (can be delegated to Assistant Town Clerk or Estates and Facilities Manager)
		Execution of lease agreements (signing and sealing)	Two councillors at Full Council meeting
28	Legal documents/representation	Signing of agendas (summons), notices, contracts and agreements on behalf of the Town Council and any other documents requested by the Council, in accordance with the Standing Orders	Proper Officer
		Hold the Council's seal and apply to documents as approved	Proper Officer
		Appear of make representation to any tribunal or public inquiry into any matter to which the Town Council has an interest.	Proper Officer

No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
29	Luxfords Restaurant	Management of day to day operations of Luxfords Restaurant, and purchases within agreed budgets	Hospitality Manager
30	Mayoral duties	Arrange for newly elected Mayor to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms	Proper Officer
		Managing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements (diary)	Administrative Officer
31	Plans Committee decisions	Respond to the local planning authority (Wealden DC's planning department) and consultations, in accordance with the resolutions of the Town Council's Plans Committee	Administrative Officer/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
32	Procurement	Undertake procurement exercises in accordance with the Town Council's Financial Regulations (Section 6)	Estates, Facilities Managers/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
33	Public toilets	Manage the Civic Centre toilets under the Wealden DC Community Toilet scheme	Head Caretaker/Estates & Facilities Manager
		Manage the public toilet(s) at Victoria Pavilion	Head Caretaker/Estates & Facilities Manager
34	Recruitment of Town Clerk (Proper Officer)	Approve recruitment process	Personnel Sub-Committee recommendation to General Purposes
		Shortlisting and interviewing applicants	Recruitment panel
		Confirming the appointment of a new Town Clerk, following a recommendation from the recruiting panel	Full Council
35	Recruitment of replacement of permanent staff (other than the replacement of Town Clerk) or temporary staff to cover long periods of absence	Accept resignation, provide details of notice and outstanding leave, and approve recruitment process	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
		Shortlisting and interviewing applicants	Appropriate line manager/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
		Appointment following recruitment process	Appropriate line manager/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
36	Recruitment of additional staff	Prepare job descriptions/person specs and obtain independent evaluation	Proper Officer
		Approval evaluation (salary scale) of newly created jobs, additional positions/restructures	Personnel Sub-Committee review, with recommendation to General Purposes

			Committee/Full Council
		Approve budget for staffing	Full Council as part of budget setting process or
		Approve and oversee recruitment process	Proper Officer
		Shortlisting and interviewing applicants	Appropriate line manager/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO
		Appointment following the recruitment process	Appropriate line manager/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO
No.	Area of Operation	Delegation	Officer/Committee
37	Staffing	Authorise minor non-fiscal adjustments to contracts of employment and job descriptions to meet the needs of the Council.	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
		Take all decisions relating to the training of staff and Councillors	Proper Officer
		Authorise additional hours of work for existing staff on a temporary basis to support the business needs of the Council.	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
		Deal with all disciplinary matters and hearings in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary Policy, including suspending employees as deemed necessary.	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
		Enter into settlement agreements with employees up to a maximum of two months' salary where this is the prudent option for the Council.	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO/Proper Officer
38	Vehicles and equipment	To manage and oversee the maintenance, repair and servicing of the Council's motor vehicles and grounds equipment	Estates Manager

3.0 Review

3.1 This Scheme of Delegation was reviewed by Full Council on 19 May 2025.

3.2 The Scheme of Delegation will be reviewed by Full Council on an annual basis, at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council, each May.

Signed by:

Town Clerk:

Town Mayor:

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The following Terms of Reference were presented for review at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 19 May 2025, and adopted.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

9 MEMBERS

(Reporting to Full Council)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee is responsible for the strategic and corporate development of the Council and its built facilities, for example by: -

- (i) Ensuring sound financial management of the Town Council for endorsement of Full Council;
- (ii) Promoting effective use of modern technology to secure better service delivery;
- (iii) Supporting the career potential of all staff with an emphasis on effective management and empowerment.
- (iv) Developing effective mechanisms for cultural change and organisational development;
- (v) Promoting a culture of customer focus, responsiveness and continuous improvement;
- (vi) Promoting and developing facilities for the benefit of the residents, businesses and visitors to the Town:

1.0 Financial Matters

To undertake the detailed consideration of all financial matters affecting the Town Council, including:-

- 1.1 Amending the Council's Financial Regulations when necessary;
- 1.2 Approving the allocation of community and other grants, including the setting of appropriate criteria for their award;
- 1.3 Making arrangements for appropriate insurance cover;
- 1.4 Having responsibility for the Council's draft annual accounts and any subsequent recommendation of acceptance to Full Council, including compliance with financial audit;
- 1.5 Having responsibility for considering recommendations from other committees for non-budgeted expenditure;
- 1.6 Establishing and maintaining a revenue budget for areas that are the responsibility of this committee;
- 1.7 Having consideration of capital programmes, new initiatives or the establishment of funds for future responsibilities and liabilities.

2.0 Buildings

To manage and oversee the maintenance of all Council buildings, including buildings and associated structures in open spaces: -

- 2.1 That, where appropriate, leases, licences and agreements are considered for use of buildings;
- 2.2 Ensure that the lease agreements are adhered to where in place, and the leaseholder or tenant carries out their obligations for internal decoration and repairs, and health and safety;
- 2.3 Ensure that building insurance is in place for all Town Council owned buildings and recharged to leaseholders in line with their lease agreement/tenancy;
- 2.4 That routine rebuild insurance valuations are sought to inform insurance cover, and market valuations are sought on renewal of lease agreements to ensure the Town Council has up to date asset information;
- 2.5 Ensuring that adequate provision is made for their repair and maintenance and such works are carried out in a timely manner for Town Council run buildings and facilities;
- 2.6 That, where appropriate, fees and terms and conditions are set for their hire;
- 2.7 Overseeing the running of the Luxfords Restaurant.

(The buildings and associated structures under these terms include those in the ownership of the Town Council and leased by the Town Council. This includes the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall, Bridge Cottage, the Signal Box, West Park Pavilion, Osborn Hall, Victoria Pavilion, including the social area, grounds depot, toilets and storage area, Quickborn Suite, Ridgewood Village Hall and Snatts Road Cemetery Chapels.)

3.0 Policy

To consider the Council's strategic and corporate development including: -

- 3.1 Making recommendations to Full Council for changes to the Council's Standing Orders;
- 3.2 Making appointments for representatives to outside organisations where their work is allied to the responsibilities of the committee and to receive feedback from those representatives;
- 3.3 Undertaking an annual review of the Town Council's key policy documents to ensure they reflect the current circumstances, legislative updates and guidance and partnership opportunities – in particular the Town Council's Risk Management Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Health & Safety Policy;
- 3.4 Organising public meetings to inform residents of major issues affecting the Town and to further engage the public in the work of the Council;
- 3.5 Receiving the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee;
- 3.6 Considering the recommendations from the meetings of Personnel Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee;
- 3.7 Strengthening strategic partnership arrangements with key partner agencies and responding to consultations from services in the Health, Education, Social Services sectors and other consultations relevant to the work of the committee;

4.0 Administration

To deal with all matters relating to the general day to day administration of the Council, including: -

- 4.1 The establishment, review and enforcement of bylaws for areas within the control of the committee;
- 4.2 Making arrangements for the production and editing of the Town Guide;
- 4.3 Making arrangements for the production and editing of 'The Voice,' the Council's newsletter to ensure that residents are informed of the work of the Council and issues that affect the Town;
- 4.4 Making arrangements for the provision and maintenance of the Town Council's website and Civic Centre website;
- 4.5 Overseeing the payment of professional fees and subscriptions;
- 4.6 Arranging training courses, seminars, conferences etc., for both Officers and Members.

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

9 MEMBERS

(Reporting to Full Council)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee is responsible for delivery and strategic development of the Council's environment and leisure services, for example by: -

- (i) Ensuring sound financial management of matters relating to this Committee;
- (ii) Promoting effective use of modern technology to secure better service delivery;
- (iii) Developing effective mechanisms for cultural change and service development;
- (iv) Promoting a culture of customer focus, responsiveness and continuous improvement;
- (v) Improving and developing services for the benefit of the residents, businesses and visitors to the Town.

1.0 Environment

To co-ordinate and direct environmental improvements and related initiatives throughout the Town, including:-

- 1.1 The consideration and implementation of Town and other developmental plans where appropriate;
- 1.2 In conjunction with our partner agencies, consideration of utilities for the Town;
- 1.3 Liaising with Sussex Police and other partner agencies to assist in the enhancement of community safety;
- 1.4 Promoting Climate Change initiatives and the green agenda;
- 1.5 Promoting initiatives and the attraction of grant funding to assist with the preservation of local biodiversity, and associated wildlife surveys and evidence gathering;
- 1.6 Overseeing the revision of management plans for the Town Council's woodlands and nature reserves in association with key partner agencies;
- ~~1.75~~ The deployment of road safety devices to appropriate locations in the Town and support of Community Speedwatch initiatives;
- ~~1.86~~ In conjunction with other partner agencies, consideration of strategic and amenity highway matters, including public transport services;
- ~~1.97~~ The provision of street furniture, (litter bins, seats and signage etc.) where appropriate;

- 1.108 The consideration of requests for litter bins and provision of litter bins in line with the Town Council's litter bin policy.
- 1.119 Removing litter and waste on land owned or maintained by the Town Council;
- 1.120 Seeking sponsorship of roundabouts and other Town improvements where appropriate;
- 1.131 In partnership with others, enabling the provision and maintenance of hanging baskets and floral displays in the Town and in open spaces where appropriate;
- 1.142 Maintaining and upgrading the Town Council's remaining street lighting stock to appropriate standards;

2.0 Leisure

To provide active and passive leisure opportunities and facilities for residents of and visitors to the Town, including: -

- 2.1 The maintenance and management of public open spaces, Local Nature Reserves, ancient woodlands, allotments, sports pitches and play areas;
- 2.2 The provision of and assistance with arts, entertainments and events in the Town;
- 2.3 The promotion of sustainable transport within the Town;
- 2.4 Lobbying for the improvement of local transport services which includes support for re-opening of the railway between Uckfield and Lewes;
- 2.5 The provision of Christmas lights in conjunction with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce;
- 2.6 Oversight and organisation of Town events including beacon lightings, Weald on the Field and the Annual Remembrance Parade:-

3.0 Administration

To deal with all matters relating to the administration of the committee's services, including:-

- 3.1 Establishing a revenue budget including the setting of fees and charges for services that are the responsibility of this committee (allotments, open spaces and seasonal sport fees);
- 3.2 Consideration of capital programmes, new initiatives or the establishment of funds for future responsibilities and liabilities;
- 3.3 Management of grounds maintenance and other contracts;
- 3.4 The administration of interments for Snatts Road cemetery and the maintenance of the cemetery and Holy Cross closed churchyard;
- 3.5 Making appointments for representatives to outside organisations where their work is allied to the responsibilities of the committee and to receive feedback from those representatives;
- 3.6 The establishment, review and enforcement of bylaws for areas within the control of the committee;
- 3.7 The provision of notice boards at specific locations to promote Town Council meetings and initiatives;
- 3.8 Maintenance of the Town clock.

PLANS COMMITTEE

7 MEMBERS

(Reporting to Full Council)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee is responsible for making representations to the appropriate authorities in response to planning applications in the Town, specifically: -

- (i) Considering and responding to all planning applications within the town boundary of Uckfield and/or adjacent land, whether notified under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 20, Schedule 16 or not;
- (ii) To be responsible for recommending the placing of Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate;
- (iii) Commenting on licensing applications as and when necessary;
- (iv) Commenting on street naming where requested.

The committee will also respond to UK Government and local planning authority planning policy consultations as and when necessary.

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

5 MEMBERS

(Reporting to the General Purposes Committee)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The sub-committee is responsible for making recommendations to the General Purposes Committee on staff matters including: -

- (i) Consideration of staffing levels;
- (ii) Consideration of policies relating to personnel matters including recruitment, Equal Opportunities, the Disability Discrimination Act and other 'staff' matters;
- (iii) Consultation on senior staff appointments;
- (iv) Support the work-based pension reforms to auto enrol staff onto the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- (v) Consideration of staff terms and conditions including special conditions;
- (vi) Convening panels for hearing appeals from staff against grievance and disciplinary procedures;
- (vii) Convening panels for grievances and disciplinary procedures against the Town Clerk.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

5 MEMBERS

(Reporting to the General Purposes Committee)

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The sub committee is responsible for making recommendations to the General Purposes Committee on financial and associated matters including:-

- (i) Considering and reviewing of the Council's Financial Regulations in response to legislative changes and best practice; making recommendations to General Purposes Committee where required;
- (ii) Considering and reviewing of the Council's Insurances and level of cover required.
- (iii) Considering of the Council's grants criteria;

- (iv) Reviewing the Council's grant allocations and making recommendations to General Purposes Committee on the proposed annual allocation;
- (v) Considering up to date information and undertake periodic reviews of the Council's budgets in line with the five year Strategic Plan; recommending amendments where required.
- (vi) Conducting periodic reviews of the Council's arrangements for banking, loans, asset management and pension policies;
- (vii) Recommending arrangements for dealing with bad debts as they arise.

URGENT CONSULTATION PANEL

MEMBERS – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairmen of the General Purposes, Environment and Leisure and Plans Committees.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The panel is responsible for: -

- (i) Providing urgent decisions and actions where recourse to the appropriate committee or Full Council meeting is not possible;
- (ii) Reporting such decisions and actions to the next appropriate meeting of the relevant committee.

VOICE EDITORIAL PANEL

UP TO 4 MEMBERS

(Reporting to the General Purpose Committee)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The panel is responsible for:-

- (i) Producing and editing the Council's newsletter, 'The Voice' in conjunction with the Town Council Office.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2025-26

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (9) (Reports to Full Council)			ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE (9) (Reports to Full Council)		
1.			1.		
2.			2.		
3.			3.		
4.			4.		
5.			5.		
6.			6.		
7.			7.		
8.			8.		
9.			9.		
PLANS COMMITTEE (7) (Reports to Full Council)			FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE (5) (Reports to General Purposes Committee)		
1.			1.		
2.			2.		
3.			3.		
4.			4.		
5.			5.		
6.					
7.					
PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (5) (Reports to General Purposes Committee)			THE VOICE EDITORIAL PANEL (3) (Reports to General Purposes Committee)		
1.			1.		
2.			2.		
3.			3.		
4.					
5.					

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2025-26

FULL COUNCIL

Organisation	No. Required	
Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee	2	
Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee – Substitute Members	2	
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	4	
Gatwick Airport Consultation Group	(2) 1 member and 1 substitute	

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wealden Citizens Advice	1	
Emergency Planning Co-ordinators	2	
Wealden Volunteering	1	
Wealden District Association of Local Councils	1	
Wealden District Association of Local Councils Parish Planning Panel/ Local Plan Engagement Cluster	(2) 1 member and 1 substitute	

AGM meetings only:

East Sussex Association of Local Councils	1	
Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee	1	

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Organisation	No. Required	
All Weather Pitch Operational Advisory Group	(2) (1 member and 1 substitute)	
Biodiversity links - Conservators of Ashdown Forest and Weald to Waves	(2) (1 member and 1 substitute)	
Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group	(2) (1 member and 1 substitute)	<i>To be appointed at first E&L Committee after Annual Stat meeting</i>
Luxford Centre Management Committee	1	
Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee	1	
Uckfield Youth Club Trust Board	1	
Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link Forum	1	
Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group	1	

AGM meetings only:

Uckfield & District Twinning Association	1	
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Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 12.0

TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS TO FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At each Annual Statutory meeting of the Council, appointments are made to the council's committees, outside bodies, and working groups which sit under Full Council. Any working groups which report to the standing committees of General Purposes or Environment & Leisure will be appointed at the first meetings of these committees.
- 1.2 Some working groups are already underway so it would seem unsettling to change membership, when part way through organising an event for example:
Civic Centre Working Group;
Ageing Well Forum;
Events Working Group;

2.0 Background to these working groups

- 2.1 The Hospitality Manager is intending to call a meeting of the Civic Centre Working Group in June 2025.
In May 2024, the following members were appointed to the Civic Centre Working Group:
Councillors D. Bennett, D. French, S. Mayhew, and D. Ward.
- 2.2 The Events Working Group was set up predominantly to plan for events such as Weald on the Field and Uckfield Revival. During the past year, the working group have led the activities involved in organising the D-Day Beacon Lighting on 6 June 2024, Weald on the Field on 10 August 2024, the VE Day Event on Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2025 and they are currently planning for the annual Weald on the Field day festival on 9 August 2025.
In May 2024, the following members were appointed to the Events Working Group:
Councillors K. Bedwell, D. French, V. Frost, J. Love and S. Mayhew.
Support has also continued from Councillor C. Macve and P. Selby, as well as co-opted non-members of the council.
- 2.3 The Ageing Well Forum/Network has been refreshed, and currently working as an information sharing forum, as well as planning the organisation of a 'Wellness' Event for all ages on Thursday 18 September 2025. It would be helpful for at least one Town Councillor to engage with this forum, and act as an ambassador for their work in the community.
In May 2024, the following members were appointed:
Councillors K. Bedwell and P. Selby.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to confirm the appointment of '*no less than three and no more than five members*' per working group, as per the working group policy for the following working groups:
(i) Civic Centre Working Group, and the;
(ii) Events Working Group
- 3.2 To appoint at least one representative for the Town Council to the Ageing Well Forum.

Background paper: Policy No. 39 - Working Group Policy
Contact Officer: Holly Goring

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



STANDING ORDERS

Issue No.	Date Agreed	Details of amendments
1	2 nd May 2006	Reissued in new format
2	25 th March 2008	General Purposes (GP.070.03.08)
3	28 th April 2008	Full Council (FC.096.04.08)
4	6 th July 2009	Full Council (FC.018.07.09)
5	10 th January 2011	Complete reissue of document at Full Council in accordance with revised NALC Model Standing Orders. (FC.049.01.11)
6	16 th May 2011	Annual Statutory Meeting – Review of SO 34.2
7	11 th November 2013	Full Council (FC.55.11.13) Comprehensive amendments following introduction of Localism Act 2011
8	7 th July 2014	Amendments to start times of meetings.
9	20 th April 2015	FC - General review and update
10	4 th July 2016	FC – General review and update
11	22 nd August 2016	FC – Minor amendment to 9.3. Plus amendments to Section 34 (Financial Matters) following update to financial regulations approved by GP Committee on 15 th August 2016.
12	30 th July 2018	Refresh in line with NALC Model Standing Orders (revised 2018)
13	17 January 2022	FC - Full review in line with NALC Model Standing Orders (revised 2020)
14	27 June 2022	FC – review in line with NALC Model Standing Orders (2018) Version 2 (April 2022) – Financial

		Controls and Procurement (Section 34) (FC.29.06.22)
15	15 May 2023	FC – Annual statutory meeting annual review
16	20 May 2024	Annual review at Annual Statutory meeting, adopted (FC.17.05.24).
17	9 Sept 2024	FC.46.09.24 - Minor amendment to Section 34.0
18	28 April 2025	Review of changes in Section 34, in line with changes to the Procurement legislation and Finance Regulations.
<u>19</u>	<u>19 May 2025</u>	<u>Ratification of updated Standing Orders</u>

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STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders set out how all committees, sub-committees and associated groups of the Council conduct their business and should be read in conjunction with the Council's

- Financial Regulations
- Code of Conduct Policy (No. 43).

Reference to the masculine gender should also be construed as a reference to the feminine gender except where the context suggests otherwise.

Reference to, 'the Mayor', should also be construed as reference to the Chair of any committee or sub-committee, except that of Full Council.

1.0 ROLE OF STANDING ORDERS

- 1.1 The Town Clerk shall provide a copy of the Council's Standing Orders to a Councillor upon delivery of his declaration of acceptance of office.
- 1.2 The Chair~~man~~'s decision as to the application of Standing Orders at meetings shall be final.
- 1.3 A Councillor's failure to observe Standing Orders more than three times in one meeting may result in him being excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Orders.

2.0 VARIATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 2.1 Any or every part of these Standing Orders except those printed in **bold type** may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business. Standing Orders printed in **bold type** cannot be altered.
- 2.2 A resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

3.0 MEETINGS

Timing and Business

- 3.1 **Full Council - meetings shall not take place in premises, which at the time of the meeting, are used for the supply of alcohol unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.**
- 3.2(a) **Full Council - the minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.**
- 3.2(b) **Committee meetings - the minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice OR (*the minimum three clear days' public notice of a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issues or the day of the meeting*)**

- 3.3 The duration of all Council committee or sub-committee meetings shall not exceed two hours, unless before this period is exceeded a proposal to suspend this Standing Order for a nominated length of maximum time receives a majority vote from those present. After this time the meeting shall be adjourned and any business not completed shall be completed at a resumed meeting to be notified by the Clerk; such resumed meeting shall be held before the next scheduled meeting. At the resumption, only the business not completed at the previous meeting shall be considered.
- 3.4 Meetings of the Council and its committees shall be held at the Uckfield Civic Centre normally from 7.00 pm on such dates as the Council may direct.

Questions by the Public

- 3.5 **Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion by means of the following resolution:-**
- "That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960".*
- 3.6 Subject to Standing Order 3.5 above, members of the public are permitted to make representations, statements, ask or answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.
- 3.7 The period of time which is at the Mayor's discretion shall not exceed fifteen minutes.
- 3.8 Subject to Standing Order 3.6 above, each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than three minutes.
- 3.9 In accordance with Standing Order 3.6 above, a question asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting shall not require a response or debate.
- 3.10 In accordance with Standing Order 3.9 above, the Mayor may direct that a response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a Councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or oral response.
- 3.11 A record of a public participation session at a meeting shall be included in the minutes of that meeting.
- 3.12 A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak. They must address the meeting through the Chair and use the microphone provided.
- 3.13 Any person speaking at a meeting shall address their comments to the Mayor.
- 3.14 Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the Mayor shall direct the order of speaking.

Press and public attending and reporting on meetings

- 3.15(a) **Subject to standing order 3.5, a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To “report” means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to the persons not present.**
- 3.15(b) **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**
- 3.15(c) **Filming and recording of all Council, committee and sub-committee meetings open to the public is welcomed but restrictions do apply to protect confidential information and those individuals who do not wish to be recorded. The Town Council will provide assistance to anyone who wishes to carry out any recording in accordance with its Recording of Meetings Policy. (No. 72)**
- 3.16 **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**

Members’ conduct at meetings

- 3.17 **Subject to Standing Orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Mayor may in his absence be done by, to or before the Deputy Mayor.**
- 3.18 **The Mayor, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Mayor is absent from a meeting, the Deputy Mayor, if present, shall preside. If both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent from a meeting, a Councillor as chosen by the Councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**
- 3.19 When a Member speaks at Full Council, and the Town Council’s standing committees (General Purposes, Environment & Leisure and Plans), they must address the meeting through the Chair~~man~~ and use the microphone. If more than one Member indicates that they wish to speak, the Chair~~man~~ will ask one to speak and the others must wait in the order in which they notified the Chair~~man~~ of their intention to speak, unless in the case of paragraph 8.16 when a Councillor wishes to interrupt on a point of order.
- 3.20 **Subject to Standing Order 3.26 below, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the Councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting thereon.**
- 3.21 **The Mayor may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise his casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.**
- 3.22 **Members shall vote by a show of hands or, if at least two Councillors so request, by signed ballot. At the request of a Councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each Councillor present and voting gave his vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.**

- 3.23 The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
- (i) the time and place of the meeting;
 - (ii) record the names of Councillors who are present and the names of the councillors who are absent;
 - (iii) interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights (as detailed below);
 - (iv) the grant of dispensations to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
 - (v) whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
 - (vi) if there was a public participation session; and;
 - (vii) the resolutions made

3.24(a) **The Code of Conduct adopted by the Council shall apply to Councillors in respect of the entire meeting.**

3.24(b) **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable prejudicial interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the code on their right to participate and vote on that matter.**

3.25 **An interest arising from the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council, the existence and nature of which is required to be disclosed by a Councillor at a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.**

3.26 **Five Members or one-third of the total membership, whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Council.**

(For a quorum relating to committees, sub-committees and other meetings, please refer to Standing Order 19.1.9)

3.27 **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be adjourned.** Any outstanding business of a meeting so adjourned shall be completed at a resumed meeting to be notified by the Clerk; such resumed meeting shall be held before the next scheduled meeting. At the resumption, only the business not completed at the previous meeting shall be considered.

4.0 ORDINARY MEETINGS

4.1 **In an election year, the Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new Councillors elected take office.**

4.2 **In a year which is not an election year, the Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council may direct.**

4.3 **The Annual Meeting of the Council shall take place at 7.00pm.**

4.4 **In addition to the Annual Meeting of the Council, at least five other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council directs.**

4.5 **The election of the Mayor of the Council and Deputy Mayor shall be the first business conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Council.**

- 4.6 **The Mayor, unless they have resigned or become disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the Annual Meeting until their successor is elected at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.**
- 4.7 **The Deputy Mayor of the Council, if any, unless they resign or become disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.**
- 4.8 **In an election year, if the current Mayor has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the meeting until a successor Mayor has been elected. The current Mayor shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Mayor but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- 4.9 **In an election year, if the current Mayor has been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the meeting until a new Mayor has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the Mayor and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- 4.10 Following the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council, the order of business shall be as follows.
- 4.10.1 **In an election year, delivery by the Mayor and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council (Town Mayor) of their acceptance of office form unless the Council resolved for this to be done at a later date;**
- 4.10.2 To elect a Deputy Town Mayor.
- 4.10.3 **In the ordinary year of election of the Council to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations.**
(Co-option Policy No. 44)
- 4.10.4 **To decide when any declarations of acceptance of office which have not been received as provided by law shall be received.**
- 4.10.5 Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
- 4.10.6 Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee
- 4.10.7 Consider the recommendations made by a committee
- 4.10.8 Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities
- 4.10.9 Review of the terms of reference for committees
- 4.10.10 To appoint committees, sub-committees and other groups as necessary.
- 4.10.11 To appoint any new committees in accordance with standing order 19.0

- 4.10.12 Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations
- 4.10.13 Review of arrangements with other local authorities, not for profit bodies and businesses
- 4.10.14 Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back
- 4.10.15 In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
- 4.10.16 Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
- 4.10.17 Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of insurable risks;
- 4.10.18 Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- 4.10.19 Review of the Council's complaints procedure
- 4.10.20 Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation
- 4.10.21 Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media
- 4.10.22 Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures
- 4.10.23 Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence
- 4.10.24 Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council
- 4.10.25 **Business as specified in the summons including:-**
- 4.10.26 **To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done.**
- 4.10.27 To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.
- 4.10.28 To receive such communications as the person presiding may wish to lay before the Council.
- 4.10.29 To answer previously notified questions from Councillors.
- 4.10.30 To receive the minutes and consider reports and recommendations of committees.
- 4.10.31 To consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified.

- 4.10.32 To receive and consider reports from officers of the Council.
- 4.10.33 To authorise the sealing of documents.
- 4.10.34 Councillors may request an item to be placed on an agenda of the relevant committee at least seven days prior to the publication of the agenda supported by a written report. Questions do not require a seconder but the Chair of the committee would use their discretion as to the inclusion of an item.
- 4.10.35 Any other business specified in the summons.

5.0 PROPER OFFICER

5.1 The Council's Proper Officer shall be either:

- (i) the Clerk or such other employee as may be nominated by the Council from time to time or
- (ii) such other employee appointed by the Council to undertake the role of the Proper Officer during the Proper Officer's absence.

The Proper Officer and the employee appointed to act as such during the Proper Officer's absence shall fulfil the duties assigned to the Proper Officer in Standing Orders.

5.2 The Council's Proper Officer shall do the following:

- 5.2.1 **At least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee or a sub-committee, - Sign and serve on Councillors electronically if agreed, by delivery or post at their residences a signed summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda, and ;**
- 5.2.2 **Provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, date, venue and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by Councillors is signed by them).**
- 5.2.3 Subject to Standing Orders 6.1 – 6.5 below, include in the agenda all motions in the order received unless a Councillor has given written notice at least five days before the meeting confirming his withdrawal of it.
- 5.2.4 **Convene a meeting of Full Council for the election of a new Mayor of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in his office, in accordance with Standing Order 5.2.1 above.**

To receive nominations for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by a deadline of seven working days prior to the Annual Statutory Meeting of full Council. Any nominations put forward must include a short paragraph on why they would be suitable i.e. their background, desires etc.

If no nominations are received prior to the meeting, nominations are entitled to be put forward at the Annual Statutory meeting of Council.

If during the Municipal Year, the office of Town Mayor becomes vacant, then the Deputy Mayor will normally become Mayor for the remainder of that year.

- 5.2.5 **Make available for inspection the minutes of meetings.**
- 5.2.6 **Receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities.**
- 5.2.7 Hold declarations of acceptance of office forms from Councillors.
- 5.2.8 Hold a copy of every Councillor's register of interests and any changes to it and keep copies of the same available for inspection.
- 5.2.9 Keep proper records required before and after meetings.
- 5.2.10 Assist with responding to all requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with and subject to the Council's procedures relating to the same.
- 5.2.11 Liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one)
- 5.2.12 Receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary.
- 5.2.13 assist in the organisation of, storage of and access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).
- 5.2.14 Arrange for legal deeds to be executed (signed and sealed using the Council's common seal).
- 5.2.15 Arrange for the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
- 5.2.16 Record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose.
- 5.2.17 Refer any planning application received by the Council outside the normal Plans Committee cycle to the Chair or in their absence the Vice chair of the Plans Committee for consideration in accordance with the Council's Late Planning Applications Policy. (No. 74)
- 5.2.18 manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
- 5.2.19 Retain custody of the seal of the Council which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.

- 5.2.20 Action or undertake activity or responsibilities instructed by resolution or contained in Standing Orders.

6.0 MOTIONS FOR A MEETING THAT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE PROPER OFFICER

- 6.1 A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
- 6.2 Except as provided by these Standing Orders, no resolution may be moved unless the business to which it relates has been put on the agenda by the Town Clerk or the mover has given notice in writing of its terms and has delivered the notice to the Town Clerk at least seven clear days before the next meeting of the Council.
- 6.3 The Town Council may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 6.2, correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- 6.4 If the Town Clerk considers the wording of the motion received in accordance with 6.2 is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing to the Proper Officer, at least seven clear days before the meeting.
- 6.5 If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the Chair of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
- 6.6 The decision of the Town Clerk as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- 6.7 The Town Clerk shall record in the summons for every meeting, all notices of motion or recommendation properly given in the order in which they have been received unless the Councillor giving a notice of motion has stated in writing that he intends to move at some later meeting or that he withdraws it.
- 6.8 Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Town Clerk of the reason for rejection.

7.0 MOTIONS AT A MEETING THAT DO NOT REQUIRE WRITTEN NOTICE

- 7.1 Motions in respect of the following matters may be moved without written notice.
- 7.1.1 To appoint a person to preside at a meeting.
- 7.1.2 To approve the absences of Councillors.
- 7.1.3 To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 7.1.4 To correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of the previous meeting.
- 7.1.5 To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.

- 7.1.6 To alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience.
- 7.1.7 To proceed to the next business on the agenda.
- 7.1.8 To close or adjourn debate.
- 7.1.9 To refer by formal delegation a matter to a committee or to a sub-committee or an employee.
- 7.1.10 To appoint a committee or sub-committee or any Councillors (including substitutes) thereto.
- 7.1.11 To receive nominations to a committee or sub-committee.
- 7.1.12 To dissolve a committee or sub-committee.
- 7.1.13 To note the minutes of a meeting of a committee or sub-committee.
- 7.1.14 To consider a report and/or recommendations made by a committee or a sub-committee or an employee.
- 7.1.15 To consider a report and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional advisor, expert or consultant.
- 7.1.16 To authorise legal deeds to be sealed by the Council's common seal and witnessed.
- 7.1.17 To authorise the payment of monies in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- 7.1.18 To amend a motion relevant to the original or substantive motion under consideration which shall not have the effect of nullifying it.
- 7.1.19 To extend the time limit for speeches.
- 7.1.20 To exclude the press and public for all or part of a meeting.
- 7.1.21 To silence or exclude from the meeting a Councillor or a member of the public for disorderly conduct.
- 7.1.22 To give the consent of the Council if such consent is required by Standing Orders.
- 7.1.23 **To suspend any Standing Order except those which are mandatory by law.**
- 7.1.24 To adjourn the meeting.
- 7.1.25 To appoint representatives to outside bodies and to make arrangements for those representatives to report back the activities of outside bodies.
- 7.1.26 To answer questions from Councillors.

7.1.27 To require a written report

7.1.28 To defer consideration of a motion;

7.1.29 To refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee

8.0 RULES OF DEBATE

8.1 Motions included in an agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear on the agenda unless the order is changed at the Chair's direction for reasons of expedience.

8.2 Subject to Standing Orders 6.1 - 6.5 above, a motion shall not be considered unless it has been proposed and seconded.

8.3 Subject to Standing Order 5.2.3 above, a motion included in an agenda not moved by the Councillor who tabled it, may be treated as withdrawn.

8.4 A motion to amend an original or substantive motion shall not be considered unless proper notice has been given after the original or substantive motion has been seconded and notice of such amendment, shall, if required by the Chair, be reduced to writing and handed to the Chair who shall determine the order in which they are considered.

8.5 A Councillor may move amendments to his own motion. If a motion has already been seconded, an amendment to it shall be with the consent of the seconder.

8.6 Any amendment to a motion shall be either:

8.6.1 to remove words;

8.6.2 to add words;

8.6.3 to remove words and add other words, it shall not negate the motion

8.7 A proposed or carried amendment to a motion shall not have the effect of rescinding the original or substantive motion under consideration.

8.8 Only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the Chair. No further amendment to a motion shall be moved until the previous amendment has been disposed of.

8.9 Subject to Standing Order 8.8 above, one or more amendments may be discussed together if the Chair considers this expedient but shall be voted upon separately.

8.10 Pursuant to Standing Order 8.8 above, the number of amendments to an original or substantive motion, which may be moved by a Councillor, is limited to one.

8.11 If an amendment is not carried, other amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the Chair.

8.12 If an amendment is carried, the original motion, as amended, shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

- 8.13 The mover of a motion or the mover of an amendment shall have a right of reply, not exceeding three minutes.
- 8.14 Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply in respect of the substantive motion at the very end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of the debate on the final substantive motion and immediately before it is put to the vote.
- 8.15 Subject to Standing Orders 8.13 and 8.14 above, a Councillor may not speak further in respect of any one motion except to speak once on an amendment moved by another Councillor or to make a point of order or to give a personal explanation.
- 8.16 During the debate of a motion, a Councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the Councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A Councillor raising a point of order shall identify the Standing Order which he considers has been breached or specify the irregularity in the meeting he is concerned by.
- 8.17 A point of order shall be decided by the Chair and their decision shall be final.
- 8.18 With the consent of the seconder and/or of the meeting, a motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer. A Councillor shall not speak upon the said motion or amendment unless permission for the withdrawal of the motion or amendment has been refused.
- 8.19 Subject to Standing Order 8.15 above, when a Councillor's motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except:
- 8.19.1 to amend the motion;
 - 8.19.2 to proceed to the next business;
 - 8.19.3 to adjourn the debate;
 - 8.19.4 to put the motion to a vote;
 - 8.19.5 to ask a person to be silent or for him to leave the meeting;
 - 8.19.6 to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
 - 8.19.7 to exclude the public and press;
 - 8.19.8 to adjourn the meeting;
 - 8.19.9 to suspend any Standing Order, except those which are mandatory.
- 8.20 In respect of Standing Order 8.19.4 above, the Chair shall first be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated before it is seconded and put to the vote. The Chair shall call upon the mover of the motion under debate to exercise or waive their right of reply and shall put the motion to the vote after that right has been exercised or waived.

At the end of any speech a Councillor may, without comment, move "*that the question be now put*", "*that the debate be now adjourned*" or "*that the Council do now adjourn*". If such motion is seconded, the Mayor shall put the motion but, in the case of a motion "*that the question be now put*", only if they are of the opinion that the question before the Council has been sufficiently debated. If the motion "*that the question be now put*" is carried, they shall call upon the mover to exercise or waive their right of reply and shall put the question immediately after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the meeting shall not prejudice the mover's right of reply at the resumption.

9.0 CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISPENSATIONS

9.1 All Councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council. (Policy No. 43)

9.2 All Councillors shall undertake training in the Code of Conduct within 6 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.

9.3 Unless they have been granted a dispensation, a Councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary (prejudicial) interest. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which they had the interest. In all cases the Councillor must leave the room and not take part in any debate or vote unless a dispensation has been authorised by the Clerk.

9.4 An interest arising from the Code of Conduct shall be recorded in the minutes.

9.5 Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Town Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.

9.6 A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Town Clerk and that decision is final.

9.7 A dispensation request shall confirm:
(i) the description and the nature of the prejudicial interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
(ii) whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
(iii) the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
(iv) an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought

9.8 The Clerk, may authorise a dispensation for Councillors under the Code of Conduct, if having regard for all relevant circumstances, any of the following apply:-

9.8.1 without the dispensation, the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business; or

9.8.2 without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the meeting transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business; or

9.8.3 **granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area; or**

9.8.4 **it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

9.9 A dispensation granted under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 must specify the period for which it has effect, and that period may not exceed four years.

10.0 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

~~10.1 On receipt of a notification by the District Council that it is dealing with a complaint that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Code of Conduct, the Clerk shall report this to the council.~~

~~10.2 Where the notification in standing order 10.1 relates to a complaint made by the Clerk, the Clerk shall notify the Chair of the Council of this fact, and the Chair shall nominate another staff member to assume the duties of the Clerk in relation to the complaint until it has been determined and the Council has agreed what action, if any, to take in accordance with standing order 10.4.~~

~~10.3 The Council may:~~

~~(i) provide information or evidence where such disclosure is necessary to investigate the complaint or is a legal requirement;~~

~~(ii) seek information relevant to the complaint from the person or body with statutory responsibility for investigation of the matter.~~

10.14 Upon notification by the District Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against him. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.

11.0 QUESTIONS

11.1 A Councillor may seek an answer to a question concerning any business of the Council provided seven clear days notice of the question has been given to the Proper Officer.

11.2 Questions not related to items of business on the agenda for a meeting shall only be asked during the part of the meeting set aside for such questions.

11.3 Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

12.0 DRAFT MINUTES

12.1 If a copy of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting has been circulated to Councillors no later than the day of service of the summons to attend the scheduled meeting they shall be taken as read.

12.2 No discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the minutes shall be raised in accordance with Standing Order 7.1.4 above.

- 12.3 Minutes, including any amendment to correct their accuracy, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the Chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- 12.4 Upon a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, any previous draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.
- 12.5 If the Chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, they shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms of to the same effect:

“The Chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the () held on (date) in respect of () were a correct record but their view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

13.0 DISORDERLY CONDUCT

- 13.1 No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the Chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- 13.2 If, in the opinion of the Chair, there has been a breach of Standing Order 13.1 above, the Chair shall express that opinion and thereafter any Councillor (including the Chair) may move that the person no longer be heard or be excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion.
- 13.3 If a resolution made in accordance with Standing Order 13.2 above, is ignored, the Chair may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

14.0 RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- 14.1 A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a proposal, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least five members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a Committee.
- 14.2 When a resolution moved under the provision of Standing Order 14.1 above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.
- 14.3 Any resolution passed by a committee reporting to Full Council may be placed on the next Full Council agenda for discussion in its own right if so requested in writing by at least five members of the Council. Once such a request has been received, further activities, clarification and information gathering excepted, shall cease on the original resolution

15.0 VOTING ON APPOINTMENTS

- 15.1 Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a

majority of votes is given in favour of one person. Any tie may be settled by the Chair's casting vote.

- 15.2 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor should not serve longer than three complete consecutive municipal years in their respective offices.
- 15.3 Chairs of committees and sub-committees should not serve as Chair longer than three consecutive years. Nor should any member of the Council be Chair of more than one committee or sub-committee at any one time.
- 15.4 Neither shall the Mayor or Deputy Mayor be Chair of a full committee.
- 15.5 The Chair (Mayor) of the Town Council shall be assigned a seat on Personnel Sub-Committee, unless they have already been appointed through the annual committee appointment process (via submission of preference by priority order).

16.0 EXPENDITURE

- 16.1 Any expenditure incurred by the Council shall be in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
- 16.2 **The Council's Financial Regulations shall be reviewed once a year.**
- 16.3 **The Council's Financial Regulations may make provision for the authorisation of the payment of money in exercise of any of the Council's functions to be delegated to a committee, sub-committee or to an employee.**

17.0 RESOLUTIONS ON EXPENDITURE

- 17.1 A resolution, by any committee, which would increase the expenditure upon any service which is under the management of that committee, or which would reduce the revenue at the disposal of the Council, or which would involve capital expenditure, shall be referred to the General Purposes Committee for decision.

18.0 EXECUTION AND SEALING OF LEGAL DEEDS

- 18.1 A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless the same has been authorised by a resolution.
- 18.2 **In accordance with a resolution made under Standing Order 18.1 above, the Council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the presence of two councillors of the Council who shall sign the deed as witnesses.**

19.0 COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 19.1 The Council may at its Annual Statutory Meeting, appoint standing committees and may at any other time appoint such other committees as are necessary, but subject to any statutory provision in that behalf:-
 - 19.1.1 Shall not appoint any member of a committee so as to hold office later than the next Annual Statutory Meeting.
 - 19.1.2(a) **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**

19.1.2(b) **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.** Such appointed members will have no voting rights.

19.1.2(c) **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**

19.1.3 The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and;

(i) shall determine their terms of reference;

(ii) shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of the Council;

(iii) shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;

(iv) shall, subject to standing orders 19.1.2(b) and (c) appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee

(v) may, subject to standing orders 19.1.2(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer five days before the meeting that they are unable to attend;

(vi) shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chair of a standing committee;

(vii) shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chair at the first meeting of the committee;

(viii) shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee, and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than three or one third of its members;

(ix) shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;

(x) shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;

(xi) shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend and:

19.1.4 May, subject to the provisions of Standing Order No.14, at any time dissolve or alter the membership of a committee;

19.1.5 Every committee shall at its first meeting before proceeding to any other business, elect a Chair and may elect a Vice-chair who shall hold office until the next Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council;

19.1.6 In the event of the ballot failing to determine the Chair and Vice- chair because of an equality of votes the candidate or candidates to be elected from those having an equal number of votes shall be determined at the first committee meeting which will be chaired by the Mayor. Any tie may then be settled by the Chair's casting vote;

- 19.1.7 The Chair of a committee or the Mayor of the Council may summon an additional meeting of that committee at any time. An additional meeting shall also be summoned on the requisition in writing of not less than a third of the members of the committee. The summons shall set out the business to be considered at the special meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting;
- 19.1.8 Each committee may appoint working groups or steering groups for purposes specified by the committee. Sub-committees will be appointed by Full Council;
- 19.1.9 The Standing Orders on rules of debate, (except those parts relating to standing and speaking more than once), and the Standing Order on interests of Councillors in contracts and other matters shall apply to committees, sub-committees.

20.0 WORKING GROUPS AND STEERING GROUPS

- 20.1 Any committee may create working or steering groups, whose name and number of members and the bodies to be invited to nominate members shall be specified.
- 20.2 The working and steering groups will conduct their business in accordance with Working Group Policy No. 39 and Steering Group Policy No. 57.
- 20.3 Working and steering groups may make recommendations and give notice thereof to the parent committee.
- 20.4 Working and steering groups may consist wholly of persons who are not members of the Council.

21.0 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 21.1 **The Mayor of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- 21.2 **If the Mayor of the Council does not or refuses to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested to do so by two Councillors, those two Councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The statutory public notice giving the time, venue and agenda for such a meeting must be signed by the two Councillors.**
- 21.3 The Chair of a Committee (or a sub-committee) may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee (or sub-committee) at any time;
- 21.4 If the Chair of a committee (or a sub-committee) does not call an extraordinary meeting within seven days of having been requested to do so by two members of the committee (or sub-committee), any two members of the committee (or sub-committee) may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee (or sub-committee).

22.0 ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

22.1 The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

22.2 "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of the "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioner's Guide"

22.3 All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's Financial Regulations.

22.4 The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each Councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to General Purposes Committee or Environment & Leisure Committee to summarise:

- (i) the Council's income and expenditure for that committee;
- (ii) the Council's aggregate income and expenditure for the year to date;
- (iii) the balances held at the end of that period being reported;

which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends (these are reported at each committee meeting so more frequently than quarterly).

22.5 As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:

- (i) each councillor with a statement summarising the council's income and expenditure for the last quarter and the year to date for information, and;
- (ii) to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.

22.6 The year-end statement of accounts shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the council for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to the anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

23.0 ESTIMATES AND PRECEPTS

23.1 **The Council shall review the estimates not later than the end of January each year and shall fix the precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year. The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply each Councillor with a copy of the approved estimates.**

23.2 Any committee desiring to incur expenditure shall give the Proper Officer a written estimate of the expenditure recommended for the coming year no later than the end of November each year.

23.3 The annual capital and revenue expenditures shall form the Council's budgets and the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

24.0 INTERESTS

24.1 **If a Councillor has a personal interest as defined by the Code of Conduct (Policy No. 43) then they shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes**

apparent, disclosing the existence and nature of that interest as required which shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

24.2 If a Councillor who has declared a personal interest then considers the interest to be a disclosable interest, they must withdraw from the room during consideration of the item to which the interest relates unless a dispensation has been authorised by the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

24.3 The Clerk may be required to compile and hold a register of Councillors' interests in accordance with any agreement with the Monitoring Officer of Wealden District Council and/or as required by statute.

24.4 If a candidate for any appointment under the Council is to their knowledge related to any Councillor or the holder of any office under the Council, they and the person to whom they are related shall disclose the relationship in writing to the Clerk. A candidate who fails so to do, shall be disqualified for such appointment, and, if appointed, may be dismissed without notice. The Clerk shall report to the Council or to the appropriate committee any such disclosure. Where relationship to a Councillor is disclosed, Standing Orders No. 24.1 and 24.2 shall apply. The Clerk shall make known the significance of this Standing Order to every candidate.

25.0 CANVASSING OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

25.1 Canvassing Councillors or the members of a committee or sub-committee, directly or indirectly, for appointment to or by the Council shall disqualify the candidate from such an appointment. The Clerk shall disclose the requirements of this Standing Order to every candidate.

25.2 A Councillor or a member of a committee or sub-committee shall not solicit a person for appointment to or by the Council or recommend a person for such appointment or for promotion; however any such person may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.

25.3 This Standing Order shall apply to tenders as if the person making the tender were a candidate for an appointment.

26.0 INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

26.1 Subject to Standing Orders to the contrary or in respect of matters which are confidential, a Councillor may, for the purpose of his official duties (but not otherwise), inspect any document in the possession of the Council or a committee or a sub-committee, and request a copy for the same purpose. The minutes of meetings of the Council, its committees or sub-committees shall be available for inspection by Councillors.

27.0 RESTRICTIONS ON COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES

27.1 Unless specifically authorised to do so by the Council or relevant committee or sub-committee by a resolution, no individual Councillor shall in the name or on behalf of the Council, a committee or a sub-committee:

27.1.1 inspect any lands or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect;

27.1.2 issue orders, instructions or directions

28.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- 28.1 No member of the Council or of any committee, sub-committee, working or steering group shall disclose to any person not a member of the Council any business declared to be confidential by the Council, the committee, sub-committee, working or steering group as the case may be.
- 28.2 Any Councillor in breach of the provisions of paragraph 28.1 of this Standing Order shall be removed from any committee, sub-committee, working or steering group of the Council by the Council and reported to the Standards Committee.

29.0 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

- 29.1 Before exercising the General Power of Competence, a meeting of the Full Council shall have passed a resolution to confirm that it has satisfied the prescribed statutory criteria required to qualify as an eligible Council. The prescribed statutory criteria are:-

29.1.1 the number of ordinary members of the Council that have been declared to be elected, whether at ordinary elections or at a by-election, is equal or greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the Council;

29.1.2 the Clerk to the Town Council holds an appropriate qualification;

and

29.1.3 the Clerk to the Town Council has completed the relevant training, unless such training was required for the purpose of obtaining a qualification of a description mentioned in paragraph 29.1.2.

30.0 HANDLING STAFF MATTERS

- 30.1 If a meeting considers any matter personal to a Council employee, it shall not be considered until the Council, committee or sub-committee, (as the case may be), has decided whether or not the press and public shall be excluded pursuant to Standing Order 3.5 above.
- 30.2 Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of Council employees shall keep written records confidential of all meetings relating to their performance, and capabilities, grievance and disciplinary matters.
- 30.3 The Council shall keep written records relating to employees secure. All paper records shall be secured under lock and electronic records shall be password protected.
- 30.4 Records documenting reasons for an employee's absence due to ill health or details of a medical condition shall be made available only to those persons with responsibility for the same.
- 30.5 Only persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to employee records referred to in Standing Orders 30.3 and 30.4 above if so justified.
- 30.6 Access and means of access by computer passwords to detailed personnel records of employment referred to in Standing Orders 30.3 and 30.4 above shall be provided only to The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk & Responsible

Financial Officer. Access to the personnel files of direct reports only, shall be made available to the Estates & Facilities Manager and Hospitality Manager in addition to the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk & RFO.

- 30.7 Subject to the Town Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Council's Assistant Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer shall notify the Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee, or if they are not available, the Vice Chair, of frequent or continued absence.
- 30.8 Subject to the Town Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Assistant Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer shall contact the Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed in accordance with the Town Council's policy.
- 30.9 Subject to the Town Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter is raised by a member of the management team of Uckfield Town Council which relates to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of the Town Council, this shall be communicated to the Chair of General Purposes Committee, which shall be reported back and progressed in accordance with existing HR policies.

31.0 RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

- 31.1 **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme (policy no. 54) and respond to requests for information held by the Council as per the Council's policy 'Handling Access to Information' requests (Policy No. 16)**
- 31.2 **The Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements)(England) Regulations 2015.**

32.0 RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS AND MEDIA

- 32.1 All requests from the press or other media for an oral or written statement or comment from the Council shall be processed in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media. (Policy No 26)

33.0 COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- 33.1 An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the Councillors of the District and County Council representing their electoral wards.
- 33.2 When requested, letters ordered to be sent to the County or District Council shall be transmitted to the County Councillors for the division or to the District Councillors for the ward as the case may be.

34.0 FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCUREMENT

- 34.1 The Council shall consider and approve Financial Regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
 - 34.1.1 the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal control;

- 34.1.2 the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
- 34.1.3 the work of the internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular reports from the internal auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
- 34.1.4 the inspection and copying by Councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments;
- 34.1.5 procurement policies (subject to Standing Order 34.2 below) including the setting of values for different procedures;
- 34.1.6 whether contracts with an estimated value ~~below £25,000~~ below £60,000 due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- 34.1.7 financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for the fitness of purpose.

34.25 Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services, or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:

(i) a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;

(ii) an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm

(i) the Council's specification,

(ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders

(iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and,

(iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;

(iii) the invitation shall be advertised in the local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate;

(iii) tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Town Clerk (Proper Officer);

(iv) All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by either the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager in the presence of at least two Members of the Council, after the deadline for submissions has passed;

(vi) The Officer (shall record the details of the tender, the names and addresses of each tenderer, the amount or price of the tender, the time and place of opening, and the names and signatures of those present at the opening of the tenders. The above details shall be reported to the Council, or where the tenders have been sought by a committee to that committee.

34.36 Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.

34.47 Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time, the Council

~~must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract is subject to requirements of the current procurement legislation, and if so, the Council must comply with procurement rules. and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.~~

~~34.2 For any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value between £10,000 but not exceeding £30,000, the Town Clerk shall invite quotations from at least three appropriate firms from a preferred list of contractors as set out in the Financial Regulations.~~

~~34.3 For contracts estimated to exceed £60,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall seek formal tenders from at least three suppliers agreed by the Council, or advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.~~

~~34.4 For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation (requiring councils to use the Contracts Finder website and to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they are advertised), regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of notices about the award of contracts.~~

~~34.5 Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services, or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:~~

- ~~(i) a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;~~
- ~~(ii) an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification, (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;~~
- ~~(iii) the invitation shall be advertised in the local newspaper and in any other manner that is appropriate;~~
- ~~(iv) tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Town Clerk;~~
- ~~(v) All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by either the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager in the presence of at least two Members of the Council;~~
- ~~(vi) The Officer (shall record the details of the tender, the names and addresses of each tenderer, the amount or price of the tender, the time and place of opening, and the names and signatures of those present at the opening of the tenders. The above details shall be reported to the Council, or where the tenders have been sought by a committee to that committee.~~

~~34.6 Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.~~

~~34.7 Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time, the Council~~

~~must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract and, if either of these Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.~~

35.0 TRAINING

- 35.1 All Councillors appointed to the Council will attend appropriate training courses.
- 35.2 Chairsmen shall be expected to undertake appropriate training courses.

36.0 URGENT BUSINESS

- 36.1 If a matter is deemed "urgent" and if outside scheduled committee meetings or Full Council and with the consent of the Mayor and Chairs of committee, it can be agreed by the use of an Urgent Consultation Panel. The Panel will consist of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Chairs of committees. All decisions agreed by the panel will be reported to Full Council or the appropriate standing committee at the earliest opportunity.

37.0 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

- 37.1 See also standing order 31.0
The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.
- 37.2 **The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).**
- 37.3 **The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**
- 37.4 **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

38.0 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

- 38.1 The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- 38.2 **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning his personal data.**
- 38.3 **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- 38.4 **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**

- 38.5 The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**
- 38.6 The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Issue No.	Date Agreed	Details of amendments
1	11 October 2005	Reissued in new format
2	27 May 2008	General Purposes Minute No. GP.010.05.08
3	17 August 2009	General Purposes Minute No. GP.017.08.09
4	18 April 2011	General Purposes Minute No. GP.104.04.11 Full review undertaken
5	13 April 2015	GP.70.04.15 Review and Update
6	15 August 2016	Amendment in response to updated model financial regulations
7	5 November 2018	Amendment in line with revised Standing Orders – GP Committee
8	9 March 2020	Proposed amendments in line with changes to NALC's Model Financial Regulations in 2019
9	25 April 2022	GP41.04.22 Approval of amendments presented to GP Committee in line with NALC Model Regulations
10	15 May 2023	Annual review – Annual Statutory meeting of the Council
11	20 May 2024	Annual review – Annual Statutory meeting of the Council FC.18.05.24
12	9 Sept 2024	FC.47.09.24 - Review in line with scheme of delegation
13	28 April 2025	Review by GP Committee – changes to Section 6 in line with recent changes to Procurement legislation
<u>14</u>	<u>19 May 2025</u>	<u>Ratification of Financial Regulations</u>

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1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 These Financial Regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. Financial regulations are one of the council's three governing policy documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers. Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the council's standing orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts. The Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of financial control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk and for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. These Financial Regulations are designed to demonstrate how the Council meets these responsibilities.
- 1.2 The post of Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is a statutory office under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and shall be appointed by the Council. The RFO, acting under the policy direction of the Council, shall administer the Council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices. The RFO shall determine on behalf of the Council its accounting records and accounting control systems. The RFO shall ensure that the accounting control systems are observed and that the accounting records of the Council are maintained and kept up to date in accordance with proper practices. The RFO shall assist the council to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.
- 1.3 The RFO shall produce financial management information as required by the Council.
- 1.4 In these Financial Regulations:
- 'Accounts and Audit regulations' means the regulations issued under Sections 32, 43(2) and 46 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
 - 'Approve' refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
 - 'Authorise' refers to a decision by the council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
 - 'Proper practices' means those set out in the Practitioners Guide.
 - Practitioners Guide refers to the guide issued by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) and published by NALC in England
 - 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the council cannot change.
 - 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the council to its members and staff;
 - 'Value for money' means the public sector definition of value for money. Value for money is based not only on the minimum purchase price (economy) but also on the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the purchase (the three 'E's') plus equity. Achieving value for money can be described as using public resources in a way that creates and maximises public value.

- 1.5 Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 which governed the stewardship of money held by local councils has been repealed. It required that 'every cheque or other order for the payment of money be signed by two members of the Council'. Although this requirement has been repealed it is felt that it still remains good practice and will be retained by the Council, for the relevant method of payment.
- 1.6 Deliberate or wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.7 Members of the council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute.
- 1.8 The accounting control systems determined by the RFO shall include:
- procedures to ensure that the financial transactions of the council are recorded as soon as practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible;
 - procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct lost records;
 - identification of the duties of officers dealing with financial transactions and division of responsibilities of those officers in relation to significant transactions;
 - procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the council for approval to be written off expect with the approval of the RFO and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records, and measures to ensure that risk is properly managed.
- 1.9 **The council must not delegate any decision regarding:**
- setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);
 - the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls;
 - approving accounting statements;
 - approving an annual governance statement;
 - borrowing;
 - writing off bad debts;
 - declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence, and'
 - addressing recommendations in any report from the internal and external auditors, shall be a matter for General Purposes Committee/Full Council accordingly.
- 1.10 In addition, the council shall:
- determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
 - authorise any grant or single commitment in excess of £5,000;
 - in respect of the annual salary for any employee have regard to the recommendations about annual salaries of employees made by the relevant committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

2.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

- 2.1 The council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.
- 2.2 The Council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The RFO or appropriate Officer shall prepare, for approval by the Council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the Council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the General Purposes Committee, for ratification by the Council at least annually.
- 2.3 When considering any new activity, the RFO or appropriate Officer shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the General Purposes Committee.
- 2.4 At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, and annual accounts, the Council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 2.5 The council's accounting control systems determined by the RFO must include measures to:
- ensure that risk is appropriately managed;
 - ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;
 - prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud;
 - allow the reconstitution of any lost records;
 - identifying the duties of officers dealing with transactions and;
 - ensure division of responsibilities;
 - that provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money;

3.0 ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT

- 3.1 All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.2 The accounting records determined by the RFO shall be sufficient to show and explain the council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonable accuracy at any time.
Accounting records shall in particular contain:
- entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the council, and the matters to which the income and expenditure or receipts and payments account relate;
 - a record of assets and liabilities of the council, and;
 - wherever relevant, a record of the council's income and expenditure in relation to the claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant or subsidy.
- 3.3 The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

- 3.4 The RFO shall be responsible for completing and certifying the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the Council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (as specified in proper practices) as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. Having certified the accounting statements, the RFO shall submit them to and report thereon to the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.5 Anti-Fraud and Corruption
- 3.5.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the separation of duties of Officers dealing with financial transactions shall be carried out wherever practical, thus reducing the risk of fraud or suspicion of fraud.
- 3.5.2 Wherever possible arrangement shall be made to ensure that the same two Officers carry out no more than two of the following:-
- (a) The ordering of works, goods or services.
 - (b) The acknowledgement of their receipt,
and
 - (c) The examination and certification of invoices and accounts.
- 3.5.3 Wherever possible, Officers responsible for the examination and checking of records of cash transactions shall not be engaged in any of these transactions.
- 3.6 Audit
- 3.6.1 The RFO shall complete the Annual Accounts of the Council and shall submit the accounts for approval and authorisation by the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.6.2 **The council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**
- 3.6.3 **Any Officer or Member of the council shall, if the RFO or Internal Auditor requires, make available such documents of the Council which appear to the RFO or Internal Auditor to be necessary for the purpose of the internal audit** and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, Internal Auditor or External Auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary for that purpose.
- 3.6.4 The Internal Auditor shall be appointed by the council and shall carry out the work required by the Council to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners Guide.
- 3.6.5 The council shall ensure that the Internal Auditor:

- shall be competent and independent of the operations of the Council,
- shall report to the General Purposes Committee in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each financial year;
- demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, the Internal Auditor shall be free from any conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships, and;
- have no involvement in the management or control of the Council.

- 3.6.6 Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
- perform any operational duties;
 - initiate or approve accounting transactions;
 - provide financial, legal, or other advice including in relation to any future transactions'; or
 - direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor
- 3.6.7 For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.
- 3.6.8 The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to accounts including the opportunity for inspection of the accounts, books, and vouchers, and associated documents for the display or publication of any notices and statements of account required by the relevant Acts and Regulations.
- 3.6.9 The RFO shall, as soon as practicable, bring to the attention of all Members any correspondence or report from the Internal or External Auditor, unless the correspondence is of a purely administrative nature.

3.7 Members' Audit

On a monthly basis one Member of the Council will carry out an audit in accordance with the Members' Audit Policy No. 63 and will report their findings to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee. This audit incorporates spot checks of supplier invoices, customer invoices, timesheets, and bank reconciliation and verification to nominal code, as well as the petty cash for both Uckfield Town Council and Luxfords Restaurant.

- 3.8 At least once a quarter and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and be noted by General Purposes Committee when they review the member audits. This can form part of the existing member audit procedures.

4.0 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

- 4.1 **Before setting a precept, the council must calculate its council tax requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**
- 4.2 Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by General Purposes Committee at least annually in the autumn, for the following financial year and the final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the relevant committee.
- 4.3 Each committee shall formulate and submit draft annual budget proposals to the Council in respect of revenue and capital expenditure for the following financial year, not later than the end of December each year.
- 4.4 Detailed estimates of income and expenditure on revenue services and receipts and payments on capital accounts shall be prepared as part of this, taking account of the lifespan of assets and cost implications of repair or replacement in any forecasts.
- 4.5 The draft budget (with committee proposals and forecast), including the recommendations for the use and accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the Finance Sub-Committee for recommendation to the Council.
- 4.6 Having considered the proposed budget and forecast, the Council shall review the estimates not later than the end of January each year and shall determine the council tax requirement by setting a budget. The council shall set a precept for this amount no later than the middle of January.
- 4.7 **Any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**
- 4.8 **The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February**, and supply each Member with a copy of the agreed budget.
- 4.9 The annual capital and revenue expenditure shall form the Council's budgets and the basis of financial control (monitoring progress and comparing actual spending and income against what was planned) for the ensuing year.
- 4.10 In considering its annual estimates the Council shall have regard to its current five-year Strategic Plan, and Annual Plan.
- 4.11 Any withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the council or General Purposes Committee, or Environment & Leisure Committee. Any re-allocation of existing earmarked reserves, must be agreed by the council.

5.0 BUDGETARY CONTROL

- 5.1 Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included in the approved budget, and detailed in the regulations.
- 5.2 No expenditure may be incurred that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that item of expenditure, unless first approved by the General Purposes Committee or the Urgent Consultation Panel. Unspent provisions in the revenue budget shall not be carried forward to a new financial year, unless moved to other budget headings or placed in an earmarked reserve by resolution of the General Purposes Committee.
- 5.3 The RFO shall regularly provide each committee with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose "material" shall be in excess of [15%?] of the budget.
- 5.4 The Estates & Facilities Manager, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Town Clerk may authorise expenditure which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement, Health and Safety or other work, which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for expenditure. This is subject to a limit of £5,000 (exclusive of VAT). If time allows, the Clerk shall report the action or request for funding to the Urgent Consultation Panel. The outcome of the action taken by senior officers or decision taken by Urgent Consultation Panel, should be reported to the relevant committee.
- 5.5 Where expenditure is incurred in accordance with Regulation 3.4 above such sums shall be approved by the General Purposes Committee at the next available meeting.
- 5.6 No expenditure shall be incurred in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure, unless the relevant committee is satisfied that it is contained in the capital programme and that the necessary capital funds are available, or the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained. Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk and where necessary also by the appropriate Chair.
- 5.7 All capital works relating to contracts shall be administered in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations and contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations/

6.0 PROCUREMENT

- 6.1 **All Members of the Council and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** An Officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure as far as reasonable and practicable, that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers.
- 6.2 The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the legal power being used shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is authorised so that the minutes can record the power being used.
- 6.3 Every contract, whether made by the Council or by a committee to which the power of making contracts has been delegated, shall comply with the Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations and no exception from any of the following provisions of these Regulations shall be made other than in an emergency.
- 6.4 For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations Procurement Act 2023 and the Procurement Regulations 2024 ~~45~~ or any superseding legislation ("the legislation") must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.
- 6.5 Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the council shall (with the exception of the items listed below in paragraph 6.12) obtain prices as follows:
- 6.6 For contracts estimated to exceed £60,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall seek formal tenders from at least three suppliers agreed by the Council, or advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 6.7 **For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation** ~~(requiring councils to use the Contracts Finder website and to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they are advertised), regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of~~ invitations and ~~notices about the award of contracts.~~
- 6.8 For any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works or specialist services with an estimated value ~~between~~ greater than £10,000 but not exceeding £30,000, the Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager shall invite quotations from at least three appropriate firms from a preferred list of contractors as set out in the Financial Regulations.
- 6.9 Where the value is of £10,000 or less in value, the Town Clerk

or a duly approved Officer shall have authorisation to obtain such goods or services from an appropriate firm, but try and obtain three estimates to evidence online prices or recent prices from regular suppliers

- 6.10 For smaller purchases, the Clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.
- 6.11 **Contracts must not be split ~~into smaller lots~~ to avoid compliance with these rules.**
- 6.12 The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:-
- ~~(i) For the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services.~~
 - (ii) For specialist services such as are provided by legal professionals acting in disputes (solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants or other services) identifies to be of a specialist nature by the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager;
 - (iii) For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;
 - ~~(iiiiv)~~ (iv) For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council;
 - (iv) for goods or materials ~~proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles that are only available from one supplier~~ and/or are only sold at a fixed prices
- 6.13 When applications are made to waive this financial regulations ~~relating to contracts~~ to enable ~~tenders a price~~ to be negotiated without competition, the reason shall be ~~embodied set out~~ in a recommendation to the Council or General Purposes Committee. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.
- 6.14 Neither the Council, nor any committee is bound to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate
- 6.15 Only the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk & RFO, Estates & Facilities Manager or Hospitality Manager, may initiate orders which shall be endorsed by a second Officer. No individual member or group of members may issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the council.
- 6.16 No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the council or duly delegated committee acting within its Terms of Reference, except in an emergency or approval granted through the Urgent Consultation Panel.
- 6.17 In cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the Estates & Facilities Manager, Assistant Town Clerk &

RFO or Town Clerk may authorise expenditure on behalf of the council which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement, Health & Safety or other work, subject to a limit of £5,000 (exclusive of VAT). If time allows, the Clerk shall report the action or request for funding to the Urgent Consultation Panel. The outcome of the action taken by senior officers or decision taken by Urgent Consultation Panel, should be reported to the relevant committee.

- 6.18 No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered into or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the council or relevant committee is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.
- 6.19 An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate, e.g. petty cash purchases. Where an order number is given verbally, a written order must be raised. Copies of all orders issued shall be retained.
- 6.20 Goods and services received shall be checked against the relevant copy of the purchase order. Access to the ordering programme shall be controlled by the RFO.
- 6.21 Invitations to tender shall state the period and the general nature of the intended contract and the Town Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. In addition, the invitation shall state that tenders must be addressed to the Town Clerk and the last date by which such tenders should reach the Town Clerk. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specially marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
- 6.22 All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by either the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager in the presence of at least two Members of the Council.
- 6.23 The Officer shall record the details of the tender, the names and addresses of each tenderer, the amount or price of the tender, the time and place of opening, and the names and signatures of those present at the opening of the tenders. The above details shall be reported to the Council, or where the tenders have been sought by a committee to that committee.
- 6.24 If fewer than three tenders are received for contracts valued above £560,000 or if all the tenders are identical, the Council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.
- 6.25 Any invitation to tender issued under this Regulation shall contain a statement of the effect of Standing Orders Nos: 25.1. 25.2 and 25.3.
- 6.26 Should it occur that the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, that the work is not allocated and the council

requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was undertaken.

7.0 BANKING AND PAYMENTS

- 7.1 The Council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council; banking arrangements may not be delegated to a committee. They shall be regularly reviewed for efficiency. The arrangements shall be reviewed annually for security and efficiency.
- 7.2 The council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error.
- 7.3 All invoices for payment shall be examined for arithmetical accuracy, analysed to the appropriate expenditure heading and verified and certified by the Officer issuing the order. Before certifying an invoice, the Officer shall be satisfied that the works, goods or services to which the invoice relates have been received, carried out, examined and approved.
- 7.4 Duly certified invoices shall be examined in relation to arithmetical accuracy and authorisation, and shall be coded to the appropriate expenditure head. The RFO or appropriate Officer shall take all possible steps to settle all invoices or statements submitted, and which are in order, within 30 days of their receipt, or earlier, or in such manner, (e.g. standing order, direct debit etc), if such payment results in benefit to the Council, subject to any initial instruction forms or letters being signed by two Members of the Council.
- 7.5 Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing personal information.
- 7.6 With the exception of the arrangements set out in Regulation 6.1, all certified invoices and payments shall be paid by BACs, drawn on the Council's accounts and all BACs payments shall be signed by two members of the Council. A schedule of payments, listed by committee heading, and signed by the same two Members of the Council, shall be provided and presented at the next meeting of the committee. A member who is a bank signatory, having a connection by virtue of family or business relationships with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to the payment in question.
- 7.7 Following authorisation under Financial Regulation 5, the council, a duly delegated committee or the Clerk or RFO shall give instruction that a payment shall be made.
- 7.8 Apart from petty cash, payments shall be effected by BACs or other order drawn on the Council's bankers.
- 7.9 All duly certified invoices will then be entered on the schedule of payments

made and presented to the next meeting of the appropriate committee in accordance with Regulation 5.3.

- 7.10 All monies received by the Council, including Luxford's takings, shall be banked daily and a full record made on the reverse of the paying-in slip. The paying-in and withdrawal of funds is now processed through the Post Office. The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk were issued with debit cards for withdrawing funds from the Clerk account, in addition to 'change giving' cards to authorise the withdrawal of monies for petty cash purposes only.
- 7.11 Members are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the council and shall comply with the Code and Standing Orders when a decision to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they have disclosable prejudicial interest or other interest, unless a dispensation has been granted.
- 7.12 The council will aim to rotate the duties of member in these Regulations so that onerous duties are shared out as evenly as possible over time.

8.0 PAYMENT CARDS

- 8.1 Corporate credit card accounts must be set up to operate within defined limits and be specifically restricted to use by the Town Clerk, RFO and Estates & Facilities Manager. The credit card will be subject to automatic payment by direct debit in full from the main bank account each month. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used under any circumstances.

9.0 PETTY CASH

- 9.1 The RFO or other appropriate Officer may authorise petty cash to Officers for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers, relevant receipts or other supporting documentary evidence for payments made shall be forwarded to the RFO with a claim for reimbursement.
- (a) The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float of no more than £400 across the two tins for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses incurred by the Council.
 - (b) The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float of no more than £250 for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses incurred by Luxfords Restaurant.
 - (c) Re-imburement for sums over £50 from any petty cash float shall only be made by cheque.
 - (d) Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked as provided in Regulation 9.
 - (e) Management of petty cash will be in accordance with internal audit procedures.

10.0 ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

- 10.1 If thought appropriate by the council, payment for certain items may be made by BACs or CHAPS methods provided that the instructions for each payment are signed, or otherwise evidenced, by two authorised bank signatories, are retained and any payments are reported to the council as made. The approval of the use of BACs or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.
- 10.2 If thought appropriate by the council payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which members approved the payment.
- 10.3 Where a computer requires use of a PIN number or other passwords, for access to the council's records on that computer, a note shall be made of the ~ PIN and passwords, and shall be handed to and retained by the Chair of the Council in a sealed dated envelope. This envelope may not be opened, other than in the presence of two other councillors. After the envelope has been opened, in any circumstances, the PIN/or passwords shall be changed as soon as practicable. The fact that the sealed envelope has been opened, in whatever circumstances, shall be reported to all members immediately and formally to the next available meeting of the council. This will not be required for a member's personal computer used only for remote authorisation of bank payments.
- 10.4 No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the council or duly delegated committee.
- 10.5 Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer and preferably off site.
- 10.6 The council, and any members using computers for the council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- 10.7 Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as Service Administrator, alongside the Town Clerk. The bank mandate approved by the council shall identify a number of councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts. The bank mandate will state clearly the amounts of payments that can be instructed by the use of the Service Administrator alone, or by the Service Administrator with a stated number of approvals. The Service Administrator shall set up all items due for payment online. A list of payments for approval, together with copies of the relevant invoices, shall be presented to two authorised signatories.
- 10.8 In the prolonged absence of the Service Administrator, the Clerk shall set up any payments due before the return of the Service Administrator.
- 10.9 Two councillors who are authorised signatories shall check the payment details

against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system. Evidence shall then be retained showing which members approved the payment online.

- 10.10 A full list of all the payments made will then be presented to the next relevant standing committee.
- 10.11 Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page, and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved password facilities must not be used on any computer used for council banking work. Breach of this regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations.
- 10.12 Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking may only be changed on written hard copy notification by the supplier and supported by hard copy authority for change signed by two signatories (Town Clerk/RFO or authorised member signatory). This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. A programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be followed.
- 10.13 If thought appropriate by the council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) and any National Non-Domestic Rates may be made by ~ variable direct debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to the relevant committee. The approval of the use of a variable direct debit shall be renewed by resolution by the relevant committee at least every two years.
- 10.14 If thought appropriate by the council, payment for certain items (principally salaries) may be made by banker's standing order provided that the instructions are signed, or otherwise evidenced by two members are retained and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.
- 10.15 Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.

11.0 PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND WAGES

- 11.1 **As an employer, the Council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation.** The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salaries shall be as agreed by the Council.
- 11.2 **Councillors allowances (where paid) are also liable to deduction of tax under PAYE rules and must be taxed correctly before payment.**
- 11.3 Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be

made for tax, National Insurance and pension contributions, or similar statutory or discretionary deductions may be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to the next available council meeting, as set out in these regulations above.

- 11.4 No changes shall be made to any employee's pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of General Purposes Committee.
- 11.5 All time sheets where applicable shall be in a form prescribed by the RFO and certified as to their accuracy by the member of staff and countersigned by the appropriate manager.
- 11.6 Each and every payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a separate confidential record. This confidential record is not open to inspection or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise), other than:
- (a) by any councillor who can demonstrate a need to know;
 - (b) by the internal auditor;
 - (c) by the external auditor;
 - (d) by any person authorised under Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation.
- 11.7 Appropriate Officers shall notify the RFO as soon as possible of all matters affecting the payment of salaries and wages and in particular:-
- Appointments, resignations, retirements, dismissals, suspensions, secondments and all other staff movements.
 - Absences from duty for sickness or other reasons.
 - Information necessary to maintain records of service for superannuation, income tax and national insurance.
 - Changes in remuneration, allowances or working times.
- 11.8 The RFO and the Town Clerk are authorised to make payments of salaries and wages through 'Bankline' subject to such initial permission being signed by two Members of the Council. The total of such payments in each calendar month shall be reported with all other payments as made as may be required under these Financial Regulations, to ensure that only payments due for the period have actually been paid.
- 11.9 In the event of emergencies where no two authorised Officers are available to make such payments, the RFO or Town Clerk shall request two Members of the Council to be present.
- 11.10 The salary budgets are to be reviewed at least annually for the following

financial year and such review shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the Council or relevant committee. The RFO will inform committees of any changes impacting on their budget requirement for the coming year in good time. This forms part of the annual budget setting process.

- 11.11 An effective system of personal performance management should be maintained for the senior officers.
- 11.12 Termination payments shall only be authorised by General Purposes Committee and before employing interim staff, General Purposes Committee must consider a full business case.

12.0 LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

- 12.1 All loans and investments shall be negotiated by the RFO in the name of the Council, and shall be for a set period of time in accordance with any appropriate Council Policy. Changes to loans and investments should be reported to the General Purposes Committee at the earliest opportunity.
- 12.2 Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible assets) shall be subject to approval by General Purposes Committee. In each case a report in writing shall be provided, in respect of value for money for the proposed transaction.
- 12.3 The Council's Investment Policy (No. 45) in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, shall be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance and shall be reviewed by the council at least annually. Prior to the receipt of the precept instalment every six months, the Finance Sub-committee may if required, provide information to the General Purposes Committee on the possible investment of these funds.
- 12.4 All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.
- 12.5 All borrowings shall be affected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose and subsequent arrangements for the loan shall only be approved by full council. The terms and conditions of borrowings shall be reviewed at least annually.
- 12.6 All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 12.7 Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, or branch, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

13.0 INCOME

- 13.1 The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of, and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 13.2 Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be ultimately responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.
- 13.3 Appropriate committees will review their fees and charges annually following a report by the RFO or other appropriate Officer.
- 13.4 All accounts due will be collected in accordance with these Regulations and any sums found to be irrecoverable or any subsequent bad debts shall be reported to the General Purposes Committee:

Overdue accounts and bad debts shall be treated in the following manner:-

- (i) Customers with outstanding accounts at 90 days shall be passed to a registered debt collector following a final seven day warning at the discretion of the RFO or appropriate Officer of the Town Council.
 - (ii) Any bad debts that cannot be recovered shall be referred to the General Purposes Committee for authorisation to be written off or for authorisation to make arrangements to collect the debt in other ways.
- 13.5 All sums received on behalf of the Council shall either be submitted to the RFO for banking or to the appropriate Officer collecting the money as directed by the RFO. In all cases all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers in accordance with Regulation 5.2 or in such manner as subsequently directed by the Council's Internal Auditor.
- 13.6 A reference to the related invoice, or otherwise, indicating the origin of each receipt, shall be entered on the paying-in slip.
- 13.7 All sums received by BACS will be made available for scrutiny for subsequent audits.
- 13.8 Every transfer of official money from one member of staff to another shall be checked and signed for by the receiving Officer.
- 13.9 The RFO shall promptly complete any VAT return that is required. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.
- 13.10 Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the General Purposes Committee to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of

individuals banking such cash.

- 13.11 Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.

14.0 PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS

- 14.1 Where contracts provide for payments by instalments, the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract, by the RFO upon receipt of authorised certificates issued by the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract and a valid claim for payment from the contractor. (Subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).
- 14.2 Any variation to a contract, or addition to, or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Town Clerk to the contractor in writing. The Council or appropriate committee should be informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

15.0 STOCKS, STORES AND EQUIPMENT

- 15.1 The Officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and security of all relevant buildings, furniture, equipment, cash, stocks and stores in that section.
- 15.2 Appropriate Officers shall ensure that all conditions of insurance are complied with in respect of cash, valuables and property.
- 15.3 Delivery notes or invoices must be obtained in respect of all goods received, and goods must be checked as to quantity and quality against the purchase orders at the time delivery is made.
- 15.4 Stocks and stores shall generally be maintained at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 15.5 The RFO or appropriate Officer shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at least annually.

16.0 ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES

- 16.1 The Town Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties owned by the Council.
- 16.2 The Estates & Facilities Manager and RFO shall ensure an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, (where possible), nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held, in accordance with the current Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 16.3 The continued existence of tangible assets shown on the register shall be verified at least annually with a safety inspection of assets.
- 16.4 No property shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consent required by law. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate where required by law).
- 16.5 No property (interests in land) shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any consents required by law, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £500. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).

17.0 INSURANCE

- 17.1 Following the annual risk assessment (Financial Regulations 16.1 and 16.2), the RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers in consultation with the Clerk
- 17.2 The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances affected by the Council and the property and risks covered and annually review the Council's insurance requirements.
- 17.3 The RFO shall be notified of any loss, liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report to the appropriate committee at the next available meeting.
- 17.4 The appropriate Officer shall give prompt notification to the RFO of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations effecting existing insurances.
- 17.5 All appropriate members and employees of the Council shall be included in suitable fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined by the Council or duly delegated committee.

18.0 SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

- 18.1 Records of a financial nature shall be retained in accordance with a schedule of minimum periods to comply with tax and insurance requirements or other instructions or advice received from the appropriate authorities. Regardless of the above all records must be retained, as a minimum, until after the completion of each year's external audit.

- 18.2 The Council will comply with the Freedom of Information Act and any other appropriate Council policy or other applicable legislation that may be introduced or amended from time to time.

19.0 REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 19.1 It shall be the duty of the General Purposes Committee to review these Financial Regulations from time to time and following any change of Clerk or RFO. The Town Clerk shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the General Purposes Committee of any requirement for a consequential amendment to them.
- 19.2 The council, may, by resolution of the council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of the council. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the council to act unlawfully.
- 19.3 The council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 1 - Tender process

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk & RFO or Estates & Facilities Manager in the presence of at least two members of council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order [34.5] and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 6) Where the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Policy Number 19		
Issue No.	Date agreed	Details of amendments
1	17.09.07	GP.037.09.07
2	24.01.11	Complete revision of policy following changes to the Equality Act 2010. (GP.078.01.11)
3	23.01.17	General review at GP Committee
4	28.04.25	Review at GP Committee
<u>5.</u>	<u>19.05.25</u>	<u>Ratification at Full Council</u>

1.0 OUR COMMITMENT

Uckfield Town Council is committed to providing equal opportunities in employment and to avoid unlawful discrimination.

This policy is intended to assist the Town Council to put this commitment into practice. Compliance with this policy should also ensure that employees do not commit unlawful acts of discrimination.

Striving to ensure that the work environment is free of harassment and bullying and that everyone is treated with dignity and respect is an important aspect of ensuring equal opportunities in employment.

2.0 LEGAL POSITION

Under the Equality Act 2010 it is unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly in recruitment or employment against an individual on the following grounds:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

These are known as “protected characteristics.”

Discrimination after employment may also be unlawful, e.g. refusing to give a reference for a reason related to one of the protected characteristics.

The Town Council will not discriminate against or harass a member of the public in the provision of services or goods. It is unlawful to fail to make reasonable adjustments to overcome barriers to using services caused by disability. The duty to make reasonable adjustments includes the removal, adaptation or alteration of physical features, if the physical features make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to make use of services. In addition, service providers have an obligation to think ahead and address any barriers that may impede disabled people from accessing a service.

3.0 PURPOSE

This Equality Policy helps us to meet our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Act requires us to have due regard to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

In particular, the Town Council intends to provide equal opportunities to all employees, irrespective of their characteristics (unless there are genuine occupational qualifications or objectively justified reasons for a different approach to be taken). We have due regard under The Public Sector Equality Duty to oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination whether it be direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010. This Policy underpins all policies, procedures and strategies developed and delivered by the Town Council.

4.0 TYPES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

Direct discrimination is where a person is treated less favourably than another because of a protected characteristic.

In limited circumstances, employers can directly discriminate against an individual for a reason related to any of the protected characteristics where there is an occupational requirement. The occupational requirement must be crucial to the post and a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Indirect discrimination is where a provision, criterion or practice is applied that is discriminatory in relation to individuals who have a relevant protected characteristic such that it would be to the detriment of people who share that protected characteristic compared with people who do not, and it cannot be shown to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Harassment is where there is unwanted conduct, related to one of the protected characteristics (other than marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity) that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity; or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. It does not matter whether or not this effect was intended by the person responsible for the conduct.

Associative discrimination is where an individual is directly discriminated against or harassed for association with another individual who has a protected characteristic.

Perceptive discrimination is where an individual is directly discriminated against or harassed based on a perception that they have a particular protected characteristic when they don't, in fact, have that protected characteristic.

Third-party harassment occurs where an employee is harassed and the harassment is related to a protected characteristic, by third parties.

Victimisation occurs where an employee is subjected to a detriment, such as being denied a training opportunity or a promotion because they made or supported a complaint or raised a grievance under the Equality Act 2010, or because they are suspected of doing so. However, an employee is not protected from victimisation if they acted maliciously or made or supported an untrue complaint.

Failure to make reasonable adjustments is where a physical feature or a provision, criterion or practice puts a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage compared

with someone who does not have that protected characteristic and the employer has failed to make reasonable adjustments to enable the disabled person to overcome the disadvantage.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EMPLOYMENT

The Town Council will avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and selection for redundancy.

Recruitment

Person and job specifications will be limited to those requirements that are necessary for the effective performance of the job. Candidates for employment or promotion will be assessed objectively against the requirements for the job, taking account of any reasonable adjustments that may be required for candidates with a disability. Disability and personal or home commitments will not form the basis of employment decisions except where necessary.

Working practices

The Town Council will consider any possible indirectly discriminatory effect of its standard working practices, including the number of hours to be worked, the times at which these are to be worked and the place at which work is to be done, when considering requests for variations to these standard working practices and will refuse such requests only if the council considers it has good reasons, unrelated to any protected characteristic, for doing so. The Town Council will comply with its obligations in relation to statutory requests for contract variations. The Town Council will also make reasonable adjustments to its standard working practices to overcome barriers caused by disability.

Equal opportunities monitoring

The council will monitor the ethnic, sex/gender and age composition of the existing workforce and of applicants for jobs (including promotion), and the number of people with disabilities within these groups, and will consider and take any appropriate action to address any problems that may be identified as a result of the monitoring process.

The council treats personal data collected for reviewing equality and diversity in accordance with the data protection policy. Information about how data is used and the basis for processing is provided in the council's privacy notices.

6.0 DIGNITY AT WORK

The Town Council has a separate dignity at work policy concerning issues relating to bullying and harassment on any ground, and how complaints of this type will be dealt with.

7.0 PEOPLE NOT EMPLOYED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council will not discriminate unlawfully against those using or seeking to use the services provided by the council.

You should report any bullying or harassment by suppliers, visitors or others to the council who will take appropriate action.

8.0 TRAINING AND PREVENTION

The Town Council will raise awareness of equal opportunities to those likely to be involved in recruitment or other decision making where equal opportunities issues are likely to arise.

The Town Council will raise awareness with all staff engaged to work at the council to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under the dignity at work policy and what they can do to help create a working environment free of bullying and harassment. The Town Council will provide additional training to managers to enable them to deal more effectively with complaints of bullying and harassment.

We will carry out an assessment to assess the risk of different forms of harassment, including sexual harassment and third-party harassment, occurring in our workforce, in 2025/26. These forms could include the risks in different roles or service areas, the steps the Town Council could take to reduce those risks and which of those possible steps are reasonable.

9.0 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Every employee is required to assist the Town Council to meet its commitment to provide equal opportunities in employment and avoid unlawful discrimination. Employees can be held personally liable as well as, or instead of, the council for any act of unlawful discrimination. Employees who commit serious acts of harassment may be guilty of a criminal offence.

Acts of discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation against employees or customers are disciplinary offences and will be dealt with under the council's disciplinary procedure. Discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation may constitute gross misconduct and could lead to dismissal without notice.

10.0 GRIEVANCES

If you consider that you may have been unlawfully discriminated against, you should approach the Assistant Town Clerk & RFO, who will refer to the Town Council's Grievance Policy in reviewing the complaint and request that you place this in writing. If the complaint involves bullying or harassment, the grievance procedure is modified as set out in the dignity at work policy.

The Town Council will take any complaint seriously and will seek to resolve any grievance that it upholds. Employees will not be penalised for raising a grievance, even if their grievance is not upheld, unless their complaint is both untrue and made in bad faith.

11.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored periodically by the Town Council to judge its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with changes in the law.

Date of policy: April 2025

Approving committee: Full Council

Date of meeting: To be ratified by Full Council on 19 May 2025

Policy version reference: v2

Supersedes: Equality Policy (revised 2017)

Policy effective from: May 2025

Date for next review: October 2026

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Policy Number 43		
Issue No.	Date completed	Details of amendments
1	May 2007	FC.011.05.07
2.	28.04.08	FC.092.04.08
3.	09.07.12	FC.25.07.12 – Complete revision of the Code
4.	13.01.14	FC.70.01.14 - Revisions as suggested by WDC
5.	03.10.15	GP – for noting following review of Standing Orders at Full Council.
6.	15.05.23	FC.22.05.23 - Annual Statutory meeting of the Council
7.	20.05.24	Annual review at Annual Statutory meeting FC.19.05.24
<u>8.</u>	<u>19.05.25</u>	<u>Annual review at Annual Statutory meeting</u> <u>19.05.25</u>

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

As a Member or co-opted Member of Uckfield Town Council I have a responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting in this capacity I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this Council.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

1. Selflessness
Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
2. Integrity
Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
3. Objectivity
Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
4. Accountability
Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
5. Openness
Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
6. Honesty
Holders of public office should be truthful.
7. Leadership
Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

On their election or co-option to Uckfield Town Council, Members are required to sign an undertaking to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct, adopted by the Council on the 13th January 2014 is set out below. It is made under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and includes, as standing orders made under Chapter 7 of that Act and Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, provisions which require Members to leave meetings in appropriate circumstances, while matters in which they have a personal interest are being considered.

PART 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Introduction and interpretation

1. (1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of the Council when acting in that capacity.
- (2) This Code is based upon seven principles fundamental to public service, which are set out above. You should have regard to these principles as they will help you to comply with the Code.
- (3) If you need guidance on any matter under this Code you should seek it from the Council's Proper Officer, the authority's Monitoring Officer or your own legal adviser – but it is entirely your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.
- (4) It is a criminal offence to fail to notify the Council's Proper Officer or the authority's Monitoring Officer of a disclosable pecuniary interest, to take part in discussions or votes at meetings, or to take a decision where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, without reasonable excuse. It is also an offence to knowingly or recklessly to provide false or misleading information to the Council's Proper Officer or the authority's Monitoring Officer.
- (5) Any written allegation received by the authority that you have failed to comply with this Code will be dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and District Council's Standards Committee under the arrangements which it has adopted for such purposes. If it is found that you have failed to comply with the Code, the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee have the right to have regard to this failure in deciding -
 - (a) whether to take action in relation to you; and
 - (b) what action to take.
- (6) In this Code —

“Authority” means Wealden District Council.

“Code” means this Code of Conduct.

“Co-opted Member” means a person who is not a member of the Council but who -

 - (a) is a member of any committee, sub-committee, working group or steering group of the Council, or

- (b) is a member of, and represents the Council on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council,

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee, sub-committee working group or steering group.

"Council" means Uckfield Town Council.

"Meeting" means any meeting of —

- (a) the Council;
- (b) any of the Council's committees, sub-committees, working groups or steering groups.

"Member" includes a co-opted Member.

"Monitoring Officer" for the authority means the Monitoring Officer who is the Monitoring Officer for Wealden District Council and all Parish and Town Councils in the District Council area.

"Register of Members' Interests" means the Council's Register of Members' Pecuniary and other Interests established and maintained by the authority's Monitoring Officer under section 29 of the Localism Act 2011.

Scope

2. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), you must comply with this Code whenever you -
- (a) conduct the business of your Council (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
 - (b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your Council,
- and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.
- (2) This Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.
- (3) Where you act as a representative of your Council –
- (a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's Code of Conduct; or
 - (b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your Council's Code of Conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

General obligations

3. (1) You must treat others with respect

(2) You must not -

- (a) do anything which may cause your Council to breach any of its equality duties (in particular as set out in the Equality Act 2010);
- (b) bully any person;
- (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be -
 - (i) a complainant,
 - (ii) a witness, or
 - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a Member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her Council's Code of Conduct; or
- (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your Council.

4. You must not -

- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where -
 - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (ii) you are required by law to do so;
 - (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - (iv) the disclosure is -
 - (a) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (b) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Council;
- (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or Council into disrepute.

6. You -

- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage;
- (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your Council -
 - (i) act in accordance with your Council's reasonable requirements;
 - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
- (c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

7. (1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by -

- (a) your Council's Proper Officer; or
- (b) your Council's Responsible Finance Officer,

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

- (2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your Council.

PART 2 – INTERESTS

Personal interests

- 8. (1)** The interests described in paragraphs 8(3) and 8(5) are your personal interests and the interests in paragraph 8(5) are your pecuniary interests which are disclosable pecuniary interests as defined by section 30 of the Localism Act 2011.

- (2) If you fail to observe Parts 2 and 3 of the Code in relation to your personal interests -

- (a) the authority may deal with the matter as mentioned in paragraph 1(5) and

- (b) if the failure relates to a disclosable pecuniary interest, you may also become subject to criminal proceedings as mentioned in paragraph 1(4).

- (3) You have a personal interest in any business of your Council where either -

- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect -

- (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your Council;
 - (ii) any body -
 - (a) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (b) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
 - (iii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50
- (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of (in the case of Councils with electoral divisions or wards) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision;
- (4) In sub-paragraph (3)(b), a relevant person is -
 - (a) a member of your family or a close associate; or
 - (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
 - (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
 - (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (3)(a)(i) or (ii).
- (5) Subject to sub-paragraph (6), you have a personal interest which is also a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011 in any business of your Council where:
 - (i) you or
 - (ii) your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) have any interest within the following descriptions:

Interest	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant Council -</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant Council.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant Council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge) –</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant Council; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>

Interest	Description
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where –</p> <p>(a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant Council; and</p> <p>(b) either –</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class</p>

- (6) In sub-paragraph (5), any interest which your partner may have is only treated as your interest if you are aware that that your partner has the interest.

Disclosure of personal interests (See also Part 3)

8. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (6), where you have a personal interest in any business of your Council and you attend a meeting of your Council at which any matter relating to the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.
- (2) If the personal interest is entered on the Council's register there is no requirement for you to disclose the interest to that meeting, but you should do so if you wish a disclosure to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (3) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.
- (4) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your Council's register of Members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest and, if also applicable, that it is a disclosable pecuniary interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

Prejudicial interest generally

9. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your Council you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where either -

- (a) the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest as described in paragraph 8(5), or
 - (b) the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(b), you do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Council where that business -
- (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
 - (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
 - (c) relates to the functions of your Council in respect of -
 - (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
 - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
 - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
 - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members;
 - (v) any ceremonial honour given to Members; and
 - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

- 10. (1)** Subject to sub-paragraph (2) and (3), where you have a prejudicial interest in any matter in relation to the business of your Council -
- (a) you must not participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at any meeting, or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting and must withdraw from the room or chamber where the meeting considering the matter is being held -
 - (i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;

- (ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from your Council's Proper Officer or the authority's Monitoring Officer;

- (b) you must not exercise executive functions in relation to that matter; and
 - (c) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.
- (2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your Council which is not a disclosable pecuniary interest as described in paragraph 8(5), you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your Council or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.
- (3) Where you have a prejudicial interest which is not a disclosable pecuniary interest as described in paragraph 8(5), arising solely from membership of any body described 8(3)(a)(i) or 8(3)(a)(ii)(a) then you do not have to withdraw from the room or chamber and may make representations to the committee but may not participate in the vote.

PART 3 – REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

Registration of Members' interests

11. (1) Subject to paragraph 12, you must, within 28 days of -

- (a) this Code being adopted by the Council; or
- (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later), register in the register of Members' interests details of -
 - (i) your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(3)(a) and
 - (ii) your personal interests which are also disclosable pecuniary interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(5)

by providing written notification to your Council's Proper Officer.

- (2) Subject to paragraph 12, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest falling within sub-paragraphs (1)(b)(i) or (1)(b)(ii) or any change to any personal interest registered under sub-paragraphs (1)(b)(i) or (1)(b)(ii), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your Council's Proper Officer.

Sensitive information

- 12.** (1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's Monitoring Officer agrees, the Monitoring Officer shall not include details of the interest on any copies of the register of Members' interests which are made available for inspection or any published version of the register, but may include a statement that you have an interest, the details of which are withheld under this paragraph.
- (2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's Monitoring Officer asking that the information be included in the register of Members' interests.
- (3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information, the details of which, if disclosed, could lead to you or a person connected with you being subject to violence or intimidation.

Dispensations

- 15** (1) The District Council's Standards Committee, Monitoring Officer or the Council's Proper Officer may, on a written request made by a Member, grant a dispensation relieving the Member from either or both of the restrictions in paragraph 10(1)(a) (restrictions on participating in discussions and in voting), in cases described in the dispensation.
- (2) A dispensation may be granted only if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the District Council's Standards Committee, Monitoring Officer or the Council's Proper Officer -
- (a) considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by paragraph 10 from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business,
 - (b) considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business,
 - (c) considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area,
 - (d) considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
- (2) A dispensation must specify the period for which it has effect, and the period specified may not exceed four years.
- (3) Paragraph 10 does not apply in relation to anything done for the purpose of deciding whether to grant a dispensation under this paragraph.

Annual Statutory meeting of the Full Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 14.0

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY, AND CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Annual Statutory meeting of the Council requires the council to review key policies including the Town Council's Code of Conduct Policy.
A copy is attached in appendix A.
- 1.2 We would also like to remind all members that the Town Council signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge on 5 September 2022.
- 1.3 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations across the country worked together to initiate a programme of work which sought to address bullying and harassment in the sector of parish and town councils. This project was named the "Civility and Respect Project" and related to councillors, council staff and clerks.
- 1.4 Unfortunately this sector experiences a number of problems and although it is always the minority that ruins it for others, it can have a serious detrimental impact on the well-being of those involved, and also develop issues in the running of the council and thus a wider impact on the community.
- 1.5 Uckfield Town Council signed up to this pledge, alongside many other parish and town councils to demonstrate their commitment to change behaviour and drive positive change.

2.0 The Pledge

- 2.1 *"By signing the Pledge, the Town Council would be agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:*
 - *Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff;*
 - *Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors;*
 - *Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy;*
 - *Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise;*
 - *Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens;*
 - *Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local **Local Council Award Scheme**;*
 - *Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate"*

- 2.2 Uckfield Town Council resolved to sign up to the pledge on 5 September 2022, and will continue to work to this pledge:

13.0 TO SIGN UP TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Members were provided with a report which explained that a programme of work had been created which sought to address bullying and harassment in the sector of parish and town councils. This had been formed into the Civility and Respect Pledge. By signing the pledge, the Council would be agreeing that the council would treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.

FC.50.09.22 Members RESOLVED to

(i) agree to support and sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as a mark of holding the Town Council to high standards of behaviour;

(ii) agree for the Town Clerk to review the Code of Conduct Policy in line with local best practice as well as the Local Government Association Code of Conduct for Members, and;

(iii) agree for council staff to undertake a review of the Town Council's HR policies through the autumn/winter months in line with ACAS, NALC and Sage HR advice and consider the introduction of a Dignity at Work Policy.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) confirm and approve the Town Council's Code of Conduct Policy, and;
- (ii) support the Town Council's commitment to the Civility and Respect Pledge as a mark of holding the Town Council to high standards of expected behaviour.

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 16.0

TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES AND ANNUAL FEES

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In line with the Town Council's standing orders, this report presents an annual review of the Town Council's membership and subscriptions to other bodies, and associated fees.
- 1.2 Many of the subscriptions will have already commenced for the financial period April 2025 to March 2026, but it enables members to have full view of the Town Council's subscriptions and memberships, and to advise the Clerk and RFO, if they wish to make any changes at the point of renewal.

2.0 Annual memberships and subscriptions

2.1

NAME OF COMPANY	PERIOD OF SUBSCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED COST
Advisory bodies on legislation, guidance, best practice, training and conferences		
East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC)	April 2025 – March 2026	£1,487.50 Paid
WDALC (Wealden District Association of Local Councils)	April 2025 – March 2026	Paid £76.83 in 2024
SLCC Enterprise (Society of Local Council Clerks)	June 2025 – May 2026	Paid £418.00 in 2024
NALC (National Association of Local Councils) (we're regarded as a super council!)	April 2025 – March 2026	£1019.65 Paid
LGA (Local Government Association)	April 2025 – March 2026	Paid £580.00 in 2024.
Specialist memberships		
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)	April 2025 – March 2026	£105.00 Paid
Aboricultural Association	December 2025 – November 2026	Awaiting amount.
National Allotment Society	June 2025 – May 2026	Paid £55.00 in 2024.
Grounds Maintenance Association	April 2025 – May 2026	£184.07 Paid.
Other		
Parish Online (mapping software used for Neighbourhood Plan mapping)	April 2025 – March 2026	Paid £450.00 in 2024.
Uckfield Chamber of Commerce (membership for Civic Centre as a local business)	April 2025 – March 2026	£120.00 Paid.
Rural Services Partnership (Rural Market Town Group Membership)	April 2025 – March 2026	£143.85 Paid

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the subscriptions and memberships obtained by the Town Council.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025-26

May-25 12 Plans 19 Full Council (Annual Stat) 27 Environment & Leisure (Tues)	Nov-25 3 General Purposes 17 Plans 24 Environment & Leisure
Jun-25 2 Plans 9 General Purposes 23 Plans 25 Full Council (Audit - Wed)	Dec-25 1 Full Council (Draft Budget) 8 Plans 15 General Purposes
Jul-25 7 Environment & Leisure 14 Plans 21 General Purposes	Jan-26 5 Plans 12 Full Council (Budget) 19 Environment & Leisure 26 Plans
Aug-25 4 Plans 26 Plans (Tues)	Feb-26 9 General Purposes 16 Plans 25 Finance Sub-Committee (Wed)
Sep-25 1 Environment & Leisure 8 Full Council 10 Allotment Conference (Wed) 15 Plans 22 General Purposes	Mar-26 2 Environment & Leisure 9 Plans 16 Full Council 23 General Purposes 30 Plans
Oct-25 6 Plans 13 Environment & Leisure 20 Full Council 27 Plans	Apr-26 13 Environment & Leisure 15 Annual Town Meeting (Wed) 20 Plans
	May-26 5 General Purposes (Tues) 11 Plans

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 18.0

TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMPLETE AUDITS UNTIL THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING IN MAY 2026

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the rota for member audits for the coming municipal year.

2.0 Background

2.1 In order to obtain all the relevant background information relating to the completion of the monthly audit, Members are asked to refer to the 'Members' Audit Policy No. 63' which states:

2.1.1 At each Annual Statutory Meeting, the Clerk will provide a schedule of Members who will be required to undertake the Members' Audit for a particular month. Such Audit will be required to be completed within the first two weeks of the following month and individual Members will be required to make an appropriate appointment with the Responsible Financial Officer accordingly.

2.1.2 Should any Member not be able to make the date set out for them in the schedule, it will be their responsibility to make alternative arrangements with another Member to fulfil their obligations for that month.

2.2 The following members undertook an audit in 2024/25. These have been completed on schedule. March 2025 is in the process of being undertaken, and April 2025 will be added to the schedule for the new municipal year. Thank you to those members who undertook these audits.

Month 2024/25	Councillor
March	Cllr. D. Ward
April	Cllr. K. Bedwell
May	Cllr. D. Bennett
June	Cllr. B. Cox
July	Cllr. A. Smith
August	Cllr. D. Manvell
September	Cllr. P. Selby
October	Cllr. M. McClafferty
November	Cllr. J. Love
December	Cllr. J. Love
January	Cllr. C. Macve
February	Cllr. S. Mayhew
March	Cllr. D. French

2.3 The Town Clerk reminds councillors at the beginning of each month to make contact with the office to arrange a time to carry out these audits. The audit does not have to be a long process. For those members in full time employment it could

even be carried out prior to a committee meeting one evening with the Assistant Town Clerk or Town Clerk. It must be stressed that the process should be adhered to and procedures maintained, as these audits continue to ensure independent checks of our accounting and ensure any minor corrections are identified early on.

- 2.4 A new schedule has been prepared for 2025/26. Members are asked to place a note in their diary to make contact with the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Audits are undertaken after the full month has ended. For example, the audit for the month of May 2025 can usually be undertaken from July once all of the bank reconciliations have been processed.

Month 2025/26	Councillor
April	Cllr. P. Ullmann
May	Cllr. V. Frost
June	Cllr. D. Ward
July	Cllr. K. Bedwell
August	Vacant post
September	Cllr. D. Bennett
October	Cllr. A. Smith
November	Cllr. D. Manvell
December	Cllr. P. Selby
January	Cllr. M. McClafferty
February	Cllr. J. Love
March	Cllr. C. Macve

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed schedule of member audits for the financial year of 2025/26.

Background Papers: Members' Audit Policy No. 63

Contact Officer: Sarah D'Alessio/Holly Goring

Annual Meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda Item 20.0 (i)

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS: UCKFIELD EVENTS WORKING GROUP

The working group met on 6 March 2025 in the form of a face to face meeting to make arrangements for this year's events, and another meeting is scheduled for June, with the Hospitality Manager, Town Clerk, and Marketing & Community Engagement Officer.

Between then and now, the group have been busy working behind the scenes to organise two key events:

VE Day Indoor Street Party – Bank Holiday Monday 5 May - Civic Centre, Uckfield
Weald on the Field – Saturday 9 August, Luxford Field, Uckfield.

Marking the anniversary of VE Day

We hosted an event on Bank Holiday Monday as we were unable to resource a beacon lighting due to the personal circumstances of both Councillors and Staff.

The event took place between 12noon and 4.00pm on Bank Holiday Monday (5 May), and we were grateful to host the event indoors as the weather was changeable!

The event went well with some wonderful performances from Uckfield Theatre Guild, Jimmy Lin, Uckfield Singers, Rosie Ann Page and a fantastic and moving finale from Uckfield Concert Brass.

Local veterans joined us and we received excellent feedback from the Royal British Legion.

With street food from Twisted Toppings, Indulgent Icecream, a Lions BBQ, Luxfords bar and plenty of cake. We were also supported by the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and local stallholders with an array of associated memorabilia.

Despite us hosting the event on the Bank Holiday, some members of the public have since showed their distaste for the lack of a beacon lighting. We'll take this on board for future anniversaries.

Weald on the Field

All facilities are booked for the day festival on Saturday 9 August 2025, and we're excited for another year of celebrating all things local with great live music, food and drink.

The next steps involve the promotion of business sponsorship, firming up the timings for the live music and marketing and communication.

So watch this space and keep the date free!

Town Clerk

Annual Meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda Item 20.0 (ii)

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS: AGEING WELL FORUM

The quarterly Ageing Well Network meeting took place on 1 May 2025 in the Ashdown Room, of the Civic Centre.

The meeting saw representation from Age UK Sussex, Barchester Homes, BIE PPG, DISC Dementia Support, Happiness in Motion, Home Instead Lewes & Uckfield, Sussex Support Services, U3A, Uckfield Town Council, Wealden Citizens Advice and Wealden District Council.

The meeting provided a useful opportunity for all organisations to provide detailed partnership updates.

A smaller working group of the forum were also in the process of organising an event for Thursday 18 September 2025 at the Civic Centre. This would be a 'Health & Wellness Day' and open to all local residents and tailored to all.

The day would include activities, information from key organisations, support, advice, goodie bags etc.

Further information would follow in due course.

Town Clerk

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda Item 21.0

TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the engagements of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor between 7 April and 19 May 2025.
- 1.2 Please note that Councillor K. Bedwell was elected as Mayor and Councillor S. Mayhew elected as Deputy Mayor on 20 May 2024.

TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 14.04.25 Guest to visit and tour of Phase 2 of 'Garden for the Future' project. Sheffield Park Gardens, Uckfield.
- 16.04.25 Attend Sussex Mayor's Association Luncheon. Dyke Golf Club, Devils Dyke, Brighton.
- 16.04.25 Guest for Afternoon Tea at Lydfords Care Home, East Hoathly.
- 19.04.25 To officially open new store 'Village'. High Street, Uckfield.
- 22.04.25 Meeting with MP's Kevin Hollinrake and Mims Davies. Westminster, London.
- 24.04.25 Guest at the opening of Hunnington Grill. East Sussex National, Uckfield.
- 26.04.25 Hosting Mayoral Reception. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 03.05.25 Attend Coffee Morning for Breast Cancer Awareness. The Soiree Lounge, Uckfield.
- 05.05.25 VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 09.05.25 Attend 'Wine Tasting' evening with Bolney Wine Estates. The Pamper Lounge, Uckfield.
- 10.05.25 Judge at Holy Cross Spring Festival Dog Show. Luxford Field, Uckfield.
- 10.05.25 Attend Pokemon Event. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 11.05.25 Attend 3rd Birthday Celebration of Victoria Pavilion Arts. Victoria Pavilion, Uckfield.
- 14.05.25 761st Anniversary Event of the Battle of Lewes. The Coach House, Halland Park Farm.

TO NOTE THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 16.04.25 Attend Sussex Mayor's Association Luncheon. Dyke Golf Club, Devils Dyke, Brighton.
- 16.04.25 Guest for Afternoon Tea at Lydfords Care Home, East Hoathly.
- 24.04.25 Guest at the opening of Hunnington Grill. East Sussex National, Uckfield.
- 26.04.25 Attend Mayoral Reception. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 05.05.25 VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 09.05.25 Attend 'Wine Tasting' evening with Bolney Wine Estates. The Pamper Lounge, Uckfield.
- 10.05.25 Attend Pokemon Event. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 10.05.25 Attendance at Holy Cross Spring Festival. Luxford Field, Uckfield.

TO NOTE THE TOWN CRIER'S ENGAGEMENTS

19.04.25	Cry on Uckfield High Street. To officially open new store 'Village'. High Street, Uckfield.
26.04.25	Cry on Uckfield High Street. Mayor's Reception, Civic Centre.
03.05.25	Cry on High Street. Attendance at CoppaFeel Fundraiser event, Soiree Lounge.
08.05.25	Proclamation for VE Day, Victoria Pleasure Ground.
10.05.25	Cry on High Street. Pokemon Event, Civic Centre. Holy Cross Spring Festival, Luxford Field.
17.05.25	Cry on Uckfield High Street.

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 19 May 2025

Agenda item 24.0

TO CONSIDER HOW TO RESPOND TO THE DRAFT EAST SUSSEX FREIGHT AND RAIL STRATEGIES CONSULTATION

1.0 Summary

1.1 Following the adoption of the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), a new Freight Strategy and an updated Rail Strategy have been drafted and published for consultation.

1.2 Draft Freight Strategy

This new strategy for the County sets out the future vision for the delivery of improvements to the movement of freight in East Sussex. The strategy focuses on the following:

- 1 – Strategic freight movements
- 2 – Decarbonisation
- 3 – Last mile logistics
- 4– Planning & policy

1.3 Draft Rail Strategy

This strategy has been updated and builds upon the East Sussex Rail Strategy and Action Plan that was previously approved by the County Council in 2013. This strategy sets out the future vision for the delivery of improvements to rail travel in East Sussex, specifically for passengers, and focuses on:

- 1 - Accessibility of rail network
- 2 - Integration with other modes
- 3 -Reliability and resilience
- 4 - Decarbonisation
- 5 - Journey time competitiveness
- 6 - Customer experience

1.4 The successful delivery of both strategies will require partnership working with a range of authorities and organisations.

2.0 Public Consultation

2.1 The consultation is open until Monday 30 June 2025. The draft strategies and links to their respective consultations can be found online at [Freight & Rail Strategies | East Sussex County Council](#). An indication of the questions posed in the survey can be found in appendix A:

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked:

- (i) if they wish to provide a response to these strategies as an organisation, and;
- (ii) if they do, to propose their preferred way for managing the gathering of responses to these consultations.

Draft East Sussex Freight Strategy consultation questions

Roles and responsibilities

Q4 - Do you agree with the roles and responsibilities related to freight as set out in section 3 of the draft strategy? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for question 4 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Freight Priority Investment Areas

Q5 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 1 (strategic freight movements)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q6 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 1 (strategic freight movements)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q7 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 2 (decarbonisation)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q8 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 1 (decarbonisation)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q9 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 3 (last mile logistics)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q10 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 3 (last mile logistics)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q11 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 4 (planning and policy)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q12 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 4 (planning and policy)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for questions 5 through to 12 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Equalities Impact Assessment

Q13 - do you have any feedback on the draft Freight Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for questions 13 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Overall support and any other comments

Q14 - To what extent do you support or not support the draft East Sussex Freight Strategy? (Select response)

Select response options for question 14 are:

- 'strongly agree'
- 'somewhat agree'
- 'neither agree or disagree'
- 'somewhat disagree'
- 'strongly disagree'
- 'do not know'
- 'do not wish to answer'

Q15 - Do you have any further comments, not covered in the previous questions, that you wish to make? (open response box, 3,000 character limit)

Draft East Sussex Rail Strategy consultation questions

Roles and responsibilities

Q4 - Do you agree with the roles and responsibilities related to rail as set out in section 3 of the draft strategy? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for question 4 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Rail Priority Investment Areas

Q5 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 1 (accessibility of the rail network)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q6 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 1 (accessibility of the rail network)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q7 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 2 (integration with other modes)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q8 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 1 (integration with other modes)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q9 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 3 (reliability and resilience)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q10 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 3 (reliability and resilience)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q11 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 4 (decarbonisation)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q12 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 4 (decarbonisation)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q13 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 5 (journey time competitiveness)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q14 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 5 (journey time competitiveness)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q15 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 6 (customer experience)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Q16 - Do you agree with the rail related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 6 (customer experience)? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for questions 5 through to 16 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Equalities Impact Assessment

Q17 - do you have any feedback on the draft Rail Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment? (select response and an optional open response box (3,000 characters))

Select response options for question 17 are:

- 'Yes'
- 'No'
- 'Don't know'
- 'Prefer not to answer'

Overall support and any other comments

Q18 - To what extent do you support or not support the draft East Sussex Rail Strategy? (Select response)

Select response options for question 18 are:

- 'strongly agree'
- 'somewhat agree'
- 'neither agree or disagree'
- 'somewhat disagree'
- 'strongly disagree'
- 'do not know'
- 'do not wish to answer'

Q19 - Do you have any further comments, not covered in the previous questions, that you wish to make? (open response box, 3,000 character limit)