

14. Other Committee procedures

- 14.1 Which committees do these procedures apply to?
- 14.2 Appointment and membership of committees
- 14.3 Quorums and substitutes
- 14.4 Vacancies on committee
- 14.5 Chair and Vice Chair
- 14.6 Meetings of committees
- 14.7 Substitutes
- 14.8 Speaking on agenda items
- 14.9 Disruption by the public
- 14.10 Voting at committee meetings
- 14.11 Planning committee procedures
- 14.12 Licensing committee procedures
- 14.13 Audit and Governance Committee procedures
- 14.14 Standards Committee procedures
- 14.15 Gaps in these procedures

14.1 Which committees do these procedures apply to?

These procedures apply to the:

- Appointments Committee (Part 20 (Employment Rules))
- Oxford City Planning Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Disciplinary Committee for Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Statutory Officers (Part 20 (Employment Rules))
- General Purposes Licensing Committee
- General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committee
- Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee
- Licensing and Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committee
- Planning Review Committee
- Standards Committee

14.2 Appointment and membership of committees

Council is responsible for appointing and dissolving committees and for agreeing their membership and roles. Committees are responsible for appointing any sub-committees. Apart from the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and any sub-committees it appoints the number of members from each political group on

committees will be in proportion to the size of the group. When appointing to committees or sub-committees where political balance requirements apply, Council or the committee making the appointment will have regard to the nominations made by political groups and will only deviate from appointing those members in exceptional circumstances with reasons.

There must always be at least one scrutiny committee and a committee that carries out responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

14.3 Quorums and substitutes

Committee	Size	Quorum	Substitutes
Appointments Committee	5 (including at least one member of the Cabinet)	3 (including at least one member of the Cabinet)	Permitted
Planning Review Committee	9	5	Permitted. Councillors should not sit or substitute unless they have undertaken compulsory planning and development control training (held every two years)
Oxford City Planning Committee	11	5	Permitted. Councillors should not sit or substitute unless they have undertaken compulsory planning and development control training (held every two years)
Audit and Governance Committee	7	3	Permitted
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	4 (including at least one member of the Cabinet)	3 (including at least one member of the Cabinet)	Permitted but unless they are unavoidably indisposed or conflicted Members should comprise the Committee over the course of a matter (or related matter) until it is disposed of

Committee	Size	Quorum	Substitutes
General Purposes Licensing Committee	15	5	Not permitted
General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committees	3	2 (but the meeting can only proceed at quorum if the person appearing before it agrees)	Permitted from members of General Purposes Licensing Committee. Councillors should not sit or substitute unless they have undertaken compulsory licensing training (held annually)
Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee	15	5	Not permitted
Licensing and Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committees	3	3	Permitted from members of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee. Councillors should not sit or substitute unless they have undertaken compulsory licensing training (held annually)
Standards Committee	7 Councillors 1 non-voting co-opted member representing the Oxford Parish Council	3 Councillors	Permitted

If quorum cannot be made 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting, the meeting is cancelled.

14.4 Vacancies on committee

(a) Procedure when a councillor resigns from a committee

A councillor can resign from a committee by writing to the Head of Law and Governance. A replacement will be appointed at the next Council meeting.

(b) Procedure when someone stops being a councillor

If someone stops being a councillor, any replacement committee member will be appointed at the next Council meeting.

14.5 Chair and Vice Chair

(a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice Chair are elected each year at the first meeting of the committee after Annual Council.

The Chair and Vice Chair of all the committees must be councillors.

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee must not be a member of the Cabinet.

The voting procedure for the election of Chair (and in so far as the same principles apply, Vice Chair) is as follows:

- (i) Each voting member of the committee will be entitled to one vote.
- (ii) The Committee and Member Services Officer will invite nominations for Chair, which will need a proposer and seconder.
- (iii) Proposers and nominees may be invited to briefly address the committee on why they should be elected.
- (iv) Where there are one or two nominations, the Chair will be elected by a majority of those present and voting. Where there is one nomination, the nominee must be proposed and seconded but no vote is required; the Chair would be elected unopposed.
- (v) Where there are more than two nominations, votes will be taken for each nominee (each member can only vote for one candidate). If one nominee receives a majority of the votes from those members present and voting, then they will be elected as Chair. If not, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be eliminated and the committee will vote again (as before each voting members has one vote), until one nominee receives a majority of the votes from those members present and voting.
- (vi) In circumstances where there is a tie in the number of votes for nominees, lots will be drawn (or similar). This would also apply to members tied for elimination in circumstances where there are more than two nominees.
- (vii) Members can be nominated and elected as Chair in their absence in which case the Vice Chair will assume the chair for the meeting.

(b) If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent

If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, a committee can elect another councillor to chair the meeting. If the Chair or Vice Chair arrives part of the way through the meeting, the acting chair will finish the agenda item they are on and hand over the Chair (unless the Chair or Vice-Chair has appointed a substitute) (14.7)

(c) Resigning as chair or vice chair

If a councillor wants to resign as Chair or Vice Chair, they must write to the Head of Law and Governance. A new chair or vice chair will be elected at the committee's next ordinary meeting.

14.6 Meetings of committees and sub-committees

(a) Cancelling or rescheduling a meeting

If a committee has insufficient business for one of its fixed meetings, the Head of Law and Governance can cancel or reschedule it after consulting the chair of the committee or sub-committee.

The Head of Law and Governance may cancel or reschedule a meeting in exceptional circumstances in consultation with the Chair, Group Leaders and the Chief Executive, if the agenda has not already been published. This is with the exception of Licensing and Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committee, which may be cancelled where the agenda has been published, if the meeting is no longer required.

(b) Special meetings

The Head of Law and Governance or the Chief Executive can arrange a special meeting after consulting the chair of the committee or sub-committee.

Special meetings will only deal with the business they have been called to deal with.

14.7 Substitutes

Substitutes are not permitted for the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee or the General Purposes Licensing Committee.

Only members of the parent committee can act as substitutes on a licensing sub-committee.

For other committees, a member of the Committee can send another councillor as their substitutes. The substitute will have the powers of an ordinary member of the committee for that meeting.

Substitutions must be for the whole meeting. A member of a committee cannot take over from their substitute or hand over to them part of the way through the meeting.

Substitutes cannot appoint substitutes of their own.

If a member of a committee wants to send a substitute, they must tell the Head of Law and Governance the name of their substitute before the meeting.

14.8 Speaking on agenda items

Specific rules on public speaking apply to meetings of Council, the Cabinet, the Scrutiny Committee and planning committees and the Licensing and Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committee.

For all other committees where the press and public are not excluded any member of the public and any city councillor can speak on any agenda item for up to five minutes if the chair agrees. Individuals should register to speak by 4.00 pm

on the day of the meeting. Any extra written material should be submitted at least two working days before the meeting.

14.9 Disruption by the public

(a) Disruption by an individual

If a member of the public is disrupting the meeting, the chair will warn them that unless they desist they will be asked to leave. If they carry on disrupting the meeting, the chair can adjourn the meeting until they leave.

(b) Clearing part of the meeting room

If there is a general disturbance in a part of a meeting room open to the public, the chair can have the area cleared.

14.10 Voting at committee meetings

The following voting rules will apply other than for voting to elect a Chair or Vice Chair (14.5(a))

(a) Majority voting

Votes will be decided by a simple majority of councillors in their seats and voting.

(b) Chair's second or casting vote

If there is the same number of votes for or against, the chair will have a casting vote.

(c) Votes can be:

- By the general agreement of the meeting, if there is no one against
- By a show of hands
- Named or recorded

(d) Right to have individual vote recorded

Any councillor can ask for the minutes to record whether they voted for or against or abstained on a vote. The request must be made immediately after the vote.

(e) Recorded votes

Any two councillors present at a meeting can ask for the minutes to name who voted for, who voted against, and who abstained on a vote.

14.11 Planning committee procedures

(a) Appointments to planning committees

Council may not appoint a councillor to more than one planning committee. Any councillor that determines an application at the Oxford City Planning Committee cannot re-determine the same application at the Planning Review Committee.

The Oxford City Planning Committee shall be responsible for reaching decisions on the matters in 5.3 within all wards

(b) Who can put items on planning committee agendas?

The Head of Planning Services, the Head of Law and Governance and the relevant proper officer can put items on planning committee agendas.

(c) Order of business at Oxford City Planning Committee meetings

The order of business at Oxford City Planning Committee meetings will normally be:

- Election of Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant or if the Chair and Vice Chair are absent)
- Election of Vice Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant)
- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of interest
- Applications for decision
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Forthcoming applications
- Dates of future meetings

The order of business at Planning Review Committee meetings will be:

- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of interest
- Applications for decision that have been called in following consideration by the Oxford City Planning Committee
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Dates of future meetings

(d) Public speaking at planning committees

Members of the public and councillors (Part 24.17) can speak to planning committees in support of an application, against it, or to request changes or conditions.

Those wishing to speak must register with the Committee Services Officer by noon on the working day before the meeting, giving their name, the application/agenda item they wish to speak on, and whether they are objecting to or supporting the application.

Those objecting to an application may speak for up to five minutes in total. Those in support may speak for the same length of time. Where more than one person wishes to speak for or against an application the time will be shared. Unless the persons concerned nominate a spokesperson, priority will be given to the first person to have indicated a wish to speak, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair.

(e) Written statements at planning committee meetings

Any written statements that members of the public or councillors wish to be considered must be sent to the Planning Officer by noon two working days before the day of the meeting.

Any material received at the meeting will not be accepted or circulated.

14.12 Licensing committee procedures

(a) Who can put items on licensing agendas?

The Head of Law and Governance, the relevant head of service and the relevant proper officer can put items on licensing committee and sub-committee agendas.

(b) Order of business at licensing committee meetings

The order of business at licensing committee meetings will normally be:

- Election of Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant or if the Chair and Vice Chair are absent)
- Election of Vice Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant)
- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of interest
- Appointments to sub-committees (at the first meeting after annual Council)
- Items for decision or information
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Dates of future meetings

(c) Public speaking at Licensing and Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committee meetings

Members of the public and councillors can make a representation to object to or support a premises licence application. Only those people who have made representations in writing within 28 days of an application being made can speak at Licensing & Gambling Acts Casework Sub-Committee meetings.

(d) Written statements at licensing committee and sub-committee meetings

Any written statements that members of the public, applicants, or councillors wish to be considered by a licensing committee or sub-committee must be submitted to the Licensing Authority at least two working days before the meeting.

14.13 Audit and Governance Committee procedures

(a) Who can put items on Audit and Governance Committee agendas?

The Head of Financial Services, the Head of Law and Governance, the relevant proper officer and the Council's internal and external auditors can put items on Audit and Governance Committee agendas.

(b) Order of business at Audit and Governance Committee meetings

The order of business at Audit and Governance Committee meetings will normally be:

- Election of Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant or if the Chair and Vice Chair are absent)
- Election of Vice Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant)
- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of interest
- External audit reports
- Internal audit reports
- Reports from officers
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Future meeting dates

14.14 Standards Committee procedures

(a) Who can put items on Standards Committee agendas?

The Head of Law and Governance, the Head of Business Improvement and the relevant proper officer can put items on Standards Committee agendas.

(b) Order of business at Standards Committee meetings

The order of business at Standards Committee meetings will normally be:

- Election of Chair (at the first meeting after annual Council or after the post becomes vacant or if the Chair is absent)
- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of interest
- Items for decision or information
- Minutes of the previous meeting

14.15 Gaps in these procedures

If there is a gap in these procedures, the Chair will decide what to do with reference to the Council procedures (Part 11) in respect of rules of debate, officers, excluding the public, councillors' behaviour and suspending and changing procedures.

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