

Approval of the Authority's Standing Orders

Officers' Recommendation

That the Standing Orders are approved with no amendments.

Background

The Authority's Standing Orders should be reviewed annually, normally at the Annual General meeting. Version 1.6 of the Standing Orders were presented to Members on 21st March 2024. This edition provided more detail on what actions should be taken by Members that declare a pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed and voted on at an Authority meeting.

The agreed change in the Standing Orders formally noted that Members with pecuniary interests in a matter could participate in the discussions but not take part in any vote. Some Members felt that Members declaring a pecuniary interest should not participate in the discussions and should leave the room whilst the matter was discussed by other Members. It was agreed that the Chief Officer should explore the matter further and engage with Devon County Council's Democratic Services.

The Chief Officer reported back to the Authority on 20th June 2024 with recommendations set out in Agenda Item 13 for that meeting. The Authority agreed to changes and following the Authority meeting Officers made amendments.

The Current Version of Standing Orders

Version 1.7 (October 2024) of the Standing Orders now includes the following:

- 9.38 All Authority Members or Members of a Sub-Committee, who are present at a meeting of the Authority or of the relevant Sub-Committee will be entitled to participate in the debate and vote, unless they have declared a pecuniary interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 9.39 If a Member believes that they have a pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting, they shall contact the Chief Officer before the meeting if they wish to apply for
- a) A dispensation to participate in the discussions and to vote.
 - b) A dispensation to participate in the discussions or to vote.
- 9.40 The Chief Officer will confirm whether a dispensation has been granted and whether the dispensation is limited to only participating in the discussion at the beginning of the Authority meeting.

Recommendation

Officers recommend that the Standing Orders are approved with no amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

- [D&S IFCA Standing Orders – Version 1.7 – October 2024](#)
- Authority meeting minutes [21st March 2024](#) and [20th June 2024](#)

End.