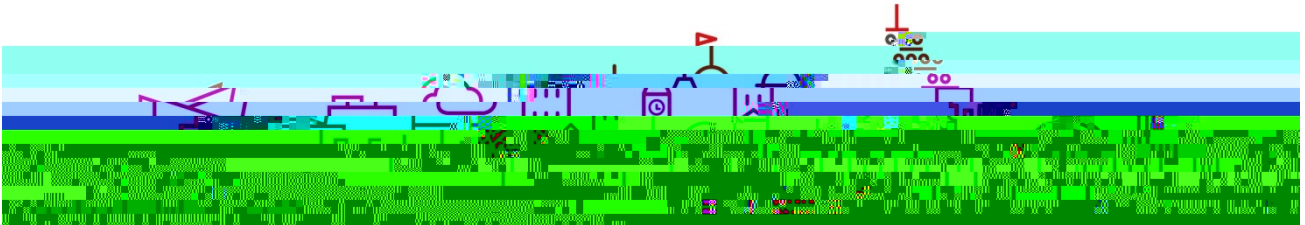




Birmingham City Council Constitution

Part C – Codes and Protocols

May 2024



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C1. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE AND FRAMEWORK

Introduction

- i. Corporate governance is a phrase used to describe how organisations direct and control what they do. For local authorities this also includes how a council relates to the communities that it serves.
- ii. Our

Principles

We will behave lawfully, with integrity and in the public interest, and will demonstrate this through our conduct and behaviour

<i>And commit to</i>	<i>Supported and evidenced by our</i>
<p>Embed values and codes of conduct for both employees and councillors.</p> <p>Ensure that those who provide services on our behalf act in accordance with these principles.</p> <p>Deal with breaches of legal and regulatory requirements and ensure fraud, corruption and allegations of misuse of public funds are dealt with effectively.</p>	<p>Values and behaviours</p> <p>Members' Code of Conduct</p> <p>Officer Code of Conduct</p> <p>Partnership agreements</p> <p>Procurement Terms and Conditions</p> <p>Arrangements for the registration and declaration of interests (including gifts and hospitality)</p> <p>Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy</p> <p>Complaints and Compliments procedures</p>

We will be open and engage with local communities, service users and our other stakeholders

<i>And commit to</i>	<i>Supported and evidenced by our</i>
<p>Ensuring that service users, local communities and other stakeholders have access to the council and are involved and consulted about major changes that may affect them.</p> <p>Welcome peer challenges, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implement recommendations which arise from them.</p>	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Approach to restorative practice</p> <p>Ward Forums</p> <p>Parish and Town Council arrangements</p> <p>Birmingham Citizens Panel (when active)</p> <p>Use of Overview and Scrutiny Inquiries</p> <p>Deputations to full Council and ward forums</p> <p>Consideration of and response to Petitions</p>

We will take informed and transparent decisions

<i>And commit to</i>	<i>Supported and evidenced by our</i>
<p>Ensure that all decisions are taken which are proportionate, respect human rights and natural justice, are open and transparent with clear aims and desired outcomes and promote equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Consider and balance the economic, social and environmental impacts of policies and plans.</p> <p>Ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">those making decisions are provided with information that is relevant, timely and gives clear explanations of technical issues and their implications;appropriate legal, financial and other professional advice is considered as part of the decision-making process; anddecision-makers can be held to account for the	

We will develop our capacity and capability to be effective

<i>And commit to</i>	<i>Supported and evidenced by our</i>
<p>Improving the use of our people resource by developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan.</p> <p>Continually review our performance, including how the organisation is led, how we work, and how we make the most efficient use of our resources assets (including data) to ensure our continuing effectiveness.</p> <p>Ensuring that all councillors and employees have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform their roles effectively.</p>	<p>Code of practice for Member-Officer relations.</p> <p>Our values and behaviours</p> <p>Appraisal arrangements</p> <p>Staff surveys</p> <p>Training and development programmes for Councillors</p> <p>Training and development programmes for staff</p> <p>Participation in peer reviews</p>

C2. MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

Scope

- iv. These rules apply to all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees (including but not limited to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, area committees (if any), regulatory committees, and meetings of the Executive (together called "meetings").

Principles

- i. These rules will be interpreted, where possible, in accordance with the following guiding principles / presumptions:
 - a) Openness: the right of the public to gain access to meetings and documents;
 - b) Transparency: the provision of information so that the public know who is responsible for making a particular decision, when and where, and have an explanation or justification for a decision;
 - c) Accountability: the public can measure the actions taken against policies and plans on which those responsible were elected to office.

Notice of Meetings

- i. The Council will give at least 5 clear working days' notice of any non-urgent meeting and for urgent meetings at least 3 clear days' notice will be given. Details of the meeting will be posted at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB and on the Council's website.

Access to Agendas, Reports and Decision Records

- i. The Council will make the Agenda and relevant Reports available to the public on its website at least five clear working days before the meeting or as much time as is available for an urgent item of business. Where Reports are prepared after the Agenda has been sent out, the Committee Services Officer shall make such report(s) available for inspection to the public as soon as the Report is completed and sent to the relevant Councillors.
- ii. For the avoidance of doubt, "working days" does not include weekends, statutory holidays, the day of the notice or the actual day of the meeting.

- iii. Agendas, Reports and Decision Records, save for those which contain exempt or

- v. Exempt information relates to the access to information requirements covered by Section 100I and Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as set out in the table below, and related Regulations. Information is also exempt if it is advice of a Political Adviser or Political Assistant, as defined by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

<i>Category</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1. Information relating to any individual.	This means any living individual person and relates back to data protection legislation i.e. the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/ 679 (GDPR) & the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	This again relates back to data protection legislation
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Includes

<i>Category</i>	<i>Condition</i>
6. Information which reveals that the refICIAL	

- vi. Copies of documents requested under this section must be supplied within 10 clear days of receipt of the request. Reasons must be given if a copy is not supplied within 10 clear days.

- x. Procedure: Whether a Member has a need to know will be determined initially by the Chief Officer who holds the document in question (with advice from the Monitoring Officer). The Chief Officer must not have regard to party political advantage, nor must the Chief Officer's determination have the effect of preventing the Member concerned from giving evidence in Court, or of penalising the Member for so doing.
- xi. All internal documents and copies produced to any Member for inspection in accordance with this Rule will be produced on the basis that, in the absence of malice, officers are

C3. PROTOCOL REGARDING THE RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- i. For the purposes of this section, recording includes webcasting, filming and photography.
- ii. The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision making. Recording

C4. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Introduction

- i. It is important that councillors can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Your conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. The role of councillor should be one that people aspire to and individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances should be putting themselves forward to become councillors.
- ii. This Code has been designed to protect your democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard equality.

General principles of councillor conduct

- i. Everyone in public office at all levels, all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers, should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles (see section 4.6 below).
- ii. Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.
- iii. In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:
 - I act with integrity and honesty;
 - I act lawfully;
 - I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and

- ii. This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:
- you are acting in your capacity as a councillor and /or as a representative of your council;
 - you are claiming to act as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council;
 - you are giving the impression, or the circumstances may give rise to the perception, that you are acting as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council;
 - you refer publicly to your role as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council.
- iii. This Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:
- at face to face meetings;
 - at online or telephone meetings;
 - in written communication;
 - in verbal communication;
 - in non-verbal communication; and
 - in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.
- iv. You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.
- v. The Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

The Nolan Principles

- vi. Everyone in public office at all levels, all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers, should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles. These are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

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 benefits for themselves or for any other person or organisation.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

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.

Openness

ii. Bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation

As a councillor:

- 2.1 I do not bully any person.
- 2.2 I do not harass any person.
- 2.3 I promote equalities and not discriminate unlawfully against any person.
- 2.4 I do not victimise any person.

iii.

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

vi. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else

viii. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a councillor:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by the local authority;

8.2

x. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage;

10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt;

Conduct at Meetings of the Council

APPENDIX TO CODE

Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable

Table 2: Other Registerable Interests

You must register as an Other Registerable Interest:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority;
- c) any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature
 - ii. directed to charitable purposes or
 - iii. 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.

C5. MEMBER / OFFICER RELATIONS PROTOCOL

Introduction

- i. The purpose of this Protocol is to guide Members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure that the Council is not brought into disrepute, that a high standard of conduct is maintained and to ensure the business of the Council is transacted in a transparent, effective and efficient manner.
- ii. Birmingham City Council is committed to promoting a culture that demonstrates its core values and behaviours. Members and officers in conducting their working relationships with each other are expected to promote this culture and do so by acting in a respectful and professional manner. There is a high standard of conduct expected of both Members and officers at all times.
- iii. Failure to311(33)-4(d)5(u)-4(c)3(t) n8(u)-4(rs.)-121(M)-4(embers)-133(a)9(n)-4(d)5()-133(o)7(f)-4(f)-

Constructive Criticism and Redress

- i. Challenge in a constructive and non-confrontational way is important in ensuring that policies and service performance are meeting the Council's strategic objectives. Nothing in this protocol is therefore intended to stop Members holding officers to account for decisions made under delegated powers. Officers are accountable to the Council for any decision they make and may be required to report to and answer questions from a Scrutiny Committee. Nothing herein is intended to inhibit constructive criticism delivered with courtesy and officers should not feel their employment is at risk as a result of such intervention.
- ii. Members should guard against putting inappropriate pressure, in particular, on junior officers and need to be aware that it is easy for junior officers to feel at a disadvantage in their interactions with Members.
- iii. Members should not pressurise any Officer to change his/her professional opinion on any Council business matter or do anything that compromises the impartiality of officers.
- iv. If a Member considers that he or she has not been treated with proper respect or courtesy by an Officer, he or she may raise it with the Officer's line manager or Chief Officer or the Monitoring Officer without delay if it is not possible to resolve it through direct discussion. If the issue still remains unresolved appropriate action may be taken by the Chief Officer in accordance with the Council's normal procedures, should the allegations be proved to be true. Feedback should be given to the Member on the outcome and confidentiality, unless otherwise agreed, must be maintained by all parties.
- v. If an Officer considers that he or she has not been treated with proper respect or courtesy by a Member, and a direct discussion is impractical or fails to resolve the matter, he or she has the option of raising the matter in private with the Monitoring Officer in the knowledge

C6. EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Employee Code of Conduct can be found here: [Birmingham City Council Code of Conduct | Birmingham City Council](#)

C7.

“Deputy Chief Officer” means any Officer who reports directly to a Governance Statutory Chief Officer, Statutory Chief Officer or Non-Statutory Chief Officer. This does not include Officers whose role is to provide administrative and/or secretarial support.

- vii. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has appointed Commissioners in relation to Birmingham City Council for the purposes of the Directions made on 5 October 2023 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the Commissioners”). The role of Commissioners in employment matters is included in these rules.

6. No notice of dismissal may be issued to any Governance Statutory Chief Officer without the approval of the Full Council. Before approving a proposal to dismiss the Full Council must consider:
 - Any views submitted under paragraph 5,
 - Any advice, views or recommendations of the Employment Committee,
 - The conclusions of any investigation, and
 - Any representations from the relevant Officer.
7. Appointments to the role of Director of Public Health must be made jointly with the Secretary of State for Health. No notice of dismissal may be issued to the Director of Public Health until the Secretary of State for Health has been consulted, as required by s.73A of the National Health Service Act 2006.
8. The Committee shall exercise all necessary functions required by the JNC Conditions of Service including the exercise of any discretions or determining any issue in relation to those Conditions of Service in so far as they relate to Governance,

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20. The Commissioners shall exercise all functions relating to the appointment and dismissal of persons to positions the holders of which are to be designated as

The Committee shall:

- 1.

Observe virtual meetings of the Planning Committee

Submit written representations to the Planning Committee, subject to the provisions in the public participation protocol;

Officers

- ix. The Director (Planning, Transport & Sustainability) or Assistant Director Planning/Assistant Director Development have a dual role in the decision making process:

Making decisions on the majority of planning applications under delegated powers.

- vi. In circumstances where there is a conflict of interest, the officer has no involvement in any part of the decision making process. If there is doubt about any conflict it is better to be cautious and for the officer to have no involvement.

Member contact with applicants and developers

- i. The Government encourages applicants to enter into pre application discussions. Such discussions are a normal part of the planning process to seek further information and to seek to identify improvements to proposals at an early stage. These discussions and meetings provide an opportunity for the potential applicant to receive advice and information about the policy and technical requirements that must be met and advice on design, on community engagement and other issues which may improve the chances of an application being acceptable to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, it should be made clear that any guidance given will not bind the LPA to making a particular decision.
- ii. To minimise the prospect of challenges based on predetermination and bias, the guidelines below should be followed:

It will always be made clear that any information or statements made cannot bind the LPA to making a particular decision.

Wherever possible, Members should be accompanied by an officer when meeting with applicants.

Members should refer applicants who approach them for advice to officers.

A written record of the discussion should be made by the officer.

Planning Committee Members are free to take part in meetings with potential applicants or their agents but extra care is needed to avoid any perception of predetermination or bias.

Pre-application presentations

- iii. Agents or prospective applicants have the opportunity to present their proposals to members of the Planning Committee at presentations organised in accordance with the 'Protocol for Pre-application Presentations to Planning Committee'.

Planning Committee meetings

Attendance at meetings

- i. It is important to ensure that Members taking planning decisions are in possession of all the relevant facts, including matters pointed out or that come to light during a site visit by Planning Committee, matters that may have been raised during public speaking and matters that may have been discussed and considered by Planning Committee on earlier occasions. Attendance of Members on all occasions during the application phase, i.e. once

the application has been submitted, will not only demonstrate that Members are fully informed but will also ensure that high quality, consistent and sound decisions are made, and that the risks of legal challenge are minimised.

- ii. A Planning Committee Member should not

- ii. Where this occurs, Members must be able to give a clear basis and reason for not taking the officer recommendation. It is important to ensure, as far as possible, that any decision made will be capable of surviving a legal challenge or appeal. This could mean deferring consideration for a further report addressing the provisional reasons for refusal. However, if the reasoning is clear and the officers are satisfied that reasons for refusal can be satisfactorily drafted then it will not always be necessary to defer an application. In the event that an application is deferred, the Chair will ensure that the following principles are followed:

When a planning application has been deferred following a resolution not to accept the officer recommendation, the Chair shall put to the meeting a proposed statement of why the recommendation is not considered acceptable, which, when agreed by the Committee, will be formally recorded in the minutes.

In these circumstances, at a subsequent meeting, the Director (Planning, Transport & Sustainability) or Assistant Director Planning/Assistant Director Development will respond in a further written report the provisional reasons formulated by the Committee for granting or refusing permission. If the Planning Committee is still of the same view, then it shall again consider its reasons for the decision and a summary of those planning reasons shall be given. The reasons will then be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The officer attending the meeting should be given the opportunity to explain the implications of the decision.

Members should ensure they clearly identify and understand the planning reasons leading to this conclusion. These reasons must be given before the vote and be recorded.

- iii. Where an appeal to the Secretary of State is subsequently lodged against a decision which was different to the officer's recommendation, planning officers will act as a professional witness at the inquiry or hearing unless there is reason to suggest that this would prejudice the outcome. However, it should be noted that where the Planning Officer giving evidence is the officer that recommended approval, then the

Public speaking

- i. Any ward members or members of the public wishing to make representations to the committee following the publication of an agenda can do so by registering to speak at Planning Committee in accordance with the Planning Committee Public Speaking Protocol.
- ii. Where Members have a disclosable pecuniary interest in the application then they must not submit representations in relation to the application, even as a member of the public, unless they have a dispensation from the Head of Paid Service.
- iii. Speakers will only be entitled to address the Committee on one occasion unless otherwise agreed by the Chair of Planning Committee on the grounds that the application has been significantly changed or amended or significant new information has been produced raising new material planning considerations. In these circumstances, speakers will only be able to speak about new matters or the amended details and not about matters which have been previously considered by the Committee.
- iv. Speakers should not raise any substantial new information (including correspondence, other documents, photographs or models) at the Planning Committee meeting, as this does not give all parties adequate time to consider and respond to the submissions, and Members of the Committee will not be able to give proper consideration to issues raised in the material.
- v. It is important that members of the public are not permitted to communicate with or pass messages to individual Committee Members as this may give the appearance of

Protocol for public speaking at the Planning Committee meetings

Introduction

- i. This Protocol sets out the procedures to allow public speaking at the meetings of the Planning Committee.
- ii. Subject to the exceptions below, public speaking does not apply where Members are considering a report for information or where Members are considering detailed reasons for refusal or conditions of approval following a decision of an earlier Committee not to accept the Director (Planning, Transport & Sustainability) or Assistant Director Planning/Assistant Director Development recommendation. It also does not cover applications subject to non-determination appeals, where Members' views may be sought.

Matters for determination or other matters requiring a decision:

- iii. Any members of the public wishing to make representations to the committee following the publication of an agenda can only do in accordance with the public speaking protocol below.
- iv.

- xx. No Members with a disclosable pecuniary interest (whether they are a member of the Planning Committee or not) are entitled to address the Committee in accordance with the terms of this protocol for public speaking.

Review

- xxi. This Protocol may be reviewed, revised or revoked by the Director (Planning, Transport & Sustainability) or Assistant Director Planning/Assistant Director Development in consultation with a meeting of the Planning Committee at any time.

- iii. This code must be read in conjunction with (where appropriate):
- The LPPC Policies, Procedures and Delegations;
 - The Statement of Licensing Policy;
 - Home Office Guidance (s182) – issued under S182 Licensing Act 2003;
 - The Statement of Gambling Principles and relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
 - The Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy;
 - Code of Conduct for Members;
 - Code of Conduct for officers.

General Considerations

- i. In relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire applications (generally speaking) the Licensing Authority MUST NOT issue a licence to a driver, operator or vehicle proprietor unless they are satisfied the applicant is a fit and proper person.
- ii. In relation to Licensing Act matters, where an application has been properly made and no responsible authority or other person has made a relevant representation or where representations are made and subsequently withdrawn, the licensing authority MUST grant the application in the terms sought, subject only to conditions which are consistent with the operating schedule and relevant mandatory conditions under the 2003 Act.
- iii. If the licensing authority decides that representations are relevant, it must hold a hearing to consider them. The need for a hearing can only be avoided with the agreement of the licensing authority, the applicant and all of the persons who made relevant representations.
- iv. Birmingham City Council's [Code of Conduct for Members](#) (section C4) must be complied with throughout the decision making process, which includes mandatory requirements with regard to Member interests.
- v. The responsibility for declaring an interest rests with individual Members and officers of the Council. This Licensing Code outlines further rules applicable to the Licensing process in Birmingham.
- vi. Councillors and officers have different but complementary roles. Both serve the public but Councillors are responsible to the electorate, whilst officers are responsible to the Council as a whole. This applies equally to traditional forms of political management based on Committees and to models based on forms of executives or elected mayors. Officers advise Councillors and the Council and carry out the Council's work. They are employed by the

Council, not by individual Councillors, and it follows that instructions may only be given to officers through a decision of the Council, the Executive or a Committee. A successful relationship between Councillors and officers can only be based upon mutual trust, respect, courtesy and understanding of each other's positions. This relationship, and the trust which underpins it, should never be abused or compromised.

vii.

Both Councillors and officers are guided by Codes of Conduct, Birmingham's [Code of Conduct for Members](#) (section C4) provides standards and guidance for Councillors. Employees are subject to the [Employees' Code of Conduct](#) (sections C6). In addition to these codes, a Council's standing orders set down rules which govern the conduct of Council business. There is also a Member / Officer Protocol that assists in defining

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for Members, therefore, serves an essential part in the local and corporate governance of Birmingham City Council.

- viii. The City Council's Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer have been consulted over this Licensing Code.
- ix. If any person believes that a Member or Officer has breached any aspect of this Licensing Code, s/he should refer the matter to the City Council's Monitoring Officer.

C10. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

- i. The City Council's Members Allowances Scheme, made under Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and as amended on 30th April 2001, is agreed annually by City Council, taking into consideration and giving due regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- ii. The Scheme can be found [here](#).⁶

⁶ https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/910/members_allowances

C11. PROTOCOL ON SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Key Principles

- i. Formal substitutes are not appointed by Full Council for Birmingham City Council committees.
- ii. Formal substitutes are appointed for some joint committees:
 - West Midlands Police and Crime Panel
 - West Midlands Combined Authority Board
 - WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - WMCA Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee
- iii. For how these committees operate substitute members, see the rules of procedure for each committee.
- iv. A committee may have substitute members if the Constitution allows it – currently Health and Wellbeing Board, Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance and Licensing Sub-Committees.
- v. Members are responsible for finding their own substitutes.
- vi. A substitute member shall be entitled to attend in place of a regular Member provided:
 - That the Chair and Committee Services has been notified of any substitution beW*1x869 0802 .

Chair for the meeting who may be drawn from any members (including any substitute member) present and with voting rights.

- xi. The substitute member may speak and vote in their own capacity and is not constrained by the views of the ordinary member they are replacing.
- xii. Once an agenda item has begun with a substitute member attending, the regular Member in respect of whom notification has been received, shall not be entitled to vote on the agenda item as a Member of the Committee.
- xiii. Once a meeting has started with the ordinary member in place, no substitution can then be made during the course of the meeting to replace that member.
- xiv. If the substitute member fails to attend and the ordinary member is present, then the ordinary member may take their place on the committee with full voting rights.
- xv. Where a substitute member has attended a meeting which is adjourned, the ordinary member may attend the reconvened meeting as the voting member, provided that the meeting is not part way through the consideration of an item or issue.
- xvi. Substitute members must receive copies of agendas and reports of the committees they are assigned to at the same time as ordinary members.