

Agenda Item	19
Report No	HC/40/13

STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS – AMENDMENTS

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive

Summary

This report outlines a proposal for amendment to the Council's Standing Orders Relating to the Conduct of Meetings. Annual Review of Standing Orders is a requirement of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

1. Main Amendments

The proposed change at this time to Standing Orders (**SO**) is highlighted below for consideration.

1.1 SO 21 – Declarations of Interest

It is proposed to amend the wording within **Standing Order 21.1** as follows:-

Current Version – It shall be for any Member who has declared any financial interest in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Council at which such matter is the subject of consideration, to leave the room before the matter is discussed, unless exempted from so doing by a Dispensation granted by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

Proposed Version – *It shall be for any Member who has declared any financial interest in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Council at which such matter is the subject of consideration, to give careful consideration as to whether they need to leave the room before the matter is discussed, unless exempted from so doing by a Dispensation granted by the Standards Commission for Scotland. In this regard, Members must always comply with the 'objective test' as outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.*

It is proposed to also include the following wording within this Standing Order:-

For the avoidance of any doubt, it shall be for any Member who has an interest, whether financial or non-financial, in the outcome of a decision on a planning application, planning agreement, taking enforcement action or any other regulatory issue (such as licensing) to declare that interest and leave the room.

2. Other Administrative Changes

- 2.1 Minor administrative changes will be made as necessary to remove duplication and to clarify existing arrangements.

3. Implications Arising from the Report

- 3.1 There are no resource, legal, climate change/carbon clever, equalities or risk implications arising from these proposals.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Council is asked to approve the proposed amendment to the Standing Orders Relating to the Conduct of Meetings as detailed and to note that an amended copy will be circulated to all Members following the meeting.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive

Date: 21 August 2013