

Annex 2

Officer Employment Procedure Rules (see also Standing Orders relating to Staff)

1.0 Recruitment and Appointment

(a) Declarations

(i) The Council will draw up a statement requiring any candidate for appointment as an officer to state in writing whether they are the parent, grandparent, partner, child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of an existing Councillor or officer of the Council; or of the partner of such persons.

(ii) No candidate so related to a Councillor or an officer will be appointed without the authority of the relevant chief officer or an officer nominated by him/her.

(b) Seeking support for appointment.

(i) The Council will disqualify any applicant who directly or indirectly seeks the support of any Councillor for any appointment with the Council. The content of this paragraph will be included in any recruitment information.

(ii) No Councillor will seek support for any person for any appointment with the Council.

(iii) Paragraphs (i) and (ii) above preclude a Councillor from giving a written reference for a candidate for submission with an application for appointment.

2.0 Recruitment of Head of Paid Service and Chief Officers

Where the Council proposes to appoint a chief officer and it is not proposed that the appointment be made exclusively from among their existing officers, the Council will:

(a) draw up a statement specifying:

(i) the duties of the officer concerned; and

(ii) any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;

(b) make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it; and

(c) make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph (1) to be sent to any person on request.

3.0 Appointment of Head of Paid Service

- (a) The full Council will appoint the Head of Paid Service.
- (b) The full Council may only make or approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service where no well-founded objection has been made by any member of the Cabinet.

4.0 Appointment of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers

- (a) A Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council will appoint chief officers and deputy chief officers. That Committee or Sub-Committee must include at least one member of the Cabinet.
- (b) An offer of employment as a chief officer or deputy chief officer shall only be made where no well-founded objection from any member of the Cabinet has been received. A list of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is appended.

5.0 Other Appointments

- (a) **Officers below deputy chief officer.** Appointment of officers below deputy chief officer (other than assistants to political groups) is the responsibility of the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee, and may not be made by Councillors.
- (b) **Assistants to political groups.** Appointment of an assistant to a political group shall be made in accordance with the wishes of that political group.

6.0 Disciplinary Action

(a) Suspension. The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer may be suspended by the General Purposes Committee whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. Before deciding whether to suspend the Committee shall invite the officer to make representations unless it is impracticable to do so. That suspension will be on full pay. The Committee shall review any continuing suspension every two months. In carrying out such review the Committee shall consider any representations made by the officer.

In cases of urgency the Head of Paid Service may suspend the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee where practicable whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. The Head of Paid Service shall, before deciding to suspend, invite the officer to make representations unless it is impracticable to do so. The General Purposes Committee shall review the suspension as soon as is practicable and in any event no later than two months following the original decision to suspend.

~~(b) Independent person. No other disciplinary action may be taken in respect of any of those officers except in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a designated independent person.~~

(b) The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring officer and Chief Finance Officer have a right of appeal to the Disciplinary Appeal Committee against any decisions made by the General Purposes Committee to take disciplinary action short of dismissal

(c) Councillors will not be involved in the disciplinary action (as defined by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001) against any officer below deputy chief officer except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to members in respect of disciplinary action.

7.0 Dismissal

- 7.1 Councillors will not be involved in the dismissal of any officer below deputy chief officer except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to members in respect of dismissals.
- 7.2 Any disciplinary investigation in respect of The Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer should be carried out by an Independent Investigator.
- 7.3 All Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers (with the exception of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer) have a right of appeal to the General Purposes Committee against dismissal.
- 7.4 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer have a right of appeal to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee against any decisions of the General Purposes Committee to take disciplinary action short of dismissal.
- 7.5 Where a committee, sub committee or officer is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the dismissal of an officer designated as the Head of Paid Service, as the authority's Chief Finance Officer, or as the authority's Monitoring Officer, the Full Council must approve that dismissal before notice is given to that person.
- 7.6 If there is a recommendation to dismiss the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer the reports of the General Purposes Committee and the Independent Investigator should be sent to the Independent Panel for its consideration. The officers may also make written representations to the Panel.
- 7.8 The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer will not be issued with the notice of the dismissal until:
- the Council has notified the proper officer of the name of the person who the Council

wishes to dismiss and any other particulars which the Council considers are relevant to the dismissal

- the proper officer has notified every member of the Cabinet of this information together with the period within which any objection to the dismissal is to be made by the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet to the proper officer; and either—
 - (i) the Leader has, within the period specified, notified the Council that neither they nor any other member of the Cabinet has any objection to the dismissal;
 - (ii) the proper officer has notified the Council that no objection was received by the proper officer within that period from the Leader; or
 - (iii) the Council is satisfied that any objection received from the Leader within that period is not material or is not well-founded.

**List of chief officers and deputy chief officers for the purposes of Officer Employment
Procedure Rule 4**

Chief Executive

Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

Director of Commercial and Operational Services

Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Deputy Chief Officers

Prescribed and Other Standing Orders

Part I – Prescribed Standing Orders

Introduction, Application and Interpretation

1. The following Standing Orders shall be known as ‘Prescribed Standing Orders’, and shall form part of the Council’s Standing Orders. The Council’s Standing Orders other than Prescribed Standing Orders shall be known as ‘Ordinary Standing Orders’.
2. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between Ordinary Standing Orders and Prescribed Standing Orders the latter shall prevail.
3. Any word or phrase contained within Prescribed Standing Orders shall, if such word or phrase is given a meaning by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993, have that same meaning for the purposes of Prescribed Standing Orders.

Appointment of Chief Officers

4. Where the authority propose to appoint a Chief Officer, and it is not proposed that the appointment be made exclusively from among their existing Officers, they shall:-
 - (a) draw up a statement specifying:-
 - (i) the duties of the Officer concerned, and
 - (ii) any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;
 - (b) make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it: and
 - (c) make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph (a) to be sent to any person on request.
5. (1) Where a post has been advertised as provided in standing order 4 (b) the authority shall:-
 - (a) interview all qualified applicants for the post, or
 - (b) select a short list of such qualified applicants and interview those included on the short list.

(2) Where no qualified person has applied, the authority shall make further arrangements for advertisement in accordance with standing order 4 (b).
6. Every appointment of a Chief Officer shall be made by the authority unless made by any duly authorised Committee, Action/Sub-Committee, or a relevant Joint Committee.

7. The steps under Prescribed Standing Orders 4 and 5 above may be taken by any Committee, Action/Sub-Committee or Chief Officer of the authority if duly authorised in that behalf.
8. Where the duties of a Chief Officer include the discharge of functions of two or more local authorities in pursuance of Section 101 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972:-
 - (a) the steps under prescribed standing orders 4 and 5 above may be taken by any duly authorised joint committee of those authorities, sub committee of such a committee or a chief officer of any of the authorities concerned, and
 - (b) any chief officer may be appointed by such a duly authorised joint committee, sub committee of such a committee or a committee or sub committee of any of those authorities.
9. Excluded from the application of prescribed standing orders 4 to 6 shall be any appointment in pursuance of Section 9 (assistants for political groups) of the Act.

Disciplinary Action Against Head of Paid Service and Others

- 10.1 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring officer and Chief Finance Officer may not be dismissed by the Council unless in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

~~A relevant officer may not be dismissed by the Council unless the procedure set out in Schedule 3 to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 is complied with.~~

~~(Note: In this standing order 'relevant officer' means head of the authority's paid service, monitoring officer or the chief finance officer, as the case may be.)~~

- 10.2 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring officer and Chief Finance Officer have a right of
appeal to the Disciplinary Appeal Committee against any decisions made by the General Purposes Committee to take disciplinary action short of dismissal

Recording of Votes at Meetings

11. (1) Where immediately after a vote is taken at a meeting of a relevant body any member of that body so requires, there shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting whether that person cast his/her vote for the question or against the question or whether he/she abstained from voting.
- (2) In this paragraph 'relevant body' means the authority, a committee or sub committee of the authority or a relevant joint committee or sub committee of such a committee.

Signing Minutes - Extraordinary Meetings

12. Where in relation to any meeting of the authority the next such meeting is a meeting called under paragraph 3 (extraordinary meetings) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972, the next following meeting of the authority (being a meeting called otherwise than under that paragraph) shall be treated as a suitable meeting for the purposes of paragraph 41 (1) and (2) (signing of minutes) of that Schedule.

Variation and Revocation

13. Otherwise than to incorporate options allowed by the Regulations these prescribed standing orders shall not be revoked or amended.

Part II – Standing Orders relating to Staff

1. In this Part:

“the 1989 Act” means the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

“the 2000 Act” means the Local Government Act 2000;

“disciplinary action” has the same meaning as in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001;

“executive” and “executive leader” have the same meaning as in Part II of the 2000 Act;

“member of staff” means a person appointed to or holding a paid office or employment under the authority; and

“proper officer” means the Human Resources Manager or his or her nominee.

2. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 7, the function of appointment and dismissal of, and taking disciplinary action against, a member of staff of the authority must be discharged, on behalf of the authority, by the officer designated under section 4(1) of the 1989 Act (designation and reports of head of paid service) as the head of the authority’s paid service or by an officer nominated by him/her.

3. Paragraph 2 shall not apply to the appointment or dismissal of, or disciplinary action against:

- (a) the officer designated as the head of the authority’s paid service;
- (b) a statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(6) of the 1989 Act;
- (c) a non-statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(7) of the 1989 Act;
- (d) a deputy chief officer within the meaning of section 2(8) of the 1989 Act; or
- (e) a person appointed in pursuance of section 9 of the 1989 Act (assistants for political groups).

4. (1) Where a committee, sub-committee or officer is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the appointment of an officer designated as the head of the authority’s paid service, the authority must approve that appointment before an offer of appointment is made to that person.

(2) Where a committee, sub-committee or officer is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the dismissal of an officer designated as the head of the authority’s paid service, as the authority’s chief finance officer, or as the authority’s monitoring officer, the authority must approve that dismissal before notice is given to that person.

(3) The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring officer and Chief Finance Officer may not be dismissed by the Council unless in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015:

- (a) At least 20 days before the relevant Council meeting a Panel has been established for the purposes of advising on matters relating to the dismissal and independent persons appointed under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 have been invited to be appointed to the Panel and
- (b) Any advice, views or recommendations of the Panel, the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal and any representations from the relevant officer have been taken into account before the taking of the vote on whether or not to approve such a dismissal

(3) Where a committee or a sub-committee of the authority is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the appointment or dismissal of any officer referred to in sub-paragraph ~~(a), (b), (c)~~ or (d) of paragraph 3, at least one member of the executive must be a member of that committee or subcommittee.

5. (1) In this paragraph, “appointor” means, in relation to the appointment of a person as an officer of the authority, the authority or, where a committee, subcommittee or officer is discharging the function of appointment on behalf of the authority, that committee, sub-committee or officer, as the case may be.

(2) An offer of an appointment as an officer referred to in sub-paragraph (a), (b) (c) or (d) of paragraph 3 must not be made by the appointor until:

(a) the appointor has notified the proper officer of the name of the person to whom the appointor wishes to make the offer and any other particulars which the appointor considers are relevant to the appointment;

(b) the proper officer has notified every member of the executive of the authority of:

- (i) the name of the person to whom the appointor wishes to make the offer;
- (ii) any other particulars relevant to the appointment which the appointor has notified to the proper officer; and
- (iii) the period within which any objection to the making of the offer is to be made by the executive leader on behalf of the executive to the proper officer; and

(c) either:

(i) the executive leader has, within the period specified in the notice under sub-paragraph (b)(iii), notified the appointee that neither he/she nor any other member of the executive has any objection to the making of the offer;

(ii) the proper officer has notified the appointor that no objection was received by him/her within that period from the executive leader; or

(iii) the appointor is satisfied that any objection received from the executive leader within that period is not material or is not wellfounded.

6. (1) In this paragraph, “dismissor” means, in relation to the dismissal of an officer of the authority, the authority or, where a committee, sub-committee or another officer is discharging the function of dismissal on behalf of the authority, that committee, sub-committee or other officer, as the case may be.

(2) Notice of the dismissal of an officer referred to in sub-paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph 3 must not be given by the dismissor until:

(a) the dismissor has notified the proper officer of the name of the person who the dismissor wishes to dismiss and any other particulars which the dismissor considers are relevant to the dismissal;

(b) the proper officer has notified every member of the executive of the authority of –

(i) the name of the person who the dismissor wishes to dismiss;

(ii) any other particulars relevant to the dismissal which the dismissor has notified to the proper officer; and

(iii) the period within which any objection to the dismissal is to be made by the executive leader on behalf of the executive to the proper officer; and

(c) either:

(i) the executive leader has, within the period specified in the notice under sub-paragraph (b)(iii), notified the dismiss that neither he/she nor any other member of the executive has any objection to the dismissal;

(ii) the proper officer has notified the dismissor that no objection was received by him/her within that period from the executive leader; or

(iii) the dismissor is satisfied that any objection received from the executive leader within that period is not material or is not well founded.

7. Nothing in paragraph 2 shall prevent a person from serving as a member of any

committee or sub-committee established by the authority to consider an appeal by:

- (a) another person against any decision relating to the appointment of that other person as a member of staff of the authority; or
- (b) a member of staff of the authority against any decision relating to the dismissal of, or taking disciplinary action against, that member of staff.