

3: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel Rules of Procedure – Conduct of Meetings (Agreed by the Panel)

Chairman of Panel

1. The Chairman of the Panel will be elected in June of each year from amongst the elected members sitting on the Panel.
2. A Vice-Chairman will be elected in June of each year from amongst the elected members sitting on the Panel.
3. In the event of the resignation or removal of the Chairman, a new Chairman will be elected at the next meeting, from amongst the elected members sitting on the Panel.
4. If both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent from a meeting, the members present shall choose one of their number from amongst the elected members to preside over the meeting, subject to Rule 5 below.
5. If the Chairman arrives at a meeting of the Panel or Vice-Chairman arrives at such a meeting from which the Chairman is absent after the time for which the meeting has been summoned, he or she shall preside over the meeting after any question under discussion on his or her arrival has been disposed of but not before then.
6. Any power or duty of the Chairman in relation to the conduct of a meeting may be exercised by the person presiding at the meeting.

Quorum

7. The quorum of the Panel shall be at least one quarter of the whole number of the Panel. Members present as substitutes shall be included in calculating whether the meeting is quorate.
8. If during any meeting of the Panel the Chairman, after counting the number of members present declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned. The consideration of any business not transacted shall be adjourned to a time to be fixed by the Chairman, or, if he or she does not fix a time, to the next ordinary meeting of the Panel.

Access to Information

9. The Access to Information Procedure Rules laid down by the Host Authority will apply with any necessary modifications.

Order of Business

10. Except as otherwise provided by Rule 13. below, the order of business at ordinary meetings of the Panel shall be: -
 - (a) to choose a person to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be absent;
 - (b) to confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Panel;
 - (c) to dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting;
 - (d) to consider reports as specified on the agenda;
 - (e) to consider motions in the order in which the notice has been received;
 - (f) any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent.
11. Business falling under items (a), (b) or (c) of Rule 10 shall not be displaced, but subject thereto the foregoing order of business may be varied:-
 - (a) by the Chairman at his or her discretion; or
 - (b) by a resolution passed at that meeting. A motion to vary the order of business shall be moved and seconded formally and put without discussion.

Minutes of the Panel

12. At a meeting of the Council at which minutes of a previous meeting are submitted for approval as a correct record, the Chairman shall move that those minutes be so approved.
13. No motion or discussion shall take place upon the minutes, except upon their accuracy, and any matter concerning their accuracy shall be raised by amendment.
14. If no such matter is raised, or if it is raised then as soon as it has been disposed of, the Chairman shall sign the minutes.

Amendments to motions

15. An amendment shall be relevant to the motion and shall be either:-
 - (a) to refer a subject of debate to a subcommittee or the Police and Crime Commissioner for consideration or re-consideration;
 - (b) to leave out words;
 - (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;
 - (d) to insert or add words;

but such omission, insertion or addition of words shall not only have the effect of negating a motion before the Panel.
16. Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time and no further amendment shall be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of; provided that the Chairman may permit two or more amendments

to be discussed (but not voted on) together if he or she considers that this course would facilitate the proper conduct of the Panel's business.

17. If an amendment be lost, other amendments may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment be carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

Alterations or withdrawal of motion or amendment

18. A proposer of a motion may, with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Panel, alter the motion if the alteration is such that it could properly be effected by an amendment of the motion. A proposer of an amendment may, with the like concurrence and consent, alter the amendment if the amendment as altered could properly have been moved in that form as an amendment. The altered motion or amendment shall if required by the Chairman be reduced into writing and handed to him or her before the consent of the Panel to the alteration is sought.
19. A proposer of a motion or of an amendment may, with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Panel, withdraw the motion or amendment which he or she has proposed, and no member shall speak upon it after the proposer has thus asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission shall have been refused.
20. The giving or refusal of the consent of the Panel to the alteration or withdrawal of a motion or amendment shall be signified without discussion.

Motions and amendments generally

21. A member may not propose or second a motion or amendment on which he or she is disqualified from voting.

Conduct of Members

22. If any member in the opinion of the Chairman signified to the Panel, misconduct himself or herself by persistently disregarding the ruling of the Chair, or by behaving irregularly, improperly, or offensively, or by wilfully obstructing the business of the Panel, or by tedious repetition or unbecoming language in his or her speech, the Chairman or any other member may move "That the member named by not further heard", and such a motion if seconded shall be put and determined without discussion.
23. If the member named continues his or her misconduct after a motion under the last previous paragraph has been carried, the Chairman shall either:-
 - (a) move "That the member named do leave the meeting" (in which case the motion shall be put and determined without seconding or discussion); or

- (b) adjourn the meeting of the Council for such period as he or she in his or her discretion shall consider expedient.

Motions affecting persons employed by the Police and Crime Commissioner

24. If any question arises at a meeting of the Panel or a subcommittee as to the appointment, promotion, dismissal, salary, pension, conditions of service or the conduct of any person employed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, such question shall not be the subject of discussion until the body concerned has decided whether or not the power of exclusion of the public shall be exercised, with the exception of confirmatory hearings for the Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer which are required to be held in public.

Right of reply

25. The proposer of a motion shall have the right of reply to the debate:-
- (a) at the close of the debate on the motion;
 - (b) at the close of the debate on an amendment to the motion;
 - (c) before a motion to proceed to next business or that the Panel adjourn or a motion or amendment to refer the subject of debate to a subcommittee or the Police and Crime Commissioner is put;
 - (d) after the closure is carried.
26. The proposer of an amendment shall not have the right of reply to either the debate on the amendment or to the debate on a substantive motion formed by the carrying of the amendment.

Points of order and personal explanations

27. A member may speak on a point of order or in personal explanation, and shall be entitled to be heard forthwith. A point of order shall relate only to an alleged breach of a Standing Order or statutory provision and the member shall specify the Standing Order or statutory provision and the way in which he or she considers it has been broken. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by him or her which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate.
28. The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion.

Next business etc

29. A member who seeks to avoid a decision being taken on a matter under discussion may, at the conclusion of a speech of another member, unless the Chairman considers that the matter has been insufficiently discussed, move "that the Panel proceed to the next business" or, if there is no other business to be transacted, "that the Panel adjourn".

30. The proposer of such a motion may speak thereon for five minutes but the seconding of the motion shall be formal and without comment and there shall be no debate on the motion.
31. On the seconding of the motion, the Chairman shall first give the mover of the original motion an opportunity to speak on it for not more than five minutes and then put to the vote the motion to proceed to the next business or to adjourn the Panel.
32. If that motion is carried, the original motion shall be considered as withdrawn.

Adjournment of debate

33. A member who seeks to interrupt a debate so that it may be continued at a later hour or on another occasion may, at the conclusion of the speech of another member, move that the debate be adjourned to that hour or occasion.
34. If the member does not specify an hour or occasion, the motion shall be deemed to intend that the debate shall be resumed at the next ordinary meeting of the Panel.
35. The proposer of such a motion may speak thereon for five minutes but the seconding of the motion shall be formal and without comment and there shall be no debate on the motion except that the mover of the original motion may speak on it for not more than five minutes.
36. On the resumption after adjournment of an interrupted debate, the Council shall proceed to the further consideration of the adjourned business as though the meeting had been continuous for the purposes of these Rules of Procedure.

Closure

37. A member may at the conclusion of the speech of another member move "that the proposition under discussion be now put" (which is in these Standing Orders referred to as "the closure").
38. The proposal and seconding of the closure shall be formal and without comment and there shall be no debate on it. The closure shall be put forthwith to the vote unless it appears to the Chairman that the proposition to which it is sought to apply the closure has not been sufficiently discussed.
39. If the closure is carried, the motion or amendment which is the subject of the interrupted debate shall be put without further discussion, subject to the mover of the original motion, first having the right of reply given by Rules 33 - 36.

Voting

40. Every proposition shall, unless otherwise required by these Rules of Procedure or Statute, be determined by show of hands or, at the discretion of the Chairman, by voices.
41. If an automatic system of recording votes is in operation, the Chairman shall have power to order votes to be given and counted in accordance with the system.
42. In taking the votes on any proposition, those members only shall be entitled to vote who are present in the meeting room when the proposition is put from the Chair.
43. Any member present who is a substitute for a regular member is entitled to vote, if present when the proposition is put.
44. After a proposition is put from the Chair but before the vote is taken, any three members rising in their places may require that the voting shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting so as to show whether each member present gave his or her vote for or against that proposition or abstained from voting.
45. Where immediately after a vote is taken any member so requires, there shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting whether that person cast his or her vote for the question or against the question or whether he or she abstained from voting.

General disturbances

46. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting the Chairman shall warn him or her. If he or she continues the interruption the Chairman shall order his or her removal from the room. In case of general disturbance in any part of the room open to the public the Chairman shall order that part to be cleared.
47. If, in the opinion of the Chairman, misconduct or obstruction renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, the Chairman, in addition to any other power vested in him or her, may without the question being put suspend the meeting for a period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Interests in contracts and other matters

48. If any member of the Panel has any pecuniary interest as defined within the Code of Conduct of their appointing authority or, in the case of independent co-opted members, the Host Authority's Code of Conduct in any contract, proposed contract, or other matter, that member shall declare that interest and withdraw from the meeting while the contract, proposed contract, or other matter, is under consideration by the Panel unless the disability to discuss that matter imposed upon him or her by the Code has been removed by the Host Authority.

Record of attendance

49. Every member attending a meeting of the Panel or subcommittee of which he or she is a member, shall sign his or her name in the attendance book or sheet provided for that purpose.

Meetings of the Panel and subcommittees

50. The Chairman of the Panel or the chairman of a subcommittee may cause a special meeting of the body concerned to be called at any time. In the absence of the Chairman of the body concerned the Deputy Chairman of that body may exercise the powers conferred on the Chairman by this Rule.
51. A special meeting of the Panel or subcommittee shall be called on the request of at least one quarter of the whole number of members of the body concerned by notice in writing signed by them and given to the Clerk to the Panel and specifying the business for which the meeting is to be called.

Proceedings of the Panel and subcommittees

52. The quorum of a subcommittee, unless a special quorum is otherwise prescribed, shall be at least one quarter of the whole number of the body concerned, provided that in no case shall a quorum be less than three members.
53. Subject to the provisions of Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, all reports and all documents marked as "confidential" or "not for publication" shall be treated as confidential until they become public in the ordinary course of the Panel's or Police and Crime Commissioner's business.
54. No act of a subcommittee shall have effect until approved by the Panel except to the extent that the subcommittee has itself power to act without the approval of the Panel.

Variation and revocation of Rules of Procedure

55. Any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Rules of Procedure shall when proposed and seconded stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Panel.

Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure

56. The ruling of the Chairman as to the construction or application of any of these Rules of Procedure, or as to the proceedings of the Panel, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Panel.

Frequency of Meetings

57. Meetings of the Panel will generally take place six times a year but extra meetings may be convened with the agreement of the Chairman.