

Bee Network Committee

Rules of Procedure

1. Interpretation, Suspension and Variation/Revocation of Rules of Procedure

- 1.1 These Rules shall apply to the Bee Network Committee.
- 1.2 The ruling of the Chair on the interpretation of these Rules in relation to all questions of order and matters arising in debate shall be final.
- 1.3 References in these Rules to the “Chair” mean the member of the Bee Network Committee for the time being presiding at the meeting of the Bee Network Committee. References in these Rules to the “Secretary” means the officer of the GMCA who is appointed to discharge the role of the Secretary to the Bee Network Committee.
- 1.4 * Except for those provisions which accord with the provisions of the Local Government Acts (and which are indicated with an asterisk *) any Rule may be suspended at a meeting of the Bee Network Committee with the consent of the majority of the whole number of members of the Bee Network Committee but not otherwise.
- 1.5 * These Rules (except for those Rules marked with asterisk*) may be varied or revoked by a decision of a two-thirds majority of the Bee Network Committee and any motion to vary or revoke any of these Rules shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Bee Network Committee which shall determine the matter having considered a report of the Secretary to the Bee Network Committee on the proposed variation or revocation.

2. Chair

2.1*The Chair of the Bee Network Committee will be appointed annually by the Mayor from among its members and shall, unless they resign, cease to be members of the Bee Network Committee or become disqualified, act until their successor becomes entitled to act as Chair.

2.2The appointment of the Chair, for recommendation to the Mayor, shall be the first business transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Bee Network Committee.

2.3* On a vacancy arising in the office of Chair for whatever reason, the Bee Network Committee shall recommend an appointment to fill the vacancy at the next ordinary meeting of the Bee Network Committee held after the date on which the vacancy occurs, or, if that meeting is held within 14 days after that date, then not later than the next following meeting. The member appointed shall hold such office for the remainder of the year in which such vacancy occurred.

3. Meetings

3.1 The Annual Meeting of the Bee Network Committee shall be held in June
* or the month after local elections on a date and at a time determined by the Bee Network Committee.

3.2 Ordinary meetings of the Bee Network Committee for the transaction of
* general business shall be held on such dates and at such times as the Bee Network Committee shall determine.

3.3 An Extraordinary Meeting of the Bee Network Committee may be called
* at any time by the Chair.

4. Notice of Meetings

4.1 At least five clear days before a meeting of the Bee Network Committee:

- (a) notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published by the Secretary and posted at Broadhurst House, Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU; and
- (b) a summons to attend the meeting, specifying an agenda for the meeting, shall be sent by electronic email to the usual email address of each member of the Bee Network Committee, or any other email address notified to notified to the Secretary by a member of the Bee Network Committee.

4.2 Lack of service on a member of the Bee Network Committee of the
* summons shall not affect the validity of a meeting of the Bee Network Committee.

4.3 A member of the Bee Network Committee may require a particular item
* of business, including any motion, which is relevant to the powers of the Bee Network Committee, to be discussed at an ordinary meeting of the Bee Network Committee subject to at least eight clear days' notice of such intention being given to the Secretary in writing, signed by the member concerned and specifying the business to be discussed. The Secretary shall set out in the agenda for each meeting of the Bee Network Committee the items of business requested by members (if any) in the order in which they have been received, unless the member concerned has given prior written notice to the Secretary prior to the issue of the agenda for the meeting, for it to be withdrawn. If the member concerned is not present at the meeting when an item of which they have given notice comes up for discussion, this item shall, unless the Bee Network Committee decides otherwise, be treated as withdrawn. A

member shall not have more than one item of business, or motion, standing in their name to be discussed at any meeting of the Bee Network Committee.

- 4.4 No motion by way of notice to rescind any resolution which has been passed within the preceding six months, nor any motion by way of notice to the same effect as any motion which has been negatived within the preceding six months, shall be in order, unless the notice thereof shall have been given in time for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting, in accordance with paragraph 4.3 above, and the notice shall have been signed by four other members in addition to the member who is to propose the motion.
- 4.5 * Except in the case of business required by these Rules to be transacted at a meeting of the Bee Network Committee, and other business brought before the meeting as a matter of urgency, and of which the Secretary shall have prior notice and which the Chair considers should be discussed at the meeting, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Bee Network Committee other than that specified in the agenda for the meeting.

5. Chair of Meeting

- 5.1 * At each meeting of the Bee Network Committee the Chair, if present, shall preside.
- 5.2 * If the Chair is absent from a meeting of the Bee Network Committee, the Secretary shall invite the members present to elect a member to preside for the duration of the meeting or until such time as the Chair joins the meeting.
- 5.3 Any power or function of the Chair in relation to the conduct of a meeting shall be exercised by the person presiding at the meeting.

6. Quorum

- 6.1 * No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the full Bee Network Committee unless at least 6 of the members are present).
- 6.2 If at the time for which a meeting is called, and for 15 minutes thereafter, a quorum is not present, then no meeting shall take place.
- 6.3 If during any meeting of the Bee Network Committee the Chair, after counting the number of members present, declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time fixed by the Chair. If there is no quorum and the Chair does not fix a time for the reconvened meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Bee Network Committee.

7. Order of Business

- 7.1 At every meeting of the Bee Network Committee the order of business shall be to select a person to preside if the Chair is absent and thereafter shall be in accordance with the order specified in the agenda for the meeting, except that such order may be varied -
- (a) by the Chair at his/her discretion, or
 - (b) on a request agreed to by the Bee Network Committee
- 7.2 The Chair may bring before the Bee Network Committee at their discretion any matter that they consider appropriate to bring before the Bee Network Committee as a matter of urgency.

8. Rules of Debate

Motions

- 8.1 A Motion (or amendment) shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. It shall, if required by the Chair, be put in writing and handed to the Chair, who shall determine whether it is in order before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.
- 8.2 A member when seconding a Motion or amendment may, if they then declare their intention to do so, reserve their speech until a later period of the debate. No member may, except at the discretion of the Chair, address the Bee Network Committee more than once on any Motion. The mover of the original Motion may reply but shall confine such reply to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matter into the debate. After the reply the question shall be put forthwith.
- 8.3 A member when speaking shall address the Chair. If two or more members signify their desire to speak, the Chair shall call on one to speak: the other or others shall then remain silent. While a member is speaking no other member shall intervene unless to raise a point of order or by way of personal explanation.
- 8.4 A member shall direct his/her speech to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a point of order. No speech shall exceed five minutes except by consent of the Chair.

Amendments to Motions

- 8.5 An amendment shall be relevant to the Motion and shall be:-

- (a) (i) to leave out words from the Motion
- (ii) to leave out words from, and insert or add others to, the Motion:
- (iii) to insert words in, or add words to, the Motion:

but such omission, insertion or addition of words shall not have the effect of negating the Motion before the Bee Network Committee.

8.6 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. The mover of an amendment shall read the same before speaking to it.

8.7 If an amendment is rejected, other amendments may be moved on the original Motion. If an amendment is 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, except any amendment which would be inconsistent with that already carried. The right of reply under paragraph 9.2 above shall not extend to the mover of an amendment which, having been carried, has become the substantive Motion. No member shall move more than one amendment on any Motion.

8.8 A member with the consent of the Bee Network Committee, signified without discussion:-

- (a) alter a Motion of which they have given notice
- (b) with the consent of their seconder alter a Motion which they have moved:

if in either case the alteration is one which could be made as an amendment thereto.

- 8.9 A Motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the Bee Network Committee (which shall be signified without discussion) and no member may speak upon it after the mover has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission has been refused.
- 8.10 When a Motion is under debate no other Motion shall be moved except the following:-
- (a) That the Motion be amended
 - (b) That the Bee Network Committee proceed to the next business
 - (c) That the question be put
 - (d) That the debate be adjourned
 - (e) That the meeting be adjourned
 - (f) That the member named be warned
 - (g) (By the Chair under paragraph 11.2 below) That the member named leave the meeting, or
 - (h) That the press and public be excluded (in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972)
- 8.11 A member who has not already spoken on the item under consideration may move without comment at the conclusion of a speech of another member “That the Bee Network Committee proceed to the next business”, “That the question be put”, “That the debate be adjourned” or “That this meeting of the Bee Network Committee be adjourned” and on the seconding of that Motion the Chair shall proceed as follows:
- (a) on a Motion to proceed to the next business, unless in their opinion the original Motion or amendment has been insufficiently discussed, they shall first give the mover of the original Motion a right of reply, and then put to the vote the Motion to proceed to the next business; if this latter

Motion is carried, the original Motion or amendment under discussion shall be deemed to be withdrawn

- (b) on a Motion that the question be put, unless in their opinion the Motion or amendment before the meeting has not been sufficiently discussed, they shall first put to the vote the Motion that the question be put and, if it is carried, they shall then give the mover of the original Motion their right of reply under paragraph 9.2 above, before putting the Motion or any amendment then under discussion to the vote
- (c) on a Motion to adjourn the debate, if, in the Chair's opinion, the Motion or amendment before the meeting has not been sufficiently discussed, and cannot reasonably be sufficiently discussed on that occasion, they shall put to the vote a Motion to adjourn the debate to the next meeting of the Bee Network Committee, or to a time stated, without giving the mover of the original Motion their right of reply on that occasion; if the adjournment Motion is carried, then, on the resumption of the debate, the Chair shall reintroduce the Motion or amendment before the meeting at the time the debate was adjourned, and the member who moved the adjournment of the debate shall be entitled to speak first
- (d) on a Motion to adjourn a meeting of the Bee Network Committee until a specified date and time, the Chair shall forthwith put such a Motion to the vote without giving any right of reply to the mover of any Motion under discussion and, if the Motion is carried, the remaining business of the day shall stand adjourned until the date and time stated in the Motion. On the resumption of the meeting of the Bee Network Committee the procedure in paragraph 9.11(c) above shall apply

8.12 No member may move any of the Motions in paragraph 9.11 above on more than one occasion at each meeting and, when such a Motion is not carried, a

second Motion of the like nature shall not be made within half an hour unless, in the opinion of the Chair, the circumstances of the question are materially altered.

Points of Order

- 8.13 A member may, with the permission of the Chair, raise 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 the Rules of Procedure or statutory provision and the member shall specify which part of the Rules of Procedure or statutory provision and the way in which they consider it has been broken. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by the member which they consider to have been misunderstood in the present debate.
- 8.14 The ruling of the Chair on a point of order, or the admissibility of a personal explanation, shall not be open to discussion.
- 8.15 Whenever the Chair intervenes during a debate a member then speaking or offering to speak shall give way.

Motion to exclude the Press and Public

- 8.16 A Motion to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 may be moved, without notice, at any meeting of the Bee Network Committee during an item of business whenever it is likely that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. **Voting**

- 9.1 Whenever a vote is taken at meetings of the Bee Network Committee it shall be by a show of hands. On the requisition of any member of the Bee Network Committee, supported by four other members who signify their support by rising in their places, and before the vote is taken, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each member present gave their vote for or against that question or abstained from voting.
- 9.2 * In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second, or casting, vote.
- 9.3 *A member may demand that his/her vote be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

10. **Conduct of Members at meetings**

- 10.1 If at a meeting any member of the Bee Network Committee, misconducts him or herself by persistently disregarding the ruling of the Chair, or by behaving irregularly, improperly or offensively, or by willfully obstructing the business of the Bee Network Committee, the Chair or any other member may move "That the member named be warned" and the Motion if seconded shall be put and determined without discussion.
- 10.2 If the member named continues such misconduct after a Motion under the foregoing paragraph has been carried, the Chair shall either:-
- (a) move "That the member named leave the meeting" (in which case the Motion shall be put and determined without seconding or discussion)
 - (b) adjourn the meeting of the Bee Network Committee for such period as they consider expedient

10.3 In the event of general disturbance, which in the opinion of the Chair, renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible the Chair, in addition to any other power vested in him or her may, without question put, adjourn the meeting of the Bee Network Committee for such period as he or she considers expedient.

11. Disturbance by Members of the Public

11.1 If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting the Chair shall warn him or her. If they continue the interruption the Chair shall order his or her removal from the room. In the case of general disturbance in any part of the room open to the public the Chair shall order that part to be cleared.

12. Interests of Members

12.1 * A member must have regard to the Code of Conduct for Members of the local authority for which they are an elected member and their obligations in relation to the disclosures of, and possible withdrawal from a meeting, for reason of personal, prejudicial interests and disclosable pecuniary interests.

13. Publication of Reports

13.1 * Reports or other documents for the consideration of the Bee Network Committee shall be marked "Private & Confidential Not for Publication" only if the Secretary, as Proper Officer under Section 100B(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 determines that this should be done on one or more of the grounds specified in the Act.

13.2 A Member of the Bee Network Committee or a member of the public may request that an item of business containing exempt information should be taken in public and such a request should be dealt with by the meeting at

which the item is to be considered in private as the first item on the agenda. The procedure for dealing with such requests is set out in Rules 14 and 15 below.

13.3 * Copies of the agenda of meetings of the Bee Network Committee, including prints of reports or other documents to be submitted to the Bee Network Committee (other than reports or other documents marked “Not for Publication”) shall be furnished prior to the meeting to representatives of the press, radio and television and shall also be furnished at the meeting to members of the public attending such meetings. Such documents shall also be made available for public inspection, at least five clear days before any meeting, at Broadhurst House, Oxford Street, the Town Hall, Manchester, M1 6EU.

13.4 * Where an item or report has been added to an agenda, any revised agenda or additional report shall be available for public inspection as soon as the item or report has been added to the agenda, provided copies are also, at that time, available to members of the Bee Network Committee.

14. Access to Information Procedure Rules

14.1 Except as otherwise indicated, these rules apply to all meetings of the Bee Network Committee.

14.2 The Rules in Section 14 do not affect any more specific rights to information contained elsewhere in these Rules of Procedure or the law.

14.3 The Bee Network Committee will supply copies of:

(a) any agenda and reports that are open to public inspection

- (b) any further statements or particulars, if any, as are necessary to indicate the nature of the items in the agenda
- (c) if the Secretary thinks fit, copies of any other documents supplied to members in connection with an item
- (d) to any person on payment of a charge for postage and any other costs.

14.4 The Bee Network Committee will make available copies of the following for six years after a meeting:

- (a) the minutes of the meeting, excluding any part of the minutes of proceedings when the meeting was not open to the public or which disclose exempt or confidential information
- (b) a summary of any proceedings not open to the public where the minutes open to inspection would not provide a reasonably fair and coherent record;
- (c) the agenda for the meeting
- (d) reports relating to items when the meeting was open to the public

14.5 The relevant Chief Officer will set out in every report a list of those documents (called background papers) relating to the subject matter of the report that in his/her opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based
- (b) which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report but does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information

15. Admission of the Public

15.1 *All meetings of the Bee Network Committee shall be open to the public (including the press) except to the extent that they are excluded whether during the whole or part of the proceedings either:

- a. In accordance with Section 100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972;
or
- b. By resolution passed to exclude the public on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972. Any such Resolution shall identify the proceedings or the part of the proceedings to which it applies and state the description, in terms of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 of the exempt information giving rise to the exclusion of the public.

15.2 Exclusion of access by the public to meetings

(a) Confidential information – requirement to exclude public

15.2.1 The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed.

15.2.2 Where the meeting will determine any person's civil rights or obligations, or adversely affect their possessions, Article 6 of the Human Rights Act establishes a presumption that the meeting will be held in public unless a private hearing is necessary for one of the reasons stated in Article 6.

(b) Meaning of confidential information

15.3 Confidential information means information given to the Bee Network Committee by a Government department on terms that forbid its public disclosure or information that cannot be publicly disclosed by reason of a Court Order or any enactment.

(c) Meaning of exempt information

15.4 Exempt information means information falling within the following categories (subject to any qualifications):

- (i) information relating to any individual
- (ii) information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual
- (iii) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
- (iv) information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Bee Network Committee or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Bee Network Committee
- (v) information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
- (vi) information which reveals that the Bee Network Committee proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
- (vii) information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

In each case, information is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(d) Exclusion of Access by the public to reports

- 15.5 If the Secretary thinks fit, the Bee Network Committee may exclude access by the public to reports which in his/her opinion relate to items during which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public. Such reports will be marked "Not for Publication" together with the category of information likely to be disclosed.