

PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL - COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

GENERAL

The standing committees of the council shall be as follows:

- Civic and Events
- Leisure, Amenities and Environment
- Personnel
- Planning and Highways
- Policy and Finance

The Policy & Finance Committee shall have 9 members consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council, the Chairman of the other Standing Committees (or if unavailable, their Vice-Chairmen) and three other members.

The Planning & Highways Committee shall have 9 members, if possible to include at least one Member from each Ward of the Town

The Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Civic & Events Committee shall each have 9 members.

Committees have delegated authority to make decisions on items within their terms of reference, apart from where specifically restricted by either Standing Orders (SO) or Financial Regulations (FR). The acts and proceedings of a committee shall be deemed to be the acts and proceedings of the council.

The council is not empowered to delegate certain specified decisions. The following will be matters for Full Council only (FR 1.13):

- Setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement)
- Approving the Annual Governance Statement
- Approving the Annual Accounting Statements
- Borrowing
- Writing off bad debts
- Declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence
- Addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors

Additionally, the council must (FR 1.14):

- Determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts
- Approve any single grant or a single commitment in excess of £30,000
- In respect of annual salary for any employee, have regard to recommendations made by the relevant committee in accordance with its terms of reference

Unless council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and membership shall be determined by the committee. (SO 4a)

The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the council. (SO 4b)

The council shall determine the terms of reference of standing committees (SO 4d (i)), the number and time of the ordinary meetings of the committee (SO 4d (ii)), appoint the members of the committee (SO 4d (iv)) and appoint the chairman of the committee (SO 4d (vi)).

The chairman of a committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee at any time (SO 6c). If the chairman of a committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within 7 days of having been requested to do so by 2 members of the committee, any 2 members of the committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee. (SO 6d)

The quorum for each committee shall be one-third of the membership (with a minimum of three).

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio members of every committee.

CIVIC AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Civic and Events Committee shall operate within the general guidance provided within these terms of reference, and shall in particular:

- Be responsible for determining the number and type of civic events held during the year
- Be responsible for determining the number and type of large mayoral fundraising events held during the year
- Support the Civic and Marketing Manager in the day-to-day organisation of the agreed events
- Review the success of events, including attendance levels and charitable profit made
- Agree and regularly review the council's marketing strategy
- Ensure adequate risk assessments are completed for all events
- Agree and regularly review the council's publications
- Prepare annual committee budget estimates for review by the Policy and Finance Committee
- Manage and monitor (at least on a quarterly basis) the income and expenditure against the approved budget for the committee

LEISURE, AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Leisure, Amenities and Environment Committee shall operate within the general guidance provided within these terms of reference, and shall in particular:

- Be responsible for the provision, maintenance and management of all council land holdings, vehicles and buildings of a leisure, amenities or environment nature
- Determine annually all rents and charges for the use of all leisure, amenity and environment facilities
- Be responsible for provision, maintenance and management of street furniture and council owned facilities (excluding bus shelters, street lighting and shrub/flower planters - these are the responsibility of the Planning and Highways Committee)
- Be responsible for the preparation and publication of the official Town Guide and other publications relevant to the work of the committee
- Prepare a specification for the maintenance of grass verges and street furniture in Peacehaven and such extended areas as agreed from time to time and seek quotations for the maintenance of the said grass verges and street furniture
- Award and monitor the grass verge and/or street furniture cleansing contracts accordingly

- Make recommendations to the Personnel Committee regarding matters relating to the council's staff engaged on grounds maintenance, caretaking and cleaning duties
- Prepare annual committee budget estimates for review by the Policy and Finance Committee
- Manage and monitor (at least on a quarterly basis) the income and expenditure against the approved budget for the committee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee shall operate within the general guidance provided within these terms of reference, and shall in particular:

- Be responsible for approving adverts, job descriptions, personnel specifications and salary terms for staff vacancies
- Arrange interview panels or delegate authorisation to senior employees (as appropriate) in accordance with agreed council policy
- Regularly review the staff structure and employee terms and conditions of service, taking appropriate expert advice where necessary
- Assess and act where necessary in respect of staff grievances in accordance with agreed council policy
- Assess and act where necessary in respect of staff disciplinary in accordance with agreed council policy
- Approve annual salary increases in accordance with the requirements of Financial Regulations
- Make recommendations to Full Council with regard to the appointment or dismissal of the Town Clerk

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

The Planning and Highways Committee shall operate within the general guidance provided within these terms of reference, and shall in particular:

- Make representations to the Local Planning Authority on applications for planning permission
- Make representations in respect of appeals against the refusal of planning permissions
- Make recommendations regarding street names
- Consider and monitor the Town and other developmental plans and the making of all appropriate representations
- Facilitate economic development initiatives, including those pertaining to town centre matters, for the benefit of Peacehaven and make recommendations on all related matters, including liaising as appropriate with other agencies
- Make representations to the appropriate Planning Authority in respect of other planning matters not otherwise referred to
- Make representations to the appropriate authority in respect of highway matters and public transport services

- Make representations to Lewes District Council regarding Public Entertainment Licensing and Licensed Premises generally
- Manage the Town Enhancement projects including shrub/flower planters as determined from time to time.
- Be responsible for the provision and maintenance of Town Council owned bus shelters, street/footpath lighting and shrub/flower planters
- Prepare annual committee budget estimates for review by the Policy and Finance Committee
- Manage and monitor (at least on a quarterly basis) the income and expenditure against the approved budget for the committee

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Policy and Finance Committee shall operate within the general guidance provided within these terms of reference, and shall in particular:

- Make recommendations on any financial matters to be dealt with by Full Council (as outlined in the general terms of reference)
- Be responsible for the review and adoption of appropriate policies to support the day-to-day administration of the council
- Be responsible for matters not specifically delegated to any other standing committee
- Make appropriate decisions in respect of community and other grants/subsidies
- Be responsible for ensuring risk assessments are undertaken as appropriate
- Be responsible for ensuring the council has adequate insurance
- Act as lead committee in respect of any partnership initiative of a corporate nature with the principal Local Authorities for the area including the development of Joint Partnership Committees and constitutional matters.
- Prepare annual Committee budget estimates in October on all Terms of Reference referred to above and forward to the Policy & Finance Committee not later than December;
- Manage and Monitor at least on a quarterly basis the expenditure incurred and committed against the approved budget estimates for the Committee and monitor all other Standing Committees
- Prepare annual committee budget estimates, and review alongside other standing committee budget estimates to formulate a recommended budget and precept requirement for approval by Full Council
- Manage and monitor (at least on a quarterly basis) the income and expenditure against the approved budget for the committee and council as a whole