

(Amendments shown underlined in italics)**8. Voting**

- 8.1 Unless this Constitution or the law provides otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present and voting at the time the vote is taken.
- 8.2 If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Mayor will have a second or casting vote. There will be no restriction on how the Mayor chooses to exercise a casting vote.
- 8.3 The Mayor will take the vote by show of hands, or if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.
- 8.4 If, before the vote is taken, two members present at the meeting require it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes.
- 8.5 Decisions taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council shall be subject to a recorded vote. For the purposes of this paragraph a 'budget decision meeting' shall have the meaning set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 as amended.

Rules for the conduct of recorded votes

When a recorded vote is requisitioned, each Member shall indicate his/her vote on an individual voting paper and will sign his/her name.

The Mayor will declare the result of a recorded vote, but the names of those voting or abstaining will not be read to the Council, but shall be entered in the minutes.

Any Member of the Council is entitled to inspect any used voting paper in the Chief Executive's office during normal office hours.

The Chief Executive may destroy all used voting papers that have been in his custody for not less than six months from the date of the meeting at which the recorded vote took place.

- 8.6 Where any member requests it immediately after the vote is taken, their vote will be so recorded in the minutes to show whether they voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting.
- 8.7 Immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council there will be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the members who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting.