



**Standing Orders of
The South-East of Scotland Transport
Partnership**

As amended August 2017

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Definitions

1. In these Standing Orders the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

"1973 Act" means the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended;

"The 2005 Act" means the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005;

"The 2005 Order" means the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005;

"constituent council" means constituent local authority as listed in paragraph 4;

"The Partnership" means the South-East of Scotland Transport Partnership;

"Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the South-East of Scotland Transport Partnership;

"Deputy Chairperson" means any deputy chairperson of the South-East of Scotland Transport Partnership;

"Partnership Director" means the officer appointed as Partnership Director by the Partnership and the "Treasurer", "Secretary", "Solicitor", and "Estates Functions Officer" similarly refer to officers as appointed by the Partnership; "appropriate officer", as contained in these Standing Orders refers to any of the appointed officers of the Partnership;

"councillor member" in reference to the Partnership means a member appointed by the constituent councils, that is the City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian Councils.

"non-councillor member" means a member not appointed as a councillor member, that is to say, a member appointed by the Scottish Ministers in the first year of operation of the Partnership, and thereafter by the Partnership with the approval of the Scottish Ministers.

"working day" means any day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a public holiday in any part of the area for which the Partnership is responsible.

"Governance Scheme" means the suite of governance documents for SEStran from time to time in force of which these standing orders form part, including the List of Committee Powers, List of Officer Powers, Financial Rules, Contract Standing Orders, and any other documents which the Partnership deems necessary for the proper governance of the organisation.

2./

2. Applying the Interpretation Act

The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to these Standing Orders in the same way as it applies to an Act of Parliament.

3. Commencement

These Standing Orders will apply from 22nd September, 2017. They shall constitute the Standing Orders of the Partnership under paragraph 6(5) of Schedule 2 of the 2005 Order, until otherwise amended or revoked.

4. The Partnership - Constitution

The Partnership was established under the 2005 Act and the 2005 Order which came into effect on 1 December 2005. The Order specifies the functions of the Partnership and its powers.

The Partnership is constituted under section 1(1) of the 2005 Act and comprises (Firstly) representatives of the constituent councils, as follows:-

| Council | Member | Weighting of votes |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| The City of Edinburgh Council | 5 members | 2x |
| Clackmannanshire Council | 2 members | 1x |
| East Lothian Council | 2 members | 1x |
| Falkirk Council | 2 members | 2x |
| Fife Council | 3 members | 2x |
| Midlothian Council | 2 members | 1x |
| Scottish Borders Council | 2 members | 1x |
| West Lothian Council | 2 members | 2x |

and (Secondly), between 7 and 9 other members.

5. Appointment of Members and Other Membership Arrangements

The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 of the 2005 Order are set out below at paragraph 6 and shall be held to be incorporated into these Standing Orders, subject always to:-

- a) such amendments, deletions or additions as may be made to the relevant part of the 2005 Order from time to time
- b) such minor amendments made herein for cross-referencing purposes, and
- c) such additional provisions as are set out in these Standing Orders insofar as the same do not contradict the requirements of the 2005 Order.

6. Appointment of members and other matters

6.1./

6.1 Appointment of Members

- (1) The Partnership shall have the number of councillor members appointed by and from each constituent council of the Partnership specified in Paragraph 4 of these Standing Orders opposite the name of that council (as shown in the second column).
- (2) The Partnership shall have such number of other members as they consider appropriate within the range specified in Paragraph 4, and each such member shall be appointed in accordance with sub paragraphs (3) and (4) below.
- (3) During the period ending with the holding of the poll at ordinary elections for councillors in 2007, each such other member shall be appointed by the Scottish Ministers.
- (4) After the period mentioned in sub paragraph (3), each such other member shall be appointed by the Partnership, subject to the consent of the Scottish Ministers, in line with the policies from time to time in force, including those related to equality of opportunity.
- (5) The Partnership and the Scottish Ministers may each appoint such number of observers as they consider appropriate to the Partnership.
- (6) Observers may participate in proceedings of the Partnership in the same manner as councillor members and other members but may not hold office in it or participate in its decisions.
- (7) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed as a member or observer of the Partnership if that person is an employee of the Partnership.
- (8) Subject to sub paragraph (9) below, each constituent council of the Partnership shall:
 - (a) at the first meeting of that council taking place after each ordinary election appoint as councillor members of the Partnership the number of persons specified in Paragraph 4 in respect of that constituent council; and
 - (b) on a vacancy occurring due to a person appointed by that council ceasing to be a member of the Partnership in the circumstances described in paragraph 6.2(2) to (6) below, appoint another person in that person's place unless the council, having regard to the length of time until the next ordinary election, consider it unnecessary to do so.
- (9)/

- (9) The first appointment of councillor members of the Partnership established under this Order shall be made by each constituent council as soon as is practicable after the coming into force of this Order and at the latest by a month after the coming into force of this Order.
- (10) As soon as possible after making the first appointment of councillor members each constituent council of the Partnership shall intimate in writing to the Secretary, the names of those persons appointed.
- (11) Each constituent council may appoint persons as substitute councillor members to attend meetings of the Partnership, or of any of its committees or sub committees, in the absence of any councillor members appointed to the Partnership by that council, and where any such substitute councillor members are appointed:-
 - (a) only one substitute councillor member may attend in place of a councillor member who is absent; and
 - (b) the substitute councillor member shall have the same powers as the councillor member who is absent.
- (12) Any person appointed as a councillor member, or substitute councillor member, of the Partnership must be a councillor for the area of the constituent council making the appointment.
- (13) A constituent council shall intimate in writing to the Secretary of the Partnership:-
 - (a) as soon as possible after appointing any person as a councillor member or substitute councillor member of the Partnership, the name of that person; and
 - (b) as soon as possible after a vacancy has occurred due to a person appointed by that council ceasing to be a councillor member or substitute councillor member of the Partnership in the circumstances described in paragraph 6.2(2) or (4) below, the name of that person.
- (14) The proceedings of the Partnership shall not be invalidated by any vacancy or vacancies among its members or by any defects in the method of appointment of any of its members.

Duration and termination of membership

- 6.2.** (1) Subject to sub paragraphs (2) to (6) below, any person appointed by a constituent council as a councillor member of the Partnership shall hold office until the first meeting of that council held after the next ordinary election following the date of that member's appointment.

- (2) If, prior to the next ordinary election following the date of the member's appointment, a councillor member of the Partnership ceases to be a councillor for the area of the constituent council which appointed the member, the member shall immediately cease to be a member of the Partnership.
- (3) A councillor member of the Partnership may resign their membership at any time by written intimation to that effect to:-
 - (a) the Secretary of the Partnership; and
 - (b) the constituent council which appointed the councillor member.
- (4) A constituent council may at any time terminate the membership of any person appointed by them as a councillor member of the Partnership if, immediately prior to this, the constituent council provides an explanation for the termination by written intimation to the Secretary of the Partnership, the Chairperson of the Partnership and that councillor member.
- (5) The Chairperson of the Partnership, following a vote to that effect by the Partnership, may write to a constituent council and request that the council terminates the membership of a councillor member.
- (6) Where the Chairperson of the Partnership writes to a constituent council in terms of sub paragraph (5) above, such a request shall not be refused unreasonably by the constituent council.
- (7) Subject to sub paragraphs (8) to (9) below, other members and observers appointed by the Partnership, or the Scottish Ministers as the case may be, shall hold office for a period of 4 years following the date of their appointment unless otherwise specified at the time of their appointment.
- (8) Other members of the Partnership and observers may resign their membership at any time by written intimation to that effect to the Secretary of the Partnership.
- (9) The Partnership may remove other members from office or observers if it is satisfied that:-
 - (a) the other member's or observer's estate has been sequestrated or the other member or observer has been adjudged bankrupt, has made an arrangement with creditors or has granted a trust deed for creditors or a composition contract; or
 - (b)/

- (b) the other member or observer:-
 - (i) is incapacitated by physical or mental illness;
 - (ii) has been absent from meetings of the Partnership for a period exceeding whichever is the longer of (a) three consecutive months or (b) two consecutive meetings of the full Partnership, such period starting from the date of any meeting, without the permission of the Partnership; or
 - (iii) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the member's functions as a member or is unsuitable to continue as an other member or observer.

Voting arrangements of Partnerships

- 6.3.** (1) Where any decision of the Partnership is to be determined by a vote, each councillor member of the Partnership has a single vote and may vote on all matters.
- (2) Non-councillor members may vote on all matters with the exception of
- (a) questions arising under s.3(2)(a) of the 2005 Act, or on whether or not to make a request for the making of an order under s.10(1) of that Act, or any other matter excluded by law ;
 - (b) those matters which would require expenditure outwith the Partnership's existing, approved budget;
- declaring that, in interpreting such exclusions, they will be so interpreted so as to give non-councillor members as full participation in decision-making as practicable.
- (3) Subject to sub paragraphs (4) and (5) below, where any decision of the Partnership is to be determined by a vote, it shall be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast.
- (4)/ Each councillor member of each constituent council within the Partnership shall have their vote weighted by making it count as one, two, three or four votes as specified in the third column of Paragraph 4.
- (5) The Partnership may determine by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, subject to sub paragraph (4) above, to amend these Standing Orders to require that certain specified decisions be determined by a two thirds majority of the votes cast.

Chairpersons/

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons

- 6.4.** (1) The Partnership shall appoint from its membership a Chairperson and such number of Deputy Chairpersons as they consider appropriate. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons shall each be from different Councils.
- (2) Subject to sub paragraph (3) below, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Partnership shall each hold office for a period to be determined by the Partnership not exceeding two full council terms.
- (3) If, prior to the end of their period of appointment, a Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership ceases to be a member of the Partnership, they shall immediately cease to hold office.
- (4) The Chairperson, or in the Chairperson's absence a Deputy Chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the Partnership, but where both the Chairperson and all Deputy Chairpersons are absent from any meeting the members present shall appoint a Chairperson for that meeting.
- (5) In the event of an equality of votes at a meeting, the Chairperson of that meeting shall, subject to sub paragraph (6) below, have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
- (6) Where there is an equality of votes at a meeting and the matter which is the subject of the vote relates to the appointment of a member of the Partnership to any particular office, committee or sub committee of the Partnership, the decision shall be by lot. Reference is also made to paragraph 28 on method of voting

Secretary of Partnership

- 6.5.** The Partnership shall appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Estates Functions Officer and a solicitor any of whom may also be an officer of one of the constituent councils.

Meetings and quorum

- 6.6.** (1) The first meeting of the Partnership shall be held as soon as is practicable after the Partnership is established, and the Chief Executive or equivalent position of City of Edinburgh Council shall be responsible for its arrangement.
- (2) Subject to sub paragraph (1) above, the Partnership shall hold such meetings as it shall consider necessary for it to carry out its functions at such place or places as it may from time to time fix. Reference is made to paragraphs 8 to 40 for further provisions relating to meetings.
- (3)/

- (3) The secretary of the Partnership shall send copies of the minutes of all its meetings to each of the constituent councils for their information. Reference is made to paragraphs 21 and 22 for further provisions relating to minutes of meetings.
- (4) At a meeting of the Partnership one third of all members of the Partnership is a quorum.
- (5) If, at any time during a meeting, a question arises on whether there is a quorum, the Chairperson shall instruct a count of the members who are present. If a quorum of members is not present, then the meeting shall be adjourned to a time and date decided by the Chairperson.
- (6) If less than a quorum of members is entitled to vote on an item because of declarations of interest, then that item cannot be dealt with at that meeting.
- (7) For the avoidance of doubt, Members will be entitled by remote means such as teleconferencing or videoconferencing as long as arrangements can be made to ensure that effective communication between Members attending in this way and the rest of the meeting can be implemented.
- (8) In all matters connected with Board or committee meetings, every effort shall be made to ensure that all members can fully participate in the meeting, and that all issues relating to equality are addressed and reasonable adjustments made to existing procedures where possible.

Committees and Sub committees

- 6.7.** (1) The Partnership may appoint from its membership such committees or sub committees as it may from time to time consider necessary or desirable and may refer to any such committee or sub committee such matters as the Partnership may from time to time specify.
- (2) The Partnership may delegate any of its functions to any committee established by the Partnership. Further reference is made to the provisions on delegation set out at paragraphs 31 and 32.

Meetings

Arrangement of Meetings

7. All meetings of the Partnership and its committees will be called and arranged in accordance with the 1973 Act, as amended by inter alia the 2005 Act and the 2005 Order.

Special Meetings

8. A special meeting of the Partnership may be called at any time by: -
- the Chairperson requesting the Secretary to do so, or
 - a written requisition, signed by at least one quarter of the members, and specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting. In such case, the meeting is to be held within 14 days of receipt of the requisition by the Secretary.

Notice of Meetings

9. (1) At least 7 clear working days before a meeting of the Partnership, or, if in the opinion of the Secretary, a meeting needs to be called at shorter notice in circumstances of extreme urgency, then at the time it is called, the following must occur: -
- the Secretary must publish the time and place of the intended meeting at the offices of the Partnership and the headquarters of the constituent councils. If the meeting is called by members, then the notice must be signed by those members and must set out the business they want to deal with there;
 - a summons to attend the meeting must be sent to every member at his usual address. The summons must set out the business that is to be dealt with, and the Secretary must sign it.
- (2) Any summons issued under paragraph (1) must give a note of the business and the proposed order for dealing with business at the meeting. No other business may be dealt with unless it is brought before the Board as a matter of urgency. However, if members requisition a meeting, only the business listed in the requisition may be considered.
- (3) If 3 clear working days' notice has not been given for any item, the item may be considered at the meeting if the Chairperson rules that there are special reasons why it is a matter of urgency. The Chairperson must give those reasons. The item must be made known at the start of the meeting when the order of business is decided. If the Chairperson rules that the matter is not urgent, then it will be included as an item for the next ordinary meeting of the Partnership, unless it is dealt with before then.
- (4) If a summons is not served on any member the meeting will still be valid.
- (5) Publication and service of notices in relation to meetings, may be by written or electronic means except to the extent that any member has specified in writing to the contrary to the Secretary.

Chair

10. (1) The Chairperson will chair a meeting of the Partnership when he/she is present.
- (2) If the Chairperson is absent, the Deputy Chairperson will take the chair. If the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are both absent, then another member (chosen by the members present) will chair the meeting. Any person presiding over a meeting will have the same powers and duties as Chairperson of the Partnership in relation to any meeting and its business.
- (3) The Chairperson (or other person presiding at the meeting) will have a casting vote, as defined in Standing Order 6.4(5).

Attendance

11. The Secretary will record the names of the members present at each meeting.

Access for the Public and Press

12. (1) Except where this Standing Order says otherwise, every meeting of the Partnership and its committees shall be open to the public and the press.
- (2) The Partnership may keep any members of the public out of a meeting, or cause them to leave, if they are hindering or are likely to hinder the work of the Partnership. If a member of the public interrupts any meeting, the Chairperson may warn that person and, if the person continues with the interruption, the Chairperson may order the person to be removed from the meeting room. If there is general disturbance in any part of the meeting room, the Chairperson may order that part to be cleared.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, sections 50A to 50F inclusive of the 1973 Act shall be imported into these Standing Orders as applying mutatis mutandis to the Partnership.
- (4) The public will be kept out of a meeting when an item of business is being considered if it is likely that they will hear confidential information. Nothing in this Standing Order authorises or requires confidential information to be disclosed in breach of the obligation of confidence as defined in the 1973 Act.
- (5) The Partnership may decide to keep the public out of a meeting when an item of business is to be considered if it is likely that they will hear information that is defined as 'exempt' in the 1973 Act.
- (6)/

- (6) This Standing Order does not require the Partnership to allow the taking of photographs or access for radio or television broadcasting. Such access is at the discretion of the Chairperson or the person presiding at the meeting of the Partnership or any of its Committees.

Order of Business

13. The business of the Partnership at ordinary meetings will normally take place in the following order:-

- (1) Order of business.
- (2) Declaration of Interests by members.
- (3) Deputations.
- (4) Questions.
- (5) Minutes of previous meetings.
- (6) Motions of which notice has been given.
- (7) Election business, including any matters of appointments.
- (8) Special business (relating to annual estimates or budgets).
- (9) Ordinary business.
- (10) Motions given in at the start of the meeting, if the Chairperson rules they are matters of urgency, to be dealt with at that meeting.

Any item on the agenda may be taken out of its order if:-

- the Chairperson decides this; or
- a member suggests it and those at the meeting agree.

Chairperson - Powers and Duties

14. On all points of order the Chairperson's decision is final. If asked, the Chairperson must explain the reasons for decisions. When the Chairperson speaks, any member who is addressing the meeting must stop. The Chairperson must keep order and make sure that members have a fair hearing. The Chairperson will decide all matters of order, competence and relevance arising at meetings. If two or more members want to speak, the Chairperson will decide who is to be first. If there is disorder at any meeting the Chairperson may adjourn the meeting to any other time or day that he may fix at the time or afterwards. In these circumstances, by simply leaving, the Chairperson will adjourn the meeting. The Chairperson may make a statement at the start of the meeting on any matter that affects the Partnership's interests.

Adjourning Meetings

15. (1) The Partnership may adjourn any meeting to any other time or day that the Chairperson may fix at the time or afterwards.
(2)/

- (2) The Partnership may adjourn any meeting for a reasonable interval. This adjournment will be made if:-

- the Chairperson says so; or
- a member proposes it, another seconds it, and the members vote in favour of it. There will be no amendments or discussion.

Order of Debate

16. A member who wants to speak will, when called on, address the chair. The member shall speak directly on the motion or amendment that is being proposed, seconded or discussed, or on a question of order. No member can speak more than once on any subject that is being discussed, except for a point of order or (with the permission of the Chairperson) to give an explanation. However, the person proposing a motion has a right of reply. A member who is speaking when a question of order is raised will stop speaking until the Chairperson has dealt with the question of order.

Motion “That the Question Be Now Put”

17. Any member who has not spoken on the question before the meeting may propose “that the question be now put”. If this is seconded and the Chairperson thinks the question has been discussed enough, the Chairperson will order a vote on the motion (without amendment or discussion) by a show of hands. If the motion is carried, the proposer of the original motion will have a right to reply, and the question itself will then be put to the meeting. If the motion “that the question be now put” is not carried, a similar motion may be made after every two further members have spoken.

Length of Speeches

18. Except with the Chairperson’s permission, the proposer and the seconder of a motion or an amendment must not speak for more than five minutes and all other speakers for not more than three minutes. The proposer of the original motion may speak for up to five minutes in reply, and the reply must not introduce any new matter into the debate. After that the discussion will finish and the question will then be put by the Chairperson.

Obstructive or Offensive Conduct

19. If any member at any meeting disregards the Partnership or the Chairperson, or behaves obstructively or offensively, a motion may then be proposed and seconded to suspend the member for the rest of the meeting. The motion will be put without discussion. If it is carried, the Chairperson will order the member to leave the meeting.

Revoking/

Revoking a Resolution

20. A decision of the Partnership cannot be changed within 6 months unless: -
- the Chairperson rules that there has been a material change of circumstances; and
 - notice has been given of the proposed change.

Minutes of Meetings

21. The Secretary (or a person nominated by him or her in writing to do so in his or her absence) will take the minutes of all Partnership meetings. The minutes will be printed and, as far as possible, circulated among members at least seven working days before the next ordinary meeting of the Partnership. There they will be presented and corrected if necessary. If the minutes are held to be a true record of the proceedings of the meeting they relate to, the person chairing the next meeting will sign them as a correct record.

Validating the Proceedings

22. The proceedings at a meeting may be challenged on the ground that the meeting was not called properly. Confirming the minutes of the meeting at the next meeting will validate proceedings.

Questions in Writing

23. (1) At any meeting of the Partnership, a member may put a question to the Chairperson about any relevant and competent business not already on the summons for the meeting. However, the question must have been given in writing to the Secretary by 12 noon on the seventh working day before the meeting.
- (2) A member may put a question to the Chairperson at a meeting of the Partnership about any matter that is on the summons for that meeting. He or she must give the question in writing to the Secretary by 10 am on the third working day before the meeting. The Chairperson will decide whether it will be answered verbally or in writing at the meeting.
- (3) Arising from each verbal or written answer, the member who put the written question may put one supplementary question. These will be answered verbally by the Chairperson.
- (4) The Chairperson may decide to disallow any supplementary question if:-
- the Chairperson rules the supplementary question is not relevant to the subject of any written questions answered at the meeting; or
 -

- the Chairperson gives another reason.
- (5) No discussion will be allowed on any verbal, written or supplementary questions or their answers.

Motions must be in Writing and Signed

24. Every motion and amendment except where the context otherwise requires must be put into writing. It must be signed by the person proposing it and handed to the Secretary.

Motions Intended for Consideration at the End of a Meeting

25. If there is a motion that does not relate to the business of the meeting, and the meeting has not been given adequate notice of the motion, it may be considered at the end of the meeting. However, this can only happen if the Chairperson rules there are special reasons why it is a matter of urgency. The Chairperson must give these reasons. Before the start of the meeting, the motion must be given to the Secretary who will read it to the meeting when the order of business is decided. If the Chairperson rules the matter is not urgent, it will be included as an item of business for the next ordinary meeting of the Partnership (unless it is dealt with before then).

Motions Intended for Consideration at the Next Meeting

26. (1) Notice of motions intended for consideration at a meeting of the Partnership must be given in writing. The notice must be signed by the member or members giving notice and delivered to the Secretary by 12 noon on the tenth working day before the next ordinary meeting of the Partnership. (This does not apply if it is a matter of urgency dealt with under Standing Order 25). All such motions will be included in the summons for the next meeting in the order in which they are received.
- (2) If the Chairperson rules that more than one such motion deals with the same subject, only the motion that was proposed first will be considered.

Motions – Procedures

27. (1) All motions and amendments will be proposed and seconded and then given in writing to the Secretary as soon as they are moved. This does not apply to motions simply seeking to approve or disapprove of any matter, purely negative amendments, amendments proposing further consideration and reports, and motions and amendments that are fully set out in a minute of a meeting.
- (2)/

- (2) Every amendment must be relevant to the motion in question.
- (3) The proposer with the permission of the seconder may withdraw a motion or amendment.
- (4) A motion to approve a report or a minute of a Committee will be considered as an original motion. Any motion that involves altering or rejecting such a report or minute or any part of it will be dealt with as an amendment.
- (5) The Chairperson of a Committee will have the right to move the approval of the report or minute of that Committee.
- (6) Motions or amendments that are not seconded will not be discussed or recorded in the minutes. However, the proposer can ask for his dissent to be minuted. This does not apply if the vote is taken by roll call.
- (7) The mover of the motion or amendment may agree to add to it all or part of an amendment moved and seconded by other members, provided that:-
 - his/her seconder consents;
 - the mover and seconder of the added amendment consents; and
 - the agreement takes place before the mover of the motion has replied.

Method of Voting

- 28.**
- (1) In a meeting of the Partnership or any Committee, the vote on any matter will be taken by calling the roll.
 - (2) If a vote has been taken and someone immediately challenges the accuracy of the count the Chairperson will decide whether to have a recount.
 - (3) Reference is also made to Standing Order 6.4 in relation to voting matters.

How Motions Must Be Put

- 29.** Where one or more amendments are made upon a motion, the vote shall be taken among the amendments and the motion in that order. In the event that the motion or any amendments, which shall include any motion or amendment relating to the appointment of a member to any particular office or Committee, receives an absolute majority of votes of the members present and voting, then that proposition shall be carried. Where no such absolute majority obtains, /

obtains, the proposition with the least number of votes shall be eliminated and a further vote (or further votes as may be required) taken until an absolute majority of votes is received for a proposition.

Taking a Vote

- 30.** After the Secretary has started to take the vote, no member will be allowed to offer an opinion, ask a question, or interrupt the proceedings until the result of the vote has been announced.

Delegating to Committees and Officers

- 31.** (1) The Partnership may appoint such committees as it considers necessary or desirable and to refer to such committees such matters as it may specify. Any committee may deal only with those matters referred to it from the Partnership.
- (2) The Partnership's committees, their terms of reference and functions, are set out in the List of Committee Powers which also forms part of the Council's overall Governance Scheme.
- (3) The Chairperson of any committee shall be appointed by the committee itself. Should the Chairperson be absent, then the members present will appoint someone from amongst themselves to chair the meeting.
- (4) The Partnership may delegate powers to officers of the Partnership as may be set out in any List of Officer Powers as might be approved by the Partnership.
- (5) The Partnership may delegate powers to a sub group comprised of members and/or officers in relation to specific matters.

Exceptions from Delegation

- 32.** Subject to the terms of any law, the following will not be delegated to any committee: -
- (1) Introduction of new policies or changes in policies which might have a significant impact on the resources of the Partnership.
- (2) Any matter involving expense not in accordance with financial regulations.

Attendance/

Attendance of Members of the Partnership at Committee Meetings

33. (1) If a motion is referred to a committee, the proposer of the motion will be appointed as a member of the committee for that motion and any later consideration by the committee that directly relates to the motion.
- (2) A member of the Partnership cannot be present at a meeting of a committee of which he or she is not a member when: -
- the meeting is considering a matter where the decision may affect the interests of any person as an individual; and
 - the decision is made after a hearing by the committee where the person has a right to be heard (in person or through a representative).

Quorum for Committees

34. For the avoidance of doubt, the quorum for the Performance and Audit Committee shall be 4.

Application of Standing Orders to Committees

35. These Standing Orders shall apply to committees as they do to meetings of the Partnership, subject to the immediately preceding paragraph.

Deputations

36. (1) The Partnership or any committee can decide whether to hear any deputations from members of the public, staff or other interested parties on any matter that is referred or delegated to it. Any application for a deputation to speak to the meeting must be in writing, signed by a representative of the organisation or group wishing to be heard and delivered to the Secretary no later than one working day before the meeting concerned. However, the Chairperson can waive this requirement.
- (2) When the Partnership is considering whether to hear a deputation, it must not discuss the merits of the case itself. Unless the meeting agrees unanimously to hear or to refuse to hear the deputation, a vote will be taken without discussion on whether to hear the deputation. A deputation will have 10 minutes to present its case.
- (3) Any member can put a question to the deputation that is relevant to the subject but members must not discuss the merits of the case.

Code of Conduct

37. Members of the Partnership should comply with the Councillor's Code of Conduct, made under the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, or in the case of non-councillor members such parts as apply to them.

Partnership Business - Responsibility of the Proper Officer

38. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 80 (financial instruments) the Partnership Director shall be the Proper Officer for the Partnership for the purposes of sections 190, 191 and 193 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. In execution of such deeds the Partnership Director shall ensure that s/he takes appropriate advice from the appropriate officer or adviser to the Partnership.

Financial Arrangements

39. The Partnership will adopt such protocols for the financial administration of the Partnership and including all arrangements for budgeting and financial planning of the Partnership as are necessary for the proper financial administration of the Partnership and the delivery of Best Value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Items of Urgency

40. If a decision which would normally be made by the Partnership requires to be made urgently between meetings of the Board, the Partnership Director, in consultation with the Chairperson (whom failing, the Deputy Chairperson(s)), can take action subject to the matter being reported to the next meeting of the Partnership.

Suspending or Altering Standing Orders

41. (1) A Standing Order can only be suspended or abolished at any meeting if three-quarters of the Partnership members present agree.
- (2) None of the Standing Orders can be cancelled or altered unless a resolution to do so is passed after notice has been given at a previous ordinary meeting of the Partnership.
- (3) if the Secretary considers that any decision of the Partnership, on the conduct of its business, has altered Standing Orders, he should report this to the Partnership.

Contracts and Tenders

General/

General Procedures

42. (1) In these Standing Orders the word “contractor” means a works contractor, a supplier of consultancy services and a supplier of goods and services.
- (2) All procedures for approval of contractors, inviting and receiving tenders and all other arrangements affecting contracts shall -
- comply with relevant legal requirements, EC Procurement Directives and associated Statutory Instruments and Regulations; and
 - seek to ensure that tenders are genuinely competitive and that best value is achieved for the Partnership.
- (3) Subject to the above, detailed procedures relating to all such procedures shall be set out in the Contract Standing Orders from time to time in force, which shall be observed by all members and officers of the Partnership, and are hereby deemed to be incorporated into these Standing Orders.

Financial Regulations

General Financial Regulations

43. (1) These regulations are made in terms of Section 95 of the 1973 Act, as applied to the Partnership by Section 106(1)(ba) of the said Act.
- (2) Section 95 of the 1973 Act empowers the Partnership to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the proper officer of the Partnership has responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The Partnership has appointed the Treasurer to be the proper officer. The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985 lay down that the system of accounting control and the form of the accounts and supporting records should be determined by the Treasurer. These regulations also provide that the Treasurer should ensure that the system of accounting control is observed and that the accounts and supporting records are kept up-to-date.

Accounts

44. The Treasurer, as proper officer, is statutorily responsible for all financial matters in which the Partnership is involved. As such the Treasurer, will provide means for procedural control which ensure that:
- all expenditure is a proper charge;
 - all income due to the Partnership is collected;

- all assets are protected;
- all liabilities are accounted for; and
- proper financial reports are prepared.

The supervision and control of accounting, costing and other financial systems, records and operations together with the production of financial management information and the closing of accounts will be done in accordance with procedures and instructions issued by the Treasurer. The Treasurer will ensure that the accounts are properly maintained and prepared in accordance with Partnership policy, the relevant legislation and appropriate Codes of Practice.

Budgets

45. The preparation of financial plans and budgets and their form will be done in accordance with procedures and instructions issued by the Treasurer in so far as such procedures and instructions do not exist in Standing Orders or any protocols that might be agreed by the Partnership.

Expenditure Authorised

46. The authorisation of expenditure and operation of budgetary control will be done in accordance with procedures approved by the Treasurer insofar as such procedures do not exist in Standing Orders.

Audit

47. The Treasurer will make arrangements for the internal audit of the accounts of the Partnership and the Partnership Director and other officers of the Partnership are to make available for inspection by internal auditors such cash, vouchers, documents, correspondence or other items as may be deemed necessary by the Treasurer. The Treasurer will ensure that arrangements for the carrying out of the Statutory Audit, in terms of Section 96 of the 1973 Act, are in order.

Irregularities

48. Any member of the Partnership or of its staff discovering any suspected fraud or irregularity in the financial transactions of the Partnership is to immediately inform the Treasurer. In consultation with the Partnership Director, s/he will then conduct such investigation as he considers necessary and will take such action as may appear to him to be appropriate.

Invoices, Salaries, etc.

49. The incurring of expenditure, the verification, certification, submission and payment of invoices, salaries, wages and pensions will be done in accordance with procedures and instructions issued by the Treasurer.

Travelling Claims, etc.

50. The submission and processing of travelling, subsistence, financial loss claims and attendance allowances will be done in accordance with procedures and instructions issued by the Treasurer, including any travel policy from time to time in force.

Revenues

51. The collection of all revenues accruing to the Partnership is to be arranged by or in consultation with the Treasurer.

Debt Recovery

52. The Treasurer can sign petitions and certificates to the Sheriff Court for summary warrant applications. In consultation with the Treasurer, the Solicitor may settle or compromise any action of payment where the amount compromised does not reduce the amount recovered by more than £1,000.

Bad Debts

53. The Treasurer will have authority, having exhausted recognised means of debt collection, to authorise the writing off of bad debts up to a maximum of £1,000 in any case and for any sum where the debtor: -

- (a) is a company in liquidation; or
- (b) is untraceable.

Subject in the case of (a) above to an appropriate claim against the liquidator having been lodged. The Treasurer will report all other irrecoverable debts to the Partnership for authority to write off.

Charges

54. The Treasurer will ensure that charges are reviewed annually by the Partnership.

Bank Accounts

55. The Treasurer will operate the bank accounts on behalf of the Partnership.

Advances

56. The Treasurer will advance such amounts to such persons as he deems necessary in order that such persons may defray petty expenditure and the Treasurer, in consultation with the Partnership Director, will determine the conditions relating to such advances.

Inventories

57. Records of stocks and stores will be kept in such form as shall be approved by the Partnership and the Partnership Director who will be jointly responsible for ensuring that up-to-date inventories of furnishings, office equipment, machinery, scientific apparatus, silverware, works of art and other valuable property are maintained.

Property Register

58. The Estates Functions Officer of the Partnership will maintain an up-to-date register of all land and heritable property owned by or leased by the Partnership whether in its own right or in trust and will ensure that all such property is readily identifiable at any time.

Insurance

59. The Treasurer will arrange for the insurance of all such risks as may be required to be covered and will negotiate all claims in respect of such insurance.

Staff Records, Pay etc

60. The Treasurer will give instructions regarding the maintenance of such staff records as are necessary for pay and superannuation purposes.

Signing

61. The Partnership Director is designated in terms of the 1973 Act as proper officer for the purposes of sections 193 (authentication of documents) and 194 (execution of Deeds) for signing (where necessary) of financial instruments or instruments effecting the transfer of any securities or otherwise giving effect to the powers of borrowing delegated to the Treasurer. In execution of such deeds the Partnership Director shall ensure that s/he takes appropriate advice from the Treasurer or, in the event of there being no Treasurer, such other appropriate adviser to the Partnership.

Investments

62. The Treasurer can undertake any function, which might reasonably be deemed to be investment business and decide on specific purchases and sales of stocks, shares or any other allowable investments, as long as the Treasurer takes appropriate advice where necessary.

Treasury/

Treasury Management

63. The Partnership's treasury management will be carried out according to the Partnership's Treasury Policy Statement. Where practical, all Partnership money will be aggregated for the purposes of treasury management and will be under the control of the Treasurer. All executive decisions on the approved treasury management activities will be delegated to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will act according to CIPFA's *Code for Treasury Management in Public Service*. The Treasurer will arrange to borrow such sums as may be required from time to time by the Partnership in accordance with the Treasury Policy Statement and within the terms of section 3 of the 2005 Act. The signatories to any document or agreement relating to, constituting the security for, or acknowledging the existence of or receipt of any loan arranged under the terms of the Treasury Policy Statement and the foregoing powers will be those nominated by the Partnership in respect of the signing of cheques. Mortgage deeds in the name of the Partnership will be signed and sealed in accordance with Section 194 of the 1973 Act. The Treasurer will report to the Partnership each financial year on the activities of the treasury management operation.