

Comparison of SPC Standing Orders (2021 vs Updated August 2026)

Summary: The 2026 Standing Orders retain most of the 2021 provisions but introduce significant updates in transparency, governance, reporting, meeting administration and SPC operations.

1. SPC Names Updated

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning → Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning
- Community, Leisure and Culture → Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture

2. Meeting Frequency

- 2021: Five meetings per year.
- 2026: Minimum of four meetings per year.

3. Public Notice of Meetings (New)

- Publication of meeting date, time, location and agenda on Council website.

4. Notice of Meetings

- Meeting notifications normally circulated by email.

5. Chairperson Provisions

- Minimum three-year term for Chairs.
- Political proportionality reflected in Chairs allocation.
- Council approval required for changes.

6. Strengthened Role of SPCs

- Multi-annual work programmes linked to Corporate Plan.
- Collaborative and less formal meeting culture encouraged.

7. Minutes

- Formal confirmation at next meeting.
- Discussion restricted to accuracy.

- Confirmed minutes published on website.

8. Duration of Meetings

- Two-hour limit retained but may be extended by suspending Standing Orders.

9. Rules of Debate

- Major simplification of debate procedures.
- Greater emphasis on participation, consensus, inclusiveness and respect.

10. Disclosure of Interests

- Added to standard order of business.

11. Public and Media Attendance

- New prohibition on recording meetings.

12. Legislative Update

- References updated to Part 15 of the Local Government Act as amended.

13. Chairperson Reports and Recommendations

- Written report required after each SPC meeting.
- CPG review process formalised.
- Recommendation wording carried directly into Council agenda and resolutions.

14. Sub-Committees

- Timelines required.
- Reporting back to SPC required.
- Mixed membership encouraged.
- Chair may act as ex-officio chair.

Overall Assessment

The 2026 Standing Orders place greater emphasis on transparency, accountability, structured reporting, effective governance, and collaborative policy development. The most significant practical changes relate to work programmes, publication of minutes, Chairperson reports, recommendation procedures, disclosure of interests, sub-committee

governance and the move away from highly formal debate procedures toward a more deliberative SPC model.