

By: Peter Sass, Clerk to the Authority

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority – 20
May 2016

Subject: Standing Orders and Voting Procedures

Summary: The Standing Orders for the governance of the IFCA are attached. The report also reminds the Authority of the procedure when a formal vote is required and taken.

1. Introduction

- (1) Attached as an appendix for Members' information is a copy of the Standing Orders which are the rules for the governance of the Authority.
- (2) The remaining part of this report deals with the voting procedures so that the situation which arose at the January meeting of the Authority can be avoided.

2. Voting Procedures

- (1) Members will see from the Standing Orders the paragraphs relating to voting as follows:

"19. The voting on general questions shall be ascertained by a show of hands, the Clerk ascertaining the numbers voting for and against any motion or amendment and declaring the result accordingly. Any Member may ask for his/her vote or their abstention to be recorded in the minutes.

20. Two or more members may ask for a formal recorded vote of the whole Authority. If a recorded vote is requested the Clerk shall take the recorded vote by calling the names of the members and recording their answers, and in all cases when a recorded vote is taken, recorded vote lists shall be recorded in the minutes.

21. At the meeting where the budget of the Authority is set for the following financial year all Members of the Authority may discuss and vote on the budget. However, in accordance with Section 180 (4) of the Marine and Coastal Act 2009 the total amount of the Authority's expenses for any particular financial year may be vetoed by a vote of those members of the Authority who are Members of a relevant Council.

22. Once the budget has been set for a particular financial year all members of the Authority may vote on how the total budget is spent"

- (2) The majority of the decisions taken by the Authority are agreed without the need for a formal vote, when the Chairman invites the Authority to agree to the recommendation(s).
- (3) On occasions (as occurred at the January meeting of the Authority) there will be reports which contain a recommendation of the Chief Officer or one of his Officers, but, it becomes clear from the views being expressed by the Members that a formal vote of the Authority will be required.
- (4) Directly a Member moves a recommendation, if, that is seconded by another Member this becomes the formal motion to the Authority. Members who subsequently speak after the formal moving and seconding of a recommendation are required to address this motion.
- (5) If during the debate on this motion another Member moves an amendment to the motion which is seconded by another Member then any subsequent debate by Members of the meeting is on the amendment. A formal vote is then taken on the amendment. If the amendment is lost the debate returns to the substantive motion (the original recommendation) unless another amendment is formally moved and seconded. Once all the amendments have been dealt with the Authority will vote on the substantive motion. Should that motion fall there is an opportunity for a Member to move a new motion which if it is formally seconded sets the process running again.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is asked to note its Standing Orders and in particular its voting procedures.

