

A meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** will be held in **ROOM CVSO1A, CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST. MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2012** at **4:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2012.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary or other interests in relation to any Agenda Item – see Notes below.

3. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES (Pages 7 - 10)

To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer regarding the outcome of the selection processes for the appointment of Lead and Deputy Independent Persons and Town and Parish Council representatives.

4. UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS (Pages 11 - 12)

To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer regarding the up-to-date position on the adoption of a Code of Conduct by Town and Parish Councils and the receipt and publication of registration of interests forms on behalf of District and Town and Parish Councillors.

5. TRAINING UPDATE (Pages 13 - 14)

To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer in response to training organised for District and Parish Councillors on the newly adopted Code of Conduct.

6. UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE 1ST JULY 2012

Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to report.

7. COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE (Pages 15 - 16)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life published its latest Annual Report in September 2012. In his foreword, the outgoing Chairman, Sir Christopher Kelly KCB commented – ‘a further preoccupation during the year has been some of the changes to the Local Government Standards regime brought in by the Localism Act 2011 which diverge significantly from previous recommendations we have made. We believe, the new system is inherently risky and we will continue to monitor actively the situation’.

A copy of the full report is accessible via the hyperlink below –

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/committee-standards-public-life-triennial-review-issues-and-questions-paper>

An extract from the document relating to Local Government Standards is appended to the Agenda.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th March 2013 at 4pm.

Dated this 28th day of November 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sharp', written in a cursive style.

Head of Paid Service

Notes

A. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*
- (2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it*
 - (a) *relates to you, or*
 - (b) *is an interest of -*
 - (i) *your spouse or civil partner; or*
 - (ii) *a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*
 - (iii) *a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

and you are aware that the other person has the interest.
- (3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*
 - (a) *any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;*
 - (b) *any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);*
 - (c) *any current contracts with the Council;*
 - (d) *any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;*
 - (e) *any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;*
 - (f) *any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or*
 - (g) *a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.*

B. Other Interests

- (4) *If a Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote.*
- (5) *A Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -*
 - (a) *a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or*
 - (b) *it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association*

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Please contact Ms C Deller, Democratic Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388007/e-mail: Christine.Deller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Panel.

Specific enquires with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (*under Councils and Democracy*).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.