

A meeting of the **STANDARDS (HEARINGS) SUB-COMMITTEE** will be held in **MEETING ROOM 0.1B, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2019** at **10:00 AM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the meeting.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda Item.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

3. PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL HEARINGS (Pages 3 - 4)

To note the Procedure for the hearing.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve:-

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to individuals and information that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

5. ALLEGATION OF BREACH OF THE MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT (Pages 5 - 18)

To conduct a Hearing following an investigation into an allegation that a Member of Huntingdonshire District Council may have breached the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

A copy of the Investigating Officer's Report is attached.

Contact Officer: T Lewis - (01223) 457401

9 day of October 2019



Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non - Statutory Disclosable Interests](#) is available in the Council's Constitution

Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings

The District Council permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings.

Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

Please contact Democratic Services Team, Tel : 01480 388169 / email: Democratic.Services@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 Sub-Committee.

Specific enquiries 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](#).

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.

Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee will hear the Investigating Officer's report, call such witnesses as necessary and make representations to substantiate the conclusion that the Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.
2. Relevant questions may be asked of the Investigating Officer by the :
 - (i) Complainant
 - (ii) The Member
 - (iii) Sub- Committee
3. The Complainant will then have the opportunity to present his case, including any witnesses.
4. Relevant questions may be asked of the complainant and any witnesses by:
 - (i) The Investigating Officer
 - (ii) The Member
 - (iii) The Sub- Committee
5. The Member will then have the opportunity to present his case, call such witnesses as necessary and make representations to the Sub-Committee as to why he considers that he did not fail to comply with the Code of Conduct.
6. Relevant questions may be asked of the Member and any witnesses by:
 - (i) The Investigating Officer
 - (ii) The Complainant and any witnesses
 - (iii) The Sub- Committee
7. A summary of their respective cases may then be presented by:
 - (i) The Investigating Officer
 - (ii) The Complainant
 - (iii) The Member
8. The Independent Person will then provide their view.
9. The Sub-Committee will then determine their findings.
10. On resumption the Chairman will announce the outcome.

DECISION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

If the Hearings Panel, with the benefit of any advice from the Independent Person, concludes that the Member did not fail to comply with the Code of Conduct, they will dismiss the complaint.

If the Sub-Committee concludes that the Member did fail to comply with the Code of Conduct, the Chairman will inform the Member of this finding and the Sub-Committee will then consider what action, if any, the Sub-Committee should take as a result of the Member's failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Where the Sub-Committee find that a Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct it may -

- (a) censure or reprimand the Member;
- (b) publish its findings in respect of the Member's conduct;
- (c) report its findings to Council [or to the parish council] for information;
- (d) recommend to the Member's Group Leader (or in the case of un-grouped Members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council;
- (e) in the case of an Executive Member, recommend to the Executive Leader of the Council that the Member be removed from the Cabinet, or removed from particular Portfolio responsibilities;
- (f) in the case of the Executive Leader recommend to Council that the Member be replaced as Executive Leader;
- (g) instruct the Monitoring Officer to [or recommend that the parish council] arrange training for the Member;
- (h) remove [or recommend to the parish council] that the Member be removed from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the Council;
- (i) withdraw [or recommend to the parish council that it withdraws] facilities provided to the Member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and Internet access; or
- (j) exclude [or recommend that the parish council exclude] the Member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.

The Sub-Committee has no power to suspend or disqualify the Member or to withdraw Members' or Special Responsibility Allowances.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank