

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 10 October 2019

Present

Councillor: M Johnson (Chairman)

Councillors: G Boxall, P Davies, D Evans, M Gass and B Mouland

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Davies declared an interest in item 4 -summary of complaints. He had assisted and advised one of the complainants in respect of the complaint.

4 Summary of Complaints

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report asked the committee for their thoughts on how they wanted to receive the complaints information either in a public or closed session. A spreadsheet giving details of the complaints for 2019 was available to them to review.

After a short discussion the committee agreed that this should be held in a exempt session and that the spreadsheet should be confidential.

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as:

- (1) It was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act1972; and
- (2) In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The remaining part of this item was held in camera.

5 Report on the Standards in Public Life

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and his recommendation to the committee was that they establish a working group to review the Report on the Standards in public Life and make recommendations to the Standards Committee on what, if any, recommendations should be made to full Council.

The MO looked at the recommendations on pages 14 – 17 of the report and highlighted those that he believed a working group could review. These were recommendations 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 15, 17, 20 22,23 and 25.

Members were also referred to the list of best practice on pages 18 and 19 should also be included in the review.

The following Councillors were appointed to the Working Group

Cllr G Boxall
Cllr P Davies
Cllr D Evans
Cllr M Gass

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Councillors listed above be members of the Working Group to review the report.

6 Report on the Standards Investigation Process & Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report. He explained that both the Councillors Code of Conduct and the Standards Investigation Process was in need of a refresh. There were currently four different codes operating in the district.

For example, District, Parish and Town Councillors struggled with understanding other declarations of interest as the code was silent on this.

It was suggested that examples of 'other interests' be included in new Code of Conduct.

The Monitoring Officer was asked to draft a report for the committee to consider on this issue.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer is requested to review

1. the current process and, if required, present a revised process for consideration by the committee.
2. the current Code of Conduct and, if required, present a revised Code for consideration by the committee and further inclusion into the constitution review.

7 Future Items

There were no future items.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 7.40 pm

..... Chairman