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24 November 2020

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A virtual meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on **Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Edwards (Chairman), Bennett (Vice-Chairman), Blanchard-Cooper, Mrs Baker, Bower, Coster, English, Kelly and Tilbrook.

Independent Persons: Mr J Cooke, Mr B Green, Mrs S Prail and Mr J Thompson, MBE

PLEASE NOTE: *This meeting will be a 'virtual meeting' held using Zoom but as it is a Working Party meeting will be held in private and so not open to the public. The meeting invite including the meeting joining instructions will be sent out 24 hours before the meeting. This meeting will not be webcast.*

Different meeting arrangements are in place for the period running from 4 April 2020 to 7 May 2021 from the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the meeting regulations 2020, to allow formal 'virtual meetings'.

This Council's revised Rules of Procedures for 'virtual meetings' can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/constitution>

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact: committees@arun.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item that they the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest

3. MINUTES

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020, which are attached.

4. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - MODEL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

(Pages 5 - 8)

This report updates the Committee on progress with the Local Government Association (LGA) Draft Model Code of Conduct.

6. STANDARDS RECOMMENDATIONS PENDING NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

(Pages 9 - 16)

The Government has asked the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) to review the Code of Conduct and make recommendations as to various standards issues. Several of these can be acted upon in order to reinforce standards at the authority.

7. REVIEW OF LOCAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

(Pages 17 - 32)

A review has been requested of the Local Assessment Procedure for complaints against Councillors under the Code of Conduct. This report seeks the Committee's views on the proposed changes and next steps for the review.

8. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS (Pages 33 - 52)

This report seeks further views of the Standards Committee relating to a new Social Media Guidance document for Councillors. It is open to Standards Committee to recommend that Cabinet endorse the Guidance in whole, or with amendments.

9. REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS (Pages 53 - 54)

This report updates the Committee on the complaints against Councillors received since the last report. The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of the District and Town & Parish Councils, for monitoring operation of the Code of Conduct, and for considering the outcome of investigations in the event of breaches of the Code.

10. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee is asked to consider passing the following resolution:-

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the accredited representatives from newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 and Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

11. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS [EXEMPT - PARAGRAPH 1 - INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY INDIVIDUAL] (Pages 55 - 60)

The Committee is asked to consider the attached further report and Appendix to Item 9.

Note : Members are reminded that if they have any detailed questions would they please inform the Chairman and/or relevant Director in advance of the meeting.