



Arun District Council
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9 July 2019

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Standards Committee will be held in The Pink Room (Committee Room 1) at the Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton on **Thursday 25 July 2019 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

District Council Members: Councillors English (Chairman), Bennett (Vice-Chair), Coster, Edwards, Kelly, Mrs Stainton and Tilbrook (plus two Liberal Democrat vacancies).

Independent Persons: Mr B Green and Mr J Thompson

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 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2019, as 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. START TIMES

The Committee is asked to consider its start times for meetings during 2019/20.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

(Pages 9 - 60)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) is an advisory public body sponsored by the Cabinet Office. They advise the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in England. They also monitor and report on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders.

The CSPL undertook to review the effectiveness of the arrangements for the conduct of elected councillors, introduced through the Localism Act 2011, once they had bedded in. Their review was undertaken over 2018 and they published a report including a series of recommendations in January 2019.

This report considers the best practice recommendations made by the CSPL that are directed to local authorities. At this stage, it does not consider the recommendations made to the Government as these will be the subject of later consideration and debate once any consultation or guidance is issued in response to the CSPLs report.

7. ASSESSMENT PANEL DECISION

(Pages 61 - 118)

This report advises the Committee of the outcome of the Assessment Panel's investigation into allegations received against Arun District Councillor Richard Bower.

8. 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 accredited representatives of 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.

9. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS (EXEMPT - PARAGRAPH 1 - INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY INDIVIDUAL) (Pages 119 - 128)

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report.

Note : *Indicates report is attached for all Members of the Council only and the press (excluding exempt items). Copies of reports can be obtained on request from the Committee Manager).

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.