

Committee: Standards Committee
Date: Thursday 10 May 2012
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

Dr Sadie Reynolds (Chairman)	Derek Bacon (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Andrew Beere	Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE	Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Russell Hurle	Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Rose Stratford	Councillor Douglas Williamson
Kenneth Hawtin	Councillor David Carr
Councillor John Coley	

Substitutes

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards
Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor P A O'Sullivan
Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Lawrie Stratford

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2012.

6. The New Standards Regime - Proposed Arrangements (Pages 11 - 26)

Report of Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer

Summary

To enable the Committee to finalise its recommendations to Council on 16 May 2012 on the form of a code of conduct for members to be adopted with effect from the relevant legislative date (currently anticipated to be 1 July 2012) and on the nature, composition and terms of reference of the elected member body to be responsible for the arrangements that are statutorily required to ensure that the Council can investigate allegations of misconduct by district and parish councillors and determine an appropriate outcome. Further to enable the Committee to recommend to Council the number of independent persons to be appointed, the appointment and remuneration process and the delegation of authority to the Monitoring Officer to enable the necessary legal arrangements to be introduced.

Recommendations

That Standards Committee recommends to Council:

- (1) The adoption of the code of conduct at Appendix 1 with effect from 1 July 2012 or such other date as is legislatively required ("the effective date") and its endorsement for adoption by the Town and Parish Councils in Cherwell District.
- (2) Such nature and composition of elected member body as it considers appropriate for the purpose of hearing and determining complaints of Councillor misconduct such body to have the terms of reference set out at Appendix 4 and to be established from the effective date to replace the current Standards Committee.
- (3) That two independent persons be appointed by Council at a future date on the recommendation of a panel comprising two members of the elected member body plus the Head of Law and Governance and that authority to fix an initial allowance payment for such persons be delegated to the Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Head of Finance and Procurement.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Head of Law and Governance to take the necessary steps to establish a register of interests for District, Town and Parish Councillors and the required arrangements (including a complaints

procedure and a hearing procedure) pending formal consideration by the elected member body in due course.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or 01295 221589 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections
natasha.clark@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221589

Sue Smith
Chief Executive

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