

AT A MEETING of the CONDUCT ADVISORY PANEL OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 20 February 2014.

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

Councillors:

p Peter Chegwyn	p Keith House
p Keith Evans	p Peter Latham
p Ray Finch	p Frank Pearce
p Jane Frankum	p Tom Thacker
p Andrew Gibson	

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, all Members with a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5 Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made on this occasion.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ASSESSMENT, INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS – CONVENING OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Panel considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 5 in the Minute Book) concerning the convening of sub-committees to determine a complaint against a County Council member should the need arise.

The Head of Governance reminded Members of the new arrangements in respect of the assessment, investigation and determination of complaints of breach of the new Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council, and how under the new arrangements a complaint should proceed.

The Panel noted that it was a legal requirement that any Sub-Committee of the Panel formed to consider a complaint should be proportional. Since under the new arrangements membership of any Sub-Committee would consist of three Members, it was suggested that Panel Members be split into two groups; Group 1 being Members of the Conservative Group, being the majority group on the County Council, and Group 2 being Members from the minority political groups. On this basis, whenever a Sub-Committee was required, this would comprise two Members from Group 1, and one Member from Group 2. Each Member from each group would be picked on an alphabetical rotational basis, the Chairman of each Sub-Committee being appointed by the agreement of Members of each Sub-Committee convened.

RESOLVED:

- i. That delegated authority be given by the Conduct Advisory Panel to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Conduct Advisory Panel, to establish a protocol for the formation of any sub-committee of members of the Conduct Advisory Panel required to be convened in accordance with the Conduct Arrangements.
- ii. That where any sub-committee is so required delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to convene, in consultation with the Chairman of the Conduct Advisory Panel, such sub-committee in accordance with the Conduct Arrangements, and the agreed protocol.
- iii. That on this basis Members of the Conduct Advisory Panel be split into two groups; **Group 1** - Conservative Members and **Group 2** – Members from minority political groups. Membership of any Sub-Committee to comprise two Members from Group 1 and one Member from Group 2, each Member to be picked on an alphabetical rotations basis, and that the Chairman of any Sub-Committee be appointed by agreement of Members of each Sub-Committee convened.