

AT A MEETING of the CONDUCT ADVISORY PANEL OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 30 May 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	a Tom Thacker
p Andrew Gibson	

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Tom Thacker.

12. 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.

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that since the previous meeting, the agreed protocol for convening a sub-committee had been successfully implemented.

14. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made on this occasion.

15. LOCALISM ACT 2011 – REVISED DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Panel considered the report of the Chief Executive (Item 5 in the Minute Book) concerning a revised Code of Conduct expected of Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council when acting in an official capacity.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reminded Members of the agreement that the new arrangements would involve a review of the Members Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to enable the adoption of a consistent approach across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Authorities (HIOWLGA) in matters of local determination.

The Panel noted the proposed revisions regarding the compulsory obligation to disclose personal interests, and the Deputy Monitoring Officer provided clarity to the Panel on what constituted a personal interest. It was highlighted that these proposals would mean that Members would be obliged to declare relevant personal interests at meetings, and Monitoring Officers would advise when necessary. Members noted the proposed recommendation to amend County Council Standing Orders where a Member having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, would have to exclude themselves from a County Council meeting where a vote or discussion on this matter was taking place. The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that this would ensure consistency as this provision was already included in the County Council Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the revised draft Members' Code of Conduct attached at Annex 2 to the report, including revised provisions in respect of the disclosure of Personal Interests, is approved by the Conduct Advisory Panel for submission to the County Council at its meeting on 17 July 2014.
- ii. That notwithstanding the provision in the existing Members' Code of Conduct, it is recommended that the County Council amend its Standing Orders to provide for the exclusion of Members from a Meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive while any discussion or vote takes place on a matter in which a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, unless a dispensation has been granted.