

AT A MEETING of the Conduct Advisory Panel of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL held at the castle, Winchester on Thursday, 19th July, 2018

Chairman:

* Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

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| * Councillor Keith Evans | * Councillor Peter Latham |
| Councillor Adam Carew | * Councillor Tom Thacker |
| * Councillor Peter Chegwyn | * Councillor Rhydian Vaughan |
| * Councillor Andrew Gibson | |
| * Councillor Keith House | |
| * Councillor Gavin James | |

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman confirmed that meetings of the Panel were convened from time to time to deal with a specific matter related to the Panel's remit.

17. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations on this occasion.

18. **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER - DELEGATION OF APPROVAL OF ABSENCE OF AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) seeking approval of the Panel to recommend to full Council that the responsibility for approval of absence of an elected Member of the County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 be delegated to the Conduct Advisory Panel.

In presenting the report the Monitoring Officer confirmed that very few requests for a period of absence of six months or more are received. However, statutory provisions require that such an absence is approved prior to the end of that period and the delegation to the Conduct Advisory Panel is proposed as a practical solution. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that reference to the six month absence disqualification rule is included in the Constitution and is brought to Members attention through the Members Induction Programme.

Members of the Panel reflected on the proposed way forward and were supportive. Furthermore Members considered that it was not appropriate to expect officers to monitor Members' attendance; such monitoring to be carried out by Group Leaders.

RESOLVED:

That the Conduct Advisory Panel recommend to full Council that responsibility for approval of absence of an elected Member of the County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 be delegated to the Conduct Advisory Panel.

The meeting closed at 10.53am.

Chairman,