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AT A MEETING of the Conduct Advisory Panel of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 24th October, 2019

Chairman:

* Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

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

*Present

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Latham. Councillor Patricia Stallard was in attendance as the Conservative Substitute Member.

20. 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.

No declarations were made.

21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements on this occasion.

23. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations on this occasion.

24. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS AND MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Panel considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the recommendations and best practice proposed by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) as a result of its review into Local Government Ethical Standards.

The Head of Law and Governance took Members through the report and explained the purpose for bringing this to the Panel's attention. It was heard that proposed changes to the Members' Code of Conduct would be considered in due course after publication of an updated Code of Conduct by the Local Government Association, recommended by the CSPL. In the meantime, some of the best practice points could be considered by the Panel as they affected The Arrangements for the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Allegations of Breach of the Code of Conduct for Members, which the Panel had delegated authority to approve.

The Head of Law and Governance took Members through the proposed changes to The Arrangements as highlighted in Appendix C to the report. These included provision for delegation to the Deputy Monitoring Officer if a conflict of interest arose for the Monitoring Officer in relation to a complaint, and to allow for the publication of a decision notice after a hearing panel. Members noted that the hearing panel would determine the arrangements for such notice. Section three of the Arrangements was also highlighted which set out the initial validation of a complaint, and Members were taken through the process for this.

The Panel queried the number of complaints brought against Members and it was noted that these were infrequent, as were hearing panel meetings. The role of an Independent Person in the Member complaint process was also explained, as well as their recruitment to the role. The Panel were appreciative of the report being brought to their awareness at this point in time, and were content with the recommendations proposed.

RESOLVED:

The Conduct Advisory Panel:

- Agreed that, once the updated model Local Government Code of Conduct has been published, the County Council's Code of Conduct for Members should be reviewed to take account of the new model provisions and to adopt best practice points 1 and 2 of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of Local Government Ethical Standards;
- Agreed that thereafter the revised Code of Conduct be presented to the Conduct Advisory Panel for approval and recommendation to the County Council;

- Approved the proposed amendments to paragraphs 2.6, 10.2 and 12.2 and 12.2.1 of the County Council's Arrangements for the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints that a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in Appendix C; and
- Requested that the Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer bring best practice point 14 of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report to the attention of the Audit Committee at the time the Committee next considers the County Council's Annual Governance Statement.

Chairman,

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