

To: All Members of the STANDARDS
COMMITTEE
(Other Members for Information)

When calling please ask for:

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Date: 22 January 2021

Membership of the Standards Committee

Cllr John Robini (Chairman)
Cllr Michael Goodridge (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Brian Adams
Cllr Paul Follows
Cllr John Gray
Cllr Jerry Hyman

Cllr Robert Knowles
Cllr Penny Marriott
Cllr Peter Marriott
Tom Hughes (Co-Optee)
Stefan Reynolds (Co-Optee)

Dear Councillors

A meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE will be held as follows:

DATE: MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2021

TIME: 5.00 PM

PLACE: ZOOM MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

The meeting can be viewed remotely in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, via the Council's YouTube page.

Yours sincerely

ROBIN TAYLOR
Head of Policy and Governance

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This meeting will be webcast and can be viewed by visiting www.waverley.gov.uk/webcast.

NOTE FOR MEMBERS

Members are reminded that Contact Officers are shown in each report and members are welcome to raise questions, etc. in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

AGENDA

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting which took place on 5th October, available on the Council's website.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

To receive from Members, declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Waverley Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman to respond to any written questions received from Members of the public in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.

The deadline for receipt of questions is 5pm Monday 28 January 2021.

5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

The Chairman to respond to any written questions received from Members in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.

The deadline for receipt of questions is 5pm 28 January 2021.

MONITORING OFFICER MATTERS

6. **REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH STANDARDS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011** (Pages 7 - 28)

This report proposes changes to the Council's arrangements, as set out within the Constitution, for how the Monitoring Officer deals with complaints submitted to him or her alleging breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee are invited to consider and debate the proposed changes before agreeing what changes, if any, should be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Standards Committee consider and debate the proposed changes before agreeing what changes, if any, should be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

7. **LGA NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** (Pages 29 - 68)

This report presents the new Model Code of Conduct, published in December 2020 by the Local Government Association (LGA). The LGA consulted widely on the new code before publishing the final version. The Committee is asked to give consideration to recommending to Full Council that the new model code be adopted.

Authorities remain responsible for their own local code and so there is no 'requirement' to adopt the code, either in part or in full. Authorities may choose to amend the model code prior to adopting it and/or can choose to amend it at any point in the future.

The Committee can, if it wishes, propose to Council amendments to the model code although none have been recommended by officers.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Standards Committee:

- (i) recommend to Full Council that the new LGA model code be adopted without any local amendments; and
- (ii) ask the Monitoring Officer to arrange councillor briefings on the new model code (once adopted).

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

8. **AMENDMENTS TO THE WAVERLEY CONSTITUTION - SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND VIRTUAL MEETING PROCEDURE RULES** (Pages 69 - 80)

This report sets out two matters for consideration by the Standards Committee:

1. Scheme of Delegation - it follows up on the discussion at the Committee's meeting on 5 October 2020, when it considered possible exceptions to delegated authority within the scheme of delegation. The committee asked officers to draft a possible form of wording that would ensure that once any decision is referred to a committee either by choice or because of a listed scheme exception in relation to any particular decision, then all future decisions relating to that matter must then be taken by the committee rather than being taken by the officer (even if those other decisions would have otherwise been allowable under the scheme without reference to a committee).
2. Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules – it proposes an addition to the Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules, to require that participants and observers at council and committee meetings refrain from using the Zoom chat facility other than to draw the attention of the chairman or committee officers to any technical issues.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Considers whether to recommend to Council to limit the scope of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers once a matter has been brought to committee in order for a committee to retain 'ownership' of an issue, by insertion of the following wording:

"If officers refer a particular matter to a committee (either by choice, or because there was a listed exception in the scheme of delegation to an officer's authority to otherwise make a particular decision in relation to that matter), then all future decisions relating to that matter must then be taken by the committee rather than being taken by the officer (even if those other decisions would have otherwise been allowable under the scheme without reference to a committee), unless the committee concerned expressly confirms that the officer may make future decisions under delegated authority."

2. Considers whether to recommend to Council the adoption of Virtual Meeting Procedure Rule 9, as set out in Annexe 1.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the following recommendation on the motion of the Chairman:

Recommendation

That, pursuant to Procedure Rule 20 and in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined by Section 100I of the Act) of the description specified at the meeting in the revised Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**For further information or assistance, please telephone
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email at georgina.hall@waverley.gov.uk**