

To: All Members of the THE STANDARDS
PANEL

When calling please ask for:

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Calls may be recorded for training or monitoring

Date: 20 June 2022

Membership of tThe Standards Panel

Cllr Maxine Gale
Cllr Michael Goodridge

Cllr Peter Marriott

Dear Member

A meeting of the THE STANDARDS PANEL to consider the External Investigator's report on a complaint against a Waverley Borough Councillor, will be held as follows:

DATE: TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2022

TIME: 10.00 AM

PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BURYS,
GODALMING

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

In accordance with paragraph 7.2 of Waverley's Arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations against Councillors and co-opted Members under the Localism Act 2011, meetings of the Standards Panel will be held in public unless the Monitoring Officer agrees there are exceptional circumstances that prevent this. Meeting papers that do not contain exempt information will be shared with all members of the Panel, the Independent Person, the Investigating Officer, and any witnesses. Meeting papers will not be shared in advance with the press and public but will be made available at the commencement of the hearing.

Yours sincerely

ROBIN TAYLOR

Head of Policy and Governance

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AGENDA

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Chairman for the Panel.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations of interest in relation to any matters on the agenda for this meeting, in accordance with the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct.

3 **PUBLICATION OF NON-EXEMPT AGENDA PAPERS TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In line with paragraph 7.2 of Waverley's Arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations against Councillors and co-opted Members under the Localism Act 2011, to publish non-exempt meeting papers and make them available to the press and public.

Panel members and other individuals invited to attend the Hearing have received the agenda papers in advance on a confidential basis.

There are no exempt papers for this hearing. A small number of redactions have been made where documentation included personal sensitive or contact information. Where information has been redacted, this is noted in the papers.

Recommendation

That the non-exempt meeting papers be published and made available to the press and public.

4 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman to make an opening statement on the procedure for the hearing.

5 MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT - COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF A BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

This report relates to a complaint against a Waverley Borough Councillor, the Subject Member.

It sets out the process followed, the relevant codes and protocols, copies of the complaint received, the External Investigator's report and statement received from the Independent Person.

The matter was referred to investigation following consultation with the Independent Person.

Today's panel has been convened to consider the report from the External Investigator, to establish facts about this situation, and consider whether or not the Subject Member has failed to comply with the code and, if so, what action, if any, should be taken.

The Subject Member was invited to submit a written statement in advance of the hearing but did not submit a statement.

The Subject Member will be invited to comment on the complaint, the External Investigator's report, and the statement of the Independent Person, and any other relevant documentation and correspondence and to give their view as the subject member in this case. They will also be asked to answer any questions put to them by or through the Chairman.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Standards Panel:

- i. considers where or not the Subject Member has failed to comply with the Waverley Code of Conduct for Members; and**
 - ii. if they have, what further action should be taken, if any.**
- The Panel must provide reasons for any decisions it takes.**

6 CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

7 PANEL ADJOURNS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Panel will adjourn to consider whether the Subject Member has failed to comply with the Waverley Members' Code of Conduct.

8 PANEL DECISION ON WHETHER WAVERLEY MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT HAS BEEN BREACHED

The Panel will reconvene and the Chairman will announce the Panel's decision on whether the Subject member has failed to comply with the Waverley

Members' Code of Conduct.

If the Panel decides that the Subject member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, prior to adjourning to consider what action, if any, is needed, they will:

- consult with the Independent Person, and
- receive any further representations from the Subject Member.

9 PANEL ADJOURNS TO CONSIDER FURTHER ACTIONS, IF ANY

In the event that the Panel decides that there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Panel will adjourn to consider what further action, if any, is necessary.

10 CONFIRMATION OF PANEL DECISION

The Panel will reconvene to confirm its decision and give its decision on what further action, if any, is to be taken.

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If it is necessary during the hearing to consider any matter that will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, the a Hearing Panel will be invited to consider passing 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(s) 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 these items, 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; and,
- In all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**For further information or assistance, please telephone
Louise Fleming, Democratic Services and Business Support Team
Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer), on 01483 523517 or by email at
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