



Epping Forest District Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE **Thursday, 19th July, 2018**

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Standards Committee**, which will be held at:

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
on Thursday, 19th July, 2018
at 5.30 pm .

Derek Macnab
Acting Chief Executive

Democratic Services
Officer

S. Tautz Tel: 01992 564180
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Members:

Councillors G Chambers (Chairman), C P Pond (Vice-Chairman), N Avey, S Kane, M McEwen, S Neville, C Roberts, B Rolfe, J Share-Bernia

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. INDEPENDENT PERSON - MR. P. ADAMS

To report and mark the recent passing of the Standards Committee Independent Person, Mr. Peter Adams.

Mr. Adams had been one of the Independent Persons since 2012.

4. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

(Monitoring Officer) To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 December 2017.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

6. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MONITORING OFFICER AND DEPUTY

(Monitoring Officer) To note that the Council, at its meeting in February 2018,

appointed Simon Hill (Assistant Director (Governance)) as the Monitoring Officer. Pursuant to delegated powers given to the Monitoring Officer, Stephen Tautz (Democratic Services Manager) has been appointed as Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Mr. Hill will outline the work undertaken since his appointment and arrangements for the appointment of the Monitoring Officer under the Council's proposed new management structure.

7. INDEPENDENT PERSONS - APPOINTMENTS

Recommendations:

- (1) To discuss the ongoing requirement for Independent Persons and timing of any future recruitment;**
- (2) That subject to (1) above, the Monitoring Officer be requested to undertake recruitment activity;**
- (3) That the Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer set up a selection panel of three members to shortlist and interview candidates and recommend their appointment to Council.**

(Monitoring Officer) Following the recent passing of Peter Adams, Mr. David Cooper is now the sole Independent Person. Recruitment activity for the Standards Committee was last undertaken in 2012 and the Committee is asked to discuss the desirability of further recruitment to ensure continuity. If the Committee wishes to undertake further recruitment, members are also asked to consider the appropriate timing for such activity.

On the last occasion that recruitment activity was undertaken, an interview panel, formed from members of the Standards Committee shortlisted and interviewed for the relevant positions.

The appointment of the Independent Persons is a matter for the Council to approve.

8. MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING - UPDATE

(Monitoring Officer) To consider an update on the status of training of members on the Code of Conduct.

A training session was held on 10 July 2018 and an update will be given at the meeting on the outstanding members who require training.

9. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND TOWN/PARISH COUNCILLORS (Pages 9 - 10)

(Monitoring Officer) To consider the attached schedule showing the current position of active cases.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Following the decision of the Council that the Standards Committee be convened to meet only when there is business to be transacted (Minute 12 - 26 April 2016), no

formal meetings of the Committee have been scheduled for the remainder of the municipal year. However, meetings of the Committee will be arranged during the year if required.

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Exclusion

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
12	Allegations made about the conduct of District and Town/Parish Councillors - Issues Arising	1

Background Papers

Article 17 of the Constitution (Access to Information) define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report and does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

The Council will make available for public inspection one copy of each of the documents on the list of background papers for four years after the date of the meeting. Inspection of background papers can be arranged by contacting either the Responsible Officer or the Democratic Services Officer for the particular item.

12. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND TOWN/PARISH COUNCILLORS - ISSUES ARISING

(Monitoring Officer) To discuss any confidential issues arising from active cases listed in the schedule for item 9 of this agenda.