



## Public Document Pack

**Jeff Hughes**

*Head of Democratic and Legal  
Support Services*

**MEETING** : STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE  
**VENUE** : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD  
**DATE** : TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015  
**TIME** : 2.00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE**

### **MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Councillors B Deering, G McAndrew and C Woodward

**CONTACT OFFICER: JEFF HUGHES**  
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## **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
  - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
  - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
  - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
  - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
  - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.
2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.

4. It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

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**Audio/Visual Recording of meetings**

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever, non-disruptive, methods you think are suitable, which may include social media of any kind, such as tweeting, blogging or Facebook. However, oral reporting or commentary is prohibited. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press should contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chairman of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted. Anyone filming a meeting should focus only on those actively participating and be sensitive to the rights of minors, vulnerable adults and those members of the public who have not consented to being filmed.

## AGENDA

### 1. Appointment of Chairman

*To appoint a Chairman for this meeting.*

### 2. Apologies

*To receive any apologies for absence.*

### 3. Chairman's Announcements

*To receive any Chairman's announcements.*

### 4. Declarations of Interest

### 5. Minutes (Pages 7 - 10)

*To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015.*

### 6. Urgent Business

*To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.*

### 7. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To move that under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of items 8 - 14 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7C of Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act:

*The deliberations of a Standards Committee....established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching any finding on a matter referred under the provisions of Section 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(4) or (5) or 71(2) of that Act.*

**It is for the Sub-Committee to determine whether or not these items should be considered in public and the report made available for public information. Until a decision is taken, please regard the reports as confidential.**

8. Complaint in respect of Former Councillor M Alexander (Pages 11 - 30)
9. Complaint in respect of District Councillor D Andrews (Pages 31 - 58)
10. Complaint in respect of Former District Councillor M Carver (Pages 59 - 90)
11. Complaint in respect of District Councillor K Crofton (Pages 91 - 120)
12. Complaint in respect of District Councillor J Jones (Pages 121 - 146)
13. Complaint in respect of District Councillor P Moore (Pages 147 - 176)
14. Complaint in respect of Former District Councillor M Newman (Pages 177 - 202)
15. Urgent Business

*To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.*

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN  
ROOM 27, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON  
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015, AT 12.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors L Haysey and P Phillips.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors M Alexander, D Andrews,  
Mrs R Cheswright, K Crofton and P Moore.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Dennis Cooper	- Investigating Officer
Philip Copland	- Independent Person

13 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor G Jones be appointed  
Chairman for this meeting of the Sub-Committee.

14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

He advised that the subject Member, Councillor W Ashley,  
had submitted an apology for absence. The hearing would  
proceed regardless.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee held on 13 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 COMPLAINT AGAINST A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report on the complaint alleging that Councillor William Ashley had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct.

He reminded the Sub-Committee that, at its meeting held on 19 February 2015, it had agreed that for those matters where the Investigating Officer had concluded that Councillor Ashley had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct, a hearing meeting be held to determine whether or not that Member had failed to comply with the Code and, if so, what action should be taken as a consequence.

The Chairman outlined the hearing procedure.

The Monitoring Officer reminded the Sub-Committee that the Investigating Officer had concluded that Councillor Ashley's conduct had fallen short of reasonable expectation as to how he should treat his colleagues and that he was using his position as a councillor to pursue correspondence.

Accordingly, the Investigating Officer had found Councillor Ashley to be in breach of the Code of Conduct in relation to that correspondence in that he did not value colleagues and staff, did not engage with them in an appropriate manner and failed to treat them with respect.

The hearing procedure was duly followed.

The Sub-Committee agreed:

- to issue a formal letter to Councillor Ashley detailing



- the Sub-Committee's determination that accepted the Investigating Officer's conclusion;
- to invite Council to pass a formal motion of censure against Councillor Ashley;
  - that Councillor Ashley should not be appointed to Development Management Committee in the event of seeking re-election (and being re-elected) to the Authority at the May 2015 elections;
  - as the meeting was public and a press representative was in attendance, no specific press release be issued on this matter, and
  - the Monitoring Officer be requested to draft a letter of apology on behalf of Councillor Ashley for him to sign and send to all Development Management Committee Members affected by his conduct.

RESOLVED – that in relation to the complaint now detailed that Councillor W Ashley had breached the Authority's Code of Conduct:

- (A) a formal letter be issued to the Member detailing the Sub-Committee's determination that accepted the Investigating Officer's conclusion;
- (B) Council be invited to pass a formal motion of censure against Councillor Ashley;
- (C) Councillor Ashley be not appointed to Development Management Committee in the event of seeking re-election (and being re-elected) to the Authority at the May 2015 elections;
- (D) as the meeting was public and a press representative was in attendance, no specific press release be issued on this matter, and
- (E) the Monitoring Officer be requested to draft a letter of apology on behalf of Councillor Ashley for him to sign and send to all Development management Committee Members affected by

his conduct.

The meeting closed at 1.55 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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