

# West Suffolk Standards Committee



<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday 22 April 2024</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	<b>GFR14 West Suffolk House Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU</b>		
<b>Full Members</b>	<b>Chair</b>	Roger Dicker	
	<b>Vice Chair</b>	Julia Wakelam	
	<b>Conservative Group (3)</b>	John Augustine Margaret Marks	Sara Mildmay-White
	<b>Independents (2)</b>	Roger Dicker	Victor Lukaniuk
	<b>Progressive Alliance Grouping (2)</b>	Liz Smith	Julia Wakelam
<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>Conservative Group (1)</b>	Andrew Smith	
	<b>Independents (1)</b>	Mick Bradshaw	
	<b>Progressive Alliance Grouping (1)</b>	Marilyn Sayer	
<b>Interests – declaration and restriction on participation</b>	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable or non-registerable interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, <b>no later than when that item is reached</b> and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.		
<b>Quorum</b>	Three Members		
<b>Committee administrator</b>	<b>Helen Hardinge</b> Democratic Services Officer <b>Telephone</b> 01638 719363 <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk">democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>		

<b>Venue:</b>	<b>GFR14, West Suffolk House</b> Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU	T: 01638 719729 E: <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk">democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a> W: <a href="http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk">www.westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
<b>Access to agenda and reports before the meeting:</b>	Copies of the agenda and reports are open for public inspection at the above address at least five clear days before the meeting. They are also available to view on our website.	
<b>Attendance at meetings:</b>	The Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public.	
<b>Public participation:</b>	<p>Members of the public who live or work in the District are welcome to speak and may ask one question or make a statement of not more than three minutes duration relating to items to be discussed in Part 1 of the agenda only. If a question is asked and answered within three minutes, the person who asked the question may ask a supplementary question that arises from the reply.</p> <p>A person who wishes to speak must register at least 15 minutes before the time the meeting is scheduled to start.</p> <p>There is an overall time limit of 15 minutes for public speaking, which may be extended at the Chair's discretion.</p>	
<b>Disabled access:</b>	West Suffolk House has facilities for people with mobility impairments including a lift and wheelchair accessible WCs. Visitor parking is at the car park at the front of the building and there are a number of accessible spaces.	
<b>Recording of meetings:</b>	<p>The Council may record this meeting and permits members of the public and media to record or broadcast it as well (when the media and public are not lawfully excluded).</p> <p>Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Committee Administrator who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.</p>	
<b>Personal Information</b>	<p>Any personal information processed by West Suffolk Council arising from a request to speak at a public meeting under the Localism Act 2011, will be protected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information on how we do this and your rights in regards to your personal information and how to access it, visit our website:</p> <p><a href="https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/privacy/howweuseinformation.cfm">https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/privacy/howweuseinformation.cfm</a></p> <p>or call Customer Services: 01284 763233 and ask to speak to the Information Governance Officer.</p>	

# Agenda

## Part 1 – public

### Procedural matters

**1. Apologies for absence**

**2. Substitutes**

Any Member who is substituting for another member should so indicate, together with the name of the relevant absent member.

**3. Minutes**

**1 - 2**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024 (copy attached.)

**4. Declarations of interest**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable or non-registerable interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, **no later than when that item is reached** and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

**5. Public participation**

Members of the public who live or work in the District are welcome to speak and may ask one question or make a statement of not more than three minutes duration relating to items to be discussed in Part 1 of the agenda only. If a question is asked and answered within three minutes, the person who asked the question may ask a supplementary question that arises from the reply.

A person who wishes to speak must register at least 15 minutes before the time the meeting is scheduled to start.

There is an overall limit of 15 minutes for public speaking, which may be extended at the Chair's discretion.

**6. Exclusion of press and public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of the following items because 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 items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt categories of information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated

against each item, and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **Part 2 – exempt**

**7. Report on Complaints against a Councillor (Exempt: Paragraphs 1 & 2)**

**3 - 120**

Report No: **STC/WS/24/002**

# West Suffolk Standards Committee



**Minutes** of a meeting of the **West Suffolk Standards Committee** held on **Monday 22 January 2024 at 6.00 pm** in **Conference Room, Mildenhall Hub, Sheldrick Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JX**

Present: **Councillors**

**Chair** Roger Dicker

**Vice Chair** Julia Wakelam

John Augustine

Victor Lukaniuk

Margaret Marks

Andrew Smith

Liz Smith

46. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sara Mildmay-White.

47. **Substitutes**

The following substitution was declared:

Councillor Andrew Smith substituting for Councillor Sara Mildmay-White

48. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

49. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

50. **Public participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

51. **Procedure for Handling Standards Complaints (Report No: STC/WS/24/001)**

The Committee was reminded that on 22 March 2022 West Suffolk Council adopted the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct as its new Local Code of Conduct for Councillors.

The current Standards Procedures and Standards Committee Procedure were adopted on 15 July 2019. Accordingly, the Monitoring Officer, having noted the LGA Guidance, considered that there was scope to amend the Standards

Procedures and Standards Committee Procedure to ensure they continued to meet the principles of fairness, proportionality, transparency and impartiality.

Proposed amendments to the two procedures were set out in Report No STC/WS/24/001, together with a supplementary paper which outlined the changes to the Standards Procedures by way of tracked changes, for ease of reference by Members.

During discussion some of the Committee raised questions in relation to the complaints process which the Monitoring Officer responded to.

Members were also requested to bring the changes into effect in respect of both procedures from 1 April 2024, in order to enable any ongoing investigations to be concluded in line with the current procedures.

It was moved by Councillor John Augustine, seconded by Councillor Julia Wakelam and with the vote being unanimous it was

**RESOLVED**

That the proposed amendments to the West Suffolk Council Standards Procedures and Standards Committee Procedure be approved, to come into effect from 1 April 2024.

The meeting concluded at 6.22pm

**Signed by:**

**Chair**

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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