

Subject: Extract from the Proceedings of the Audit & Standards Committee Meeting held on the 16 April 2013 – Amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members

Date of Meeting: 9 May 2013

Report of: Head of Law & Monitoring Officer

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Wards Affected: All

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**4.00 pm 16 APRIL 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors Hamilton (Chair) A Norman (Opposition Spokesperson), Lepper, Smith, Sykes and Wealls.

Independent Persons & Co-Opted Members: Dr Horne

PART ONE

96 AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

- 96.1 The Committee considered a report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services in relation to Amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members. The report reviewed the code of Conduct following the adaptation of a new code in July 2012. The report proposed some changes: to include the corporate values; to simplify the declaration of interests rules and to require co-operation with investigations into unauthorised disclosure of information.
- 96.2 Councillor Wealls asked specific questions in relation to Members' declaration of interest at Budget Council and whether the amended code changes the position. In response, the Head of Law & Monitoring Officer explained that interests in relation to land were part of the statutory requirement as they constituted 'disclosable pecuniary interests'. The Council therefore did not have the ability to override the requirement in the statutory instrument using the local code.

96.3 Dr Horne noted that he welcomed the comments in relation to the changes to the Code of Conduct.

96.4 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Committee approve in principle the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members
- (2) That the Committee recommends Council to agree the amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.