



## NOTICE OF MEETING

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# Standards Committee

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MONDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2015 at 19.00 HRS – CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22

MEMBERS: Councillors Ryan, Weston, Morris, Reith and Sahota (Chair)

### AGENDA

#### 1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that you will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.'

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### 3. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business. (late items will be considered under the agenda items where they appear). New items which are non-exempt will be dealt with at item 7, and those which are exempt will be dealt with at item 10.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

#### **5. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 12)**

To confirm and sign the unrestricted minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7 July 2014, 29 January 2015 (Special), and 12 May 2015 (Special).

#### **6. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS - COMPLAINTS 2014-15 MONITORING REPORT (PAGES 13 - 16)**

Report of the Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer - To receive a summary of information about complaints received by the Monitoring Officer that a Member had breached the Member's Code of Conduct, during 2014-15.

#### **7. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

#### **8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Items 9-10 are likely to be the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government 1972 – paras 1 & 2 ; namely information relating to an individual, or information likely to identify an individual .

**9. MINUTES (PAGES 17 - 18)**

To confirm the exempt minutes of the special Standards Committee held on 29 January 2015.

**10. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

To note the following scheduled dates of meetings of the Standards Committee for the remainder of 2015/16 Municipal Year:

15 October 2015  
28 January 2016  
7 March 2016

Bernie Ryan  
Assistant Director – Corporate Governance and  
Monitoring Officer  
River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
London N22 8HQ

Clifford Hart  
Democratic Services Manager  
London Borough of Haringey  
Tel: 020 8489 2920  
Fax: 020 8489 2660  
Email: [clifford.hart@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:clifford.hart@haringey.gov.uk)

5 June 2015

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**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 7 JULY 2014**

MEMBERS:	Councillors Rice (Chair), Weston and Morris
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Apologies                      Councillor C Bull

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>
<b>STCO93.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor C Bull.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO94.</b>	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO95.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>STCO96.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the unrestricted minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20 March 2014 be agreed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.</p>
<b>STCO97.</b>	<p><b>UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.</b></p> <p>The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.</p> <p>The Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer – Mr Ryan advised the Committee that following the changes to the previous system of complaints pre 2012, which came about as a result of the new Localism Act 2011 – the new system for complaints and the new requirements for Local Authorities came into effect as of 1 July 2012.</p> <p>The current system had been in operation just over two years and in effect the system only now allowed a Local Authority to take limited action against an individual Councillor who had breached the Council's code of conduct.</p> <p>Mr Ryan advised the Committee that during the Municipal Year 2013/14 there</p>

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 7 JULY 2014**

had been eight complaints in total of which three were rejected at the Assessment Sub Committee stage, for (including three arising about one member from the same incident) were referred for investigation, and one had been withdrawn following an apology by the member concerned.

Mr Ryan advised that of those referred for investigation one had then proceeded to a Hearing Sub-Committee, and the Member had been found to have breached the code. The other three related complaints regarding the same incident were discontinued as the Member concerned was not re-elected at the elections in May 2014. A complaint relating to the previous year 2012/13 which was then heard in 2013/14 also found that the Member had breached the code of conduct.

In response to points of clarification from the Chair and Committee Mr Ryan advised that the types of alleged breaches tended to be general in nature and have around misuse/improper use of council resources. The role of the Monitoring Officer and Legal Services was to facilitate the process of dealing with a complaint when it came in, through the mechanism of assessment and investigation, as well as enforcing through training and information provided, to explain the requirements of the code of conduct. In terms of the breaches of the code which were found – these related to complaints against former Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Peacock, and resulted in a decision to censure them for their conduct. The findings of each hearing sub-committee were published both on the Council's web and in the media, and also reported to Full Council. Mr Ryan also advised that other sanctions that could be imposed included the withdrawal of the use of Council facilities, and recommendations to respective political groups to consider not appointing the Councillor to an outside body, or Council Committee, and that the individual undergo training in respect of the code.

In response to further points of clarification Mr Ryan advised of the procedure for the Hearing Sub-Committee when it convened. In terms of officer attendees Mr Ryan advised that it was either one of his deputies or himself who would advise the Sub-Committee at the hearing, and another deputy would present the independent investigating officer – who would in turn give their findings. The Democratic Services Manager would also be in attendance and a Committee Co-ordinator.

The Chair thanked Mr Ryan for his concise summary.

There being no further points of clarification it was:

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 7 JULY 2014**

	<p>The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.</p> <p>The Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer – Mr Ryan advised the Committee that the circulated report proposed minor amendments to the Code of Conduct, which would then be reported to Full Council for approval on 21 July 2014.</p> <p>Mr Ryan referred to para 5.8 of the report which detailed the proposed changes which were self explanatory.</p> <p>The Committee then briefly discussed the a changes, and in accepting these, in addition that at the new paragraph 2.6 (c) omit the word “act” as it was superfluous, so that the new paragraph reads “claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority”.</p> <p>There being no further discussions on a MOTION by the Chair it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>i. That the proposed amendments to the Council’s Code of Conduct for Members be agreed as detailed in paragraph 5.8 of the report, and in addition the following amendment:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><u>The Code</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Paragraph 2.6(c) to be amended to omit the word ‘act’.</p> <p>ii. That Full Council be recommended to adopt the amendments as detailed in (i) above.</p>
<p><b>STCO99.</b></p>	<p><b>ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT-PROPOSED AMENDMENTS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS</b></p> <p>The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.</p> <p>The Assistant Director Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer – Mr Ryan advised the Committee that the circulated report proposed amendments to the ‘Arrangements for dealing with allegations that a member has failed to comply with the Members’ Code of Conduct’.</p> <p>Mr Ryan referred to para 5.3 of the report which detailed the proposed changes which were self explanatory. The current version of the arrangements had been reviewed in light of recent experience of its use, including during the preparation for hearing Sub-Committees.</p> <p>The Committee then briefly discussed the changes, and in accepting these, in addition commented and proposed the following amendments:</p> <p>i. The old paragraph 5.3(f) had disappeared from the draft, and needed to be re-</p>

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 7 JULY 2014**

instated as ‘The Monitoring Officer facilitates an informal resolution without the need for a formal investigation.

..... for determination”. The new 5.3(f) inserted then would become 5.3(g).

ii. A change to the line inserted at the end of the new 5.3(g) which will whereby the wording “the complainant is vexatious” be amended to read “the complainant is considered to be vexatious”

iii. The existing paragraph 9.3 had been lost inadvertently and required re-instatement as a new para 9.4 “The member will then have an opportunity to give his /her evidence .....Members’ Code of Conduct.”. and subsequent para numbering would then be amended to para 9.8. Consequent on this the first line of the last sub-paragraph in 9 which will be 9.8 to be amended slightly because of the change in numbering to read “In the event of a finding under Paragraph **9.7(b)**”. It currently reads “9.6(b)”

There being no further discussions on a MOTION by the Chair it was:

**RESOLVED**

1. That the proposed amendments to the ‘Arrangements’ procedure as detailed in para 5.3 of the report be agreed, and addition the following amendments:

i. The old paragraph 5.3(f) had disappeared from the draft, and needed to be re-instated as ‘The Monitoring Officer facilitates an informal resolution without the need for a formal investigation.

..... for determination”. The new 5.3(f) inserted then would become 5.3(g).

ii. A change to the line inserted at the end of the new 5.3(g) which will whereby the wording “the complainant is vexatious” be amended to read “the complainant is considered to be vexatious”

iii. The existing paragraph 9.3 had been lost inadvertently and required re-instatement as a new para 9.4 “The member will then have an opportunity to give his /her evidence .....Members’ Code of Conduct.”. and subsequent para numbering would then be amended to para 9.8. Consequent on this the first line of the last sub-paragraph in 9 which will be 9.8 to be amended slightly because of the change in numbering to read “In the event of a finding under Paragraph **9.7(b)**”. It currently reads “9.6(b)”

2. That Full Council be recommended to adopt the amendments as detailed in (1) above.

**STCO100 NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**STCO101 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**



**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 7 JULY 2014**

	<p>The following dates were noted as meetings of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15:</p> <p>3 November 2014 2 March 2015</p>
<b>STCO102</b>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the press and public be excluded the from the meeting for consideration of Item 11 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1 &amp; 2; namely information relating to any individual, and information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>
<b>STCO103</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the exempt minutes of the special meeting of the Standards Committee held on 20 March 2014 be signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.</p>
<b>STCO104</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no other items of exempt urgent business.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 20.10hrs.</p>

COUNCILLOR REG RICE

Chair

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**UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2015**

MEMBERS:	Councillors Bull, Rice (Chair), Ryan, Weston and Morris Rachel Hatch - Independent Person
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<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>
<b>STCO01.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  There were no apologies for absence.  <b>NOTED</b>
<b>STCO02.</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>  There were no items of urgent business.  <b>NOTED</b>
<b>STCO03.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  There were no declarations of interests.  <b>NOTED</b>
<b>STCO04.</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</b>  <b>RESOLVED</b>  That the press and public be excluded the from the meeting for consideration of Item 5 as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paragraphs 1 & 2; namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
<b>STCO05.</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATIONS IN RESPECT OF STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REFERRAL NO. SC002/1415</b>  Agreed the recommendations as contained in the circulated exempt report.  There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 19.58hrs.

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2015**

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Chair

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2015**

MEMBERS:	Councillors Bull, Engert, Rice (Chair), Ryan and Weston
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Apologies Cllr Morris

Also present Cllr Newton

**MINUTE  
NO.**

**SUBJECT/DECISION**

<b>STCO06.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Morris, for whom Cllr Engert was substituting.
<b>STCO07.</b>	<b>FILMING AT MEETINGS</b>  The Committee noted the arrangements in respect of filming at meetings, as outlined by the Chair.
<b>STCO08.</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>  There were no items of urgent business.
<b>STCO09.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  There were no declarations of interest.
<b>STCO10.</b>	<b>ABOLITION OF AREA COMMITTEES AND AREA FORUMS</b>  The Committee considered the report on the abolition of area committees and area forums, as introduced by the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance. The following questions and concerns regarding the report were raised by Cllr Engert:  i) The paper included insufficient financial detail regarding the arrangements proposed to replace the area committees and area forums. Without this information, it was not possible for the Committee to make an informed decision. It was also ambiguous from the report whether the proposals for area budgets would be considered by the Cabinet, or a Cabinet Member signing process.  ii) It was not clear what public consultation had been undertaken in relation to this recommendation – local residents’ organisations advised that they had not been consulted on these proposals.  iii) The previous area funding initiative had been expensive to operate – this report did not set out how ward budgets would be administered, what financial safeguards would be put in place and what resources would be required in the form of officer time. There was also the potential for the abolition of area committees and area forums to increase the demand for neighbourhood forums, which would have a cost implication.

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2015**

Cllr Engert felt that no decision on this matter should be taken without a report setting out full details and costings, and setting out evidence of public consultation.

The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance responded to the issues raised by Cllr Engert, and confirmed that a report proposing ward budgets would be considered at a Cabinet Member signing. In terms of public engagement, this proposal formed part of wider work looking at changing the way in which the Council engaged with residents. It was reported that attendance at all but one of the area committees and area forums had been low, illustrating that they were not proving effective means of engaging with local residents. It was confirmed that costs associated with the proposed ward budgets were still being calculated, and would be fully set out in the separate report regarding this matter. Details of the way in which the ward budgets would be administered were also being developed, but the need for a streamlined approach was emphasised.

The Committee discussed the possibility that ward budgets would enable those areas where area committees and area forums had been successful to use their funding to continue with similar arrangements, while enabling those areas where the area committees and area forums had been less well-attended to adopt different approaches. Cllr Engert expressed concern, however, that the loss of officer support for such meetings would have been detrimental to those areas wishing to continue with them. The Committee noted that this report related primarily to the abolition of the area committees and area forums, and that more detailed proposals regarding area budgets would be covered by a separate report.

On a vote of four in favour and one against, it was

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee recommend to Full Council that they:

- i) Approve the abolition of area committees and area forums;
- ii) Direct the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance to make any necessary and consequent amendments to the Council Constitution; and
- iii) Note that a report proposing ward budgets will be prepared for a Cabinet Member signing in June 2015.

**STCO11. AMENDMENT TO THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME FOR 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report on amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/16, as introduced by the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

On a vote of 4 in favour and 1 abstention, it was

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2015**

	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the Committee recommend to Full Council that it resolves to amend the current Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/16 to take effect from 15 May 2015 to increase the Basic Allowance, Mayoral Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances as set out in the Members' Allowances Scheme appended to the report.</p>
STCO12.	<p><b>REMOVAL OF THE DESIGNATED INDEPENDENT PERSON REQUIREMENT FOR THE DISMISSAL OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, MONITORING OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report on removal of the Designated Independent Person requirement for the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, as introduced by the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.</p> <p>In response to questions from the Committee, it was reported that there were 2 independent persons within the borough who could be called on to form a panel in the event such action became necessary, and that independent persons would be called from neighbouring boroughs in the event that those appointed by Haringey were not available. It was further confirmed that the amendments to Section K – Officer Employment Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution set out that no disciplinary action other than suspension could be taken in respect of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer until an Independent Panel had been formed. In response to a question regarding advice available to Full Council on these matters, it was reported that advice to Full Council would typically be provided by the Monitoring Officer, and that external, independent, legal advice would generally also be sought.</p> <p>It was</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) That the Committee note that in accordance with Article 15.03(a) of the Constitution ('legislative change'), the Monitoring Officer will make the necessary changes to the Constitution at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Part 3 Section B, Responsibility for Functions: Sections 1 and 3 (The Full Council and the Staffing and Remuneration Committee), and</li> <li>b. Part 4 Section K, Officer Employment Procedure Rules</li> </ul> <p>as set out at appendix 1 to the report.</p> </li> <li>ii) That the Committee refers the proposed changes set out above to Full Council for noting at its meeting on 14 May 2015.</li> <li>iii) That the Committee recommends to Full Council that it delegates to the Monitoring Officer authority to establish the Independent Panel subject to any statutory requirements and to agree its terms of reference in consultation with the Head of Human Resources.</li> </ul>

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2015**

	<p>As the last meeting of the Committee for the municipal year, the Chair thanked the committee members and officers for their work over the past year.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.27pm.</p>
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Cllr Reg Rice

Chair





**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	Standards Committee 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	<b>Item number</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	Code of Conduct for Members – Complaints 2014-15 Monitoring Report		
<b>Report authorised by :</b>	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer		
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer		
<b>Ward(s) affected: N/A</b>	<b>Report for N/A</b>		

### 1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report sets out summary information about complaints received by the Monitoring Officer that a Member has breached the Member's Code of Conduct. The report relates to complaints received during 2014-15.

### 2. Cabinet Member Introduction

1.1 Not applicable.

### 3. Recommendations

2.1 That Members note the report.

### 4. Alternative options considered

N/A

### 5. Background information

5.1 The Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, including monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.



**Haringey Council**

5.2 In 2014-15 the Monitoring Officer received 10 complaints that a member had breached the Code. In one case the complainant complained about the behaviour of 3 councillors arising from the same set of facts (behaviour at a council and cabinet meeting) and in another complaint the complainant complained about the behaviour of 2 councillors arising out of the same set of facts (behaviour at a meeting).

5.3 Of the 10 complaints 8 were rejected by the Assessment sub-committee and no further action was taken. 2 were referred for investigation.

5.4 Of those referred for investigation: in one case the independent investigation report found no breach of the Code and the recommendation was accepted by the Standards Committee and the complaint dismissed. In the other case, the investigation is yet to be completed and the recommendations are expected shortly for consideration by the Standards Committee.

5.5 Where appropriate, any lessons learned from complaints are considered by the Standards Committee and/or the Monitoring Officer and any improvements that might assist members are implemented. As a result the chair of the Standards Committee sent a general note to all councillors in May 2015 about the importance of members behaving properly at meetings and the public perceptions that may arise from certain behaviours.

## **6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer and financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. Assistant Director of Corporate Governance comments and Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

N/A

## **9. Head of Procurement Comments**

N/A

## **10. Policy Implications**

N/A

## **11. Reason for Decision**



**Haringey** Council

11.1 The Standards Committee supports the Council in discharging its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members. It is good practice to periodically review complaints and consider any lessons that may be learned.

**12. Use of Appendices**

N/A

**13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is exempt

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