



Meeting of
East Sussex County Council
on Tuesday, 9 May 2023
at 10.00 am

NOTE: As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website and the record archived. The live broadcast is accessible at: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/webcasts/default



EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

To the Members of the County Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the East Sussex County Council to be held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes, **on Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at 10.00 am** to transact the following business

1. **To elect a Chairman of the County Council**
2. **To appoint a Vice Chairman of the County Council**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023** (*Pages 7 - 12*)
4. **Apologies for absence**
5. **Chairman's business**
6. **Record of delegation of Executive Functions**

The Leader to present to the County Council their written record of delegations of executive functions to Cabinet members including:

(a) names of the County Councillors appointed to the Cabinet;

(b) the extent of any authority delegated to cabinet members individually as portfolio holders;

(c) appointment to the position of Deputy Leader

(d) the terms of reference and constitution of the Cabinet and any executive committees together with the names of cabinet members appointed to them

(e) the nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to local committees

(f) the nature and extent of any delegation to officers

7. **Report of the Governance Committee** (*Pages 13 - 16*)

8. **To allocate places on the following committees to political and independent groups in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to appoint members to those committees in line with the allocations**

(a) Scrutiny Committees
Health Overview and Scrutiny
People
Place

(b) Audit Committee
(c) Governance Committee
(d) Regulatory Committee
(e) Planning Committee
(f) Standards Committee

(g) Pension Committee

(Note 1: The proposed nominations from political and independent groups will be tabled at the meeting)

(Note 2: In accordance with the statutory provisions, the proposed allocation of places to political and independent groups is set out in the report of the Governance Committee)

9. In light of the decisions of the Council on the allocation of places to political and independent groups to appoint members to other Committees and Panels as set out below

(a) County Joint Consultative Committee (5 members of the County Council)

(b) County Consultative Committee (Governors) (5 members of the County Council)

(c) Joint Advisory Committee (Schools) (5 members of the County Council)

(d) Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (5 members of the County)

(e) Corporate Parenting Panel (7 members of the County Council)

[The memberships proposed by the political and independent groups will be circulated to members in advance of the meeting]

10. To confirm the continuation of the following bodies that have a fixed membership or to which members are appointed by the Chief Executive as the need arises and to agree (with no member voting against) that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the Panels

Approved Marriage Premises Review Panel

Recruitment Panel (Chief Executive, Directors and Deputies)

Commons and Village Green Registration Panel

[The composition of these bodies is set out in the Constitution]

11. To agree (with no member voting against) that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the membership of the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel and to appoint three members of the Regulatory Committee to serve for the ensuing year

[The membership of the Panel, proposed by the political groups will be tabled at the meeting]

12. To appoint:

(a) Chair of the Regulatory Committee

(b) Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees

(c) Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee

(d) Chair of the Governance Committee

(e) Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee

(f) Chair of the Pension Committee

(g) Chair of the Standards Committee

13. Petition (Pages 17 - 18)

14. Questions from members of the public

15. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 19 - 20)

16. Report of the Place Scrutiny Committee (Pages 21 - 24)

17. Report of the Standards Committee (Pages 25 - 26)

18. Questions form County Councillors

a) Oral questions to Cabinet Members

b) Written questions of which notice has been given pursuant to Standing Order 44

Note: There will be a period for collective prayers and quiet reflection in the Council Chamber from 9.30 am to 9.45 am. The prayers will be led by Father David Hill, Rector of St John the Evangelist, Upper St Leonards Rural Dean of Hastings. The Chairman would be delighted to be joined by any members of staff and Councillors who wish to attend.

County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
LEWES
East Sussex BN7 1UE

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive



27 April 2023

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MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 21 MARCH 2023 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors Sam Adeniji, Abul Azad, Matthew Beaver, Colin Belsey, Nick Bennett, Bob Bowdler, Charles Clark, Godfrey Daniel, Penny di Cara, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Kathryn Field, Roy Galley (Vice Chairman), Keith Glazier, Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge, Stephen Holt, Johanna Howell, Eleanor Kirby-Green, Carolyn Lambert, Tom Liddiard, Philip Lunn, James MacCleary, Wendy Maples, Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood, Carl Maynard, Matthew Milligan, Steve Murphy, Paul Redstone, Christine Robinson, Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Bob Standley, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Georgia Taylor, David Tutt and Trevor Webb

53. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023

53.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the County Council meeting held on 7 February 2023.

54. Apologies for absence

54.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Chris Collier, Johnny Denis, Gerard Fox, Nuala Geary, Alan Hay, Sarah Osborne, Peter Pragnell and John Ungar.

55. Chairman's business

COUNCILLOR PRAGNELL

55.1 The Chairman announced that Councillor Pragnell was unwell and therefore unable to attend the meeting. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman wished Councillor Pragnell a full and quick recovery.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

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55.2 The Chairman reported that Councillor Pragnell had attended a number of events since the last Council meeting, including a visit to Ashdown Forest and attending the Conservators Financial and Regulation Committee.

PETITIONS

55.3 The following petitions were presented before the meeting by councillors:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Councillor Maples* | - calling on the County Council to introduce a lorry route network similar to the one in West Sussex, so that HGVs are redirected away from narrow local roads in our villages. |
| Councillor Bowdler | - calling on the County Council to introduce lower speed limits on the B2095 Lower Street Ninfield to Marsh Road, A259. |
| Councillor Hilton | - calling on the County Council to divest the Pension Fund from fossil fuels related investments and publicly support a permanent windfall tax on Big Oil and a rapid transition to a green energy system. |
| Councillor Daniel Shing | - calling on the County Council to introduce double yellow lines either side of driveway on 63 St Johns Road, Polegate. |

*(on behalf of Councillor Denis)

PRAYERS

55.4 The Chairman thanked Mr. Michael Ensor, former Chairman of the Council, for leading prayers before the meeting.

56. Questions from members of the public

56.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

57. Declarations of Interest

57.1 There were no declarations of interest.

58. Reports

58.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following for discussion:

Cabinet report – paragraph 1 (Council Monitoring – Quarter 3 2022/2023)

Governance Committee report – paragraph 1 (Pay Policy Statement)

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

58.2 On the motion of the Chairman and the County Council, the Council adopted those paragraphs in reports that had not been reserved for discussion as follows:

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Governance Committee report – paragraph 2 (Remote Attendance at Meetings)

59. Report of the Cabinet

Paragraph 1 (Council Monitoring – Quarter 3 2022/2023)

59.1 Councillor Bennett introduced the reserved paragraph in the Cabinet report.

59.2 The paragraph was noted after debate.

60. Report of the Governance Committee

Paragraph 1 (Pay Policy Statement)

60.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph in the Governance Committee Report.

60.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

61. Questions from County Councillors

61.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Glazier	Lewes District Council legal action with regard to Vision Properties in the case of Talland Parade, Seaford
Councillor Swansborough	Councillor Claire Dowling	Quality of pothole repairs
Councillor Field	Councillor Standley	Early years funding in settings controlled by the County Council
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Glazier	Highways in Hastings and the installation of fibre networks
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Glazier	Effects of the National Government budget on local government
Councillor Maples	Councillor Claire Dowling	Lewes bus station and temporary bus stops
Councillor Maples	Councillor Bennett	Housing developments on greenfield sites
Councillor Murphy	Councillor Bowdler	Provision for childcare for 0-4 year-olds following the National Government budget announcement
Councillor Hilton	Councillor Bennett	Queensway Gateway Road

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Councillor Scott	Councillor Claire Dowling	Review of the criteria used for highway repairs and success of repairs
Councillor Stephen Shing	Councillor Bennett	Site formerly known as Hindlands playing fields in Polegate, and surrounding land
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Claire Dowling	Initial estimate of the Bexhill-Hastings relief road cost to date, and the estimated outcome
Councillor Georgia Taylor	Councillor Claire Dowling	Long-term repairs to highways and potholes in Forest Row and the effectiveness of the work of highways contractors
Councillor Kirby-Green	Councillor Glazier	Conservative councillors asking questions at Full Council meetings

61.2 Two written questions were received from Councillors Field and Stephen Shing for the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. The Lead Member responded to supplementary questions.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.59 am

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question from Councillor Kathryn Field to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Does the County Council require its staff and its contractors to turn off their engines when a vehicle is stationary? Why do so few roadworks have instructions to drivers to turn off their engines while waiting at roadworks?

Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Whilst we would encourage all staff to turn their engines off where possible and most modern vehicles do this automatically when stationary, it is not always a viable option for those delivering highway works on the network. The engine may be left running to charge small plant/equipment and works tablets used for recording works and reviewing work programmes. During the winter months it can be particularly unpleasant working outside and therefore operatives may keep the engine running to keep the vehicle warm while they take their prescribed breaks.

With the new highways contract from 1 May, for works of 3 days or longer duration that use temporary traffic signals, we are planning to introduce signage as part of the works that encourages drivers to switch off their engine while queuing. Whilst this will apply to highway works, we cannot insist that this applies to utility or developer works. However, we will be encouraging these organisations to follow a similar approach.

2. Question from Stephen Shing to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment **Pothole repairs**

Our council repaired 7,299 potholes since the beginning of the year (including 2,598 up to February). More potholes being repaired is good performance and welcomed by our residents.

Residents are asking why many of the repaired potholes are of a poor standard which do not last very long, typically deteriorating within week. They do not understand why this is happening?

Will the new maintenance contractor for County Highways provide a better quality of repair? Residents would also like to know in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 how many potholes were repaired and at what cost? How many of those potholes were subsequently have repaired again within 12 months and 18 months? What was the cost for the repeat repairs?

Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Potholes are repaired to a set standard but this can, on occasions, be difficult to achieve during prolonged wet and cold weather. Over this winter we did see a slight increase in the number of potholes requiring a second repair shortly after being repaired (around 5%) – however this was very much due to the poor weather conditions – but the team were well prepared with more than double the number of gangs carrying out repairs to not only to deal with the increase in potholes but also the expected increase in failed repairs requiring a repeat visit.

MINUTES

Overall the number of potholes requiring a re-repair remains relatively low and in 2021/2022 financial year only around 2% of the 18,000 potholes we repaired required a second repair. The team do not hold the data for 2020/2021 financial year as pothole remedial repairs were not recorded in the same way.

As you are aware, any pothole that requires a second repair within the two year guarantee period are fixed at the cost of our contractors – and no additional cost is incurred by the authority. We would encourage members to report any such failures on line so the contractor can attend asap.

Finally the new contract has been designed to improve the day to day engagement and service. Pothole repairs are a key part of this contract and responsibility to ensure/determine the best and most efficient way to repair potholes will be the responsibility of the contractor to drive efficiency to the service and provides value for money for the authority. The performance of the contractor will be monitored against key performance indicators with penalties for poor performance.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee met on 18 April 2023. Attendances:

Councillor Glazier (Chair)
Councillors Bennett, Collier and Tutt

1. Appointment of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Other Bodies

1.1 In appointing members to committees, sub-committees, most panels and some outside bodies the Council must comply with section 15 of the Local Government Act 1989 and subsequent Regulations. These provide that places on committees must be allocated to political groups in proportion to the number of seats on the Council held by each group, unless there is agreement, without dissent, that the provisions of the Act should not be applied.

1.2 The allocation of places to party groups must, so far as is reasonably practicable, give effect to the following principles:

- (a) not all of the seats on the body can be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) where more than half the members of the Council belong to one political group, that group shall have a majority on all committees, sub-committees, etc;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees (including sub-committees) allocated to a political group reflects that group's proportion of the members of the Council;
- (d) subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each body allocated to a political group reflects the proportion of the seats on the Council held by the group.

1.3 The rules require seats to be allocated on a proportional basis "so far as practicable" and inevitably there must be some rounding up and rounding down. It is open to the Council to review the size and number of committees and sub-committees at any time.

1.4 Members of the Cabinet may not serve on the Scrutiny Committees or the Regulatory Committee and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council may not serve on the Standards Committee.

1.5 The Leader of the Council appoints the Cabinet and allocates portfolios to those Cabinet Members. Political balance provisions do not apply to the Cabinet

1.6 The principle in paragraph 1.2 (c) above applies to appointments to ordinary committees (including sub-committees). Accordingly, before considering the allocation of places to political groups the Council will need to consider whether it wishes to recommend any changes in committees, including their size. The tables in Appendix 1 show the proposed allocation of seats for 2023/24. There are no changes to the allocation agreed by the County Council in May 2022 for 2022/23. The proposals in relation to the ordinary committees and sub-committees, their total membership and the number of seats on each to which the groups will be entitled follows the principles set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

GOVERNANCE

1.7 The party group leaders and independent members have been asked to let the Assistant Chief Executive have nominations to fill the places on committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies covered in this report provisionally allocated to their group. The final list of nominations received will be circulated to members of the County Council prior to the annual council meeting, for approval by the Council.

1.8 The allocation of seats to the Governance Committee has been proposed to take into account the importance of having one member from each of the three largest political groups. Membership of this Committee normally includes the Group Leaders.

Other Committees and Panels

1.9 There is no obligation in relation to other committees and panels to aggregate the total number of places and to adjust allocations so that the total number of places allocated to each group reflects its proportion of the members of the Council. It is proposed that places should be allocated on a proportionate basis, unless the Council agrees to waive the political balance provisions which has been the custom for certain panels over many years.

1.10 The practical effect of the proportionality rules for a committee, panel or group of members of any given size from 3 to 12 is set out in Appendix 2, together with the list of current committees and panels to which appointments will need to be made and their membership.

Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

1.11 The Council's Constitution provides that the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and Audit Committee should be added together and the positions then allocated to groups in accordance to the number of seats they have on the Council. Within this allocation the Chair of the Audit Committee shall be appointed from the members of the largest Group not represented on the Cabinet. On this basis the allocation of the 8 places would be as follows:

Conservative – 4
 Liberal Democrat – 2
 Labour – 1
 Green - 1
 Independent Democrat - 0

1.12 The proposed list of Chairs and Vice Chairs (there are no changes to the allocation agreed in May 2022 for 2022/23) to be appointed by the County Council is:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Regulatory	Conservative	
People Scrutiny Committee	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Place Scrutiny Committee	Conservative	Green
Audit Committee	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Conservative	Labour
Governance Committee	Conservative	
Planning Committee	Conservative	Conservative

GOVERNANCE

Pension Committee	Conservative	
Standards Committee	Conservative	

1.13 The Committee recommends the County Council to:

- ☆ (1) allocate to the political and other groups the places on, and membership of, the main committees as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) allocate places on the other committees and panels as set out in Appendix 2; and
- (3) allocate the Chair and Vice Chair positions on committees as set out in the table in paragraph 1.12.

18 April 2023

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)

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PETITION

The County Council has received the following petition:

Divest East Sussex

We the undersigned call on East Sussex County Council to stop investing in fossil fuels, and publicly support a proper permanent windfall tax on Big Oil and a rapid transition to a system that provides affordable green energy for everyone.

When submitted the petition contained 5,236 signatures. As the number of signatures exceeds 5000 the Council's Petition Scheme allows for the petition to be presented to, and debated by, the Full Council. A representative of the petitioners will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting prior to the debate. The relevant extract of the Petition Scheme is set out below

Full Council debates

If a petition has more than 5000 signatures it will be debated by the full council, unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend.

The Council will try to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. It may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue is one on which the Council's Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision.

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REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 18 April 2023. Attendees: -

Councillor Glazier (Chair)

Councillors Bennett, Bowdler, Claire Dowling, Maynard, and Standley.

1. Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local

1.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Place Scrutiny Committee on its Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local. The report of the Scrutiny Committee is included elsewhere in the agenda (item 16).

1.2 In March 2022 the Place Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Review Board to examine the Council's approach to social value in procurement and Buying Local initiatives. The scope of the review included an investigation of various aspects of the current policy and approaches including:

- Examining how well social value principles are communicated and understood by departments.
- Examining the processes used and in particular the handover from the Procurement Team to the service department contract managers who are responsible for monitoring and ensuring the social value measures are delivered.
- Looking at the engagement with the Council's supply chain: do they understand the requirement and what we are trying to achieve; what help and support might they need.
- Exploring whether it is possible/beneficial to move away from the use of proxy values in the current quantitative approach to measuring social value to a more outcome focussed qualitative approach and what this could look like.
- Review and comment on the draft Social Value Policy.
- Examine whether narrowing down and prioritising what social value the Council asks for from suppliers, would be beneficial in achieving the Council's objectives. This may already be taking place to some extent when using the Social Value Charter (e.g. through the use of tailored advice for specific or larger contracts).
- Explore opportunities to use social value to support action on climate change and a sustainable local economy.
- Consideration of the Orbis Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy

1.3 The Place Scrutiny Review addressed the following lines of enquiry:

- How can we improve the current approach to Social Value and Buying Local?

CABINET

- How can Social Value and Buying Local be used to achieve the Council's objectives and support action on climate change and a sustainable local economy?

1.4 The Place Scrutiny Committee has completed its review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local. The review makes nine recommendations which address the areas covered by the review. A copy of the report is included elsewhere in the agenda.

1.5 Overall the Review Board finds that a great deal of work has been undertaken to make sure the Council's social value requirements are well understood and considered at an early stage of the procurement process. However, there is more work to do on the handover to service departments and the monitoring of the delivery of social value commitments.

1.6 The Council's current approach to measuring social value using quantitative measures is quite mature. The Board therefore focused on developing recommendations which improve the existing policies and procedures and recommends establishing a business case for more resources to support contract management including monitoring social value. The Board considers that there may be an opportunity now to move to a more qualitative approach to measuring social value, which may provide wider community benefits, that may in turn help support our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise partners, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and deliver the Council's objectives. The review also makes a recommendation to conduct a trial of a more qualitative approach to measuring social value requirements in contracts, which it considers has the potential to yield benefits across the Council.

1.7 In welcoming the finding of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet has considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) on the specific recommendations and endorsed it as its response to the recommendations.

1.8 The Cabinet, in welcoming the report, recommends the County Council to –

- ✧ approve the response of the Chief Operating Officer on the implementation of the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee's report.

18 April 2023

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)

REPORT OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Place Scrutiny Committee met on 28 March 2023.

Present: Councillors Matthew Beaver (Chair), Chris Collier, Alan Hay, Julia Hilton (Vice Chair), Ian Hollidge, Stephen Holt, Philip Lunn, Paul Redstone, and Stephen Shing.

Also present: Councillors Nick Bennett (Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change), Claire Dowling (Lead Member for Transport and Environment), and Rupert Simmons (Lead Member for Economy).

1. Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local

1.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local. A copy of the Committee's full report is attached at Appendix 1.

1.2. A Review Board was established in March 2022 and was comprised of Councillors Chris Collier (Chair), Julia Hilton, and Paul Redstone. The review examined the Council's approach to social value in procurement and Buying Local initiatives.

1.3 The scope of the review included an investigation of various aspects of the current policy and approaches including:

- Examining how well social value principles are communicated and understood by departments.
- Examining the processes used and in particular the handover from the Procurement Team to the service department contract managers who are responsible for monitoring and ensuring the social value measures are delivered.
- Looking at the engagement with the Council's supply chain: do they understand the requirement and what we are trying to achieve; what help and support might they need.
- Exploring whether it is possible/beneficial to move away from the use of proxy values in the current quantitative approach to measuring social value to a more outcome focussed qualitative approach and what this could look like.
- Reviewing and commenting on the draft Social Value Policy.
- Examining whether narrowing down and prioritising what social value the Council asks for from suppliers, would be beneficial in achieving the Council's objectives.
- Exploring opportunities to use social value to support action on climate change and a sustainable local economy.
- Consideration of the Orbis Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

1.4 The review looked at a range of evidence on the Council's approach to social value to see how well established the principles of social value are within the Council's procurement activity. It also looked at the policies, processes and procedures in place and officers' and suppliers' attitudes to the social value requirements in order to develop recommendations for improvements. The Review Board was also able to comment on and endorse the draft Social Value Policy, which was subsequently agreed by the Lead Member.

1.5 Overall, the review finds that a great deal of work has been undertaken to make sure the Council's social value requirements are well understood and considered at an early stage of the procurement process. However, there is more work to do on the monitoring of the delivery of social value commitments and the development of a more qualitative approach to measuring social value. The review makes a number of recommendations which it is hoped will improve the Council's approach to social value.

1.6 The Place Scrutiny Committee **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.6.1 The Council undertakes further communications, training and engagement activity, informed by feedback from the Board's survey, with:

- a) departments – focused on social value requirements and using the Social Value Charter including examples of what 'good' looks like; and
- b) with organisations in the supply chain, including providing case studies to ensure the Council's approach to social value requirements is well understood.

1.6.2 Social value commitments are recorded in future via the PM3 procurement software system, to better enable monitoring of what is delivered.

1.6.3 A service-based reporting requirement is introduced on the delivery of social value commitments which is reviewed quarterly at departmental management team meetings.

1.6.4 The Business Services Department assesses the business case for providing additional resources to monitor, track and support the delivery of contractual commitments including social value through enhanced contract management support.

1.6.5 Suppliers are required to monitor and report on their delivery of social value as part of their contract through the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

1.6.6 Service leads, commissioners and staff involved in contract management are included in the review process of the Needs and Strategies document which sets out priority areas for social value offers.

1.6.7 Guidance is given on narrowing the focus or number of social value measures included in contract specifications to support the Council's priorities and promote a collaborative approach within the Council.

1.6.8 Clear guidance is given to suppliers and commissioners on where to include carbon reductions measures in contracts and bids.

1.6.9 Consideration is given to amending the Orbis Social Value Measurement Charter to make it clear that carbon reduction measures should be included in the specification of contracts in the first instance, rather than including them as social value measures, except where using social value measures would be more appropriate for smaller suppliers.

1.6.10 The Council explores ways of continuing to provide support to local suppliers, such as training, to help them develop carbon reduction measures and adopt carbon reduction pathways, thereby promoting a more sustainable supply chain.

1.6.11 The Procurement Team:

a) explores in more detail how the Council could move to a more qualitative approach to measuring social value by conducting a sector based 12 month trial with the ASCH department to pilot a more qualitative approach that might be more suitable for VCSE organisations, including the development of evaluation criteria for the trial (e.g. comparison with the previous 12 month period); and

b) once the trial has been completed and evaluated, a report on the next steps in moving to a qualitative approach across the Council is produced.

[See also Report of the Cabinet – 18 April 2023]

28 March 2023

MATTHEW BEAVER
Chair

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STANDARDS

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee met on 18 April 2023.

Present Councillor Colin Belsey (Chair),
 Councillors David Tutt, Penny di Cara, Paul Redstone, Philip Lunn

1. Annual Report of the Standards Committee

1.1 The Standards Committee is required to submit an annual report to the County Council on its work during the previous year. The Committee is therefore asked to consider the draft report for submission to the County Council. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 two complaints were received against Members of the County Council. A complaint received in the previous year was also determined within the same period. One of the complaints is outstanding with an investigation being undertaken currently.

1.2 It is considered that the standards of conduct among Members and co-opted members of the Council remain high and maintaining good standards is taken seriously. The table below shows the number of complaints considered by the Assessment Sub-Committee over previous years:

Year	No. of complaints considered
2022/23	2
2021/22	3
2020/21	0
2019/20	0
2018/19	3
2017/18	0
2016/17	1
2015/16	1
2014/15	3
2013/14	1

Applications for Dispensation

1.3 In limited circumstances, Members can apply in writing for dispensations to take part in business that they would otherwise have been unable to participate in through having prejudicial interests. During 2022/23 there were no applications for dispensations.

1.4 All dispensations are entered on the register of Members' interests and remain there for the appropriate period.

Register of Members' Interests

1.5 The Monitoring Officer is required to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the Council. All Members have completed and returned their registers and are reminded every three months of the need to notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes. The registers are available for public inspection and are available on the Council's website.

1.6 During 2022/23 councillors were reminded that there is provision for information considered to be sensitive not to be published on their register of interest form. Sensitive information is that which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected to the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation. If a councillor considers that the

STANDARDS

information relating to any personal interest is sensitive, and the Monitoring Officer agrees, the register available for inspection will not include the details of that interest other than stating that the councillor has an interest and that the details are withheld. Councillors were reminded that if they consider an interest to be sensitive, they should still declare the matter and request that it be treated as sensitive information. The fact that a councillor considers the information to be sensitive is not a reason for failing to declare the interest.

1.7 A register of Gifts and Hospitality is also maintained by the Monitoring Officer. Members have to register gifts and hospitality received with an estimated value of £50 or more. Councillors are reminded every three months of the need to declare gifts and hospitality of such a value.

1.8 There is an ongoing requirement to keep the information on the register of interest form up to date. Councillors must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new registerable personal interest or change to any registered interest, give written notification to the Monitoring Officer.

Code of Conduct

1.9 In April 2021, the Committee considered the Model Code of Conduct published by the Local Government Association (LGA) and agreed to maintain the Council's Code of Conduct rather than adopting the updated Model Code. The main reasons for the decision were that the Model Code did not contain significant amendments to the Code that is currently adopted by the County Council. It was also considered significant that, since 2012, the county, borough and district councils in East Sussex have adopted a single Code of Conduct. This level of consistency has worked well and has been of particular benefit to, and appreciated by, dual hatted councillors. Following consultation with the five district and borough councils in East Sussex, the view was that the current Code works well, is understood by councillors and covers the main points in the Model Code. The consensus was that the current Code is effective and should be retained.

1.10 The Committee reviewed the Code in April 2023 and concluded that the current Code (adopted by the County, District and Borough Councils) works well and provides a consistent approach across different authorities. The Committee has not proposed that any changes be made to the Code at the current time.

Training

1.11 Following the election on 6 May 2021, training was given to Members on the Code of Conduct including register of interests, personal interests, disclosable pecuniary interests and gifts and hospitality. Further training on the Code in relation to 'Confidentiality and the Code of Conduct' was delivered to Members in September 2022. All councillors have signed a declaration undertaking to comply with the County Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

1.12 The Committee **recommends** the County Council to –

- ☆ agree the Annual Report

COLIN BELSEY
(Chair)

18 April 2023