

Cabinet - Thursday, 15 February 2018

Written question from Mr Richard Hards of Whippingham to the Leader of the Council

"The citizens of the Isle of Wight expect and demand that all officers of the Council perform their duties to the very highest standards of honesty and integrity.

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives has published the "Local Public Services Senior Managers: Code of Ethics" which sets out in detail the standards to be observed.

In the Introduction to this code it states, "The expectation of our residents and the professional bodies is that every senior manager working in local public services will adopt the code of ethics. This includes those engaged on a permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, casual, consultancy, contracted or voluntary basis." So it is clear that in terms of the Isle of Wight Council it would apply to officers whose contract of employment is with the Council and that, for instance, it would also apply to directors and senior managers whose contract of employment is with Hampshire County Council but who are currently working within the Isle of Wight Children's Services.

When the Council's Constitution is next revised, will the Council incorporate a clause making compliance with the Code of Ethics a requirement upon directors and senior managers and make it clear that failure to comply with the code would be a disciplinary matter which may result in dismissal?"

RESPONSE

"The constitution sets out how the council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed, together with the structure and political workings of the council as well as the responsibilities of the leaders and of the members and the rights of the citizen. The constitution, quite properly, does not deal in any detail with policies, procedures and guidelines that officers operate under, and I do not propose looking to amend the constitution as is suggested."