

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 6.55pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: I Moran (Chairman)

Councillors: D Westley I Davis
N Hennessy J Witter

Officers: Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor
Matthew Jones, Deputy Borough Solicitor
Sue Griffiths, Principal Member Services Officer

11 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wright, Mr S Ibbs (Independent Person) and Mr S Garvey (Reserve Independent Person).

12 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to membership of the Committee.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

15 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this Heading.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

At this point the leader referred to a previous resolution of the Committee in regard to Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee and indicated that he was mindful to propose the appointment of such representation at the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2019. Members of the Standards Committee indicated their support for this action.

17 COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the complaints statistics for 2018/19 as set down at pages 43 – 48 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED That the Standards Complaints Statistics, attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted

18 WHISTLEBLOWING CODE

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 43 – 48 of the Book of Reports, updating the Council's Whistleblowing Code attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Borough Solicitor advised that as there had been no changes to law and good practice, there were no significant changes to the Code, and that the report would be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee and Council for consideration.

RESOLVED A. That the updated Whistleblowing Code, as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed, subject to the following revisions:-

- paragraph 6.1 – amend list of examples to read
'unlawful discrimination against people with protected characteristics'
- paragraph 9 – include reference to and contact point for External Auditor.

B. That it be noted that the Whistleblowing Code will be considered further by the Audit and Governance Committee and Council.

19 NATIONAL REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 61 to 174 of the Book of Reports which advised upon the outcome of the national review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on local government ethical standards.

RESOLVED A. That the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life be noted.

B. That the Borough Solicitor report to the next meeting of the Standards Committee with any necessary recommendations to ensure that the Council continues to exemplify best practice with regard to local ethical standards.

20 PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised upon the updated 'Planning Code of Good Practice' that had been adopted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 18 October 2018.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

21 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme as contained on page 193 of the Book of Reports.

It was noted that in relation to minute no. 19 above, a further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED A. That the Work Programme be noted.

B. That an item "National Review of Local Government Ethical Standards" be included on the Work Programme for the next meeting.

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Chairman