

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: Tuesday, 21 September 2021

Start: 5.02 pm

Finish: 5.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: I Moran (Chairman)
D Westley (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: I Davis
Y Gagen

In attendance: M Fawcett (Independent Person)

Officers: Kay Lovelady, Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Kirsty Breakell, Member Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors D. Daniels and D. Evans, Parish Councillors J Stopford and Linda Webster and from Independent Person, Mr Steve Garvey.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to the Membership of the Committee.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

5 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was no public speaking

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021, be approved as a correct record.

7 COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager presented the Complaints Statistics as contained on pages 11 – 14 of the Book of Reports, which provided Members with statistical information in relation to Standards Complaints for the period 17 March 2021 to 21 September 2021. There were no complaints for this period.

RESOLVED: That the Standards Complaints Statistics attached at appendix 1 be noted.

8 CODE OF CONDUCT SEMINAR FOR OFFICERS, BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager updated Members on the proposed Code of Conduct training to be held in November 2021.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

9 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager presented the Standards Committee Annual Report as contained on pages 15 – 24 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Standards Committee Annual Report 2020/21, attached as an Appendix to the report, be noted, endorsed and published on the Council's website.

10 UPDATE ON WHISTLEBLOWING CODE

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager presented the draft Whistleblowing Policy as contained on pages 25 – 58 of the Book of Reports, which sought Members approval of the revised Policy and the same being subject to a public consultation, before final approval being sought from Council in December 2021.

Comments and Questions were raised as follows:

- Policy being passed to the Unions and Corporate Consultancy Group
- Compulsory training to be provided and to become part of the induction pack
- Any previous whistleblowing
- Complaints being assessed on their individual merits

RESOLVED:

- That the draft Whistleblowing Policy be agreed
- That the revised draft Whistleblowing Policy be subject to a public consultation.
- That the Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer, be given delegated authority to amend the draft Whistleblowing Policy having considered any comments received from Audit and Governance Committee and responses from the consultation exercise (as outlined at paragraph 6 of the report) prior to the revised Whistleblowing Policy being reviewed at full Council on the 15 December 2021.

11 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager presented the revised Members Code of Conduct as contained on pages 59 – 132 of the Book of Reports, which sought Members approval of the revised Code of Conduct and the same being subject to a public consultation, before final approval being sought from Council in December

2021.

Comments and questions were raised as follows:

- Social Media Protocols and training

RESOLVED:

- That the draft Members Code of Conduct be agreed
- That the Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer be given authority to amend the draft Code of Conduct and supporting Guidance, having considered any comments received as a result of the said consultation exercise (as outlined at paragraph 5.5 of the report) and prior to the revised Code of Conduct being reviewed at full Council on the 15 December 2021.

12 **WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

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Chairman