

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL 2023

Present:

Councillor William Armitage (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Pat Antcliff (Vice-Chair)

Councillor John Funnell
Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Kathy Rouse

Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Heather Liggett

Also Present:

S Sternberg Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
A Maher Governance Manager
A Bond Governance Officer

STA/ Apologies for Absence

44/2

2-23 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Welton, K Gillott, P Coleman (Parish Council Representative) and the Legal Team Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer.

STA/ Declarations of Interest

45/2

2-23 There were no Declarations of Interest.

STA/ Minutes of Last Meeting

46/2

2-23 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 7 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

STA/ Review of the Constitution - Proposed Revised Version

47/2

2-23 Committee received the updated draft version of the proposed constitution. Members discussed the draft at length and drew particular attention to the proposed protocols for changing the Constitution and Council Policy that would require any proposed changes to be first debated at the relevant Scrutiny Committee. Members considered that these protocols could cause difficulties if the necessary meetings could not be arranged but heard that emergency ad-hoc meetings could be organised and the Council's Procedure rules could be suspended if necessary.

Members considered that having the Parish Representatives attend meetings of the Standards Committee was useful but that an amendment should be made in order to prevent the two representatives being from the same Parish Council.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) Standards Committee approved an amendment to the proposed constitution that restricted the two Parish Representatives from being from the same Parish Council.
- (2) Standards Committee noted the proposed constitution.

STA/ **Complaints Update**

48/2

2-23

Committee received an update on the number of complaints that had been received and what action had been taken on these.

Members heard that two new complaints have been received and two existing complaints had been closed. There were a total of seven ongoing complaints.

Committee were informed that the Monitoring Officer would be organising training sessions for the Parish Councils. Members considered that it would be useful for a Member of the Standards Committee to accompany the Monitoring Officer during these sessions.

RESOLVED – That Standards Committee noted the complaints update.

STA/ **Monitoring Member Training in the new Municipal Year:- Proposals**

49/2

2-23

Committee were informed that a package of training events would be put in place as part of the Members Induction following on from the Local Government Elections in May. Member attendance and feedback at the training events would be carefully recorded and reported back to Committee.

Members discussed possible repercussions against those Members that did not attend training events and heard that the Council could not impose any sanctions against Members and that this would instead need to be a decision taken by each political Group. Committee agreed that they could write to the Group leaders, as a Committee, to inform them of the attendance statistics.

RESOLVED – Committee supported and noted the suggested approach to monitoring Member Training attendance.

STA/ **Setting the Committee Work Plan for 2023-24: Proposals**

50/2

2-23

Committee discussed the arrangements for developing the Work Plan for the 2023-24 Municipal Year and some of the specific issues that the reconstituted Committee might be asked to consider.

Members enquired as to when the schedule of meetings and the Council Diaries would be distributed to the newly elected Members and heard that a pre-diary, containing the schedule of meetings, would be distributed to Members during the 10 May 2023 induction session. The full diary would be rapidly distributed following Annual Council.

RESOLVED – Committee agreed on the proposed approach to setting the Committee Work Plan for the 2023/24 municipal year.

STA/ Urgent Business (public session)

51/2

2-23

The Chair thanked Members for their work over the course of the municipal year and wished them luck in the future.

There was no other urgent business.