



Minutes of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Gilbert (Chair)
Councillors Crooks, Hume (apologies for lateness), McPake (Vice-Chair), Raja, Verma and Wallis (Vice-Chair)

Officers: S Bridglalsingh (Director - Law and Governance), J Kealey (Deputy Monitoring Officer), E Scott (Solicitor) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

ST03 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 30 March 2021 and the special meeting held on 19 May 2021, be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

ST04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

ST05 PERIODIC REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Committee considered the periodic report of the Monitoring Officer.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that, since the publication of the Agenda, two of the three outstanding complaints had been resolved and the remaining matter was scheduled to be determined by the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee on Monday 9 August 2021.

The Committee noted that training on the Code of Conduct and the Principles of Public Life ('The Nolan Principles') was available to all councillors and parish and town councils upon request.

The Committee proposed that training be more elevated and should include case-based scenarios.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that, on 8 July 2021, the Local Government Association had issued their Model Code of Conduct guidance.

It was agreed that a Working Group be established on a 1:1:1 political balance to discuss the new Code of Conduct and a report on the recommendations be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

It was further agreed that a Workshop to discuss the current Code of Conduct be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That membership of Standards Assessment / Hearing Sub-Committees be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.
2. That the Social Media Guidance be reviewed at the next meeting of the Committee.
3. That a Workshop be held to discuss the current Code of Conduct prior to the next meeting of the Committee.
3. That a Working Group to discuss the new Code of Conduct be established on a 1:1:1 political balance and a meeting be arranged for September 2021.
4. That case-based scenario training be undertaken in September 2021.

ST06

PARISH COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

The Committee considered a report on Parish Councillor recruitment.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee the four year membership of co-opted parish councillors to the Committee had expired on 31 May 2021.

It was noted that a recruitment exercise had been undertaken to appoint up to four co-opted parish councillors. However, insufficient applications had been received and it was agreed to extend the deadline to Friday 6 August 2021.

It was further noted that, whilst the recruitment exercise was ongoing, it had been agreed to extend Parish Councillor Winsor's term until new parish councillors had been co-opted.

RESOLVED -

1. That, due to insufficient applications being received, the deadline be extended to Friday 6 August 2021.
2. That a shortlisting and interview panel be established on a 1:1:1 political balance.

3. That an Independent Person be appointed to the panel in an advisory capacity.

ST07

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Standards Committee was scheduled for Thursday 14 October 2021 at 6.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:01 PM

DRAFT