

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting: 7 September 2020
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Mr Stephen Clarke (Independent Member), Ms Julie Carter (Independent Member), Mr Kieran McMahon (Independent Member) and Mr Andrew Stewart (Independent Member)

Councillors Malcolm Allan, Mike Hurleston and Charlie Stewart

Val Cottam and Mark Iveson (Independent Persons)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Mr Stephen Clarke be elected Chair of the Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

Mr Stephen Clarke in the Chair

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Mr Kieran McMahon be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal and Prejudicial Interest

Councillor

Interest

Charlie Stewart

Agenda item 9 'Annual Report on Complaints relating to Councillors Conduct in 2019/20'.

Councillor Stewart took no part in the discussion or the decision on the item.

5. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions were submitted.

7. RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out a proposed draft response to the recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its January 2019 report on Local Government Ethical Standards which would be sent on behalf of the Council by the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED – That minor amendments be made to the proposed response, circulated to Members of the Committee by email and then sent to the Committee on Standards in Public Life as the Council's response to the recommendations from the Committee's report.

8. STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the Committee's response to the Local Government Association's draft Model Code of Conduct dated 17 August 2020.

The Committee discussed the response which had been sent and felt that on occasions it would have liked to elaborate on individual questions, but was restricted by the nature of the consultation document.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the Monitoring Officer be requested to send a follow up letter to the Local Government Association elaborating on the Committee's response.

9. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS RELATING TO COUNCILLORS CONDUCT IN 2019/20

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Committee on complaints received about the conduct of Members during the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm