

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 18 February 2021

At: 6.00 pm

### PRESENT

Councillor Mr Stephen Clarke (Independent Member) (Chair) in the Chair; Ms Julie Carter (Independent Member) and Andrew Stewart (Independent Member).

Councillors Malcolm Allan, Brian Bagnall, Adrian Nottingham and Charlie Stewart.

Val Cottam (Independent Person) and Mark Iveson (Independent Person).

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. URGENT DECISIONS**

No urgent decisions were reported.

### **4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were submitted.

### **5. LGA NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which updated Members on the New Model Councillor Code of Conduct issued by the Local Government Association (LGA) on 23 December 2020, with a headline statement that 'This code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in Local Government.'

The Monitoring Officer outlined the main changes from the previous Code of Conduct. The Committee discussed the changes and recommended some amendments to the appendices including some further clarity on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. Members considered that a table with examples and definitions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be helpful. Members also felt that some amendments may be necessary to the appendices which related to social media.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to make the amendments to the appendices to the LGA New Model Code of Conduct which reflected this Committee's views.

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(2) That the Model Code of Conduct be submitted to the Constitution Working Party to consider whether it ought to be adopted as the Council's New Code of Conduct by the Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm