

Time commenced – 4.00pm
Finished – 4.28pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10 August 2021

Present: Councillors S Khan (Chair), AW Graves, A Holmes, Skelton (substitute for Councillor Atwal) and Alan Cameron and Philip Sunderland

In Attendance: Emily Feenan - Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Alex Hough – Head of Democracy
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

01/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Atwal, Stuart Green and Peter Purnell.

02/21 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/21 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

04/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 were noted.

05/21 Annual report of the Standards Committee 2020/21

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Annual report of the Standards Committee 2020/21.

The report sought the Committee's input into the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2020/21. Members noted that the annual report was designed to inform Council of the Committee's activities during the 2020/21 municipal year.

Members reviewed the content of the draft annual report attached at Appendix 1.

It was agreed that wording be added to the report in relation to the training that Councillors receive annually, such as on the Councillors' Code of Conduct. It was also agreed that wording be added in relation to the requirement for Councillors to undertake a standard check with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Resolved to approve that the Chair of the Committee presents the annual report to Council, subject to the amendments as agreed by the Committee.

06/21 Volume and Outcomes of Councillor Complaints 2020/21 and 2021/22

The Board received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Volume and Outcomes of Councillor Complaints 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The report provided the Committee with an update on the volume and outcomes of Councillor complaints dealt with in the 2020/21 municipal year and the 2021/22 municipal year.

It was reported that three complaints were carried over from the 2019/20 municipal year. One complaint was dismissed, one complaint proceeded to investigation and no breach was found and one complaint was still live.

Members noted that eight complaints were received in the 2020/21 municipal year. Five complaints were dismissed, one complaint proceeded to investigation and no breach was found, one complaint was referred to the relevant political group in accordance with Appendix C of the complaints procedures and one complaint was carried over to the 2021/22 municipal year and was dismissed.

It was reported that no complaints had been received in the 2021/22 municipal year.

Resolved to note the volume and outcome of Councillor complaints as outlined in the report.

07/21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

08/21 Summaries of Councillor Complaints 2020/21 and 2021/22

The Committee considered an exempt report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Summaries of Councillor Complaints 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Resolved to note the summaries of Councillor complaints 2020/21 and 2021/22 contained in the report.

MINUTES END