

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Finished – 6.22pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23 March 2021

Present: Councillors S Khan (Chair), Atwal, AW Graves, A Holmes, Marshall
and Stuart Green, Peter Purnell and Philip Sunderland

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

18/20 Apologies

There were none.

19/20 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were none.

20/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

21/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

22/20 Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

It was reported that in June 2020 the Local Government Association (LGA) conducted a consultation to gather views on its draft Model Member Code of Conduct. It was also reported that a response was submitted on behalf of Derby City Council.

Members noted that the LGA published its Model Councillor Code of Conduct in December 2020.

It was reported that the Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services undertook an exercise to compare the Council's Councillors' Code of Conduct with the one published by the LGA. The results of this exercise and any suggested actions were attached at Appendix 1 of the report, for the Committee's consideration.

Members discussed whether there should be specific references in the Council's Councillors' Code of Conduct to the use of social media and remote/hybrid meetings. It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should consider incorporating these two aspects. It was also agreed that the Monitoring Officer would consider whether there should also be any additions incorporated into the remote meeting procedure rules, in relation to these matters.

Members discussed the following recommendation:

To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to prepare amendments to the Councillors' Code of Conduct for Council approval that reflect the suggested actions detailed in Appendix 1.

It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should also consult with the Independent Persons and that the recommendation should be amended accordingly.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the suggested actions detailed in Appendix 1; and**
- 2. to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Independent Persons, to prepare amendments to the Councillors' Code of Conduct for Council approval that reflect the suggested actions detailed in Appendix 1.**

23/20 Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2020/21

The Board received a report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2020/21.

It was reported that three complaints had been carried over from the 2019/20 municipal year. It was also reported that one of those complaints was dismissed, one proceeded to investigation and no breach was found and one was still live.

Members noted that seven complaints had been received in the 2020/21 municipal year and that three complaints had been dismissed, one complaint had proceeded to investigation and no breach was found, one complaint was referred to the relevant political group in accordance with Appendix C of the procedure and two complaints were still live.

After some discussion, Members agreed to defer the recommendation to note the information contained within the report to 25/20 – Summary of Progress with

Member Complaints 2020/21. Members noted that officers would consider how this report would be brought to Committee at future meetings.

Resolved to defer consideration of the recommendation to note the information contained in the report to 25/20 – Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2020/21

24/20 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.

25/20 Summary of Progress with Member Complaints
2020/21

The Committee considered exempt detail in the report of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on Summary of Progress with Member Complaints 2020/21.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END