

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on Thursday, 13 July 2023 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG.

**PRESENT**

Councillor S Swann (in the Chair)

Councillors R Flatley, K Gillott, L Grooby, D Muller, W Major, C Dale and S Hobson.

Also in attendance was H Barrington, P Buckley and E Wild.

There were no apologies for absence.

**11/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**12/23 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee held on 16 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**13/23 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Principal Solicitor E Wild introduced a report, asking the Committee to consider the annual report of the Chairman of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee prior to presentation to full Council.

**RESOLVED** to

- 1) Endorse the annual report of the Chairman of the Committee attached at Appendix 2; and
- 2) Support its presentation to full Council.

**14/23 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Principal Solicitor E Wild introduced a report, asking the Committee to consider the statistics regarding attendance of members at meetings within the context of member development and the effectiveness of the political structure.

**RESOLVED** to

- 1) Note the position with regard to member attendance at meetings; and
- 2) Be satisfied that there is no cause for concern with regarding to member development and the effectiveness of the political structure.

**15/23 GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO MEMBER ENQUIRIES**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services H Barrington introduced a report, seeking support and endorsement of officer guidance on responding to enquiries from Members.

**RESOLVED to**

- 1) Support and endorse the Guidance on responding to Member Enquiries at Appendix 2.

**16/23 REMOVAL OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICERS FROM CONSTITUTION**

Head Of Reward And Resourcing P Buckley introduced a report, asking the Committee to agree the updates and amendments to the Code of Conduct, consider the amendment to the Constitution and delegate decision-making regarding future amendments.

**RESOLVED to**

- 1) Support the amendments to the Employee Code of Conduct as outlined in the report and as recommended by ACOS and recommend them to full Council for approval;
- 2) Support the proposal and recommend to full Council that the Code of Conduct currently included within the Constitution at Appendix 12 and the Ethics Statement at Appendix 10 are removed from the Constitution and support and recommend to full Council the proposal that responsibility for the consideration and approval of the Code of Conduct is delegated to the ACOS committee as a corporate employment policy; and
- 3) Recommend to full Council that should Council approve the recommendation, any consequential amendments resulting from the removal of the two appendices should be made to the Constitution.