

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on Thursday, 26 October 2023 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor S Swann (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance was H Barrington, D Cohen, D Desay, J Skila, I Little, D Massey, G Poulter, and E Wild.

Apologies for absence were submitted for I Orford (Independent Member).

17/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee held on 13 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

19/23 ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services H Barrington introduced a report, informing the Committee that Cabinet, at its meeting on 19 October 2023, considered a report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter for the year ended 31 March 2023.

RESOLVED to

1) Note the Annual Review Letter of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2023 and note that a report on this matter has already been considered by Cabinet on 19 October 2023.

20/23 REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY 1 APRIL 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services H Barrington introduced a report, informing the Committee of gifts and hospitality offered during 2022-2023 (1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023).

RESOLVED to

1) Note the Annual Gifts & Hospitality register for 2022-2023.

21/23 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AGAINST COUNCILLORS PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST MARCH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Principal Solicitor E Wild introduced a report, informing the Committee of Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors received during the period of 1st March to 6th October 2023.

RESOLVED to

1) Note the complaints received by the Monitoring Officer between 1 March 2023 and 6 October 2023 alleging that Members had breached the Code of Conduct.

22/23 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK: COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS 2022/23

Director of Organisation Resilience People & Communications J Skila and Head of Customer Service D Desay, introduced a report, providing an end of year update on complaints and compliments reported to the Council. From 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

RESOLVED to

1) Note the content of the report and the latest data.

23/23 REVIEW OF THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

Principal Solicitor E Wild introduced a report, seeking approval to set up a working group to review the Councillors' Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints made under the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED to

1) Agree to set up a working group to review the current Code of Conduct for Councillors and the arrangements for dealing with complaints made against Elected Members for breaching the Code of Conduct; and

2) Agree the composition of the working group be made up of Councillors S Swann, R Flatley and a representative of the Labour Group, to be confirmed.

