

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on Thursday, 18 January 2024 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, W Major, D Muller, and A Sutton.

Also in attendance was H Barrington, A Dubberley, I Orford and E Wild.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor L Grooby.

01/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

02/24 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee held on 26 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

03/24 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Principal Solicitor E Wild introduced a report, outlining that a review of the current Code of Conduct for Members and procedure for considering complaints that Members have breached the Code of Conduct had been undertaken by the Working Group nominated by this Committee and the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the outcome of the review and make recommendations for amendments.

RESOLVED to

- 1) support the proposal to include the additional sanction and approve the revised Procedure for Considering Complaints that Members have breached the Code of Conduct at Appendix 2 to the report;
- 2) agree the proposed amendment regarding presentation outlined at paragraph 2.9 of the report and included in the revised Code of Conduct at Appendix 3 to the report and refer these amendments to Council for approval and inclusion within the Constitution;
- 3) agree that there should be a review of the procedure for considering

complaints against Members and the Code of Conduct for Members once every two years with the next review being scheduled for October 2025; and

4) request officers to implement further training in respect of the requirements for declaring interests.

04/24 REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services H Barrington introduced a report, for the Committee to agree an amendment to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee in the Constitution to include two co-opted independent members and refer the amendment to full Council for approval.

RESOLVED to

1) agree that Article 10 of the Constitution be amended to change the composition of the Audit Committee to include two co-opted independent members and refer the amendment to full Council for approval.

05/24 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Head of Democratic and Registration Services A Dubberley introduced a report, informing the Committee of the latest report from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), relating to member remuneration for 2024/25 in order to make recommendations to Council.

RESOLVED to

1) recommend the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to Council for approval.