

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on 02 July 2020 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor C Short (in the Chair)

Councillors N Atkin, K Buttery, J Coyle, K Gillott, L Grooby, J Innes, W Major, & S Swann

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Buttery and C Moesby, and L Newby MBE (Independent Persons)

**03/20** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee held on 9 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**04/20** **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE** The terms of reference for the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee as outlined at Article 11 of the Constitution required the Chairman to provide an annual report. It had been proposed that the annual report would outline the work done by the Committee over the last year and give an indication of the work programme for the next municipal year.

The Council's current Constitution had been implemented in May 2019. However, it was proposed that this initial annual report under the new Constitution should also cover the work done towards implementation of the new Constitution during the year 2018 – 2019.

The draft report for consideration by the Committee was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

**RESOLVED** to note the draft annual report of the Chairman of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

**05/20** **UPDATES TO THE CONSTITUTION** The Committee had been asked to consider the proposed amendments to the Constitution to ensure that the Constitution remained up to date and fit for purpose.

The revised Constitution had been implemented in May 2019. However, it was regularly reviewed in order for it to remain up to date and fit for purpose. As the result of such a review, a number of amendments to the Constitution had been proposed and were detailed in the draft report.

Changes to the Constitution may only be approved by the Council after consideration of the proposals by the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED** after a debate to (1) note the proposed amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the draft report to Council attached at Appendix A to the report to the Committee and (2) commend the proposed amendments to the Council, subject to minor changes to the wording suggested for the amendments to Appendix 9 – Officer Procedure Rules”.

**06/20**      **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – CONSULTATION ON A MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS** Members’ were informed of the Consultation launched by the Local Government Association on the draft Member Code of Conduct which would run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August 2020.

At its meeting on 25 February 2019, the Committee (then the Standards Committee) considered the findings of the review of the Committee on Standards in Public Life dated January 2019. The purpose of the review was for the Committee to assure themselves that the current standards framework was conducive to promoting and maintaining the high standards expected by the public.

The review identified some specific areas of concern and identified a number of risks in respect of the current rules around conflicts and declaring of interests, gifts and hospitality and the increased complexity of local government decision making.

The Committee made 26 recommendations and identified 15 recommendations of best practice to improve ethical standards in local government. The recommendations included the suggestion for the Local Government Association (LGA) to create an updated Model Code of Conduct to enhance consistency and the quality of local authority codes.

The LGA had now developed a Model Code of Conduct and had indicated that it intended to create additional guidance, working examples and explanatory text. The LGA had also launched consultation on the draft Member Code of Conduct which would run for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August. The consultation details and questionnaire, together with a copy of the Model Code of Conduct could be accessed on line at <https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020>. A copy of the Model Code of Conduct was also attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

**RESOLVED** to note the consultation and draft model code of conduct for Elected Members launched and prepared by the LGA.