

# **Report of the Chairman on the work of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee**

The Members' Code of Conduct Committee has met once since the last Council meeting, on 25 April 2017, and considered the following items of business.

It should be noted that one of the items considered at the 25 April meeting, on amendments to the Constitution re disciplinary procedures for Chief Officers was a recommendation to Council and therefore this has already been considered at item 12 on the agenda.

## **1. Minutes of previous Panel meetings**

- 1.1 The Committee noted an update on the outcome of a Hearing Panel in October 2016 for breaches under the Code of Conduct by Councillor Burkmar. The Committee considered that Councillor Burkmar had not yet completed a sufficient amount of training, as required by the sanctions imposed by the Panel. The Committee agreed to ask the Chairman and Monitoring Officer to speak to Cllr Burkmar and require him to undertake further training within 28 days of that conversation and to report back to the Committee.

## **2. Review of the Petition Scheme**

- 2.1 The Committee noted that the current Petition Scheme limited the options available for the Council to respond to petitions in the most appropriate way.
- 2.2 As there is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Petition Scheme, the Council may adapt the Scheme as it sees fit to include a wider choice of responses to the matters that come before it.
- 2.3 The proposed options for responses to petitions were as follows:
- (a) take, or support, the action the petition requests; or
  - (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate; or
  - (c) note the petition and keep the matter under review; or
  - (d) if the content relates to a matter on the agenda for the meeting the petition be considered when the item is debated; or
  - (e) the petition be referred to the Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration
- 2.4 The Committee agreed to recommend Cabinet at its meeting on 11 May 2017 to recommend the proposed changes to the Petition Scheme to Council for approval at its 20 July 2017 meeting.

**Murray Litvak**

*Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee*

**27 April 2017**