

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
4 October 2023**

Present:

Dylan Price (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell

J. Button

K.M. Grant

C. Bateson

R. Geach

H.R.D. Williams

Apologies: Councillors J.R. Boughtflower, D. Geraci and O. Rybinski

In Attendance: Councillors M. Beecher and J.R. Sexton

12/23 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

13/23 Minutes

The Committee **resolved** to agree the minutes of the meeting held 11 April 2023.

14/23 DBS Check update

The Committee considered a report from the Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer that sought to update them on the progress made on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

The Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that there were now only two councillors that had not completed a DBS check. She also stated that this was not a breach of Members' code of Conduct but was a breach of protocol because the DBS checks were not a legal requirement. As such, she sought the Committee's feedback on what course of action she should now take with regard to the two councillors that had failed to complete a check.

The Committee **resolved** that the Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer should speak to the two individuals direct and

also that their Group Leaders should address them to check whether there were any issues preventing them from completing a check.

15/23 Re-establishment of Committee System Working Group

The Committee considered a report from the Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer that sought approval to re-establish the Committee System Working Group (CSWG) and to confirm the membership structure. The CSWG needed to be re-established to consider the recent proposed changes to the Committees before they were considered at Council.

The Committee were advised that the CSWG was first established to review the introduction of the Committee System within the Council. The original Terms of Reference stated that the working group should consist of Group Leaders, the Independent Green Councillor and one additional named Conservative member.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Re-establish the Committee System Working Group for 2023-24 to allow it to meet to consider the proposals to revise the number of committees and to agree the Terms of Reference for the new committees; and
2. Agree that the membership be made up of one member from each political group and any unaffiliated independent members.

16/23 Update on Member Complaints

The Committee considered a report from the Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer in respect of the progress on complaints since April 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams and Seconded by Councillor Attewell and **resolved** that the public and press be excluded during consideration of this item in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the information of the individuals concerned:

The Committee **resolved** to note the report.

17/23 Exclusion of Public and Press

It was proposed by Councillor Williams and Seconded by Councillor Attewell and **resolved** that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the information of the individuals concerned:

Item 8 – Outcome of Complaint Investigation

18/23 Outcome of Complaint Investigation

The Committee considered a report from the Group Head Corporate Governance/Monitoring Officer that sought to update the Committee on a complaint received and considered by an Independent Investigating Officer.

The Committee **resolved** to note the update.