

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**13th March 2019**

**Present:** Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair  
Councillors Lamb, Roberts, G. Squires, Stalker and Stanley

**Also in Attendance:**  
Mr R. Knight, St. Peter's Parish Council  
Mrs D. Merriman, Warndon Parish Council  
Mr R. Needham JP, Co-opted Member

**Officers:** Sian Stroud, Deputy Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Hodges,  
Mrs V. Barrall, Warndon Parish Council

### **20 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor Stalker for Councillor Hodges.

### **21 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **22 Public Participation**

None.

### **23 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **24 Reporting Back on Outside Bodies**

The Committee considered a procedure relating to Members reporting on their activities with outside bodies.

The Monitoring Officer presented the report and explained that the proposal was for representatives to complete a proforma report annually. It was suggested that this be done in March or April, as the information will then assist Group Leaders in determining nominations for the forthcoming year. A suggested template for this was attached to the report.

Committee Members expressed support for the proposal, which would provide useful information on the various appointments. The Monitoring Officer stated that a report back on any themes or issues emerging from the feedback provided could be submitted to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee agree the procedure relating to Members reporting on their activities with outside bodies, as set out in this report.**

## **25 Complaints Made Under the Code of Conduct**

The Committee were advised by the Monitoring Officer that, since the last meeting, one formal complaint had been received. After consulting with the Independent Person, the Interim Monitoring Officer decided to take no further action. However, as a result, the Interim Monitoring Officer, again after consulting the Independent Person, proposed an amendment to the Code of Conduct to include a new sub-clause referring specifically to the Guidance issued for Members on the use of Council Stationery. This would be a new sub-clause 6(b) (iii) and read: "act in accordance with any guidance for Members issued by the Monitoring Officer on the use of Council stationery."

The Monitoring Officer advised that a further "informal" complaint was made against another Member. The Monitoring Officer spoke to the Member concerned but no formal action was taken. Another complaint was made by a Member concerning an administrative procedure rather than the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, decided the complaint did not fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct for Members.

Committee Members expressed support for the proposal to amend the Code of Conduct.

### **RESOLVED: That the Committee:**

- 1. note the report; and**
- 2. recommend the Council to amend the Code of Conduct, as set out above.**

## **26 Reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman**

The Committee were advised that, since the last meeting, there had been no reports or upheld decision received or incidents of maladministration identified by the Ombudsman to report.

### **RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.**

## **27 Registers of Members' and Officers' Gifts and Hospitality and Register of Interests**

The Committee were given the opportunity to review the registers of Members' and Officers' gifts and hospitality and register of interests.

## **28 Any Other Business**

None.

**Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 7.25p.m.**

Chairman at the meeting on  
26th June 2019