

MINUTES

of the

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

held on 17 June 2020 at 7.20pm

Present:

Councillor H. Ayres (Chair)

Councillors R.H. Ambor, K. Bentley, N.A. Dudley, D.G. Jones, A. Sosin and I. Wright

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Walsh, Cllr Sosin was her substitute.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

4. Public Question Time

No questions were asked or statements made.

5. Chairs Announcements

No announcements were made.

6. Monitoring Officer Report

The Committee received a report updating them on progress with standards regime issues. It was noted by the Committee that a complaint had been received and resolved informally as detailed in the appendix to the report. Members also heard that a RIPA inspection had just been completed and the result along with an updated policy, would be available at the next meeting. The Committee also heard that work had been ongoing, regarding the model code of conduct and that further information would be circulated once available. It was also noted that the new model code would apply to all tiers of local government.

RESOLVED that;

1. The report be noted and;
2. The current statistical information as to complaints made be published on the Councils website.

(7.21pm to 7.28pm)

7. Pre-Hearing Procedure

The Committee received a report consulting them on the content of a proposed pre-hearing questionnaire. It was noted that this was to be used in the event of a standards hearing being scheduled for determination.

In response to a question from a member, it was noted that the questionnaire would help set out the hearing and necessary changes could still be made after submission.

RESOLVED that the content of the pre-hearing questionnaire be approved.

(7.28pm to 7.35pm)

8. Annual Report of the Committee

The Committee considered a report on the operation of the Standards Regime at the Council in 2019/20. The submission of this report was not a statutory requirement, but it had been recognised as good practice and in line with the Council's overall governance arrangements for Full Council to receive such a document.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Governance Committee's Annual Report on the operation of the Standards Regime for 2019/20 be approved for subsequent publication.

(7.36pm to 7.38pm)

9. Declarations of Interests

The Committee considered a report providing them with an overview as to what interests had been declared by members in 2019/20. The Committee agreed that this would be a useful annual report and therefore agreed to add it to the work programme.

RESOLVED that an annual report on the declaration of interests be added to the work programme.

(7.39pm to 7.40pm)

10. Work Programme

The Committee received a report informing them of their future work programme. It was noted by the Committee that the targets set in the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement, were looked at by either the Governance or Audit Committee and the future Corporate Governance group.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(7.40pm to 7.43pm)

11. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business to discuss

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

Chair