

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

27 March 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Huntley (Chair), Ayling, Batley, Goodheart, Kelly, Lloyd, Turner and Woodman

Also present was Independent Person Mr John Thompson

753. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Purser and Independent Persons Mr John Cooke and Mrs Sandra Prail.

754. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

755. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2024 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

756. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There were no urgent matters for this meeting.

757. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been submitted for this meeting.

758. MONITORING OFFICER REPORT - MARCH 2024

Upon the invitation of the Chair, the Monitoring Officer introduced the report to Committee. He highlighted paragraph 4.2 'Maintaining the Constitution', explaining that the Constitution Working Party had met and considered changes to the Constitution. Changes to the Constitution had subsequently been approved by Full Council on 13 March 2024. The Constitution would be updated in the week following the Committee meeting. Paragraph 4.8 was also highlighted. The changes to the Local Assessment Procedure, as considered at the meeting of Standards Committee on 18 January 2024, were approved at Full Council on 13 March 2024. The amended version of the

Standards Committee - 27.03.24

Procedure had now been published and was now in use. The recruitment of Independent Persons was ongoing.

The Monitoring Officer updated Committee that there had been an incident in the Chamber at Planning Committee the previous week. He assured Members that this was being taken very seriously and had been reported to the police. The Council had issued a press statement regarding this. The Monitoring Officer stated that anyone being made to feel unsafe in the Chamber would not be tolerated. This matter was an ongoing police investigation, and was also being reviewed internally by the Corporate Management Team, who were looking at arrangements in the Chamber in terms of safety. Any improvements would be quickly implemented, and Members would be communicated with regarding any changes. He had appreciated feedback that had been received from Members, and was grateful to those Members that had come forward in terms of observing the incident.

One Member thanked the Monitoring Officer for the coordination of information and response, and also for the update to Committee.

There were no questions from Members.

The Committee noted the report.

#### 759. MEMBER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Upon the invitation of the Chair, the Monitoring Officer introduced the report, explaining that the training matrix had been updated to reflect that additional training for Planning Committee and Planning Policy had taken place and been well attended. He had received feedback from some Members that this session had felt like a repeat of previous Planning training sessions. He explained that it had been intended to be a repeat session, as some Members had not been able to attend the original training sessions. He had also received positive feedback that some Members had been pleased to attend the refresher training.

The Monitoring Officer explained that he had not yet been able to finalise the data protection training for Members, as he was in the process of ensuring there were enough licences to get all 54 Members trained. This was something that would be provided to Members as soon as possible.

The Chair then invited questions from Members. It was asked why there was an asterisk for 2 Members in the training matrix, which it was confirmed was a typing error of some sort, and there was no meaning behind this.

The Committee noted the report.

760. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS

Upon the invitation of the Chair, the Monitoring Officer introduced the report, drawing Members attention to the table in paragraph 4.2. He had made a change to column 'Alleged breach of code ref' to ensure this could not be traced to an individual town or parish council.

The Monitoring Officer explained that when looking at trends and patterns he was pleased that there were fewer complaints about Arun District Council Members. Complaints between Arun Members had also reduced.

There were no questions from Members regarding the register of complaints.

The Committee noted the report.

761. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

(The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm)