

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

4 November 2020

**Present** – Councillors Ireton (Chairman), Mercer, Metcalfe, Solloway and Whitaker.

**Independent Persons (non-voting):** Roger Millin and John Boumphrey.

**Parish Representative (non-voting):** Robert Stead.

**Officers** – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.20pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 11 March 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **Minutes for Report**

STN.376

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which invited Members to consider and set the work programme for the 2020/2021 municipal year. Members discussed the importance of inclusivity within the Council and it was suggested that the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) completed a piece of work looking at how the Council could review the local codes and protocols to maximise inclusivity. After detailed discussion Members agreed to carry forward the review of the Officers Code of Conduct from the 2019/20 work programme and bring forward the next review of the Member Code of Conduct to include the CSPL recommendation 2 detailed in the report.

**Resolved** – That the work of the Committee during 2019/2020 and the Committee's work programme for 2020/2021 is agreed.

STN.377     **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS (2019)**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which updated the Committee in relation to progress against the agreed action plan to implement the best practice recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life report following the review of local government ethical standards.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) informed Members of the recent Standards Conference of Monitoring Officers at which Dr Jane Martin (a Member of the Committee of Standards in Public Life) provided an update in relation to the 26 recommendations made by the Committee and the 15 best practice recommendations. Dr Martin confirmed that that Committee was planning to undertake a review of the implementation of the best practice recommendations, a report was expected to be published in early 2021.

Members discussed the addition of standards as a standing item to the Group Leaders Agenda and the addition of a standards section to the usual monitoring report to feedback on any issues raised at the Group Leaders meeting.

**Resolved** – That the progress made to implement the best practice recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life is noted and the progress report to be provided to the Committee on Standards in Public Life by the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

STN.378

### **ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a comprehensive report which presented Members with information in relation to formal complaints handled by the Council in the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Members noted the 48 complaints dealt with at Service Manager level and the 7 complaints dealt with at stage 2 (Chief Executive level), 1 complaint had been referred to the Ombudsman. Members requested that the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) circulated the data behind Waste Management complaint figures.

**Resolved** – That the detailed report and the minor amendments to guidance recently announced by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman are noted.

STN.379 **REVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which invited Members to consider the number of Parish Representatives appointed to the Standards Committee and updated Members on the recent request for nominations. Members discussed at length the number of Parish Representatives and concluded that the number should remain at four. Members emphasised the importance of inclusion and need for input across the board.

**Resolved** – That the number of Parish Representatives appointed to Standards Committee remains at four and Settle Town Councillor Daniele Balsamini is appointed as a non-voting Parish Representative of Standards Committee until the Annual Council Meeting 2024.

STN.380

### **MONITORING REPORT**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which updated Members on the Code of Conduct complaints received following the last report to Committee on 22 January 2020.

**Resolved** – That the Monitoring Report to date is noted.

Chairman