

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

22 January 2020

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

**Parish Representatives (non-voting):** Michael Rooze and Robert Stead.

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mercer and Solloway.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 6 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Minutes for Report**

STN.368

#### **APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which updated Members on the election of parish representatives.

Members were reminded of the Standards committee structure, five District Councillors each with voting rights, together with up to four co-opted parish representatives (non-voting) and three independent persons. Since the resignation of parish representatives Richard Simpson and Veronicka Dancer there were two parish vacancies. In light of this, the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) proposed to invite parish councils to submit nominations for parish representatives and if more than two nominations were received, that a ballot be held.

A revised copy of the proposed timetable for the appointment of two parish representatives was circulated and Members noted the allowance of a two-month interim before appointment confirmation at Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

**Resolved** – (1) That, Parish Councils are invited to submit nominations for parish representatives; and  
(2) That, if more than two nominations are received a ballot of parish councils be held to select the two parish representatives who will go forward for confirmation by the Council.

STN.369

### **MEMBER OFFICER PROTOCOL**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report which presented an updated draft revised Member Officer Protocol and updated the Committee on consultation responses received.

Members were reminded that at its previous meeting the Committee began a review of the current Member and Officer Protocol (2015). The updates to the Protocol included reflecting current job titles, new arrangements for accessing the council offices at Belle Vue Square (section 6) and adding the mandatory training requirements for members of Planning and Licensing Committee (section 11).

The Solicitor to the Council presented consultee comments from the Human Resources Manager and the Communications, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager. With these comments in mind the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) had inserted a new section (section 14) into the draft revised Member and Officer Protocol for Members consideration. Comments received from District Councillors Brown, Heseltine and Solloway were also circulated for Members consideration.

Members carefully considered the draft revised Member and Officer Protocol and were mindful of consultee comments. Members discussed in length a number of suggestions and amendments which included the strengthening of wording and additional information.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the amended draft revised Member and Officer Protocol and the consultation responses received are considered; and
- (2) That, the draft revised Protocol is amended to reflect Members and Consultees suggestions and is presented to Committee for further consideration.

STN.370

### **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 6 November 2019.

- Resolved** – (1) That the Monitoring Report to date is noted.

### **Minutes for decision**

Chairman