

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 16 July 2024.

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PRESENT Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair), Nick Bennett, Bob Bowdler, Chris Collier and David Tutt

ALSO PRESENT Councillors Johnny Denis (via MS Teams), Penny di Cara, Stephen Shing and Trevor Webb.

### 12. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2024

12.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 13. REPORTS

13.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 14. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

14.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding the appointment of a councillor to the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee and South East Employers Committee.

14.2 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) appoint Councillor Bennett and Councillor di Cara as the Council representatives on the South East Employers Committee for the period to June 2025.
- 2) appoint Councillor Philip Lunn as the substitute Council representative on the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee for the period to June 2025.

### 15. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24

15.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive on the review of the Corporate Governance Framework for 2023/24.

15.2 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) approve the action plan for 2024/25 as set out in Annex E of Appendix 1;
- 2) note that actions identified to enhance governance arrangements are reflected in Business Plans and that implementation will be monitored throughout the year;
- 3) confirm that Members are satisfied with the level of assurance provided to them through this report and the Council's governance framework and processes;
- 4) consider any comments from the Audit Committee;
- 5) confirm that there were no significant governance issues that should be included in the Council's Annual Governance Statement;
- 6) approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Leader and the Chief Executive and publication within the Statement of Accounts; and

- 7) approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2024/25.

16. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

16.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer on the Annual Report of the Audit Committee.

16.2 The Committee RESOLVED to note the Audit Committee: Annual Report 2023/24.

17. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT POLICY

17.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer on the proposed introduction of a flexible retirement policy.

17.2 The Committee RESOLVED recommend the County Council to agree:

- 1) the implementation of a flexible retirement scheme for employees (excluding those on Teaching terms and conditions) as set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- 2) that the Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Discretions Policy is updated accordingly to allow for this.

*[Councillor Tutt abstained from the vote as a member of the Pension Committee]*