

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at CC1 - County Hall, Lewes on 16 June 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Stogdon (Chair), Colin Belsey, Godfrey Daniel, Laurie Loe, Ruth O'Keeffe, Barry Taylor and David Tutt

Also present: Councillor Nick Bennett

1 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2019

1.1 It was RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2019.

2 REPORTS

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

3 AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding proposed changes to the Local Standards Framework.

3.2 Councillor Tutt proposed that the proposal that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, may agree not to progress a complaint if there appears to be an insufficient basis to refer the matter to the Assessment Sub-Committee of the Council's Standards Committee should be deleted from the Local Standards Framework. The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

3.2 It was RESOLVED to agree the revised Local Standards Framework (Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints about Councillor Conduct) as set out in Appendix A of the report subject to:

- a) The Hearings Procedure being amended to clarify that Members of the Assessment Sub-Committee could be also be Members of the Hearings Sub-Committee;
- b) Paragraph 1.2 of the 'Arrangements for dealing with complaints about Councillor Conduct' being amended to include 'the complaint relates to a decision taken by councillors rather than the conduct of a councillor';
- c) The Hearings Procedure being amended to make clear that there is a presumption that hearings will be held in private and reports and appendices will be marked as containing exempt information

4 ANNUAL REPORT

4.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update in relation to Member conduct issues and the work of the Standards Committee.

4.2 It was Resolved to:

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) agree the report for submission to the County Council.