

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Monday, 20 February 2023 at 14:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

R. Jaffray in the Chair

Councillors Clive Moesby (Vice-Chair), David Dixon, Graham Parkin and Deborah Watson.

Officers:- Jim Fieldsend (Assistant Director and Monitoring Officer) and Amy Bryan (Governance and Civic Manager) .

STA11-22/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Downes.

STA12-22/23 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered at the meeting.

STA13-22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

STA14-22/23 MINUTES

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Clive Moesby
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22nd August 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

STA15-22/23 WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY - ANNUAL REPORT

The Monitoring Officer presented the Committee with the Whistleblowing Policy Annual Report.

There had been no instances of whistleblowing to report for the 2022 calendar year.

The Whistleblowing Policy had been reviewed and no changes were recommended.

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Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Graham Parkin
RESOLVED that 1) the current Whistleblowing Policy be agreed as fit for purpose

2) it be noted that no instances of whistleblowing had been made during 2022.

STA16-22/23 GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY - ANNUAL REPORT

The Monitoring Officer updated Members on the entries in the Gifts and Hospitality Register during the period of January 2022 to December 2022 which could be found in Appendix 2 to the report.

Moved by Councillor Graham Parkin and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

STA17-22/23 MEMBER TRAINING ATTENDANCE 2022/23

The Governance and Civic Manager presented a report which set out information relating to attendance at Councillor training events for the 2022/23 year.

The report stated that safeguarding training had been held in January 2023. It was a requirement for all Councillors to undertake safeguarding training every two years. Currently 72% of Councillors had undertaken the training.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Clive Moesby
RESOLVED that report be noted.

STA18-22/23 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Committee considered a report in relation to areas for review within the Council's constitution.

The following areas had been identified for review:

Audit Committee

The report explained that during 2022 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) had released updated guidance regarding Councils Audit Committees. Whilst the Council was compliant with the majority of the new guidance there were key improvements that could be made, notably in relation to the committee structure. It was therefore proposed that the current Audit & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee be disestablished and replaced by a separate Audit Committee and a Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee. The size and terms of reference for each scrutiny committee was set out in Appendix 1. These changes also required the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Call-in Procedure and Budget and Policy Framework to be amended accordingly, updated versions were attached to the report at Appendices 2 to 4.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the proposed changes be supported and recommended to Council for approval.

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STA19-22/23 COMPLAINTS UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer reported that a complaints update would be submitted to the next meeting.

It was also reported that a Standards Sub-Committee had been held on 9th February 2022.

STA20-22/23 WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023

Committee considered and noted their work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

The meeting concluded at 14:44 hours.