

MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillor Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors:

Benson

Clapham

Collett

Wing

In Attendance:

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance / Deputy Monitoring Officer

Also present:

Helen Broughton, Independent Person

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 STANDARDS UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Monitoring Officer on standards issues since the last meeting including details of allegations received and training that had been held, as well as proposals for further training on social media and conflict resolution.

Members noted the response, following the joint workshop with Fylde Council, to the Local Government Association (LGA) consultation on standards and the development of a draft model Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer reported that the LGA had circulated the model Code to local authorities prior to the meeting and that the Code would be considered in due course. It was envisaged that in reviewing the model code this would be undertaken with the Independent persons and Fylde Borough Council.

The Monitoring Officer also advised members that Council in July had passed a resolution of condolence in respect of Mr Tony Mozley who had sadly died earlier in the year and that the recruitment process was underway for the independent person vacancy.

Resolved:

1. To note the issues raised and the response to the Local Government Association Code of Conduct consultation.
2. To support training being provided for elected members on the use of social media and conflict resolution, both to be facilitated by an external provider.

4 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS REVIEW UPDATE

The Committee considered a progress report following the recent review of local government and standards by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and to which the Government response was still awaited. Members were aware that a series of best practice recommendations had been considered at the last meeting of the Standards Committee and were provided with an update on how these had been progressed.

Members went on to consider a proposed complaints handling procedure that incorporated recommendations of best practice and which had been developed in conjunction with Fylde Council and the shared Independent Persons.

Resolved:

1. To note the report of the best practice issues as set out in the appendix to the report.
2. To agree the Complaints Handling Process as set out in the appendix to the report.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.28pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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