

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014 at 5.30 pm in Austen Room, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillors Fenner (Chairman) Everitt, I Gregory, Kirby, Poole, King and Wiltshire

In Attendance: Harvey Patterson - Monitoring Officer
Nick Hughes - Clerk

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Hart, who was substituted by Cllr H Scobie, Cllr S Tomlinson, who was substituted by Cllr M Tomlinson and from Cllr Marson.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

42. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

On the proposal of Councillor Fenner, seconded by Councillor Poole, it was AGREED:

“That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the report relating to item number 5 on the agenda, “Appointment of Initial Assessor”, on the grounds that the report contained exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

43. APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL ASSESSOR

Members discussed the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Fenner, seconded by Councillor M Tomlinson and AGREED that:

- 1) That the report of the Monitoring Officer be received and noted.
- 2) That Alison Lowton be appointed as a consultant to conduct an assessment of the complaints made by Councillor Driver in respect of a senior officer in order to determine whether or not in the opinion of the consultant there is a case to answer in respect of any of them that would warrant the appointment of a Designated Independent Person.
- 3) That the Assessor reports her findings to a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.
- 4) That the reasonable costs and disbursements of the Assessor incurred in connection with her appointment be met by the Council.

Meeting concluded: 5.55 pm