

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Dr Jonathan Sexton (Chairman); Councillors Campbell, Crittenden, Dexter, Duckworth, Fellows, Kup, Quittenden (Minster Parish Council), Crow-Brown (Minster Parish Council) and Rattigan

In Attendance:

183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Bayford for whom Councillor Rattigan was present and from Councillor Braidwood.

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer and Madeline Homer, Chief Executive Officer declared an interest in agenda item 7, recognising that they would be a non-voting participants in the deliberations.

No declarations of interest were received from Members of the Standards Committee.

185. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Campbell proposed, Councillor Kup seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 9 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

186. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr Sexton, Independent Chairman of Standards, outlined his annual report.

Councillor Campbell thanked Dr Sexton for his work on the Constitutional Review Working Party and the Standards Committee and for his diligence.

187. STANDARDS COMPLAINT STATISTICS

The Standards Committee noted the statistics.

188. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was AGREED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 7, as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1, 2, 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

189. STANDING ORDERS IN RELATION TO STAFF

Timothy Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer outlined the report.

Councillor Campbell proposed and Councillor Crittenden seconded:

That the following provisions for the urgent suspension of statutory officers be recommended to Council:

1 .To delegate authority to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader or Chairman of the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-Committee) to immediately suspend the Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer where their remaining presence at work poses a serious risk to an investigation, to the health and safety of others, or to the resources, information or reputation of the council. The General Purposes Committee shall review the suspension as soon as is practicable and in any event no later than two months following the original decision to suspend.

2. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer (in consultation with the Leader or Chairman of the Investigation and Disciplinary Sub-Committee) to immediately suspend the Chief Executive, where their remaining presence at work poses a serious risk to an investigation, to the health and safety of others, or to the resources, information or reputation of the council. The General Purposes Committee shall review the suspension as soon as is practicable and in any event no later than two months following the original decision to suspend.

Further to debate, the motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

Councillors Fellows, Dexter and Kup wished for it to be noted that they had voted against the motion.

Meeting concluded : Time Not Specified