

Standards Committee

Thursday, 10 June 2021

Present: Councillor F Lott (Chair)
Councillors W Lott, B Burdis, D Cox, E Darke,
Janet Hunter, P Oliver and M Thirlaway

In attendance:
Councillors

Apologies: Councillors

SC1 /21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Ms S Gardner, Dr S Green and Mr G Clark, Independent Persons

SC2 /21 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

SC3 /21 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

SC4 /21 Minutes

It was noted that four members of the Committee had volunteered to join the Code of Conduct Sub-group and a first meeting of the group would be arranged in the near future.

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous Standards Committee meeting held on 8 April 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

SC5 /21 Standards Committee Action Plan/Work Programme 2021-22

The Committee considered the report which set out a work programme for the year ahead.

Cllr Lott indicated his intention to visit neighbouring authorities to observe their Standards Committees to gain a wider understanding.

Resolved: That the work programme as set out in the report be adopted.

SC6 /21 Ethical Governance and Standards

Cllr Lott gave a short presentation setting out his experiences of ethical governance and standards during his time as Chair of the Planning Committee. He outlined some of the changes he introduced to improve standards and increase transparency and visibility for the public. These included additional training and information for members on specific matters related to planning, observations of planning committee in other authorities, improved communication around planning decisions, the reintroduction of the weekly planning list circulated to ward members and physical changes to the committee layout.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

SC7 /21 Ethical Governance and Standards - Approach to the Region

It was noted that this item had been covered during the discussion of the work programme, with an initial intention of observing Standards Committee meetings in neighbouring authorities.