

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Standards Committee held in the District Council Chamber, Kendal Town Hall, Kendal, on Monday, 14 March 2022, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Councillors

Chris Hogg (Chairman)
Matt Severn (Vice-Chairman)

John Holmes

Pete McSweeney

Shirley-Anne Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Peter Thornton and David Twedde (Independent Person).

Officers

Linda Fisher Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
Julia Krier Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist
James Cartwright Case Management - Support Services

S/15 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021.

S/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

S/17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

There were no excluded items on the Agenda.

S/18 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

RESOLVED – That Councillor Leith Hallastch, in the capacity of Chair of Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC), be appointed as a Parish Council Co-optee to the Standards Committee.

S/19 ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

RESOLVED – That the draft Annual Report of Standards Committee 2021/2022, subject to minor amendments in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, be approved for referral to Council.

S/20 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) presented the report and noted that as of the date of the Committee meeting there were no outstanding complaints. Since the date of writing the report, the matter listed in Appendix 1 (with a date of receipt of 19 January 2022) had been discussed with the Independent Person and it had been decided that no further action was required. External legal assistance had been utilised for a number of complaints, which had proved helpful.

A query was raised as to the process for any outstanding Code of Conduct complaints after 31 March 2022. The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) advised that the aim would be not to have any outstanding matters at that date, but she would look into the position.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

S/21 REVIEW OF DISPENSATIONS - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) presented the report.

RESOLVED – That the continuation of the existing dispensations for a period of one year as detailed in the report be approved.

S/22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman introduced the work programme.

RESOLVED - That the Standards Committee's Work Programme be noted.

S/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) provided a brief verbal update in relation to Local Government Re-organisation noting that the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee would start meeting in the coming weeks. It was noted that there was a lot of preparatory work to be undertaken prior to vesting day and part of that would be related to Standards, including the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

The meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.