

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor G Bond (Chair)

Councillors J Aberley, B Emery, I Herdman, Councillor B A Hughes, K J Jackson, K Martin, P Taylor and P Wilkinson

IN ATTENDANCE: M Trillo Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer
P Rushworth Head of Legal and Election Services
P Trafford Member & Community Services Officer
L Vernon Senior Officer (Governance and Member Support)

APOLOGIES: Councillors B Johnson and D Fowler

18 **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS, IF ANY (24 HOURS NOTICE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHAIRMAN).**

There were no urgent items of business.

19 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of that Standards Committee held on 21 November 2019 be **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY:**

There were no declarations of interest.

21 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - DRAFT MODEL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Paul Rushworth (Corporate Services Manager (Legal and Elections) and Deputy Monitoring Officer) presented the report following a review in 2018 of local government ethical standards by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. The review found that there was inconsistency between codes of conduct in local authorities. It was therefore recommended that the Local Government Association (LGA) should produce a new national 'model code' which took into account changes to the political environment, such as the increasing use of social media in public life, with the discretion for individual authorities to adapt the model code to fit local circumstances.

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The LGA had reviewed their previous Model Code and had conducted a consultation exercise. The final version of the Code was to be offered as a template for councils to adopt in whole and / or with local amendments.

During discussion, it was noted that changes to legislation were needed in order to determine whether or not a person was acting in their role as a District Councillor. It was pointed out that a further 'Webinar' was due to take place on 17 September 2020. When the Model Code returns from LGA, it was for the Council to decide whether or not to adopt it. The same also applied to Town and Parish Councils. Training would be provided at that time.

RESOLVED – That the report be **NOTED**.

22 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

23 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Members considered the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2019.

24 **STANDARDS COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT.**

Members considered a report on complaints made under the Code of Conduct in the period since the committee previously met.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am

_____ Chairman _____ Date