



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10:00 – 10:35

6 July 2021

Present: Councillors Driver, Grahame, Sands (M), Sands (S), Thomas (Va), and Kat Hulatt, monitoring officer.

Apologies: Mr P Franzen (co-opted member)

1 Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Driver as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice-chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sands (M) as vice-chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Members code of conduct and complaints procedure July 2021 update

The monitoring officer presented the report and referred, in particular, to the 16 best practice recommendations on ethical standards set out in the appendix. She also explained the various options available to the committee in light of the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life.

In response to members' questions, the monitoring officer said that the government had not updated the statutory sanctions available to impose on any member who refused to appear before the committee as a result of a standards complaint and outlined the procedure which would apply in dealing with individual complaints.

The monitoring officer said that the process would commence for recruiting to the vacancy for a co-opted member.

RESOLVED to

- (a) await the outcome of the Government's consideration of the CSPL recommendations

- (b) In the meantime, incorporate the changes into the council's existing Code of Conduct and invite community organisations, neighbouring authorities and other interested parties, individuals and stakeholders for comments on both the Council's existing code of conduct and the LGA's Model Councillor Code of Conduct, with a further report being presented to the next meeting of the committee

4. Training

The Chair commented that it had been some time since members received training on standards issues.

RESOLVED to ask the monitoring officer to prepare a further training session for members of the committee.

5. Monitoring officer update

The monitoring officer reported that there had been no complaints received in the previous 9 months.

RESOLVED to note the monitoring officer's report

CHAIR