

Minutes of	Standards Committee
Meeting date	Wednesday, 2 November 2022
Members present:	Councillors Carol Wooldridge (Chair), Jacqui Mort (Vice-Chair) and Carol Chisholm
Officers:	Dave Whelan (Shared Services Lead - Legal & Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Other members (who attended virtually via TEAMS):	Councillor Sue Jones; Councillors Julie Buttery, David Howarth, Caleb Tomlinson, Mick Titherington, and Angela Turner.
Public:	0

6 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Derek Forrest, Councillor David Suthers, Councillor Renee Blow and Mr David Haley.

7 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 September 2022 be signed as a correct record.

8 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

9 Request to appoint Independent Person

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report seeking approval to commence processes for the appointment of a second Independent Person following the recent resignation of Mr Barry Parsonage.

The report explained the reasons for having two Independent Persons on the Standards Committee, including potential conflicts of interest and cover for ill health.

The Chair wished to formally record the Committee's thanks to Mr Parsonage for his hard work over the years.

RESOLVED: (unanimously):

That the Committee agrees that a second Independent Person be appointed and that accordingly recruitment processes be commenced.

10 Report to Standards Committee - Investigation and Hearing Procedure

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report requesting approval of an amended Investigation and Hearing Procedure following the last Committee on 15 September 2022.

He highlighted the key amendments which included:-

- To clarify the stage at which the member would be informed of a complaint about them
- Inclusion of the right to challenge – a member may refer to the matter to the Ombudsman
- Inclusion of the provision for members to maintain confidentiality
- Inclusion of provision that a complainant may be granted anonymity.

The Chair thanked members of the Code of Conduct Working Group and supporting officers for their hard work.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Investigations and Hearings Procedure (Appendix A) be recommended to Council for approval.

Chair

Date