

Standards Committee

Minutes - 1 November 2017

Attendance

Members of the Standards Committee

Cllr Elias Mattu (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Wynne

Employees

Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Colin Parr	Head of Governance

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Val Evans.
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting**
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11 July 2016 be agreed as a correct record.
- 4 **Matters arising**
There were no matter arising from the previous minutes.
- 5 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**
Resolved:

That, in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act relating to any individual.
- 6 **Reports into an alleged breach of the Councillors Code of Conduct**
Councillor Elias Mattu asked Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance, to provide an overview of the investigation report. He noted that the intention had been for the report to be tabled at the meeting.

Kevin O'Keefe explained that the Monitoring Officer receives and considers complaints about any potential breach in the Councillor code of conduct. He advised that, when it appears that a possible breach may have occurred, it was initially the Monitoring Officer's responsibility to investigate the substantive allegations.

Kevin O'Keefe explained that he had received a complaint about two Councillors and the discharge of their duties as a Councillor.

Kevin O'Keefe explained that the role of the Standards Committee at its meeting was to determine whether the Councillors conduct might amount to a breach of the Councillors' code of conduct, if proven. He emphasised that the Committee did not need to agree whether a breach had occurred at this stage, that decision to be made at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, which would consider the allegations in detail (if that were the agreed pathway).

Resolved:

That the Standards Committee should meet to consider whether the Councillors had breached the code of conduct.