

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9 July 2020

PRESENT: - Councillor Poole (in the Chair).

Councillors England (Vice-Chair), Bainbridge, O'Sullivan, Wells and Yeadon.

Ms Wroe - Co-opted (Non-voting) Member, Mr Forbes – Independent Person

The committee met via MS Teams

291 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** – Cllr Wells declared a personal interest as a member of ERNLLCA.

292 **MINUTES - Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 13 November 2019, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chairman.

293 **DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** - The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report informing the Standards Committee of an ongoing consultation by the Local Government Association (LGA) on the Draft Model Code of Conduct, and requesting members' views on the contents and the questions posed.

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report, setting the context and highlighting the proposed changes and discussing the likely implications. Members discussed the draft Code in detail, considering the LGA's prompt questions in turn.

Resolved – (a) That the Monitoring Officer draft a response to the consultation based on the discussion; (b) that the response be agreed with the Chairman and returned to the LGA, and (c) that a further report be tabled at a future Committee meeting when the consultation responses have been considered by the LGA and the next stages are clearer.

294 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20** - The Director: Governance & Partnerships submitted the above draft annual report of the Standards Committee under the council's standards regime and the Localism Act 2011 covering the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020.

The Monitoring Officer in the draft report referred to the number of complaints in 2019/20, and described which complaints were considered by an Assessment Panel, and which were determined by the Monitoring Officer.

In his report, the Monitoring Officer informed the committee that further to training provided in the previous year, additional training sessions for newly elected/co-opted members of parish and town councils and any newly appointed clerks had been

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carried out on 28 November and 4 December 2019. All sessions had been well attended and similar future training would be provided on an annual basis.

The annual report also stated that the Monitoring Officer continued to meet regularly with the Monitoring Officer of North East Lincolnshire Council, the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Council's Association (ERNLLCA) and the Independent Persons to review existing practice and keep abreast of national and regional developments. The Independent Persons also attended a workshop in March 2020 on the proposed Code of Conduct revisions.

The Council continued to be a member of the Standards Exchange, a specialist website set up by practitioners as a platform to share good practice and keep updated on national standards related developments.

Resolved – (a) That the 2019/20 Annual Report be approved and be circulated to town and parish councils in the North Lincolnshire area following its submission to council; (b) that the Monitoring Officer continue to provide both planned and ad hoc training to new members and clerks to town and parish councils, and (c) that the Independent Persons be thanked for their time, hard work and commitment in supporting and advising the committee.

295 **COMPLAINTS SCHEDULE** - The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report updating the committee on progress made with complaints received.

The Director updated members on the complaints schedule, confirming that there were four outstanding complaints requiring assessment, and that an Assessment Panel meeting had been set up to consider these complaints. One complaint had been referred for investigation and this work was underway. The remainder of the schedule was up to date.

Resolved - That the report be noted.