

Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 8 November 2017 (commencing at 1.00pm)**

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Andy Sissons (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather  
Nicki Brooks  
Steve Carr  
Kate Foale  
John Handley

Errol Henry JP  
Rachel Madden  
Francis Purdue-Horan  
Mike Quigley MBE  
Phil Rostance

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

|                    |   |           |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Sue Bearman        | } | Resources |
| Rob Disney         |   |           |
| Keith Ford         |   |           |
| Jayne Francis-Ward |   |           |
| Jo Kirkby          |   |           |
| Nigel Stevenson    |   |           |

Charles Daybell

Nottinghamshire County Council Independent Person

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 September 2017, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following temporary changes of membership, for this meeting only, were reported:-

- Councillor Chris Barnfather had replaced Councillor Bruce Laughton
- Councillor Purdue-Horan had replaced Councillor Tony Harper.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Councillor John Handley declared a private (non-pecuniary) interest in agenda item 8 – Joint Civic Reception for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, as a member of the Cricket Club, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan declared a private (non-pecuniary) interest in agenda item 8 – Joint Civic Reception for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, as a potential attendee of this event, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on that item.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN (LGO) ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER**

Jayne Francis-Ward, Corporate Director of Resources, introduced the report which informed the Committee about the LGO's decisions on the Council for the financial year ending 31 March 2017.

#### **RESOLVED: 2017/021**

- 1) That no further actions were required in relation to the issues contained within the report.
- 2) That the Committee receive regular updates as and when outcomes of LGO investigations were received, to enable Members to make decisions where necessary at the earliest opportunity.

### **THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Jayne Francis-Ward, Corporate Director of Resources, introduced the report and gave a presentation explaining the history and context behind the current Code and the possible options for developing this further.

During discussions, Members agreed the proposal to retain the existing model of Code but to supplement this with various separate protocols, including around declarations of interests, use of resources, social media, use of ICT, Councillor and Officer relations, courtesy and respect in meetings and travel (with any sanctions to follow incremental steps including appropriate links to political group discipline processes).

Members also agreed that a cross-party working group should be established to draft the revised Code and protocols.

#### **RESOLVED: 2017/022**

- 1) That the existing Code be revised and further developed to include a range of specific protocols.
- 2) That a cross-party working group be established to develop the Code and protocols, consisting of one Committee member from each of the political parties, with updates provided to the Committee on an ongoing basis.

### **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Rob Disney (Head of Internal Audit) introduced the report which provided an update on internal audit work undertaken during the first half of the 2017-18 financial year.

During discussions, Members requested further information on the 'limited assurance' internal audit reports relating to Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.

**RESOLVED: 2017/023**

That further information be submitted to a future meeting about the 'limited assurance' internal audit reports relating to Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.

**THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT – ANNUAL REPORT**

Jayne Francis-Ward, Corporate Director of Resources, introduced the report which advised the Committee about the Council's recent activity and sought approval for a staff awareness campaign.

**RESOLVED: 2017/024**

- 1) That the proposals set out in the report to raise staff awareness in relation to RIPA be approved.
- 2) That a further overview report be received in 12 months' time.

**JOINT CIVIC RECEPTION FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB**

Jayne Francis-Ward, Corporate Director of Resources, introduced the report which sought approval for a civic reception to recognise the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club's highly successful season.

During discussions, Members raised the possibility of some of the places available being offered to staff members. It was underlined that it would be difficult to arrange that for this particular event in light of the tight timescales but that further consideration would be given to that matter and whether a corporate policy was needed in that respect.

**RESOLVED: 2017/025**

That approval be given for a joint civic reception for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club to be held on 21 November 2017 – 5.30-7.00pm at Trent Bridge.

**WORK PROGRAMME**

During discussions, Members requested that twice yearly updates be provided to the Committee on Member Development and Training.

**RESOLVED: 2017/026**

That the work programme be updated as requested.

The meeting closed at 2.07 pm.

CHAIRMAN