



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 4 January 2023 (commencing at 10.30am)**

**membership**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Philip Owen (Chairman)  
Johno Lee (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler  
Errol Henry JP - Apologies  
Andy Meakin - Apologies  
Michael Payne - Apologies  
Sue Saddington

Helen-Ann Smith  
Nigel Turner - Apologies  
Roger Upton  
Daniel Williamson

### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Jim Creamer for Councillor Errol Henry  
Councillor Mike Pringle for Councillor Michael Payne  
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan for Councillor Andy Meakin  
Councillor Jonathan Wheeler for Councillor Nigel Turner

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sue Batty	Adult Social Care and Health
Richard Elston	Chief Executive's Department
Emma Hunter	
Simon Lacey	
Nigel Stevenson	
Marjorie Toward	
Neil Lewis	Place

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 November 2022, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Henry
- Councillor Meakin (Medical / Illness)
- Councillor Payne (Other reasons)
- Councillor Turner (Other reasons)

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

### **4. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (MAY 2022 TO JUNE 2022)**

The report set out information about four complaints against the Council where fault was found by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers and seek assurance about actions put in place from the relevant departments regarding those complaints.

One complaint was carried forward to the next meeting to allow an officer to attend to answer questions.

#### **RESOLVED: 2023/001**

That the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be noted and that lessons learned and actions taken in response to the findings be welcomed.

### **5. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER REFRESH**

The report set out the refreshed Internal Audit Charter and Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers around the updates. Updates included cosmetic changes and job title revisions.

#### **RESOLVED: 2023/002**

That the revised Internal Audit Charter be approved

### **6. COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT**

The report set out the counter-fraud work undertaken to date in 2022/23. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers. Members were keen to see increased levels of communication around the consequences of misuse and abuse of the Blue Badge scheme.

#### **RESOLVED: 2023/003**

That the content of the report be noted.

### **7. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 – ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual report confirmed that there had been no activity over the last 12 months. Officers confirmed that the last time the Act was used by the Council was 2021.

#### **RESOLVED: 2023/004**

That the content of the report regarding activity over the past 12 month period be noted.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED: 2023/005**

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11:17am.

CHAIRMAN