



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 10 January 2024 (commencing at 10.30am)**

**membership**

### **COUNCILLORS**

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

Richard Butler - **Apologies**  
Samantha Deakin  
Errol Henry JP - **Apologies**  
Andy Meakin  
Michael Payne

Sue Saddington  
Helen-Ann Smith - **Apologies**  
Nigel Turner  
Roger Upton - **Apologies**

### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Chris Barnfather substituted for Councillor Richard Butler  
Councillor Boyd Elliott substituted for Councillor Roger Upton  
Councillor Pauline Allan substituted for Councillor Errol Henry JP

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Jim Creamer

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ainsley MacDonnell - Adult Social Care & Health  
Naomi Russell

Louise Beavan - Children and Families  
Lynda Poole  
Claire Sykes

Glen Bicknell - Chief Executives  
Richard Elston  
Emma Hunter  
Noel McMenamin  
Marjorie Toward  
Nigel Stevenson

Cathy Harvey - Place

Zak Francis - Grant Thornton

## **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 November 2023, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Richard Butler (Other County Council Business)
- Councillor Errol Henry (Other reasons)
- Councillor Helen-Ann Smith (Other Reasons)

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

None.

## **4. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023)**

The report set out information about two 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 regarding those complaints.

Arising from discussions, Members requested that:

- the Overview Committee give consideration as how complex cases involving transition between Childrens' and Adults' social services can be actioned appropriately:
- through the Overview Committee, the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee be requested to consider what actions and mitigations can be taken to address the shortcomings of service providers, where the Council, as the commissioning body, holds overall accountability;
- the Monitoring Officer arrange a further meeting between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Office of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to discuss in detail the Council's position in respect of recent findings of fault by the Ombudsman.

## **RESOLVED: 2024/01**

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

**5. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 – ANNUAL REPORT**

**RESOLVED 2024/02**

That the content of the report regarding activity under the Regulation of Investigatory powers Act over the period from January 2023 to December 2023 be noted.

**6. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER REFRESH**

**RESOLVED: 2024/03**

That the revised Internal Audit Charter be approved.

**7. COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT**

**RESOLVED: 2024/04**

That the contents of the counter-fraud progress report be noted.

**8. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23**

During discussions, Members received assurance that the final Annual Audit and Annual Audit Findings reports would be available for consideration at the Committee's February 2024 meeting.

**RESOLVED: 2024/05**

That responsibility to approve the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 on completion of all external audit work be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee.

**9. ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY LANDINGS**

This item was withdrawn.

**10. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED: 2024/07**

That the work programme be approved.

The meeting closed at 11:05am

CHAIRMAN