



Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 22 February 2023 (commencing at 10.30am)

membership

COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Mike Adams for Councillor Nigel Turner
Councillor Pauline Allen for Councillor Michael Payne

INDEPENDENT PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Ian Bayne
Craig Cole
Rob White

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heather Dickinson - Chief Executive's
Martin Elliot
Richard Elston
Keith Ford
Catherine Haywood
Simon Lacey
Kate Morris
Nigel Stevenson
Marje Toward
Chris Ward - Place

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 January 2023, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Payne (Council Business)
- Councillor Smith (Medical/Illness)
- Councillor Turner (Medical / Illness)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN MEETING UPDATE

The report provided an update to the Committee on the meeting between the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Ombudsman Representative and Council Officers to discuss some of the recent decisions made by the Ombudsman. Members agreed that the meeting had been productive and that initial outcomes presented by the Ombudsman should be challenged where appropriate.

RESOLVED: 2023/06

That the Committee notes the content of this report and considers the recommendations made by the Ombudsman on the key areas of improvement as detailed in the report.

5. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (DECEMBER 2022 TO JANUARY 2023)

The report set out information about three complaints against the Council where fault was found by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and an additional complaint originally brought to the January meeting. 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.

RESOLVED: 2023/07

That members note the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and welcome the lessons learned and actions taken in response to the findings

6. WHISLTEBLOWING UPDATE

The report provided an update to the committee on Whistleblowing activity in 2022 and on the ongoing review of the current policy. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers

RESOLVED: 2023/08

That members support the continuation of the work to review the policy and to receive an update on the review to a future committee meeting.

7. ATTENDANCE AT KEY NATIONAL CONFERENCES (UPDATE)

The report set out proposals for updated approval for relevant Member attendance at a number of key national conferences which the Council routinely attends on an

annual basis taking into account the change in political balance following the recent by-election.

RESOLVED: 2023/09

- 1) That a standing approval be granted for the following conference attendance by Members, together with any necessary travel and accommodation arrangements:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Relevant Member Roles</u>
LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition	Council Leader Council Deputy Leader Leader of both Opposition Groups (4 places maximum)
CCN Annual Conference	Council Leader Council Deputy Leader Leader of both Opposition Groups (4 places maximum)
NCASC Annual Conference	Cabinet Member or Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health (ASCPH) Cabinet Member or Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families (C&F) (2 places maximum)
LGA / ADPH Annual Public Health Conference	Cabinet Member or Deputy Cabinet Member for ASCPH Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board (2 places maximum)

- 2) That an updated approval, where relevant, be sought at any such point when the cost of places at any of the above events increases beyond inflationary increases.
- 3) That each conference attended should result in a report back to this committee from attendees using a standardised form briefly outlining the conference content and the benefits gained from attending.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2023/10

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 10:54am.

CHAIRMAN