



Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Monday 12 October 2020 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Bruce Laughton (Chairman)  
Kevin Rostance (Vice-Chairman) **A**

Nicki Brooks  
Steve Carr  
Kate Foale  
John Handley  
Errol Henry JP

Rachel Madden  
Phil Rostance  
Keith Walker  
Martin Wright

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Andy Sissons for Kevin Rostance

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ainsley Macdonnell Adult Social Care and Health Department

Phil Dent Chief Executive's Department

Heather Dickinson  
Rob Disney  
Keith Ford  
Jo Kirkby  
Jeni Sumner  
Marjorie Toward

Colin Pettigrew Children & Young People

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September 2020, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apology for absence was reported:-

Councillor Kevin Rostance – other County Council business.

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

None

#### **4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO) DECISIONS – FEBRUARY – SEPTEMBER 2020**

Jo Kirkby, Team Manager, Complaints and Information introduced the report which informed Members of the latest complaint decisions by the LGSCO.

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director, Children & Young People and Ainsley Macdonnell, Service Director – Living Well, Community Services provided updates in relation to the complaints outlined in paragraphs 8-12 of the committee report and responded to Members' queries.

In response to a request from Members, officers agreed to give further consideration to a suggestion that the Committee receive, on a six monthly basis, internal complaints data so that Members can also be aware of any trends and possible training and workload implications for complaints that are not subsequently referred to the LGSCO.

#### **RESOLVED: 2020/035**

That further consideration be given to the possibility of sharing internal complaints data with the Committee on a six monthly basis.

#### **5. ASSURANCE MAPPING ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20**

Rob Disney, Group Manager – Assurance, introduced the report which presented outcomes from assurance mapping in the previous financial year and offered options for development in the current year.

#### **RESOLVED: 2020/036**

- 1) That the assurance mapping process be retained in 2020-21.
- 2) That the scope of the assurance map for 2020-21 be widened to embrace Transformation, Commissioning & Procurement and Information Governance.
- 3) That progress against proposed actions to address the issues identified be reported to Committee as part of quarterly update reports on the Annual Governance Statement.
- 4) That, in relation to the positive assurance delivered in the five aspects of governance covered by the current exercise, no further actions were required.

#### **6. QUARTERLY GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

Rob Disney, Group Manager – Assurance, introduced the report which informed Members of progress with the Governance Action Plan 2020-21 and requested Members' feedback on the most significant governance issues currently faced by the Council and whether revised actions were needed to address emerging risks.

**RESOLVED: 2020/037**

That no further actions or reports were required relating to the governance issues raised in the report.

**7. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Rob Disney, Group Manager – Assurance and Phil Dent, Audit Team Leader, introduced the report which outlined progress with the implementation of agreed management actions to address Internal Audit recommendations.

**RESOLVED: 2020/038**

That no further progress reports from the relevant managers were required.

**8. INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE OVERSIGHT OF LOCAL AUDIT AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Nigel Stevenson, Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement, introduced the report which provided an update on recommendations arising from this review.

**RESOLVED: 2020/039**

That no further actions were required in relation to the recommendations arising from the Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting.

**9. NEW MEMBERS' INTRANET PAGES 'MEMBERS HUB' – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services and Jeni Sumner, Business Partner – Customer Services, gave a presentation showcasing the draft contents of the new Members Hub.

With regard to the proposed cross party working group, it was agreed that this would be chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Committee. Councillors John Handley, Errol Henry and Martin Wright all agreed to be involved. Councillor Carr and a representative of the Ashfield Independents Group would also be invited to join.

**RESOLVED: 2020/040**

- 1) That the overall approach being taken with the test Members Hub be agreed
- 2) That a cross party member working group be established to undertake a review of the test Hub and to provide further suggestions for content and feedback on other aspects of the Members Communication and Engagement Programme as necessary.

**10. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED: 2020/041**

That the work programme be agreed, with no further changes required.

The meeting closed at 3.12 pm.

CHAIRMAN