

Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 28 September 2022 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

COUNCILLORS

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

Richard Butler	Sue Saddington - Apologies
Bethan Eddy – Apologies	Helen-Ann Smith
Errol Henry JP – Apologies	Roger Upton - Apologies
Andy Meakin	Daniel Williamson
Michael Payne – Apologies	

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Boyd Elliott for Councillor Bethan Eddy
Councillor Kate Foale for Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Bruce Laughton for Councillor Sue Saddington
Councillor Eric Kerry for Councillor Roger Upton

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Elston	Chief Executive's Department
Keith Ford	
Kaj Ghattaora	
Nigel Stevenson	
Marjorie Toward	

Nicola Peace	Adult Social Care and Public Health
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Robert Briggs	Children and Families
Peter McConnochie	
Zoe Miller	
Katie Warren	

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 July 2022, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Beth Eddy - other reasons

- Councillor Errol Henry - other reasons
- Councillor Michael Payne - other reasons
- Councillor Sue Saddington - medical reasons
- Councillor Roger Upton - other reasons

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

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

Members considered the report which covered decisions of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) relating to the Council since the last update was presented in July 2022.

Zoe Miller, Group Manager - District Child Protection, Nicola Peace, Group Manager – Ageing Well (South – Hospitals) and Peter McConnochie, Service Director - Education, Learning and Inclusion, responded to Members' questions and comments about the four cases in which the LGSCO had found fault.

During discussions, Members requested a further update report on the ongoing communication improvements strategy within the Adult Social Care and Public Health department, within 4-6 months. It was also clarified that the issue of communications across the Council was also scheduled within the work programme of Overview Committee.

Members also requested that concerns about the Council being held accountable for the failings of any private care home in the County be raised with the LGSCO.

RESOLVED: 2022/036

- 1) 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 welcomed.
- 2) That a further update report on the issue of communications within Adult Social Care and Public Health department be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee within 4-6 months.
- 3) That Members' concerns about the Council's accountability for the failings of private care homes be raised with the LGSCO.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2021

Members considered the report which shared the contents of the most recent Annual Review Letter.

RESOLVED: 2022/037

That no actions were required in relation to the issues contained in the report.

6. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WAIVERS 2021-22

Members considered the report which summarised requests to waive Financial Regulations received in the previous financial year.

RESOLVED: 2022/038

That the detail contained in the report Financial Regulations Waivers 2021/22 and the continued progress in keeping waivers to a minimum be supported.

7. UPDATE ON USE OF RESOURCES BY COUNCILLORS

Members considered the report which provided the latest annual update on use of resources by Councillors and their support staff.

RESOLVED: 2022/039

- 1) That the relevant resources expenditure for the period March 2021 to April 2022 as detailed in Appendix B & C of the report, be noted.
- 2) That no further information or actions were required on specific items of expenditure.

8. ATTENDANCE AT KEY NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Members considered the report which sought an ongoing approval to send relevant Members and officers to specific key national conferences held on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: 2022/040

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

Conference	Relevant Member Roles
LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition	Council Leader Council Deputy Leader Leader of the Main Minority Group
CCN Annual Conference	Council Leader Council Deputy Leader Leader of the Main Minority Group
NCASC Annual Conference	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health (ASCPH) Deputy Cabinet Member for ASCPH Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (CYP) Deputy Cabinet Member for CYP
LGA / ADPH Annual Public Health Conference	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health (ASCPH) Deputy Cabinet Member for ASCPH Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board

- 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

or the political composition of the Council changes in a way that may affect the allocation of places at these events.

9. RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – UPPER SAXONDALE (STAGE 2)

Members considered the report which shared the final draft recommendations relating to Rushcliffe Borough Council's Community Governance Review and sought approval for the Council's response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: 2022/041

That the Council's response to Rushcliffe Borough Council on the final draft proposals of the Upper Saxondale Community Governance Review, included as Appendix B to the Committee report, be approved.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Members requested that the requested update report on the communications improvement strategy within Adult Social Care and Public Health department be scheduled within the work programme.

RESOLVED: 2022/042

That the work programme be agreed subject to the additional item requested.

The meeting closed at 10.38 am

CHAIRMAN