



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Thursday 9 June 2022 (commencing at 2.00 pm)**

membership

COUNCILLORS

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

Richard Butler - Apologies
Bethan Eddy
Errol Henry JP
Andy Meakin
Michael Payne - Apologies

Sue Saddington
Helen-Ann Smith
Roger Upton
Daniel Williamson

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Pauline Allan for Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Chris Barnfather for Councillor Richard Butler

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heather Dickinson
Richard Elston
Catherine Haywood
Simon Lacey
Keith Palframan
Jo Toomey
Marjorie Toward

Chief Executive's Department

Sue Batty
Adult Social Care and Health

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Andrew Smith
Grant Thornton

1. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT BY FULL COUNCIL ON 12 MAY 2022 OF COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN AS CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLOR JOHN LEE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The appointment by Council of Councillor Philip Owen as Chairman and Councillor John Lee as Vice-Chairman for the 2022-23 municipal year was noted.

2. TO NOTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR AS FOLLOWS: COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN, JOHN

LEE, RICHARD BUTLER, BETHAN EDDY, ERROL HENRY JP, ANDY MEAKIN, MICHAEL PAYNE, SUE SADDINGTON, HELEN-ANN SMITH, ROGER UPTON AND DANIEL WILLIAMSON

The membership of the Committee was noted.

3. MINUTES

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

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Payne (other County Council business)
- Councillor Butler (other reasons)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

6. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (APRIL 2022 TO MAY 2022)

RESOLVED: 2022/022

That the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be noted.

7. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22

During discussion of the External Auditor's Audit Plan for 2021-22, Members asked about infrastructure assets, their depreciation and their presentation on the balance sheet.

RESOLVED: 2022/023

That the External Auditor's Audit Plan for 2021-22 be noted.

8. ASSURANCE MAPPING ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

RESOLVED: 2022/024

- 1) That the assurance mapping process be retained in 2022/23.
- 2) That the scope of the assurance map for 2022/23 be consolidated to focus on the existing eight assurance areas.

- 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.

9. INTERIM CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

RESOLVED: 2022/025

- 1) That the contents of the Interim Chief Internal Auditor's report for 2021/22 be noted.
- 2) That a further report be brought to the Committee in 12-months time.

10. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS – 6-MONTHLY UPDATE

RESOLVED: 2022/066

- 1) That the content of the report and the progress that has been made against the Internal Audit recommendations be noted.
- 2) That a further progress report and an update on those actions outstanding be include in the next 6-monthly review.

11. REVIEW OF PETITIONS SCHEME

Members discussed the review of the Council's Petitions Scheme, which has been amended to reflect the revised governance arrangements. A suggestion was made, which was taken on board by the cross party governance review working group, that further revisions to the Petition Scheme be considered including identification of trigger points at which petitions would be referred to scrutiny and full Council.

RESOLVED: 2022/027

That the amendments to the Petitions Scheme be approved.

12. UPDATE ON THE USE OF THE COUNCILLOR'S DIVISIONAL FUND

The report set out how the Councillors Divisional Fund had been used in the 2021/22 financial year. Members of the Committee asked for information on the proportion of the budget that was used and how much was returned to corporate balances.

RESOLVED: 2022/028

- 1) That the CDF expenditure for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 detailed in Appendix A to the report be noted.

- 2) That the need to use and fully complete the new CDF applications forms, in line with the revised policy from 6 June onwards be noted and after which the use of the old forms would not be accepted.
- 3) That once the test site is ready, Committee members be sent a link to enable them to access and test the pilot system and help inform its development.

13. BASSETLAW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – STAGE 2

RESOLVED: 2022/029

That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the response attached as Appendix A to the report to Bassetlaw District Council as Nottinghamshire County Council's response to the consultation on the final draft proposals of its Community Governance Review.

14. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2022/030

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 2.23 pm.

CHAIRMAN