



Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 6 January 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Bruce Laughton (Chairman)
Andy Sissons (Vice-Chairman) **A**

Nicki Brooks
Steve Carr **A**
Kate Foale
John Handley
Errol Henry JP

Rachel Madden
Phil Rostance
Keith Walker
Martin Wright

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Stephen Garner for Andy Sissons

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sara Allmond Chief Executive's Department
Glen Bicknell
Heather Dickinson
Rob Disney
Keith Ford
Derek Higon
Emma Hunter
Jo Kirkby
Simon Lacey
Marjorie Toward
Linda Walker

INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Ian Bayne

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 November 2020, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were reported:-

Councillor Steve Carr – other County Council business
Councillor Andy Sissons – medical / illness

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO) DECISIONS – NOVEMBER 2020

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

RESOLVED: 2021/001

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

5. COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

Rob Disney, Group Manager – Assurance, introduced the report which updated the Committee on the counter-fraud work undertaken to date in 2020/21.

It was agreed to receive an update report on Whistleblowing at a future meeting and to include this on the committee work programme.

RESOLVED: 2021/002

That an update report on whistleblowing be brought to a future meeting and included on the work programme.

6. EUROPEAN UNION TRANSITION RISK AND REGISTER

Rob Disney, Group Manager - Assurance, informed members of the consideration given to risks for the Council arising from the UK's transition from the European Union (EU).

RESOLVED: 2021/003

To receive a further update on the EU transition risk register as part of the scheduled reports on corporate risk management and the Council's governance action plan.

7. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 – ANNUAL REPORT

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, introduced the report which provided an update on activity by the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) from November 2019 to December 2020 and an update on mandatory training for officers.

Members requested further information about the use of CCTV cameras to be provided to them after the meeting.

RESOLVED: 2021/004

That officers provide further information about the use of CCTV cameras directly to all committee members.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBERS

Keith Ford, Team Manager – Democratic Services introduced the report proposing arrangements for the appointment of members to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the Members Allowances Scheme in accordance with statutory requirements.

RESOLVED: 2021/005

That Sir Rodney Brooke CBE DL (Chair), Madi Sharma, Stephen Bray and Charles Daybell be reappointed as the Chair and Members respectively of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Nottinghamshire County Council for the period 2021-25.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FINAL MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services, introduced the report which provided an update on progress by the Local Government Association (LGA) with the Model Code of Conduct and proposed the establishment of a member working group to consider the new Code.

Ian Bayne, Independent Person, welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the working group.

RESOLVED: 2021/006

- 1) That the publication by the Local Government Association (LGA) of its final Model Code of Conduct for Councillors be acknowledged.
- 2) That the establishment of a cross party working group be established, as referenced in paragraph 6 of the report, to consider the new Code in detail and whether any local additions are required to reflect best practice recommendations of the Committed on Standards in Public Life (CoSPL) or elements from the Council's current Code of Conduct.
- 3) That the committee receives a report on the issues set out in the report at a future meeting, in light of the work undertaken by the working group.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2021/007

That the work programme be agreed, with the addition of the agreed update report on Whistleblowing being included.

The meeting closed at 11.39 am.

CHAIRMAN