



Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Thursday 16 December 2021 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

Philip Owen (Chairman)  
Nigel Moxon (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler  
Neil Clarke MBE  
John Cottee  
Errol Henry JP - A  
Michael Payne

Helen-Ann Smith - A  
Roger Upton  
Daniel Williamson - A  
Elizabeth Williamson

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Anne Callaghan for Councillor Errol Henry

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Heather Dickinson                      Chief Executive's Department  
Rob Disney  
Richard Elston  
Keith Ford  
Jo Kirkby  
Nigel Stevenson  
Jo Toomey  
Marjorie Toward

Sue Batty                                      Adult Social Care and Health Department  
Ainsley MacDonnell

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 November 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**2. TO NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF COUNCILLOR STEVE CARR WITH COUNCILLOR DANIEL WILLIAMSON**

The Committee noted the change in its membership with the replacement of Councillor Steve Carr with Councillor Daniel Williamson.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Errol Henry – other reasons
- Councillor Helen-Ann Smith – other reasons
- Councillor Daniel Williamson – sickness / medical

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None

### **5. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO) DECISIONS**

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

Sue Batty, Service Director, Ageing Well Community Services and Ainsley MacDonnell, Service Director, Living Well Community Services, responded to comments and questions from Members in relation to the Adult Social Care cases.

Members of the Committee expressed concern about reports received across a number of meetings where the LGSCO had found fault with communication and complaint handling within Adult Social Care.

#### **RESOLVED: 2021/049**

That the following action was required in relation to the issues contained within the report:

- That the concerns of the Governance and Ethics Committee about complaint handling and communication in Adult Social Care be raised with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee for it to agree an action plan to improve those areas.

### **6. STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022-25**

In discussing the report, a question was raised about whether internal audit would be able to review complaint handling and communication with customers within Adult Social Care to ensure processes are in place and provide value for money. This was noted for inclusion within a future termly audit plan.

#### **RESOLVED: 2021/050**

1. That the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2022-25 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.
2. That consideration be given to an internal audit review of complaint handling and customer communication in Adult Social Care.

## **7. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER**

**RESOLVED: 2021/051**

That the revised Internal Audit Charter (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

## **8. COUNCILLOR DIVISIONAL FUND – ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP**

**RESOLVED: 2021/052**

- 1) That a cross party Councillor Divisional Fund Review Working Group be established as outlined in the report with the membership being the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee, the Business Manager or their nominee from each political Group of the Council and the Council's non-aligned member.
- 2) That a report detailing the proposed changes to the policy and procedures resulting from the Working Group be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration and approval.

## **9. RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTORAL REVIEW – CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Members commended Jo Toomey, Advanced Democratic Services Officer, for her work in pulling together the response based on Members' views.

**RESOLVED: 2021/053**

That the response attached as Appendix A to the report be approved for submission as the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on its proposed Warding arrangements for Rushcliffe Borough Council, subject to correction of typographical errors and the following amendments made during the meeting:

- a) That under a section on 3 member Wards, the final sentence be amended to read: *“There is some acknowledgement that, in some urban areas there are large communities and few distinct boundaries”*.
- b) That a sentence be added under the paragraph relating to population growth and the Councillor : elector ratio to state that the size of the Council should increase to meet the demands of the projected 18% elector growth, lowering the Councillor : elector ratio.
- c) That the two proposed Wards in the East Bridgford area be updated to:
  - o East Bridgford: *East Bridgford, Saxondale village, Newton, Shelford and Kneeton.*
  - o Thoroton: *Car Colston, Screveton, Flintham (incl. Coneygreys Spinney), Sibthorpe, Shelton, Hawksworth and Thoroton*

## **10. BASSETLAW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

**RESOLVED: 2021/054**

That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the letter at Appendix A to the report as a courtesy response to the consultation on the draft proposals in respect of Bassetlaw District Council's Community Governance Review, reserving its position for any formal response until phase 2 of the consultation.

## **11. WORK PROGRAMME**

### **RESOLVED: 2021/055**

That no changes were required to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 2.49 pm.

CHAIRMAN