

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2018, 7.00 - 7.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kaushika Amin (Chair), David Beacham, Stuart McNamara, Felicia Opoku and James Patterson

41. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair drew Members' attention to the notice on the agenda on filming at meetings.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Reith, and Councillor Patterson was attending as a substitute.

43. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

45. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February were agreed.

46. UPDATE ON THE WORK PROGRAMME - PROCEDURE RULES, MEMBER-OFFICER PROTOCOL AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Following an introduction to the report from Michael Kay, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, the Chair outlined the discussion at a recent all-Member briefing session.

In relation to allowances, the Chair noted that Members at the briefing were in favour of the changes proposed to the Committee as being an improvement on the existing allowances scheme. There was also broad agreement that, given the savings generated by the revision of the scheme, Members should receive a 1% uplift in allowances across the board. These proposals were reflected in the proposal allowances scheme before Members.

The Committee agreed that the proposals were an improvement on the current scheme, and that any further changes felt to be necessary could be taken forward after the forthcoming election by the successor Committee. It was agreed that the proposed scheme be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

On the Member-Officer Protocol, the Chair relayed that the briefing welcomed the new Protocol as being more succinct, clear and useable. The Committee noted that the protocol included some requested amendments, and agreed to recommend the redrafted Member-Officer Protocol to Full Council for adoption.

Finally, the Chair outlined that there had been agreement at the briefing for the inclusion of a requirement for Council to receive a report annually on progress on the reduction of carbon emissions. The Committee agreed to recommend this change to the Constitution to Full Council for adoption.

RESOLVED:

- A. To recommend the Members' Allowances Scheme at Appendix A of the report to Full Council.
- B. To recommend the Member-Officer Protocol at Appendix C of the report to Full Council.
- C. To agree and recommend to Full Council the recommendation that the Council's progress on reducing carbon emissions be considered by the Full Council each year, as set out at paragraph 6.7 of the report.

47. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR: Councillor Kaushika Amin

Signed by Chair

Date