

MINUTES OF MEETING Standards Committee HELD ON Thursday, 30th June, 2022, 7.00pm

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Felicia Opoku (Chair), Ibrahim Ali, Barbara Blake,
Scott Emery and Reg Rice**

ALSO ATTENDING:

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and attendees noted this information.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

The chair indicated that there would be one item of urgent exempt business connected with the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th of February 2022 which she had requested and would outline the reasons for urgency in the exempt part of the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the public meeting held on the 28th of February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT AND HEARING SUB-COMMITTEES

The report sought confirmation of the Membership of the Standards Assessment and Hearing Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED

To agree that, given the need for members' expertise and discretion, the membership of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee and the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee be the same as the membership of the Standards Committee.

7. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members were asked to note current work programme put forward and did not include any further items for consideration.

4 October 2022

1. Potential constitutional changes following a review by Legal and Finance and Procurement - TBC
2. Report on Code of Conduct changes following consideration of LGA code – TBC
3. Outside Bodies
4. Independent Person appointments 2023- 2027

8. NO FURTHER ACTION CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS - MONITORING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT:

The Committee considered an annual report on the code of conduct complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer and determined not to merit any further action.

The Protocol for Complaints Against Members required the Monitoring Officer to report annually to the Standards Committee on complaints dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and determined not to merit any further action. This report took this requirement forward and members noted that 6 complaints of alleged breach of the code of conduct by councillors did not merit any further action.

The rationale for the Monitoring Officer decisions were mostly that the conduct complained about did not demonstrate a breach of the code. The Independent Person was consulted in making these decisions and agreed with the Monitoring Officer's conclusion. A table of the complaints was attached in the Exempt Report.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

9. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of public urgent business.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings were noted.

4 October 2022
24 January 2023

21 March 2023

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public from the meeting as items 12-14 contained exempt information as set out in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 1 & 2; namely, information relating to any individual and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

12. NO FURTHER ACTION CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS - MONITORING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT:

As set out in the exempt minutes.

13. EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve the exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 28th of February 2022.

14. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

As set out in the exempt minutes.

CHAIR: Councillor Felicia Opoku

Signed by Chair

Date