

REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE 01/2025/26

FULL COUNCIL 21 July 2025

Chair: Councillor Ibrahim Ali

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report arises from the Standards Committee meetings held on the 30th of June 2025 and asks Full Council to consider the following:
- 1.2 To regularise the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Pensions Committee and Board.

At our meeting on the 30th of June 2025, we were asked to consider the provision in the Council's Constitution on the Appointment of the Vice Chair of Pensions Committee and Board. We noted that since the formal establishment of the Pensions Committee and Board in July 2016, it had been the practice for the Vice Chair role to be appointed at the Annual Council meeting which is in keeping with the practice for other non-executive Committees.

However, the terms of reference of the Pensions Committee and Board indicated that the Vice Chair should be appointed by the Pensions Committee and Board at their first meeting of the municipal year, but this rule does not seem to have been taken forward since the establishment of the Board and Committee.

We noted that further to analysis of past Pensions Committee agenda and minutes and consideration of the legislation which enabled Pensions Committee and Board to be established as a body in 2016, there did not seem to be a legal reason for the Vice Chair to be appointed by the Committee and Board and the Annual Council meeting continued in 2025/26 to appoint the Vice Chair with explicit confirmation at the first meeting of the Pensions Committee and Board of this appointment. This was to allow a further consideration of the terms of the reference of the Pensions Committee and Board by the Constitution Working Group and changes to be made on this aspect, if considered appropriate.

Following consideration of the terms of reference of the Pensions Committee and Board by the Constitution Working Group on the 25th of June and the research completed on this issue set out above which is set out at section 6 of the attached report this has led to a recommendation by the Constitution Working Group to delete the reference in the Pensions Committee and Board terms of reference relating to the appointment of the Vice Chair being appointed by the Committee and Board and for this appointment to continue to be made at Annual Council as the current practice.

We discussed the benchmarking exercise that had been undertaken to compare with other local authorities and noted that there was no legal requirement for the appointment of the Vice-Chair to the Pensions Committee and Board to be made by

the Combined Committee and Board . we further noted that the Council's proposed procedure would be in line with other comparable local authorities.

WE RECOMMEND FULL COUNCIL

1. The deletion of the provision for appointment of the Vice Chair by the Pensions Committee and Board set out at Appendix 3 and for the reasons set out at paragraph 6.11 in the attached Standards Committee report of the 30th of June 2025 at Appendix 1.
2. Approve the updated terms of reference for Pensions Committee and Board for publication as outlined at Appendix 4.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Report 30th of June 2025

Appendix 2 Current Terms of Reference Pensions Committee and Board

Appendix 3 Track Changes Terms of Reference Pensions Committee and Board

Appendix 4 - Updated version of Terms of Reference Pensions Committee and Board for publication

Appendix 5 Hampshire County Council Terms of Reference for Combined Pensions Committee and Board