

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Held Virtually on Thursday 1 October 2020

Present

Councillors Bailey, Brackstone (Vice-Chairman), Clark (Chairman), Cussons MBE, Garbutt Moore, Di Keal, Middleton, Oxley, Raine and Raper

In Attendance

Will Baines, Simon Copley, Andrew Ellis, Anton Hodge, Barry Khan, Emma Lawer, Christine Phillipson, Adrian Simmons and Margaret Wallace

Gill Baker – Independent Person

Minutes

101 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

102 **Minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2020 and 23 January 2020**

Decision
That the minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 3 January 2020 and 23 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Voting Record Minutes of 03.01.20

9 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

Voting Record Minutes of 23.01.20

5 For

0 Against

4 Abstentions

103 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

104 **Declarations of Interest**

Here were no declarations of interest.

105 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair asked Elected Members for their views on the future of meetings and moved the following recommendation with Cllr Brackstone seconding.

Decision

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests the Chief Executive to arrange future meetings of Overview and Scrutiny to be live but with the facility for up to one third of the meeting being virtual, if it is safe and lawful to do so.

Voting Record

9 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

106 **Draft Annual Governance Statement**

Considered – Report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151).

The Committee made further comments in relation to the Bio Diversity action plan, the Climate Change action plan and the Equality and Diversity Local Government Association checklist and requested these be picked up and included in the Annual Governance Statement by the s151 Officer.

Decision

That the Committee notes the draft Annual Governance Statement as presented and feeds back any comments for consideration in the final statement to the s151 Officer.

Voting Record

9 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

107 **Standards Training**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That the Committee supports the proposal outlined in this report for the provision of further mandatory training on standards for all councillors.

Voting Record

10 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

108 **Filter Assessment for Standards Complaints**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Clark proposed and Cllr Middleton seconded the following amendment under Appendix A point 6 - passage of time.

That the following wording be added “It is recognised that if a matter is of public interest to be investigated then this matter will still be investigated”.

Resolved

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Voting Record

8 For

2 Against

0 Abstentions

Cllr Clark proposed and Cllr Brackstone seconded the following amendment to the recommendations :

A further report be presented by the Monitoring Officer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with options for an appeal process.

Resolved

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Voting Record

9 For

1 Against

0 Abstentions

Cllr Clark moved and Cllr Keal seconded the following amendment in Appendix B.

That the sentence “there is no right of appeal in relation to this assessment” be removed from the record of assessment of complaint form.

Resolved

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Voting Record

7 For

1 Against

2 Abstentions

Decision

(i) That the use and publication of the filter assessment for standards complaints, attached as Appendices A and B of the report, with amendments as follows, be approved.

Appendix A point 6 – That the following wording be added “It is recognised that if a matter is of public interest to be investigated then this matter will still be investigated”.

Appendix B - That the sentence “there is no right of appeal in relation to this assessment” be removed from the record of assessment of complaint form

(ii) That a further report be presented by the Monitoring Officer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with options for an appeal process

Voting Record

9 For

1 Against

0 Abstentions

109 **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter 2019/20**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That members note the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter for 2019/20.

Voting Record

10 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

110 **Corporate Complaints 2019/20**

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That Members:

(i) Note the year-end position of the corporate complaints received in 2019/20

(ii) Note the lessons learned from the complaints received in 2019/20

(iii) Note the ongoing complaints procedure review and the new procedure to be brought to the November meeting.

Voting Record

10 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

111 **HR Policy Revision**

Considered – Report of the Head of Human Resources.

Recommendation to Council

That the revised policy is agreed for implementation.

Voting Record

6 For

0 Against

3 Abstentions

The Chairman asked that thanks were given to the HR team for the production of the revised policies.

Voting Record

8 For

0 Against

1 Abstentions

112 **Decisions from other Committees**

Considered – Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 24 September 2020.

Decision

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepts the Policy and Resources minutes dated 24 September 2020 but wish to review Policy and Resources minute no 140 - HR Policy Revision, with regard to member inclusion in any appeals decision in further detail.

Voting Record

5 For

0 Against

1 Abstention

113 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10pm.