

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10 November 2021

PRESENT: - N Poole (Chairman)

Cllr J England (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Ali, Cllr H Rayner and Cllr D Wells

Mr A Forbes, Mr R Johnson (Independent Persons)

The meeting was held at the UTC Building, Carlton Street, Scunthorpe.

376 SUBSTITUTIONS (IF ANY)

Cllr Rayner substituted for Cllr O'Sullivan.

377 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.

Cllr Wells declared a personal interest as a member of ERNLLCA.

378 TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2021 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 15 September 2021, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chairman.

379 RENEWAL OF DISPENSATION - STEEL INDUSTRY

The Director: Governance & Partnerships submitted a report requesting that the Standards Committee consider renewing the dispensation granted to all elected members on 6 November 2015, and renewed each subsequent year, concerning motions related to British Steel (formerly Tata Steel).

The Monitoring Officer explained that this dispensation had been granted in November 2015, and renewed annually, in order to participate in any motion or discussion concerning British Steel and the steel industry. Further details, including the terms of the dispensation, were set out in the report.

As the dispensation was due to expire on 11 November 2021 the committee was asked to consider extending the dispensation for a further twelve months, taking into account the continued interest in the steel industry, and the likelihood that the council would wish to discuss related issues.

Resolved – That pursuant to section 33 (2) (c) of the Localism Act 2011, the dispensation granted by the committee on 6 November 2015, and subsequently renewed annually, be renewed for a further twelve month

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period.

380 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - CODE OF CONDUCT AND ARRANGEMENTS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report proposing a number of relatively minor amendments to the Standards Arrangements and the Code of Conduct, in response to recently published guidance from the Local Government Association (LGA). The Monitoring Officer explained that any amendments to the Code of Conduct would need to be submitted to full council for consideration.

The Monitoring Officer reminded the Standards Committee that, at its meeting on 15 September 2021 (minute 380 refers), members agreed that the LGA Code and associated guidance were largely aligned with current arrangements in North Lincolnshire and that members felt that wholesale changes to the Council's Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements were not considered necessary. Despite this, the Committee agreed that some minor amendments and improvements could be made to the Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements. The Committee therefore requested that the Monitoring Officer review the Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements in light of the LGA guidance and emerging sector practice and suggest potential changes.

The Monitoring Officer highlighted each proposed amendment in turn, inviting comments from the Committee.

Recommended to Council – (a) That the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct, as outlined in the report be approved and adopted, (b) that the proposed amendments to the local Standards Arrangements, as outlined in the report be approved and adopted; and (c) that the Monitoring Officer update all North Lincolnshire members, and all town and parish councils within North Lincolnshire, following the meeting of Council on 14 December 2021.

381 COMPLAINTS SCHEDULE - UPDATE.

The Director: Governance & Partnerships submitted a report updating the Standards Committee on progress made on all outstanding complaints and any relevant issues related to the Complaints Schedule.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

382 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MUST BE SPECIFIED.

There were no other items for consideration at the meeting.