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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15 March 2023

Chairman: Councillor Neil Poole

Venue: Conference Room,
Church Square House

Time: 2.00 pm

E-Mail Address:
Dean.Gillon@northlincs.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Substitutions (if any)
2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests.
3. To take the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 January 2023 as a correct record and authorise the chairman to sign. (Pages 1 - 2)
4. Discussions with Humberside Police Single Point of Contact.
5. Complaints Schedule - Update. (Pages 3 - 6)
6. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified.

Note: Reports are by the Director: Governance & Partnerships unless otherwise stated.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

19 January 2023

PRESENT: - Cllr N Poole (Chairman)

Cllr J England (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Ali, Cllr C O'Sullivan and Cllr D Wells

Cllr S Swift

The meeting was held in the Conference Room, f01e, Church Square House.

443 **SUBSTITUTIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no substitutions. Cllr Swift attended the meeting under the provisions of Procedure Rule 1.37b

444 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or personal or personal and prejudicial interests made at the meeting.

445 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2022 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN.**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 9 November 2022, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chairman.

446 **DEBATE NOT HATE UPDATE - THE IMPACT OF ABUSE ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

The Director: Governance and Communities submitted a report providing an update on work arising from consideration of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) publication "Debate Not Hate" on preventing abuse and intimidation in public and political settings. The LGA report was considered at a previous meeting (minute 434 refers) and it was resolved that officers conduct further work on potential improvements, feeding back to the Standards Committee.

The report confirmed that, following internal discussions, the following actions had now been implemented or were planned.

- A dedicated system had been established within the Group Offices to record abusive, intimidatory or threatening communications. There was an option to pass these communications to Humberside Police's

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
19 January 2023

- Single Point of Contact (SPOC) where required.
- Discussions continued to explore the possibility of the Confidential Counselling and Welfare Service being made available to the council's elected members, in line with staff. Members would be able to self-refer or be referred via Group Secretaries.
 - Discussions continued with Humberside Police to ascertain the Force's response to Recommendation 3 of the LGAs report which requires: "Police forces should work to improve the consistency of responses to abuse and threats made against councillors and take a risk-based approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, such as MPs. This should include identifying best practice in relation to councillor support and safety and sharing it across the country." To this end, the Monitoring Officer had extended an invitation to the Police designated SPOC to attend the next Committee to provide an update on such matters.

The Standards Committee discussed these improvements and debated further steps to address the abuse and intimidation of elected members.

Resolved – That the Standards Committee note and welcome the improvements described by the Monitoring Officer and that additional measures continue to be explored and embedded.

447 COMPLAINTS SCHEDULE - UPDATE.

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

Resolved – That the schedule be noted.

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

There were no urgent or additional items for consideration at the meeting.

Complaint	Complainant	Complaint against	Received	Assessed	Outcome
SC/21/01	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	12 January 2021	16 February 2021	Breach found
SC/21/02	Officer of Epworth Town Council	Member of Epworth Town Council	10 February 2021	25 March 2021	None
SC/21/03	Member of the public	Member of Garthorpe & Fockerby Parish Council	16 February 2021	29 June 2021	None
SC/21/04	Member of the public	Two members of Haxey Parish Council	03 March 2021	15 April 2021	None
SC/21/05	Member of the public	Member of South Ferriby Parish Council	04 March 2021	29 June 2021	None
SC/21/06	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	19 March 2021	29 June 2021	None
SC/21/07	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	23 March 2021	8 July	None
SC/21/08	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	23 March 2021	8 July	None
SC/21/09	Member of Broughton Town Council	Member of Broughton Town Council	26 March 2021	29 June 2021	None
SC/21/10	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Two members of North Lincolnshire Council	19 April 2021	8 July 2021	None
SC/21/11	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Two members of North Lincolnshire Council	19 April 2021	8 July 2021	Breach found
SC/21/12	Member of the public	Member of Worlaby Parish Council	22 April 2021	8 July 2021	None
SC/21/13	Member of the public	Thirteen members of Haxey Parish Council	29 April 2021	8 July 2021	None
SC/21/14	Member of the public	Two members of Burton upon Stather Parish Council	12 May 2021	8 July 2021	None

SC/21/15	Member of the public	Member of Burton upon Stather Parish Council	9 June 2021	8 July 2021	None
SC/21/16	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	9 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/17	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	9 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/18	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	9 July 2021	1 September 2021	Breach found
SC/21/19	Member of the public	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	9 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/20	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	Member of Kirton upon Lindsey Town Council	13 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/21	Member of Belton Parish Council	Three Members of Belton Parish Council	15 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/22	Member of Belton Parish Council	Three Members of Belton Parish Council	15 July 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/23	Member of Belton Parish Council	Member of Belton Parish Council	19 August 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/24	Member of Belton Parish Council	Three Members of Belton Parish Council	19 August 2021	27 September 2021	Recommendation of mediation
SC/21/25	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	23 August 2021	1 September 2021	None
SC/21/26	Member of Belton Parish Council	Three Member of Belton Parish Council	16 September 2021	14 October 2021	Resolved
SC/21/27	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	13 October 2021	15 December 2021	No breach found
SC/21/28	Member of Burringham Parish Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	25 October 2021	15 December 2021	None
SC/21/29	Member of Belton Parish Council	Member of Belton Parish Council	25 October 2021	15 December 2021	Resolved
SC/21/30	Member of the public	Member of Burton upon Stather Parish Council	25 October 2021	15 December 2021	Investigation, hearing planned
SC/21/31	Member of Burton upon Stather Parish	Member of Burton upon Stather Parish Council	9 November 2021	15 December 2021	Investigation, hearing planned

	Council				
SC/21/32	Member of the public	Member of Flixborough Parish Council	11 November 2021	15 December 2021	None
SC/21/33	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	11 November 2021	15 December 2021	No breach found
SC/21/34	Member of the public	Member of Belton Parish Council	16 November 2021	15 December 2021	None
SC/21/35	Member of Epworth Town Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	18 November 2021	15 December 2021	None
SC/21/36	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	22 November 2021	16 March 2022	None
SC/21/37	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	6 December 2021	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/01	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Five Members of North Lincolnshire Council	13 January 2022	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/02	Member of the public	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	18 January 2022	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/03	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	19 January 2022	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/04	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	19 January 2022	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/05	Member of the public	Member of Worlaby Parish Council	2 February 2022	16 March 2022	None
SC/22/06	Officer of Brigg Town Council	Member of Brigg Town Council	23 March 2022	20 April 2022	Recommendation of mediation
SC/22/07	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	4 April 2022	27 April 2022	None
SC/22/08	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	20 April	20 May 2022	None
SC/22/09	Monitoring Officer	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	20 May 2022	-	Withdrawn
SC/22/10	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of Epworth Town Council	25 May 2022	14 July 2022	None

SC/22/11	Member of the public	Six Members of South Ferriby Parish Council	6 June 2022	8 August 2022	None
SC/22/12	Member of the public	Member of Crowle Town Council	30 June 2022	14 July 2022	None
SC/22/13	Member of the public	Member of Epworth Town Council	8 September 2022	12 December 2022	Investigation ongoing
SC/22/14	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	13 September 2022	25 October 2022	None
SC/22/15	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	20 September 2022	25 October 2022	None
SC/22/16	Member of the public	Member of Epworth Town Council	23 September 2022	12 December 2022	Investigation ongoing
SC/22/17	Member of the public	Member of Barnetby Parish Council	29 September 2022	25 October 2022	None
SC/22/18	Member of the public	Member of Barnetby Parish Council	3 October 2022	25 October 2022	None
SC/22/19	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	Member of Owston Ferry Parish Council	15 November 2022	-	Resolved informally
SC/22/20	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	19 December 2022	7 March 2023	Recommendation of mediation
SC/23/01	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	Member of Goxhill Parish Council	24 January 2023	-	Resolved informally
SC/23/02	Member of the public	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	8 February 2023	7 March 2023	None
SC/23/03	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	14 February 2023		
SC/23/04	Member of the public	Six members of Burringham Parish Council	7 March 2023		
SC/23/05	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	Member of North Lincolnshire Council	7 March 2023		