

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15 September 2021

PRESENT: - N Poole (Chairman)

N Poole (Chairman), C O'Sullivan, D Wells, T Gosling and R Ogg

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

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

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

379 TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JULY 2021 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 8 July 2021, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chairman.

380 MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE

The Director: Governance & Partnerships submitted a report updating the Standards Committee on the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Councillor Code of Conduct and subsequent guidance and consultation responses.

The LGA published the Model Code of Conduct in December 2020, and proposed preparing and publishing a number of guidance documents, and also a summary of the consultation responses.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that these guidance documents had now been published, and that initial consideration shows that the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct and associated guidance are largely aligned with current arrangements in North Lincolnshire. The Monitoring Officer's view was that wholesale changes to the Council's Code of Conduct are not considered necessary. Despite this, there were some minor amendments and improvements that may be made to local arrangements, particularly around social media usage.

The Committee discussed the guidance, seeking advice from the Monitoring Officer as appropriate. The Monitoring Officer also confirmed that he had benchmarked with other councils and specialists through existing networks in order to gain the views of others.

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Resolved: (a) That the Committee notes the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct and the LGA's supporting guidance; and (b) That a further report be submitted to the Committee following review of local arrangements in light of publication of the supporting guidance.

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 which the Chairman decided were urgent.