

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 3 December 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Patel (Chair); Councillor Oldham (Deputy Chair); Councillors Bottwood, T Eales, B Markham and Marriott, Roger Rumsey (Co Optee) and Parish Councillor Lewis (Co Optee)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Kilbride, Councillor Cathrine Russell and Parish Councillor Linda Hook (Co Optee).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

3. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

The Chair welcomed Mr Montague, observer, to the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5. CO OPTEE (INDEPENDENT MEMBER) - VACANCY

The Committee was advised that Kim Holland (Independent – Co-Optee) had resigned and therefore there was a vacancy.

The Chair suggested that the vacancy is advertised on the Council's website and the Communications Team would also be asked to promote the vacancy through various means.

The Standards Working Group would hold interviews for the vacancy at its February 2019 and make recommendations to the March meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That the recruitment process for the vacancy of Co-Optee (Independent Member) takes place.

(2) That the Working Group (Work Plan) brings recommendations to the Standards Committee for appointments by co-option of the Independent Member of the Standards Committee

6. TRAINING STRATEGY

The Standards Committee agreed to the additional wording to be included within its Training Strategy:

“Where relevant, Parish Councillors will be invited to attend training.”

RESOLVED: That the Councillor Training Strategy – Ethical and Governance Matters is

updated to include the above sentence.

7. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Committee received an update on the effectiveness of the whistleblowing arrangements in place at Northampton Borough Council. The activities that had taken place since 19 June 2017 were noted.

The Committee was advised that the Governance and Risk Manager had received one whistleblowing complaint via email and this was in the process of being investigated.

RESOLVED: That the information provided in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was noted.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT ARRANGEMENTS COMPLAINTS

The Standards Committee received a report detailing statistics in relation to Code of Conduct Arrangements complaints.

The Standards Committee discussed the complaints listed.

The Standards Committee requested that comparison data in relation to Code of Conduct Arrangements complaints is provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED That:

(1) The statistical data in relation to the number of complaints received and dealt with is noted.

(2) Statistical data in relation to the number of complaints received and dealt with is presented to the Committee at each meeting.

(3) Comparison data in relation to Code of Conduct Arrangements complaints is provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5:18 pm