

JOINT MEETING OF CIVIC AFFAIRS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Summary of the Recommendations to Council

1 Notification and Declaration of Interests (SEE REPORT 1)

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED (Nem Con)

- i. That, pending the appointment of an “Independent Person”, the Monitoring Officer is authorised to determine applications for dispensations to speak and or vote from members with declarable pecuniary or other Code of Conduct interests, subject to the Monitoring Officer first consulting the Chair and Opposition spokesperson for Civic Affairs.
- ii. That the Monitoring Officer shall consult the Independent Person, when appointed, before determining applications for dispensations, as well as the Chair and Opposition Spokesperson for Civic Affairs (or appropriate alternative councillor if either is directly affected).
- iii. That the Monitoring Officer is authorised to deal with applications for dispensations at short notice, where it is not practical to consult the Independent Person, Chair or Opposition Spokesperson subject to the decision being reported to members of Civic Affairs Committee thereafter.
- iv. That the Civic Affairs Committee keeps this arrangement under review.

2 Adoption of a Code of Conduct (SEE REPORT 2)

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED (Nem Con)

To adopt the Code of Conduct appended to these minutes..

3 Appointment of an "Independent Person" (SEE REPORT 3)

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED (Nem Con)

- i. To appoint one Independent Person and one deputy, and that the appointment process is advertised in the press, as well as on the Council's website.
- ii. To agree that the Independent Person is paid an annual allowance of £1,000 and that the Deputy is paid an annual allowance of £500.
- iii. To agree that the appointments are made for a three year term but with appointments subject to annual ratification at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- iv. To agree the selection criteria and role description annexed to the report.
- v. To agree that a member panel is appointed to recommend appointments to the Council
- vi. To agree that the Monitoring Officer is authorised to take such reasonable steps as he considers necessary to implement these recommendations.

4 Considering Complaints and Governance Arrangements (SEE REPORT 4)

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED (Nem Con)

- (i) To agree that a direct replacement for the Standards Committee is not appointed and that the Civic Affairs Committee is made responsible for promoting high standards of conduct by members and officers, for overseeing the procedure for considering complaints against councillors, and for any other aspect of promoting or regulating standards in local government that do not fall within the remit of the Executive or another regulatory committee.
- (ii) To agree that the Council amends the terms of reference for the Civic Affairs Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and that references to the Standards Committee are deleted.
- (iii) To agree that the procedure for considering complaints against councillors set out in Appendix 2 is adopted as amended.
- (iv) To agree that the Civic Affairs Committee is invited to appoint Standards Sub-Committees (2 LD + 2Lab) to consider complaints (as outlined in Appendix 2), with all members of Civic Affairs Committee authorised to be members.
- (v) To agree that the arrangements proposed are reviewed by the Civic Affairs Committee in 12 months' time.
- (vi) To thank the external members of the Standards Committee for their contribution to the work of the Council in promoting and maintaining ethical standards.

