

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 3rd February 2020

Present: Julie Miller (Independent Member – Chair)
Councillor Ruth Groome
Councillor Cliff Moreton
Councillor Jonathan West
Phil Carter (Independent Member)
Brian Christie (Independent Member)
Stuart Kilpatrick (Independent Member)
Lloyd Landry (Independent Member)

Also Present: Mike Sawford (Independent Person)
Martin Hammond (Executive Director and Monitoring Officer)
Callum Galluzzo (Administrator)

19.STA.06 APOLOGIES

None.

19.STA.07 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Standards Advisory Committee held on 29th July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19.STA.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ruth Groome declared an interest on item 6 (A2) as an employee of Northamptonshire County Council and associated employment within library services.

19.STA.09 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A report was submitted which sought to update the committee on forthcoming changes due to Local Government Reform within Northamptonshire.

It was heard that subject to parliamentary approval of the Structural Change Order (SCO) existing County and Borough/District councils within Northamptonshire were to be abolished on the 31st March 2021

and replaced with two unitary councils. One for the North and one for the west.

It was also heard that in May 2020, elections to the new authorities would take place and those councillors elected would serve on a Shadow Council between May 2020 and April 2021. The current Standards Advisory Committee's remit would continue in relation to the outgoing Kettering Borough area until April 2021, when it will cease to exist and the new Shadow Council would need to determine its constitution and the standards arrangements that reinforce it.

Members also heard that the Shadow Council would need to appoint an independent person and a new standards advisory committee which may result in a formal recruitment process to populate the new committee.

Members of the committee then noted that the current Independent Person Mike Sawford's term of office was to come to an end in April 2020 which given the impending changes was suggested that the term of office be extended for the final year up to 31st March 2021. Members were invited to present their views so that they can be presented to Council at its February Meeting.

Councillor Groome proposed and Lloyd Landry seconded the proposal before it was unanimously approved it was therefore;

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted: and
- (ii) Proposals that Independent Person Mike Sawford's term of office be extended to 31st March 2021 be endorsed to Full Council

19.STA.10 DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL – INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUSIONS IN RESPECT OF A FAILURE TO DECLARE INTERESTS

A report was submitted which sought to update the committee on the outcome of the investigation and the response of the Town Council to a recommendation and which also sought the committee's advice on the next steps.

The Monitoring Officer explained the background to the investigation. It was noted that an response had been received from the Town Council in relation to the investigation which stated that although apologies had been made in relation to the failure to declare interest that the Town Council had decided to not accept the recommendation to cancel the dispensations.

Following discussions by members it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted: and
- (ii) the Monitoring Officers communicates with the Town Council to reconsider their position and appropriate training be arranged for members of the Town Council

19.STA.05 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it included items of business which included the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

19.STA.06 BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

A report was submitted which sought the Standards Committee's views on the suggested remedy for a breach of the code of conduct related to Desborough Town Council

The Monitoring Officer explained the background to the investigation. It was noted that a further email response from the Councillor concerned in relation to the investigation had been received by the Monitoring Officer which stated that the Councillor was unwilling to abide by the proposed remedy set out in the officers report.

Following discussions by members of the committee it was proposed and unanimously

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted: and
- (ii) A Hearings Panel meeting be convened to further escalate the investigation with the panel comprising of the following members:-

Julie Miller (Chair)
Stuart Kilpatrick (Independent Member)
Lloyd Landry (Independent Member)

(Standards Advisory Committee No. 3)

03.02.2020

Phil Carter (Independent Member)
Councillor Cliff Moreton
Councillor Jonathan West

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.26 pm)

Signed
Chair

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