

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10 JULY 2023

Present: Councillors Roberts (Chair), Roark (Vice-Chair), Edwards, Haffenden and Pragnell. Independent Person: Amanda McIntyre.

In attendance: Mary Kilner (Chief Legal Officer & Monitoring Officer), and Danny Saxby (Committee Administrator)

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from John Baker, Independent Person.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

## 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2022 be approved by the Chair as a true record.

## 4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Monitoring Officer presented a report on the activities of the Standards Committee in the 2022-23 municipal year.

The last Annual Standards Committee meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and since then the Monitoring Officer received a number of complaints against Councillors, as detailed in the report.

The Monitoring Officer talked the Committee through the complaints and explained that Monitoring Officer discretion was used to engage the group leaders in dealing with complaints against their members, with the aim of reaching a satisfactory informal resolution. If a complaint is serious enough, or if there isn't a satisfactory outcome after seeking informal resolution, complaints can be brought to the Standards Committee for consideration.

Many of the complaints received in the past year concern the use of social media and there will need to be a review of the council's social media policy to make sure it is up to date, user friendly and effective. Social media training will be organised, and group leaders will be asked to ensure their members attend.

Officers will also be considering a more accessible standards complaint process which can be included in Part 5 of the Constitution, in addition to an Independent Persons protocol to formalise the role of the Independent Person.

### **RESOLVED:**

#### **To note the contents of the report**

Reasons:

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**10 JULY 2023**

1. To keep the Standards Committee advised of past complaints.
2. To keep under review the Standards Committee complaints procedures and improve the way the Council deals with complaints about elected members.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.39pm)