

**Minutes of the Ethical Standards
and Member Development Committee**

**28th June, 2019 at 2.30 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Lewis (Chair);
Councillors Akhter and Hevican.

Observer: Mr Tew (Independent Person).

Apologies: Councillors Ahmed and Dhallu.

23/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee, held on 19th March, 2019, be confirmed as a correct record.

24/19 **Appointment to Ethical Standards Sub Committees, Standards Working Group and Member Development Working Group**

The Localism Act 2011 required authorities to adopt arrangements for dealing with complaints about breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. The Council's arrangements for dealing with complaints provided for a Sub-Committee of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee to consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer and to conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).

The Council, at its annual meeting held on 21st May 2019, agreed the membership of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee for the 2019/2020 municipal year. It was now necessary for the Committee to make appointments to the Ethical Standards Sub-Committees for this municipal year.

Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee 28th June, 2019

At its meeting on 9th March 2018, the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee gave approval to the establishment of a Standards Working Group to review to Council's Ethical Framework. Three members, alongside the Chair, should be appointed to the Group, alongside the Chair and it was agreed that nominations would be confirmed by the Chair.

At its meeting on 3rd November 2017, the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee gave approval to the establishment of a Member Development Working Group to support the development, implementation and delivery of a revised Elected Member Development Programme. Three members, alongside the Chair and Independent Person, should be appointed to the Group and it was agreed that nominations would be confirmed by the Chair.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee appoints to two Ethical Standards Sub-Committees for the 2019/20 municipal year, with flexibility between membership to cater for availability and workload, with delegated powers to carry out the functions set out in the following terms of reference, and with the membership set out below:

Terms of reference of the Ethical Standards Sub Committee

- To consider investigation reports referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.
- To conduct hearings (including the imposition of sanctions).

Membership

SUB-COMMITTEE 1		SUB-COMMITTEE 2	
Member	Substitute	Member	Substitute
Lewis	Three substitute members taken from remainder of committee	Lewis	Three substitute members taken from remainder of committee
Akhter		Ahmed	
Dhallu		Horton	
Hevican		Simms	
White		White	
+ Independent Person		+ Independent Person	

Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee
28th June, 2019

- (2) in view of the change in Committee membership for the 2019/20 municipal year, the Chair would confirm the appointment of members to the Standards Working Group and Member Development Working Group.

25/19

Elected Member Standards Complaints – Update

The Committee received details of complaints received in relation to member conduct and the progress on the complaints as follows:-

Case Reference: MC/02/0717

Allegations concerning land sales to a Councillor when displaced from his home by a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). The matter had been subject to an investigation and a draft report prepared. Some further investigation work had to be undertaken which meant that the report was still to be completed. The report would then be considered further by the Monitoring Officer once it had been finalised.

Case Reference: MC/17/0218

Allegations concerning a Councillor's Register of Interests containing incorrect/false information in relation to property and employment matters. The matter had been subject to a formal investigation and a report prepared. A breach of the code of conduct was found. The Monitoring Officer determined that the matter could be dealt with by way of local resolution and the subject member undertake training in relation to Registration of Interests. The subject member completed Code of Conduct training on 10th March 2019.

There were two further matters that had been the subject of preliminary enquiries by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011. Both of the matters had been concluded without the need for further action.

There is one further matter that was currently the subject of preliminary enquiries by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011.

Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee
28th June, 2019

26/19 **Work Programme 2019/20**

The Committee considered the draft work programme for 2019/20.

Resolved that the work programme for 2019/20 be approved and kept under review during the year.

27/19 **National Cases**

The Committee received details of a national case relating to a councillor who failed to declare all of his disclosable pecuniary interests and had also threatened another councillor.

(Meeting ended at 2.43 pm)

Contact Officer: Trisha Newton Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3193
