

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Lower Hall, Icknield Centre, Icknield Way,  
Letchworth Garden City on Tuesday, 10th October, 2017 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Michael Muir, Frank Radcliffe and Terry Tyler and Parish Councillor Robert Logan. Councillor Clare Billing was substituting for Councillor Radcliffe and Councillor Paul Clark was substituting for Councillor Tyler.

### 2 MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 February 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other items were presented for consideration.

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman reminded Member that, in line with Council Policy, the meeting was being recorded and requested that people announce their name prior to speaking;
- (2) The Chairman reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest should be declared immediately prior to the item in question; and
- (3) The Chairman advised that this would be Anthony Roche's last meeting of the Committee following his recent appointment to the post of Deputy Chief Executive. As a consequence, Jeanette Thompson would become acting Monitoring Officer and Corporate Legal Manager. The Chairman congratulated Anthony on his appointment, and Anthony thanked Committee Members for their support over the years.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 6 STANDARDS MATTERS

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) That the Committee's comments outlined in the preamble to this Minute above form the substance of NHDC's response to the DCLG Consultation Paper on updating disqualification criteria for local authority members.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure good governance within the Council.

7 **CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

- (1) That the amendments to the NHDC Code of Conduct (shown as tracked changes to Appendix B of the report) be approved with effect from 4 May 2018, and include the following further amendment to Paragraph 2.2(e):

Addition of the words “in respect of a criminal offence”, so that it reads “in respect of any criminal offence of which you have been convicted or for which you have accepted an out of court disposal in respect of a criminal offence during your term of office”;

- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to incorporate the new Councillor Speaking Right; and
- (3) That the amended Councillor’s Register of Interest form (attached at Appendix C to the report) be adopted and be completed by Councillors from 4 May 2018, and include the following further amendment to Section 9:

Addition of the words “non-voting”, so that the Section reads:

“Outside bodies

Any body of which you are a member of in apposition of general control or management which:

- (i) you are appointed or nominated to by the authority; or
- (ii) exercises functions of a public nature; or
- (iii) is directed to charitable purposes; or
- (iv) includes as one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union).

Detail: Date of appointment and position (ie. Director, Trustee, member/representative/non-voting observer.”

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to the approval of Recommendation to Council (1) above,

- (1) The Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the NHDC Code of Conduct Guide to reflect any adopted changes to the Code; and
- (2) That the requirement to advertise the adoption of any amended Councillor Code of Conduct be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure good governance within the Council.