

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Standards Committee held as a Virtual Meeting
on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of Cabinet that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call and drew attention to the Remote/Partly Remote Meetings Protocol Summary which gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Rules of Debate; and
- Voting.

The Chair, Councillor Judi Billing, started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sam Collins.

3 MINUTES - 22 OCTOBER 2019 TO 20 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 22 October 2019 and 20 October 2020 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.
- (2) That, with the authorisation of the Chair, her electronic signature and initials be attached to the Minutes approved in (1) above.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy, this meeting was being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (2) Members were reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

7 STANDARDS MATTERS REPORT

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Standards Matters be noted.

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

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ('LGA') MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the LGA Model Code of Conduct be adopted with the following amendments:
 - (i) Appendix B to include the replacement Table 1, which includes the NHDC definition of DPs and links to guidance/ statutory instrument
 - (ii) Replacement of the Appendix C good practice recommendations with Appendix C grounds for a Dispensation
 - (iii) Definition of 'room' to include a footnote explanation that this includes 'virtual meeting' room and typographical changes to use the words: 'Registrable' and 'behaviours';
- (2) That the Code take effect from the day after the election poll in 2021 (7 May) or such day if the election is postponed, as the case may be;
- (3) That training on the new code be compulsory for all District Councillors during the 2021-2022 municipal year.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure good governance within the Council, which is reflective of a national governance model.