

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Council Chambers, District Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Bloxham, Mandi Tandi, James Denselow, Raj Bhakar and David Levett.

Having given due notice Councillor Gerald Morris substituted for Simon Bloxham and Councillor Richard Thake substituted for Mandi Tandi. It was also noted that, having given due notice, Councillor Ian Albert would be attending as substitute for the Labour Group Vacancy on the Committee.

2 MINUTES - 22 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 June 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy this meeting would be audio recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair advised for the purpose of clarification Clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution does not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair paid tribute to the late former Councillor Judi Billing and noted the commitment she demonstrated to standards across local politics, including Chair of this Committee.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 STANDARDS MATTERS REPORTS

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the contents of the report and made suggestions on future actions.

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

7 REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE

RESOLVED:

Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

- (1) That the Standard Committee considered and adopted the updated Councillor Complaints Handling Procedure at Appendix A, amended as follows: that references to 'NHC' be updated to 'North Hertfordshire District Council', that references to 'days' be updated to 'calendar days' except in cases where working days is already specified, and that 'stage' be added to the investigation part of the process in Section 6 of the procedure.
- (2) That the Standards Committee delegated to the Service Director: Legal & Community the authority to make any consequential amendments to the Procedure, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, Independent Person and Reserve Independent Persons.
- (3) That the Committee noted the updated Protocol recently signed with the Hertfordshire Constabulary regarding referrals/ complaints relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (Appendix C).

REASON FOR THE DECISIONS: To ensure an updated Procedure is in place and to maintain effective arrangements within the Council.