

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Wednesday, 23rd October, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ruth Brown, Val Bryant and Sean Prendergast.

Apologies for absence were also received from Parish Councillor Martin Griffin and Reserve Independent Person Steve Tant.

Having given due notice Councillor Caroline McDonnell substituted for Councillor Brown and Councillor Emma Fernandes substituted for Councillor Bryant.

2 MINUTES - 27 MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 2024 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 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 clarified matters for the registered speaker.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was received from Mr David Cook on Agenda Item 6 'Standards Matters Report'.

6 STANDARDS MATTERS REPORT

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee noted the content of the report and made suggestions on future actions.
- (2) That the Committee noted the potential changes to the Standards Committee and survey responses detailed in paragraph 8.11-8.19.

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- (3) That the Committee recommended that the working party be urged to retain and strengthen this Committee in consultation with the recommendations and comments from the Independent Person.
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer reviews and reports back to the Committee on:
 - i. Whether the existing three month time limit for complaints to be brought was reasonable and proportionate; and
 - ii. Whether the introduction of a secondary jurisdiction time limit based on constructive knowledge was reasonable and proportionate.

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

7 CODE FOR STATUTORY OFFICERS (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, SECTION 151 AND MONITORING OFFICERS)

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the content of the report and Appendix A, and made suggestions on future actions, particularly with reference to 7.6 and 7.7 of this report.

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