

Standards Committee

14 June 2021 – At a meeting of the Standards Committee held at 2.15 pm at County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ.

Present: Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Wickremaratchi, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Kenyon and Cllr Sparkes

Apologies were received from Cllr A Jupp and Mr Cooper (Independent Person)

Also in attendance: Mr Donaldson (Independent Person)

Part I

1. Membership

1.1 The Committee noted its membership.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 In accordance with the code of conduct, Cllr Bradbury declared a personal interest in the Terms of Reference report as a member of the Mid Sussex District Council Standards Committee.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

3.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

4. Standards Committee Terms of Reference

4.1 The Committee noted its terms of reference (copy appended to the signed minutes).

5. Standards Committee Annual Report

5.1 The Committee considered the draft Annual Report of its work by the Director of Law and Assurance (copy appended to the signed minutes).

5.2 The report was introduced by Charles Gauntlett, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services.

5.3 The Committee was supportive of the draft Annual Report as an accurate reflection of its work in 2010/21.

5.4 Resolved – That the Annual Report be approved for submission to the County Council.

6. Code of Conduct Updates, including IT Policy

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Assurance (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out some proposed updates to the Code of Conduct to reflect current terminology and current practice with IT provision. The report was introduced by Charles Gauntlett, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services.
- 6.2 The Committee was supportive of the correction of the terminology but asked for clearer wording of 'Senior Adviser to Cabinet Member' to make the reference to 'Senior Advisor' clearer.
- 6.3 Discussion turned to the IT Policy. It was clarified that the Intune app for accessing Council emails should only be used on a personal device as the app could cause problems with similar apps for other councils or business. The printing arrangements were discussed and the Committee welcomed the confirmation that printers would still be available to members who needed them, even though specific reference was proposed for removal from the Policy. The Committee noted that the existing restrictions on printing were due to the County Council's IT security policies as a social care local authority but asked that the Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development should review this position.
- 6.4 Resolved –
- (1) That the removal of the term 'senior adviser' in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct be clarified as 'senior adviser to cabinet member' and that this and the proposed changes to the IT Policy in Appendix 1 be endorsed and submitted to the County Council for approval on 16 July 2021.
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development be asked to reconsider the printing options available to councillors.

7. Whistleblowing Policy

- 7.1 The Committee noted that there had been no referrals made using the Policy since the last meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting is due to be held on 29 November 2021.

The meeting ended at 2.50 pm

Chairman