

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 21 February 2023

### **Present:**

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)  
Councillor Melanie Stevens (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor David Cartwright QFSM, Councillor Andrew Lee, Councillor Tony McPartlan, Councillor Michael Tickner, Jonathan Farrell, Councillor Sam Webber, Councillor Mark Smith and Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe

### **7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Kath Nicholson (Independent Person).

### **8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **9 QUESTIONS**

No questions were received.

### **10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **11 MONITORING OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT Report CSD23029**

The report updated the Committee on a number of standards issues.

#### Appeals Process for Members Subject to Complaints

The Committee considered and approved the Appeals Process for Members subject to complaints as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

#### Work Programme/Matters Outstanding

The Chairman encouraged Members of the Committee to let the Monitoring Officer know of any items to be discussed in the new municipal year.

Complaints

In response to a question, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that guidance for Members on the use of social media would be renewed at the beginning of the new municipal year.

A Member suggested that paragraph 3.14 of the report should be reworded to clarify that the complaints were made in response to comments posted on Twitter in response to a news article posted on Twitter by the News Shopper.

In response to a further question, the Monitoring Officer, confirmed that in the case of this complaint the Code of Conduct had not been engaged as the Councillor was not acting in his capacity as an elected member. Consequently, it was not possible for any action to be taken for bringing the Council into disrepute as the Code of Conduct only ever applied to those acting in their capacity as a member or co-opted member.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1. The Monitoring Officer's General Report be noted; and**
- 2. The Appeals Process for Members subject to complaints be approved.**

The Meeting ended at 7.07 pm

Chairman