

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Standards Committee** held in **Council Chamber B - Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil on Tuesday 17 December 2019.**

(2.20 pm - 3.20 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Peter Gubbins (Chairman)

District Councillors: Hayward Burt, Nicola Clark, Sue Osborne and Crispin Raikes

Independent Persons: Christopher Borland and Peter Forrester

Officers

Angela Watson	Monitoring Officer
Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Becky Sanders	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)

1. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jenny Kenton.

3. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from the member of the public present at the meeting.

5. Update on matters of interest (Agenda Item 5)

The Lead Specialist (Legal) in her role as Monitoring Officer reminded members that at the previous meeting a report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life had been considered. She noted that many of the best practice recommendations within the report would require legislative changes and the government was currently silent regarding timeframes. Having recently met with other Monitoring Officers in Somerset, it had been agreed there were some elements of work that did not require legislative changes, and as a group would pick up on some of the best practice guidelines.

6. Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED: That the following item (agenda item 7) be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraphs 1 and 3: Information relating to any individual; and Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

7. Report on Investigation into Code of Conduct Complaint (Confidential) (Agenda Item 7)

In confidential session, members considered a report on an investigation into a Code of Conduct complaint.

Following discussion, members noted the Investigators report, agreed a summary of actions and requested reports to be considered at a future meeting of the Standards Committee .

It was agreed that a future meeting of the Standards Committee should be arranged in early 2020 once the new Monitoring Officer had settled in to the post.

- RESOLVED:** That Standards Committee:
1. Noted the Investigator's report.
 2. Requested that the Monitoring Officer review the operation of the Council's 'Protocol on Member / Officer Relations' and 'Process and Guidance' documents, having heard the Committee's comments and with a view to bringing revised drafts to a future meeting of the Committee.
 3. Made suggestions for other follow-up actions.

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Chairman