
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 1 February 2023 from 7.00 pm - 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Roger Clark, Nicholas Hampshire, Ken Ingleton, Elliott Jayes, Denise Knights, Hannah Perkin (Chair) and Corrie Woodford.

Kent Association of Local Councils representative (non-voting): Mr Graham Addicott OBE

Independent Person: Mrs Patricia Richards

OFFICERS PRESENT: Billy Attaway, Robin Harris, Kellie MacKenzie and Larissa Reed.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Angela Harrison, Steve Davey, James Hunt and Tony Winckless.

624 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

625 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

626 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 September 2022 (Minute Nos. 326 – 330) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Part B Minutes for Information

627 **Social Media Policy**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which set out the draft social media policy for Councillors and asked for Members comments on the draft policy before it went out for consultation.

The Chair invited Members to ask questions and make comments. Points made included:

- It was good to see a policy on social media come forward as it was something Councillors needed;
- thought that the document needed clarification on whether or not it linked to the Councillor Code of Conduct;
- every Councillor needed to see the policy and have an opportunity to comment on it;
- thought that the document wording needed to be changed from 'Council' to 'Councillors';
- members needed to be responsible for their own social media account if it was hacked;

- thought that a section on ‘what to do if your account was hacked’ would be helpful for Members;
- would be helpful if the document clarified Members and officers relationships on social media accounts;
- some Members were apart of a wider social media group and could not help it if officers were also a part of that group; and
- what were the timescales for adoption of the policy?

In response, the Chief Executive explained that the planned timescale was for the policy to go out to consultation to all Members on 2 February 2023, for 28 days. Once the responses from the consultation had been collected, she hoped to have the new policy drafted in time for the Full Council meeting in April 2023.

Resolved:

- (1) That the draft policy be noted.***

628 Verbal Update - Member Officer Protocol

The Deputy Monitoring Officer provided Members with an update on the Member Officer Protocol and advised that he hoped a consultation document would be circulated to Members within the next few months.

Resolved:

- (1) That the update be noted.***

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel