

# **Minutes of the Standards Committee held in Conference Room 2, Walsall Council House**

**Monday 15 July 2024 at 6PM**

## **Committee Members present:**

Councillor R. Martin (Chair)  
Councillor T. Jukes (Vice Chair)  
Councillor A. Andrew  
Councillor H. Bashir  
Councillor R. Burley  
Councillor R. Larden  
Councillor W. Rasab  
Councillor S. Samra  
Councillor K. Sears

## **Independent Persons:**

Ms D. Mardner  
Mr A. Green

## **Officers Present:**

Mr T. Cox – Director of Governance  
Mr N. Picken – Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **29. Apologies**

An apology was received from Councillor R. Mehmi.

### **30. Substitutions**

None.

### **31. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **32. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

### **33. Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 January, 2024 was submitted [annexed].

## **Resolved**

**That the minutes of the meetings held 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, copies having been circulated in advance, be approved as a correct record.**

### **34. Introduction to Standards Committee**

The Committee received a report explaining the purpose of the Standards Committee in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.

The Director of Governance highlighted that the council is required by law to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. In discharging its duty, a relevant authority must, in particular, adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity.

Members were advised that a working group met in 2022/2023 and reviewed the remit of the Standards Committee. This led to a number of changes as detailed within the report submitted.

## **Resolved**

**That the report be noted.**

### **35. Members DBS Check Update**

The Director of Governance presented an update report on the status of criminal record check update by Members. It was emphasized that, due to a number of changes in committee membership in the new municipal year, there were several councillors who, despite having had a DBS check in the last four years, have been requested to complete a new enhanced check to adhere with the process agreed by the Council.

Members were reminded that whilst not a legal requirement to undertake criminal record checks of all members, doing so provides Members with further accountability and protection whilst also maintaining transparency and high standards of behaviour.

## **Resolved**

**That:**

- 1. the information available on the current number of complete DBS checks for Members be noted; and**

2. **the Committee receives a further update on the uptake of voluntary DBS checks by elected Members at their meeting in September, 2024.**

36. **Review of Arrangements for Dealing with Member Complaints**

The Committee received a report seeking approval to carry out a review of the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints against Elected Members.

Members noted that the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints against Elected Members was approved by Walsall Council at a meeting of the Council on 25th June 2012. The Arrangements have been amended slightly since that date with the most recent full review taking place in 2018. In presenting the report, the Director of Governance confirmed that a member complaint had never reached hearing stage. He also clarified that the views of an Independent Person must be taken into account before making a decision on a complaint that they have decided to investigate.

**Resolved**

That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to review the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints against Elected Members.

37. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 30 September, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.47 p.m.

Signed:

Date: