

## **Standards Committee**

**Monday 12 July, 2021 at 6.00pm.**

**In Walsall Town Hall, Leicester Street, Walsall**

### **Members Present**

Councillor Rasab (Chair)  
Councillor Underhill  
Councillor Andrew  
Councillor Burley  
Councillor Follows  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Samra  
Councillor A. Young

### **Independent Persons Present**

Mr A. Green  
Ms D. Mardner  
Ms S. Ajaz  
Mr C. Magness

### **Officers Present**

Mr Anthony Cox	-	Director of Governance
Mr Neil Picken	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer
Elise Hopkins	-	Director of Customer Engagement

#### **01/21 Apologies**

None.

#### **02/21 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions.

#### **03/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **04/21 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items for consideration in private session.

## 05/22 **Role of Standards Committee**

The Director of Governance provided a verbal update on the role of Standards Committee which was duly noted by members.

## 06/22 **Code of Conduct for Elected Members**

A report was submitted.

(See annexed)

The Director of Governance expanded upon the report highlighting the proposed changes including:-

- The Nolan principles have been retained and there is now an explanation setting out the background to the establishment of the Nolan Principles.
- There is a new section explaining when the Council Code of Conduct will apply to councillors which will assist them to the public in bringing complaints and councillors themselves.
- There is an updated requirement in relation to the confidentiality of information at 1.3 of the new code.
- The new code includes a requirement not to compromise or attempt to compromise impartiality of council officers.
- 1.6,1.7,1.8 - provide greater clarity around requirements in relation to behaviour that could amount to bullying, harassment, discrimination. This accords with the recommendations made by the committee for standards in public life.
- The new code contains a requirement for councillors to cooperate with standards investigations and any sanctions applied.
- The new code contains more detailed information regarding gifts and hospitality. The limit on registration of gifts and hospitality is £50. There was not unanimity on this level and this question will be referred to council to determine.

Discussion ensued during which members confirmed their support for the updated code of conduct.

### **Resolved**

That Council be recommended to approve the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

## 07/22 **Customer Relationship Management System and Member Complaints – Director of Customer Engagement**

The Director of Customer Engagement gave a presentation on the customer relationship management system and an overview of Member complaints.

### **Resolved**

That the update be noted.

**06/22 Work Programme**

Members considered the work programme:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the work programme be noted.

**08/21 Date of next meeting.**

The net meeting would take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.55pm

Chair .....

Date .....