

## **Ethics Committee**

Meeting of held on Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Louis Carserides (Chair);  
Councillor Clive Fraser (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Jade Appleton, Mario Creatura, Helen Redfern and Esther Sutton  
Independent Members Ashok Kumar and Alan Malarkey

The committee was informed by the Chair that Anne Smith had retired as an Independent Person. The Chair, Councillor Redfern and Councillor Fraser expressed their many heartfelt thanks for the service Anne had made to the council and to the Ethics Committee, and all wished her well for her retirement.

**Apologies:** Don Axcell (Independent Person)

### **PART A**

#### **17/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **18/22 Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

#### **19/22 Urgent Business (if any)**

The council's Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense, had provided the committee with the council's proposed Outside Bodies Protocol, which the Chair had agreed should be reviewed at this meeting.

Members requested that comments should be included about how frequently members should report back from outside bodies.

**RESOLVED**, to consider and agree the draft Outside Bodies Protocol attached to the Report at Appendix 1.

#### **20/22 Work Programme**

The interim Head of Democratic Services, Adrian May, introduced the Work Programme, highlighting that it had previously been expected that the Outside Bodies Protocol would not be produced in time for this meeting but that fortunately it had been.

Officers also explained that the process for the recruitment of one and extension of the tenure of another Independent Person was needed and that they hoped this would be brought to the Ethics Committee in April.

**RESOLVED** to note, consider and comment on changes to the work programme as detailed in this report.

**21/22 Update on Ethics Complaints Received in the Third Quarter up to and including 30 September 2022**

The Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer explained the next three reports en bloc, as they all concerned the same subject matter. In response to questions, officers explained the filtering process with which complaints were dealt, and that the Monitoring Officer used discretion when discerning whether to consult Independent Persons, and that there had been no instances of this during the reporting period.

Members requested that the number of individuals making complaints and also a brief description of the nature of the complaint should be presented to the committee in Part B papers in future meetings.

Members also requested that there be a statement beside each complaint to inform them whether or not Independent Persons had been consulted.

**RESOLVED**, to note the contents of the report.

**22/22 Update on Ethics Complaints received in the Fourth Quarter up to and including 31 December 2022**

**RESOLVED**, to note the contents of the report.

**23/22 Annual Report on Ethics Complaints for 2022**

**RESOLVED**, to note the contents of the report.

**24/22 Recent Developments in Ethical Standards**

The Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer presented the report to members, outlining a case study of ethical standards in Planning matter, and

mentioned that the Croydon Council Members' Code of Conduct dealt with the issues raised.

The Chair thanked officers for proactively identifying points of interest and benchmarking for the committee, and members requested taking a report on Ethical Standards to the Member Learning and Development Panel.

**RESOLVED**, to note the report.

**25/22 Member Gifts and Hospitality**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1. To note the requirements on Members with regards to declaring Gifts and Hospitality.
  
- 1.2. To note any Gifts and Hospitality declarations since 13 September 2022 (when Gifts & Hospitality report was last published).

The meeting ended at 7.43 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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