



Agenda

Standards Committee

Tuesday, 8 June 2021 at 7.30 pm

Remote meeting via video link



Meetings will take place in accordance with Government guidance. Members of the Committee will assemble at the Town Hall, Reigate.



Members of the public may observe the proceedings live on the Council's [website](#).

Members:

R. Absalom
P. Harp
F. Kelly
R. Ritter

K. Sachdeva
M. Lodge (Salfords and Sidlow PC)
D. Powell (Horley TC)

Substitutes:

Conservatives: M. A. Brunt and S. T. Walsh

Residents Group: C. T. H. Whinney and N. D. Harrison

Green Party: S. McKenna and J. C. S. Essex

Mari Roberts-Wood
Interim Head of Paid Service

For enquiries regarding this agenda;

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1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Election of the Chair of the Committee

To appoint a Chair for Municipal Year 2021/22.

3. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Committee

To appoint a Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2021/22.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

(Pages 5 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee.

5. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

6. Member Complaints 2020/21

(Verbal Report)

To receive a verbal report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the number of Member Complaints in the year 2020/21.

7. Urgent Business (If Any)

To consider any item(s) which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered as a matter of urgency – Local Government Act 1972, Section 100B (4) (b).



Our meetings

As we would all appreciate, our meetings will be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and trust, working together for the benefit of our Community and the Council, and in accordance with our Member Code of Conduct. Courtesy will be shown to all those taking part.



Streaming of meetings

Meetings are broadcast live on the internet and are available to view online for six months. A recording is retained for six years after the meeting. In attending any meeting, you are recognising that you may be filmed and consent to the live stream being broadcast online, and available for others to view.



Accessibility

The Council's agenda and minutes are provided in English. However, the Council also embraces its duty to anticipate the need to provide documents in different formats, such as audio, large print or in other languages. The Council will provide such formats where a need is identified prior to publication or on request.



Notice is given of the intention to hold any part of this meeting in private for consideration of any reports containing "exempt" information, which will be marked accordingly.

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Remote - Virtual Meeting on 1 September 2020 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors N. D. Harrison (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Lodge (Co-Opted Member), C. M. Neame, R. Michalowski, D. Powell (Co-Opted Member) and M. A. Brunt (Substitute).

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the Chairman, Councillor Rickman, with Councillor Brunt in attendance as substitute. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Councillor Harrison, chaired the meeting.

7. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2020 were confirmed.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9. ANNUAL STANDARDS REPORT

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which summarised the discharge of the Standards function during 2019/20, including:

- The Member Code of Conduct
- Complaints against Members
- The role of the Monitoring Officer
- Maintenance of the Register of Interests

Members acknowledged that since the receipt of the last Annual Report in 2018, a new Monitoring Officer had been appointed. Good progress had been made by the Governance Task Group in delivering a refreshed Member Code of Conduct and Member Officer Protocol, and training on the Member Code of Conduct had been delivered to all Members after the local elections in 2019.

The Committee in 2018 had expressed that it was desirable to improve the transparency of those complaints which were not brought to the Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer acknowledged that resources had been focussed on updating the Code of Conduct, and subsequently, resources had been shifted to the COVID-19 response. Members were assured that a review of the process for Member complaints was timely.

Members noted that a review to ensure there was no overlap or confusion between the distinct remits of the Standards Committee and the Governance Task Group was necessary. Members urged that the operation of the Code of Conduct, and associated matters, should remain with the Standards Committee.

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1 September 2020

Minutes

Members welcomed that the Monitoring Officer had consulted with the Chair of the Committee throughout the year. However, it was felt that the update meetings with Group Leaders should be scheduled as a minimum twice per year, by the Monitoring Officer.

In response to a question about recent complaints, the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer would work with the Standards Committee and its Chair to implement learning points and bring forward an updated protocol to provide increased clarity and transparency to the process. Members agreed and emphasised that where any Assessment Panels or Sub-Committee meetings had taken place, a summary of those meetings should be presented to the Committee. The Committee should also be timetabled in the annual calendar of meetings to meet more than once per year.

RESOLVED that the Annual Standards Report 2019/20 be noted.

10. **URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There was none.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 pm