

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 20th March 2024

Present: Councillor Harry McCarthy (Chair)
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

In attendance: Mike Stow – Independent Member

Apologies: Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ali, Homewood and Kaushik.

The Committee acknowledged the pending retirement of Julie Muscroft, Service Director (Legal, Governance and Monitoring), and conveyed thanks for the contribution that Julie had made to the Council and the work of the Committee over the previous years.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputation/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Code of Complaints Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on complaints that had been received since the previous meeting of the Committee in October 2023. The Committee noted that the report reviewed complaints from the period of 1 September to the end of February 2024, during which there were a total of 24

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complaints, 19 of which related to Kirklees Councillors and 5 related to Town or Parish Councillors. The report advised that 9 of these complaints had not progressed beyond the initial assessment process and that 5 had been resolved informally, and that the remaining ten were being considered within the assessment process.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report provided a summary of the published decisions, in cases where complaints had been upheld and published on the Council's website. Appendix A provided a summary of the complaints including total numbers and the source of complaints.

RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.

8 Cases and News Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on matters relating to developments and news on Local Government ethics, including decisions of other local authorities, or any existing standards boards.

The report also provided an update on the work of the Committee on standards in Public Life.

RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.