

DORSET COUNCIL - AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE (ASSESSMENT) SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Cllrs David Gray, Brian Heatley and Mike Parkes

Apologies: None

Also present: Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP OF ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that Councillor Gray had taken the place of Councillor Christopher on the sub-committee.

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor Parkes was elected Chairman for the meeting of the sub-committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

As a general point, the Monitoring Officer noted that Dorset Council councillors who served on town and parish councils would not be precluded from considering a Code of Conduct complaint in respect of a councillor of that Council, merely for being a member of the same council. Likewise, they would not be precluded from considering a complaint against a Dorset Council councillor. An issue would only occur if the councillor had been a witness to or party to the events associated with the complaint.

Councillor Parkes confirmed that he was not present at the meeting referred to in one of the complaints to be considered on the agenda.

3. Assessment Sub-committee Terms of Reference and Dorset Council Member Complaint Process

All present noted the Assessment Sub-committee Terms of Reference and Dorset Council Member Complaint process.

4. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

5. **Exempt Business**

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following items in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

6. **Code of Conduct Complaint 1 - Exempt**

The sub-committee noted two complaints that had been received by the Monitoring Officer and considered the information that had been provided including a copy of the relevant council's code of conduct.

Decision

That the allegations are investigated by a person to be appointed by the Monitoring Officer.

7. **Code of Conduct Complaint 2 - Exempt**

The sub-committee noted a complaint made against two councillors that had been received by the Monitoring Officer and considered the information that had been provided including the report provided by an independent person appointed by Dorset Council.

Decision

That the Monitoring Officer write to the complainant informing them that in line with the recommendations of an independent person, no action is to be taken to investigate the complaint.

8. **Code of Conduct Complaint 3 - Exempt**

The sub-committee noted a complaint that had been received by the Monitoring Officer and considered the information that had been provided including the report of an independent person appointed by Dorset Council.

Decision

That the allegations are investigated by a person to be appointed by the Monitoring Officer.

9. **Update on the outcome of Code of Conduct Complaint referred to Dorset Police - Exempt**

The sub-committee received an update on a complaint which had been considered by an Assessment Sub-committee on 28 June 2019.

Decision

That the sub-committee endorse the decision of the Monitoring Officer to take no further action in relation to the complaint.

Duration of meeting: 12.35 - 1.05 pm

Chairman

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