

## **Ethics Committee**

Meeting of held on Tuesday, 7 January 2020 at 6.30 pm in F10, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Clive Fraser (Chair);  
Councillor Pat Clouder (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Simon Brew, Patricia Hay-Justice, Joy Prince and Helen Redfern  
Independent Member Anne Smith

### **PART A**

#### **1/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 May 2019 and 20 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **2/20 Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

#### **3/20 Proposed Update to the Scheme of Co-Option**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer that recommended changes to the Scheme of Co-option, Part 6D of the Constitution in order to set out the relevant rules for all co-optees in one document and to incorporate the previously agreed Code of Conduct for Co-opted Members into the Constitution.

In considering the report, Members noted the processes for recruiting and dismissing Co-opted Members onto Council Committees, Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Working Groups.

The Committee requested that, should the recommendations to Council be approved, all current Co-opted Members be notified about the updated Scheme of Co-option and offered induction and training sessions to support them in their roles in addition to any specialist training they have already received.

**RESOLVED:** That Council be recommended to:

- 1.1 Adopt the amendments to the Scheme of Co-Option within Part 6D of Constitution as detailed in appendix 1 of the report;
- 1.2 Adopt the amendments to the Code of Conduct for Non-Voting Co-optees as detailed in the report and to include it within the Constitution as an Appendix to Part 6D of the Constitution; and

- 1.3 Adopt the amendments to Code of Conduct for Members within Part 5I of the Constitution as detailed in appendix 2 of the report to confirm the application of the Code to representatives of the Pensions Board.

#### **4/20 Recruitment And Appointment of Independent Persons**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer that updated the Committee on succession planning to ensure that the Council had appointed sufficient Independent Persons as required under the Localism Act and as required under the Staff Employment Procedure Rules that form Part 4J of the Council's Constitution.

The report also recommended the Committee to authorise the Monitoring Officer to commence a recruitment process to increase the number of Independent Persons appointed by the Council and detailed the recruitment process for such appointments.

**RESOLVED:** That

- 1.1 The Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to commence a recruitment process in line with section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 for the appointment of additional Independent Persons to a pool comprising up to five Independent Persons;
- 1.2 Subject to their agreement, Council be recommended to reappoint Anne Smith and Ashok Kumar as Independent Persons for a further term of four years from May 2020;
- 1.3 A Selection Panel be established for the purposes of selection and recommendation back to the Committee of up to three further Independent Persons for appointment as detailed within the report; and
- 1.4 The Selection Panel will comprise three Members of the Committee, namely the Chair and two further Members to be nominated by the Committee with advisory support to be provided by the Monitoring Officer and a current Independent Person.

#### **5/20 Recent Case Law**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer that detailed the outcome of recent case law and developments in relation to councillor conduct since 20 May 2019.

The Committee heard details of the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), including the production of short films about the Nolan Principles; a review of artificial intelligence and its impact on standards; and the announcement of a new approach to tackling intimidation in public life.

Members also noted that the CSPL had published a review of political parties' codes of conduct and received an update in relation to the Government's response to the CSPL report on Local Government Ethics.

**RESOLVED:** That the outcome of recent case law and developments in relation to councillor conduct since 20 May 2019 be noted.

**6/20      Dispensation Applications for Members**

No requests for personal dispensations were received.

**7/20      Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report detailing its Work Programme for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Work Programme as detailed within the report be AGREED.

**8/20      Exclusion of the Press and Public**

As no requests for personal dispensations had been received by the Committee, this item therefore fell.

**9/20      Dispensation Applications for Members**

As no requests for personal dispensations had been received by the Committee, this item therefore fell.

**10/20     Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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