

**Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Values and Ethics Sub-Committee**

27 June 22 at 2pm



Members Present:-

Richard Eddy (Substitute), Zoe Goodman, Tim Kent (Substitute) and David Wilcox (Substitute).

Independent Member Adebola Adebayo – Chair.

Officers in Attendance:-

Nancy Rollason – Head of Legal Service, Louise deCordova – Democratic Services Manager, Allison Taylor – Democratic Services Officer.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all parties to the meeting. The Committee noted the emergency evacuation procedure arrangements.

Apologies received from Councillors Brown, Dyer and Hucker.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Chair's Business.

The Chair informed the Sub-Committee that future agendas would include a Public Forum item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Goodman, who was the only member present at the last meeting confirmed them as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the membership in the attendance.

Resolved – That the minutes of the 23 November be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Member Development Update report.

The Democratic Services Manager (DSM) summarized the report for the benefit of the Sub-Committee and the following points arose from discussion:-



1. Members and the Independent Member Chair congratulated officers for achieving the charter plus status and for the professional role out of member development;
2. In response to a question from Councillor Wilcox on the numbers of Members who had completed mandatory training, the DSM confirmed that she would make sure this was made available for the next meeting;
3. The Chair queried who was responsible for Member Development as the V&E Sub-Committee's Terms of reference stated that V&E Sub-Committee was responsible for it whilst the report stated it was the Member Development Steering Group. The DSM replied that the Steering Group drove the offer but the Sub-Committee had oversight responsibility for that work. A review of the Terms of Reference wording could be considered for the future.

Resolved - That the update report be noted.

6. Summary of Complaints against Councillors – March 2021- May 2022.

The Head of Legal Service (HOLS) summarised the report for the benefit of the Sub-Committee and the following points arose from discussion:-

1. It was noted that an independent person's view was sought by the Monitoring Officer when undertaking an initial assessment as to whether there appeared to be a breach of the members code of conduct. BCC had entered into an agreement with North Somerset Council to seek a view from their independent person who was appropriately qualified for the role;
2. Councillor Eddy suggested that the table have an additional column to indicate if it was an officer or a member of the public complaint. The HOLs agreed that this could be added as it did not undermine anonymity;
3. It was noted that the table did not contain complaints about planning matters. The complaint listed concerned a constituent who believed they had not being supported by a member in the way they thought they should on a planning matter;
4. 'No further action' indicated that the complaint not been proceeded with and the table only listed those complaints already determined;
5. It was agreed for future complaints to assign case references by number rather than the name of the Councillor;
6. It was noted that the former Standards Committee had been allowed to sanction members but that power had been removed. The HOLs agreed to circulate the Complaints Procedure to the Sub-Committee as this set out the sanctions available if the Monitoring Officer referred a complaint to the Committee for consideration.

Resolved - That the report and the summary of Complaints made against Councillors since the last report to the Committee in March 2021 be noted.

The meeting ended at 2.30pm

CHAIR _____



