

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee held on 3 March 2022, the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 March 2022 and the meeting of the Executive held on 24 March 2022, as set out in this report. The minutes of the Planning Committee and the Executive will be published in due course. The extracts from the minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee and the reports of the Planning Committee and the Executive are set out in this report.

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2022

7A. REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT ARRANGEMENTS STA11-001

The Committee received a report which set out the recommendations arising from a review of the Council's arrangements for dealing with allegations of misconduct by Councillors. The review had been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with Members, the Chairman of Standards and Audit Committee and Independent Person to establish whether the procedures were fit for purpose and effective.

The outcome of the review was welcomed as a more supportive and timely process, noting that the previous scheme had been found to be confusing and slow. In considering the details of the proposals, Councillor Hughes moved and Councillor Roberts seconded an amendment to the Summing Up process to allow complainants to have the opportunity to rebut any matters raised within the Panel to which they disagreed as a right, rather than at the discretion of the Chairman of the Standards Panel. On being put to a vote, all Members present supported the amendment which therefore formed part of the substantive recommendations before the Committee.

Councillor Hughes reported on three points received from Claire Storey, Chairman of the Committee, who had been unable to attend the meeting. The points were:

- In respect of the structure and make-up of the Standards Panel, consideration be given to enabling the membership to come from a wider pool of individuals.
- Political balance of the Standards Panel to be maintained.
- Consideration should be given to the appointment of a second Independent Person

It was noted that the points had been discussed with Officers prior to the meeting and that it was intended to bring a separate paper forward to a future meeting to address the three points.

The recommendations for Council before the Committee, subject to the agreed amendment, were supported.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That (i) the arrangements for dealing with Allegations of Misconduct by Councillors under the Localism Act 2011 be adopted subject to the following amendment:

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

“Summing up

The Investigating Officer sums up the complaint.

The Complainant to have the opportunity to rebut any matters raised within the Panel to which they disagree.

The Subject Member or their representative sums up their case.”;

- (ii) the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee shall be renamed the Standards Panel; and**
- (iii) the Council’s constitution be updated to include the arrangements.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 22 MARCH 2022

7B. PLANNING PEER REVIEW

The Planning Committee is asked to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (i) The action plan be approved, and;**
- (ii) That a quarterly update on the action plan be presented to the Planning Committee.**

THE EXECUTIVE – 24 MARCH 2022

7C. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR A KIRBY - EASY ACCESS TO COUNCIL RECORDINGS EXE22-033

For the reasons outlined in the report, the Executive is advised that the Motion may be supported as amended:

“Easy access to Council recordings This Council resolves that all video recordings of public meetings of Council and its Committees will continue to be made available for public viewing on demand in accordance with the Council’s retention periods. The Council shall continue to keep its retention periods under review with particular regard being given to information held in respect of the Council’s long-term projects. Archive recordings of all previously public meetings of Council and Council Committees will also be made available on request wherever this is legally and technically possible. The Council shall ensure that residents are fully informed as to how they can access these recordings and that access to this information is available in a quick and simple manner.”

7D. WOKING FOR ALL STRATEGY AND DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLANS EXE22-007

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (i) the Woking for all Corporate Strategy 2022-27, as attached to the report, be adopted; and
- (ii) the Directorate Plans 2022/23, as attached to the report, be adopted.

7E. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY EXE22-030

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (vi) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report be approved.

7F. SAFEGUARDING POLICY EXE21-053

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (i) the Safeguarding Policy dated April 2022, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be implemented with a formal review every two years; and
- (ii) the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to update the Policy when changes occur, as informed through countywide safeguarding networks and lead officer/member groups

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

Background Papers:	None.
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Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ayesha Azad Email: cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
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REPORT ENDS