

Standards Committee  
30 November 2020

## WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on Monday 30 November 2020 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors T.Kingsbury (Chairman)

A.Chesterman, G.Michaelides and P.Zukowskyj

OFFICIALS PRESENT: N.Long, Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance)  
M Martinus, Head of Law and Administration  
R.Baker, Head of Resources  
S.Pearson, Head of Housing Operations

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### 26. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Parish Councillor B. Morris.

### 27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and noted by the Chairman.

The hard copies of minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as it is reasonably practicable or alternatively, an electronic signature will be arranged.

### 28. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor P.Zukowskyj declared a non-pecuniary interest as appropriate by virtue of being a Member of Hertfordshire County Council.

### 29. REVIEW OF CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Members received a report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) seeking comment from the committee on the proposed anti-fraud and corruption policies:

- Anti-fraud and corruption

- Anti-bribery
- Anti-money Laundering
- Preventing Tax Evasion

It was noted that to ensure consistency and a coherent framework these policies had been reviewed together, and the format redesigned.

Officers confirmed that the policies were shared with Herts Shared Internal Fraud Service to seek advice and comments. Members were also informed that the way in which the council delivers anti-fraud and anti-corruption activities would be reviewed as part of the modernisation programme. This would coincide with the review phase of relevant contracts currently in place.

RESOLVED: That the policies be approved

30. REVIEW OF CORPORATE COMPLAINTS POLICY

Members received a report of the Corporate Director (Housing and Communities) to seek comment from the committee on the proposed corporate Complaints Policy. The review of the current policy, which was previously approved in December 2018, was brought forward due to updates released by the Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS).

Members were informed that failure to comply with the revised Housing Ombudsman Scheme and new Complaint Handling Code, released in July 2020, may result in a failure order being raised against the council.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report and the outcome of the proposed changes to the complaints policy be noted.

31. REVIEW OF CORPORATE RIPA POLICY AND LIST OF AGREED AUTHORISING OFFICERS

Members received a report of the Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance) to request that the Standards Committee note and agree the proposed changes to the list of RIPA authorising Officers following recent staff changes and to agree that the corporate RIPA policy is updated accordingly, including minor typographical, formatting and other consequential amendments.

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Officers confirmed that whilst not named specifically as an Authorising Officer, Ka Ng would be an Authorising Officer by virtue of her position as Chief Executive and this was stated in the updated policy.

RESOLVED: Committee to note the changes detailed in this report and amended policy and the Monitoring Officer and RIPA Senior Responsible Officer to update the Constitution and Policy accordingly.

Meeting ended at 7.43 pm  
JA