

Standards Committee
14 June 2023

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors M.Birleson (Chairman)
T.Kingsbury
N.Pace
P.Zukowskyj

OFFICIALS

PRESENT: Richard Baker, Executive Director, Finance
Saleem Chughtai, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance
Clare Cade, Governance Services Manager
Daniel Hill, Senior Governance Officer

10. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rowse.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were received.

13. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 6

There are no items of urgent business to be considered under agenda item 6.

14. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

Report of the Chief Executive on the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the financial year 2022/23. The draft AGS, as attached in the report had been compiled in accordance with best practice set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.

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The Senior Governance Officer highlighted that the AGS sets out the systems, processes and values the Council adheres to and is run by.

Councillors provided the following comments in response to the report and presentation:

- The Member Information Hub was noted as a good resource for councillors;
- The positive comments from the LGA Peer review were noted; and
- It was useful to know that Member Decision Notices had sped up decision making, in particularly in relation to procurement.

Councillor Zukowskyj informed the Committee that following the change in administration work would take place to mirror the Cabinet Panels to the Cabinet portfolios. Any amendments to the Constitution would be taken to the Constitution Review Group.

RESOLVED:

The Standards Committee noted the draft Annual Governance Statement and agreed for the draft AGS to be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

15. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.