

REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 MEMBER TRAINING WORKING GROUP

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Standards Committee on 11 December 2019 to Council with a recommendation that the composition of the Member Training Working Group be decided and constituted by the Standards Committee starting from the next municipal year onwards. An extract of the key elements of the report of the Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic to the Committee is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The following provides information on discussions at the meeting:
- The Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic advised that, although the Standards Committee in December 2017 had intended there to be a representative from each of the Council's political groups on the working group, the minute did not reflect the intention. The definition of 'cross group' meant that there had to be more than one group represented, that is, membership must not to be drawn from a single group. It was up to the Committee to determine the membership of the working group for the remainder of the current municipal year, so long as it accorded with the Council Minute. The working group, as constituted by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2019, was not in line with the 17 December 2017 Council Minute.
 - This would satisfy the intention of the Standards Committee that each of the political groups be represented on the working group and would also comply with the wording of the Council Minute.
 - It was felt that it might be useful for a recommendation to be made to Council that in future the Standards Committee be given the power to constitute its own working group, rather than future Committees being tied to the resolution of Council in December 2017.
 - It was acknowledged that the Council Minute did not allow for there being more than four political groups on the Council, which would create difficulty if there were to be a change in the number of groups.
 - The Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic confirmed that working groups do not have to be drawn from Members of the Standards Committee; any Member of the Council could be invited to be working group members.

- It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J E McPherson and seconded by Cllr D S Efde that it be recommended to Council that the composition of the working group be decided and constituted by the Standards Committee starting from the next municipal year 2020/21 onwards.
- The Assistant Director confirmed that this recommendation would go to Council on 18 February 2020 and that, if agreed, the new arrangement would take effect from the 2020/2021 municipal year. A report would come to the first meeting of the Standards Committee in the new municipal year that would reflect both the discussions by the Committee this evening and the background to the intention of the Standards Committee and Review Committee that the working group be constituted from all the political groups. Nominations would be sought at this meeting for membership of the working group for the 2020/21 year.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is proposed that Council RESOLVES

That the composition of the Member Training Working Group be decided and constituted by the Standards Committee starting from the next municipal year onwards.

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MEMBER TRAINING WORKING GROUP

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To re-constitute the membership of the Standards Committee Working Group so that it is properly constituted for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year in line with what was determined by the Council at its meeting of 12 December 2017.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 12 December 2017 Council resolved that ‘a Working Group of the Standards Committee comprising the Chairman of the Committee, three other cross Group Members and an Independent Person in an advisory capacity be convened for the purpose of agreeing the content of the Member training programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year and future years, reporting back to the Standards Committee on any matters that would require adjustment to general training policies’.
- 2.2 The decision of the Standards Committee on the membership of the Working Group did not include the Chairman of the Standards Committee and included four other Members plus an Independent Person, contrary to the 2017 Council decision.

3 WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP 2019/20

- 3.1 It would be appropriate, therefore, that membership for the remainder of 2019/20 be re-constituted by the Committee at this meeting to include the Chairman of the Standards Committee, three other cross Group Members and an Independent Person in an advisory capacity.

4 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impact (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

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