

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022

Present: Cllr M R Rhodes (Chairman), Cllr B J Luker (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs P A Bates, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr A E Clark, Cllr D J Cooper, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr D Keers, Cllr W E Palmer, Cllr R V Roud, Cllr Mrs M Tatton and Cllr D W King.

Councillor M A J Hood was also present in the Council Chamber pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 15.21.

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, R P Betts, M D Boughton, V M C Branson, Mrs A S Oakley and J L Sergison participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chairman in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N J Heslop (substituted by Cllr D W King).

PART 1 - PUBLIC

GP 22/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

GP 22/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 31 January 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

GP 22/12 REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT

The report of the Monitoring Officer invited Members to consider revisions to the existing Code of Conduct in light of the Model Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association. A copy of the Local Government Association model code was attached at Annex 1, the existing Tonbridge and Malling Code at Annex 2 and a table comparing the differences between the codes at Annex 3.

RECOMMENDED: That the revised Code of Conduct as set out at Annex 4 to the report, be commended to Council for adoption.

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**GP 22/13 OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANTI BULLYING AND HARASSMENT PROCEDURE**

The report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive sought approval of a number of updates to the Officer Code of Conduct and the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Procedure. An audit of the ethical culture within the Borough Council had recommended that amendments be made to both the Officer Code of Conduct and the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Procedure and the proposed amendments had been considered by Management Team and the Joint Employee Consultative Committee. The revised Code of Conduct and the revised procedure were attached at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

RESOLVED: That the amendments to the Officer Code of Conduct and Anti-Bullying and Harassment Procedure be approved.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**GP 22/14 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The report of the Chief Executive advised that following receipt of the final recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, a Polling District and Polling Place review needed to be undertaken to implement the changes to the warding arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**GP 22/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman moved, it was seconded and

RESOLVED: That as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matters be considered in private.

PART 2 - PRIVATE**GP 22/16 ESTABLISHMENT REPORT**

The report of the Director of Central Services set out for approval a number of establishment changes arising from the ongoing operational management of the Borough Council's Services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) post DG2010 Environmental Projects Co-ordinator 37 hours be redesignated Cleaner Borough Co-ordinator and the hours of the post reduced to 18.5 hours; and
- (2) post DJ0302 Planning Policy Manager be regraded from M5 to M6 and that the saving be ringfenced for 12 months to allow for a review of the wider management of the Planning service.

The meeting ended at 7.59 pm